

Welcome to IRSEM's newsletter !

Foreword by Dr Philippe Perchoc

head of IRSEM-Europe



It is an honour to be the guest editor of the fourth edition of the IRSEM Newsletter. I am Dr. Philippe Perchoc, Head of the newly established IRSEM-Europe branch that was inaugurated in Brussels on 22 February 2024.

I have a lot of exciting news to share with you here. Welcome on board, together with my two colleagues, Dr. Ariane Bachelet, post-doctoral researcher specializing on Georgia and the Caucasus, and our intern, Mrs Sophie Kurtz!

IRSEM-Europe aims to become a hub for scholars and experts dealing with strategic issues in connection with the Brussels bubble (EU and NATO) and the local think-tank community. The primary ambition of IRSEM Europe is to exchange ideas with other European actors, discuss our results, and foster shared knowledge initiatives on European and transatlantic security issues; as well as on other regional focuses and themes drawn from IRSEM's global research agenda. IRSEM-Europe will bring the French touch to the lively strategic landscape!

In that perspective, many events with scholars, experts or practitioners will take place throughout the year. Indeed, IRSEM-Europe has already hosted its first two conferences in March: the first, on behavioral standards in outer space; the second on drones in Ukraine. The 2024 programme will include other very exciting seminars and meetings in collaboration with renowned think-tanks such as Confrontation Europe, PISM or EUROPEUM.

Above all, IRSEM-Europe offers fantastic opportunities to IRSEM's researchers, PhD students funded by the Ministry of the Armed forces, and further, to the wider French strategic community.

Please, stay tuned to hear about our past and future events!

On the menu and among our news, you will discover our latest association with CORUSCANT (the French counterpart of the Russia program on digital hosted by George Washington University); IRSEM's renewed interest for the Franco-German cooperation; and IRSEM's contribution to the first edition of the international Paris Defence and Security Forum organised by the new French Military academy

(ACADEM) that operates as an umbrella organisation gathering a wide range of institutes based on the “Ecole militaire” Campus in Paris.

International development and institutional partnerships

18-20 September 2023: IRSEM-College of International Security Affairs (CISA) 1st Symposium.



The first IRSEM-CISA (College of International Security Affairs) symposium was held at the National Defence University, Washington DC, during the week of 18 September, as part of the partnership between the two research organisations established in 2022.

The participants discussed a wide range of topics such as the US-China rivalry, security issues in Africa, Europe and the Indo-Pacific. The evolution of the Atlantic Alliance in the context of the war in Ukraine, as well as the role of MPS, information and space issues in the context of contemporary conflicts also drew the panel's attention.

[Read the full article online](#)

6 November 2023: IRSEM partnered the launch of the “Research Group on Contemporary Russia to analyse its new trajectories” (CORUSCANT).



CORUSCANT was created in partnership with the *Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies* (IERES) of George Washington University and with the support of the Institut Universitaire de France (IUF) and IRSEM. CORUSCANT is the European branch of the [Russia Program](#). Founded by Maxime Audinet, Julie Deschepper, Clémentine Fauconnier and Kevin Limonier, CORUSCANT **aims to redefine the way in which knowledge about contemporary Russia is produced in the face of the multiple and disastrous consequences of its large-scale invasion of Ukraine.**

29 November – 15 December 2023: Visit of Dr Océane Zubeldia (IRSEM) to the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS), Japan.

Dr Océane Zubeldia spent 15 days at the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) in Tokyo. This trip is part of the researcher exchange agreement between IRSEM and NIDS, which has been in place since 2017. [...]



[Read the full article online](#)



29-30 January 2024: Annual seminar “The Future Strategic Competition in Central Asia”, IRSEM/NATO Defense College (NDC), Rome.

As part of the partnership established in 2017 between IRSEM and the NATO Defence College, which calls for an annual colloquium to be held alternately in Paris and Rome, a seminar on "The Future of Strategic Competition in Central Asia" was held at the NATO Defence College in Rome on 29-30 January in the "Chatham House" format. [...]

[Read the full article online](#)

4-8 March 2024: Visit of a RSIS delegation from Singapore to IRSEM and IRSEM-Europe.

IRSEM received the visit of a Singaporean delegation from the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). IRSEM hosted Dr. Sinderpal Singh, Deputy Director, and his colleagues Nishant Rajeev and Tsjeng Zhizhao Henrick first on the École Militaire campus in Paris.



Then, the delegation travelled to Brussels to meet with Philippe Perchoc, Head of IRSEM-Europe. These meetings brought together South-East Asia and security issue specialists, discussing the EU strategy in the Indo-Pacific, and the agency of Indo Pacific actors towards the United States, India and Japan doctrines on the Indo-Pacific. These talks continued with a special focus on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) discourse regarding the various Indo-Pacific strategies.

19 March 2024: Visit of GD Andreas Henne, Deputy Commander of the Bundeswehr Territorial Defence Command.

On 19 March, IRSEM had the pleasure of welcoming Major General Andreas Henne, Deputy Commander of the Bundeswehr Territorial Defence Command, to talk about national defence issues.



This very interesting and instructive meeting, chaired by General Philippe Delbos, led to rich exchanges and provided an opportunity to present IRSEM and the École Militaire Defence Academy (ACADEM) to our German guests.

Life at IRSEM : What's new

26 October 2023: IRSEM celebrated the inauguration of the French Defense Academy of the Military School (ACADEM is the French acronym).

Launched in October 2023, ACADEM is an umbrella organisation that aims to extend the influence of the various research and training centres based on the École Militaire campus. ACADEM's ambition is to foster internal cooperation between them in order to optimise and benefit from the human and material resources, but also to enable the scaling-up of French strategic expertise at the national level in collaboration with the French strategic and defense ecosystem.



New arrivals at IRSEM: IRSEM welcomed two new researchers into its crew, namely **Dr Clotilde BÔMONT** specialising in the geopolitics of the French defense cloud, and **Dr Alexandre Lauret**, a specialist of migration movements and illicit activities in the Horn of Africa.

Dr Clotilde BÔMONT, Researcher on digital geopolitics at IRSEM

A researcher on the geopolitics of digital at IRSEM in the "Armament and Defense Economics" Research programme since last December, Clotilde Bômont holds a PhD in political geography from the Pantheon-Sorbonne University.

Her work focuses on the integration of new technologies in government and military organisations, and on "digital sovereignty" issues at national and European levels.



Dr Alexandre Lauret, Researcher on East Africa at IRSEM

Alexandre Lauret joined IRSEM in February 2024 as a researcher on East Africa in the "Africa - Asia - the Middle East" Research programme. He holds a PhD in human geography from the Paris 8 Vincennes Saint-Denis University. His research agenda deals with the dynamics of the margins, migratory movements and illicit activities in the Horn of Africa.



He recently published with Les Belles Lettres Publisher an in-deph ethnography of the Yemeni refugees living in the Markazi camp in Djibouti (*La guerre et l'exil: Yémen 2015-2020*, Les Belles Lettres, 2023).

Visiting fellows



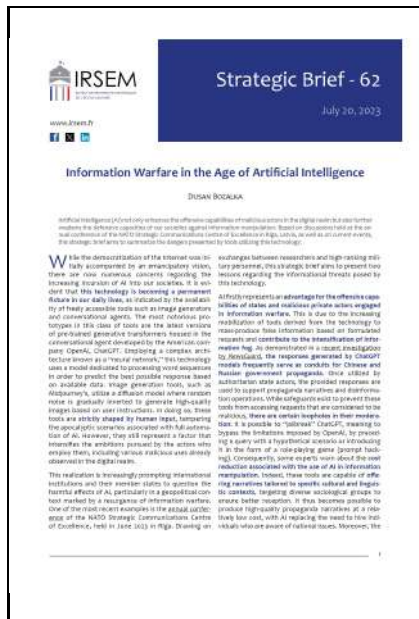
South Korean Pr. Wooyeal Paik left the Institute after a one-year visiting fellowship at IRSEM.

Please find below his scientific contributions to the scientific activities of the Institute:

- Research paper – No. 140, [The Korean defense industry enters the European security theater an analysis of Korea-Poland arms deals](#), February 22, 2024.
- Watch [here](#) the replay of his conference on "NATO-AP4-Korea relations in flux", September 7, 2023, École Militaire.

Events and publications

Latest publications



Strategic brief No.62, Information Warfare in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.

by Dusan Bozalka, July 2023.

Artificial intelligence (AI) not only enhances the offensive capabilities of malicious actors in the digital realm but also further weakens the defensive capacities of our societies against information manipulation. Based on discussions held at the annual conference of the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence in Riga, Latvia, as well as on current events, this strategic brief aims to summarise the dangers presented by tools utilising this technology. [...]

Read the full strategic brief

Brève stratégique n° 66, Évolution de l'OTAN – Poursuite ou accélération du processus de transformation ?

by Éveline Mathey and Pierre Landry, November 2023.

Confrontée depuis 2014 à la détérioration de son environnement stratégique, l'OTAN adapte



sa posture militaire afin de renforcer sa défense collective et de faire face aux défis futurs. À cette fin, l'Alliance engage des transformations lui permettant, d'une part, d'être capable de défendre son territoire et, d'autre part, d'anticiper les menaces. [...]

Read the full strategic brief



Brève stratégique n° 67, Une barrière trop intelligente ? – Comment le Hamas s'est joué d'un système de protection très élaboré.

by Olivier Passot, November 2023.

Le 7 octobre 2023, le Hamas a réussi à franchir la barrière de sécurité séparant Gaza du territoire israélien en appliquant un plan d'opérations très élaboré. Combinant efficacement le choc, le feu et le mouvement, jouant sur la surprise, le groupe terroriste a minutieusement exploité les limites de cette barrière, dont les performances technologiques réelles se sont avérées insuffisantes pour pallier la faiblesse des effectifs. [...]

Read the full strategic brief

Research Papers



Research Paper No. 140, The Korean Defense Industry Enters the European Security Theater: An Analysis of Korea-Poland Arms Deals.

by Wooyeal Paik, February 2024.

Over the past couple of years Korea and Poland have been advancing a large arms deal framework, worth approximately 60 billion USD, across the field including, but not limited to, main battle tanks, self-propelled howitzers, light fighter jets and multi-launch rocket systems. This is an unprecedented defense industrial cooperation to connect two major battle tanks, self-propelled howitzers, light fighter jets and multi-launch rocket systems. This is an unprecedented defense industrial cooperation to connect, if not integrate, their respective regions into the Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific. [...]

Read the research paper



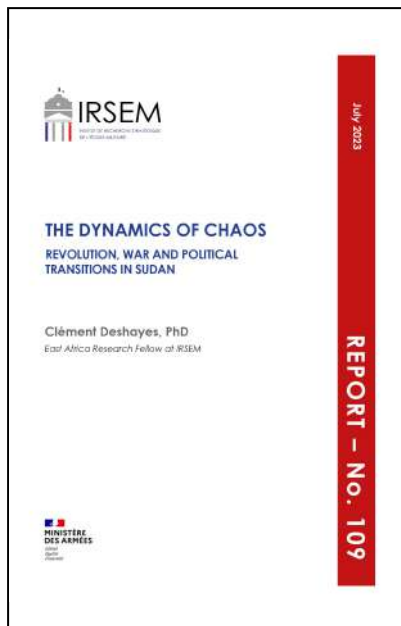
Research Paper No. 141, Big words, small deeds – Russia and China in the Arctic.

by Lukas B. Wahden, February 2024.

Russia's war against Ukraine has had a significant impact on the Arctic. Relations between Russia and the Arctic NATO states have deteriorated, the western Arctic states have ceased most institutional cooperation with Moscow, and the Arctic Council is paralysed. At the same time, climate change is changing the natural environment of the region. This has made it easier to extract and transport Arctic resources by sea. New Arctic shipping lanes are opening up, which is attracting military and naval powers [...]

[Read the research paper](#)

Reports / Étude



Report No 109, Clément Deshayes, The dynamics of chaos: Revolution, war and political transitions in Sudan.

by Clément Deshayes, July 2023.

In April 2023, a violent conflict broke out in Sudan between the Sudanese army and a paramilitary group named the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). This clash constituted the climax of a multidimensional political crisis, one that stemmed from Sudan's popular uprising of 2019. In order to understand the dynamics underlying this power struggle, [...]

[Read the full report](#)



Étude No 110, Béatrice Hainaut, L'établissement de normes de comportement dans l'espace extra-atmosphérique – De la Terre à la Lune, et au-delà. / Establishing Norms of Behaviour in Outer Space. From the Earth to the Moon, and Beyond.

by Béatrice Hainaut, November 2023

An English translation will be published soon.

The ongoing space revolutions are modifying the risks and threats faced by actors using outer space. Most of them promote new norms to ensure the long-term viability of space, i.e. to ensure its long-term use for the benefit of all. This study aims to analyse the mechanisms by which norms of behaviour for outer space emerge and spread. It also describes the role and influence of

state and non-state actors in promoting these norms.

[Read the full report](#)



Étude No 111, Le droit des conflits armés internationaux appliqué à l'espace extra-atmosphérique – Les défis posés par les satellites artificiels.

by Jennifer Lachance, November 2023

Devant la militarisation croissante de l'espace extra-atmosphérique, il devient de plus en plus pressant de s'intéresser à l'application du droit des conflits armés internationaux aux satellites artificiels au sein de cet environnement. Pour cette raison, la présente étude vise à examiner les défis posés par les satellites artificiels à l'application du droit des conflits armés internationaux dans l'espace extra-atmosphérique. [...]

[Read the full report](#)



Étude No 112 – La guerre en Ukraine : un nouveau contexte stratégique pour la Turquie ?

by Sümbül Kaya (dir.), December 2023.

La guerre en Ukraine a opéré un grand changement dans l'environnement géopolitique de la Turquie : elle lui a permis de sortir de son isolement et lui a donné l'opportunité de réaffirmer sa position non seulement sur la scène internationale mais aussi au niveau régional. Son rôle de médiateur dans la crise ukrainienne et sa diplomatie hyperactive [...]

[Read the full report](#)

Étude No 113, Gendarmerie nationale et Guardia Civil – La coopération tous azimuts.

by Louis Vailhen, January 2024.

La Gendarmerie nationale française et la Guardia Civil espagnole sont deux forces de sécurité à statut militaire, dotées de racines communes et d'une organisation similaire. Ce point de départ leur a permis de développer une coopération particulièrement aboutie et totalement inédite dans le paysage sécuritaire mondial. Celle-ci est d'abord transfrontalière, [...]

[Read the full report](#)



Étude No 114, Ce que veulent les grandes puissances – La quête de statut de la Chine et l'avenir de l'ordre international.

by Élie Baranets, February 2024.

Course à la puissance, à la sécurité, à la technologie, ou encore aux retombées économiques, la rivalité sino-américaine est généralement décrite comme une compétition qui englobe tous les domaines. Ces différentes dimensions ne dévoilent néanmoins jamais autant leur intérêt que lorsqu'elles sont analysées à travers la course au statut à laquelle elles participent. [...]

[Read the full report](#)

Étude No 115, La Chine et les opérations militaires autres que la guerre (军队非战争军事行动) à l'étranger : quelles conséquences sur le dilemme de sécurité ? ».

by Carine Pina, March 2024.

Depuis plus de deux décennies, la Chine s'emploie à effectuer à l'étranger des opérations militaires autres que la guerre (OMAG), permettant ainsi à ses forces militaires de se projeter à l'international. Les OMAG chinoises à l'étranger sont directement inspirées de la doctrine américaine des Military Operations Other Than War (1995-2006). Ces opérations, menées en grande partie grâce au déploiement de moyens militaires pour des enjeux sécuritaires non traditionnels, attisent-elles le dilemme de sécurité ? [...]

[Read the full report](#)

Les Champs de Mars

Created in 1996, IRSEM's scientific journal, *Les Champs de Mars*, is a reference journal on war and peace, meeting the most demanding selection criteria. It has a reading committee and a scientific committee composed of 60 French and foreign academics. It is published both in French and in English (on Cairn).

Les Champs de Mars n° 37, Pierre Bourgois (dir.), Le soldat augmenté, Les Presses de Sciences Po, 224 p. novembre 2023



Le combattant du futur sera-t-il un « super soldat » ? L'augmentation militaire fait aujourd'hui partie des thématiques « à la mode ». En effet, les études portant sur les évolutions technologiques militaires mettent de plus en plus en avant ce concept, au même titre que les sujets des drones armés et des systèmes d'armes létaux autonomes, largement évoqués durant la dernière décennie. On observe ainsi, depuis plusieurs années maintenant, une multiplication des travaux portant sur le soldat augmenté. [...]

[Read the full review](#)

Events



7 November 2023: Seminars "Information battles in digital spheres", Assoc. Prof. Maud Quessard and Pr Jean-Christophe Boucher.

Assoc. Prof. Maud Quessard, Head of the "Europe, Transatlantic Relations and Russia" research programme together with several IRSEM Researchers welcomed Pr Jean-Christophe Boucher, Professor at the School of Public Policy and at the Department of Political Science at the University of Calgary (Canada), and a member of the NSA (Network for Strategic Analysis).

Mr. Boucher hosted two seminars at the École militaire: one on computational analysis and its interest for academia and institutional practitioners, and the other on the use of Telegram by Russian embassies around the world. [...]

[Read the full article](#)

17-18 January 2024: Cycle of conferences on "China's international projection" organised by Dr Carine Pina (IRSEM).

17 January 2024: Round table on “China and the “protection of its overseas interests”: projecting Chinese security forces abroad”, with Dr Andrea Ghiselli of Fudan University (Shanghai), Dr Ilaria Carrozza of the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) and Dr Carine Pina (IRSEM). [...]



[Read the full article](#)

18 January 2024: Seminar on "Russian foreign policy in the Middle East: a view from China" with Dr Andrea Ghiselli (Fudan University). [...]



[Read the full article](#)

12 February 2024: Roundtable on "Congress and the Foreign Policy Directions of the United States" with Dr Jordan Tama (American University, Washington).

Chaired by Assoc. Prof. Maud Quessard (IRSEM), with the participation of Pr Jean-Baptiste Velut (Sorbonne), Pr Elisa Chelle (Paris-Nanterre University) and Assoc. Prof. Frédéric Heurtebize (Paris-Nanterre University, CNRS).

As part of the Observatory of American Foreign Policy, IRSEM and the Sorbonne, in collaboration with the Institute of the Americas, jointly organised a conference and round table on the role of partisan alliances in Congress on the direction of US foreign policy. [...]



[Read the full article](#)

12 February 2024: Conference “What security challenges for Northern Europe? The perspective of the Nordic countries and the United States”.

With the participation of **Dr Barbara Kunz**, researcher at the “Stockholm International Peace Research Institute” (SIPRI) and **Martin Quencez**, Director of the Paris office of the German Marshall Fund (GMF, Paris). [...]



[Read the full article](#)

13-14 March 2024: 1st Edition of the Paris Defence and Strategy Forum (PDSF), "Europe at crossroads", organised by ACADEM at the

Ecole Militaire in Paris.

Over two days, French and international civil and military experts shared their analyses and solutions in round tables, conferences, workshops and strategic games. For its first edition, the PDSF dedicated its programme to a major topical issue: Europe at a crossroads, articulated around three themes: "Defence and security architectures and policies: Europe at the centre of a transformation"; Regional approaches and geopolitical challenges: Europe at a geopolitical crossroads"; Approaches through Environment, Field and Means: Europe at the turning point of a new era".



[For more details](#)



15 March 2024: Seminar on the development of the drone industry and the fight against corruption in the defense sector in Ukraine, in collaboration with Eastern Circles.

IRSEM-Europe organised an exchange on the development of the drone industry and the fight against corruption in the Ukrainian defense sector. Mariia Berlinska, Head of Dignitas Ukraine and an aerial reconnaissance drone operator, and Olena Tregub, director of NAKO (the Independent Anti-Corruption Defense Committee), shared their in-depth knowledge of the subject with the participants. This was an opportunity to demonstrate how Ukrainian society is fighting the war with technology. The event, organised in collaboration with Eastern Circles, Ukraine's energy and defense think-tank, was a great success!

19 March 2024: Seminar "Setting standards of behaviour in outer space. From the Earth to the Moon and beyond" by Béatrice Hainaut.



IRSEM-Europe held its first seminar on "Setting standards of behavior in outer space. From the Earth to the Moon and Beyond". Captain Béatrice Hainaut, a researcher at IRSEM, was able to present her work and share views with all the participants, giving rise to some fascinating discussions. This seminar was an opportunity to discuss several issues connected with the rapid growth of space awareness in Brussels.

As mentioned above, an English translation of her article, "Establishing Norms of Behaviour in Outer Space. From the Earth to the Moon, and Beyond", will be available soon.

[Read the full study](#)



28 March 2024: Symposium: "Thinking innovation and disruption in wartime" ; 1st day of the "War, innovation and technological break" cycle (2024-2025) organised by IRSEM and the Defence Historical Service (SHD).

The Service historique de la Défense (SHD) and the Institut de recherche stratégique de l'École militaire (IRSEM) organised a symposium on "Thinking innovation and disruption in wartime", on Thursday 28 March 2024 at the École militaire.

The day was introduced by IRSEM's acting director, IGA Benoît Rademacher, and the director of historical research at the SHD, Pr Walter Bruyère-Ostells. They highlighted the commonalities between current and future work and clarified the technical and definitional contours of innovation. The guest of honour, Laurent Vieste, Head of Defence Strategy and Technology at the Defence Innovation Agency (AID), spoke about the role of defence innovation within the MoD in terms of challenges and ambitions.

Interactions with foreign centers and researchers



3 October 2023: Visit of Mrs Negoita from the National Defense Ministry of Romania to IRSEM, part of the "Personnalités d'Avenir Défense" (PAD) programme.

IRSEM received Mrs. Liana Negoita, who is the Defense Policy director at the Ministry of National Defense of Romania. Mrs. Negoita is part of the "Personnalités d'Avenir Défense" (PAD) programme organised by the Directorate general for international relations and strategy (DGRIS), and which aims to expose

foreign officials to the French vision of defense and security. [...]

[Read the full article](#)

23 November 2023: Visit of Matti Pesu from the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA), part of the « Programme d'invitation des personnalités d'avenir » (PIPA) of the French Foreign Ministry (MEAE).

IRSEM had the pleasure of receiving the visit of Matti Pesu, a think-tanker working on the Euro-Atlantic security architecture of Finland. Mr. Pesu, as a participant to in the PIPA programme (Programme d'invitation des personnalités d'avenir) organised by the Quai d'Orsay. [...]



[Read the full article](#)



5 December 2023: Visit of an Algerian delegation from the Military Institute of Documentation, Evaluation and prospective (IMDEP).

On this occasion, both partners presented their operations and activities to their respective counterparts. It was also a good opportunity to discuss the outlines of joint scientific activities and to give concrete expression to the interest in sharing views.

[Read the full article](#)

22 January 2024: Franco-German conference "The future of security in Europe and relations with Russia in the context of the war in Ukraine", IRSEM- German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP).

Organised by Dr. Susan Stewart (SWP) and Dr. Céline Marangé (IRSEM) at the École Militaire on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle/Aachen and the 61st anniversary of the Élysée Treaty, this forum brought together academics, officers and diplomats from both nations to discuss military choices in the context of the war in Ukraine and the uncertainties weighing on European security. [...]



[For more details](#)



29 February 2024: Visit of Professor T.V. Paul (McGill University) to an IRSEM-DGRIS seminar.

IRSEM was very honored to welcome Professor T.V. Paul (McGill University) to an IRSEM-DGRIS seminar. Pr. T.V. Paul came to present his book, soon to be published by Oxford University Press, *The Unfinished Quest: India's Search for Major Power Status from Nehru to Modi*. [...]

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