



SURGE  SINO-US
RELATIONS
GROUP
ENGAGEMENT

16th Annual China-U.S. Symposium

STABILIZATION AND SEPARATION

求同与存异

Welcome to the 16th Annual SURGE China- U.S. Symposium!

Introduction

The SURGE China-U.S. Symposium is a long-standing academic conference held every spring at Tufts University. The goal of the symposium is to foster academic discourse on China and US-China relations between students and experts from different backgrounds and cultures. As a new consensus on arguably the most important bilateral relations takes shape, we hope to contribute by providing a platform for diverse perspectives and level-headed analysis. We aim to do so by tapping into the unique Tufts community with its rich reservoir of ideas and experiences.

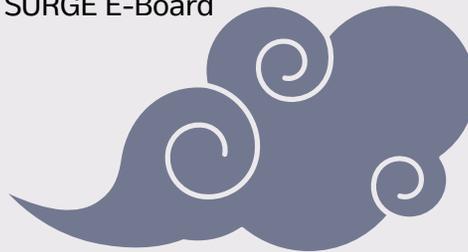
This year, the theme of the symposium is “Stabilization and Separation.” Marked by the Xi-Biden summit held at the APEC conference in 2023, US-China relations seem to finally return to a constructive trajectory, with positive signs such as the resumption of high-level military-to-military communication. However, progress in key security and economic concerns are still mired by difficulties. Amidst increasing tensions in the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea, Chinese apps like TikTok becomes targets of US lawmakers for its enormous impact on public opinion.

As both governments devise strategies to manage their internal and external affairs, their decisions will have repercussions not only on the bilateral relations but also on the development trajectories of the rest of the world. In many areas where the welfare of the global community is at stake, opportunities for engagement and cooperation abound for the two world powers. The US and China have agreed to work together on climate change; other important issues, such as anti-terrorism and AI regulation, could be on the agenda as well. 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.

Planning 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 in the preparation of this event to the pure dedication of each of these individuals, and we sincerely thank everyone who has played a role in making our 2024 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

April 6th, Mugar 200

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/3671084586>

Keynote Speaker

The Symposium holds its keynote lecture to commemorate David Rawson, a member of the Tufts Class of 2007 whose life was tragically cut short in the summer after his graduation. David graduated with a Cum Laude degree in International Relations. He was an early member of SURGE.

Bhaskar Chakravorti (Virtual) is the Dean of Global Business at The Fletcher School at Tufts University, the founding Executive Director of Fletcher's Institute for Business in the Global Context and founder and chair of Digital Planet, one of Fletcher's flagship research programs that studies the impact of technology on lives and livelihoods around the world.

Bhaskar serves on the Fletcher faculty as Professor of the Practice of International Business and is the Chair of the IDEA Council: Imagining a Digital Economy for All. He is the Chairman of the Advisory Board to the Mastercard Policy Center for the Digital Economy, served on the Global Future Council on Innovation for the World Economic Forum and is Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution.



Prior to joining Fletcher, Bhaskar was a Partner of McKinsey & Company, a Distinguished Scholar at MIT's Legatum Center for Development and Entrepreneurship and on the faculty of Harvard Business School and Harvard University Center for the Environment. In a 30 year career, he has been an advisor to CEOs, senior management and Boards of many Fortune 500 companies and policymakers at national and international organizations and worked across the Americas, EU, Asia and Africa, and multiple industries. He is the author of the Amazon best-selling book, "The Slow Pace of Fast Change: Bringing Innovations to Market in a Connected World" (Harvard Business Press) and is the creator of the widely-used Digital Evolution Index.

Economics Panel

In the wake of the COVID pandemic, the future trajectory of China's colossal economy faces growing uncertainty. The evident slowdown in growth, accentuated by sluggish consumer activity and the bursting of the real estate bubble, poses a significant concern for global stakeholders in the Chinese economy. The "de-globalization" of supply chains and advanced manufacturing technologies have sounded more sirens in the giant vessel. Some argue that the Chinese economy is going through inevitable pains that would prove transformative for the economy in the long run, as the Chinese government endeavors to deleverage the economy and shift towards a path of high-quality growth. More pessimistic views, however, see the recent slowdown as the beginning of the end for China's economic miracle.

The pivotal question arises: Is China's economy undergoing a welcomed transition, or is it on a trajectory of long-term slowdown and decline?



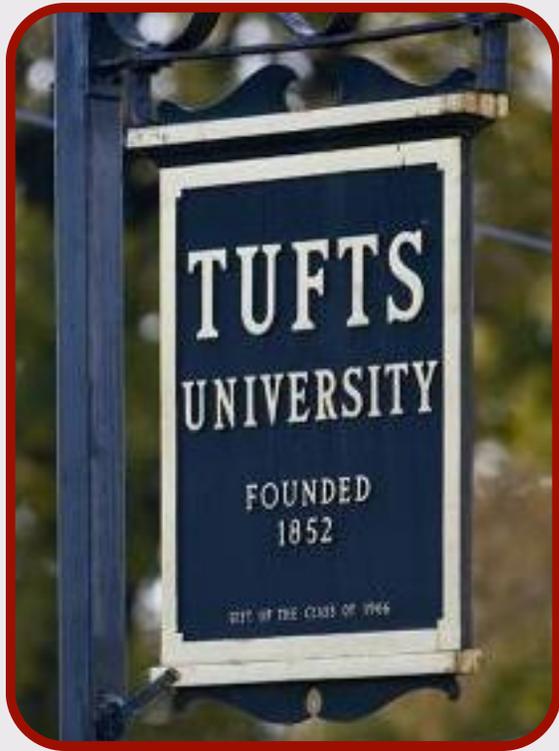
David Yin is a Partner at GSR Ventures, one of the world's most successful early-stage venture firms, with over \$3.7 billion under management, focusing on investments in early-stage AI and fintech companies. Prior to GSR Ventures, David was head of strategy at an AI-powered fintech platform, consultant at McKinsey's startup practice, and contributing writer at Forbes. David is also the founder of China Hands magazine, Yale's first student publication on US-China relations with aims to promote constructive dialogue on Sino-US relations, and also the co-founder of the Southeast Asia Startup Initiative at Stanford, Berkeley, Harvard, and MIT. David earned a BA from Yale University, MPA from Harvard University, and MBA from Stanford University.



Gary Jefferson is Carl Marks Professor of International Trade and Finance at Brandeis University. A specialist in the Chinese economy, Gary Jefferson's research interests include economic development and the economics of innovation with special focus on the economy of China. Jefferson has published extensively, often with research colleagues in China, on topics including industrial productivity growth, enterprise restructuring, R&D and patenting, FDI spillovers, and China's research institute sector. His current research focuses on theory relating to technical change and the interaction between labor and physical augmenting change. Jefferson is a current or recent editor and advisor to several journals, including Chinese Economic Review, Journal of Asian Studies, Journal of Contemporary China, Journal of Chinese Entrepreneurship, Comparative Economic Studies, Fudan University Journal of the Humanities and Social Sciences.



Jun Ma is a Professor of Economics and Associate Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities at Northeastern University and a Visiting Scholar in the Economics Department at Harvard University. 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.



Jonathan Brookfield is the Associate Professor of Strategic Management and International Business, teaches classes on strategic management, international business, the political economy and business environments of greater China, privatization, nationalization, and the boundary between State and private sector, and business groups in Asia. He received a B.S. from Yale, an MPhil from the University of Cambridge, and a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Brookfield has published several articles looking at different kinds of business networks in Asia and sits on the editorial review boards of the Asia Pacific Journal of Management and the Journal of International Business Studies. His current research interests include comparative political economy, political risk, business groups, interfirm networks, industrial districts, firm boundaries, and business in Asia.

Culture Panel

During the past few years, the world has become increasingly outspoken about ethnic and territorial tensions in China, especially pertaining to the country's autonomous regions. Various global identities have condemned the Chinese government's draconian policies against ethnic and religious minorities. However, the Chinese government dismisses these claims as "false accusations." It points to China's achievements in poverty alleviation and urban modernization across the country as its biggest human rights feat.

As conflicting claims are made and competing paradigms are presented, the ability to conduct informed inquiries in seek of truth have become ever more pertinent. The Culture Panel aims to reflect on conditions for minority cultures to survive and thrive in China and ways to call for accountability, as well as to evaluate the implications of China's cultural practices on its international relations.



Mark Elliott serves as the Vice Provost of International Affairs at Harvard University and the Mark Schwartz Professor of Chinese and Inner Asian History in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations and the Department of History. Elliott is an authority on the last four centuries of Chinese history, particularly the Qing period (1636-1911). His research encompasses the history of relations between China and its nomadic frontier, focusing on questions of ethnicity, institutions, and empire. An expert in Manchu studies, he is known as a pioneering figure in the "New Qing History," which emphasizes the imprint of Inner Asian traditions upon China's last imperial state.

As vice provost, Elliott oversees and works to advance international academic initiatives, extending the global reach of Harvard's research and teaching activities. He also guides Harvard's overall global strategy, sustaining its ongoing development as a global university and supporting its community of international students, scholars, faculty in Cambridge and Boston as well as alumni around the world. A graduate of Yale, Elliott earned his PhD in History at the University of California, Berkeley. He has taught at Harvard since 2003.

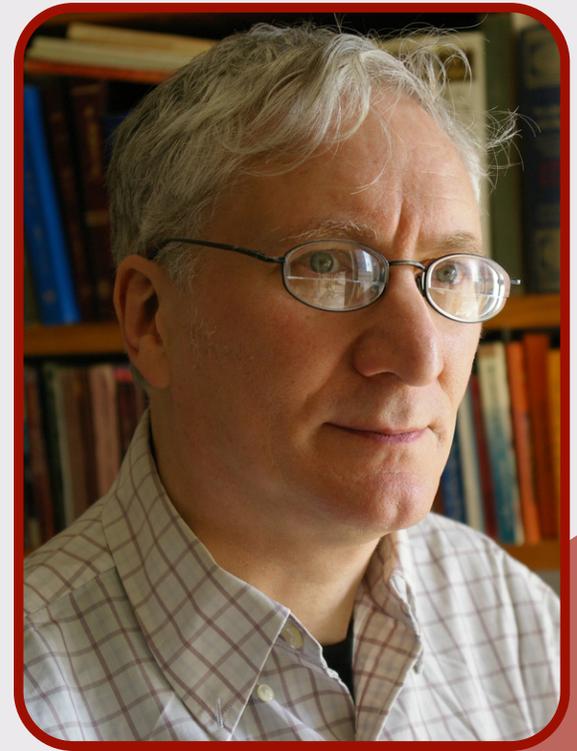


James Holmes (Security & Culture) holds the J. C. Wylie Chair of Maritime Strategy at the Naval War College and served on the faculty of the University of Georgia School of Public and International Affairs.

A former U.S. Navy surface-warfare officer, he was the last gunnery officer in history to fire a battleship's big guns in anger, during the first Gulf War in 1991. He earned the Naval War College Foundation Award in 1994, signifying the top graduate in his class. His books include *Red Star over the Pacific*, an Atlantic Monthly Best Book of 2010 and a fixture on the Navy Professional Reading List. General James Mattis deems him "troublesome."



Pat Giersch is a historian of late imperial and modern China. He is the Edith Stix Wasserman Professor of Asian Studies and Professor of History at Wellesley College. In his early work, he sought to understand the early modern origins of China's ethnic diversity, a project culminating in *Asian Borderlands* (Harvard, 2006), a book on conquest, migration, and cultural encounters in China's Southwest. Over the years, Pat has continued to investigate the transnational caravan businesses that once plied routes across South China and Southeast Asia, from Lhasa to Rangoon. This research is revealed in his most recent book, *Corporate Conquests* (Stanford, 2020). Giersch teaches a range of courses designed to investigate how historical developments have shaped China, East and Inner Asia, and the globe. These courses include a comparative survey of China, Japan, and Korea; an introduction to China's business and economic history; and a specialized seminar on the Qing (China's last dynasty). His courses emphasize acquisition of methods used for reconstructing the past, an understanding of the contingent processes of change, and the ability to think critically about the relationship between past and present.



Robert Barnett (Virtual) works on nationality issues in China, focusing on modern Tibetan history, politics, and culture. He is a Professor, Research Associate and Senior Research Fellow at SOAS, University of London, and an Affiliate Lecturer at the Lau China Institute, Kings College, London.

From 1999 to 2018 he taught at Columbia University in New York, where he founded and directed the Modern Tibetan Studies Program. He has also taught at Princeton, INALCO (Paris), Tibet University (Lhasa) and IACER (Kathmandu). Recent books and edited volumes include *Forbidden Memory: Tibet During the Cultural Revolution* by Tsering Woeser (Nebraska, 2020) and *Conflicting Memories - Tibetan History under Mao Retold* with Benno Weiner and Françoise Robin (Brill, 2019). His writing includes studies of Tibetan politics, cinema, television, religious regulations, social management, women politicians, and contemporary exorcism rituals.

Security Panel

Recent years have seen significant challenges to global security arise. The Russo-Ukraine war has entered its third year with disconcerting implications on nuclear security. The war in Gaza threatens to destabilize the gulf region. As China garners global influences, how it could use those influences to participate in global conflict resolution becomes a pertinent question.

We also see increasing tensions in China's immediate neighborhood. As President-elect Lai of Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party came to power in the 2024 election, the tightrope that is the Taiwan Strait becomes even more perilous. Would US' strategic ambiguity still work under China's increasingly vocal determination of unification? Are there still ways to a peaceful resolution?



Hua Han (Virtual) is Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Arms Control and Disarmament at the School of International Studies (SIS), Peking University, China. She teaches courses in International Arms Control, Disarmament and Nonproliferation, and IR and nuclear deterrence in South Asia, International Relations Theory. Her research interests cover nuclear-related deterrence and strategic stability both in regional and global perspectives. She has led programs and projects on those areas. Han Hua has been a visiting researcher at Belfer Center, Harvard University. School of International Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute(SIPRI), Sweden; the Stimson Center.

She has also written extensively on Arms Control, nonproliferation and South Asia for journals and newspapers in China and abroad.



Michael Beckley (Virtual) is Associate Professor of Political Science at Tufts University, Nonresident Senior Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, and Director of the Asia Program at the Foreign Policy Research Institute. His research on great power competition has received multiple awards from the American Political Science Association and the International Studies Association and appeared in numerous media including the Atlantic, the Economist, the Financial Times, Foreign Affairs, the New York Times, and the Wall Street Journal.

Previously, Michael was an International Security Fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and worked for the U.S. Department of Defense, the RAND Corporation, and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He continues to advise offices within the U.S. Intelligence Community and U.S. Department of Defense. Michael holds a PhD in political science from Columbia University. His first book, *Unrivaled: Why America Will Remain the World's Sole Superpower*, was published in 2018 by Cornell University Press. His second, *Danger Zone: The Coming Conflict With China*, was co-authored with Hal Brands and published by W.W. Norton in 2022.

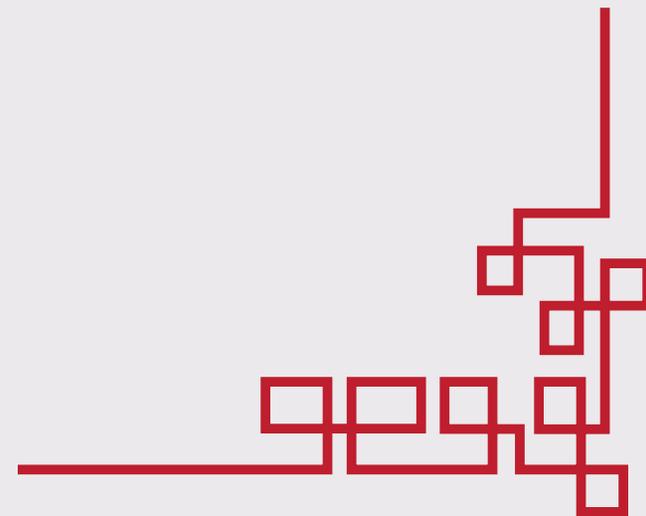


Among his publications are the *The Future of the United States-Australia Alliance*, with Andrew T. H. Tan and *China's Global Influence: Perspectives and Recommendations*, with Michael C. Burgoyne. He has also published several articles, including "Forget China: Policy for an Interconnected Region," *Fletcher Security Review* 8, No. 1 (2021): 73-9 and "Phase Zero: How China Exploits It, Why the US Does Not," *Naval War College Review* 65, no 3 (Summer 2012): 123-135, with Broke Jones and Jason M. Frazee.

Mr. McDonald earned a B.A. in International Relations from The George Washington University, an M.A. in National Security Affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School, and completed the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Seminar XXI Program for national security leaders.

Scott McDonald is a Non-resident Research Fellow at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies and a Ph.D. Candidate at The Fletcher School of Tufts University. A retired US Marine Corps officer, his final active duty position was as a Military Professor at APCSS, where he taught Chinese philosophy and strategic thought; East Asia security dynamics; national security strategy; cross-cultural communication; and strategic foresight to security practitioners from across the Indo-Pacific. He also led APCSS' first multilateral workshop in Taiwan.

A China Foreign Area Officer (FAO), he has studied in Beijing, served as an attaché in Canberra, Australia, was the first Marine Corps Affairs Officer at the American Institute in Taiwan, established the Regional Engagement Branch at III Marine Expeditionary Force in Okinawa, Japan, and served as a Strategic Analyst in the Commandant's Strategic Initiatives Group.



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