Private Security Companies (PSCs) – also referred to as Private Military Companies (PMCs) – have emerged in the past 20 years, offering a vast menu of military and security services that were in the past largely the responsibility of government agencies. The demand for private military and security services comes in part from the maritime sector. One region where PSCs are active in the maritime sphere is Southeast Asia, where such companies provide services such as anti-piracy protection for merchant vessels and security for ports and offshore oil/gas platforms.

This seminar examines the work conducted by PSCs in maritime Southeast Asia, or more precisely Indonesia and Malaysia where maritime PSCs operate within and outside regulatory frameworks. It will be suggested that an examination of the relationship between government actors and PSCs can provide insights into changes in security governance and the power-relationship (balance) between different interest groups within the governing elite in countries in transition, including Malaysia and Indonesia.

Carolin Liss holds a Honours Degree (Thesis: The Sipadan Kidnapping `Drama´ (April – September 2000) The Rise of the Abu Sayyaf, International Terrorism, and the Global Media) from Murdoch University and an MA (Magister) degree in Politics and History from the University of Hannover, Germany. For her PhD, Maritime Piracy in Southeast Asia and Bangladesh, 1992-2006: A Prismatic Interpretation of Security, which will be published under the title Oceans of Crime by ISEAS Press in mid 2010, Carolin conducted fieldwork in Singapore, Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah. She is also the author of articles on maritime piracy and the privatisation of maritime security in Asia and Africa and terrorism in Southeast Asia.

Wednesday 20 October 2010
N54, Meeting Room 2.02
Nathan campus
12.30 -1.50pm

To RSVP, please contact Natasha Vary on (07) 3735 5322 or n.vary@griffith.edu.au no later than 5.00pm Monday 18 October 2010.