

# AIS General Research Fund (GRF) and Early Career Scheme (ECS) Success Round 2019-20

**Project Title:** Negotiating Parliamentary Control of the Armed Forces in Praetorian Regimes. Evidence from Myanmar

**Brief Abstract:**

Using the case of transitioning Myanmar and its decade-old legacy of military involvement in politics, this project seeks to understand how nascent post-authoritarian civilian institutions establish and consolidate mechanisms for the oversight of the armed forces under conditions of entrenched praetorianism – a situation where the military continues to hold decisive influence over the political process. It particularly focuses on the role of Myanmar’s national legislature, crafted by the 2008 Constitution and tasked with the scrutiny of other branches of government. The study probes into the proposition that Myanmar’s emerging parliament and its members – a quarter of them being military appointed legislators – have attempted to challenge the dominance of the security sector whilst scrutinizing its activities, (mis)behaviour, expenditures and funding. The planned contribution of this GRF project is twofold. First, informed by the political science literature on legislative oversight of the military, it hopes to enhance our theoretical grasp of the patterns of civil-military relations under uncertain army-driven transitions. Second, the PI will mine unexplored Myanmar-language material – i.e. proceedings of the first two “post-junta” legislatures (2011-16 and 2016-21) – to unearth empirical evidence of emerging forms of parliamentary control and assess the initial steps taken towards legislative scrutiny of the armed forces in post-junta Myanmar.

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**Biography:**

Renaud Egreteau (PhD Sciences Po Paris, 2006) is Associate Professor in Comparative Politics in the Department of Asian and International Studies, City University of Hong Kong. He has held fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars in Washington DC (2015-16) and the Singapore-based Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS-Yusof Ishak), and previously taught at Sciences Po Paris (France) and the University of Hong Kong. He authored *Caretaking Democratization: The Military and Political Change in Myanmar* (Oxford University Press & Hurst, 2016) and co-edited, with François Robinne, *Metamorphosis: Studies in Social and Political Change in Myanmar* (Singapore, NUS Press, 2015).