

Welcome & Opening Address	
Speaker	Biography
Daniel Vukovich (胡德)	Dan Vukovich is an inter-disciplinary scholar who works on issues of colonialism/imperialism and critical theory in relation to the intellectual and political history of the “China-West” relationship. He is currently Chair of the Comp Lit Program at HKU and has been an Advisory Research Fellow at Southeast University in Nanjing and a Visiting Professor of Politics at East China Normal University. He is the author of three monographs, including <i>China and Orientalism: Western Knowledge Production and the PRC</i> (Routledge 2012), <i>Illiberal China: The Ideological Challenge of the P.R.C.</i> (Palgrave, 2019) and most recently <i>After Autonomy: A Post-Mortem for Hong Kong’s First Handover, 1997–2019</i> (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022).
Panel 1 BRICS, the Global South: Crisis and Response	
Speaker	Biography
Yin Zhiguang (殷之光)	Dr Yin Zhiguang is a Professor of international politics at Fudan University. His research interests lie mainly in the area of Chinese modern intellectual and legal history, Marxist political economy, imperial history, and the global south modernisation. His research and teaching centre on a theoretical interest in understanding the making of the modern world order through the dynamic tension between domination and resistance. His most recent monographs include: <i>A New World: Afro-Asian Solidarity and the PRC’s Imagination of Global Order</i> (Chinese, 2022), and <i>Politics of Art: The Creation Society and the Practice of Theoretical Struggle in Revolutionary China</i> (Brill, 2014).
Xu Zhun (許准)	Xu Zhun teaches economics at Lingnan College, Sun Yat-sen University, on leave from the City University of New York. His main research interests include the political economy of development, the Chinese economy, and economic history. He is on the editorial boards of <i>Science & Society</i> and the <i>Journal of Labor and Society</i> . He is the author of <i>From Commune to Capitalism</i> (Monthly Review Press, 2018) and articles in numerous venues,

	<p>including The American Journal of Public Health, Review of Radical Political Economics, and The Journal of Peasant Studies.</p>
<p>Yan Hairong (嚴海蓉)</p> <p>&</p> <p>Barry Sautman</p>	<p>Yan Hairong is a Professor at Tsinghua Institute for Advanced Study in Humanities and Social Sciences and Department of Sociology. In the recent decade, she has been concerned with food sovereignty and agrarian change in China. She publishes in the Journal of Peasant Studies and the Journal of Agrarian Change and contributes to the food sovereignty network in China. For the past two decades, she has collaborated with Barry Sautman on China-Africa links and has co-authored East Mountain Tiger, West Mountain Tiger: China, Africa, the West and “Colonialism” and, in Chinese, China in Africa: Discourse and Practices.</p> <p>Barry Sautman is a Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He is a political scientist (PhD, Columbia University) and a lawyer (JD UCLA, LLM NYU) who primarily teaches international law, China/US relations, contemporary China, ethnicity and nationalism. He has published several monographs and numerous journal articles and has collaborated with Yan Hairong to conduct research on China-Africa links, including political economy, labour rights and representations and perceptions of China and Chinese in Africa.</p>
<p>Lu Meijian (路梅簡)</p>	<p>Lu Meijian is a PhD candidate in International Relations at Fudan University. Her research focuses on international political economy, with particular attention to Global South development, agricultural governance, and China’s international development cooperation. Her dissertation examines how China’s agricultural development cooperation influences the autonomous development capacity of countries in the Global South under the conditions of neoliberal globalisation and a hierarchical world market structure.</p>

Panel 2	
BRICS, the Global South: Concept	
Speaker	Biography
Zhang Xin (張昕)	ZHANG Xin is Associate Professor at the School of Politics and International Relations, and Deputy Director of Center for Russian Studies, East China Normal University. His research interests include international political economy and political geography, with a regional focus on Russia and Eurasia. He is the co-editor of Routledge Handbook on Global China and his research appears in Asian Perspective, Review of International Political Economy, Geopolitics, and Osteuropa, etc.
Ma Jiahong (馬嘉鴻)	Ma Jiahong is an Associate Professor at the World Socialist Studies Institute of the School of International Relations, Renmin University of China. She is also a researcher at the Regional and Area Studies Institute of Renmin University and a deputy secretary-general of the Ministry of Education European Joint Research Institute. She holds a bachelor's degree in International Politics from the School of International Relations, Peking University, and a doctoral degree in Scientific Socialism and International Communist Movement. She has served as a postdoctoral research fellow at the International Institute of Social History (IISH), Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. She has authored the monograph 'The Weapon of Criticism: Rosa Luxemburg and Controversies with Contemporary Thinkers' and published over twenty papers in Chinese, English, and German. Her research focuses on the history of socialist thought, the history of the international communist movement, and European party politics.
Zhao Danyang (趙丹陽)	Zhao Danyang is a PhD candidate in International Relations at St. Petersburg State University. She is also a Research Associate at the university's Centre for Eurasian Studies and a member of the Valdai Club. Her research focuses on US-China relations, North Asian Studies, and international organisations and International Security, with an emphasis on Eurasian geopolitics.

Panel 3	
State Capacity after Neo-liberalism and Zombie Neo-liberalism	
Moderator	Biography
Ernest Ming-tak Leung	Ernest Ming-tak Leung is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Applied Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He obtained his MPhil and PhD in Japanese Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, his MPhil thesis being on the forgotten role of East Asian “State Socialism”, while his PhD dissertation concerns the rise of economic planning as an ideological phenomenon in early twentieth-century East Asia and is a survey of more than a dozen regimes in the region from 1906 to 1960. His research interests include economic planning, single-party states and state corporatism in East Asia and the Third World. He has published articles on topics ranging from Republican Chinese parliamentary history, to Chinese and Manchurian economic planning and North Korean socialism.
Speaker	Biography
He Haoyang (何昊陽)	He Haoyang is a final-year undergraduate in Public Relations and Advertising at Beijing Normal–Hong Kong Baptist University. His research focuses on digital media, platform studies, and AI-driven cultural production, with interests in algorithmic governance and youth cultural practices. His work has been presented at international and leading academic conferences, including ICA, IAMCR, and major national forums. He has also published in international journals, including AHCI-indexed venues. He will begin his MA in Hong Kong Cultural Studies at The University of Hong Kong Faculty of Arts in September 2026.
Zhang Hong (張閔)	Zhang Hong, a graduate student at Beijing Foreign Studies University, once contributed to the design of the “Clash and Mutual Learning among Civilizations” module for the National Virtual Simulation Experiment Course. The research interests focus on cultural narratives and international

	communication, as well as regional and global governance. Representative works include: Digital Empowerment and Mutual Learning: A Study on the Symbiotic Pathway between Cross-Border Heritage Digital Protection and the Building of a Cultural Power—The Case of Jiaohe Ruins; Digital Knowledge Cooperation amid the Shifting Global Governance Landscape: China–Arab Co-Construction of the “Contemporary Bayt al-Hikma” and Narrative Competition and Cooperation in Global.
Li Jing (麗菁)	Li Jing is an Associate Professor of the History Department at Sun Yat-sen University. She specialises in the re-historicising of Reform and Opening-up period, especially the interaction among policy researchers, political elites and bureaucrats. Her book, Radicalized Consensus: Rural Reform in China, 1978-82, is coming soon. She also writes extensively on historical sociology, state theory, knowledge, and profession.

Panel 4	
Technology, Innovation and Governance	
Moderator	Biography
Liu Shih-Diing (劉世鼎)	Liu Shih-Diing is Professor of Communication and a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Macau. Liu’s research focuses on exploring the emotional dynamics of politics, the formation of popular identity, the expressive and embodied forms of political practices, and the psychology of nationalism in contemporary China. His books include The Politics of People: Protest Cultures in China (SUNY Press, 2019) and Affective Spaces: The Cultural Politics of Emotion in China (Edinburgh University Press, 2024, with Wei Shi). Continuing with a focus on emotion from the Affective Spaces project, his current research explores the intersection of affect and gender in contemporary China. Arguing that Chinese gender has increasingly become an archive of feelings marked by ambivalence towards authorities, this book project uncovers the power of emotion in negotiating the gendered

	order. Meanwhile, he is also working on a book project that explores the emotional capabilities of Artificial Intelligence.
Speaker	Biography
Feng Kaidong (封凱棟)	Feng Kaidong is a Professor at the School of Marxism, Tsinghua University. His research focuses on China's socialist political economy with Chinese characteristics, industrial capacity of developing countries, science and technology policy and innovation policy.
Li Zongfang (李宗芳)	Li Zongfang is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the School of International Studies, Peking University, with research interests focusing on international organisations and global governance. She has published academic papers on topics including global development governance and South-South Cooperation and contributed commentaries to media outlets such as China Daily. She has also participated in several research projects, with themes covering globalisation, US-China relations and AI governance.
Ki Cora Chow (周琪)	Ki Cora Chow is a PhD candidate in Chinese Language and Literature at Washington University in St. Louis. Her research reconceptualises automation through worker literature and culture.
Huang Shan (黃珊)	Dr Huang Shan holds a PhD in Chinese Studies and Sociology from King's College London. Her research focuses on labour studies and economic transformations in contemporary China. She recently completed a postdoctoral research project at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, where she examined cross-border cooperation between Hong Kong and Mainland China. Dr Huang's current research interests centre on the digital economy and platform-based labour, with a particular focus on emerging labour regimes and new forms of precarity in China.

Panel 5

Delinking, Regional Agency and Autonomy

Speaker	Biography
Wang Yichen (王翊臣)	Wang Yichen is a PhD candidate at the Institute of International Relations, Nanjing University, focusing on Southeast Asian regional governance.
Jiang Yuchen (姜羽晨)	Jiang Yuchen is a Master's candidate in Political Economy at the School of Marxism, Tsinghua University, holding a BA from Wuhan University. Her research focuses on the political economy of health, dependency theory, and the structural dynamics of European integration. Currently, she is investigating how semi-peripheral regions navigate established institutional dependencies. By critiquing mainstream global health governance and heterodox development models, her work explores alternative frameworks for medical public goods provision, particularly examining China's interactions with Eastern Europe in the new global conjuncture.
Yang Jingkai (楊競凱)	Yang Jingkai, a PhD candidate at the School of International Relations and Public Affairs and the Middle East Studies Institute, Shanghai International Studies University. His academic focus is Middle East area and country studies. He has built a strong interdisciplinary foundation through sustained research training, active participation in academic conferences, and solid proficiency in Arabic, English, and Chinese.

Panel 6

Culture and Critical Theory

Speaker	Biography
Max Junbo Tao	Max Junbo Tao is a third-year PhD candidate in philosophy at the University of Hong Kong, supervised by Prof. Justin Tiwald and Prof. Daniel A. Bell. His doctoral research focuses on Confucian and Neo-Confucian moral and political philosophy.
Yang Xiangfeng (楊向峰)	Dr Yang Xiangfeng is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University–Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies, and holds a Master’s from Nanjing University and a PhD in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Southern California (USC). Before joining the faculty of Lingnan, he taught at University of North Georgia (UNG) and Yonsei University, and has held fellowships at Waseda University, Korea University, the East-West Center, and University of British Columbia. His research has appeared in, among others, International Affairs, The Washington Quarterly, Journal of Contemporary China, Issues & Studies, Pacific Focus, and Chinese Journal of International Politics.
Song Geng (宋耕)	Professor Song Geng is Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Arts and the Director of the MA in the field of Translation (MAT) Programme. He taught in Singapore and Australia for over ten years before coming to HKU in September 2012. He is a Guest Professor at Shanghai University and was a Luce East Asia Fellow of the National Humanities Center (USA) in 2022/23. Song is interested in transcultural, transdisciplinary, and transhistorical inquiries on gender and identity in Chinese popular culture. He has written extensively on issues such as men and masculinities in Chinese culture and society, Chinese television, and Chinese nationalism.
Zeng Jinghan (曾敬涵)	Michael (Jinghan) Zeng is Professor and Head of the Department of Public and International Affairs at City University of Hong Kong. Prior to his current role, he spent 13 years in the United Kingdom. He served as Professor of China and International Studies at Lancaster University and as Director of its Confucius Institute, where his leadership transformed the

	<p>Institute into an award-winning organisation. During his tenure, the Institute navigated unprecedented challenges, including the global pandemic, the sudden dissolution of the Confucius Institute Headquarters, and a political campaign by the then-ruling UK government aimed at closing Confucius Institutes. These experiences are captured in his three-volume memoir, <i>Memoirs of a Confucius Institute Director</i>. The first volume was published in English in London in 2025, followed by a Chinese edition released in Hong Kong in 2026. He is the author of several books and more than thirty peer-reviewed articles in leading journals of politics, international relations, and area studies.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Panel 7 China and Global Conjuncture</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Moderator</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Biography</p>
<p>Alessandro D’Angelo (李鋒)</p>	<p>Alessandro D’Angelo is an independent researcher and incoming PhD student at the School of Governance and Policy Science, CUHK. Drawing on a military background and multi-regional training in IR, War & Society, and Chinese Studies, his research adopts a Gramscian-informed Geopolitical Economy approach. He examines the evolving impact of China's Rise on a declining US-centric hegemonic parabola. His current focus centres on contemporary conjunctural shifts, specifically investigating the ideational sphere and critical supply chains, including semiconductors, NEVs, and rare earths.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Speaker</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Biography</p>
<p>Jacob Dreyer (卓睿)</p>	<p>Jacob Dreyer is a writer and editor with a deep focus on contemporary China, its political economy, culture, and urban development. He regularly contributes to prominent publications like <i>The New York Times</i>, <i>Noema</i>, and <i>Artforum</i> and has authored a book titled 'The Nocturnal Wanderer'</p>

	<p>exploring his experiences in Chinese cities. His work often examines the intersection of global dynamics with Chinese society and the evolving relationship between China and the West. As a Senior Editor at Palgrave Macmillan, Jacob specialises in commissioning books on economics, business, and political science from Chinese intellectuals.</p>
<p>Tim Summers</p>	<p>Tim is an Assistant Professor (by courtesy) in CUHK's School of Governance and Policy Science and a member of the Policy Research and Global China programmes at CUHK. He is also Programme Director of the MA in Chinese Studies at Centre for China Studies. He is the author of four books: <i>Global China: A Critique of Chinese and Western Narratives</i> (Bristol University Press, 2025), <i>China's Hong Kong: the politics of a global city</i> (Agenda, 2019 & 2021), <i>China's Regions in an Era of Globalisation</i> (Routledge, 2018) and <i>Yunnan – A Chinese Bridgehead to Asia</i> (Chandos, 2013). He has authored policy research papers for both Chatham House and the Lau China Institute at King's College, London, where he is an Affiliate.</p>
<p>Gordon C Chang (鄭志達)</p>	<p>Gordon C. Chang is Professor of Sociology at Western Illinois University, where he also directs the sociology graduate programme. With expertise in qualitative sociology, theory, and the sociology of knowledge, he has taught political and cultural sociology classes at both Western Illinois University and the University of California, Davis.</p>
<p>Yi Yan (易妍)</p>	<p>Dr Yi Yan is an associate professor at the School of Politics and International Relations, East China Normal University, visiting senior fellow at London School of Economic and Political Science (LSE), 2024-25. Her research interests include international communication, Chinese political communication, and symbolic politics in contemporary China. Her articles have been published in leading media and communication journals. Her current project focuses on the Chinese humanitarian communication since 1949. She can be approached via email: yyi@dlps.ecnu.edu.cn.</p>