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Danger And Opportunity

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13TH CHINA-US SYMPOSIUM

Welcome to the 13th Annual China-U.S. Symposium. This two-day academic conference is held every spring at Tufts. Our goal is to foster academic understanding of China and cultivate cooperation between students and experts from different backgrounds and cultures. We wish to create an unique crossroads of ideas, experiences, and people that characterize Tufts University to promote an atmosphere of deep analysis and critical awareness.

This year's theme is "Crisis and Opportunity." The Sino-US relations are in deep crisis. The two countries spat and confronted each other on almost every subject: from trade, technology, human rights, to China's maritime claims. The Biden administration has made it clear its intention to pursue strategic competition with China. Yet at the same time, opportunities for engagement remain. There are many areas where the two superpowers must cooperate for the interests of the global community: the global health crisis and climate change, to name but a few. We hope that this symposium will provide a platform for all to consider 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 (and hopefully our last) remote symposium. We apologize for not being able to host you at Tufts' beautiful Medford campus. To adapt to the virtual 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 an eight-month effort involving dozens of students, professors, and members of the Tufts administration. Our success is due to the pure dedication of each of these individuals, and we sincerely thank everyone who has played a role.

Enclosed in this booklet, you will find descriptions of each of our events, biographies of our speakers, and more information about the Symposium and our sponsorship.

Sincerely,
Tufts SURGE E-Board

Schedule

All times below are US East Coast time (EDT)

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Friday, April 16th

**13:00 - 14:30: Opening Speech & David Rawson
Memorial Lecture (Keynote)**

Mr. James Palmer (Foreign Policy)

<https://tufts.zoom.us/j/96795486094>

14:30 - 15:00: Break

15:00 - 16:15: Culture Panel

Chinese Film Industry

<https://tufts.zoom.us/j/96001817841>

Saturday, April 17th

13:00 - 14:15: Security Panel

Chinese Naval Expansion and Maritime Strategy

<https://tufts.zoom.us/j/97611203173>

14:15 - 14:45: Break

14:45 - 16:00: Economics Panel

Economic Decoupling between the West and China

<https://tufts.zoom.us/j/99649493904>

16:00 - 16:10: Closing Remarks

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And please check out our website too!

<https://tuftssurge.org>

The David Rawson Memorial Lecture

Friday, April 16th, 13:00 - 14:30 (EDT)

<https://tufts.zoom.us/j/96795486094>

The China-U.S. 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 had 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.

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Mr. James Palmer is a deputy editor at Foreign Policy. Palmer is the author of *The Bloody White Baron: The Extraordinary Story of the Russian Nobleman Who Became the Last Khan of Mongolia* and *The Death of Mao: The Tangshan Earthquake and the Birth of the New China*. He won the Shiva Naipaul prize for travel writing in 2003. He has extensive experience living and working in China.

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Culture Panel

Chinese Film Industry

Friday, April 16th, 15:00 - 16:15 (EDT)

<https://tufts.zoom.us/j/96001817841>

With China becoming more influential in the film industry during these past years, it has become increasingly more important to talk about the political, economic, and cultural impacts that have come about due to this rise in popularity. This panel will focus on the cultural differences reflected in movies produced by both the Chinese and American film industries, respectively, as well as the socioeconomic ramifications that have come about due to the blocking of many Western movies in Chinese cinemas and how the American and Chinese public has reacted to the censorship.

Specific topics that could be discussed include why Disney's live action remake of the movie Mulan, which tried to appeal to both Western and Chinese audiences, sparked political outrage in Hong Kong, as well as how China's soft power is growing with Chinese media slowly becoming more popular and palatable to Western audiences.

Culture Panel

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James Wicks

James Wicks, Professor of Film Studies & Literature and Department Chair, grew up in Taiwan and teaches World Cinema, Postcolonial Literature, and Chinese (Mandarin, Year 1 & 2) in San Diego, California. His Ph.D. in Literature (Cultural Studies section), with an emphasis on Chinese Cinema, was received from the University of California, San Diego in 2010.

He has written two books: *Transnational Representations: The State of Taiwan Film in the 1960s and 1970s* (HKUP, 2014) and *An Annotated Bibliography of Taiwan Film Studies* (Columbia UP, April 2016) co-authored with Columbia University librarians Jim Cheng and Sachie Noguchi.

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Fan Yang (杨帆)

Fan Yang (杨帆) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Media and Communication Studies at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). An interdisciplinary scholar, Yang works at the intersection of cultural studies, transnational media studies, globalization, postcolonialism/postsocialism, and contemporary China. She is a faculty affiliate in the Asian Studies program, and serves on the Global Studies Coordinating Committee.

Yang is the author of *Faked in China: Nation Branding, Counterfeit Culture, and Globalization* (Indiana University Press, 2016). Complicating the prevalent story of China's economic rise from the perspective of cultural change, the book argues that WTO-era China's contested encounter with the globalizing intellectual property regime illuminates the nation's cultural dilemma in the twenty-first century.

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Ying Zhu

Ying Zhu is a professor in the Department of Media Culture. She has published eight books, including *Two Billion Eyes: The Story of China Central Television* (New Press, 2014). Her first research monograph, *Chinese Cinema during the Era of Reform: The Ingenuity of the System* (2003) initiated the study of Chinese cinema within the framework of political economy. Her second research monograph, *Television in Post-Reform China: Serial Drama, Confucian Leadership and the Global Television Market* (2008), together with two book volumes in which her work featured prominently—*TV China* (2009) and *TV Drama in China* (2008)—pioneered the subfield of Chinese TV drama studies.

Her work has been translated into Chinese, Dutch, French, Italian, and Spanish. Her publications further appear in major academic journals and publications such as *The Atlantic*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

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Security Panel

Chinese Naval Expansion

& Maritime Strategy

Saturday, April 17th, 13:00 - 14:15 (EDT)

<https://tufts.zoom.us/j/97611203173>

Over the past decade, China has built a blue-water fleet of advanced destroyers and aircraft carriers. The PLA Navy is now the largest in the world (in terms of vessel numbers) and has become more active than ever. In the South China Sea, the country claims 62% of the water through its so-called "Nine-Dash Line." Although the claim was refuted by a UNCLOS ruling in 2016, China rejected the arbitration and has since expanded its presence in the South China Sea through assertive coast guard patrolling and building new artificial islands and military facilities. Elsewhere, Chinese companies are building or funding maritime infrastructure in many strategically located developing countries under President Xi Jinping's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative.

This panel will discuss China's maritime strategy and naval expansion, and their implications to neighboring countries and the United States.

Security Panel



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Collin Koh Swee Lean is a research fellow at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies based in Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He is especially interested in researching naval affairs in the Indo-Pacific, focusing on Southeast Asia in particular, and generally issues related to naval technologies, naval modernization, naval arms control and the offence-defence theory. Collin is also Coordinator of the U.S Programme at RSIS.

Besides research and teaching, Collin also contributes his perspectives to various local and international media outlets, including BBC, Bloomberg, Channel NewsAsia, Reuters and The Straits Times. In addition, Collin participates in activities with geopolitical risks consultancies Oxford Analytica and Wikistrat.

Collin Koh Swee Lean

Security Panel



Meia Nouwens

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Meia Nouwens is a Senior Fellow for Chinese Defence Policy and Military Modernisation at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Prior to that, she worked for the European External Action Service as a policy officer in Taipei, and as a trade analyst in the EU's delegation to New Zealand. She has previously worked in private-sector consulting firms and international organisations, on topics of foreign policy, security and defence.

Meia's expertise lies in Chinese cross-service defence analysis, China's defence industry and innovation, as well as China's regional strategic affairs and international relations. She is a co-lead of the China Security Project with the Mercator Institute for China Studies, and leads IISS research on China's Digital Silk Road.

Security Panel



Robert S. Ross

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Robert S. Ross is Professor of Political Science at Boston College and Associate, John King Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University. He has taught at Columbia University and at the University of Washington and in 1989 was a Guest Scholar at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. In 1994-1995 he was Fulbright Professor at the Chinese Foreign Affairs College, in 2003 he was a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Institute of International Strategic Studies, Qinghua University, Beijing, and in 2014 was Visiting Scholar, School of International Relations, Peking University. In 2009 he was Visiting Scholar, Institute for Strategy, Royal Danish Defence College. From 2009-2014 he has been Adjunct Professor, Institute for Defence Studies, Norwegian Defence University College.

His research focuses on Chinese security policy and defense policy, East Asian security, and U.S.-China relations.

Security Panel



Rockford Weitz

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Rockford Weitz is professor of practice, entrepreneur coach, and director of the Maritime Studies Program at The Fletcher School of Tufts University. He also serves as president of the Institute for Global Maritime Studies Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit seeking practical solutions to global maritime challenges, and president & CEO at Rhumb Line International LLC, a consultancy providing strategic advice to entrepreneurs and startups. He was a senior fellow at the Institute for Global Maritime Studies, a team leader of Fletcher's Abu Dhabi Project, a fellow at Fletcher's Maritime Studies Program, and a fellow at Fletcher's Jebson Center for Counter-Terrorism Studies.

He has taught courses in jurisprudence, maritime security, and global maritime affairs at The Fletcher School, and published op-eds in The New York Times, The Christian Science Monitor, and The Straits Times (Singapore), among others.

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Economic Panel

Economic Decoupling between the West & China

Saturday, April 17th, 14:45 - 16:00 (EDT)

<https://tufts.zoom.us/j/99649493904>

Though the world is more globalized than ever before, there seems to be an increasing trend of divergence between Western and Chinese economies. As China grew into an economic powerhouse, it now aims to become self-sufficient and has become more assertive in deploying economic measures for political purposes. The West has also become more vigilant against Beijing's economic influence and its technological ambition. Growing geopolitical friction between the two sides has turned into economic tension. Trump's trade war against China, American sanctions against Chinese tech firms, Chinese economic coercion against Australia and Canada, and the recent boycott of Western fashion brands in China are just a few examples of this trend. This panel will focus on the prospect of economic decoupling between the West and China.

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Jun Ma

Jun Ma is a professor of economics at Northeastern University currently teaching macroeconomic theory and applied econometrics. He focuses on macroeconomics and international finance, financial economics, applied time series econometrics, and Chinese economy. Professor Ma has a PhD from the University of Washington in economics, and he is an elected member of the executive committee and treasurer of the Society for Nonlinear Dynamics and Econometrics. Notable articles he has published include: *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*, *Journal of International Economics*, and *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*.

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Jean Oi

Jean Oi is a Professor of Chinese Politics in Stanford University's Department of Political Science with specialized expertise in China's political economy and institutions in the process of reform. She received her PhD in Political Science from the University of Michigan, and joined the Stanford faculty in 1997 after teaching at both Lehigh and Harvard University. She is the founding director of both the Stanford China Program at the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center and the Stanford Center at Peking University.

Professor Oi is currently focusing on researching the impact of China's Belt and Road Initiative as well as researching the rising local government debt in China.

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Isabella Weber

Isabella Weber is a professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst currently teaching classes on macroeconomics and the history of economic thought. Professor Weber has two PhDs in developmental studies and economics from both the University of Cambridge and the The New School for Social Research respectively. She has been awarded many honors in recognition of her work such as the 2019 International Convention of Asia Scholars' Ground-breaking Subject Matter Accolade for Ph.D. Thesis and the 2018 Warren Samuels Prize for Interdisciplinary Research in the History of Economic Thought and Methodology.

Professor Weber's work combines economic theory, economic history, China studies and global political economy. She focuses on the interaction between economic thinking, policy and long-term structural patterns in periods of deep social transformation.

Acknowledgment

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The 13th Annual China-US Symposium is made possible with the support of Tufts' Institute for Global Leadership (IGL), Tufts Community Union (TCU) and Tufts' Office of the President.

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Special thanks to all students involved with the Symposium:

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