

**Celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Studies Network**

# **Connecting People, Cultures and Ideas: Re-Examining Sino-American Exchange**



## **Program**

**October 25-27, 2024**

**Beijing**

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



## Reminders

1. **Entry onto BFSU Campus:** For Chinese participants, a swipe of your ID card at the gate machine shall grant your entry onto BFSU Campus. For non-Chinese participants, please register with your passport at the gate to enter.
2. **Access to conference venues:** Please refer to the BFSU Campus Plan on the next page. For plenary sessions at the BFSU Library, please use the main entrance of the library and our volunteers will guide you to the lecture halls. For panel sessions in the School of English and International Studies Building (SEIS Building), there is no special arrangement.
3. **Sign-up for the welcome dinner and the ASN MRY Banquet:** Please inform at the sign-in registration whether you will attend the welcome dinner on the evening of October 25 and/or the ASN MRY Banquet on the evening of October 26.
4. **Pick-up service to the ASN MRY Banquet:** Coaches will be waiting on the square to the west of the BFSU Gymnasium from 17:45~18:15 on October 26. As guests may not all sit through the whole banquet, no transport will be scheduled for after the banquet. Please arrange for your own transportation back.
5. **Acronyms:** BFSU (Beijing Foreign Studies University); ASN (American Studies Network); USCET (US-China Education Trust); SEIS (School of English and International Studies) ; American Studies Center (ASC)



北京外国语大学  
BEIJING FOREIGN STUDIES UNIVERSITY

# BFSU Campus Plan



SUBWAY  
4 LINE



**Fujiangnan Restaurant  
Welcome Dinner**

**SEIS Building  
Panel Sessions**

**BFSU Library  
Plenary Sessions**

**Gym**

**Pick-Up Point for  
ASN MRY Banquet**

**BFSU Staff Cafeteria  
Lunches**

**BFSU West Campus**

**BFSU East Campus**

 University Campus Gate

 Building Entrance



Celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Studies Network

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Re-Examining Sino-American Exchange**



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**Schedule/简明日程**

<b>October 25 (Friday)</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>
15:00~17:30	Registration	Room 111, SEIS Building
18:00~20:00	Welcome Dinner	Fujiangnan Restaurant, BFSU West Campus

<b>October 26 (Saturday)</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>	
07:30~08:30	Registration Continued	Lecture Hall 4th Floor BFSU Library	
08:30~08:45	Opening Ceremony		
08:45~09:10	Plenary Session I: Keynotes 1-3		
09:10~09:35			
09:35~10:00			
10:00~10:30	Photo & Tea Break		
10:30~10:55	Plenary Session II: Keynotes 4-6		
10:55~11:20			
11:20~11:45			
11:45~12:15	Q&A		
12:30~13:45	Lunch	BFSU Staff Cafeteria	
14:00~15:30	Panel Session I	Panel 1	Room 111, SEIS Building
		Panel 2	Room 115, SEIS Building
		Panel 3	Room 310, SEIS Building
		Panel 4	Room 313, SEIS Building
15:30~16:00	Tea Break	SEIS Lobby	
16:00~17:30	Panel Session II	Panel 5	Room 111, SEIS Building
		Panel 6	Room 115, SEIS Building
		Panel 7	Room 310, SEIS Building
		Panel 8	Room 313, SEIS Building
18:30~20:00	ASN MRY Banquet and Graduate Paper Awarding Ceremony	No. 1 Ballroom, Second Floor, Empark Grand Hotel Beijing	

<b>October 27 (Sunday)</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>	
08:30~10:00	Panel Session III	Panel 9	Room 111, SEIS Building
		Panel 10	Room 115, SEIS Building
		Panel 11	Room 310, SEIS Building
		Panel 12	Room 313, SEIS Building
10:00~10:30	Tea Break	Lecture Hall 3rd Floor BFSU Library	
10:30~11:20	Plenary Session III: Keynotes 7&8		
11:20~11:50	Panel Wrap-Ups		
11:50~12:00	Closing Remarks		
12:30~13:45	Lunch		BFSU Staff Cafeteria



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## Connecting People, Cultures and Ideas: Re-examining Sino-American Exchange

October 25-27, 2024

Beijing

### Agenda/会议日程表

#### Friday, October 25

15:00-17:30 **Conference Registration** [Room 111, SEIS Building]

18:00-20:00 **Welcome Dinner** [Fujiangnan Restaurant, BFSU West Campus]

#### Saturday, October 26

07:30-08:30 **Conference Registration Continued**

**Venue:** Lecture Hall, 4th Floor, BFSU Library

08:30-08:45 **Opening Ceremony:**

**Venue:** Lecture Hall, 4th Floor, BFSU Library

**Chair: Prof. Fu Meirong**, *Director, American Studies Center, BFSU*

Videod Address by **Prof. Sun Youzhong**, *Former Vice President, BFSU*

Address by Ambassador **Julia Chang Bloch**, *Executive Chair, USCET*

08:45-10:00 **Plenary Session I**

**Venue:** Lecture Hall, 4th Floor, BFSU Library

**Chair: Prof. Li Liwen**, *Provost, BFSU*

**David M. Lampton**, *Professor Emeritus and Senior Research Fellow, Johns Hopkins University*

"Living U.S.-China Relations: From Cold War to Cold War"

**Wang Bo**, *Professor & Director of the Center for American Studies, National University of Defense Technology*

"People of Paradox: The Impact upon US-China Relations and Some Suggestions"

**Elizabeth Knup**, *Senior Advisor to China Focus at the Carter Center and to the University of Pennsylvania's Project on the Future of US-China Relations*

"Addressing Global Challenges: U.S.-China Civil Society Cooperation in an Era of Geopolitical Tension"

10:00-10:30 **Photo and Tea Break** [Lecture Hall, 4th Floor, BFSU Library]

10:30-11:45 **Plenary Session II**

**Venue:** Lecture Hall, 4th Floor, BFSU Library

**Chair: Prof. Ran Jijun**, *Dean of the Department of English and International Studies, China Foreign Affairs University*

**FU Meirong**, *Professor and Director of the American Studies Center, BFSU*

"Stranded in the Cold War: a Psycho-historical Analysis of the Life Course of the Core Members of Chinese Scientific Workers' Association in USA"

**Yingyi Ma**, *Professor and Graduate Director, Syracuse University, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institute*

"Chinese Students in American Higher Education"

**Shi Yi**, *Professor & Director of the Center for American Studies, China Foreign Affairs University*

"Educational Exchanges Between China & US: Challenges and Opportunities"

11:45-12:15 **Q&A**

**Question Master: Rosie Levine**, *Executive Director, USCET*

12:30-13:45 **Lunch** [Buffet at BFSU Staff Cafeteria]

14:00-15:30 **Panel Session I**

**Panel 1: U.S.-China Educational and Academic Exchange: A History**

**Venue:** Room 111, SEIS Building

**Moderator: Shi Yi**, *Professor, China Foreign Affairs University*

**Commentator: Adam Jones**, *Director of China Programs and Special Initiatives*

**Panelists:**

**Jennie Wang**, *Professor, Founder BILINGUAL ACADEMY PRESS*

"In his Wake: F. Chang and Academic Exchange between US and China"

**Yang Zhao**, *Associate Professor of School of History, Beijing Foreign Studies University*

"Scholars of Western History Who Studied in the United States During the Republican Period and the American Tradition of Western Historiography —A Case Study of Six Doctoral Dissertations"

**Smeets Koen**, *Graduate Student of Silk Road School of Renmin University of China*

"Restoring a Relationship: Motivations and Negotiations of Re-Establishing U.S.-China Student Exchanges, 1970-1980"

**Cheng Hong, Liu Zhi-guang**, *Researchers, Beijing Great Wall Enterprise Strategy Institute, Peking University*

"China's Third Wave of Studying in America and Returning to China — The History of the West Culture Munication to China in the Middle 20th Century"



## **Panel 2: U.S.-China Cultural Exchange: A History**

**Venue:** Room 115, SEIS Building

**Moderator:** **Fu Meirong**, *Professor, Director of ASC, BFSU*

**Commentator:** **Jia Ning**, *Lecturer of the American Studies Center, BFSU*

### **Panelists:**

**Jane Hunter**, *Professor of Lewis and Clark College*

"Crossing Cultures in China: Christian Community and Communist Allegiance in the Life of Isabel Brown Crook (1915-2023)"

**Kaimeng Huang**, *Stilwell Scholar and International Advisor of General Stilwell Scholarship Committee at Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, CA, USA*

"General Stilwell's Legacy and People to People Relations between US and China"

**James McDougall, Liu Jingyu**, *Associate Professor & Research Assistant of Wenzhou-Kean University*

"The U.S. Western Frontier in Late-Qing Literati Poetry"

**Han Rui**, *Associate Professor of Guangdong University of Foreign Studies*

"The Confucian Concept of the Person and Its American Interpretation: Discussions from a Comparative Philosophical Perspective"

## **Panel 3: U.S.-China Relations: Traditional Dimensions**

**Venue:** Room 310, SEIS Building

**Moderator:** **Qi Hao**, *Associate Professor, ASC, BFSU*

**Commentator:** **David M. Lampton**, *Professor Emeritus and Senior Research Fellow, Johns Hopkins University*

### **Panelists:**

**Ren Xiao**, *Professor of Country and Area Studies Academy, BFSU*

"Current Sino-US Relations: A Diagnosis"

**Chen Zheng**, *Lecturer of Country and Area Studies Academy, BFSU*

"2024 Presidential Election and Sino-US Relations"

**Zhang Siyi**, *Graduate Student, ASC, BFSU*

"Chineseness in Wuheqilin's Art: Cultural Wars on Twitter"

**Chen Xirui**, *Graduate Student of the American Studies Center, BFSU*

"On the Present and Future of Sino-U.S. Relations under U.S. Political Polarization"

**Sun Wenshan**, *Graduate Student of Foreign Languages College, Tianjin Normal University*

"A Contrastive Study of Economic Trade Policies towards China between Harris and Trump"

## **Panel 4: American Studies in China**

**Venue:** Room 313, SEIS Building

**Moderator:** **Cai Hong**, *Professor, BFSU*

**Commentator:** **Li Jinzhao**, *Professor Emerita, American Studies Center, BFSU*

**Panelists:**

**Ben Chappell**, *Professor, Chair of Department of American Studies, The University of Kansas*

"American Studies and the Possibility of Critical Education in an Age of R.O.I."

**Zhao Mei**, *Senior Fellow, Institute of American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)*

"A Historical Perspective on American Studies in China"

**Huang Weifeng**, *Professor of Hangzhou Dianzi University*

"Justifying 'Meiguo Xue' as a Better Chinese Version of "American Studies" in the Context of Country and Region Studies"

**Tian Xinrui, Zhang Xiwei**, *Graduate Student of Hangzhou Dianzi University*

"Studies in African American Literature in China in the Past Two Decades"

15:30-16:00 **Tea Break** [SEIS Lobby]

16:00-17:30 **Panel Session II**

**Panel 5: Navigating U.S.-China Educational Cultural Exchange Today**

**Venue:** Room 111, SEIS Building

**Moderator:** **Yang Zhao**, *Associate Professor of School of History, BFSU*

**Commentator:** **Jane Hunter**, *Professor of Lewis and Clark College*

**Panelists:**

**Adam Jones**, *Director of China Programs and Special Initiatives, CET*

"Navigating Challenges in US-China Joint Educational Programs"

**Gaye Christoffersen**, *Former Professor at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center; Visiting Professor, Shandong University, Weihai*

"The Sino-American Collaborative Classroom: An Empirical Case Study of US-China educational exchange"

**Li Fangzhou**, *PhD of the School of Labor and Human Resources, Renmin University of China, ,*

"From Exclusion to Inclusion: Citizenship and the Transformation of Social Security for Chinese Americans"

**Dai Yuzhe, Huang Chuyun, Hu Haoyi**, *Graduate Students of the American Studies Center, BFSU*

"Transnational Migration and Gender Dynamics: Insights from Highly Educated Chinese Female Migrants"

**Dong Jiayi**, *Graduate Student of Tianjin Normal University*

"Opportunities and Challenges of Sino-US Educational Exchange: A Case Study of American Teenagers' Visits to China"

### **Panel 6: Cultural Diplomacy, Soft Power and Mutual Perceptions**

**Venue:** Room 115, SEIS Building

**Moderator: Zhao Mei**, *Senior Fellow, Institute of American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)*

**Commentator: Priscilla Roberts**, *Associate Professor of Business; Co-Director of the Asia-Pacific Business Research Centre, Faculty of Business, City University of Macau*

#### **Panelists:**

**Rebecca Ash-Cervantes**, *Program Manager of American Mandarin Society*  
"Soft Power in 3rd Spaces – U.S.-China Competition Perceptions and Exactments in Mexico"

**Chao Tian**, *PhD student of Boston University*

"From China to Appalachia: Forging Sustainable Dynamics in Intercultural Music Collaboration and Cultural Diplomacy"

**Sumeera Imran**, *PhD student of National Defense University*

"US-China Early Exchanges: Impact on Bilateral Perceptions"

**Wei Hongyi**, *Graduate Student, National University of Defense and Technology*

"Navigating Ethical Pluralism in Cultural Diplomacy Between US-China Relations: Opportunities and Challenges"

**Chen Yingzhi**, *Graduate Student of the American Studies Center, BFSU*

"A Study of Mutual Perceptions in U.S.-China Media on Economic Rivalry Through the Lens of Hofstede's Cultural Dimensions Theory"

**Zhang Runzi**, *Graduate Student of Tianjin Normal University*

"Generational Differences in American Perceptions of China: Causes and Implications"

### **Panel 7: American Diplomacy Beyond China**

**Venue:** Room 310, SEIS Building

**Moderator: Zha Daojiong**, *Professor, School of International Studies, Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development, Peking University*

**Commentator: Zhang Guoxi**, *Associate Professor of School of International Relations, Sichuan International Studies University*

#### **Panelists:**

**Zhang Yuan**, *Associate Professor, Southwest University*

"On American Public Opinion toward War —A Case Study of the U.S. Military Intervention in Libya"

**Yan Xunhua**, *Lecturer, American Studies Center, BFSU*

"The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) under Biden: Why Not Yet An Asian NATO?"

**Li Kening**, *Graduate Student, the American Studies Center, BFSU*

"Robert C. O'Brien's Attitude and Perceptions Toward China: A Case Study of 'The Return of Peace Through Strength: Making the Case for Trump's Foreign Policy'"

**Wang Ziyang**, *Graduate Student, China Foreign Affairs University*

"Biden's Minilateralism from the Perspective of Neoclassical Realism"

### **Panel 8: American Society**

**Venue:** Room 313, SEIS Building

**Moderator: Yingyi Ma**, *Professor and Graduate Director, Syracuse University, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institute*

**Commentator: Wang Yige**, *Lecturer, ASC, BFSU*

#### **Panelists:**

**Zhang Keqing**, *Lecturer, ASC, BFSU*

"Childhood and Adulthood Conditions in Relation to Mild Cognitive Impairment among U.S. and Chinese Older Adults: A Life Course Perspective"

**Yang Jiaxin**, *PhD student, Peking University*

"A Study on Pearl S. Buck's Feminist Thoughts in Of Men and Women"

**Song Yanke**, *Graduate Student, the American Studies Center, BFSU*

"Campus Media Narrating of Pro-Palestine Protest Movements: Case Study of *The Columbia Daily Spectator*"

**Tang Wei**, *Graduate Student, Department of American Studies, University of International Relations*

"A Review of Domestic Research on U.S. Immigration Policy towards Cuba"

**Lu Chang**, *Graduate Student, China Foreign Affairs University*

"Are the Kids Really Doing Alright? A Closer Look at the SES of Asian Americans' Mixed-Race Offspring"

### **18:30-20:00 ASN MRY Banquet and Graduate Paper Awarding Ceremony**

**Venue:** No 1 Ballroom, Second Floor, Empark Grand Hotel Beijing  
(北京世纪金源大酒店二层第一会议厅)

**Pick-Up Point:** Square to the west of the BFSU Gym

(Notice: No transportation will be arranged after the banquet.)

## **Sunday, October 27**

### **8:30-10:00 Panel Session III**

#### **Panel 9: American Domestic Politics**

**Venue:** Room 111, SEIS Building

**Moderator: Yan Xunhua**, *Lecturer, ASC, BFSU*

**Commentator: Robert Daly**, *Director of the Wilson Center's Kissinger Institute on China and the United States*

#### **Panelists:**

**Kong Xiangyong**, *Associate Professor, Tianjin Normal University*

"The Equality Paradox and Practical Dilemma of American Democracy"

**Zhang Guoxi**, *Associate Professor, School of International Relations, Sichuan International Studies University*

"When Tech Giants Meet American Politics: Exploring the Intersection of

Digital Democracy and Electoral Processes”

**Guo Xinyi**, *Lecturer, ASC, BFSU*

“Path towards “Workers’ Party”?: Domestic Political Logic of the U.S. Foreign Policies of Two Parties”

**Li Linjie**, *PhD Student, Sichuan University*

“Between the Constitution and Public Opinion: The Constitutional Sorrow of the United States”

**Jin Xiaochen**, *Graduate Student, the American Studies Center, BFSU*

“A Comparative Analysis of Nixon Case and Trump Cases: Continuities and Changes of the Judicial Interpretation on Presidential Communication Privilege”

**Chen Xiaou**, *Graduate Student, Foreign Languages College, Tianjin Normal University*

“The Historical Origin and Realistic Evolution of the “New Washington Consensus””

### **Panel 10: U.S.-China Relations: Non-Traditional Issues**

**Venue:** Room 115, SEIS Building

**Moderator:** **Gu Guoping**, *Professor, Beijing International Studies University*

**Commentator:** **Elizabeth Knup**, *Senior Advisor at the Carter Center and the University of Pennsylvania*

#### **Panelists:**

**Gu Lei**, *Professor, International Studies College, National University of Defense Technology*

“Motivations, Practices, and Dilemmas of the United States’ Quantum Technology Competition with China Against the Background of China-U.S. Science and Technology Competition”

**Zou Xiaolong, Jia Yumei**, *Associate Professor, School of International & Public Affairs, Jilin University*

“The Energy Factor in Sino-US Relations: Competition and Cooperation”

**YANG Qiang**, *Associate professor, China Foreign Affairs University*

“The New Role of Climate Cooperation in US-China Relations: An Embellishment or a Stabilizer?”

**Jin Yucan**, *PhD student, ASC, BFSU*

“Subnational Agency in Science and Technology Diplomacy: Managing Geopolitical Challenges through the Lens of California-China Climate Cooperation”

### **Panel 11: Digital Diplomacy: Technology for New Possibilities**

**Venue:** Room 310, SEIS Building

**Moderator:** **Ren Xiao**, *Professor, Country and Area Studies Academy, BFSU*

**Commentator:** **Huang Weifeng**, *Professor, Hangzhou Dianzi University*

#### **Panelists:**

**Woojin Lim**, *Researcher, Harvard Kennedy School; Schwarzman Scholar,*

*Tsinghua University*

"Terra Incognita: The Governance of AI in US-China Perspective"

**Thai Cong Dan, Thai Phan Bao Han**, *English Lecturer, School of Foreign Languages, Can Tho University & English Lecturer of Faculty of Social Sciences, Can Tho University of Technology*

"Digital Diplomacy and Digital Transformation: EFL Students' Perceptions and Involvement in Cultural Competencies"

**Wang Yifan**, *Graduate Student, the American Studies Center, BFSU*

"Meme Diplomacy: Understanding Chinese Grassroots Support for Trump through the Lens of Digital Diplomacy"

**Li Xiaoyu**, *Graduate Student, International Studies College, National University of Defense Technology*

"Motivations, Practices, and Dilemmas of the United States' Quantum Technology Competition with China Against the Background of China-U.S. Science and Technology Competition"

### **Panel 12: Undergraduate Forum**

**Venue:** Room 313, SEIS Building

**Moderator/Commentator:** **Zhang Keqing**, *Lecturer, ASC, BFSU*

#### **Panelists:**

**Si Boyu**, *SEIS, BFSU*

"Meat-Egg-Dairy Consumption and Mental Health Outcomes among American Older Adults: Exploring Gender Disparities"

**Li Zeyu**, *Sichuan University*

"US-China Educational Exchanges Amid Tensions: Exploring Pathways for Sustaining and Stabilizing International Talent Development"

**Yang Pufan**, *Sichuan University*

"The Power of 'Beautiful': Symbolism, History, and Future Pathways for U.S.-China People-to-People Engagement"

**Kang Yumeng**, *Sichuan University*

"The difficulties and breakthroughs of cross-cultural communication in sports diplomacy between Chinese and American youth - with empirical studies of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and the 2023 Chengdu FISU World University Games as examples."

**Fu Ziyang**, *the School of History, Capital Normal University*

"The Tradition and Inheritance of the History Department of Southwest Associated University: A Study Centered on Lei Haizong and Ho Pingti"

**Le Yi**, *Sichuan University*

"Mechanisms and paths for promoting China-US exchanges and cooperation through digital diplomacy"

**Zhou Yuhe**, *Department of International Relations, Sichuan University*

"The Evolution of U.S.-China Relations in the Indo-Pacific under Minilateralism: A Multidimensional Analysis of Cooperation, Competition, and Confrontation"

10:00-10:30 **Tea Break** [Lecture Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, BFSU Library]

10:30-11:20 **Plenary Session III**

**Venue:** Lecture Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, BFSU Library

**Chair: Rosie Levine, Executive Director, USCET**

**Prof. Robert Daly, Director, Wilson Center's Kissinger Institute on China**  
"Implications of the 2024 Elections on U.S. China Relations"

**Prof. Xie Tao, Professor and Dean, the School of International Relations and Diplomacy, BFSU**

"Democratic backsliding and America's declining Greatness"

10:20-11:50 **Panel Wrap-Ups**

**Jian Ning, Qi Hao, Wang Yige, Guo Xinyi and Zhang Keqing, ASC, BFSU**

11:50-12:00 **Closing Remarks:**

**Julia Chang Bloch, Executive Chair, USCET**

12:30-13:45 **Lunch** [Buffet at BFSU Staff Cafeteria]

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**Connecting People, Cultures and Ideas:  
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**Abstracts for Plenary and Panel Sessions**

**Plenary Session I**

*Keynote 1*

**Living U.S.-China Relations: From Cold War to Cold War**

**David M. Lampton**

*Professor Emeritus and Senior Research Fellow, Johns Hopkins University*

Lampton's *Living U.S.-China Relations: from Cold War to Cold War* examines the evolution of U.S.-China relations over the past eight presidential administrations. It addresses a prevalent critique within the United States, that suggests U.S. policymakers misinterpreted China's political trajectory, potentially compromising American interests and national security. The author presents a fact-based analysis that aims to provide a more comprehensive understanding of this complex relationship.

The work explores U.S.-China relations beyond state-to-state diplomacy, examining the societal connections that have shaped the relationship over time. It argues that the interplay between these two nations is multifaceted and cannot be reduced to a single narrative of policy successes or failures. As of 2023, the book notes increasing geopolitical tensions between the U.S. and China and unresolved issues, global instability, and mutual mistrust have created conditions that could potentially lead to conflict.

Drawing from nearly sixty years of personal experience engaging with both American and Chinese societies, Lampton offers a perspective on the historical context of current developments in U.S.-China relations. This approach aims to provide insights into how the relationship has evolved over time and the factors that have influenced its current state.

**Key words:** U.S.-China relations, strategic competition, societal interactions, geopolitics, diplomacy



## ***Keynote 2***

### **People of Paradox: The Impact upon US-China Relations and Some Suggestions**

**Wang Bo**

*Professor & Director of the Center for American Studies, College of International Studies,  
National University of Defense Technology*

The unique history and culture of the United States contribute to its distinct national character. One notable aspect of this character is the paradoxical nature of the American people.

For example, Americans have a high expectation for their government, as Lincoln stated in his *Gettysburg Address*: “that government of the people, by the people and for people shall not perish from the earth.” Conversely, Americans harbor skepticism towards their government, reflecting Thomas Paine’s assertion in *Common Sense* that “Government is a necessary evil.” This sentiment was effectively capitalized on by Trump, who won the presidential election in 2016. Americans are such that it is difficult for them to trust a big government or a government with a different political system, significantly impacting American foreign policies.

Moreover, while Americans believe that all men are created equal, inequality persists in various forms. For example, colored Americans have long faced unequal treatment, and racial discrimination remains an unpleasant reality. During the pandemic, Asian Americans including Chinese Americans were among the first to be targeted in hate crimes. Americans are such that they do not treat non-Whites equally. Other examples of inequality could be easily identified.

Additionally, Americans value the unity of the government. However, since the founding of the nation, American politicians have always seen differently. Currently, the two major political parties are very antagonistic, often disagreeing on important issues. Division of opinions and disagreement might be everyday politics. It is hard for people in other countries to understand American politics. Americans are such that they may not well understand the unity of the Chinese government and its people.

The paradox of America has a huge impact upon US-China relations, which makes American policy towards China changeable, unstable and unpredictable. Some American politicians are always suspicious of Chinese policy and the sincerity of Chinese people. During and after the pandemic, the US-China relations had degraded.

Suggestions: It is recommended that people-to-people relations, especially among the younger generation, be encouraged. For example, Generation Z in America is increasingly playing an independent and important role in political elections and political issues. They represent the future of sound US-China relations.

Moreover, both sides should take their best to nurture shared memories, particularly positive ones. Historically, Chinese students studied in America using the Boxer Indemnity funds, and this group contributed enormously to Modern China. Additionally, China and the US were close allies during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, and the story of Flying Tigers should be remembered by both sides. Furthermore, some Chinese people in Quzhou of Zhejiang Province risked their lives to save American pilots during the Doolittle Raid. Edgar Snow, a famous writer, played a key role in promoting US-China relations during the Chinese Communist Party’s Yan’an era before liberation and also in the new People’s Republic of China. All this should be well remembered.

Last but not the least, it is very meaningful to promote *American Studies* in China and *Chinese Studies* in America. A lack of deep understanding of each other may lead to misunderstandings, misconceptions, and miscalculations in policy-making. In 2022, *Country and Region Studies* became an interdisciplinary field in China, and *American Studies* should be a very important part of it. However, *American Studies* still has a long way to go in China. Recognizing the importance and insufficiency, I created an academic forum six years ago, known as *American Studies and International Studies Forum*, which has become a shared platform for scholars in China. Studies of American history and culture are especially encouraged. Through the platform, we have promoted many academic exchanges for both teachers and students in *American Studies* in China. Cooperation with ASN in the near future is also highly expected.

**Key Words:** People of Paradox, US-China relations, *American Studies* in China

### ***Keynote 3***

#### **Addressing Global Challenges:**

#### **U.S.-China Civil Society Cooperation in an Era of Geopolitical Tension**

**Elizabeth Knup**

*Senior Advisor to China Focus at the Carter Center*

*Senior Advisor to the University of Pennsylvania's Project on the Future of US-China Relations*

This presentation will explore the critical role of civil society, nonprofit organizations, and foundations in fostering cooperation between the United States and China on pressing global challenges. Despite geopolitical tensions, these non-governmental entities serve as vital bridges, facilitating collaboration on issues of mutual concern such as poverty alleviation, climate change, and education. Since the early 1970's, NGOs and civil society actors have played an instrumental role in U.S.-China relations. Can non-governmental cooperation again play a role in addressing shared global challenges and contributing to a more stable and prosperous world?

As the world's two largest economies and carbon emitters, efforts undertaken by the United States and China will be crucial to creating a more equitable and sustainable world. In the arena of climate change, technological innovation, policy coordination, and sustainable development practices, generated by the United States and China have the power to shape the course of the global fight against rising temperatures. Collaborative research, joint-initiatives, and academic studies undertaken by the U.S. and China scientist and scholars have greatly strengthen knowledge in arenas such as public health.

Yet, amid the broader downturn in U.S.-China relations, civil society collaboration has become more strained. How are the United States and China now approaching transnational issues? Is cooperation still possible? What is the path forward for civil society, philanthropy, and nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and China?

**Key words:** U.S.-China relations, civil society, climate change, geopolitics, global good

## Plenary Session II

### *Keynote 4*

#### **Stranded in the Cold War: a Psycho-historical Analysis of the Life Course of the Core Members of Chinese Scientific Workers' Association in USA**

**FU Meirong**

*Professor and Director of the American Studies Center, Beijing Foreign Studies University*

**Abstract:** When the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, thousands of Chinese youths who embarked on their scholarly journey in America at the end of World War II faced tough choice and unknown future. Focusing on 65 core members of the Chinese Scientific Workers' Association in USA, this study explores their leave-or-stay decision and subsequent life course from the perspective of psychohistory. It finds that political factors on the part of both China and the United States, among other things, had prominent impact on their decision to return or remain. While the 55 returnees endured unexpected hardship and trauma back in China, they generally felt no regret for their choice and experience, which reflects their China complex, sense of guilt, pride in career achievement and awareness of self-protection. The 10 individuals who remained in the US spent the golden period of their lives contributing to American competitiveness in various fields, and upon resumption of China-US relations in the 1970s, most of them strived to foster people to people exchanges and technological cooperation between the two countries, largely driven by deep-seated homesickness and love for motherland, as well as the feeling of "perpetual foreigner" in the U.S.

**Key words:** American educated Chinese students, leave or stay decision, the Chinese Scientific Workers' Association in USA, History of mentality

### *Keynote 5*

#### **Chinese Students in American Higher Education**

**Yingyi Ma**

*Professor and Graduate Director, Syracuse University*

*Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institute*

Over the past decade, a wave of Chinese international undergraduate students—mostly self-funded—has swept across American higher education. From 2005 to 2015, undergraduate enrollment from China rose from under 10,000 to over 135,000. In 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 370,000 Chinese students were present on U.S. campuses. The pandemic and U.S-China bilateral tensions have driven Chinese students' enrollment down and now India has surpassed China in sending the largest international students to the U.S., despite the fact that the U.S still remains the top destination for Chinese students studying abroad.

This privileged yet diverse group of young people from a changing China must navigate the complications and confusions of their formative years while bridging the two most powerful countries in the world. In *Ambitious and Anxious*, the sociologist Yingyi Ma offers a multifaceted analysis of this new wave of Chinese students based on research in both Chinese high schools and American higher-education institutions. Ma argues that these students' experiences embody the duality of ambition and anxiety that arises from transformative social changes in China. Ma will discuss what is the impact of U.S.-China people-to-people connectivity through higher education? How have tensions in U.S.-China relations impacted this essential pillar of connectivity?

**Key words:** American higher education, education systems, study abroad, student experiences, policy implications

### ***Keynote 6***

## **Educational Exchanges Between China & US: Challenges and Opportunities**

**Shi Yi**

*Professor & Director of the Center for American Studies, China Foreign Affairs University*

This presentation addresses the evolving landscape of educational exchanges between China and the United States, particularly in light of recent challenges and opportunities. Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the ASN, I reflect on the profound impact of educational exchange since China's Reform and Opening Up in 1978. Despite China remaining the top-sending country of international students to the US, recent statistics reveal a concerning decline, particularly amidst geopolitical tensions and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation analyzes factors contributing to this downturn, including stringent visa policies from the Trump Administration and rising international competition for Chinese students, among other factors. The presentation emphasizes the importance of fostering mutual understanding through educational exchange and suggests potential initiatives at both governmental and institutional levels, especially focusing on high school students, to revitalize these crucial relationships. By advocating for balanced and robust educational exchanges, we aim to strengthen cultural diplomacy and collaboration between our two nations, ultimately contributing to a more stable global landscape.

## **Plenary Session III**

### ***Keynote 7***

#### **Implications of the 2024 Elections on U.S. China Relations**

**Robert Daly**

*Director, Wilson Center's Kissinger Institute on China*

The 2024 U.S. presidential and congressional elections offer American voters a stark choice between candidates whose visions for America, leadership styles, and policy instincts differ sharply. Vice President Harris and former President Trump represent parties, however, which share a broad consensus on U.S.-China relations—a consensus which has led some Chinese to say that, from China's perspective, the election offers “a choice between two bowls of poison.” It is true that both candidates frame China as a strategic competitor for the U.S. That does not mean they will approach China in the same ways.

A change of administrations always offers an opportunity for a change in tone and direction. New personnel, new ideas, and shifting domestic and international pressures make it likely that 2025 will mark a new phase in bilateral relations. This will present new opportunities and challenges to China.

What would a Harris or Trump administration portend for U.S.-China relations? Which factors in the relationship are determined by history and the core interests of both countries and which are subject to change depending on individual leaders? What domestic and global forces are likely to shape policies in Washington and Beijing and, lastly, how can the China Studies community in the United States and America Studies community in China influence policymakers amid this tense backdrop?

**Key words:** American elections, U.S.-China relations, diplomacy, global order

### ***Keynote 8***

#### **Democratic backsliding and America's declining Greatness**

**Xie Tao**

*Professor and Dean of the School of International Relations and Diplomacy, BFSU*

Trump's 2016 campaign slogan “Make America Great Again” undoubtedly represents the aspirations of many frustrated Americans. But America is on a trajectory of declining greatness, and neither Trump nor Biden—or their successors for that matter—can make America great again. America's declining greatness is most conspicuous in three crucial aspects: gerontocracy, democratic backsliding, and reduced international legitimacy. That America is no longer great does not mean that it will lose its sovereignty. Rather it means America cannot escape the inevitable historical cycle of hegemonic rise and decline. Having regarded itself—and having being used to be regarded—as a great country, America may not be psychologically prepared for declining greatness. Thus before resigning itself to the fact that it is no longer great—nor can it be forever great—America may experience an extended period of painful adaptation, which will likely bring about fresh turmoil to an already chaotic world.

## **Panel 1**

### **U.S.-China Educational and Academic Exchange: A History**

#### **1**

#### **In his Wake: F. Chang and Academic Exchange between US and China**

**Jennie Wang**

*Professor, Founder BILINGUAL ACADEMY PRESS*

UC-China Education Trust was originally founded under the name of F. Chang (1900-1983) by Julia Chang and Stuart Bloch. As the first beneficiary of Uncle F. Chang's return to Beijing in 1978, when he proposed to Den Xiaoping, then head of the state, to offer a private sponsorship for me to study in America, I feel obligated to recall his legacy of opening the door for millions of non-government sponsored students to come abroad in a new era. He himself was a government sponsored student to study in US as early as the end of Qing dynasty (1911). Graduating from Harvard Law School in 1917, he became China's expert on international laws, and an awesome diplomat and statesman. What is his original vision and historical mission? What ambition did he cherish, where did he stand, and what did he accomplish? What challenges and pitfalls did he encounter? What can we do today to sustain his independent stand relating to US and China? I have done some research, published two memoirs—"The Education of Jennie Wang: Memoirs of a Good Student" and "License Plate Number One: Stories of Old Shanghai." I would like to share my perceptions, propositions and experience as a student and scholar in his wake, focusing on our principle in US-China relations, tackle some concepts that may stand in the way of academic exchanges today, such as nationalism, patriotism, intellectual property, "Laws" and funding. If I may, make a couple of recommendations to both sides.

#### **2**

#### **Scholars of Western history who studied in the United States during the Republican period and the American tradition of Western historiography —A Case Study of Six Doctoral Dissertations**

**Yang Zhao**

*Associate Professor of School of History, Beijing Foreign Studies University*

History is a discipline with a longstanding tradition in China. However, the Republican period witnessed a massive influx of academic norms and discourses originating in Western historiography, which both interacted and conflicted with traditional Chinese historiographical methods. As a result, in Republican China, the historiographical discipline saw a veritable fusion of East and West and made significant progress, as reflected in the many outstanding historical works and skilled historians which appeared during this era. Chinese scholars who studied history in the United States played a crucial intermediary role in this process. Mainland Chinese scholars have already studied this group of intellectuals of the Republican era in some detail. That said,

most of the available studies have focused on scholars who went to the United States to study Chinese history and the impact they had on Chinese historiography after their return home. As such, little to no attention has been paid to the significant number of scholars who spent their time in the United States researching Western history and were thus more thoroughly schooled in Western scholarship not only on a methodological level, but also in terms of the content of their research. After returning to China or when teaching in the United States, some of these scholars continued studying Western history, while others turned to the field of Chinese history. Nevertheless, their academic training contributed greatly to the development of Chinese historiography, as is especially evident in the case of the development of the discipline of world history in China. This article attempts to examine the doctoral dissertations of several scholars who were primarily engaged in Western history research during their time as students in the United States. It will explore how the academic tradition of Western history in the United States influenced the birth of world history as a discipline in China.

**Key words:** the Republican period, Western historiography, Doctoral Dissertations

### 3

## **Restoring A Relationship: Motivations and Negotiations of Re-Establishing U.S.-China Student Exchanges, 1970-1980**

**Smeets Koen**

*Graduate Student of Silk Road School of Renmin University of China*

This paper provides a comprehensive overview of the motivations and negotiations behind the re-establishment of U.S.-China academic exchanges in the late 1970s, based on interviews with key American negotiators.

The re-opening of these exchanges was driven by both political and economic factors on both sides. For China, the primary impetus was the need for technological advancement to drive economic development and enhance security against the Soviet Union. As part of Deng Xiaoping's broader policy of Reform and Opening Up, educational exchanges were seen as crucial for training elite Chinese scholars and scientists at top American institutions, facilitating the transfer of knowledge and technology. For the U.S., motivations included improving research capabilities on China, training experts to better navigate U.S.-China relations, and fostering closer ties with China as a strategic buffer during the Cold War.

The re-establishment of academic exchanges was built on earlier cultural, scientific, and academic delegations that began in the early 1970s. These efforts culminated in the formal resumption of student exchanges in 1978. Although negotiations of student exchanges began in 1976, they were put on hold during the Ford Administration. These negotiations resumed when Deng Xiaoping proposed large-scale student exchanges to Frank Press, during Press' visit where he led the highest-ranking science delegation sent by the United States to date.

Immediately following Press's delegation departure, representatives from Stanford University arrived to negotiate the first formal exchange agreement with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). This agreement became the foundation for broader academic cooperation between American and Chinese universities, eventually shaping the general guidelines negotiated in 1978. By that year, over 8,000 Chinese students were studying in the United States, and 80

school-to-school relationships had been established. The Fulbright program was re-established shortly after, which enabled Prof. Mei Renyi to study American history at Yale University from 1982 to 1983 as China's first Fulbright Scholar after normalisation.

**Key words:** U.S.-China relations; Academic relations; Student exchanges; Reform and Opening Up; People-to-people diplomacy; Oral history

#### 4

### **China's Third Wave of Studying in America and Returning to China —— The History of the West Culture Munication to China in the Middle 20th Century**

**Cheng Hon, Liu Zhi-guang**

*Beijing Great Wall Enterprise Strategy Institute, Peking University*

In the study of the history of Chinese modern and contemporary study abroad, it occupied the main part of the study abroad history that the study of studying in the U.S. in the mid-20th century. This report mainly expounded the stages of the wave of studying in the U.S. and the classification of the overseas students. provided an overview of the five waves of study in the U.S., details the history of the third wave, described the situation of non-degree study abroad, including engineering and technical personnel going to theU.S. for internship and training, and military personnel going to theU.S. for training in combat technical skills, presented the study and life history of Chinese students in theU.S., summarized the contributions made by overseas students to the construction of new China after their return home land, addressed the relationship between homecoming or emigrating and national feelings.



## Panel 2

### U.S.-China Cultural Exchange: A History

#### 1

### **Crossing Cultures in China: Christian Community and Communist Allegiance in the Life of Isabel Brown Crook (1915-2023)**

**Jane Hunter**

*Professor of Lewis and Clark College*

In 2019, the People's Republic of China inaugurated its 70th birthday with a ceremony in the Great Hall of the People honoring "Heroes and Old Friends of China." Xi Jinping presented the award to each honoree, the oldest of whom was Isabel Crook. At age 103, Crook was likely the only attendee who had personally witnessed both the victorious entry of the Peoples' Liberation Army troops into Beijing in 1949 and Mao Zedong's later announcement at the Gate of Heavenly Peace of the founding of the People's Republic.

Isabel Crook died last summer, and since then she has been widely honored in China. Years ago I saw the bust of David Crook and the bench honoring "Comrade Isabel" on this campus and I gather a bust will be joining it soon. It was at Beiwai that I first met her in 2013, and talked with her during visits to Beijing over many years. Courtesy of her sons, I have also read the extraordinary archive of letters and diaries kept by Isabel, her parents, and her sisters.

Daughter of Canadian Methodist missionaries, Isabel Brown was born and raised in Chengdu. As was custom, she spent much of her university years back in Canada preparing for a future there. An anthropology elective, however, changed that. Overcome by her ignorance about the land of her birth, she abandoned alternative plans and resolved to return to China to learn. She conducted field trips in the Tibetan foothills, and joined an all-Chinese Christian rural project outside of Chongqing. But she could not believe in her family's Christian faith, and converted to communism in the 1940s. She had fallen in love with and married David Crook, a Jewish Communist. Together, they documented land reform in the "liberated" areas during the final years of the Revolution. And after victory, they remained in China as English faculty at Beiwai.

I am interested in the central question of Isabel Crook's life: How did a devoted missionary daughter become a loyal supporter of the Chinese Communist Party? And what do hybrid lives such as hers offer today in an increasingly polarized world?

Like other missionary families, Isabel's parents immersed their children in Christian doctrine and family prayer. But they also practiced the "Social Gospel": the belief that Christians needed to address the *lives* as well as the souls of converts. As she experienced life outside the missionary compound, it proved impossible not to connect this message of social change with the revolutionary message of the Communist Party. Reflecting on the disparities of her position as a Western woman in China heightened her sense of the inadequacy of spiritual measures alone to change gross social and economic inequities.

Isabel later acknowledged, "I have been so lucky. I wouldn't exchange my experiences for anything." She included *everything* in those experiences—her close-knit family, her original and

adopted faiths, her partnership with David, their decision to return to China— even her time in detention during the Cultural Revolution. Why might she show such understanding? In enduring hardship during those years she was showing solidarity with the Chinese people, demonstrating that she *belonged* to an adopted country that had once seemed beyond her reach.

**Key words:** Isabel Brown Crook, crossing cultures, identity, transnational, religion, Christianity, Communism, missionaries, North American

## 2

### **General Stilwell's Legacy and People to People Relations between US and China**

**Kaimeng Huang**

*Stilwell Scholar and International Advisor of General Stilwell Scholarship Committee at  
Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, CA, USA*

General Stilwell (史迪威将军) is the commander-in-chief of China-Burma-India Theatre during WWII. As an American general, he made important contribution to Chinese people's fight against the Japanese invasion. In his life, he made 7 trips to China (some with his whole family) and stayed in China for 11 years total, during which he developed deep respect for the Chinese people and culture. General Stilwell's daughters carried on his legacy and set up General Stilwell Scholarship at Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS) in 1982, for helping Chinese students pursue graduate studies in the US. After General Stilwell's daughters passed away, General Stilwell's grandson John Easterbrook has worked to expand the scholarship tirelessly. The scholarship has benefited over 60 Chinese students over the past 40 years. As a Stilwell scholarship recipient and BFSU alumni, I have been working with Stilwell's descendants on fundraising and selecting qualified candidates for the scholarship. I would like to use this opportunity to share a PPT presentation about General Stilwell's legacy and how General Stilwell's decedents, or four generations of the Stilwell family carried on the family tradition of promoting people-to-people friendship between US and China.

In the talk, I will also discuss how MIIS – thanks to the special connection of Stilwell - has partnered with China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Peking University etc. in education exchange, training, and other programs, and what new programs I have been working on with MIIS and the Stilwell family after Covid.

**Key words:** General Stilwell, Sin-US relations, Scholarship, People-to-People exchange, Education

## 3

### **The U.S. Western Frontier in Late-Qing Literati Poetry**

**James McDougall, LIU Jingyu**

*Associate Professor, Research Assistant of Wenzhou-Kean University*

One unlikely place to find American Studies resources in China is in late-Qing literati poetry. Zhang Weiping's "Zhuke Pian" ("The Ballad of the Driven Out Guests") and Huang Zunxian's "Jinshan Pian" ("The Ballad of the Gold Rush") are two epic poems from late-Qing literati

officials, representing two of the earliest Chinese poetic depictions of the westward expansion of the U.S. and the place of Overseas Chinese in this history. Both poets are significant because of their contributions to Chinese relations to the U.S. Zhang Weiping, a Qing magistrate, would become highly critical of the Qing handling of the Opium War and would write early poems celebrating resistance against Western imperialism. Huang Zunxian was one of the Qing dynasty's first career diplomats. He was a reformer who opened the Chinese consulate in San Francisco to manage the human cost of the U.S. Chinese Exclusion Act. Their epic poems are significant for American Studies, not only because they provide a Chinese perspective on the importance of Overseas Chinese to a changing Qing geographical imaginary, but also they provide some of the few representations of U.S. immigration policy, the status of Native Americans, and U.S. political ideals in Qing literati verse. In fact, both poems rhetorically leverage representations of U.S. immigration policy, the history of Native Americans, as well as U.S. enlightenment ideals for purposes of critique. This paper argues that both epics memorialize Overseas Chinese as active agents in the development of western frontier of the United States, in order to legitimizing their migration, and criticize their maltreatment. The paper closes with a dialectical reading of the poems to show how their use of the U.S. as subject matter put in motion a series of innovations. Modern Chinese Verse. This study contributes to current scholarly discussions in Global American Studies, studies into the cultures of the transpacific, as well as the intellectual history of Chinese-U.S. relations. The translation of the poems was made possible from a Student-Partnering-with-Faculty grant, and the presentation will showcase the translations with the student research assistant involved in the project.

**Key words:** Poetry, Overseas Chinese, American Studies, Globalization, late-Qing literature

#### 4

### **The Confucian Concept of the Person and Its American Interpretation: Discussions from a Comparative Philosophical Perspective**

**Han Rui**

*Associate Professor of Guangdong University of Foreign Studies*

The contrast between Western individualism and Eastern, especially Confucian, communitarianism has long been a topic of interest in discussions of comparative philosophy. Theorists on both sides often turn to their respective philosophical tradition to provide an account for such a disparity. Recently, however, some American philosophers have offered an original and impressive interpretation of Confucianism which is intended to explain its leaning towards communitarianism. That they are able to do so testifies to the fact that an outsider may be more sensitive to the characters of a tradition than those who live within it. Conversely, we as insiders of the Confucian tradition may also be able to better understand an alien tradition from how they look at us.

According to the interpretation of these American philosophers (or, rather, American Confucians), the distinction between individualism and communitarianism can be explained by the different paradigms of the person implicit in Eastern and Western philosophical traditions. In their view, Confucians understand the person as “the sum of roles” he plays or lives in, but not as an “isolated, independent, free and autonomous individual” as presumed by the Western tradition.

According to them, Confucians do not see a person as an abstract entity of pure cognitive attributes, independent from the his community or culture. Rather, the person is comprehended and defined from his relationships with others. In his various relationships with others, he acquires diverse roles, such as a father, teacher, friend, or husband. The identity of the person is thus conceived as the aggregation of all his roles. As indicated by this group of American Confucians, it is the relational concept of the person that underlies the Confucian communitarianism, just as the concept of an independent and autonomous person provides the basis for Western individualism.

The relational concept of the person seems to have captured some important features of Confucianism and, conversely, also helps us better understand the concept of the individual in the opposing tradition. Despite the fact that the interpretive account of the Confucian person has been celebrated as insightful by many from both traditions, this essay tries to raise an argument against it. It will be argued that the relational concept of the person, as well as the Confucian role ethics as interpreted by the American Confucians, entails a nihilistic view of the self and his subjectivity. It runs the risk of denying the moral autonomy of the person. Although the Confucian conception of moral autonomy may not be as strong as the western conception, a complete denial of it is unlikely to be endorsed by a careful reading of the Confucian doctrine.

**Key words:** Concept of the Person, Confucianism, Roles, Relationships, Moral Autonomy

## **Panel 3**

### **US.-China Relations: Traditional Dimensions**

#### **1**

#### **Current Sino-US Relations: A Diagnosis**

**Ren Xiao**

*Professor of Country and Area Studies Academy, Beijing Foreign Studies University*

Over the past decade, U.S.-China competition has replaced cooperation on almost all issues. China and the United States now have conflicts of interest over trade imbalances and tariffs, over private sector cooperation in advanced technologies, and over military and economic influence in East Asia. In this context, they compete for influence in every region of the world and in international institutions, while they find it increasingly difficult to cooperate on such humanitarian global issues as non-proliferation, climate change, drug trafficking, and assistance to the developing world. Moreover, despite summits and dialogues, this competition continues to escalate, as barriers to trade and investment relations have grown and military competition has increased. At the same time, U.S.-China people-to-people relations and educational exchanges have significantly declined as public opinion in both countries view the other with increasingly unfriendly perspectives. Chinese and American intellectuals should together explore the possibilities for a more stable and constructive bilateral relationship in the future.

#### **2**

#### **2024 Presidential Election and Sino-US Relations**

**Chen Zheng**

*Lecturer of Country and Area Studies Academy, Beijing Foreign Studies University*

The domestic political dynamics within the United States have profound implications for the global economy, security, and international order. The 2024 U.S. presidential election will impact not only the policy-making of the United States for the next four years but also exert a substantial influence on the global political and economic landscape. The 2024 U.S. presidential election will be an exceptionally unique one for several reasons: 1. It is an election that determines the future direction of USA; 2. The election deteriorates the contradictions between left and right, upper and lower, black and white, and male and female. It also deeply reveals the irreconcilable contradictions between the establishment and the anti-establishment; 3. The election may be a rule-breaker, as incidents such as the conviction of the former president and the attempted assassination have already occurred; 4. For both sides, defeat is unacceptable. Can two candidates and their supporters accept the result of election peacefully?

This research focuses on the voting behavior in swing states during the 2024 U.S. presidential election, analyzing the decision-making process of voters and the impact of interactions among different interest groups on voting behavior. Using a multi-agent system modeling approach, this

study simulates voters' voting choices under various scenarios to examine the influence and mechanisms of economic conditions, policy positions, candidate performance, and other factors on voters' decision-making in casting their ballots. Hopefully, this paper will make a prediction of the outcome of election. Finally, by comparing the foreign policy positions of Harris and Trump, this paper assesses the future trajectory of Sino-US relations based on the similarities and differences of both parties' policies towards China.

**Key words:** Presidential Election, Sino-US relations, US foreign policy

3

## **Chineseness in Wuheqilin's Art: Cultural Wars on Twitter**

**Zhang Siyi**

*Postgraduate Student of Beijing Foreign Studies University*

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, China has faced a fresh wave of criticism and condemnation from Western nations, spanning allegations such as coerced labor practices in Xinjiang and speculations regarding the virus's laboratory origins. Within China-related affairs and associated media coverage, deliberate disparagement, ideological polarization, and political manipulation have become pervasive. Despite the evolving dynamics of international discourse and public opinion, official channels continue to wield significant sway in shaping China's narrative, while grassroots advocacy remains relatively marginalized. Notably, the political cartoonist known as "Wuheqilin" has defied conventional norms through works like *Peace Force* which satirizes the misconduct of Australian troops in Afghanistan. These creations have garnered substantial attention both domestically and internationally, prompting direct responses from figures like former Australian Prime Minister Morrison. While existing scholarship has begun to explore the nuances of Wuheqilin's cartoons, scant attention has been paid to the controversies surrounding them abroad and their underlying causes. Against this backdrop, this study employs the theoretical framework of "Chineseness" to examine how Wuheqilin's political cartoons exhibit distinct traits influenced by cultural nationalism and to elaborate on the key patterns of contention surrounding Wuheqilin's presence on the Twitter (X) platform.

In this thesis, the researcher systematically collects 57 cartoons created by Wuheqilin via his official Sina Weibo account between November 18, 2019, and February 29, 2024. These samples are then categorized based on Wuheqilin's creative process and the thematic essence of the cartoons, contextualized within their historical and socio-political context. Wuheqilin's cartoons encompass three primary genres: international political satire, domestic political commentary, and promotional cartoons. Analysis reveals that Wuheqilin's international political cartoons predominantly criticize Western nations for their hypocrisy, societal maladies, and denigration of China, while his domestic political cartoons admire the industriousness and unity of Chinese people while chastising separatist forces. Meanwhile, promotional cartoons serve to showcase culturally emblematic Chinese products. Additionally, this study ventures into the realm of Twitter (X) to capture reactions to Wuheqilin's cartoons, amassing and categorizing 1207 comments from 9 tweets under the "Wuheqilin" keyword. Findings indicate a divergence between the widespread domestic support for Wuheqilin and the contentious reception of his work on the international stage. While proponents commend his cartoons for amplifying the Chinese voice, detractors,

influenced by political biases, cast doubts on their authenticity, Chineseness, and effectiveness, fueling ongoing debates within the Twitter community.

**Key words:** Chineseness; Wuheqilin; political cartoon

#### 4

### **On the Present and Future of Sino-U.S. Relations under U.S. Political Polarization**

**Chen Xirui**

*Graduate student of the American Studies Center, Beijing Foreign Studies University*

The United States is experiencing unprecedented political polarization, as evidenced by the significant divisions between Democrats and Republicans and the extreme polarization of public opinion. This polarization has profoundly impacted the country's foreign policy, particularly its approach to China. This paper examines the way and the rationale behind the ongoing deterioration of Sino-U.S. relations due to political polarization in the United States. The paper finds that the Democratic and Republican parties tend to adopt a confrontational stance toward China to gain electoral support and demonstrate their determination to safeguard national interests. Furthermore, shifts in the media landscape have intensified public apprehensions about a rising China, compelling politicians to pursue more assertive policies toward China. Furthermore, the intensification of political polarization has resulted in heightened resistance to formulating and implementing policies, which has affected the coherence and effectiveness of these policies. In the future, U.S. policy toward China will likely oscillate between competition and cooperation in the context of political polarization. In response to domestic pressures, conflictual policies will likely prevail. However, should the United States and China succeed in identifying opportunities for cooperation on urgent global issues, this could pave the way for breakthroughs in Sino-U.S. relations. The future of Sino-U.S. relations will be contingent upon the ability of the United States to reconcile its internal political struggles with its international responsibilities. Additionally, it will depend on the capacity of China and the United States to identify common interests and rebuild trust. This paper aims to provide a new perspective for understanding the complex evolution of Sino-U.S. relations and its future direction by analyzing the historical background and current characteristics of American political polarization and the specific adjustments of the Biden administration's policy toward China.

**Key words:** political polarization; Sino-U.S. relations; competition and cooperation

#### 5

### **A Contrastive Study of Economic Trade Policies towards China between Harris and Trump**

**Sun Wenshan**

*Graduate Student of Foreign Languages College, Tianjin Normal University*

In November 2024, the U.S. will hold its 60th presidential election, and its election results and changes in the domestic political situation will have a far-reaching impact on the current

international political and economic landscape and the international security environment, etc. The election issues of the 2024 U.S. election, and the policies of the current and next administrations will affect U.S.-China relations, and the probability is that its competitive strategy toward China will be relatively solidified and long-lasting. As the 2024 US election draws closer, especially with the possibility of a Trump comeback, US-China relations will face new turbulence and difficult reshaping. The core of the new international economic partnership under the Biden administration's vision is to go beyond the traditional trade agreements with tariff reductions and corporate tax incentives as the main content, to strengthen the protection of labor rights, climate change response, supply chain international cooperation and other issues, and to push forward the negotiation of new trade agreements. The Biden administration's "small yard and high fence" strategy is "customized" for China rather than for other emerging economies. Although Chinese experts expect Harris to largely continue the Biden administration's policies, they see her as lacking in foreign policy experience and as untested on the international stage. The major difference between Harris and Trump on economics and trade is that Chinese experts worry that a new Trump administration would significantly ramp up trade disputes and economic competition against China. This includes higher tariffs on Chinese products, more restrictions to prevent transfer of U.S. technology and knowledge to China, and increased strategic and economic decoupling. Under a Harris administration, Chinese experts expect continued but less dramatic increases. This paper will analyze and predict the changes in the international situation and great power relations by analyzing the different economic and trade policies of Harris and Trump towards China.

**Key words:** U.S.-China relations; economic trade policies; American presidential election



## **Panel 4**

### **American Studies in China: A Special Panel**

#### **1**

#### **American Studies and the Possibility of Critical Education in an Age of R.O.I.**

**Ben Chappell**

*Professor, Chair of Department of American Studies, The University of Kansas*

American Studies and the Possibility of Critical Education in an Age of R. O. I. Higher Education in the United States has entered into a permanently troubled state. Reduced public funding for intellectual institutions pushes costs ever higher for individual students, which limits access and promotes widespread indebtedness among students and graduates. Thus students, and the public in general, are structurally compelled to think of the opportunity to study as transactional - those who seek a higher education credential must spend money for it, and hope that the result will benefit them financially. Some entrepreneurs who offer private educational advising for a fee even speak of "purchasing a college education" as the fundamental meaning of attending a university. In this context, the value of studying in any particular field or institution is often discussed in terms of the "Return on Investment," or R.O.I.

Such a financialized construction of higher education clearly would tend to place a higher value on certain subjects and domains of knowledge over others. The immediate effects of these circumstances are to pressure faculty to either reconfigure their fields in terms of the financial benefits they offer or risk shrinking budget allocations. It is not coincidental that the fields and methodologies that are marginalized under financial priorities include those that are oriented towards a critical understanding of the very history and social relations that brought on the current predicament, as well as the cultural currents that make it seem inevitable.

In this talk, I discuss some of the factors that contribute to the prevailing idea that education must be understood and managed as a source of R. O. I. I note the contrasting vision harbored in many fields and marked by the descriptor critical, that study should lead to an understanding of the world that broadens the imagination and builds capacity for change. I offer commentary about how American Studies as a field might offer such alternatives to scholars and students who seek more out of their studies than financial gain.

#### **2**

#### **A Historical Perspective on American Studies in China**

**ZHAO, Mei**

Senior Fellow, Institute of American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)

China and the United States are geographically separated, with different political systems, social cultures, and historical backgrounds. The formal contact between the two countries began in 1784 when an American merchant ship, the *Empress of China*, arrived in Guangzhou. Since then, China and the United States have embarked on a journey of mutual understanding and recognition.

Overall, before the Reform and Opening-up, the research on the United States in China had not formed an independent field of study. The Reform and Opening-up brought China into a new historical era, and American Studies in China entered a new period. Social attention, policy demands, academic research, and cultural exchanges between the two countries after the establishment of diplomatic relations have jointly promoted the development and prosperity of research on U.S. issues in China.

The study of the United States in China is a new and important discipline. Scholars in this area have made contributions to promoting understanding between the people of China and of the United States. However, American studies in China did not keep up with the profound changes in the current world situation, American domestic and foreign policies, and Sino-U.S. relations. As scholars who study the United States, we need to work harder to promote mutual understanding between China and other countries in the world including the United States.

### 3

#### **Justifying “Meiguo Xue” as a Better Chinese Version of “American Studies” in the Context of Country and Region Studies**

**Huang Weifeng**

*Professor of Hangzhou Dianzi University*

For a long time, in the Chinese academic community, two translations have been in circulation as equivalents of “American Studies”: “Meiguo Yanjiu” and “Meiguo Xue”, of which the former is more common. In terms of practice, there are two types. Most scholars use the two terms interchangeably, while some scholars insist on using the latter as a different one. In recent years, with the rise of research on countries and regions in China, there has been a debate concerning the Chinese translation “Meiguo Xue.” There are mainly three opinions. Some scholars maintain that there is no difference between it and “Meiguo Yanjiu,” and thus they can be used interchangeably; some believe that it is necessary to distinguish between the two in terms of both denotation and connotation; and a few scholars question the scientific nature of the term. As a matter of fact, “Meiguo Xue” is a translation closer to the original meaning of the source language, thus a more faithful and accurate Chinese version. What’s more, in view of the fact that Country and Region Studies has been established formally as a first-level interdiscipline, the term “Meiguo Xue” can better reflect the task of cultivating talents for an academic discipline. In a word, as a discipline, “Meiguo Xue” may be a more proper Chinese version of “American Studies,” and Professor Mei Renyi’s understanding and use of the term has provided a norm for Chinese scholars.

**Key words:** American Studies; academic discipline; a more proper Chinese version

### 4

#### **Studies in African American Literature in China in the Past Two Decades**

**Tian Xinrui, Zhang Xiwei**

*Graduate Student of Hangzhou Dianzi University*

African American Studies has become an important part of American Studies in China, with African American literature being particularly prominent. Entering the twenty-first century, with the development of relevant institutions, academic organizations, training programs and academic exchanges, as well as the government's strong financial support (a number of research projects on African American literature have been sponsored by the Ministry of Education's Humanities and Social Sciences Fund and the National Social Sciences Fund), the study of African American literature in China has made significant progress in both breadth and depth, becoming more mature. In terms of research breadth, the time span is longer, involving both early African American writers and works which have long been neglected in the past as well as the latest trends; the field of research has become more comprehensive, with emphasis on both literary creation but on literary theories; the scope of research has become more complete, with significant progress made in research on poetry and drama, and less known writers and works that have been neglected in the past have drawn great attention; there is a greater gender balance, with black male writers and black female writers receiving equal attention. In terms of depth, a number of holistic research achievements have appeared; research perspectives and research methods have become richer and more diverse, showing a stronger sense of interdisciplinary studies; research attitudes have become more objective, demonstrating a stronger awareness of academic research in a strict sense. Of course, there are still a lot of problems in African American studies in China, and an independent system of knowledge is yet to be developed.

**Key words:** African American literature; state of research in China; problems

## **Panel 5**

### **Navigating U.S.-China Educational Cultural Exchange Today**

#### **1**

#### **Navigating Challenges in US-China Joint Educational Programs**

**Adam Jones**

*Director of China Programs and Special Initiatives*

China-based educational collaborations between US and Chinese universities face a number of daunting obstacles, especially in recent years with fallout from a global pandemic, increasingly fraught US-China relations, and rhetoric around US-China decoupling. These programs can serve an important role though in maintaining US-Chinese university relationships, protecting vital research collaboration in key areas, and also in educating students and broadening perspectives, hopefully providing some ballast to the US-China relationship. Universities may also derive benefits such as enhanced institutional prestige, more international student enrollments, and opportunities for faculty and administrators to work abroad. In addition, students in these programs are able to access a US university education which may help prepare them for graduate studies abroad. However, the complexity of running these programs in recent years has only deepened. In order for these programs to be viable in the long run it is imperative that they be structured in ways that allow them to navigate the differences between educational systems, are mutually beneficial to both US and Chinese institutions, and maintain flexibility and creativity in working through challenges. This qualitative, multi-site case study looks at how three specific US-China university collaborations based in China are navigating this challenging terrain. Through the use of semi-structured, one-on-one interviews with administrators, faculty, and students in these programs, I explore how these programs have been set up to address these challenges and what strategies administrators and faculty employ to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of these programs.

**Key words:** Educational partnerships, joint university collaborative programs, US-China relations, international higher education

#### **2**

#### **The Sino-American Collaborative Classroom: An Empirical Case Study of US-China educational exchange**

**Gaye Christoffersen**

*Former Professor at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center; Visiting Professor, Shandong University, Weihai*

This paper will present the author's experience teaching a class called "China on the Border" at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center at Nanjing University for several years. Class focus was on China's foreign relations at the local level on China's border. The class had funding for Chinese and American students working together in an academic environment. Students independently

organized themselves into research teams that had both Chinese and American students and collaboratively designed their own research program. The research teams chose Yunnan's border with Myanmar, Heilongjiang's border with the Russian Far East, and Jilin's border with North Korea. Upon returning to the Hopkins-Nanjing Center, students presented their research findings to the Hopkins-Nanjing Center community. Many students said it was their favorite class and recounted their memories from the class long after it was over. Encouraging student autonomy reflected American pedagogy which some Chinese students found strange--to be acting independently of the professor--while other students thrived in that learning environment.

**Key words:** American pedagogy; collaborative classroom; Chinese foreign relations at the border

### 3

## **From Exclusion to Inclusion: Citizenship and the Transformation of Social Security for Chinese Americans**

**Li Fangzhou**

*Doctor of School of Labor and Human Resources, Renmin University of China*

Globalization and transnational population mobility have transcended the boundaries of nation-states, posing challenges to social security systems based on citizenship. The process of obtaining social security rights for transnational immigrant groups often involves a journey from facing discrimination and exclusion to gradual integration. The development of social security for Chinese Americans has undergone three distinct phases of transformation. From the late 18th century to the early 20th century, early Chinese laborers in the U.S. faced discrimination and exclusion, lacking protection in areas such as employment, healthcare, education, and social participation. From World War II to the 1990s, the Chinese American community began advocating for civil and political rights, while immigration laws and related welfare policies contributed to the improvement of their social rights. Since the 1990s, with accelerated globalization and increasingly close Sino-U.S. exchanges, the number of Chinese Americans has steadily increased, and their social security rights have gradually been realized. However, significant limitations and challenges persist, particularly in the areas of health and economic security. It is evident that citizenship remains a crucial foundation for fully accessing social security, and immigrant groups continue to face inequalities in social rights. In the era of globalization, the development of international cooperation in social security is urgently needed.

Key words: Citizenship; Chinese Americans; Social Security

### 4

## **Transnational Migration and Gender Dynamics: Insights from Highly Educated Chinese Female Migrants**

**Dai Yuzhe, Huang Chuyun, Hu Haoyi**

*Graduate Students of the American Studies Center, Beijing Foreign Studies University*

This study investigates how transnational migration and higher education reshape gender

roles among highly educated Chinese female migrants. Using qualitative methods, the research delves into the lived experiences of three Chinese women, focusing on how their migration and academic endeavors challenge conventional family structures and gender expectations. The study reveals that while these women attain economic independence and professional empowerment abroad, they continue to face gender-based constraints, especially in workplace dynamics. The research underscores the need to consider the gendered nature of migration and calls for further investigation into how education and transnational experiences influence women's roles in both family and society.

**Key words:** Transnational migration, gender roles, educated female migrants, Chinese migrants, qualitative research, education, family dynamics, workplace discrimination

## 5

### **Opportunities and Challenges of Sino-US Educational Exchange: A Case Study of American Teenagers' Visits to China**

**Dong Jiayi**

*Graduate Student of Tianjin Normal University*

Last November, during President Xi Jinping's visit to the United States, he announced that in order to promote exchanges between the peoples of China and the United States, especially among the younger generation, China is willing to invite 50,000 American teenagers to come to China for exchanges and learning over the next five years. Since the beginning of this year, waves of American teenagers have come to China, experiencing the country firsthand and writing the stories of Sino-US friendship together with Chinese youth. This paper explores the opportunities and challenges in Sino-US educational exchanges, with a particular focus on the specific case of American teenagers visiting China. As globalization accelerates, interactions in the field of education between China and the United States are becoming increasingly frequent, providing young people with opportunities for cross-cultural communication, language learning, and diverse educational experiences. Through their visits to China, American students not only gain a deeper understanding of China's history, culture, and social context but also effectively enhance their Chinese language skills and international perspectives. These visits also bring opportunities which are not only significant for the personal growth of the participants but also lay a solid foundation for cultural integration and educational cooperation between the two countries. However, there are also numerous challenges in Sino-US educational exchanges such as culture shock and language barriers due to the significant differences in dietary habits, lifestyles, and educational models between China and the United States. This study aims to assess the educational value of Chinese visits by American teenagers, highlighting the potential opportunities and challenges while offering relevant recommendations to facilitate smoother and more effective educational exchange and cooperation. The goal is to promote cultural understanding and friendship development between China and the United States.

**Key words:** Sino-US; Educational Exchange; Teenagers; Visit China

## **Panel 6**

### **Cultural Diplomacy, Soft Power and Mutual Perceptions**

#### **1**

#### **Soft Power in 3rd Spaces – U.S.-China Competition Perceptions and Exactments in Mexico**

**Rebecca Ash-Cervantes**

*Program Manager of American Mandarin Society*

In the tradition of Great Power competition, US-China competition has spilled beyond the borders of the two nations and into the global sphere. In the narratives surrounds this spillage, there are buzzwords like “debt-trap diplomacy,” “win-win cooperation,” and “zero-sum game” being used to describe either China’s engagement with the global south, or the realities of competition among the two nations in 3rd spaces as it permeates seemingly every nation and industry. As US encourages ally nations return to protectionist policies on the economic front, it is also pushing a return to moralist rhetoric on the media front. As the Cold War was a battle of ideologies, so the framing of China in 3rd spaces is being contextualized by Western governments and media, with China being the morally incorrect method leading other nations astray. The Chinese-side, similarly, while lacking the strong ally relations that the US holds, nonetheless frames the US as a neo-imperial power working only out of self-interests and those self-interests don’t support the development of other powers. Is this media war effective, however?

Both nations historically have pushed personas and ideological agendas that have affected the world (Maoism gave rise to many coups and uprisings and the idea of the American Dream has consistently brought generations of immigrants to the US) and aim to have similarly wide-reaching influence. But in a more closely connected world with both globalization and social media, both nations are less ideas and more concrete entities also under the scrutiny of the nations that they are trying to influence. This paper aims to analyze a small pocket of that scrutiny by looking at Mexico’s view of both the US and China as it collaborates with both nations on an economic and policy level. As the US levies new sanctions on Chinese industry and China and Mexico still collaborate, Mexico’s trilateral relationship with the two powers, one that it borders, one that brings both competition and opportunity, brings into question how the soft and hard power pushes from the US and China affect Mexico’s perceptions of these relations. This paper looks at two angles: current narratives from the US about China, current narratives about the US from China, and the realities of Mexico’s engagement with both.

**Key words:** Soft power, perception, U.S.-China relations, trilateral relations, industry, media, globalization

#### **2**

#### **From China to Appalachia: Forging Sustainable Dynamics in Intercultural Music Collaboration and Cultural Diplomacy**

## **Chao Tian**

*Ph.D. Student of Boston University*

This research uses the U.S.-China music project *From China to Appalachia* as a case study to explore how Chinese and American musicians transcend musical traditions and cultural boundaries through intercultural collaboration. In intercultural music collaboration, musicians navigate and integrate cultural differences and transform these interactions into sustainable dynamics that foster cultural diplomacy. The project demonstrates how intercultural music collaboration can generate long-term diplomatic and artistic impact by addressing the complexities of identity, musical genre, and intercultural understanding.

Intercultural music collaboration involves creative exchange among musicians from diverse cultures and regions, transcending musical genres and languages. Such collaboration aims for a creative fusion, yet it also navigates irreconcilable differences, prompting collaborators to integrate the differences by reinterpreting their cultural affiliations and identities. In addition, musicians' identity manifests a comprehensive positioning that incorporates musical components generated by genres and musical languages as well as a social component formed by culture, race, and class. Identity recognition stems from individuals' self-perception and the definitions imposed by external observers. Stereotypes and biases held by external viewpoints towards certain social or musical identities can undermine an individual's self-perception, leading to self-doubt or a compelled reevaluation of their identities. Moreover, while intercultural musical collaborators foster understanding and create fused musical expressions, they may also experience feelings of alienation due to discomfort with the collaborative frameworks, necessitating a reexamination and adjustment of their identities.

Drawing on Mary Louise Pratt's contact zone theory, I discuss how intercultural encounters shape identity and influence the dynamics of cultural exchange. By utilizing the archives of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and conducting field works in the Appalachian region in the United States, I compare the intersections between American musical traditions, including old-time music and bluegrass music, with Chinese traditional music within *From China to Appalachia*. I analyze both advantageous variables and challenges, such as entrenched stereotypes, language barriers, and asymmetrical music traditions, that occur due to the dynamic flow of identities in the collaboration. I argue that embracing similarities while respecting differences and experimentally fostering fusion based on distinctions, can not only effectively break down cultural boundaries but also deepen interactive identity reshaping. Wisely applying musicians' constantly redefined identities during collaboration can facilitate new spaces for understanding and expression in intercultural music collaboration.

In 2023, *From China to Appalachia* was selected for the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation's touring program in the United States, where Chinese traditional classic tunes such as *Nanniwan* and *The Three Rules of Discipline and Eight Points for Attention* were introduced to American audiences. Building on the success of the tour, which generated significant cultural diplomacy effects, I argue that this project is not merely an artistic endeavor but also demonstrates how intercultural dialogue fosters mutual understanding in the context of geopolitical tensions. As a powerful tool for enhancing intercultural awareness and interaction, this collaboration holds both cultural and political significance, recognized as a model of people-to-people initiative, leaving a lasting and profound impact on local communities in the United States.



**Key words:** Interculturalism, Music Collaboration, Identity, Cultural Diplomacy, From China to Appalachia, U.S.- China

### 3

## **US-China Early Exchanges: Impact on Bilateral Perceptions**

**Sumeera Imran**

*Doctor of National Defence University*

As China faced a period of humiliation, exploitation, unequal treaties and forcible entry into Western style state system at the hands of the Western powers, China has blamed the US of an equitable partnership role in the mistreatment of China. Whether it be lack of grant of diplomatic recognition or introduction of Christian missionaries or the US support to Japan in the Sino-Japanese war in 1894, the Chinese have blamed the US along with the Western powers for maltreatment of China and the latter's humiliation and unequal treatment. The article explores the nature of Sino-US relations from early eighteenth century to argue that Sino-US historical relationship has been a mix of mutual mistrust and conflict. However, where the Chinese regarded the US as foreign invaders ready to take a share in the British spoils of war in China, the US had lacked much diplomatic weight and political will to secure the Chinese administrative and territorial interests in the face of diverse political interests of different players such as Japan in China.

**Key words:** Imperial gains, administrative policy, exploitation, spoils of war, Jackal diplomacy.

### 4

## **Navigating Ethical Pluralism in Cultural Diplomacy Between US-China Relations: Opportunities and Challenges**

**Wei Hongyi**

*Undergraduate Student of National University of Defense and Technology*

This article investigates the integration of ethical pluralism into cultural diplomacy, particularly focusing on the intricate dynamics of US-China relations. As the two nations navigate an increasingly polarized global landscape, cultural diplomacy offers a potential bridge for fostering mutual understanding. The paper explores how ethical pluralism—recognizing and accommodating diverse and often conflicting moral perspectives—can be embedded into cultural engagement frameworks to address global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and rising social justice movements. These crises have underscored the structural barriers and institutional inertia that hinder effective cross-cultural interactions. The article delves into the role of cultural diplomacy as a tool for reducing tensions and promoting community resilience. By utilizing strategies such as participatory governance, culturally responsive evaluation, and equitable cultural exchanges, it advocates for a more inclusive cultural policy landscape that can effectively respond to the complexities of US-China relations. The analysis highlights challenges, including geopolitical tensions, differing governance philosophies, and the impact of populist movements that politicize cultural policies. The proposed

framework seeks to promote cross-cultural dialogue, emphasizing the need for policies that go beyond tokenistic inclusion and actively address power dynamics and structural inequalities. It also examines the potential for expanding cultural diplomacy beyond traditional channels to include non-governmental organizations, universities, and grassroots initiatives, thus making engagement more sustainable and meaningful. By fostering platforms for genuine dialogue and equitable participation, this article aims to provide a pathway towards a more harmonious relationship between these global powers, ultimately supporting a resilient and inclusive international cultural environment.

**Key words:** Cultural Policy; Ethical Pluralism; Participatory Governance; Cultural Diplomacy; US-China Relations

## 5

### **A Study of Mutual Perceptions in U.S.-China Media on Economic Rivalry — Through the Lens of Hofstede’s Cultural Dimensions Theory**

**Chen Yingzhi**

*Graduate Student of the American Studies Center, Beijing Foreign Studies University*

The COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped the global landscape of economic and geopolitical competition, bringing new tensions and opportunities to the forefront of U.S.-China relations. As both countries navigate these challenges, their media discourses have become crucial tools for portraying economic rivalry and shaping perceptions of soft power. This paper explores how U.S. and Chinese news articles reflect the evolving economic competition through the lens of Hofstede’s Cultural Dimensions, focusing on the post-pandemic era. By examining how power distance, individualism vs. collectivism, and other cultural dimensions are used to frame narratives, this study investigates how these media portrayals influence public opinion and diplomatic strategies between the two nations.

The study draws on news articles published in both the U.S. and China, applying a grounded theory approach to understand how cultural framing plays a role in the discourse surrounding economic rivalry. More specifically, the study addresses how U.S. media emphasizes innovation, individualism, and leadership in global markets, framing China as an economic “Other,” while Chinese media presents a collectivist narrative that underscores long-term national goals and economic strength. Using Hofstede’s theory, the study delves into how the respective portrayals of economic competition differ in their emphasis on power hierarchies, national identity, and the long-term orientation of each country's economic goals.

In addition to analyzing the cultural framing, the study also assesses how these representations play a role in shaping soft power strategies for both the U.S. and China. Both countries, seeking to enhance their global influence, use media as a tool to influence international perceptions, thereby affecting diplomatic relations. Through a comparative analysis, this study highlights the role of soft power in media discourse and its implications for future U.S.-China relations in a world increasingly defined by economic.

**Key words:** U.S.-China relations, Hofstede’s Cultural Dimensions, economic rivalry, media discourse, soft power, post-COVID-19, cultural diplomacy.

## **Generational Differences in American Perceptions of China: Causes and Implications**

**Zhang Runzi**

*Graduate Student of Tianjin Normal University*

The perceptions of China among different generations is the result of the shaping of the domestic political in the United States. The generational differences in American perceptions of China is an important entry point for understanding Sino-American relations. The generational differences are mainly manifested as the differences in political ideas, in political party preference, in public policy preference and foreign policy direction. The values and political standpoint of Americans of different generations can vary greatly. The current American population can be divided into six generations, that is, Silent Generation; Baby Boomers; Generation X; Millennials; Generation Z; Generation Alpha. Since the 20th century, Americans of different generations have distinct differences in their attention and perceptions of China. The younger generation have a more positive view of China, an objective understanding of China's strength. And they are more willing to participate in exchanges between the two countries. Therefore, they are relatively able to take an objective view of the relations. However, they have the stereotype of China and are easily influenced by social media to bias their perception of China. The younger generation is a generation advocating change. Although the perceptions of China of the younger generation is relatively positive, it does not necessarily mean that Sino-American relations will be comprehensively improved in the hands of the younger generation of the two countries. As young American politicians have entered the Congress and government, generational changes may profoundly change the balance of political power in the United States, and the generational differences in American perceptions of China may have an impact on the future of Sino-American relations.

**Key words:** Cognition of China; Generational differences; Sino-American relations

## Panel 7

### American Diplomacy Beyond China

#### 1

### On American Public Opinion toward War —A Case Study of the U.S. Military Intervention in Libya

Zhang Yuan

*Associate professor of Southwest University*

War is the use of military force to implement government policy, but how does the American public perceive such actions of violence and their impacts? What are the dynamics between public opinion and government foreign policy-making? In March 2011, with two other ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as a struggling domestic economy, the Obama administration, together with other NATO countries, launched military strikes against Libya. This is one of the most recent military interventions by the United States. It ended with a definite victory marked by Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's capture and death, and its military operations last 7 months with clear division of stages, thus offering a neat case to explore answers for the above questions.

At each stage of the military intervention, major media and professional polling agencies in the United States conducted public opinion surveys about Libya, focusing on the following issues: the necessity of military intervention in Libya, the goals of employing military force, and the appropriate depth of U.S. involvement. A close analysis of the poll results reveals that the American public was not as indifferent or ignorant about the Libyan conflict as traditional views claim. Distinct features and patterns could be identified during the process:

- 1) The American public opinion is highly concerned with foreign policy issues involving war.
- 2) American public support for the government's war policies has an inherent degree of volatility and reactivity, and is significantly affected by changes in the war situation.
- 3) In terms of war objectives, the American public is willing to use force to protect the safety of civilians and overthrow dictators, but opposes promoting democracy through direct military intervention.
- 4) In terms of the means and cost of war, the American public opinion is relatively clear. Most people believe that when it does not endanger U.S. national security, military actions should be limited: no leadership responsibility, no ground troops, no arms aid, and no direct involvement in post-war reconstruction.
- 5) Congressional authorization does not constitute a key factor influencing public opinion on war policies.

These findings can provide reference for understanding and maybe predicting the U.S. position concerning major current military conflicts.

**Key words:** Public opinion, Opinion poll, War, Libya, Foreign policy

## **The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) under Biden: Why Not Yet An Asian NATO?**

**Yan Xunhua**

*Lecturer of American Studies Center, Beijing Foreign Studies University*

After the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (the Quad, consisting of the US, Japan, Australia and India) reemerged in 2017 as an important security mechanism for the US, it has made substantial progress under both the Trump and Biden administrations. Under Biden in particular, the Quad has become more institutionalized and raised to higher levels, and reached many agreements. Yet, there are no significant movements in the security area that would possibly lead to the emergence of an Asian NATO despite the repeated references to China and expressions of concerns over cross-strait relations and over hotspots such as the East China Sea and the South China Sea. Instead, the Quad has branched out into other areas such as vaccines, supply chains, 5G, infrastructure, climate change and so on. This simply begs the obvious question of why it has not been transformed into an Asian security pact after NATO that the US could use to constrain and contain China. This presentation seeks to answer this question by developing a novel framework of analysis that links up both the structural and domestic levels of analysis. It highlights the constraining effects of the twin structural forces of economic interdependence and security competition and at the same time recognizes the agency that is afforded by twin forces to decision makers.

## **Robert C. O'Brien's Attitude and Perceptions Toward China: A Case Study of "The Return of Peace Through Strength: Making the Case for Trump's Foreign Policy"**

**Li Kening**

*Graduate student of the American Studies Center, Beijing Foreign Studies University*

In the context of the 2024 U.S. presidential election, Robert C. O'Brien, the national security advisor during Trump's first term, published an article in June 2024 in *Foreign Affairs* titled "The Return of Peace Through Strength: Making the Case for Trump's Foreign Policy". In this article, he presents his vision for a potential second-term foreign policy under Trump. Given that Trump replaced four national security advisors within the first three years of his initial term, and considering O'Brien's succession of Bolton until the term's conclusion, this analysis is particularly relevant, especially in light of Trump's potential political comeback. Therefore, this study utilizes O'Brien's recent article as a case study to examine the objectives, means, and values underpinning his vision for Trump's second-term policy toward China.

This research addresses two questions: What are O'Brien's attitudes and perceptions regarding China? And what factors contribute to these views? The study explores O'Brien's understanding of China, U.S. allies, and American power, arguing that his vision for Trump's second-term China policy is grounded in Cold War-era thinking from the 1990s. The objective is

to restore a peaceful international order dominated by the U.S. during that period. To achieve this, O'Brien emphasizes the importance of leveraging both economic and military strength, in addition to collaborating with national allies and individual dissidents to contain explicit adversaries. Compared to eight years ago, O'Brien's perceptions of China have become more defined, cautious, and sensitive to the U.S. domestic political landscape, leading to a tougher overall stance.

To trace the origins of his hardline attitudes, this study conducts a longitudinal analysis of O'Brien's objective background and subjective influences while also examining his views prior to Trump's first term. It posits that O'Brien's entrenched Cold War mindset and strong sense of nostalgia are influenced by his experiences in the 1990s, as well as by figures such as Churchill, Reagan, and Thatcher, particularly regarding anti-communist ideology, military enhancement, and alliance cooperation.

Notably, Reagan and Thatcher advocated for nuclear disarmament and promoted economic cooperation, along with cultural and scientific exchanges with China, which stands in stark contrast to O'Brien's opposition to any form of U.S.-China collaboration. Therefore, this study emphasizes that while it is crucial to analyze O'Brien's hawkish stance toward China, it is more critical to assess the extent to which his containment strategy may influence actual U.S. government policy. Understanding this dynamic will aid in forecasting potential U.S.-China crises and highlight the risks of undermining the existing foundations of U.S.-China cooperation.

**Key words:** U.S.-China Relations, Robert C. O'Brien, Trump's Foreign Policy

#### 4

### **Biden's Minilateralism from the Perspective of Neoclassical Realism**

**Wang Ziyang**

*Graduate student of China Foreign Affairs University*

Minilateralism has become a defining feature of the Biden foreign-policy doctrine to tackle security issues around the world especially in the Indo-Pacific region. Neoclassical realism, which determines security as the primary objective of all states and incorporates both external and internal variables, provides a more comprehensive perspective to analyze the influence of the international system on state behavior. Therefore, this essay will use the analytical framework summarized from Rose G.'s article Neoclassical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy to analyze the underlying reasons, defining features and development trend of Biden's minilateralism with a view to providing predictions and recommendations. The framework consists of 3 intervening variables. The first is "Relative Power". The second is "Perceptions of Relative Power", which includes "States' perceptions" and "Decision makers' perceptions". The last is "State Power", which includes "State apparatus" and "State-society relationship".

**Key words:** neoclassical realism, minilateralism, Biden administration

## **Panel 8**

### **American Society**

#### **1**

### **Childhood and Adulthood Conditions in Relation to Mild Cognitive Impairment among U.S. and Chinese Older Adults: A Life Course Perspective**

**Zhang Keqing**

*Lecturer of the American Studies Center, Beijing Foreign Studies University*

Using two nationally representative datasets, Chinese Health and Retirement Study (CHARLS) and Health and Retirement Study (HRS), this dissertation mainly examined the associations between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), adulthood educational attainment and various domains of late-life cognitive functioning among older adults in China and United States under the life course framework. Results from cox proportional hazard models revealed that for both samples, various ACEs, for instance family SES and interpersonal relations were significantly associated with higher risk of mild cognitive impairment in later life, reconfirming the life course perspective and accumulative disadvantage theory. For the Chinese sample, childhood hunger was a strong risk factor for the mental status domain of cognitive functioning in later life, while the U.S. sample was especially susceptible to early paternal death. Following that, using adulthood educational attainment as a moderator, the detrimental effects of ACEs were buffered effectively: for both samples, having an education of middle school/high school or above could greatly reduce the risk of episodic memory impairment in later life.

Moreover, dividing both samples into male and female groups, gender differences have been detected. Among the Chinese older adults, results revealed that males were more susceptible to mother-related ACEs, while females were influenced by ACEs of all aspects: childhood SES, early paternal death, hunger, and interpersonal relations. The protective effects of education were more significant for females. While for the U.S. sample, both groups suffered from the detrimental effects of various ACEs on late-life cognitive functioning, but the moderation of education only worked for females, greatly reducing the risk of mild cognitive impairment in later life.

Findings of this study suggest that for older adults in both China and U.S., adverse childhood experiences could have long-lasting impacts on cognitive functioning throughout the life course, and adulthood educational attainment as an important resource is especially necessary and effective for females to buffer the effects of childhood trauma. This paper could provide reference for future research in an array of fields that can have implications for optimizing cognitive aging.

**Key words:** CHARLS, HRS, Adverse Childhood Experiences, Cognitive Functioning, Education

## **A Study on Pearl S. Buck's Feminist Thoughts in *Of Men and Women***

**Yang Jiaxin**

*Doctor of Peking University*

Pearl S. Buck has been primarily memorized for decades as a renowned literary figure and transcultural communicator, rather than as a feminist. In fact, Buck was actively involved in feminism through her writing and social activism as a means of advancing the cause of feminism in the United States. However, her contribution to American feminism has not been duly recognized in academia, especially her collection of essays *Men and Women: How to Be for Each Other* published on the eve of WWII in the U.S. In the book *Of Men and Women*, Buck has pointed out that the plight of men and women in the United States today lies in their inability to achieve mutual enjoyment. The source of this problem is the fact that men and women work and live in separate spheres, thus failing to realize a mutual understanding in the spiritual level. In order to solve this dilemma, Buck advocated that both American men and woman are supposed to make their own efforts in areas including marriage, family, and career, so as to promote personal happiness and social harmony. However, although Buck was at the forefront of feminist thoughts in her era, her ideas are not impeccable and thus need to be evaluated objectively and fairly by academia.

**Key words:** Pearl S. Buck; *Of Men and Women*; Feminism; Family; Marriage; Career

## **Campus Media Narrating of Pro-Palestine Protest Movements: Case Study of *The Columbia Daily Spectator***

**Song Yanke**

*Graduate student of the American Studies Center, Beijing Foreign Studies University*

Since the outbreak of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict there have been sporadic protests on American campuses calling for a ceasefire and supporting Palestine. The recent protest at Columbia University sparked a wave of similar actions across the nation. On April 17, a pro-Palestinian protest erupted at Columbia University, where students set up tents on campus to call for the university to divest from companies linked to Israel. *The Columbia Daily Spectator*, the student-run newspaper of Columbia University, stands as a prominent voice within the campus community, providing coverage and commentary on a wide range of social and political issues.

This paper investigates the coverage of pro-Palestinian protests at Columbia University by *The Columbia Daily Spectator* from April 17 to May 17, 2024. The paper analyzes 143 reports, focusing on the language, narratives, and perspectives presented to understand how the campus media shapes public discourse regarding the protest movement. The research is guided by two primary questions: (1) How does *The Spectator* portray and narrate these protest movements? (2) Has there been a change in media coverage during the specified period?

Employing narrative analysis method, the findings reveal that the newspaper primarily



adopts a chronological reporting style, vividly depicting the students' commitment and urgency. Various voices are included, offering a balanced perspective on the motivations of all parties involved. However, the coverage reflects an implicit bias, often portraying the students as instigators of conflict while portraying the university's responses- often involving suppression and police intervention- as necessary measures for safety concerns. This framing overlooks the underlying issues of student demands and the administration's failure and disregard to engage meaningfully with their concerns. The protests embody an anti-establishment sentiment, challenging prevailing political taboos, particularly regarding the US-Israel relationship. Notably, the absence of middle-ground voices in the coverage may lead to a one-sided interpretation of events, emphasizing the voices of influential groups while sidelining neutral or alternative viewpoints. In general, through analysis, it becomes clear that the student newspaper constructs a story of committed and principled student activists standing up against a rigid and controlling administration. To a certain extent, the narrative strategies, and word usage contribute to a narrative that sympathizes with the protesters and portrays their actions as part of a larger struggle for justice.

**Key words:** Campus media, narrative analysis method, Pro-Palestine Protest Movements, The Columbia Daily Spectator

#### 4

### **A Review of Domestic Research on U.S. Immigration Policy towards Cuba**

**Tang Wei**

*Graduate Student of Department of American Studies, University of International Relations*

This study explores the evolution and characteristics of domestic research on U.S. immigration policy towards Cuba. Through a comprehensive literature review and case analysis, it highlights how early domestic studies constructed a macro narrative of U.S. immigration history, focusing on the factors driving large-scale migration and the processes of settlement in the U.S. Initially, these studies aimed to build a comprehensive account of U.S. immigration, with a primary emphasis on migration drivers and settlement dynamics. As research progressed, the focus shifted toward more detailed analyses of specific historical events and policy nuances, emphasizing the interaction between policy and practice. Recent trends indicate a deeper exploration of ideological motivations and strategic designs behind policies, alongside an examination of how these policies are shaped by specific ethnic groups. Scholars generally argue that U.S. immigration policy has evolved from being ideologically driven to prioritizing domestic development interests, influenced by the political landscape, particularly presidential elections, which can lead to fluctuations in policy rigidity. Despite notable advancements in domestic research, several shortcomings persist. Existing studies often concentrate on the economic and social impacts of immigration waves, while insufficiently addressing the historical and cultural backgrounds of immigrant groups and the formation of their social identities. This gap hinders a full understanding of how these factors influence inter-ethnic interactions and the complex relationships between Cuban Americans and other ethnic groups. Moreover, while examining the effects of policy and legal frameworks on the socio-economic status of Cuban Americans, there is a lack of detailed analysis of specific policies—such as the *Cuban Adjustment Act*—regarding

their actual impacts on employment and welfare access over time. Additionally, although some research acknowledges the influence of generational differences and internal diversity on the integration process, there remains a need for more in-depth exploration of how these differences affect interactions with other ethnicities. Furthermore, existing literature tends to focus on conflict between immigrant communities and natives, overlooking positive examples of cooperation and integration. This narrow focus fails to highlight the potential for inter-ethnic collaboration and successful social integration. Methodologically, while there is a trend towards interdisciplinary approaches, much of the research on Cuban immigrants relies heavily on descriptive analyses, lacking robust quantitative data. This limitation restricts both the depth and persuasiveness of the findings. Future research should adopt a more comprehensive methodology that integrates quantitative and qualitative analyses, delves into historical contexts, strengthens empirical research, and incorporates international comparative perspectives. Such an approach would enhance the understanding of transnational migration phenomena and improve the practical application of research findings.

**Key words:** U.S. immigration policy; Cuban immigration; Minorities; Immigration History

## 5

### **Are the Kids Really Doing Alright? A Closer Look at the SES of Asian Americans' Mixed-Race Offspring**

**Lu Chang**

*Graduate Student of, China Foreign Affairs University*

Interracial marriage has long been viewed as a significant indicator of racial integration in the United States. With the burgeoning Asian American population, increasing demographic diversity, and rising rates of Asian intermarriage, the study of Asian intermarriage has emerged as a pivotal topic in Asian assimilation research. However, current research on the consequences of intermarriage remains relatively limited. Utilizing statistical data from the 2022 American Community Survey, this study constructs a multivariate linear regression model to examine intermarriage's impact on the socioeconomic mobility of the Asian American community by focusing on the socioeconomic status of Asian interracial/interethnic offspring. Substantial disparities in socioeconomic status across different Asian subgroups and mixed-race individuals are observed. The results indicate that interracial marriages with whites no longer serve as a socioeconomic upward pathway for many Asian subgroups, and the empirical data support the "convergent assimilation" trajectory presented in the neo-assimilation theory. Furthermore, interethnic marriages are more conducive to acquiring integrated Asian ethnic capital and upward mobility for Asian Americans.

## **Panel 9**

### **American Domestic Politics**

1

#### **The Equality Paradox and Practical Dilemma of American Democracy**

**Kong Xiangyong**

*Associate Professor of Tianjin Normal University*

In the political context of the United States, the entangled relationship between equal opportunity and equal outcome is generally developed along two paths. One is to embed equal outcome in equal opportunity, that is, to worship equal opportunity first and promote equal outcome later. If this path is taken to the extreme, it will lead to the absolutization and sanctification of equal opportunity or legal equality, which is the source of right-wing populism. The other is to embed equal opportunity in equal outcome, that is, to put equal outcome first rather than equal opportunity. If this path is taken to the extreme, it will breed equality of outcome or equal distribution as the "supreme virtue", which is actually the origin of left-wing populism. At present, the increasingly strong tension between equal opportunity and equal outcome has not only induced the decline and revival of right-wing populism and left-wing populism in the United States, but have also been working together to empty the original subjective connotation of American democracy, leading "I" to "we", and thus plunging American democracy into a practical dilemma of renewal and succession.

**Key words:** Equal Opportunity, Equal Outcome, American Democracy, Practical Dilemma Populism

2

#### **When Tech Giants Meet American Politics: Exploring the Intersection of Digital Democracy and Electoral Processes**

**Zhang Guoxi**

*Associate Professor of School of International Relations, Sichuan International Studies University*

The growing influence of American tech giants - such as Facebook, Google, and X - on the nation's political system has become a defining feature of modern U.S. democracy. Against the backdrop of recent digital-driven electoral cycles, this paper explores the distinctive pathways in which these mega companies engage with U.S. politics, particularly focusing on their unique roles in shaping America's digital democracy and transforming its electoral processes. From facilitating political discourse to shaping voter perceptions through algorithmic curation, tech companies have become more than gatekeepers of the political information landscape, often controlling the narratives that truly reach the public. Tech giants' political involvement now extends beyond the digital platforms, affecting electoral campaigns through targeted advertising, data-driven voter outreach, and sometimes controversial content moderation practices. The 2016 and 2020

presidential elections serve as critical case studies in understanding the extent to which tech giants in America have influenced the electoral outcomes, raising serious questions about political transparency, electoral fairness, corporate accountability, and the quality of American democracy. In short, this paper critically examines the implications of tech giants' growing clout in the American political realm, arguing for the urgent need for Americans to rethink the "myths" of digital democracy in a post-truth society.

**Key words:** tech giants; American democracy; presidential elections; digital democracy

### 3

## **Path towards "Workers' Party"?: Domestic Political Logic of the U.S. Foreign Policies of Two Parties**

**Guo Xinyi**

*Lecturer of English and International Studies, Beijing Foreign Studies University School*

Diplomacy is the continuation of domestic affairs. In recent years, the domestic politics of the United States has been undergoing complex structural changes with frequent social crises, which continue to spill over and affect the U.S. foreign policy. With the rapid and profound evolution of the international order, the U.S. foreign trade strategy has undergone major adjustments. Liberalism and openness dominated by the "Washington Consensus" have gradually given way to realism and protectionism dominated by the "New Washington Consensus". The two recent U.S. governments both claimed that they "represent the interests of workers and the middle class", and their foreign policies have shown a certain degree of continuity, which is specifically manifested in opposing and denying globalization, emphasizing national security abroad and pursuing prosperity domestically. But at the same time, the two parties are different in the way to pursue their foreign policy goals. The Republican Party focuses on trade means and advocates strengthening protectionism with tariff sanctions as the core. The Democratic Party emphasizes "trade + industry" and hopes to use state power to invest and support industrial policies at the same time. This difference comes from the differentiation of the economic policy preferences of the two parties' targeted voter group. The Republican Party's targeted voter group is mainly concentrated in labor-intensive industries that prefer "predistribution" policies, while the Democratic Party needs to attract technology-intensive workers who prefer "redistribution" policies while balancing the traditional labor-intensive workers who prefer "predistribution" policies. The distinction of the foreign policy logic of the two parties has a profound impact on their future China policies.

**Key words:** Democratic party; Republican party; Foreign policies; predistribution; redistribution

### 4

## **Between the Constitution and Public Opinion: The Constitutional Sorrow of the United States**

**Li Linjie**

The power of the people during and after the constitutional establishment is fundamentally unequal. At the time of constitution-making, the people resemble sovereigns, actively creating the constitution through constitutional conventions. However, post-constitution, they become passive citizens, obliged to obey the constitution. The living populace will likely eventually challenge the authority of those long-gone sovereigns, striving for the rights of the living. Democracy is bound to challenge the Constitution, regardless of how steadfast its guardians, such as the Supreme Court, maybe. It can be anticipated that, in the foreseeable future, the liberal pushback against the Supreme Court will become increasingly visible.

**Key words:** Constitution, the Supreme Court, public opinion

## 5

### **A Comparative Analysis of Nixon Case and Trump Cases: Continuities and Changes of the Judicial Interpretation on Presidential Communication Privilege**

**Jin Xiaochen**

*Graduate student of the American Studies Center, Beijing Foreign Studies University*

Former U.S. Presidents Richard Nixon and Donald Trump are widely regarded as assertive executives due to their comparable bold claims of “absolute” executive privilege and their similar employment of this privilege to circumvent judicial scrutiny in analogous scandals, namely Watergate and the Tax Fraud Scheme. The rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court in *United States v. Nixon*, *Trump v. Vance*, and *Trump v. Mazars* are therefore widely perceived as constitutional victories that effectively rebut the notion of “absolute” executive privilege. However, this study moves beyond the immediate outcomes of these rulings to investigate the subtle continuities and changes of the Supreme Court’s judicial interpretations on executive privilege, with a specific focus on “presidential communication”.

Through a comparable analysis, this study identifies an implicit expansion in the judicial interpretation regarding the scope and application of this privilege. While the cases share similarities in terms of the non-concession of judicial power, the respect for the function of executive privilege and the demonstration of need for a subpoena, a noticeable shift occurs in the context of separation of powers. The Supreme Court prioritizes safeguarding judicial authority and subsequently safeguarding executive privilege, coming at the expense of congressional power. The evolution is evident in the Court’s varying roles in mediating intra-branch versus inter-branch disputes, the expansion of the presidential prophylactic privilege and the stricter examination of subpoenaed materials.

Additionally, this paper delves into the deeper forces that shape the Supreme Court’s evolving stance on executive privilege. The analysis reveals that while the Court has consistently positioned itself as a defender of judicial authority, it has also adapted to political realities by expanding the scope of executive privilege, especially under conditions of heightened partisanship. The implications of this shift extend beyond the immediate outcomes of individual cases, potentially setting new precedents for future disputes between the executive and legislative branches. By situating these legal changes within the context of growing political division and

shifting power dynamics, this study contributes to a more nuanced understanding of how judicial interpretations of executive privilege are influenced by broader political currents, ultimately reshaping the balance of power in the United States.

**Key words:** Interpretation of Constitution; presidential privilege; United States v. Nixon; Trump v. Mazars; Trump v. Vance

## 6

### **The Historical Origin and Realistic Evolution of the “New Washington Consensus”**

**Chen Xiao’ou**

*Graduate Student of Foreign Languages College, Tianjin Normal University*

Liberalism has long been regarded as the cornerstone and core of American economic philosophy. After the impact of the financial crisis in 2008, in view of the profound changes in the domestic and foreign environment, the United States has gradually begun to criticize and reflect on liberalism. Until the Biden administration came to power, the accumulated potential for change within American society began to converge into a strong political consensus, and gradually translated into concrete policy practices. In view of the increasingly prominent negative effects caused by the "Washington Consensus", the Biden administration openly acknowledged that the "Washington Consensus" based on neoliberal ideas has lost its effectiveness, and accordingly proposed the "new Washington consensus". The core content of this consensus is that the United States should vigorously use the tools of state power, starting from the two directions of domestic affairs (industrial policy) and diplomacy (economic diplomacy), to comprehensively revive the industrial ecosystem and technological innovation capability of the United States, in order to serve the purpose of strategic competition among major powers. The "new Washington consensus" is the most radical transformation of United States economic strategic thinking since the 1970s, that is, from believing in market supremacy and promoting a free economy to strengthening government intervention and safeguarding national security. The Biden administration has maintained its global economic leadership by proposing the "new Washington consensus" to strengthen its own power and effectively contain strategic competitors. However, the United States faces many challenges and constraints in implementing this strategic transformation, which will affect the actual effectiveness of the Biden administration's implementation of the "new Washington consensus". The United States' repositioning of the relationship between the state and the market has not only overturned the traditional understanding of its nation-building, but also has a profound and complex impact on China's economic development and the evolution of the global political and economic order.

**Key words:** new Washington consensus; industrial policy; economic diplomacy; economic strategy

## **Panel 10**

### **U.S.-China Relations: Non-Traditional Issues**

1

#### **Motivations, Practices, and Dilemmas of the United States' Quantum Technology Competition with China Against the Background of China-U.S. Science and Technology Competition**

**Gu Lei**

*Professor of International Studies College, National University of Defense Technology*

In recent years, as the “Second Quantum Revolution” is booming up, quantum technology has exerted increasingly profound impact to both national security and economic development, giving rise to intensifying global competition in this field. Currently, China has gained rapid advancements in this domain, greatly narrowing the gap with U.S. in this field. Besides, with the institutional advantages of the system marked by mobilizing the resources nationwide, China has efficiently integrated scientific research resources, laying a solid foundation for sustainable and high-quality development in this field. In the context of the China-U.S. Science and Technology Competition, the U.S. government has identified China as a key competitor in quantum technology, increasingly recognizing the necessity of engaging in quantum technology competition with China. Consequently, the United States is actively forming an international alliance in quantum technology, while strengthening decoupling from China's quantum technology supply chain and progressively weakening existing scientific research cooperation, seeking to systematically suppress and contain China's advancements in quantum technology. However, on the one hand, quantum technology is still in its early stages of development, and restrictions such as export controls, investment limitations, and personnel exchange controls based on political needs will only dampen technological innovation, ultimately doing more harm than good to the United States itself. On the other hand, the quantum technology competition should not be viewed as a crucial part of the broader U.S. technological competition with China. If so, it is more difficult to effectively manage bilateral competitive and cooperative relations. In the future, it is imperative for China and the United States to engage in active dialogue regarding quantum technology, address mutual strategic misunderstandings and misjudgments, and maintain existing channels of exchange and cooperation, thereby actively managing the competition in this field.

**Key words:** China-U.S. science and technology competition; quantum technology ; cooperation; China-U.S. bilateral relation

2

#### **The Energy Factor in Sino-US Relations: Competition and Cooperation**

**Zou Xiaolong, Jia Yumei**

*Associate Professor of School of International & Public Affairs, Jilin University*

At present, countries in the world are increasingly interdependent, and energy cooperation and governance have also become an unavoidable and important issue in the development process of all countries. As the world's largest developed country and the largest developing country respectively, the United States and China are also the world's two major energy producers and consumers. There is competition and cooperation in the field of energy between two countries. On the issue of energy and climate, although the United States governments go back and forth, on the whole, the United States is facing the pressure of energy structure transformation and energy emission reduction. In addition, the international community also calls on the United States to assume its responsibilities as a major country and actively promote energy and climate governance. Since China proposed the "dual carbon" goal in 2020, it has steadfastly fulfilled its commitments, accelerated the transformation of its energy structure, and joined hands with the international community to make positive contributions to addressing climate change, demonstrating its mission and responsibility as a responsible major country. Therefore, China and the United States have the same interests and topics in the field of climate and energy, and it is necessary to strengthen the cooperation between China and the United States in the field of energy transition and clean energy, which has become a new highlight in the development of China-US relations. The implementation of the New energy Deal after the Biden administration came to power also provides an opportunity for China and the United States to explore the converges of interests in bilateral cooperation. Finding converging interests between China and the United States in the field of energy requires both sides to update and upgrade their thinking on energy policy as an integral part of their overall foreign policy, so as to promote common interests and bilateral relations. The discussion of this topic will help us to have a clear grasp of the current energy policy of the United States, and provide a useful reference for the development of Sino-US energy cooperation and Sino-US relations.

**Key words:** Sino-US relations, Sino-US energy cooperation, Sino-US energy competition, Energy policy

### 3

## **The New Role of Climate Cooperation in US-China Relations: An Embellishment or a Stabilizer?**

**Yang Qiang**

*Associate professor of China Foreign Affairs University*

China has actively and progressively joined the international community in dealing with global climate change since the 1990s. The world has witnessed significant cooperation in UN efforts in climate governance between China and the United States in the 21st century at both the national level and local levels. Relatively speaking, climate change has contributed positively to the bilateral relationship between the two countries especially during the democratic presidential administrations. With the accession of the Biden administration, however, the climate cooperation between the two countries has experienced serious setbacks despite the symbolic meetings and talks held regularly. Has climate cooperation become a mere decoration, or even a fig leaf, of the Biden administration's strategy toward China? Can climate change remain a stabilizer for an improved relationship between the two countries? This research aims to answer these questions based on a historical survey of the bilateral climate cooperation as well as a focused examination of



the speeches and documents released by the Biden administration and the Chinese government.

**Key words:** US-China relations, climate cooperation, the Biden administration

#### 4

### **Subnational Agency in Science and Technology Diplomacy: Managing Geopolitical Challenges through the Lens of California-China Climate Cooperation**

**Jin Yucan**

*Doctor of the American Studies Center, Beijing Foreign Studies University*

Amidst growing geopolitical tensions, traditional state-led science and technology diplomacy faces increased challenges. Concurrently, the urgency of the climate crisis calls for innovative international collaboration approaches. This essay explores how subnational actors navigate science and technology diplomacy within geopolitical constraints, with a focus on California-China climate change cooperation, particularly in their green transition engagement. Through an in-depth case study analysis, the essay examines the dynamic collaboration among diverse subnational actors including California state agencies, Chinese governmental bodies, private sectors think tanks, and academia of both sides. The aim is to uncover the rationale behind potential, and limitations of such partnerships, highlighting the understudied role of subnational agencies in managing great power competition through S&T diplomacy. This study provides a nuanced understanding of California-China climate cooperation as a microcosm of the broader US-China relationship.

Employing a qualitative approach, the essay draws from primary and secondary sources, including policy documents, government reports, media coverage, academic literature, video clips, social media posts, and podcasts. It begins by historically contextualizing California-China early-stage engagement from 1979 to the 2000s which laid a profound foundation for subsequent collaborative expansion and diversification. The essay primarily focuses on the evolving landscape of California's strategy in navigating geopolitical complexities to enhance clean energy collaboration with China. Covering approximately a decade, from the Obama to the Biden administrations, it examines China's emergence as a clean energy powerhouse alongside the growing polarization within the United States, which has affected the dynamics of this cooperative relationship. Given the multifaceted nature of this subnational engagement, the essay selectively probes into prominent events, such as the Subnational Clean Energy Ministerial convened by then-Governor Jerry Brown in 2017 following the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, the 2023 California Jiangsu MOU on Strengthening Climate and Environmental Cooperation during Governor Gavin Newsom's visit to China, BYD's entry and growth in the American electric bus market since 2013, and continuous joint research programs advanced by the University of California system and prestigious universities in Beijing and Shanghai. This analysis reveals that despite shifting geopolitical winds, California China climate cooperation has been demonstrating resilience and consistency albeit in a more cautious and selective manner recently, driven by shared economic interests and networks of non-state actors, while also confronting challenges with trade tensions and technology transfer concerns being the most salient ones.

**Key words:** subnational actors, California, Science and Technology Diplomacy, climate cooperation

## **Panel 11**

### **Digital Diplomacy: Technology for New Possibilities**

1

#### **Terra Incognita: The Governance of AI in US-China Perspective**

**Woojin Lim**

*Researcher, Harvard Kennedy School; Schwarzman Scholar, Tsinghua University*

The rapid rise of generative artificial intelligence (AI) presents a unique set of governance challenges, requiring innovative frameworks to mitigate its social and economic risks. The approaches of the United States and China — two AI superpowers — differ markedly, reflecting distinct political, economic, and cultural priorities. In this paper, I explore how these divergent models of AI founded on different value systems impact the global governance of AI. Through a comparative analysis, I consider technical dimensions of AI safety in both open and closed systems, and highlight emerging initiatives aimed at safeguarding AI development in both contexts. Notably, I examine the different approaches of Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC)'s Draft Measures, the AI Law of the People's Republic of China, versus the White House's Executive Order on AI. Arguing for a dual-track approach that balances competition with cooperation, I contend that effective AI safety mechanisms must bridge ideological divides. Ultimately, AI safety is inseparable from AI governance: pluralist efforts to reconcile competing models will be critical for managing the global risks posed by AI and ensuring long-term bridging efforts.

**Key words:** artificial intelligence, open societies, global governance, plurality, bridging systems

2

#### **Digital Diplomacy and Digital Transformation: EFL Students' Perceptions and Involvement in Cultural Competencies**

**Thai Cong Dan, Thai Phan Bao Han**

*English Lecturer of School of Foreign Languages, Can Tho University*

*English Lecturer of Faculty of Social Sciences, Can Tho University of Technology*

This study examines the perceptions and involvement of 60 Vietnamese EFL students regarding "Digital Diplomacy: Leveraging Technology for New Possibilities," following their American Culture Course at a Vietnamese university, South of Vietnam, the Mekong Delta region. As they prepare for the conference in Beijing, China, the research employs a questionnaire and semi-structured interviews with six students to gain a nuanced understanding of their experiences. The questionnaire evaluates students' views on how digital tools enhance their comprehension of American culture and societal norms. In-depth interviews provide additional insights into their active participation in digital diplomacy activities. Findings reveal a favorable view of digital diplomacy's role in fostering cultural exchange and global engagement. Students actively engage

with digital platforms to explore and discuss American culture, illustrating their involvement in this emerging field. Additionally, students compare these insights with the broader context of Vietnam's nationwide "Digital Transformation" project, particularly its impact on digital diplomacy. The comparative analysis highlights the alignment between local and international digital diplomacy trends, emphasizing the significance of digital tools in both Vietnamese and American contexts. This study underscores the role of digital diplomacy in bridging cultural gaps and advancing global connections in a digitally transforming world.

**Key words:** Digital Diplomacy, EFL Students, Digital Transformation, Cultural Exchange, American Culture

### 3

## **Meme Diplomacy: Understanding Chinese Grassroots Support for Trump through the Lens of Digital Diplomacy**

**Wang Yifan**

*Graduate Student of the American Studies Center, Beijing Foreign Studies University*

In the digital age, the intersection of meme culture and political discourse has emerged as a powerful force in shaping public opinion across borders. This paper explores how Chinese grassroots netizens engage with and support Trump through the viral dissemination of memes, focusing on the concept of "meme diplomacy." Meme diplomacy refers to the way digital content, specifically political memes, is utilized as a tool of influence and soft power in global public diplomacy efforts. While memes are often regarded as mere entertainment, they have become potent vehicles for political expression, transcending national boundaries and facilitating the exchange of political ideas.

The study analyzes 15 of the most popular Trump meme videos on the Chinese platform Bilibili, focusing on user comments and reactions. Using content analysis and qualitative coding, the research identifies key themes, such as entertainment, populism, anti-establishment sentiments, and cultural resonance, that explain why Chinese grassroots netizens are drawn to Trump's digital persona. While Trump's populist rhetoric and rebellious image have polarized audiences in the West, they have garnered unexpected admiration from a segment of Chinese netizens, whose engagement with Trump's memes extends beyond humor and irony to include genuine political affinity.

A significant aspect of this research is the exploration of how digital diplomacy plays a role in this phenomenon. Trump's digital presence, amplified by viral memes, has become a vehicle for promoting certain political ideals that resonate with Chinese audiences. The study concludes that two major factors contribute to Chinese netizens' eventual support for Trump. First, Trump's image as an anti-establishment figure appeals to a segment of Chinese grassroots netizens frustrated with elites in general. Second, some netizens genuinely believe that Trump, by undermining the U.S., could indirectly benefit China's geopolitical standing. This belief has led to a more serious endorsement of Trump's actions and policies within these online communities.

In conclusion, this paper highlights that while memes are often dismissed as trivial, they hold substantial power in shaping political engagement across borders. In China, where traditional media is tightly controlled, memes provide an accessible means of political expression. By

examining the case of Trump memes, this research contributes to the understanding of how digital diplomacy and meme culture intersect to influence political behavior, opening new avenues for studying the geopolitical implications of digital content in the context of global diplomacy.

**Key words:** Digital diplomacy; Meme diplomacy; Public diplomacy; Memeification of politics; Donald Trump memes; Sino-US relations; Soft power; Chinese grassroots netizens

#### 4

### **Motivations, Practices, and Dilemmas of the United States' Quantum Technology Competition with China Against the Background of China-U.S. Science and Technology Competition**

**Li Xiaoyu**

*Graduate Student of International Studies College, National University of Defense Technology*

In recent years, as the “Second Quantum Revolution” is booming up, quantum technology has exerted increasingly profound impact to both national security and economic development, giving rise to intensifying global competition in this field. Currently, China has gained rapid advancements in this domain, greatly narrowing the gap with U.S. in this field. Besides, with the institutional advantages of the system marked by mobilizing the resources nationwide, China has efficiently integrated scientific research resources, laying a solid foundation for sustainable and high-quality development in this field. In the context of the China-U.S. Science and Technology Competition, the U.S. government has identified China as a key competitor in quantum technology, increasingly recognizing the necessity of engaging in quantum technology competition with China. Consequently, the United States is actively forming an international alliance in quantum technology, while strengthening decoupling from China's quantum technology supply chain and progressively weakening existing scientific research cooperation, seeking to systematically suppress and contain China's advancements in quantum technology. However, on the one hand, quantum technology is still in its early stages of development, and restrictions such as export controls, investment limitations, and personnel exchange controls based on political needs will only dampen technological innovation, ultimately doing more harm than good to the United States itself. On the other hand, the quantum technology competition should not be viewed as a crucial part of the broader U.S. technological competition with China. If so, it is more difficult to effectively manage bilateral competitive and cooperative relations. In the future, it is imperative for China and the United States to engage in active dialogue regarding quantum technology, address mutual strategic misunderstandings and misjudgments, and maintain existing channels of exchange and cooperation, thereby actively managing the competition in this field.

**Key words:** China-U.S. science and technology competition; quantum technology ; cooperation; China-U.S. bilateral relation

## **Panel 12**

### **Undergraduate Forum**

1

#### **Meat-Egg-Dairy Consumption and Mental Health Outcomes among American Older Adults: Exploring Gender Disparities**

**Si Boyu**

*Undergraduate Student of School of English and International Studies, Beijing Foreign Studies University*

This study examines the association between meat, egg, and dairy products (MED) consumption and mental health outcomes among older adults in the United States of America, with a particular focus on gender disparities. Using data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) spanning from 1988 to 2018, this research provides a comprehensive analysis of diet and its potential impact on psychological well-being in the geriatric population.

The American population is rapidly aging, bringing increased attention to the factors influencing the mental health of older adults. While nutrition has long been recognized as a crucial component of physical health, its role in mental health, particularly among the elderly, remains understudied. This research aims to bridge this gap by examining the potential links between animal product consumption and mental health outcomes, while also exploring how these relationships may differ between older men and women.

The study employs a quantitative approach, applying NHANES data with insights from existing literature. The NHANES dataset, collected over three decades, provides a rich source of information on dietary intake, mental health indicators, and demographic factors. The research focuses on participants aged 65 and older, analyzing their consumption patterns of meat, eggs, and dairy products in relation to various mental health measures, particularly focusing on the depression levels of older adults.

Statistical analyses, including multiple regression, are used to examine the associations between animal-derived food consumption and mental health outcomes. These models control for potential confounding factors such as socioeconomic status, physical health, and lifestyle habits.

A key aspect of this study is its exploration of gender disparities in the relationship between MED consumption and mental health. By stratifying the analysis by gender, this research aims to uncover any significant differences in how dietary patterns may affect the psychological well-being of older men and women differently and explores the specificity of the American case. This gender-specific approach is particularly relevant given the well-documented differences in nutritional needs, metabolism, and mental health vulnerabilities between older men and women.

The findings of this study have important implications for public health policy, elderly care, and future research. By investigating the potential role of meat, egg, and dairy consumption in mental health among older adults, this research contributes to the development of targeted dietary interventions and recommendations for promoting mental well-being in the aging population.

Moreover, by highlighting gender disparities, the study emphasizes the need for personalized approaches to nutrition and mental health care for older adults.

This research also addresses broader societal issues, such as food security and accessibility for older adults, and the cultural and socioeconomic factors that influence dietary choices in later life. By examining these complex relationships, the study aims to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the interplay between nutrition, mental health, and aging in the United States.

**Key words:** mental health; MED consumption; depression; National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey; gender disparities

#### 4

## **US-China Educational Exchanges Amid Tensions: Exploring Pathways for Sustaining and Stabilizing International Talent Development**

**Li Zeyu**

*Undergraduate Student of Si Chuan University*

Against the backdrop of increasingly complex global political dynamics, rising tensions between China and the US have had a significant impact on educational cooperation between the two countries. Recent US policy adjustments, particularly restrictions on student visas and international research collaboration, have impeded academic exchange and talent mobility between China and the US. According to data released by the Institute of International Education (IIE) in 2023, while global international student numbers are recovering, applications from Chinese students to US institutions have declined, and visa policy uncertainties have exacerbated this trend.

In light of this less-than-optimistic situation, this paper analyzes the changes in political landscapes and national policies and their far-reaching effects on US-China higher education cooperation, exploring how to effectively advance educational and cultural exchanges and international talent development between the two nations. Using the collaborative program between Sichuan University and the University of Pittsburgh as an example, the paper identifies challenges in academic cooperation and talent exchange. Based on case studies and data-supported analysis, it suggests that cross-cultural adaptation, multilateral cooperation, and the application of digital technologies can not only sustain existing educational exchanges but also promote long-term talent mobility and development. Particularly in the current context of policy uncertainty, cross-cultural integration emerges as a key strategy for resolving differences and enhancing cooperation.

The practical experience of the Sichuan University-Pittsburgh Institute demonstrates that international joint education programs can help students better adapt to a globalized environment through flexible curricula and cultural activities, enhancing their cross-cultural communication skills. Moreover, multilateral cooperation and innovative applications of virtual technologies present new opportunities for higher education collaboration between the US and China. Ultimately, this paper aims to provide strategic recommendations for US-China higher education cooperation and international talent development in response to complex global dynamics, fostering deeper exchanges between youth, promoting cultural understanding, and supporting the long-term stability and sustainable development of bilateral educational cooperation.

**Key words:** US-China Educational Exchanges, International Talent Development, Cross-Cultural Adaptation, Political and Policy Shifts, Digital Technologies and Collaboration

### 3

## **The Power of ‘Beautiful’: Symbolism, History, and Future Pathways for U.S.-China People-to-People Engagement**

**Yang Pufan**

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The Sino-American relationship is one of the most significant bilateral relationships in the world today. The way these two great nations interact across the Pacific will have critical implications for the future of our planet. Unfortunately, in recent years, misjudgments have deepened, and mutual suspicion between China and the U.S. has grown. However, since the 19th century, people-to-people exchanges have gradually built mutual understanding and cooperation, offering key opportunities to overcome political barriers. From Yung Wing’s studies in the U.S. to Ping-Pong Diplomacy, these interactions have strengthened ties between the two peoples and laid a solid foundation for Sino-American relations.

This paper explores the symbolic significance of China’s decision to translate "America" using the character "美" (meaning "beautiful"), reflecting a positive cultural recognition of the U.S. and an aspiration for friendly bilateral relations. Rather than choosing characters with negative connotations, this choice underscores a favorable attitude toward the U.S. and provides a symbolic foundation for cultural exchanges. Through this lens, the paper examines how "美" serves as a symbol of friendship and cooperation, both historically and in contemporary exchanges.

The paper also highlights U.S.-China climate cooperation as a modern example of successful collaboration, demonstrating how NGOs, academic institutions, and enterprises have worked together on clean energy and climate governance. This partnership illustrates the enduring importance of people-to-people exchanges, even amidst political tensions.

Nevertheless, 21st-century Sino-American exchanges face new challenges, including geopolitical tensions, tightened visa policies, and post-pandemic restrictions. To address these, the paper suggests leveraging digital tools, such as virtual reality and online platforms, to maintain and expand connections. Additionally, policy support and cultural diplomacy are crucial for fostering deeper engagement and overcoming barriers to cooperation.

By analyzing the symbolism of "美," this paper provides insights into how cultural symbols can bridge gaps in Sino-American relations and offers strategies for enhancing people-to-people exchanges. These strategies aim to promote mutual understanding and support the peaceful development of this vital bilateral relationship, aligning with the broader goals of educational and cultural cooperation.

**Key words:** Sino-American Relations, Cultural Diplomacy, Climate Cooperation, Digital Diplomacy, People-to-People Exchanges, Cultural Symbolism

## **Navigating Ethical Pluralism in Cultural Diplomacy Between US-China Relations: Opportunities and Challenges**

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This article investigates the integration of ethical pluralism into cultural diplomacy, particularly focusing on the intricate dynamics of US-China relations. As the two nations navigate an increasingly polarized global landscape, cultural diplomacy offers a potential bridge for fostering mutual understanding. The paper explores how ethical pluralism—recognizing and accommodating diverse and often conflicting moral perspectives—can be embedded into cultural engagement frameworks to address global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and rising social justice movements. These crises have underscored the structural barriers and institutional inertia that hinder effective cross-cultural interactions. The article delves into the role of cultural diplomacy as a tool for reducing tensions and promoting community resilience. By utilizing strategies such as participatory governance, culturally responsive evaluation, and equitable cultural exchanges, it advocates for a more inclusive cultural policy landscape that can effectively respond to the complexities of US-China relations. The analysis highlights challenges, including geopolitical tensions, differing governance philosophies, and the impact of populist movements that politicize cultural policies. The proposed framework seeks to promote cross-cultural dialogue, emphasizing the need for policies that go beyond tokenistic inclusion and actively address power dynamics and structural inequalities. It also examines the potential for expanding cultural diplomacy beyond traditional channels to include non-governmental organizations, universities, and grassroots initiatives, thus making engagement more sustainable and meaningful. By fostering platforms for genuine dialogue and equitable participation, this article aims to provide a pathway towards a more harmonious relationship between these global powers, ultimately supporting a resilient and inclusive international cultural environment.

**Key words:** Cultural Policy; Ethical Pluralism; Participatory Governance; Cultural Diplomacy; US-China Relations

## **The difficulties and breakthroughs of cross-cultural communication in sports diplomacy between Chinese and American youth - with empirical studies of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and the 2023 Chengdu FISU World University Games as examples.**

**Kang Yumeng**

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The United Nations has always attached great importance to the role of youth in driving social development, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015 took the UN youth policy to a new level. As the real and future driving force of social development, youth's active participation in cross-cultural exchanges can help achieve Goal 17 of the UN's Sustainable



Development Goals by strengthening implementation mechanisms and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. Sports diplomacy, an important component of cross-cultural exchanges, and the difficulties and solutions faced by young people in cross-cultural exchanges at large sports events are worth exploring.

The difficulties and solutions encountered by young people in sports diplomacy, an important component of cross-cultural exchange, have significant academic and practical significance. This study analyzes the image of "youth" as perceived by mainstream media to recognize the social expectations of youth at the individual and national levels in cross-cultural exchange—cultivating international vision, helping individuals develop; promoting cultural exchanges, enhancing state-to-state relations, shaping national image and enhancing international influence, including sports diplomacy. The China-US relationship has always been an indispensable part of international relations, so the exchange of China-US youth has great significance.

Subsequently, this study combines two methods, in-depth interviews with US delegation volunteers and questionnaires surveyed to all the volunteers who had contact with the US delegation, to identify the three common difficulties faced by China-US youth in sports diplomacy—language barriers, cultural differences, and inherent biases, as well as proposes specific and feasible solutions to each: 1. Go beyond just written language proficiency and work to genuinely improve teenagers' language communication skills, including the use of body language, drawing, and other techniques when necessary; 2. Learn and understand the cultural traditions and customs of other countries and regions, respect and understand other cultures and perspectives, and adopt an open-minded attitude to accept and understand the cultures of other countries and regions; 3. Chinese teenagers need to start by telling China's stories to the outside world, while maintaining confidence in their own country, breaking through preconceived biases, avoiding being demonized by other mainstream media, and presenting a more authentic China to the world.

**Key words:** Youth; Sports Diplomacy; Cross-cultural Exchange; Empirical Research

## 6

### **The Tradition and Inheritance of the History Department of Southwest Associated University: A Study Centered on Lei Haizong and Ho Pingti**

**Fu Ziyang**

*Student of Capital Normal University*

The Southwest Associated Universities has been called 'a miracle in the history of Chinese education'. It has existed for only eight years, but it has produced talents in many fields. The tradition of the Department of History of the Southwest Associated Universities has also left a deep imprint on the academic careers of many students, and the connection between Lei Haizong and He Bingdi in terms of academic thinking, national sentiment and life experience is a good example. Trained in the traditional historiography of Tsinghua University and the Western historiography of the University of Chicago, Lei Hai-Zong learnt from both the East and the West, and was well versed in both the past and the present. He Bingdi was deeply influenced by Lei Haizong and other professors of history at Tsinghua, and by the turbulent situation during the period of the Southwest Associated University, and later lived in the United States for more than

twenty years. He developed the characteristics of ‘boldness and embroidery’ in the treatment of history, and a deep sense of national sentiment, and was able to switch freely between Chinese and Western history, and to pioneer the study of Chinese history through the use of social and natural sciences, and also had the heart of the ‘Chinese people’ in his heart. All these can be traced back to the academic traditions of the history departments of Tsinghua University and the Southwest Associated University. However, compared to Lei Haizong, He Bingdi's nationalistic sentiments are more like a ‘double-edged sword’, which not only gave him the impetus to further his endeavours in the field of Chinese history, but also led to a lot of disputes and reputation.

**Key words:** China-US Education Communication, The Southwest Associated Universities; Ho Pingti; Lei Haizong; Modern Chinese History

## 7

### **Mechanisms and paths for promoting China-US exchanges and cooperation through digital diplomacy**

**Le Yi**

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In the 45 years since diplomatic relations were established, China and the United States have developed the most important bilateral relationship of the twenty-first century. *Only via cooperation can the two countries deal with the changing global scenario in the digital age.* After the meeting in San Francisco, the two chiefs of state established a number of agreements, including renouncing the zero-sum game approach, improving communication and exchanges, effectively managing disagreements, and avoiding conflict and confrontation.<sup>□</sup> Given various misunderstandings between inhabitants of the two nations caused by insufficient historical exchanges, it is critical to overcome misunderstandings through diplomatic and people-to-people exchanges. *In the digital age, the use of digital diplomacy to mix traditional diplomacy with person-to-person communications* can leverage technology to open up new avenues for cordial China-US relations.

The Internet is becoming more global due to information and digital technologies. Leaders, diplomats, and citizens can establish quick contacts and communication through digital media technologies like short videos, live streaming, video conferences, and cloud summits.<sup>□</sup> China and the United States' diplomatic work is focused on politics, the economy, security, and people-to-people relations. *In particular, the two countries should use digital technology* to improve their national image, create a favorable exchange environment, explain their policies to each other's citizens, and promote people-to-people exchanges in order to eliminate historical misunderstandings and strengthen friendship and mutual trust.

In this process, digital diplomacy offers four new possibilities: *First*, digital diplomacy can make public diplomacy more democratic. Digital diplomacy, based on the openness and transparency of multi-party engagement and information disclosure, has the potential to lower the threshold of conventional diplomacy and encourage Chinese and American public to pay attention to foreign affairs.<sup>□</sup> *Second*, digital diplomacy can increase diplomatic efficiency. Through the most advanced digital technology, the first response to the outside world's needs for diplomatic

information may better respond to the complicated development trend of international politics. *Third*, digital diplomacy contributes to a more vibrant national image. The use of digital diplomacy by the two countries' heads of state and diplomats to share their national stories can better transmit information to each other's citizens and raise favorable awareness.<sup>□</sup> *Fourth*, digital diplomacy may harness diplomatic potential energy from little wounds to leverage major events. Take "Twitter diplomacy," in which the US and Cuban State Departments follow each other on Twitter, encouraging individuals from both nations to get to know each other better, resulting in a thaw in diplomatic relations.

To summarize, *based on the new possibilities brought by digital technology, China and the United States can* advocate the formulation of international norms for global digital diplomacy in the future with the concept of a community of shared future, optimize the digital diplomatic media ecosystem for bilateral dialogue, use digital diplomacy to increase the participation of Chinese and American citizens in diplomacy, eliminate misunderstandings through more transparent To leverage a large circumstance with a tiny incision in order to improve the quality of Sino-US diplomacy.

**Key words:** China-US relations; Digital diplomacy; Cyber Dialogue; Eliminate misunderstandings; Community of Shared Future in Cyberspace

## 8

### **The Evolution of U.S.-China Relations in the Indo-Pacific under Minilateralism: A Multidimensional Analysis of Cooperation, Competition, and Confrontation**

**Zhou Yuhe**

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The security situation in the Indo-Pacific region is evolving in a highly uncertain and potentially volatile manner, with minilateralism gradually becoming a central instrument in the U.S. containment strategy toward China. In this context, the evolution of U.S.-China relations is crucial for understanding the future global power structure. This study explores whether minilateralism has intensified strategic competition between the U.S. and China, offering a comprehensive analysis of its impact across political, economic, military, and cultural dimensions.

Minilateralism, through U.S.-led cooperative frameworks such as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) and AUKUS, has reshaped the geopolitical order in the Indo-Pacific. By forming flexible, issue-oriented, and exclusionary alliances, this strategy aims to diminish China's regional influence and achieve a strategic balance. This paper focuses on analyzing the Biden administration's comprehensive approach to minilateralism, identifying its core strategic objectives, and examining its role in the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy, highlighting how it reshapes regional alliances and the distribution of power.

To understand the profound impact of minilateralism on the future trajectory of U.S.-China relations, this paper first traces the historical evolution of these relations in the Indo-Pacific since the end of the Cold War, revealing patterns of cooperation, competition, and confrontation between the two powers.

Subsequently, the paper presents a multidimensional analysis of U.S.-China relations through

four lenses:

1. **Political and Diplomatic Dimension:** This section examines how the Biden administration's minilateralism, with a focus on sensitive issues like the South China Sea and Taiwan, seeks to weaken China's regional leadership and how U.S.-led exclusionary frameworks challenge China's diplomatic influence.

2. **Economic and Technological Competition:** This section explores how minilateral cooperation reshapes supply chains to reduce dependence on China, promoting de-globalization, particularly in high-tech sectors. It also evaluates the impact of the Biden administration's "decoupling" strategy on intensifying U.S.-China economic competition.

3. **Military and Security Dimension:** By strengthening military ties between the U.S. and its allies, particularly in maritime and cyber security, minilateralism increases strategic pressure on China.

4. **Education and Cultural Exchanges:** This section investigates the challenges to U.S.-China educational and cultural exchanges under the influence of minilateralism, particularly regarding student mobility, academic collaboration, and cultural diplomacy.

Finally, the paper offers policy recommendations for mitigating conflict, emphasizing the need for U.S.-China cooperation in areas such as climate change, the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and global public health.

This research provides a systematic and multidimensional analysis of U.S.-China relations within the framework of minilateralism, highlighting both opportunities for cooperation and the growing trends of strategic competition.

**Key words:** Minilateralism, Indo-Pacific Strategy, U.S.-China Relations, Biden Administration

# Notes











