

Syllabus – China and the World: policies and development strategies

PPOL5340

Tuesday – 15:00 – 17:50

Venue – Room 4502

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Course description

Over the past forty years, China's astounding growth culminated in its rise as the second largest economy in the world. With its "Going Out" policy and the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013, China's presence and influence in the rest of the world has led to polarized reactions, diverging narratives, and shifting equilibriums of power. As Szonyi wrote: "China matters. [...] It has always mattered and always will. What happens to a fifth of the world's population is important. But today China matters not only to the Chinese people themselves but also to Americans and to the rest of the world in some new, unexpected, and interesting ways – not only because of China's large and growing role in the world economy. Of the many pressing problems facing our world – from climate change to economic growth to maritime security to counterterrorism – none can be solved or even addressed effectively without China's participation." This is why it has become increasingly important for policymakers, leaders of think tanks, and NGOs to be acquainted with the uniqueness of the Chinese development model.

Course objectives

This course is designed to equip students with fundamental knowledge about China, but also with important theoretical foundations on international relations, political economy, and development to be able to think critically about China's role in the world and in specific countries. The different tasks in the course will enable students to come up with detailed examinations and policy recommendations on China but also to critically evaluate analysis and policy briefs on China. Hence, it is designed specifically for public policy students that aim to work in governmental and non-governmental organizations, think tanks, or consultancies. It will provide students with a broad coverage of issues in different countries around the world.

Course learning outcomes

On successful completion of the proposed course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and evaluate the policy process and implications of China opening its door to the world
2. Utilize multidisciplinary theories to examine China's unique development model and its implications
3. Critically analyze the political and economic relations between China and other countries
4. Be able to critically assess development strategies and policy agendas
5. Understand the relationship between China and other countries, and with international organizations
6. Convey analysis, in writing and orally, of their critical assessments and recommendations

Course structure and key deadlines

The course will be carried out in a "role play" mode: for the first assignment, you will have to impersonate a policy analyst (working for the government or for an NGO or think tank), writing a policy brief to inform a certain government about a policy issue. You will then present this in class during the relevant session according to the geographical area.

Then, we will assign you another role of leadership in a certain government, and you will be required to take or not take action on a specific policy brief, to assess critically its content and decide a possible course of action based on the recommendation in it.

If you have a specific country you would like to work on, please let me know by 1 March. Depending on the number of students, there might be certain limitations on how many students can work on the same country / topic. If too many students ask to work on similar issues, the selection will be based who puts in the request first.

Deadline	Task	What to do
1 March	Select country for policy brief and presentation	Input your preference in the link below*
1 April	Submit your policy brief	Send via Canvas
Depending on country, one day before lecture	Send your presentation	Upload on Canvas
Depending on your country	Send your assessment note	Send via Canvas
21 May	Term paper	Send via Canvas

* <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AyK4R8ZyRKUsKvJaX5eK4Qga-4HTstgf/edit?usp=sharing&oid=112458941650101272434&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Planned Assessment & Weightings

Assessment Task	Proportion of Final Grade (%)	ILO
Policy brief	20%	ILO 1, 3, 5, 6
Presentation	20%	ILO1 - 6
Critical assessment of the presentation	15%	ILO1, 4
Term paper	30%	ILO1 - 6
Participation in class and online	15%	ILO1 - 6

Attendance is mandatory: more than three unjustified absences will result in a reduction of your grades.

Course schedule

Week 1 **Introduction to the course: China and the World**

8/02

In this class:

- I will introduce the course and we will review the structure and the syllabus
- I will explain the key means of examination for the class and how to succeed in writing a great policy brief
- We will talk to a former deputy minister to explore what he reads about China!
- We will have a chat about any questions you might have about the course

Activity:

- Pick a policy brief of your choice and critically examine it in groups
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Required actions:

- Read a policy brief on China of your choice and examine the way it's structured

Suggested readings:

- Szonyi, M., 2018. *Introduction*. In: Rudolph, J. and Szonyi, M. *The China Questions: Critical Insights into a Rising Power*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

See at the end of the Syllabus the Resources for Policy Briefs.ⁱ

Week 2 **Will China rule the world? Theories and narratives about China's rise and China's development model**

15/02 In this class:

- We will review key milestones in Chinese history that led to modern times
 - We will look at key theories to explain China's growth miracle and the "Capitalism with Chinese characteristics"
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- Explain the Washington vs the Beijing Consensus and the “China model”
 - Explain the theory of the clash of civilization and the concept of “Chineseness” and embeddedness

Activity:

- We will have an in-class debate on the topics covered by the video – namely, your take on whether there’s “clash of civilizations”

Required actions:

- Watch “A clash of civilisations” played out at SCMP’s annual China Conference: the full debate. <https://youtu.be/e4grWwFxhe0>

Suggested readings:

- Westad, O. A., 2018. *Will China lead Asia?* Chapter 8. In: Rudolph, J. and Szonyi, M. *The China Questions: Critical Insights into a Rising Power*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Knoerich, J., Mouan, L.C. and Goodburn, C., 2021. Is China’s model of SEZ-led development viable? A call for smart replication. *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*, p.1868102621993487.
- Glaser, C., 2011. Will China's Rise Lead to War? Why Realism Does Not Mean Pessimism, *Foreign Affairs*, 90(2), pp. 80-91.

Week 3 Geoeconomics, geopolitics, and soft power: what are they?

22/02

In this class we will:

- Introduce the concepts of geoeconomics and geopolitics
- Outline the 7 economic tools with geopolitical applications
- Examine some key cases of the usage of these tools by countries in general and by China

Activity:

- You will work in groups to come up with as many examples of economics tools with geopolitical applications – you can / should come prepared
- You will have a final competition among groups to check/review your examples – may the smartest win!

Required actions:

- Do a bit of research to understand what these economic tools are and find some examples

Suggested readings:

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- Blackwill, R.D., Harris, J., and Harris, J.M., 2016. *War by other means*. Harvard University Press.
 - Yeh, E.T., 2016. Introduction: The geoeconomics and geopolitics of Chinese development and investment in Asia. *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 57(3), pp.275-285.
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Week 4 China, aid influence, and the Covid19 pandemic

1/03

In this class, we will:

- Introduce key theories and empirical studies on the influence of foreign aid programs
- Review the history of China's aid program
- Review the more recent efforts by China to restructure its aid governance
- Examine the narratives pertaining China's medical assistance under the Covid19 pandemic

Required actions:

- Do a bit of research about China's aid programs across the world and find data about it!

Suggested readings:

- Strüver, G., 2016. What Friends Are Made of: Bilateral Linkages and Domestic Drivers of Foreign Policy Alignment with China, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 12(2), pp. 170–191.
 - Woo, B., and Chung, E., 2018. Aid for Vote? United Nations General Assembly Voting and American Aid Allocation, *Political Studies*, 66(4), 1002-1026.
 - Fuchs, A. and Rudyak, M., 2019. The motives of China's foreign aid. In: Zeng, K., ed. *Handbook on the International Political Economy of China*. Edward Elgar Publishing.
 - Dreher, A., Fuchs, A., Parks, B., Strange, A.M. and Tierney, M.J., 2018. Apples and dragon fruits: The determinants of aid and other forms of state financing from China to Africa. *International Studies Quarterly*, 62(1), pp.182-194.
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Activity:

- We will first review your choices for presentations and share any feedback/questions
 - Quick test on what you have learned
 - Then, you will work in pre-assigned groups to come up with quick outlines about China's aid programs in different regions of the world: these are Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Eastern Europe
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Week 5 China and global economic governance – WTO, FDI and BRI (Part I, legal)
Guest lecture by Dr. Dini Sejko

8/03

In this class we will:

- Talk about the legal aspect of China's economic governance, starting from the WTO access
- Examine the various international treaties that are relevant for Chinese investments
- Delve into some of the cases involving China's sovereign wealth funds
- Look at the security aspect of China's BRI

Required actions:

- Read about the countries on which your classmates are presenting and prepare some questions for them!

Suggested readings:

- Wu, M. 2018. Is China keeping its promises on trade? In: Rudolph, J. and Szonyi, M. *The China Questions: Critical Insights into a Rising Power*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Mercurio, B. Sejko, D. (2019). Holes in the Silk: Investor Protection under China's Belt and Road Initiative. *Global Trade and Customs Journal*, 251.
- Wang, H. (2019). China's Approach to the Belt and Road Initiative: Scope, Character, and Sustainability, *Journal of International Economic Law*, 22, pp. 29-55.

Activity:

- Students' presentations plus questions

Week 6 China's Belt and Road Initiative and Chinese foreign direct investments (Part II, economic, environment & society)

15/03

In this class we will:

- Introduce China's Belt and Road Initiative, its different dimensions, and mechanisms
- Introduce the literature on FDI impact on host countries
- Review key literature on the BRI, its narratives, and the facts!
- Review key empirical studies on how Chinese FDI has changed after the BRI
- Introduce the movement to Green the BRI & the BRI's potential impact on sustainability
- Introduce the BRI ever expanding reach: to the Arctic, to the moon, to the deep-sea, and in the digital & health sector

Required actions:

- Read about the countries on which your classmates are presenting and prepare some questions for them!

Suggested readings:

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- Knoerich, J., Stephenson, M. and Taylor-Strauss, H., 2021. Outward Foreign Direct Investment Policy Toolkit for Sustainable Development.
 - Jones, L. and Hameiri, S., 2020. Debunking the myth of 'debt-trap diplomacy'. London: Chatham House.
 - Jones, L. and Zeng, J., 2019. Understanding China's 'Belt and Road Initiative': beyond 'grand strategy' to a state transformation analysis. *Third World Quarterly*, 40(8), pp.1415-1439.

Videos:

- Al Jazeera, 2017. Reviving the 'silk road' - Inside Story.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FH-X8vv2rGk&list=PLzGHKb8i9vTxlh-qFarsB6bryjWq0nLwF&index=14>
- CNBC, 2018. The New Silk Road: Ambition and Opportunity.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REtEOS_9Eic

Activity:

- Students' presentations plus questions

Week 7 China, energy, and the environment: the ins and outs

22/03

In this class we will:

- Talk about the environmental consequences of China's development
- Examine China's profile and influence in the world market of minerals and metals and the implications of this
- Trace the increasing Chinese presence in mineral and resource-rich countries and territories
- Examine the role of China in global environmental governance

Required actions:

- Read about the countries on which your classmates are presenting and prepare some questions for them!

Suggested readings:

- Gallagher, K.S. (2016). The Carbon Consequences of China's Overseas Investments in Coal. CIERP Policy Brief, The Fletcher School, Tufts University, Medford, Mass.
https://sites.tufts.edu/cierp/files/2017/11/CIERPpb_ChinaCoal_HiRes.pdf.
 - Gallagher, K.P. (2017). China Global Energy Finance: A New Interactive Database. Global Development Policy Center, Boston University: Boston, Mass.
<http://www.bu.edu/cgef/#/intro>
 - Gallagher, K.P. (2018). China's global energy finance: Poised to lead, *Energy Research & Social Science*, 40, pp. 89-90.
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- Li, Z., Gallagher, K. P., & Mauzerall, D. L. (2020). China's global power: Estimating Chinese foreign direct investment in the electric power sector. *Energy Policy*, 136, 111056.
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Activity:

- Students' presentations plus questions
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Week 8 Guest lecture by Alice Hughes: BRI and biodiversity

29/03

In this lecture, Associate Professor Alice Hughes will introduce us to the key issues pertaining biodiversity governance in China and how they affect the outside world, playing particular attention to China's BRI and its effect on biodiversity and landscape planning, and generally governance of the world's resources.

Required actions:

- Read the paper by Prof. Hughes to be able to ask her some interesting questions (this will be marked!) and read about the countries on which your classmates are presenting and prepare some questions for them!

Suggested readings:

- Farhadinia, M.S., Maheshwari, A., Nawaz, M.A., Ambarlı, H., Gritsina, M.A., Koshkin, M.A., Rosen, T., Hinsley, A. and Macdonald, D.W., 2019. Belt and Road Initiative may create new supplies for illegal wildlife trade in large carnivores. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, 3(9), pp.1267-1268.
 - Hughes, A., Lechner, A., Chitov, A., Horstmann, A., Hinsley, A., Tritto, A., Chariton, A., Li, B., Wang, C., Ganapin, D., Simonov, E., Morton, K., Toktomushev, K., Foggin, M., Tan-Mullins, M., Orr, M., Griffiths, R., Nash, R., Brooks, T., Perkin, S., Glémet, R., Kim, M., Yu, D. (2020). Horizon Scan of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tree.2020.02.005>.
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Activity:

- Students' presentations plus questions
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Happy Ching Ming festival!

5/04

Week 9 Guest lecture by Roberta Rabellotti: Green Windows of Opportunity for Sustainability Transitions

12/04

In this class:

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- We will hear about the novel concept of GWO: green windows of opportunity and how they are related to China

Required actions:

- Read the paper and prepare some questions for the guest lecture. Also read the about the countries on which your classmates are presenting and prepare some questions for them!

Mandatory reading:

- Lema, R., Fu, X. and Rabellotti, R., 2020. Green windows of opportunity: latecomer development in the age of transformation toward sustainability. *Industrial and Corporate Change*, 29(5), pp.1193-1209.

Activity:

- Students' presentations plus questions

**Week
10**

China, bilateral relations, and multilateral institutions: the European Union

19/04

In this class:

- I will provide you with an overview of the China – EU relations and key insights from different countries
- We will talk about key events related to China's relations with the EU
- We will talk about patterns of Chinese FDI in the EU
- Your classmates will present on one or two European countries' relations with China

Required actions:

- Read about the countries on which your classmates are presenting and prepare some questions for them!

Suggested readings:

- Pan, Z. (Ed.). (2012). *Conceptual gaps in China-EU relations: global governance, human rights, and strategic partnerships*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Pan, Z. (2010). Managing the conceptual gap on sovereignty in China–EU relations. *Asia Europe Journal*, 8(2), 227-243.
- Wang, X., Ruet, J., & Richet, X. (2017). One Belt One Road and the reconfiguration of China-EU relations.

Videos:

- DW Documentary, 2019. *The New Silk Road, Part 2: From Kyrgyzstan to Duisburg*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QyeBxcvUJIU>
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- Al Jazeera, 2018. Greece's revamped railways expected to boost economy. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KE2rmakCHs0&list=PLzGHKb8i9vTxlh-qFarsB6bryjWq0nLwF&index=4>
 - Al Jazeera, 2018. Building bridges between China and France. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y2aVb9X8V5g&list=PLzGHKb8i9vTxlh-qFarsB6bryjWq0nLwF&index=7>
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Activity:

- Students' presentations plus questions
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Week 11 **China and Southeast Asia**

26/04 In this class:

- I will provide you with an overview of the Chinese presence in Southeast Asia and key insights from different countries
- I will tell you about the case of Indonesia

Suggested readings:

- Blanchard, J.M.F., 2018. China's Maritime Silk Road Initiative (MSRI) and Southeast Asia: A Chinese 'pond' not 'lake' in the works. *Journal of Contemporary China*, 27(111), pp.329-343.
 - Gong, X., 2019. The Belt & Road Initiative and China's influence in Southeast Asia. *The Pacific Review*, 32(4), pp.635-665.
 - Liu, H. and Lim, G., 2019. The political economy of a rising China in Southeast Asia: Malaysia's response to the Belt and Road Initiative. *Journal of Contemporary China*, 28(116), pp.216-231.
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Activity:

- Students' presentations plus questions
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Week 12 **China and Africa**

03/05 In this class:

- We will have a guest lecture from Prof Barry Sautman, who will provide you with an overview of the Chinese presence in Africa and key insights from different countries
- Your classmates will present on one or two African countries' relations with China

Suggested readings:

- Addis, A.K., Asongu, S., Zuping, Z., Addis, H.K. and Shifaw, E., 2020. Chinese and Indian investment in Ethiopia: infrastructure for 'debt-trap diplomacy' exchange and the land grabbing approach. *International Journal of Emerging Markets*.
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- Breuer, J., 2017. Two Belts, One Road? -The role of Africa in Chinas' Belt & Road initiative. <http://crossasia-repository.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/4092/1/Breuer-2017.pdf>
 - Chen, H., 2016. China's 'One Belt, One Road' initiative and its implications for Sino-African investment relations. *Transnational Corporations Review*, 8(3), pp.178-182.
 - Ehizuelen, M.M.O. and Abdi, H.O., 2018. Sustaining China-Africa relations: Slotting Africa into China's one belt, one road initiative makes economic sense. *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics*, 3(4), pp.285-310.
 - Lee, C.K., 2018. *The specter of global China: Politics, labor, and foreign investment in Africa*. University of Chicago Press.

Videos:

Al Jazeera, 2020. China's New Silk Road | 101 East.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZ1x1vTEmOY>

Activity:

- Students' presentations plus questions
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Week 13 **China and Latin America, wrap up of the course**

10/05 In this class:

- We will examine Chinese investments and influence in Latin American countries
 - We will review some of your work and some of my work
 - I will provide you with some tips for your final essay and will take any questions you may have
- Jenkins, R., Peters, E.D. and Moreira, M.M., 2008. The impact of China on Latin America and the Caribbean. *World Development*, 36(2), pp.235-253.
 - Jenkins, R., 2012. China and Brazil: economic impacts of a growing relationship. *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*, 41(1), pp.21-47.
 - Gonzalez-Vicente, R., 2012. Mapping Chinese mining investment in Latin America: politics or market?. *The China Quarterly*, 209, pp.35-58.

Activity:

- Students' presentations plus questions + end of class activity
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- Duke Policy Bridge. How to Write a Policy Brief. <https://sites.duke.edu/policybridge/files/2017/04/Policy-Brief-One-pager.pdf>
 - Ffrench-Constant, L. How To plan, write and communicate an effective policy brief. Three Steps to Success. <https://www.researchtoaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/PBWeekLauraFCfinal.pdf>
 - International Development Research Centre. How to write a policy brief. <https://www.idrc.ca/sites/default/files/idrcpolicybrieftoolkit.pdf>
 - International Centre for Policy Advocacy, 2017. An essential guide to writing policy briefs. https://www.icpolicyadvocacy.org/sites/icpa/files/downloads/icpa_policy_briefs_essential_guide.pdf

EXAMPLES:

- J. Stapleton Roy. 2012. Dealing with a rising China. *Wilson Centre. Policy Brief*, https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/publication/policy_brief_dealing_with_a_rising_china.pdf
- Jocelyn Chey. 2019. Is there a problem with... Australia's approach to human rights in the PRC? <http://chinamatters.org.au/policy-brief/policy-brief-february-2019/>
- Brautigham, D. and Kidane, W. 2020. China, Africa, and Debt Distress: Fact and Fiction about Asset Seizures. CARI: China – Africa Research Initiative. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5652847de4b033f56d2bdc29/t/5ef387a1b5869d0dd74eee2d/1593018274134/PB+47+-+Brautigam%2C+Kidane+%E2%80%93+Debt+distress%2C+Asset+seizure.pdf>
- Pieke, F. N., Ohlberg, M., and Drinhausen, K. 2019. Chinese telecommunication companies .Political and legal vulnerabilities and how Europe should deal with them. <https://merics.org/en/policy-brief/chinese-telecommunication-companies>