

SURGE 15th Annual China-U.S. Symposium

Dissent and Divergence

异议与分叉

Welcome to the 15th Annual **SURGE** China- U.S. Symposium!

Introduction

This academic conference is held every spring at Tufts. Our goal is to foster an academic understanding of China and to cultivate collaboration between students and experts from different backgrounds and cultures. We aim to converge unique crossroads of the ideas, experiences, and people that characterize Tufts University to promote an atmosphere of deep analysis and critical awareness.

This year's theme is "Dissent and Divergence." Over the past few years, China has implemented developmental changes on nearly every front, from technology and security to environmental policies and human rights. Its zero-COVID policy, stance on the Ukraine-Russia conflict, and accusations of a Uyghur Muslim genocide in Xinjiang have engendered the disapproval of many members in the international community. Even some of China's own citizens have taken to the streets to protest, as seen by the human rights demonstrations in Shanghai against China's strict COVID regulations last November.

As the Chinese government devises a strategy to manage its internal and external affairs, the question not only of how its actions will affect its bilateral relationship with the United States but also of its reputation with the rest of the world remains to be seen. The Biden administration has made clear its intention to pursue strategic competition with China. At the same time, opportunities for engagement and cooperation exist. There are many areas where the two superpowers must cooperate for the interests of the global community. We hope that this symposium will provide a platform for all to critically engage with and better understand these issues and the future of Sino-US relations.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's symposium will be our first in-person symposium since 2019. To adapt to this in-person format, we have slightly adjusted our regular symposium schedule. This year's symposium includes three panels and one keynote address.

Preparing for this Symposium has been a concerted, eight-month effort between dozens of students, professors, and members of the Tufts administration. We owe our success to the pure dedication of each of these individuals, and we sincerely thank everyone who has played a role in making our 2023 symposium possible.

Enclosed in this booklet, you will find descriptions of each event, speaker biographies, and more information on the Symposium and our sponsorship.

Sincerely,
Tufts SURGE E-Board

Symposium Schedule

- 1:30 - 2:30: David Rawson
Memorial Lecture (Keynote)
- 2:30 - 2:45: Break
- 2:45 - 3:45: Socio-Cultural Panel
- 3:45 - 4:00: Break
- 4:00 - 5:15 Security Panel
- 5:15 - 5:30: Break
- 5:30 - 6:45 Economics Panel
- 6:45 - 8:00: Closing Remarks
and Dinner

Zoom Link

[https://tufts.zoom.us/j/93466368624?
pwd=R1dPdXJJd21tQU5waFNQWE5hOHB
DQT09](https://tufts.zoom.us/j/93466368624?pwd=R1dPdXJJd21tQU5waFNQWE5hOHB DQT09)

Keynote Speaker

The Symposium holds its keynote lecture to commemorate David Rawson, a member of the Tufts Class of 2007 whose life tragically ended in the summer after graduation. David graduated with a Cum Laude degree in International Relations. He was an early member of SURGE and studied abroad in Hong Kong. David was a talented tenor with the Tufts Chamber Singers for four years, acted in drama performances, and wrote for Tufts campus student publications. He was in the process of applying to the U.S. Navy Officer Candidate School - intending to become a Naval Intelligence Officer - when he passed away in the summer of 2007.

Sulmaan Wasif Khan is the Denison Chair of History and International Relations at the Fletcher School, Tufts University. He is the author of *Haunted by Chaos: China's Grand Strategy from Mao Zedong to Xi Jinping* and *Muslim, Trader, Nomad, Spy: China's Cold War and the People of the Tibetan Borderlands*. He has briefed Indo-Pacific Command on Chinese grand strategy and has spoken at National Intelligence Council seminars on China. His work has appeared in *The Economist*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *Foreign Policy*. He is currently writing a book on the US-China-Taiwan triangle.

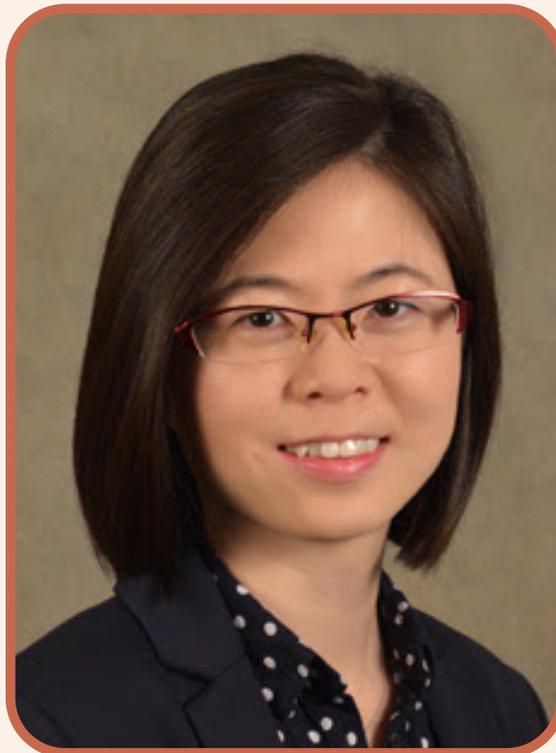


Economics Panel

The COVID-19 pandemic has dominated the economic conversation for the past several years, and it has created polarities in various ways. During this time, individuals among different social classes, from frontline workers at Foxconn to middle-class private corporation managers, have faced disproportionate impacts from stringent zero-covid policy, and the wealth gap has widened. How could the regime manage this inevitable conflict to keep the country economically competitive yet socially equitable? China's economic approach to the pandemic has sharply differed from other states, giving rise to a model that strives for self-sufficiency as tensions with the West rise and transform the makeup of domestic and foreign markets. This has called into question the trajectory of the CCP's slogan of Common Prosperity and the status of critical industries.



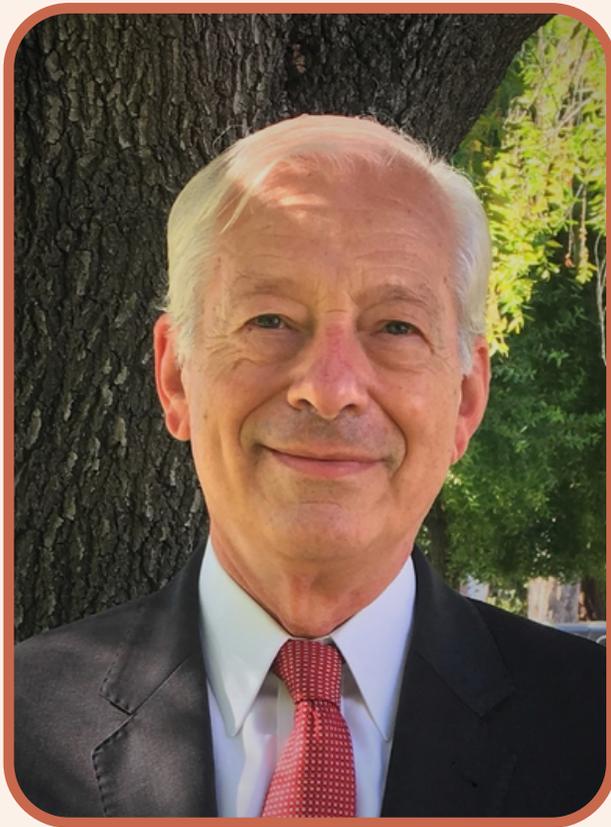
David Woo is the CEO of David Woo unbound. Until 2020, he was the head of Global Interest Rates, Foreign Exchange, Emerging Market Fixed Income & Economics Research at Bank of America where he led the top ranked macro strategy team on Wall Street. David started his career at the International Monetary Fund in Washington. He has a Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University and an MS in Mathematics from Tufts University.
(Joining virtually)



Shuai Jin is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at UMass Boston; she researches political consequences of economic inequality, Chinese politics, and public opinion. She also studies quantitative methods, including event-history analysis, Bayesian statistics, and experimental design. She received A.B. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University of Economic Inequality in China, looks at the public awareness and perceptions of economic inequality in China, the Chinese government's attempt to manage public perceptions, and how citizens respond to government propaganda. Professor Jin has conducted survey experiments and interviews in China. Her articles have appeared in the Political Analysis, Chinese Sociological Review and Constitutional Political Economy.



Jun Ma is a Professor of Economics at Northeastern University in Boston and a Visiting Scholar in the Economics Department at Harvard University in 2023-2024. He served as the President of the Chinese Economists Society in North America in 2016-2017. He was a member of the Executive Committee and served as Treasurer of the Society for Nonlinear Dynamics and Econometrics from 2013 to 2019. He has held visiting positions or has been invited to give talks in several central banks, such as the Federal Reserve Banks, Reserve Bank of New Zealand, and Norges Bank, as well as academic institutions including the MIT Sloan School of Management, the University of Notre Dame, Aarhus University in Denmark, Durham University in the U.K., Leibniz University of Hannover in Germany, Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand, and Renmin University of China. He worked as a consultant for Barclays Investment Bank from 2014 to 2016. His primary research interests are macroeconomics and international finance. He has co-edited a book and published many refereed articles that have appeared in leading academic journals, including the Journal of International Economics, Journal of International Money and Finance, Journal of Money, Credit and Banking, and China Economic Review. He earned his B.A. in Economics from Nanjing University in China in 2001 and Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Washington in Seattle in 200



Peter A. Petri is the Carl J. Shapiro Professor of International Finance at the Brandeis International Business School (IBS), a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and a Visiting Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. He has published widely on international trade, investment and technological competition, was the founding Dean of Brandeis IBS, has held visiting appointments at Keio University, Fudan University and Peking University, and has consulted for numerous international institutions and government agencies. He received A.B. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University.

Culture Panel

Culture encompasses every aspect of daily life in China and dictates how it interacts with the rest of the world. Sticking with the symposium's theme of Dissent and Divergence, our panel aims to cover a broad range of cultural topics that have diverged from history and traditions. In the aftermath of the global COVID-19 pandemic, there is a new spotlight on the mental health of the Chinese people – continued lockdowns and changing policies have isolated many and made clear the stigmas surrounding mental health.

The panel will also examine China's cultural influence on the rest of the world. As the zero-COVID policy comes to an end, the Chinese leadership faces old challenges under new circumstances. Domestically, regulations on video games, along with increased control in other private industries, signaled to some a rising emphasis on traditional values in policymaking. Internationally, China continues to project soft power through cultural programs and entertainment amid rising skepticism from the West. We aim to address all these aspects and more with our panel speakers and discussions.



Wang Pu is an Associate Professor of Chinese Literature and Culture and Chair of the Comparative Literature Program at Brandeis University. His first book in English is titled *The Translatability of Revolution: Guo Moruo and Twentieth-Century Chinese Culture*, published by Harvard University Asia Center in 2018. He is also an awarded poet writing in Chinese. He recently translated *Walter Benjamin: A Critical Life* into Chinese.

Security Panel

The past couple of years has witnessed tumultuous developments within both China's domestic and foreign policies. From the harsh Zero-Covid Policy to reports of extreme surveillance and violence in Xinjiang, people both within China and on the global stage have begun questioning the nature of China's domestic affairs: are they maintaining the nation's stability, or are they only heightening repression? Beyond China's domestic matters, its position in the international order has also triggered passionate responses from all international actors. With its muddled alliance with Russia during the Russia-Ukraine War and rising strains with Taiwan, China has proved once again that it remains a controversial subject in international politics. What does this combination of domestic turmoil, alongside international tensions, mean for China's future in security?



Victoria Tin-bor Hui is Associate Professor in Political Science at the University of Notre Dame. She received her Ph.D. in Political Science from Columbia University and her B.S.Sc. in Journalism and Communication from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Hui examines the centrality of war in China's interstate and state-society relations in the long span of history. As a native from Hong Kong, she has also extensively written and commented on Hong Kong's democracy movement, especially the Umbrella Movement in 2014, the anti-extradition protests in 2019, and the National Security Law crackdown in 2020. She testified on Hong Kong at Congress and was a Council on Foreign Relations Fellow with the Congressional-Executive Commission on China in 2021-22. **(Joining Virtually)**



Ker Gibbs has served in executive and board level positions with public and privately held companies. He was most recently the President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai, where he focused on US-China relations and business issues facing American companies operating in Asia. He moved to Shanghai in 2002 as head of Asia Pacific for a Nasdaq-listed network security company that was acquired by McAfee. His career in high tech led him to banking, where he became head of technology and media in greater China for HSBC. As an investment banker he advised at the board and C-level at Alibaba, Baidu, and other firms engaged in mergers and cross-border transactions. He served on the board of the United Way in China, a joint venture with the Shanghai Charity Foundation.



Toward the end of his State Department career, he served as an elected member of the Board of Governors of the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA), the union and professional association of the United States Foreign Service; in this capacity, he represented and worked to advance the interests of several thousand State Department constituents. He also served as the elected president of the large community associations of the U.S. embassies in Beijing and Moscow.
(Joining virtually)

David Firestein is the inaugural president and CEO of the George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations (Bush China Foundation) and a founding and current member of the Foundation's Board of Directors. Prior to joining the Bush China Foundation, Mr. Firestein was the founding executive director of The University of Texas at Austin's (UT) China Public Policy Center (CPPC) and a clinical professor at UT's Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. A decorated career U.S. diplomat from 1992–2010, Mr. Firestein specialized primarily in U.S.-China relations. Among the honors he garnered during his diplomatic career were the Secretary of State's Award for Public Outreach (2006) and the Linguist of the Year Award (1997).



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