*November 2026*

# Dr Chris Deacon

Lecturer (Asst. Prof.) in Politics and International Relations
SOAS University of London
chris-deacon.com | cd40@soas.ac.uk

*Current position*

2024 – *present* **Lecturer (Asst. Prof.) in Politics and International Relations, SOAS University of London**
- Permanent research and teaching position

*Previous visiting positions*

2022 – 2023 **Visiting Researcher, Waseda University**
- Five-month visiting position at the Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies

2022 **Visiting Researcher, Korea University**
- Three-month visiting position at the Asiatic Research Institute

*Previous professional experience*

2016 – 2017 **Associate (qualified solicitor)**
*EU, Competition & Regulatory Department, Slaughter and May, London*

2016 **Foreign Legal Associate (secondee from Slaughter and May)**
*Anderson Mori and Tomotsune, Tokyo*

2014 – 2016 **Trainee Solicitor**
*Slaughter and May, London and Brussels*

*Higher education*

2020 – 2024 **PhD International Relations, LSE**
- Thesis title: Unending past? Memory, relational identity and the 'history problem' in Japan-South Korea relations
- Supervisor: Prof. William A. Callahan
- Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council
- Winner of the Dominique Jacquin-Berdal Prize for best PhD thesis

2019 – 2020 **MSc International Relations (Research), LSE**
- Grade: Distinction

2017 – 2019 **MA Korean Studies & East Asian Politics with intensive Korean language, SOAS University of London**
- Grade: Distinction

2008 – 2012 **BA Asian & Middle Eastern Studies (Japanese Studies), University of Cambridge, Trinity College**
- Grade: First class honours

*Other qualifications and training*

**Professional legal qualifications**
- Admitted as a Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales (2016)
- Legal Practice Course, BPP Law School (2014)
- Graduate Diploma in Law, BPP Law School (2012 – 2013)

**Specialist methodology training (in addition to core PhD training)**

- Institute for Qualitative and Multi-method Research (IQMR) 2021, Syracuse University
- MY400 Fundamentals of Social Science Research Design, LSE (Grade: Distinction)
- MY421 Qualitative Methods, LSE (Grade: Distinction)
- MY451 Introduction to Quantitative Methods, LSE (Grade: Distinction)
- MY528 Qualitative Text and Discourse Analysis, LSE (Grade: Distinction)

*Research publications*

---

**Monograph**

2027, *Relational Pasts: The Conflictual International Politics of Memory and the Japan-South Korea History Problem*. Cambridge University Press. [Link]

**Journal articles**

2026, Remembering otherwise: Japanese and South Korean counter-memories of colonial history and the transformation of the history problem. *Australian Journal of International Affairs* (Online First). [Link]

2025, Enabling international history wars: everyday mnemonic foreign policy in South Korean and Japanese popular culture. *International Political Sociology* 19(3), olaf018. [Link]

2024, Mnemonic encounters: the construction and persistence of international 'history wars' and the case of Japan-South Korea relations. *International Studies Quarterly* 68(3), sqae114. [Link]

2023, Perpetual ontological crisis: national division, enduring anxieties and South Korea's discursive relationship with Japan. *European Journal of International Relations* 29(4), 1041-1065. [Link]

2022, (Re)producing the 'history problem': memory, identity and the Japan-South Korea trade dispute. *The Pacific Review* 35(5), 789-820. [Link]

*Articles in progress*

---

Globalising bilateral mnemonic conflict: litigating the 'comfort women' issue on the world stage. (Article under review)

The temporal politics of territorial disputes. (Article under review)

(In)significant Others: relational imbalance in international politics. (Article in preparation)

Where do we remember (and forget)? Accessing 'collective memory' in critical conflict and security research. (Article in preparation)

*Media publications and engagement*

---

Opinion piece: Is Japan-South Korea rapprochement finally built to last? *Asia Times*, 30 October 2026. [Link]

Opinion piece: Can Japan-South Korea relations continue to thaw under Lee and Takaichi? *The Diplomat*, 24 October 2025. [Link]

Interview regarding South Korean martial law crisis: Politics Hub with Sophy Ridge. *Sky News*, 3 December 2024. [Link]

Quoted in: South Korea's martial law not linked to North Korea attack fears – official. *Newsweek*, 3 December 2024. [Link]

Opinion piece: Japan's 'history problem' lingers on after Abe. *9DASHLINE*, 8 December 2022. [Link]

Opinion piece: South Koreans want engagement with the North, but not reunification. *CapX*, 22 May 2018. [Link]

*Conference papers*

The temporal politics of territorial disputes.
*European Workshops in International Studies 2026 (European International Studies Association). Izmir, Turkey. 1-3 July 2026.*

Remembering otherwise: counter-memories of colonial history in Japan and South Korea and the transformation of the history problem.
*European International Studies Association Pan-European Conference 2025. Bologna, Italy. 26-29 August 2025.*

International history wars and everyday foreign policy: memory and Othering in South Korean and Japanese popular culture
*European Workshops in International Studies 2024 (European International Studies Association). Istanbul, Turkey. 3-5 July 2024.*

International history wars and everyday foreign policy: memory and Othering in South Korean and Japanese popular culture
*British International Studies Association Conference 2024. Birmingham, UK. 5-7 June 2024.*

Everyday inter/transnational history wars: memory and Othering in South Korean and Japanese popular culture
*International Studies Association Convention 2024. San Francisco, USA. 3-6 April 2024.*

Mnemonic encounters: the construction and persistence of international 'history wars' and the case of Japan-South Korea relations
*International Studies Association Convention 2023. Montréal, Canada. 15-18 March 2023.*

Ontological insecurity and the crisis of national division: securing the Korean Self through anti-Japanese nationalism.
*International Studies Association Convention 2022. Nashville, USA. 28 March – 2 April 2022.*

Othering to secure a divided Self: ontological insecurity, memory and anti-Japanese nationalism in South Korea
*Association for Asian Studies Conference 2022. Honolulu, USA. 24-27 March 2022.*

(Re)producing the 'history problem': memory, identity and the Japan-South Korea trade dispute.
*Association of Korean Studies in Europe Conference 2021. La Rochelle, France. 28-31 October 2021.*

Remembering to secure a divided national identity: memory, ontological insecurity and anti-Japanese nationalism in South Korea.
*European International Studies Association Pan-European Conference 2021. Virtual conference. 13-17 September 2021.*

(Re)producing the 'history problem': memory, identity and the Japan-South Korea trade dispute.
*Asian Studies Conference Japan 2021. Tokyo, Japan. 3-4 July 2021.*

*Other invited presentations, lectures and panels*

Invited presenter, University of Vienna Department of East Asian Studies, 14 December 2026.

Invited presenter, University of Edinburgh Asian Studies Seminar Series, 4 November 2026.

Invited panellist, Cambridge Centre for Geopolitics Indo-Pacific Roundtable, 15 May 2026.

Invited presenter, SOAS Centre for Korean Studies, 6 February 2026.

Invited lecturer, European Academic Foundation Summer Academy 2025, 8-12 September 2025.

Invited lecturer, Goethe University Frankfurt Korean Studies Summer School, 7 August 2025.

Invited panellist, Northeast Asia History Foundation, 3 May 2025.

Invited presenter and panellist, Korea Foundation Korean Studies Forum in London, 29 April 2025.

Invited panellist, SOAS Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, 23 January 2025.

Invited presenter, LSE Department of International Relations 'Security & Statecraft' Research Cluster Workshop, 8 November 2023.

Invited presenter, LSE Department of International Relations 'Theory/Area/History' Research Cluster Workshop, 9 February 2022.

*Teaching experience*

---

**Convening and lecturing**

International Theory (postgraduate), SOAS University of London (2024-27)

- Convenor, lecturer and tutorial leader for postgraduate module covering a range of conventional and critical theoretical approaches to the study of international politics

International Relations of East Asia (undergraduate), SOAS University of London (2024-27)

- Convenor and lecturer for undergraduate module covering a range of themes and case studies across the international politics of East Asia, utilising IR theories and concepts

Introduction to International Relations II (undergraduate), SOAS University of London (2026-27)

- Convenor and lecturer for undergraduate module introducing undergraduates to social and critical approaches to the study of international politics

**Class teaching**

International Relations: Theories, Concepts and Debates (undergraduate), LSE (2021-22)

- Class teacher for undergraduate module introducing the discipline of International Relations and a broad range of mainstream and critical approaches to its study
- Winner of Highly Commended LSE Class Teacher Award, as selected by Head of Department; nominated for LSESU 'Inspirational Teaching' award by students

*Funding awards*

---

2019 – 2024 ESRC 1+3 Doctoral Studentship (c. £125,000)

- Full funding (fees, maintenance stipend, research costs) for four years to study for master's and PhD degrees at LSE
- Funding period extended by 22 weeks due to successful Difficult Language Training application

2022 – 2023 ESRC Overseas Fieldwork and Difficult Language Training funding (£8,100)
- Funding for PhD fieldwork in Seoul and Tokyo, as well as language training in Korean and Japanese

2022 – 2023 Sir Patrick Gillam Scholarship Fund (£5,000)
- Funding for PhD fieldwork in Seoul and Tokyo

2021 ESRC Overseas Institutional Visit Funding (£2,200)
- Award made for six-week visit to Asiatic Research Institute, Korea University
- Subsequently unable to undertake trip due to Covid-19 restrictions

2018 – 2019 Korea Foundation Graduate Studies Fellowship (£9,000)
- Funding contribution towards master's degree study at SOAS

2017 – 2019 Ruby and Will George Trust (£3,000)
- Funding contribution towards master's degree study at SOAS

2017 – 2019 Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust (£2,000)
- Funding contribution towards master's degree study at SOAS

2017 – 2018 SOAS Centre of Korean Studies (£6,000)
- Funding contribution towards master's degree study at SOAS

*Administrative and service roles and activities*

Organiser and leader of SOAS Seoul study tour for postgraduate students (2025 – *present*)

Member of the SOAS Department of Politics and International Studies EDI Working Group (2025 – *present*)

Convenor for East Asia pathway of MSc Politics and International Relations degree and Seoul study tour co-coordinator, SOAS University of London (2025 – *present*)

Convenor for International Politics and Security pathway of MSc Politics and International Relations degree, SOAS University of London (2024 – 2025)

Cohort representative, *LSE IR Department Staff-Research Student Liaison Committee* (2022 – 2023)

Editorial Board Member, *Millennium: Journal of International Studies, Volume 50* (2020 – 2021)

Peer reviewer for: *Asian Security*, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, *East Asia Forum*, *European Journal of International Relations, Geopolitics*, *Japanese Studies*, *Journal of East Asian Studies, Memory Studies, Millennium: Journal of International Studies, Review of International Studies*, *The Pacific Review*

*Association membership*

European International Studies Association (2024 – *present*)
International Studies Association (2022 – *present*)
British International Studies Association (2020 – *present*)
British Association of Japanese Studies (2017 – *present*)
British Association of Korean Studies (2017 – *present*)

*Languages*

English (native), Japanese (advanced), Korean (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate)