



ДИЈАЛОЗИ О КИНИ
对话 中国
DIALOGUES ON CHINA

Recalibrating the Global Compass: China and Shared Future in a Fragmented World

Belgrade, Republic of Serbia | October 15-16, 2025

The 5th Dialogues on China CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Welcome to one of the largest academic events dedicated to China studies in Europe.

“Recalibrating the Global Compass: China and Shared Future in a Fragmented World” is a unique conference under the Dialogues on China format, bringing together experts from Europe, China, and around the world to address the complex and evolving landscape of global politics, security, and economics. For the fifth consecutive year, the Conference will provide a platform for discussing and debating the most pressing challenges facing China and its vision of a shared future in a fragmented world. It seeks to explore the rising dynamics of China’s relations with and perceptions of other major global actors, including the USA, the EU, the Russian Federation, the Global South, and its engagement in international organizations. The 2024 edition of the conference brought together more than 80 speakers from 27 countries globally, gathered an audience of over 150 participants, and welcomed around 20 top-ranking diplomats accredited to Belgrade. These achievements made it one of the largest scientific conferences dedicated to China studies in Europe in 2024.

Under the traditional Dialogues on China Format, the Institute of International Politics and Economics (IIPE), in cooperation with the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), organises the 5th international academic conference in Belgrade on October 15-16, 2025.

The contemporary global order is undergoing a profound transformation, with traditional notions of security and connectivity being redefined by emerging power dynamics, new threats, and intensified geopolitical competition. In the context of global governance, the concept of security is evolving amidst challenges posed by rising militarization, shifting alliances, and competing visions of multilateralism. This includes debates over the future of multilateral cooperation, particularly in light of China's advocacy for "true multilateralism," the implications of expanding militarization, and the potential of initiatives like China's Global Security Initiative to reshape international security frameworks.

Simultaneously, the geopolitics of connectivity is becoming a key battleground, as globalization encounters fragmentation. Infrastructure projects, trade routes, and regional linkages are increasingly instrumentalized as tools of influence, with critical questions surrounding China's expanding role in Africa and South America, the impact of renewed U.S. assertiveness in strategic locations, and the trajectory of the Belt and Road Initiative beyond its first decade. By addressing these interconnected issues, this conference seeks to provide a platform for exploring the evolving contours of security and connectivity in a fragmented world order.

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CONFERENCE THEMATIC SCOPE

The Conference will feature two keynote speeches, around 15 panels, and several other 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. RETHINKING SECURITY IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

- Exploring the future of multilateralism: Can major powers grapple with China's vision of "true multilateralism"?
- The expansion of militarization: Trends, implications, and alternatives
- China's Global Security Initiative: Addressing emerging security architecture
- Contemporary dynamics in global security cooperation – alliances, armed conflicts, and security spaces

2. GEOPOLITICS OF CONNECTIVITY: NEW COMPETITION IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD?

- Rapprochement or detachment: global connectivity scenarios until 2030
- China's new inroads into Africa and South America: from Lekki to Chancay
- Impact of new US assertiveness on connectivity (Panama Canal, Greenland)
- Beyond the first decade of the Belt and Road Initiative

3. INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN A DIGITAL AGE

- China Global Development Initiative and impact on UN SDGs
- Initiatives and partnerships for Artificial Intelligence: competition or hope for governance?
- IR and technology competition: semiconductors, EVs, quantum computing, bio and space technology
- New financial multipolarity: paths and roadblocks to de-dollarisation

4. PERSPECTIVES OF CHINA AND CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE RELATIONS BY 2030

- Evolution of trade and investment patterns between China and CEE countries
- Bilateral relations between China and specific CEE countries: Case studies
- Forecasting China-CEE political, security and socio-cultural interactions by 2030

5. CIVILIZATIONAL DIALOGUE AND GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

- What role for civilizational dialogue in new multipolar circumstances?
- Global Civilization Initiative: Fostering shared development and mutual understanding
- Enlarged BRICS: new members and partners

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[COMPASS] DAY

The 2025 edition of the Dialogues on China will also include special thematic sessions on Day 2 of the Conference (October 16) – **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 Panel**: 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. Four 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
- Serbia’s strategic dialogue with the USA



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. www.serbiacompass.com

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TECHNICAL INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DATES

- January 25: Call for Abstracts opens
- **April 1: Deadline for Abstracts submission**
- April 10: Acceptance notifications sent to participants
- **June 1: Deadline for papers submission**
- **October 15-16: Dialogues on China Conference**
- December 1: Conference Proceedings published (Publisher: IPE)
 - This year's editors: Dr. Katarina Zakić and Dr. Dragan Trailović

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 1, via online questionnaire at: THIS LINK**

Important publishing information:

- All the **accepted** abstracts will be published in the Conference Book of Abstracts (with ISBN) prior to the Conference.
- Accepted abstract guarantees the speaking slot at our Conference.
- 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.
- **Due to the high volume of submitted papers, only those that meet rigorous academic standards will be considered for publication. Consequently, only accepted papers will be included in the Conference Proceedings, which will be assigned an ISBN and published following the Conference.**

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. Participants are expected to cover their travel and accommodation expenses. Please do not book your flights/hotel until further notice by the organiser.**

Conference Place & Venue:

This year's event will take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Day 1, and at the Institute of International Politics and Economics for the COMPASS Session on Day 2.

Should you require additional information not listed in this Call for Abstracts, please directly Contact the Organising Committee President, Dr. Nenad Stekić: nenad.stekic@diplomacy.bg.ac.rs

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