Event Description: Considered severely under-institutionalized at the end of the Cold War, Asia’s regional architecture has today evolved into a “complex patchwork” of bilateral, trilateral, mini-lateral, and multilateral institutions. How did this happen? Why should we care? And what does this mean for East Asian international relations? Taking a historical institutional approach, Andrew Yeo examines the transformation of East Asia’s regional architecture from 1945 to the present. Yeo sees bilateral and multilateral institutions developing in a layered fashion, thus resulting in increasing regime complexity. The complex patchwork of institutions raises questions about their efficacy in promoting governance, stability, and order in East Asia, particularly given China’s growing regional ambitions, and the Trump Administration’s disdain for existing institutions. However, a historical institutional logic indicates that the dismantling of U.S. bilateral alliances, and the hollowing of institutional regional orders seems unlikely.

Speaker Bio: Andrew I. Yeo is an associate professor of politics at The Catholic University of America in Washington DC. He is the author of *Activists, Alliances, and Anti-U.S. Base Protests* (Cambridge University Press 2011), and co-editor of *Living in an Age of Mistrust: An Interdisciplinary Study of Declining Trust in Contemporary Society and Politics and How to Get it Back* (Routledge 2017). Yeo is also the principle investigator of a two year Korea Foundation sponsored project on North Korean human rights discourse and transnational advocacy which will appear as a co-edited volume under the title, *North Korean Human Rights: Activists and Networks* (Cambridge University Press, under contract). Yeo’s current book project explores the evolution of U.S. bilateral alliances and multilateralism in East Asia from 1945 to the present.

His research and teaching interests include international relations theory, East Asian regionalism, narratives and discourse, the formation of beliefs, ideas, and worldviews, civil society, social and transnational movements, overseas basing strategy and U.S. force posture, Korean politics, and North Korea.