

Hosted by:



Co-organizers:



Lingnan University - Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network Conference and Symposium

Evolving Dynamics of Africa-China Relations and Re-imagining the Future

13/F, Lingnan@WestKowloon, M+ Tower, West Kowloon Cultural District

15 to 16 May 2025
(Thursday and Friday)

Day 1 – 15 May 2025 (Thursday)

09:00 – 09:30	Reception
09:30 – 09:36	Welcome Remarks Professor Sam KWONG Tak-wu, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR
09:36 – 09:55	Opening Remarks Professor Joshua MOK Ka-ho, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR Padmore Adusei AMOAH, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR Yoon Jung PARK, The Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network
09:55 – 10:00	Group Photo
10:00 – 11:10	Concurrent Session ONE
	Panel S1.1: Geopolitics and Regional Powers @ MPL1305-307 Chair: Isaac ODOOM, Carleton University, Canada
	Symposium Session 1: Exploring Digital Transformation in China-Africa Relations @ MPL1302-303 Chair: Jiwei QIAN, National University of Singapore, Singapore; Discussants: Yi ZENG and Zerong CHEN, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR
11:10 – 11:25	Conference Break
11:25 – 12:55	Concurrent Session TWO
	Panel S2.1: Everyday Interactions: Personal Bonds, Trust, and Integration @ MPL1305-307 Chair: Solange GUO CHATELARD, The Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network
	Panel S1.2: Geopolitics and Strategic Rivalries @ MPL1302-303 Chair: Obert HODZI, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom
12:55 – 14:15	Lunch
14:15 – 15:25	Concurrent Session THREE
	Panel S1.3: Agency, Dependence, or Strategic Engagement? @ MPL1305-307 Chair: Liang XU, Peking University, China
	Symposium Session 2: Facilitating Cross-Border Data Transfer in China-Africa Relations @ MPL1302-303 Chair: John H. S. ÅBERG, Malmö University, Sweden; Discussants: Kin-fung CHUNG and Chaoying DONG, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR
15:25 – 15:40	Conference Break
15:40 – 17:10	Concurrent Session FOUR
	Panel S1.5: Multidimensional Impacts: Knowledge Spillovers, Governance, and Security @ MPL1305-307 Chair: Winslow ROBERTSON, Emlyon Business School, France

	Panel S2.3: Language, Higher Education, and China-Africa Research Methods @ MPL1302-303 Chair: Yoon Jung PARK, Georgetown University, USA
	Symposium Session 3: China's Investment in Digital Infrastructure along the Digital Silk Road @ MPL1207 Chair: Ayomide Oluwaseyi OLADOSU, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR; Discussants: Ching-wa LO, Lingnan University and Yuhang SHAO, Lingnan University
End of Day 1	

Day 2 – 16 May 2025 (Friday)	
08:30 – 09:00	Reception
09:00 – 11:00	PLENARY SESSION
	Chair: Solange GUO CHATELARD, The Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network
11:00 – 11:15	Conference Break
11:15 – 12:45	Concurrent Session FIVE
	Panel S2.2: Media, Narratives, and Literature @ MPL1305-307 Chair: Liang XU, Peking University, China
	Panel S1.4: Infrastructure, Finance, and Public Perception @ MPL1302-303 Chair: Winslow ROBERTSON, Emlyon Business School, France
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	Concurrent Session SIX
	Panel S1.6: Investment, Industrialization, and Development @ MPL1305-307 Chair: Obert HODZI, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom
	Panel S2.4: Crossing Borders: Labor, Culture, and Well-being? @ MPL1302-303 Chair: Yoon Jung PARK, Georgetown University, USA
	Symposium Session 4: Agency and Trust in China-Africa Digital Engagement @ MPL1207 Chair: Roberto Carlos CASTILLO BAUTISTA, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR; Discussants: Chen-wei LIU and Min-jing LI, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR
15:30 – 15:45	Conference Break
15:45 – 17:15	Concurrent Session SEVEN
	Panel S1.7: Narratives, Diplomacy, Pluralism, and Policy Discourses @ MPL1305-307 Chair: Ayomide Oluwaseyi OLADOSU, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR
	Panel S2.5: Agriculture and Land Politics @ MPL1302-303 Chair: Jodie Yuzhou SUN, Fudan University, China
	Panel S2.6: Digital Technologies @ MPL1207 Chair: Isaac ODOOM, Carleton University, Canada
17:15 – 17:30	Closing Remarks
	Yoon Jung PARK, The Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network Padmore Adusei AMOAH, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR

DAY 1 | 10:00 – 11:10 | Concurrent Session ONE**Panel S1.1: Geopolitics and Regional Powers @ MPL1305-307****Chair:** Isaac ODOOM, Carleton University, Canada

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
A29	External Power Rivalries and the Effect on Conflict Dynamics in the Sahel	Norman SEMPIJJA , Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Morocco
A36	Cross-Border Central Bank Digital Currency in BRICS+? A Comparative Case Study of China and South Africa	Wayne WANG , The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR

Symposium Session 1: Exploring Digital Transformation in China-Africa Relations @ MPL1302-303**Chair:** Jiwei QIAN, National University of Singapore, Singapore;**Discussants:** Yi ZENG and Zerong CHEN, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
S03	Rethinking Africa's Digital Transformation in an Evolving Geopolitical Landscape	Obert HODZI , University of Liverpool, United Kingdom
S01	Young Digital Leaders and US-China Competition in Africa: Public-Private Partnerships, Digital Transformation, and Individual Embeddedness in Integrated World Society Networks	John H. S. ÅBERG , Malmö University, Sweden
S02	Grey Zone Conflict In Africa: The Impact of China-US Rivalry on State-Society Relations in Zimbabwe	Edson ZISO , The University of Adelaide, Australia

DAY 1 | 11:25 – 12:55 | Concurrent Session TWO**Panel S2.1: Everyday Interactions: Personal Bonds, Trust, and Integration @ MPL1305-307****Chair:** Solange GUO CHATELARD, Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
A49	Epistemic Justice in International Higher Education: Experiences of African Students in China	Jane TIAN Zhen , Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR
A35	Personal Ties, Digital Tools: Mozambican Traders and the Reconfiguration of Sino-African Fashion Economies	Johanna VON PEZOLD , University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
A37	Liquid Trust: Moral Dilemma and Trust-Making in Everyday Interactions between the African Traders and Chinese People in Guangzhou, China	Yiqiu HUANG , The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR
A58	Bridging the Digital Gap: Enhancing Educational Outcomes Via Cross-Cultural Collaboration and Knowledge Transfer Between Chinese and African Societies	Lucy Baohua YU City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR

Panel S1.2: Geopolitics and Strategic Rivalries MPL1302-303

Chair: Obert HODZI, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
A65	The Specificities of Chinese Diplomacy in Africa Since 2000	Bekono CYRILLE AYMARD , University of Yaounde 1, Cameroon
A12	Destined for Competition? China - US Strategic Rivalry in the Horn of Africa Since Post-Cold War Era: Case Studies on Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Kenya	Tewodros WOLDEAREGAY , Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR

DAY 1 | 14:15 – 15:25 | Concurrent Session THREE

Panel S1.3: Agency, Dependence, or Strategic Engagement? @ MPL1305-307

Chair: Liang XU, Peking University, China

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
A02	Merchant of Death: The Demand Side of China-Africa Arms Trade. A Move Towards Africa's Strategic Autonomy or a New Form of Dependence?	Paa Kwesi Wolseley PRAH , Afro-Sino Center of International Relations
A11	African Agency and China's Influence: Alignment on Human Rights at the United Nations	Ana Cristina ALVES , Mohammed VI Polytechnic University, Rabat - Morocco
A52	Reimagining African Strategic Engagement Within the Forum for China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)	Paul NANTULYA , Africa Center for Strategic Studies

Symposium Session 2: Facilitating Cross-Border Data Transfer in China-Africa Relations @ MPL1302-303

Chair: John H. S. ÅBERG, Malmö University, Sweden;

Discussants: Kin-fung CHUNG and Chaoying DONG, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
S04	Cross-Border Data Transfer Regulations in China and Their Implications for Digital Trade and Investment between China and Africa	Jiwei QIAN , National University of Singapore, Singapore
S05	Study of the Challenges and the Strength for Cross-Border Data Transfers Between China and Portuguese-Speaking African Nations.	Ansoumane Douty DIAKITE , University of Saint Joseph, Macao SAR
S09	Beyond Aid: The Biosocial Politics of China's Health Technology Engagement in Africa	Liangmin GAO , Tsinghua University, China (Online)

DAY 1 | 15:40 – 17:10 | Concurrent Session FOUR**Panel S1.5: Multidimensional Impacts: Knowledge spillovers, governance, and security @ MPL1305-307****Chair: Winslow ROBERTSON**, Emlyon Business School, France

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
A46	China's Multi-Dimensional Involvement in Zimbabwe: Field Research Report	Xuda WANG , University of Westminster, United Kingdom
A74	Mozambique – China Relations: Reviewing the International Investment Regime in Light of Recent Oil & Gas Agreements with Chinese Companies in Mozambique	Ângelo Patrício RAFAEL , University of Saint Joseph, Macao SAR
A05	Beyond Power Politics: Leveraging Chinese Values to Address Security and Governance Challenges in East Africa: Ethiopia as a Case Study	Gizachew Wondie GIFAYEHU , Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR

Panel S2.3: Language, Higher Education, and China-Africa Research Methods @ MPL1302-303**Chair: Yoon Jung PARK**, Georgetown University, USA

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
A15	Institutionalising Chinese Language Teaching in African Countries' Basic Education Systems	Si-yuan LI , Northwest University, China
A50	The Rise of Mandarin in Africa: Insights from Cameroon – Motivations, Impacts, and Implications	Jocelyne KENNE , Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany
A39	The Impact of China-Africa Policy on the Internationalisation of Higher Education from a People-Centred Perspective	Ziyuan XIE , Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR
A56	Photo-Essay as China-Africa Research Method: Doing International Political Sociology (IPS) and Engaging the Other "Other"	Kaian LAM , University of Macau, Macao SAR

Symposium Session 3: China's Investment in Digital Infrastructure along the Digital Silk Road @ MPL1207**Chair: Ayomide Oluwaseyi OLADOSU**, Lingnan University;**Discussants: Ching-wa LO** and **Yuhang SHAO**, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
S10	China's Infrastructure Finance in Africa: Impacts and Lessons	Linda CALABRESE , International Economic Development Group, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London, United Kingdom (Online)
S08	Investment in Digital Infrastructure by China Under the Digital Silk Road: China as an Emergent New Tech Player in Africa	Fakhar HUSSAIN , Government Imamia Associate College Sahiwal, Pakistan (Online)
S13	The Digital Silk Roads: How Huawei is Rewriting the Future of ICT Infrastructure in Senegalese?	Ibrahima NIANG , University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar, Senegal (Online)
S11	Consolidating the New Normal: Digitalization and China's Engagement with Africa	Abdou Rahim LEMA , University of Montreal, Canada (Online)

DAY 2 | 9:00 – 11:00 | PLENARY SESSION @ MPL1305-307**Chair: Solange GUO CHATELARD**, Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
A54	The Internationalisation of China's Vocational Education and Training: Luban Workshops in Eastern Africa	Kenneth KING , University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
A78	Big Dispersal and Small Concentration: Chinese Spatial Assimilation in Lusaka, Zambia	Barry SAUTMAN , Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, Hong Kong SAR Hairong YAN , Tsinghua University, China
A76	Reflections on the field of Africa-China Studies and the role of the Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network	Yoon Jung PARK , Georgetown University, USA

DAY 2 | 11:15 - 12:45 | Concurrent Session Five**Panel S2.2: Media, Narratives, and Literature @ MPL1305-307****Chair: Liang XU**, Peking University, China

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
A24	Rearticulating Affective Infrastructure — Narratives of Africa in Chinese Podcasts	Mingyi XIAO , University of California, Santa Barbara, USA
A25	'Third World Crossings' and China-Africa Networks: Visual Representation of Africa in Afro-Asian Literature	Jodie Yuzhou SUN , Fudan University, China
A09	Embodying Sino-Mauritian Relations in the World: Island Nationalism and Ethnic Pride in Marie Madeleine Lee's Life Writing	Flair Donglai SHI , Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China

Panel S1.4: Infrastructure, Finance, and Public Perception @ MPL1302-303**Chair: Winslow ROBERTSON**, Emlyon Business School, France

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
A21	On the "Chineseness" of Chinese Infrastructure Projects in Africa: The Case of Ghana	Paola PASQUALI Independent researcher
A38	Infrastructuring the last mile: Development, Chinese tech, and densification of Ghana's rural network	Miao LU , Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR

DAY 2 | 14:00 – 15:30 | Concurrent Session SIX**Panel S1.6: Investment, Industrialization, and Development @ MPL1305-307****Chair: Obert HODZI**, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
A28	Owning Assets or Injecting Capital: Distinguishing between Chinese Foreign Direct Investment and Lending in African Countries	Winslow ROBERTSON , Emlyon Business School, France
A43	Does China's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Model Work in Africa? The Implications for Structural Transformation	Charlotte GOODBURN , King's College London, United Kingdom
A67	A Case Study of Chinese Multinational Corporations in Ethiopia in the Era of Belt and Road Initiative: Competing Discourses, Local Practices, and Development Implications	Yetebarek Hizekeal ZEKAREAS , The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong SAR
A26	Chinese Participation in African Industrialization: A Historical Perspective	Liang XU , Peking University, China

Panel S2.4: Crossing Borders: Labor, Culture, and Well-being? @ MPL1302-303**Chair: Yoon Jung PARK**, Georgetown University, USA

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
A68	Surplus Labor, or the Labor of Distribution? Chinese Commodities and the Moral Economies of Shares in Kariakoo	Derek SHERIDAN , Academia Sinica, Taiwan
A45	A Tale of Two Cities: Exploring the Experiences of African Doctoral Students in Chinese Universities	Vedika KEDIA , University of Oxford, United Kingdom
A73	Psychological Well-being of African Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Hong Kong: Questing the Role of Religion and Acculturation Processes	Padmore Adusei AMOAH , Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR

Symposium Session 4: Agency and Trust in China-Africa Digital Engagement @ MPL1207**Chair: Roberto Carlos CASTILLO BAUTISTA**, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR;**Discussants: Chen-wei LIU and Min-jing LI**, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
S12	China's Digital Silk Road in Ghana: Local Agency and the Geopolitics of Technology	Isaac ODOOM , Carleton University, Canada
S14	Trust and trust-making in the distribution and consumption of Chinese manufactured electronics in Ghana	Mark Kwaku Mensah OBENG , University of Ghana, Ghana (Online)
S06	China's 20th-Century Global Development Projects	Austin STRANGE , The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR

DAY 2 | 15:45 - 17:15 | Concurrent Session SEVEN**Panel S1.7: Narratives, Diplomacy, Pluralism, and Policy Discourses @ MPL1305-307****Chair: Ayomide Oluwaseyi OLADOSU**, Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
A03	Deconstructing 'Chinese' Debt Trap Diplomacy in Africa-China Relations	Kwaku Obeng EFFAH , Lingnan University, Hong Kong SAR
A16	Evolving Narratives of Diplomacy and Integration: Analyzing People-Centered Africa-China Relations in a Multipolar World	Richard ATIMNIRAYE NYELADE , University of Ottawa, Canada
A55	Chinese Medicines within Medical Pluralism in Africa	Antoine KERNEN , University of Lausanne, Switzerland
A42	Framing Fintech Diplomacy: Examining Editorial Discourse in Nigerian Newspaper on China's Role in e-Payments and Financial Access	Jennifer NVENE , Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China

Panel S2.5: Agriculture and Land Politics @ MPL1302-303**Chair: Jodie Yuzhou SUN**, Fudan University, China

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
A69	Estates, Land, and Smallholders: Chinese Large-Scale Sisal Operations in Central Tanzania	Puyang LI , Duke Kunshan University, China
A31	Farming the Margins of the State: Chinese Migrants and Land-Making in Lusaka and Dar es Salaam	Yuezhou YANG , London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom

Panel S2.6: Digital Technologies @ MPL1207**Chair: Isaac ODOOM**, Carleton University, Canada

No.	Title	Presenter(s)
A14	The Multi-Layered Embeddedness of Chinese Firms in Kenyan Digital Transformation	Yabo WU , Maastricht University, Netherlands
A23	Territoriality of Chinese Digital Startups in Kenya: Diasporas Geopolitics in the Event of Standardisation	June WANG , City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR
A59	China-Africa Relations; the Role of Chinese Telecommunication Companies in Africa's Digital Transformation	Ananda JAYASOORIYA , University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China