**Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the American Studies Network**A logo with a star and text

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***Connecting People, Cultures and Ideas:***

***Re-examining Sino-American Exchange***

**October 25-27, 2024 Beijing**

**Co-sponsored by: Beijing Foreign Studies University & US-China Education Trust**

Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) and US-China Education Trust (USCET) cordially invite scholars and students from all disciplines to participate in the American Studies Network (ASN) Conference, “Connecting People, Cultures and Ideas: Re-examining Sino-American Exchange,” to be held on October 25-27 at BFSU in Beijing. This conference will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the ASN and mark a return to in-person programming.

**Conference Theme**

From the 1850’s, when Yung Wing became the first Chinese student to graduate from an American university, to the 1970’s, when Ping-Pong Diplomacy brought American and Chinese athletes together for the first time in decades, people-to-people exchanges between China and the United States have played an essential role in US-China relations. Educational and cultural exchange has deepened mutual understanding, trained future scholars and leaders, and helped to counter misinformation and stereotypes that could add to the danger of miscalculations and conflict. During the COVID-19 pandemic, when two-way travel between China and the United States was significantly disrupted, the interchange of ideas, scholars, and culture was severely curtailed as well. Today, even with the pandemic behind us, the normalization of exchanges remains frustratingly slow, impeded by health concerns, high airfares, academic and bureaucratic obstacles, as well as the securitization of the bilateral relationship. This overall stagnation in exchanges and increase in academic isolation has serious implications for people-to-people exchange between the two countries and the future of Sino-American relations.

As both countries are emerging from the pandemic and resuming interactions, revitalizing exchanges is an important step forward for U.S.-China relations. In light of the prevailing downturn and distrust in today’s bilateral relationship, the 2024 ASN Conference will examine the past, present, and future of U.S. and China people-to-people, educational, and cultural connectivity. Together, we will examine historical legacies and current trends to explore how education and cultural exchange can enrich the foundation of the future of U.S.-China relations.

Conference participants will discuss and debate various topics concerning current developments in the U.S., the impact of U.S.-China exchange, and the future of U.S.-China relations. How did the earliest exchanges between China and the United States affect the bilateral relationship? What impact has scholarship had on bilateral relations and mutual understanding? What are the key challenges faced by academic institutions in maintaining collaborations amidst the downturn in relations? How can technological advancements enhance cross-cultural engagement between the U.S. and China? What policies or initiatives could potentially strengthen or strain bilateral people-to-people relations?

We cordially welcome paper proposals in English from scholars of various disciplines on topics such as:

1. U.S.-China Educational and Cultural Exchange: History and Evolution
2. Navigating U.S.-China Educational Cultural Exchange Today: Geopolitics, Challenges, International Mobility
3. Cultural Diplomacy of China and the US: Soft Power and Mutual Perceptions
4. Digital Diplomacy: Leveraging Technology for New Possibilities
5. U.S. Today and U.S.-China Relations: Politics, Economy and Society
6. China Today and U.S.-China Relations: Politics, Economy and Society
7. American Studies in China: Examining America’s Past, Present, and Future

The above list is meant only to suggest a possible range of topics. You are encouraged to submit concepts on other topics related to the overarching theme of the conference. Interdisciplinary perspectives are particularly welcome.

**Featured American Keynote Speakers**

We are excited to announce that this year's conference will feature distinguished keynote speakers from the United States, renowned for their contributions to U.S.-China relations.

* **David M. Lampton,** Professor Emeritus of China Studies and Senior Research Fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)
* **Robert Daly,** Director of the Wilson Center’s Kissinger Institute on China and the United States
* **Yingyi Ma,** Professor of Sociology and Director of Asian/Asian American Studies at Syracuse University
* **Elizabeth Knup,** Senior Advisor to China Focus at the Carter Center and Senior Advisor to the University of Pennsylvania’s Project on the Future of US-China Relations. China Regional Director at the Ford Foundation (2013-2023).

These thought leaders bring a wealth of knowledge, drawing from their extensive academic and professional experience in areas critical to U.S.-China relations. We invite all participants to engage with these experts as they share their perspectives on international collaboration and fostering deeper understanding between the U.S. and China.

**Registration**

**Advance registration is required for all conference participants by October 9, 2024.** Please register [here](https://forms.office.com/r/NrtZrs5Dc6).

There is no registration fee.

**General Guidelines for Abstract Submission**

You are welcome to submit an abstract by **October 9, 2024** to[asc@bfsu.edu.cn](mailto:asc@bfsu.edu.cn) in order to present in a conference panel. Please find the template below. Your submission should contain your contact information, title, keywords, and an abstract of 300-500 words. The Organizing Committee will evaluate the abstract on the basis of relevance to the conference theme and notify you of its acceptance no later than **October 16, 2024**. If you are not selected to participate in a panel, you are welcome to attend the conference.

Please use the Chicago style for documentation and editing. The specific format this conference follows is short footnotes plus bibliography. In case you need further information on the style, please consult the *Chicago Manual of Style* (16th ed.), or visit the Chicago Style Online website: [www.chicagomanualofstyle.org](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/)

**Professor Mei Renyi Essay Contest (for both master and doctoral students)**

Graduate students are eligible to participate in the Professor Mei Renyi Essay Contest. Only full papers (3,000 - 4,000 words in English, excluding references) will be considered. Contest winners will receive a cash prize and will be acknowledged at an award ceremony during the ASN Conference.

Should you enter the essay contest, please submit the abstract as specified above. Upon notification of acceptance, please submit your full papers to [asc@bfsu.edu.cn](mailto:asc@bfsu.edu.cn) no later than **October 9, 2024**.

**Conference Logistics**

**Dates**: Friday, October 25 (arrival, registration, welcome dinner) to Sunday, October 27, 2024

**Venue**: Beijing Foreign Studies University, Beijing.

**Transportation and Accommodation:** Transportation and accommodation will be the responsibility of each participant. Please find recommendations for accommodation near the BFSU campus:

*Beijing Friendship Hotel北京友谊宾馆，地址：北京海淀区中关村南大街1号*

*Atour S Hotel, BFSU北京中关村北外亚朵S酒店，地址：北京海淀区西三环北路19-1号*

*Manxin Hotel, BIT 北京中关村理工大学漫心酒店，地址：北京海淀区魏公村路8号院6号楼*

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**Emily Brignand**

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**Your participation is warmly welcome!**

**Beijing Foreign Studies University | US-China Education Trust**

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| Name |  | Gender |  | Title |  |
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| Phone No. |  | | | | |
| Email Address |  | | | | |
| Title of Paper | （in Chinese）  （in English） | | | | |
| Abstract  (in English, 300-500 words） |  | | | | |
| Keywords |  | | | | |