



PROGRAMME

THE FUTURE OF EU-CHINA RELATIONS

The European Union's recent election results have fostered a markedly different parliamentary composition that could potentially elicit a varying approach towards engaging with China. In this backdrop, leveraging the expertise of notable stakeholders based in the EU, this roundtable aims to analyze the future of three key strategic facets for EU-China relations: (1) economic trade; (2) technological and research collaboration; and, (3) global peace and security initiatives. The expected outcome is a discussion paper analyzing the identifiable key strategic facets, with potential recommendations for improving relations between the EU and China in the second half of the 2020s.

11.07.2024

Thursday

09.00h	Welcome Reception
09.30h	Opening Remarks Manuel Becker , Head of Scientific Programme AIA NRW Reza Hasmath , University of Alberta; Fellow AIA NRW
10.30h	Working Session - The Future of EU-China Economic Relations
	Discussion Questions: Is there sufficient understanding amongst EU stakeholders about the intricacies of the Chinese state's relationship with domestic economic actors? Is it in EU's strategic interest to economically derisk/decouple from China? How can the EU further ensure strategic industries are protected from Chinese 'dumping'? Is engagement with the Indo-Pacific region the path forward towards expanding the EU's economic interests and/or 'containing'/derisking from China?
11.45h	Lunch
13.00h	Working Session - The Future of EU-China Technological and Research Collaboration
	Discussion Questions: What did the EU learn from the Huawei and Tiktok sagas? Should the EU carefully monitor and/or regulate Chinese-backed technologies? How can companies fruitfully engage with China, and simultaneously protect its intellectual property? Is securitization a major element to be factored in future research collaboration?

15.15h

Coffee Break

15.45h

Working Session - Can the EU and China Co-Exist in Future Global Peace and Security Initiatives?

Discussion Questions:

How can the EU effectively cooperate with China in global conflict zones? e.g. Russia-Ukraine, Israel-Palestine

What role, if any, should the EU play in improving China-Taiwan relations?

What strategies should the EU employ to engage China on the human rights that it prioritizes?

16.45h

Closing Remarks

Reza Hasmath, University of Alberta; Fellow AIA NRW

18.00h

Dinner

Björn Alpermann

Björn Alpermann is a Professor and Chair of Contemporary Chinese Studies at Julius-Maximilians-University of Würzburg. Before taking his current position, he worked as an Assistant Professor (Juniorprofessor; 2008-2012) and Lecturer/Researcher at the University of Cologne. He studied modern China studies, political science and economics at the University of Cologne, where he also obtained his Ph.D. in 2006 with a study on the politics of economic reforms in China. His current research focus is on China's population, including issues of aging, ethnicity and urbanization. He is currently the speaker of a joint center for advanced research called "Worldmaking from a Global Perspective: A Dialogue with China" (funded by the BMBF), and a PI in the EU-funded project "Remote Ethnography of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region".

Manuel Becker

Manuel Becker is Head of Scientific Program at the Academy of International Affairs. From 2018 to 2023 he has been Managing Director of the Institute for Political Science and Sociology at the University of Bonn. He studied political science, medieval and current history, as well as philosophy at the University of Bonn and at the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Science Po). Manuel teaches political science at the University of Bonn, and at the Hochschule Bonn/Rhein-Sieg. His research interests include the politics of history, university policy, the history of political ideas, as well as international relations. He has recently published the monograph *Universitäre Bildung in Deutschland. Ideengeschichtliche Perspektiven und aktuelle Herausforderungen in NRW* (Nomos, 2022), and an edited volume on *reassignments Rücktritte von politischen Ämtern. Perspektiven auf das Ende von politischen* (Wiesbaden, 2024).

Una Bērziņa-Čerenkova

Una Bērziņa-Čerenkova is Head of the China Studies Centre at Riga Stradins University, Head of the Asia Programme at the Latvian Institute of International Affairs, and a member of European Think-tank Network on China (ETNC). She has held research fellowships at Fudan, Stanford, and Oxford Universities, and is affiliated with King's College London and MERICS. She is the author of *Perfect Imbalance: China and Russia* (World Scientific, 2022) and the editor of *Discourse, Rhetoric and Shifting Political Behaviour in China* (Routledge, 2023).

Raoul Bunskoek

Raoul Bunskoek is Heads of the Clingendael China Centre and is Senior Research Fellow at the Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael since 1 February 2024. He conducts research on China's foreign policy and diplomacy, China's (international) political economy, and Chinese development thinking and practices abroad, particularly on the African continent. Raoul previously was Senior Research Fellow at the European Research Council's 'Africa's Infrastructure Globalities' (INFRAGLOB) project, University of Bayreuth, Germany. His recent publications consist of the chapter 'Beyond the "China Model": Towards a Relational Understanding of Development Practices in China-Africa Relations' (2024), the article 'Community of Common Destiny' as Post-Western Regionalism: Rethinking China's Belt and Road Initiative from a Confucian Perspective' (2021), and the book *China and International Theory: The Balance of Relationships* (2019). Raoul holds Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in Political Science and International Relations from National Taiwan University, and a B.A. in Chinese Studies from Leiden University.

Rogier Creemers

Rogier Creemers is a Lecturer in Modern Chinese Studies at Leiden University. With a background in sinology and international relations, and a Ph.D. in Law, his research focuses on Chinese domestic digital technology policy, as well as China's growing importance in global digital affairs. He is the principal investigator of the NWO Vidi Project "The Smart State: Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and the Law in China". For the Leiden Asia Centre, he directs a project on China and global cybersecurity, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is also a co-founder of DigiChina, a joint initiative with Stanford University and New America.

Katja Freistein

Katja Freistein is a Senior Researcher and Academic Coordinator of the Fellowship Program at the Academy of International Affairs. Her research has focused on international organisations, global inequalities and development. She has published extensively on narratives and visibility, particularly in the context of far-right populism, in journals including *Third World Quarterly*, *Review of International Studies* and *International Political Sociology*, among others. She was a Fellow and Visiting Professor at institutions in Aarhus, Saint Petersburg, Hamburg and Münster. Her latest, co-edited book is: *Imagining Pathways for Global Cooperation* (Edward Elgar, 2022).

Chloé Froissart

Chloé Froissart is a Professor of Political Science at the Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (INALCO). She holds a Ph.D. in Political Sciences from Sciences Po Paris. She was an Assistant Professor in Chinese Studies at the University of Rennes 2 and an associate researcher at the CNRS-CRAPE. She was awarded the best Ph.D. dissertation prize of the French Association of Chinese Studies, as well as the Riche-lieu Prize for the best Ph.D. dissertation in Law and Political Science by the Chancellery of the Universities of Paris for her thesis.

Matthias Hackler

Matthias Hackler has been working as an Accredited Parliamentary Assistant in the office of Reinhard Bütikofer (Greens/EFA), a member of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, and Chair of the Parliament's Delegation for Relations with the People's Republic of China since January 2021. He worked on the two China reports of the EP Foreign Affairs Committee, in which the European Parliament rebalanced EU-China relations. He also helped formulate the European Parliament's first specific report on Taiwan and contributed to various China-related resolutions. In 2019, Matthias completed a Ph.D. on political narratives in EU-China relations at Renmin University of China. He holds an M.A. in international relations from Renmin University and a B.A. in modern China studies and political science from the University of Cologne. He worked briefly for the EU Delegation to China and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Beijing. His work focuses on the Chinese debate on EU-China relations.

Reza Hasmath

Reza Hasmath (Ph.D., Cambridge) is a Full Professor in Political Science at the University of Alberta. He has previously held faculty positions in management, sociology and political science at the Universities of Toronto, Melbourne and Oxford, and has worked for think-tanks, consultancies, development agencies, and NGOs in USA, Canada, UK, Australia and China. He was formally trained in philosophy, public policy, international studies and diplomacy. His award-winning research examines how the behaviour of emerging Chinese state and non-state actors potentially affect salient theories, practices and assumptions in international affairs. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Civil Society, and is the Foundation Editor of the Routledge Research on the Politics and Sociology of China book series.

Timothy Hildebrandt

Timothy Hildebrandt is an Associate Professor of Social Policy and Development at the London School of Economics. Trained as a Sinologist and political scientist, his research spans multiple disciplines and focus on issues such as civil society development, activism, state-society relations, public opinion, and citizenship. His work is published widely in academic journals and has been featured regularly in the media. He is currently a co-Editor of The China Quarterly.

Aurelio Insisa

Aurelio Insisa is the 2023-24 Jean Monnet Fellow at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute. He is also a Senior Research Fellow for Asia within the Global Actors Programme at the International Affairs Institute in Rome. Aurelio holds a Ph.D. from the University of Hong Kong, where he taught for six years. His main research interests centre on the foreign policy of the People's Republic of China, cross-strait relations between Beijing and Taipei, and Taiwanese politics.

Maciej Kalwasiński

Maciej Kalwasiński is a Senior Fellow in the China Department at the Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW) since 2023, specializing on China's economy, including its macroeconomic situation, economic policy, trade and foreign investments, foreign economic policy. Previously, he worked as an editor and analyst at the financial portal Bankier.pl. He holds a degree in international business from the Wrocław University of Economics and Business.

Michael Kovrig

Michael Kovrig is a former Canadian foreign service officer who previously served for more than a decade as a diplomat in China and at the United Nations, and as a senior desk officer covering international security at Canada's foreign ministry in Ottawa. He has worked in several countries in roles including strategic communications specialist for the UN Development Group, researcher on China for the firm that is now Rhodium Group, and earlier as a journalist and foreign correspondent in Eastern Europe. Michael has a master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University.

Eva Seiwert

Eva Seiwert is an analyst in the foreign relations team and scientific coordinator of the EU Horizon consortium "Dealing with a resurgent China" (DWARC / China Horizons) at the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS). Her research focuses on China-Russia relations and China's behaviour in international organisations. She previously worked as a postdoctoral researcher at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg and as managing editor at 9DASHLINE. Eva holds a Ph.D. in international relations from Freie Universität Berlin, an M.Sc. in East Asian relations from the University of Edinburgh, and a B.A. in Sinology from Leipzig University. She has held research fellowships at the Shanghai Academic of Social Science, King's College London, and the OSCE Academy in Bishkek.