



Harvesting the winds of change: China and the global actors

Belgrade, Republic of Serbia | October 10-11, 2024

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

“**Harvesting the winds of change: China and the global actors**” is a unique conference under the **Dialogues on China** Format, that brings together experts from Europe, China, and around the world to address the complex and evolving landscape of global politics, security, and economics. The Conference will provide a platform for discussing and debating the most pressing challenges facing China and the global actors today. It seeks to respond to complex paths of China’s relations and perceptions of other major global actors – the USA, the EU, Russian Federation, Global South, and its engagement in the international organisations.

The rivalry between the United States and China is characterized by a balance between cooperation and competition, oscillating between containment strategies and efforts towards *détente*. As the two largest economies and military powers in the world, their interactions shape the global geopolitical landscape. Recent years have witnessed escalating tensions, particularly with the onset of a trade war and strategic competition in areas such as technology and influence in the Asia-Pacific region. However, the potential for collaboration remains, especially in addressing transnational challenges such as climate change and global health crises. Whether the future holds a path towards rapprochement or further escalation depends on a myriad of factors, including domestic politics, economic interdependence, and shifts in global power dynamics.

China's relationship with the European Union presents a connection of economic cooperation, political dialogue, and strategic considerations. As the EU seeks to assert its strategic autonomy in the face of global challenges, it confronts the need to balance economic opportunities with concerns regarding reciprocity, market access, and human rights. China's growing presence in European markets and its investments in critical infrastructure projects such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have raised questions about the EU's ability to act with a single voice in its dealings with China. While the EU aims for a mutually beneficial partnership with China, recent tensions over trade practices, technology transfers, and human rights issues underscore the complexities of Sino-European relations.

The partnership between Russia and China, often characterized as a "no limit partnership", reflects a convergence of interests rooted in geopolitical alignment, economic complementarity, and shared opposition to Western hegemony. Strengthened by platforms like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), their relationship has deepened across various domains, including energy cooperation, trade in local currencies, defence collaboration, and diplomatic coordination on global issues. Central to this partnership is the pursuit of a multipolar world order that challenges the dominance of Western institutions and norms. While their alliance presents significant challenges to the existing global order, it also raises questions about the sustainability of their partnership in the long term.

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China's engagement with the Global South embodies a narrative of emergent poles and divergent paths, reflecting the complexities of South-South cooperation in a rapidly evolving global landscape. Positioned as a leader within the Global South, China has expanded its presence through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), offering infrastructure investments, development aid, and trade opportunities to partner countries. However, divergent paths and competing interests among Southern nations raise questions about the coherence and inclusivity of China-led initiatives. While China-Global South relations hold promise for mutual benefit and shared development, navigating some challenging complexities requires careful attention to the diverse needs and aspirations of partner nations.

China's engagement with international organisations reflects its aspirations to wield normative power and shape global governance structures in alignment with its interests and values. Within the United Nations system, China has sought to expand its influence through active participation, diplomatic engagement, and support for initiatives that reflect its vision of a multipolar world order. China's ambitious global initiatives, including the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI), the Global Development Initiative (GDI), and the Global Digital Initiative (GDI), offer alternative models of development and governance that challenge existing Western-dominated paradigms. Yet, questions persist about the implications of China's rise for global norms, institutional legitimacy, and the balance of power in the international system.

Under the traditional Dialogues on China Format, the Institute of International Politics and Economics (IIPE) along with the Institute for European Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) organises the 4th international academic conference in Belgrade on October 10-11, 2024.

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CONFERENCE THEMATIC SCOPE

The Conference will feature two keynote speeches, around 10 panel discussions, and interactive sessions. This two-day event will gather leading scholars and practitioners to explore innovative solutions and strategies for addressing these challenges. We hereby invite all interested scholars to deliver the abstracts as per the following **Thematic Areas of the Conference**:

- 1. EUROPEAN UNION AND CHINA: STRATEGIC AUTONOMY OR DE-RISKING**
 - Economic and political challenges of contemporary Sino-European cooperation
 - Can EU act with a single voice? EU actorness in relations to China
 - Voids for cooperation? Critical areas of necessary trade exchange
- 2. USA AND CHINA: BETWEEN CONTAINMENT AND *DÉTENTE***
 - Rapprochement or escalation scenarios until 2030?
 - Heading towards new bipolarity?
 - Defence race between China and USA
 - China-USA trade war: what will the future bring?
- 3. RUSSIA AND CHINA: THE CHALLENGES OF “NO LIMIT PARTNERSHIP”**
 - Political cooperation between China and Russia in new geopolitical context
 - BRICS as a platform for strengthening China-Russia relations Central Asia Region
 - Sino-Russian trade in Rubles and Yuan? New financial multipolarity
 - Energy cooperation between China and Russia as a political/economic asset
- 4. GLOBAL SOUTH AND CHINA: EMERGENT POLES, DIVERGENT PATHS?**
 - China as the leader of the Global South
 - China's role in South-South Cooperation
 - The future of China - India cooperation
 - China and South American (LATAM) countries cooperation
- 5. CHINA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS - HORIZONS OF NORMATIVE POWER**
 - China in the UN system
 - China and international norms
 - China and Global Governance Reforms
 - China's global initiatives – BRI, GSI, GDI, GCI

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[COMPASS] DAY

The 2024 edition of the Dialogues on China will also include special thematic sessions on Day 2 of the Conference (October 11) – **COMPASS Day**. It will be dedicated to presentation of the results of the scientific project “Contributing to Modern Partnerships: Assessments of Sino-EU-Serbian Relations - COMPASS”, funded by the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia. The COMPASS Day will feature:

- a. Keynote Lecture 2;
- b. **COMPASS Session**: It will consist of a closed panel aiming to present the initial results after the first quarter of the project implementation and will consist of COMPASS Project Team members’ presentations;
- c. Two additional open panels for which the Organising Committee invites authors to apply with abstract.

Topics for open panels include the following areas of potential research:

- Innovative solutions of small states’ foreign policy research – methods, best practices, achievements
- Risk analysis of contemporary foreign and economic policies
- Large N data usage for assessing foreign policy preferences
- Soft Power Strategies for Small States
- Strategic communication of small states’ policies
- Elements and inputs for Serbia’s foreign policy strategy
- Serbia’s strategic preferences in new multipolar era
- Destiny of Serbia’s “4-Pillars” foreign policy
- Serbia’s strategic partnerships – relations with Azerbaijan, China, France, Italy, Russian Federation, the UAE



Science Fund
of the Republic of Serbia

COMPASS Day is being held under the **COMPASS Project** - "Contributing to Modern Partnerships: Assessments of Sino-EU-Serbian Relations", funded by the Science Fund of the Republic of Serbia (2023-2025), Grant No. 7294.

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TECHNICAL INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DATES

- March 15: Call for Abstracts opens
- **April 15: Deadline for Abstracts submission**
- May 15: Acceptance notifications (sent to participants)
- **August 15: Deadline for papers submission**
- **October 10-11: Dialogues on China Conference**
- December 1: Conference Proceedings published (Publishers: IIPE and IES CASS)
 - This year's editors: Dr. Aleksandar Mitić and Dr. Katarina Zakić

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

- Abstracts should be of length between 250-300 words and should clearly outline the main points and arguments of the proposed presentation.
- Abstracts should be submitted no later than April 15.
- Accommodation and travel expenses are to be borne by participants themselves.
- To submit your Abstract, please find and fill in the Abstract Form at: **[THIS LINK.](#)**

Papers should be written in English language. Papers' length should be between 3500 and 5000 words without abstracts and references. All the selected participants will be further notified about detailed citation rules after the Submission of Abstracts phase is done (approx. on May 15). The submitted papers will be reviewed by two blind peer review competent reviewers. If accepted, they will be included in the Proceedings with the adequate ISBN.

Conference Format:

In person. There will be no online panels. The Conference might be audio/video recorded, but will not be streamed live online.

Participation Fee:

The organisers have put their maximum efforts in obtaining kind financial support for the Conference, thus **there will be no participation fee for both domestic and foreign participants.**

Conference Place & Venue:

This year's event will take place at a hotel venue in Belgrade (location TBA soon) on Day 1, and at the Institute of International Politics and Economics for the COMPASS Session on Day 2.

Organizers:

- Institute of International Politics and Economics (IIPE)
- Institute for European Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)

Should you require additional information not listed in this Call for Abstracts, please directly contact Dr. Nenad Stekić: **nenad.stekic@diplomacy.bg.ac.rs**

Welcome to Belgrade!

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