

# Natalie Sambhi

Researcher | Speaker | Writer

## CURRENT

### **Verve Research, Perth — *Founder and Executive Director***

Jan 2019 – present

Verve Research is an independent, multidisciplinary research collective focussed on understanding the relationship between militaries and societies in Southeast Asia, [www.ververesearch.org](http://www.ververesearch.org)

### **Strategic & Defence Studies Centre, The Australian National University, Canberra — *PhD scholar***

Feb 2017 – present

Thesis investigating major beliefs and themes in how the Indonesian military recollects its experiences in East Timor (1975–1999), supervised by Professor John Blaxland.

## PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

### **Perth USAsia Centre, Perth — *Research Fellow***

Feb 2016 – Jun 2020

Produce research and policy analysis on Indonesian defence and foreign policy issues. Co-produced *Perspectives* podcast series; managed the Centre's research publications program.

### **Strategic & Defence Studies Centre, The Australian National University, Canberra — *Guest lecturer & sessional tutor***

Apr 2017 – Oct 2018

Presented guest lectures on Indonesian counterinsurgency to and led tutorial sessions in strategy for Masters courses. Presented guest lecture on Indonesia's *Konfrontasi* campaign to undergraduate course.

### **Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Canberra — *Managing Editor, The Strategist***

Jun 2012 – Feb 2016

Co-founded ASPI's official blog, *The Strategist*. Managed daily operations, commissioning of submissions and editing; managed social media.

## AWARDS

**Leo Mahony Scholar 2018**, Royal United Services Institute ACT

**Australian Government Research Training Program (AG RTP) Scholarship 2017–2021**, Australian National University

**Australia-ASEAN Emerging Leaders Program 2015**, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Hedley Bull Scholar 2007**, Graduate Studies in International Affairs, ANU

**Language scholarship to Leipzig 2006**, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

## TWITTER

[@securityscholar](https://twitter.com/securityscholar)

[@verve\\_research](https://twitter.com/verve_research)

## LANGUAGES

Indonesian, French, Japanese

## **Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Canberra — *Indonesia Analyst***

Jun 2012 – Feb 2016

Produced research, policy analysis and media commentary on Indonesian foreign and defence policy, and Southeast Asian security.

## **University of Canberra, Canberra — *Academic Tutor***

Feb 2012 – Jun 2012

Led tutorial discussion and conducted academic grading for undergraduate students undertaking international studies.

## **Institute for Regional Security, Canberra — *Monograph Editor***

Feb 2011 – May 2011

Engaged for editing and production assisting for short-term project, 'Under the Air Sea Gap: Australia's anti-submarine warfare challenge', Paper 16, May 2011.

## **Department of Defence, Canberra — *Capability Analyst***

Nov 2009 – Mar 2010

Analysed major capability acquisition projects and provided advice to National Security Committee and Minister for Defence.

## **Department of Defence, Canberra — *Graduate***

Feb 2009 – Nov 2009

Completed graduate rotations in Land Division (Capability Development Group), Indonesia desk (International Policy Division) and Special Operations Headquarters (Army Headquarters).

## **EDUCATION**

### **The Australian National University, Canberra — *Master of Arts (International Relations)***

2007 – 2009

Hedley Bull Scholar 2007, distinction thesis on the role of local police forces in counterinsurgency in Afghanistan.

### **The Australian National University, Canberra — *Master of Diplomacy***

2008

Completed intensive Masters course on diplomatic history and practice at ANU's Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy.

### **University of Western Australia, Perth — *Bachelor of Arts (Asian Studies) (Honours First Class)***

2000 – 2005

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

**'Glass half empty or glass half full? Indonesia's covid-19 response and impact on foreign and defence policy'**, UWA School of Social Sciences, Perth, May 2020

**'Briefing on Indonesia's military in politics and society'**, Canadian Department of National Defence, Ottawa, Feb 2020

**'Back from the Barracks: why Indonesia's military still reigns supreme'**, Australian Institute of International Affairs WA, Perth, Feb 2020

**'Update on Indonesian maritime security under Jokowi'**, Hudson Institute, Washington DC, Jan 2020

**'The Indo-Pacific: the view from Australia'**, Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Indonesia roundtable, Jakarta, Jul 2019

**'China in the Indian Ocean: the view from Australia'**, Center for Naval Analyses conference, Arlington, Jun 2019

**'Smooth sailing? Indonesia's post-election strategic outlook'**, Australian War College, Canberra, May 2019

**'The Indo-Pacific and the Quad: the view from Australia'**, RAND Corporation's Japan Forum, Santa Monica, Mar 2019

**'Going beyond the Indo-Pacific: the geopolitics of kindness and the right**

Completed double language major in Japanese and French, and graduated with a first class honours on Australia-Malaysia relations.

## ADDITIONAL ROLES

### **Australian Institute of International Affairs ACT (AIIA ACT), Canberra — President**

Sep 2015 – Jun 2016

Led a volunteer council committed to the promotion of international affairs in Canberra and coordinate a range of speaking events. Managed 2016 internship program.

### **Center for a New American Security (CNAS), Washington, DC— Visiting Fellow**

Dec 2015 – Jan 2016

Generously hosted by CNAS, conducted further research on Indonesia's civil-military relations and US attitudes to Indonesia's maritime policies. Presented findings to a roundtable session.

### **Bloggingsheads.tv, Host on Foreign Entanglements vlog**

Jun 2015 – Dec 2016

Commission and record interviews with international guests on video-blog series foreign policy issues with an Asia-Pacific focus.

### **Center for International Maritime Security (CIMSEC), Host on Sea Control (Asia Pacific) podcast**

Apr 2014 – Dec 2016

Edit and produce interviews with international guests for a podcast series on Asia-Pacific maritime security issues, provide production for audio file.

### **Women in Defence & Security Network (WDSN), Canberra — Founding member**

Oct 2014

Founding member of a network (joint initiative of ASPI and Lockheed Martin Australia) that seeks to enhance professional development opportunities for women in the defence and security sector.

### **Center for a New American Security (CNAS), Washington, DC— Visiting Fellow**

May 2014 – Jun 2014

Generously hosted by CNAS, conducted research on Indonesia's presidential elections and record US attitudes to Indonesia's role in Asia-Pacific security. Presented findings to a roundtable session.

**to remain human'**, National Resilience Institute (Lemhannas) 2nd Jakarta Geopolitical Forum, Jakarta, Oct 2018

**'Australia and the 2016 Arbitral Award'**, Stratbase ADR Institute, Manila, Jul 2018

**'Indonesia's defence and security in the Jokowi era: an Australian perspective'**, ISIS Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Dec 2017

**'Indonesia's naval and coast guard developments and the global maritime fulcrum'**, Sixth Annual CSIS South China Sea Conference, Washington DC, Jul 2016

**'Indonesia's security forces: a moving target'**, Center for a New American Security roundtable, Washington DC, Jan 2016

**'Female Engagement Teams: ADF experience'**, International Women in Law Enforcement Conference, Hyderabad, India, Oct 2015

## SELECTED MEDIA

South China Morning Post, Hong Kong

Channel News Asia, Singapore

Sydney Morning Herald, Australia

ABC News, Australia

Sky News, Australia

Radio National, Australia

SBS Radio, Australia

Channel 9, Australia

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### **RAND Corporation**, book chapter, Natalie Sambhi

Apr 2020

'The Free and Open Indo-Pacific and the Quad as seen from Australia and Indonesia' in Scott W. Harold, Tanvi Madan and Natalie Sambhi, *U.S.–Japan Alliance Conference: regional perspectives on the Quadrilateral Dialogue and the Free and Open Indo-Pacific* [https://www.rand.org/pubs/conf\\_proceedings/CF414.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/conf_proceedings/CF414.html)

### **ASPI's The Strategist**, blog post, Natalie Sambhi

Oct 2019

'Indonesia's defence and foreign policy and Widodo's new-look cabinet', <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/indonesias-defence-and-foreign-policy-and-widodos-new-look-cabinet/>

### **Pell Center**, report, Natalie Sambhi

May 2019

'Finding partners: Timor-Leste's evolving security ties with Southeast Asia' <https://www.pellcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Sambhi-2019.pdf>

### **ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute**, book chapter, Natalie Sambhi

Jan 2019

'Indonesia in 2018: the calm before the election storm' in Daljit Singh and Malcolm Cook (eds), *Southeast Asian Affairs 2019* <https://www.iseas.edu.sg/flagship-publications/southeast-asian-affairs>

### **Asia Society**, essay, Natalie Sambhi

Dec 2018

'A shared maritime destiny for Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines' in *Disruptive Asia vol 2: special edition on ASEAN* <https://asiasociety.org/australia/disruptive-asia-volume-two>

### **ANU College of Asia & the Pacific**, essay, Natalie Sambhi

Spring 2018

'Guardian, consumer or middleman? The role of the military in Indonesia's energy security' in *Paradigm Shift: securing our energy*, [http://energy.anu.edu.au/files/paradigm\\_shift\\_issue\\_04\\_energy\\_security\\_internals\\_-\\_digital\\_04\\_0.pdf](http://energy.anu.edu.au/files/paradigm_shift_issue_04_energy_security_internals_-_digital_04_0.pdf)

### **Perth USAsia Centre**, book chapter, Natalie Sambhi

Jun 2017

'India's ASEAN relations' in *Realising the Indo-Pacific: tasks for India's regional integration*, <http://perthusasia.edu.au/getattachment/Our-Work/Realising-the-Indo->

**World Policy Journal**, journal article, Natalie Sambhi

Jan 2017, winter issue

'Neither truth nor reconciliation: why Indonesia's Army wants to the country to forget its darkest year', <http://wpj.dukejournals.org/content/33/4/102.full>

**War On The Rocks**, article, Natalie Sambhi

4 Oct 2016

'The puzzles of the Pivot: America in the Asia-Pacific',  
<http://warontherocks.com/2016/10/the-puzzles-of-the-pivot-america-in-the-asia-pacific/>

**The Diplomat**, feature article, Natalie Sambhi

May 2016 issue

'The evolution of Indonesia's military: can a leopard change its spots?',  
<http://thediplomat.com/2016/04/the-evolution-of-indonesias-military/>

**Security Challenges**, academic journal article, Natalie Sambhi

Spring 2015

'Jokowi's 'Global Maritime Axis': smooth sailing or rocky seas ahead?',  
<http://www.regionalsecurity.org.au/resources/Documents/SC%2011-2%20SAMBHI.pdf>