

The Asian Studies program presents

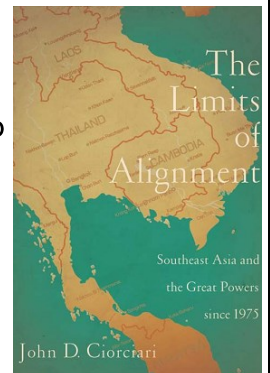
JOHN CIORCIARI

AMERICAN DISTANCE AND CHINESE INFLUENCE IN MAINLAND  
SOUTHEAST ASIA



In recent years, China's expanding economic and political footprint in mainland Southeast Asia has led some analysts to conclude that ASEAN's "northern tier" of Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam is falling increasingly within a Chinese sphere of influence. This presentation will stress that neighbors' acceptance of Chinese influence is not solely a result of their proximity to China and resulting exposure to its power. The extent to which they accommodate China also depends heavily on their geographic and political distance from other major powers that could provide alternative sources of support - above all the United States.

Professor Ciorciari will discuss how U.S. foreign policies have sometimes undermined America's appeal as a partner, stunted mainland Southeast Asian states' ability to diversify and integrate into regional institutions like ASEAN, and thus left them more inclined to turn to China for support and accept the risks of that dependency. He will introduce some of the relevant theoretical concepts, survey the mainland states, and conclude with brief policy implications for the next U.S. administration.



**Wednesday,  
September 7th  
3:30 PM  
Memorial 108  
A PUBLIC LECTURE**

**John Ciorciari** is an Associate Professor at the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. His research focuses on international politics and law, particularly in Southeast Asia. He is the author of *The Limits of Alignment: Southeast Asia and the Great Powers since 1975*. He is currently part of the inaugural class of Andrew Carnegie fellows and is pursuing a research project on UN sovereignty-sharing arrangements with the support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

All are welcome to this public event. For more information, contact the **Center for Global & Area Studies** at **302-831-3202** or **cgas.udel.edu**.