A person wearing glasses

Description automatically generated with low confidenceRachel Esplin Odell

Research Fellow

**EXPERTISE**

China, Maritime Security, Indo Pacific

**BIO**

Rachel Esplin Odell is a Research Fellow in the East Asia Program at the Quincy Institute and an expert in U.S. strategy toward Asia, Chinese foreign policy, and maritime disputes. She was an International Security Fellow in the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard Kennedy School from 2019 to 2020. She received her PhD in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where her dissertation studied the politics of how countries interpret the international law of the sea. Odell previously worked as a Research Analyst in the Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, co-authoring several policy reports and organizing numerous public forums, government briefings, and Track II workshops. She has also served in the China Affairs bureau of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

Odell’s writings have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *War on the Rocks*, *The National Interest*, and *The Diplomat*, among other publications. She has received fellowships from the National Science Foundation, the Smith Richardson Foundation, the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies at Waseda University, and MIT’s Center for International Studies. Her research on the relationship between maritime power and international law received the Alexander George Award from the Foreign Policy Analysis Section of the International Studies Association. She holds an AB *summa cum laude* in East Asian Studies with a secondary field in Government from Harvard University and has advanced proficiency in Mandarin Chinese and Spanish.

**A close - up of a person smiling

Description automatically generated**Jessica J. Lee

Senior Research Fellow, East Asia Program

**EXPERTISE**

Korean Peninsula, Japan, Alliances and Strategy in East Asia

**PROGRAMS**

East Asia

**BIO**

Jessica J. Lee is a Senior Research Fellow in the East Asia Program at the Quincy Institute. Her research focuses on U.S. foreign policy toward the Asia-Pacific region, with an emphasis on alliances and North Korea.

Previously, Jessica led the Council of Korean Americans (CKA), a national leadership organization for Americans of Korean descent. Prior to CKA, Jessica was a Resident Fellow at the Pacific Forum in Honolulu. Previously, Jessica was a senior manager at The Asia Group, LLC, a strategy and capital advisory firm. She began her career on Capitol Hill, first as a professional staff member handling the Asia region for the chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and then as a senior legislative assistant on international security and trade for a member of Congress on the Ways and Means Committee.

Jessica’s analysis has been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Foreign Policy*, *The National Interest*, *USA Today*, *the Washington Times*, and *The Nation*. Jessica serves on the board of International Student Conferences, Inc., a U.S. nonprofit that supports cultural exchange between students from the United States, South Korea, Japan, and China. She is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a member of CKA. Jessica holds a B.A. in Political Science from Wellesley College and an A.M. in Regional Studies-East Asia from Harvard University.

A person wearing glasses

Description automatically generated with low confidenceMichael D. Swaine

Director, East Asia Program

**EXPERTISE**

East Asia, China

**BIO**

Michael D. Swaine, director of QI’s East Asia program, is one of the most prominent American scholars of Chinese security studies. He comes to QI from Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where he worked for nearly twenty years as a senior fellow specializing in Chinese defense and foreign policy, U.S.-China relations, and East Asian international relations. Swaine served as a senior policy analyst at the RAND Corporation.

Swaine has authored and edited more than a dozen books and monographs, including *Remaining Aligned on the Challenges Facing Taiwan* (with Ryo Sahashi; 2019), *Conflict and Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region: A Strategic Net Assessment* (with Nicholas Eberstadt et al; 2015) and many journal articles and book chapters.

Swaine is directing, along with Iain Johnston of Harvard University, a multi-year crisis prevention project with Chinese partners. He also advises the U.S. government on Asian security issues.

Swaine received his doctorate in government from Harvard University and his bachelor’s degree from George Washington University.