Initiative for U.S.-China Dialogue on Global Issues

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

Founded in 2016, the Georgetown Initiative for U.S.-China Dialogue on Global Issues is a university platform for research, teaching, and dialogue among American and Chinese leaders from the public sector, business, society, and the academy. The initiative is premised on the view that despite inevitable national differences, there remains considerable room for the cultivation of shared U.S. and Chinese approaches to global issues, including peace and security, business and trade, climate change, global health, and social development.

ABOUT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Established in 1789, Georgetown is the oldest Catholic and Jesuit university in the United States. One of the world’s leading academic and research institutions, Georgetown enrolls more than 17,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students across nine schools. A global institution, Georgetown provides a unique educational experience that prepares the next generation of global citizens to lead and make a difference in the world. The university’s educational mission and international partnerships seek to advance the global common good.
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LETTER OF WELCOME

U.S.-China relations have entered a precarious phase. Trade conflict, geostrategic rivalry, and human rights differences harbor the danger of a new cold war.

The Georgetown University Initiative for U.S.-China Dialogue on Global Issues began in 2016, just as this new constellation was taking shape. Our work is based on a premise that still holds: political and ideological divides that make competition inevitable also make dialogue necessary—dialogue that acknowledges differences but also identifies shared interests and ways forward. This premise resonates with Georgetown’s mission as a Jesuit University in Washington, DC, committed to academic excellence, intercultural dialogue, and the global common good.

During the initiative’s first four years, our research groups, student programs, and public convenings have engaged U.S. and Chinese scholars and students across five thematic areas: peace and security, business and trade, climate change, global health, and social development.

Each of our multi-year research groups convenes up to a dozen scholars for at least three face-to-face meetings in Washington, DC, Beijing, and other cities. The groups’ first task is always the definition of a common research agenda. The peace and security group, for example, has focused on managing strategic competition, while the business and trade group has zeroed in on e-commerce and mobile technology. Multiple workshops in each thematic area promote progress on shared research and publications. The research groups also convene policy consultations and public events to share their perspectives and policy recommendations with diverse stakeholders.

Student-to-student dialogue is another initiative priority. Since 2016 the U.S.-China Student Fellows Program has run an annual competition for talented students at universities in both countries. Fellows explore critical global issues through in-person meetings in Washington, DC, and Beijing, dialogues with leading scholars and policymakers, and a web-based platform. To date, 43 fellows have participated in the four year-long cohorts and explored topics ranging from the “Challenges of Globalization” to “Risks and Opportunities in an Evolving International System.” The initiative has also worked with the China-U.S. Exchange Foundation (CUSEF) to support three extensive study tours for Georgetown graduate students in China.

Our communications platform actively shares these faculty and student dialogues, as well as public convenings, with a global audience through a bilingual website, issue reports, quarterly newsletters, and social media. A 2019 highlight was the launch of our U.S.-China Dialogue Podcast, showcasing a series of in-depth interviews with policy veterans who have shaped the trajectory of U.S.-China relations since the normalization of ties four decades ago.

Four years ago, a founding gift from a Thai multinational, the CP Group, through its Spring Breeze Foundation (Hong Kong), made the creation of the initiative possible. Since then, collaboration with Georgetown’s Walsh School of Foreign Service, its Asian Studies Program, and other partners across campus and beyond the university has advanced our mission as a dialogue platform for leaders from the academy, government, business, and civil society. Given the stakes in U.S.-China relations, dialogue—no matter how difficult—is the best way forward.

We invite you to learn more about the initiative and to accompany us into the future. Our founding principles of independence, transparency, balance, and academic excellence will continue to animate our efforts.

Prof. Thomas Banchoff  
Vice President for Global Engagement  
Georgetown University

Prof. Dennis Wilder  
Managing Director, Senior Fellow  
Initiative for U.S.-China Dialogue on Global Issues
THE INITIATIVE BY THE NUMBERS, 2016-2019

5 RESEARCH GROUPS
43 STUDENT FELLOWS
54 RESEARCH GROUP PARTICIPANTS
23 PODCASTS
7 WORKSHOPS IN CHINA
9 WORKSHOPS IN THE UNITED STATES
32 GRADUATE STUDENT STUDY TOUR PARTICIPANTS
35 PUBLIC EVENTS
As a Jesuit institution, Georgetown carries forward the legacy of Matteo Ricci, S.J. (1552-1610), a missionary whose deep appreciation of Chinese language, philosophy, and customs forged a model for productive intercultural encounters.

Georgetown has a rich history of dialogue and engagement with China that dates back to the second half of the nineteenth century, when the United States first emerged as a world power. Georgetown College alumnus Charles Denby, for example, served as U.S. minister to China during the critical years from 1885 to 1898. He once remarked, “I suppose there is no country in the world that is more underrated than China.”

Interaction with China deepened following the creation of the School of Foreign Service (SFS) in the wake of World War I. SFS offered Chinese language instruction at its founding in 1919 and the following year hired William Willoughby, the future founding director of the Brookings Institution, to teach on China and East Asia. An SFS alumnus, Raymond P. Ludden (SFS’30), worked closely with General Joseph Stilwell to coordinate U.S.-China military cooperation during World War II.

During the Cold War, Georgetown had little direct engagement with China, but academic interest in the country and its culture persisted. The School of Languages and Linguistics (SSL), founded in 1949, offered a Chinese language major, and Joseph Sebes, S.J., a leading historian of the Jesuit missions in China, served as SSL dean (1966-1968).

Georgetown was an active participant in first improvements in U.S.-China relations from the early 1970s onward. Rory Marie Hayden (SLL’74) served as an interpreter for the Chinese table tennis team during their first visit to the United States in 1972, and Henry Kissinger, one of the architects of the U.S. opening to China, taught in the SFS in the late 1970s. In 1993, Georgetown Law laid the foundations of its Center for Asian Law, a leading
base of expertise on the Chinese legal system. Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, Georgetown has expanded its ties to China along multiple dimensions. Activities include study abroad, faculty research opportunities, executive leadership training for Chinese civil servants and businesses, and a range of high-level dialogues.

In 2006 Georgetown began a long-term dialogue with the China Central Party School (CCPS) that features biannual meetings of experts to discuss policy issues ranging from urban development to sustainability. Academic cooperation with other leading Chinese institutions has encompassed Fudan, Beijing, and Tsinghua universities.

Since 2016, as U.S.-China relations have entered a more conflictual phase, Georgetown scholars in SFS and other schools have explored the dynamics of increased economic and security competition between both countries.

The university-wide Initiative for U.S.-China Dialogue on Global Issues, created in 2016, is part of this wider historical legacy of engagement.

From its inception, Georgetown’s interactions with China have been anchored firmly in its identity as an American, Catholic, and Jesuit university. Georgetown endorses and upholds the ideals of liberal democracy, universal human rights, and the dignity and freedom of the human person. On this principled foundation, the university continues to pursue open dialogue with China in the Jesuit tradition. Only engagement grounded in one’s own convictions and mindful of the views of others can deepen mutual understanding and promote collaboration for the common good.

**CHINESE STUDENTS AT GEORGETOWN**

Since the 1920s, students from China have been contributing to the Georgetown community. The first Chinese graduate from Georgetown, Wai-Hing Tso (SFS ’24), was active in the Chinese Students’ Club of Washington, DC. Other prominent graduates have included businessman and philanthropist Sir Eric Hotung (C’51) and Taiwan legislator James Soong (G’74). Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (2013 to present) studied at Georgetown as a visiting scholar in 1997. Today, Georgetown’s nine schools are home to more than 1,000 Chinese students each year.

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Research Group on Managing Strategic Competition

The downturn in U.S.-China relations since 2016 has raised the specter of a new cold war. The initiative has sponsored three workshops with leading U.S. and Chinese scholars to address the peace and security implications of the new constellation. This work, led by Initiative Managing Director Dennis Wilder and Senior Fellow Evan Medeiros, has converged around the theme of “Managing Strategic Competition.” In April 2019 they and co-convener Wang Jisi of Peking University brought together leading scholars in Washington, DC, to develop a shared research agenda and joint book project on the topic.

SCHOLARS

Dennis Wilder (Convener), Georgetown University
Evan Medeiros (Co-convener), Georgetown University
Wang Jisi (Co-convener), Peking University
Richard Betts, Columbia University
Hal Brands, Johns Hopkins University
Wendy Cutler, The Asia Society
David Edelstein, Georgetown University
Michael Green, Georgetown University
Guan Guihai, Peking University
Elsa Kania, Center for New American Security
Lei Shaohua, Peking University
Li Wei, Renmin University
Wu Xinbo, Fudan University
Xue Lan, Tsinghua University

KEY RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What are the underlying causes of the current crisis in U.S.-China relations?
- How does the current constellation differ from the U.S.-Soviet Cold War?
- How can both sides manage their strategic competition peacefully into the future?
WORKSHOP ON STRATEGIC TRUST, WASHINGTON, DC, MARCH 2017

This day-long exploratory workshop brought together nine leading U.S. and Chinese scholars to address the challenge of building strategic trust along three dimensions: differences in history, culture, and political system; divergent interests in strategic regions worldwide; and the dynamics of China’s rise and the Western response.

WORKSHOP ON THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE AND U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS, BEIJING, NOVEMBER 2017

Managing Director Dennis Wilder and Zhao Kejin of Tsinghua University convened 12 leading U.S. and Chinese scholars from 10 universities and think tanks to address the role of the Belt and Road Initiative for U.S.-China relations. Topics included the strategic implication of Chinese investment in infrastructure along the old Silk Road; opportunities and challenges for U.S. and European firms and governments; and wider security implications.

WORKSHOP ON MANAGING STRATEGIC COMPETITION AND THE FUTURE OF U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS, WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 2019

Managing Director Dennis Wilder and Senior Fellow Evan Medeiros worked with Wang Jisi of Peking University’s Institute of International and Strategic Studies to convene leading scholars in both countries to place the downturn in U.S.-China relations in a broader historical and theoretical context. The group is working on an edited volume.
WANG JISI  
*Peking University*

We are experiencing a period when U.S.-China relations are more competitive and less cooperative, and that will last for some time to come. But there have been changes throughout history, changes in the United States, and changes in China. In the future such changes may provide us with more opportunities and some impetus for our domestic reform and further opening.

XUE LAN  
*Tsinghua University*

We need to have a mechanism for not just dialogue but also a mechanism to build trust. If you think about the last 40 years, I think one thing that we have not made much progress on is that there is still deeply rooted distrust.

EVAN MEDEIROS  
*Georgetown University*

On the issue of a cold war, I think we all need to be concerned about the trajectory. We all know that the relationship is more competitive, and that’s not new or terribly interesting. But when I think about the trajectory it’s clear that the competition is expanding and accelerating in very worrisome ways.
In November 2018 the initiative was a cosponsor of the inaugural Cling Family U.S.-China Conference organized by the Asian Studies Program (School of Foreign Service). Panels of leading scholars and practitioners engaged in wide-ranging discussion of the evolution of U.S. policy toward China in the four decades since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1979.

In April 2019, the initiative and the Asian Studies Program hosted three of China’s most renowned “U.S. watchers” for a public dialogue on the trajectory of U.S.-China ties under the Trump administration. Evan Medeiros and Dennis Wilder moderated the discussion with Wang Jisi (Peking University), Xue Lan (Tsinghua University), and Wu Xinbo (Fudan University).

In November 2019, the initiative and the Asian Studies Program hosted the second annual U.S.-China conference. The day-long event offered a series of engaging panel discussions on regional views of China and U.S.-China relations, featuring leading scholars and practitioners of China relations.
Research Group on E-Commerce and Mobile Technology

While the trade conflict between the United States and China foregrounds tariffs and trade balances, deeper technological and regulatory forces are also shaping the bilateral relationship and the future of the global economy. In spring 2018, Abraham Newman of Georgetown University, Henry Farrell of George Washington University, and Xue Lan of Tsinghua University convened a research group in Washington, DC, to address the politics of innovation in an interdependent world. At their second workshop held in fall 2018 in Beijing, the group shared research on the future diplomacy and regulation of e-commerce and mobile technology. Their third meeting took place in Washington, DC, in October 2019.

KEY RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How do the domestic regimes for technological innovation differ in both countries?
- What challenges and opportunities are posed by international standards and institutions?
- What mix of cooperation and conflict is likely to characterize e-commerce and mobile technology into the future?

SCHOLARS

Abraham Newman (Convener), Georgetown University
Henry Farrell (Co-convener), George Washington University
Xue Lan (Co-convener), Tsinghua University
Chen Ling, Tsinghua University
Mark Dallas, Union College
Douglas Fuller, Zhejiang University
Roselyn Hsueh, Temple University
Huang Can, Zhejiang University
Liang Zheng, Tsinghua University
Adam Segal, Council on Foreign Relations
Tan Yeling, University of Oregon
Tang Shiping, Fudan University
Xiao Zhiguo, Fudan University
Zheng Yu, Fudan University
WORKSHOP ON THE POLITICS OF INNOVATION IN AN INTERDEPENDENT WORLD, WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 2018

The research group convened for the first time to explore and identify areas of common interest for collaborative research that can inform better policymaking in both countries. The discussion focused on patterns of technological innovation and distribution, national security implications, and the extent of U.S.-China interdependence in high-tech sectors.

WORKSHOP ON E-COMMERCE AND MOBILE TECHNOLOGY, BEIJING, DECEMBER 2018

Against the backdrop of growing U.S.-China trade tensions, the research group met in Beijing to explore the dynamics of e-commerce and mobile technology. Participants critiqued drafts of research in progress and discussed publication strategies. A policy consultation with a wider group of scholars and policymakers addressed the role of technology in the U.S.-China trade war.

WORKSHOP ON E-COMMERCE AND MOBILE TECHNOLOGY, WASHINGTON, DC, OCTOBER 2019

The multi-semester collaboration effort culminated in the research group’s third and final meeting, where the members updated their research progress and hosted a public event at the Brookings Institution to share the results of their research with the wider Washington community.
The current slowdown notwithstanding, 40 years into China’s ‘reform and opening,’ China’s regulatory state matters not least because Chinese regulators and courts increasingly have influence over global value chains, global markets, and the direction of technological innovation.

For years, the United States complained that China’s economic policy is driven by nationalism and the desire to protect native companies. Now, Chinese political debate depicts U.S. regulators as an existential threat.

Published in December 2018, the “E-commerce, Mobile Technology, Advanced Manufacturing, and U.S.-China Relations Background Report” provides an overview of the recent history of mobile technology, e-commerce, and advanced manufacturing as global phenomena and as policy challenges confronting the United States and China.
In May 2018 the initiative hosted prominent business leaders, academics, and government officials from the United States and China for the “U.S.-China Agricultural Trade Forum.” Jointly sponsored by the Walmart Food Safety Collaboration Center and the U.S.-China Agriculture and Food Partnership, the event explored technological innovations for food safety, opportunities for public-private cooperation, and U.S.-China agricultural production and trade.

“The only way to facilitate food trade is to expand and strengthen international collaboration like dialogue, new technology, and third-party assistance in capacity building.”

– Chen Junshi, senior research professor at the China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment
Over the past decade, climate change has emerged as a central issue on the global agenda and in U.S.-China relations. In 2016 and 2017, Joanna Lewis of Georgetown University and Zhang Xiliang of Tsinghua University convened a group of experts from the United States and China for a structured dialogue around key academic and policy issues relating to clean energy technology cooperation, climate finance, and climate policy implementation. Through policy consultations, the research group seeks to engage and inform multiple stakeholders and advance better policy and practical cooperation in bilateral and multilateral contexts. The collaboration has generated joint working papers and continuing research projects.

**SCHOLARS**

Joanna Lewis (Convener), Georgetown University
Zhang Xiliang (Co-convener), Tsinghua University
Hao Min, University of International Relations
Melanie Hart, Center for American Progress
William Pizer, Duke University
Qi Shaozhou, Wuhan University

**KEY RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

- How should the United States and China grapple with the implementation challenges raised by the Paris Climate Change Accord?
- How can both countries work together to support clean energy technology and climate finance around the world?
- Are there productive ways to continue U.S.-China dialogue on climate change in an era of increased U.S.-China trade and security competition?
WASHINGTON, DC, JUNE 2016

The Research Group on Climate Change convened for the first time to explore themes of common interest that will advance a shared research agenda and inform relevant stakeholders for better policy and practical cooperation in bilateral and multilateral contexts. The discussion also included a closed policy consultation with Washington-area scholars and stakeholders.

BEIJING, OCTOBER 2016

A second workshop was held at the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center in Beijing. The participants further developed their joint research agenda, shared drafts of work in progress, and presented initial data and findings for the topics on the global agenda for energy finance, clean energy technology transfer, and post-Paris policy implementation.

WASHINGTON, DC, NOVEMBER 2017

During their final meeting at Georgetown, research group members gave public presentations of their research results and held a briefing at the U.S. Department of the State to inform experts and the public both about key issues in climate policy and about the wider contours of U.S.-China dialogue and engagement on the environment.

BRUSSELS, JULY 2019

Joanna Lewis partnered with the Center for American Progress, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies, and the China Foreign Affairs University to hold a trilateral dialogue on “European Perspectives on the United States, China, and the Global Order.”
JOANNA LEWIS
Georgetown University

Given the shift in climate policy participation under the new U.S. administration, it is perhaps more important now than ever to have platforms such as this Georgetown group to advance climate change policy research and dialogue with Chinese counterparts and demonstrate that there are still ways the United States and China can work together.

ZHANG XILIANG
Tsinghua University

The United States was the leading power, but the government’s withdrawal has negatively affected its global leadership and naturally signifies China’s influence. However, from China’s own perspective, we don’t want to replace the United States and become the leader. China prefers a multilateral system of governance.

WILLIAM PIZER
Duke University

In China, climate policy was partly driven by common sense that this was a problem that affected China and was important, but it was also driven by the fact that it was seen as an area of cooperation with the United States, at a time when many areas were not. So, China benefited from the fact that it was a good area for both countries to work together. Without the United States as a partner on climate change, I doubt that China will have the same enthusiasm it previously did.

QI SHAOZHOU
Wuhan University

The bottom-up cooperation of local governments, enterprises, NGOs, and research institutions between China and the United States is still ongoing, supporting each other and pushing forward research on climate change.
UNDERSTANDING THE CHINESE CARBON MARKET PROPOSAL

“China’s national ETS represents a significant step for China and the world, potentially doubling the worldwide volume of carbon dioxide facing emission prices.”

“Many of the program’s design features follow experience with China’s pilot programs but contrast with much of the experience in the U.S. and Europe. This makes the Chinese national carbon market both intriguing and challenging to those experienced with western emission trading programs.” – William Pizer and Zhang Xiliang

In January 2018, the initiative co-hosted a panel discussion on “Understanding the Chinese Carbon Market Proposal” with Duke University’s Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions. Joanna Lewis spoke at the event, which featured two other members of the research group, Zhang Xiliang of Tsinghua University and William Pizer of Duke University, whose work contributed to the newly released Chinese national carbon market. Their findings are also published in American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings.

BACKGROUND REPORT

The “U.S.-China Dialogue on Climate Change Background Report,” published in February 2017, presents an overview of the history of climate change as a global issue and as a policy challenge confronting the United States and China.
Globalization and its accelerating cross-border flows of people and goods have created strong linkages between global health and migration. Between 2016 and 2018, Jennifer Huang Bouey of Georgetown University and Cheng Feng of Tsinghua University convened a group of leading U.S. and Chinese scholars for dialogue and research around key academic and policy issues relating to pandemic preparedness, the cross-national movement of peoples, and global health governance. The group met several times in Washington, Beijing, and Guangzhou, engaging scholars, students, and state and local policymakers, as well as the general public, through their meetings, public events, and site visits.

**SCHOLARS**

Jennifer Buey (Convener), Georgetown University  
Cheng Feng (Co-convener), Tsinghua University  
Hao Yuantao, Sun Yat-sen University  
Rebecca Katz, Georgetown University  
Michael Stoto, Georgetown University  
Elanah Uretsky, Brandeis University  
Zhang Linqi, Tsinghua University

**KEY RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

- How have China and the United States adapted their national health systems to increasing internal and transnational migration flows?
- How have China's national and regional health systems responded to the influx from Africa, in particular, and what can be learned from that experience?
- How can the United States and China work together more effectively on pandemic preparedness?
WASHINGTON, DC, MAY 2016

The initial research group meeting, hosted by Jennifer Bouey at Georgetown, convened leading U.S. and Chinese scholars across disciplines to develop a shared research agenda at the intersection of global health security and migration. The Chinese experience in addressing the health needs of African migrants was a focus of particular attention.

BEIJING, DECEMBER 2016

The second workshop meeting, hosted by Cheng Fung at Tsinghua University in Beijing, focused on pandemic preparedness in the United States and China and the challenges posed by growing migrant populations in China in particular. Alongside the workshop the group convened a policy consultation with Beijing-area policymakers and other stakeholders on the best mechanisms for identifying, preventing, and addressing health security threats.

GUANGZHOU, JUNE 2017

The research group convened at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou for an exploration of local and regional responses to pandemic threats. Discussion also centered on the global health dimension of the Belt and Road Initiative and intergovernmental collaboration within the G-20.

WASHINGTON, DC, MAY 2018

During their fourth and final meeting at Georgetown, the research group shared findings from their collaborative research and held a public dialogue on global health and migration issues with a wider Georgetown and Washington community.
It is high time for the international community to recognize the moral and financial obligations to global public health and proactively prepare before potential epidemics break out into full blown pandemics. Only in such a preemptive mode of preparedness and collaboration, could we control global infectious diseases in a more effective manner in our ever-increasing magnitude of human migration.

ZHANG LINQI
Tsinghua University

Migration poses one of the most formidable challenges to health systems and their development among national and international governing agencies. Understanding how human mobility affects health is crucial to improving efficiency in health services delivery, achieving health equity for marginalized populations, and preventing the spread of diseases.

JENNIFER BOUEY
Georgetown University

With changing geopolitical environments, global health assistance may become more explicitly tied to diplomatic relationships... It is an exciting, but uncertain time in global health, and China will no doubt contribute to a new paradigm in global health, with impacts on population health, disease spread, foreign policy, trade, and security.

REBECCA KATZ
Georgetown University
Ambassador Douglas Paal shares recollections of the 1989 Tiananmen crisis and his role in managing the aftermath.

Dr. Kai-Fu Lee engages a crowd of over 300 Georgetown students and faculty on the topic of artificial intelligence and the new world order.

Singaporean scholar and diplomat Kishore Mahbubani discusses his new book Has the West Lost It? at Georgetown.

Launched in spring 2018 in collaboration with the Asian Studies Program in the School of Foreign Service, the “China’s New Era” seminar series features Georgetown faculty and other leading academics and policymakers.

“Understanding China’s ‘Hidden Majority’ — The Other 800 Million,” Daniel Wright, president and CEO of Green Point Group and author, March 2018

“International Implications of China’s New Era,” Ryan Hass, David M. Rubenstein Fellow, Brookings Institution, April 2018

“The Russian Dimension in U.S.-China Relations,” Richard Clement, former deputy assistant director for Europe and Eurasia, CIA, October 2018

“‘Reeducation’ in Xinjiang,” James Millward, Professor of History, Georgetown University, February 2019
Research Group on Culture and Society

The past two decades have seen an explosion of happiness research around challenges to human flourishing posed by fast-paced social change in a globalizing world. First convened in spring 2019 by Becky Hsu of Georgetown University in collaboration with Teresa Kuan of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the research group brings together American and Chinese scholars across disciplines to explore how citizens in both societies are pursuing and experiencing happiness, with a focus on changing family structure and intergenerational dynamics.

**Key Research Questions**

- What are the conditions for human flourishing and happiness agreed upon in the United States and China?
- Are there cultural sources that facilitate or prevent the pursuit of the common good in both countries?
- Are there aspects of practical reasoning that need to be addressed in order to advance productive U.S.-China dialogue in these areas?

**Scholars**

Becky Hsu (Convener), Georgetown University
Teresa Kuan (Co-convener), Chinese University of Hong Kong
Richard Madsen, University of California, San Diego
Gonçalo Santos, University of Coimbra
Yan Yunxiang, University of California, Los Angeles
WASHINGTON, DC, MAY 2019

An exploratory workshop in Washington, DC, brought together scholars to examine what we know about how American and Chinese individuals and families seek happiness in contemporary society. Discussion centered on cultural differences within and across both countries, including their implications for new research agendas that address shifting intergenerational dynamics and their implications for personal, family, and social flourishing.

HONG KONG, DECEMBER 2019

The group convened their second meeting on the island to share findings on common challenges that people in the United States and China face as they deal with moral dilemmas, try to lead fulfilling lives, and create good societies.

BECKY HSU
Georgetown University

What defines ‘happiness,’ and how can we attain it? The ways in which people in China ask and answer this universal question tell a lot about the tensions and challenges they face during periods of remarkable political and economic change.

TERESA KUAN
Chinese University of Hong Kong

China’s massive transformation in the reform era has involved not only major shifts in the organization and regulation of economic activity, but also a certain ‘government’ of the human subject, a human subject endowed with the capacity to regulate oneself.
Inaugurated in September 2016, the U.S.-China Student Fellows program features a cohort of 10 to 12 young leaders selected from top U.S. and Chinese colleges and universities. Over the course of an academic year, fellows participate in dialogue through in-person meetings, a web-based platform, and networking opportunities.

Led by Managing Director Dennis Wilder, the program design emphasizes vigorous, substantive discussions both among the fellows and with renowned scholars and prominent policymakers, as well as the deep bonds formed among the Chinese and U.S. fellows in the program.

Aiming to provide a platform for promoting better understanding between future leaders in the two countries, the program challenges student participants to reflect and debate on values, cultures, and critical global issues not only from their own stances, but also from perspectives of the other country.
“We came in with a lot of stereotypes and unwarranted assumptions, poised to initiate strikes or defend our ground. More often than not we attack and defend using conjecture, and hasty generalizations, rather than facts, figures, and logic… When there is understanding, there is trust; when there is trust, the world stands as one.”

- Zhang Yuqian (Tsinghua University, 2016–2017 U.S.–China Student Fellows)

“This year showed me that familiarity doesn’t diminish complexity. These lessons subsequently prepared me to better engage with the ambassadors, trade ministers, and other leaders that we met with by enabling me to contextualize their opinions more broadly rather than trying to reconcile their perspectives with my own preconceived conclusions.”

- Jessie Dalman (Stanford University, 2017–2018 U.S.–China Student Fellows)

“In this simulation, it was a lot of fun to take a different perspective to look at things. I was on the United States side in the third simulation, and it was really meaningful for me to take their perspective and understand their values in order to learn their way of doing things in the global atmosphere.”

- Wang Yunxin (Beijing Foreign Studies University, 2017–2018 U.S.–China Student Fellows)
“I’ve engaged in countless discussions about U.S.-China relations but this is the most frank, open, and widely-ranged one. Interactions among fellows are not only during the two-week intensive discussions and visiting, but also in the Wechat group, on Facebook, and through our monthly email updates.”

– Fan Chang (Tsinghua University, 2018-2019 U.S.-China Student Fellows)

“You can’t ‘teach’ somebody to think differently about others like you can teach them about politics or economics. But it is exactly the lack of empathy that is causing discussions about these more ‘objective’ issues to fall apart.”

– Aaron Baum (Georgetown University, 2018-2019 U.S.-China Student Fellows)

Selected from a highly competitive process, the fellows come from a wide range of disciplines, including international relations, journalism, environmental science, mathematics, engineering, and psychiatry, each contributing to the dynamic dialogues both in-person and online throughout and beyond the year of their participation in the program. Though only in its fourth year, the program has produced four Schwarzman Scholars and one Fulbright scholarship recipient; three fellows were selected as Yenchin Academy Scholars. The program has also sparked new interest in U.S.-China studies from other fellows.

SELECT STUDENT FELLOWS MEETINGS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

- Briefing at the U.S. National Security Council
- Visit to Chinese Embassy and meeting with senior Chinese diplomats, including Ambassador Cui Tiankai
- Briefing with U.S. State Department China desk director
- Attended “A Conversation with John Kerry” event at Georgetown University
- Briefing at Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Roundtable with panel of diplomats at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing
- Briefing at U.S. and Chinese think tanks including the Brookings Institution and the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center
- Cultural and networking activities such as an NBA basketball game, Georgetown football game, and dinner with a Georgetown alumni group in Beijing
## Schools Represented in the Student Fellows Program

- American University
- Beijing Foreign Studies University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Central South University
- Dartmouth College
- Georgetown University
- Harvard University
- New York University-Shanghai
- Peking University
- Pomona College
- Princeton University
- Renmin University of China
- Shandong University
- Stanford University
- Tsinghua University
- U.S. Military Academy
- University of Chicago
- University of International Relations
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Richmond
- University of Washington
- Yale University
- Zhejiang University

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**TOP**

*2018-2019 Student Fellows held a meeting with Counselor Tang Zhiwen at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing*

**CENTER**

*2017-2018 Student Fellows meeting with Special Assistant to the President Matt Pottinger at the National Security Council, Washington, DC*

**BOTTOM**

*2016-2017 Student Fellows visited the White House in Washington, DC*
Since 2017 the initiative has coordinated an annual China study tour for Georgetown graduate students. Over 10 days, Managing Director Dennis Wilder accompanies 10 students to site visits with national and local government officials and leaders from business, society, and the academy. Visits and meetings to date have included the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, China’s Central Military Commission, National Development and Reform Commission, Baidu Corporation, Alibaba Group, Huawei Technologies, Carnegie-Tsinghua Center, and Xiamen University, among others. The program, organized in collaboration with the Hong Kong-based China-United States Exchange Foundation (CUSEF), is designed to give students without strong backgrounds in Chinese studies the opportunity to visit and learn about the country and the challenges it is facing.

“Guiyang represents a grand vision for one of China’s poorer, more rural provinces and an ambitious project which could help millions of Chinese citizens. Touring the Big Data exhibition center made my jaw drop.”—Brody Weinrich (SFS’20)
The initiative and its faculty leaders are important sources of information on global issues of critical importance to U.S.-China relations. Between them, Managing Director Dennis Wilder and Senior Fellow Evan Medeiros have several decades of experience advising U.S. presidents and senior policymakers on China and East Asian policy. Since joining the Georgetown faculty, they remain actively involved in advising senior U.S. officials and engaging in official and informal dialogues with Chinese and other East Asian officials, academics, and business elites. They are also frequently sought out by members of the U.S. and international news media to lend their analytic expertise and policy understanding of the dynamics in U.S.-China relations, the internal political process within China, and China’s role in East Asia and around the globe.

Wilder and Medeiros appear regularly on a wide variety of news media. Wilder is a frequent guest on various in-depth foreign policy programs on CGTN, China’s state-run international television network, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. He also appears frequently on the Fox Business News and Fox News channels in the United States, as well as Voice of America’s Korean and Mandarin-language television service. Wilder and Medeiros have been interviewed on National Public Radio, C-SPAN, and several other major radio broadcast outlets. They are often sought after for comment by the digital and print media including the New York Times, Bloomberg News, Financial Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Politico, the Hill, China Daily, People’s Daily, and the South China Morning Post.

“North Korea has clearly indicated it is not interested in the type of denuclearization the United States needs and requires...(during the Hanoi summit) Kim Jung-un was not prepared to give President Trump the big deal that he thought he was going to get...obviously Trump walked away in Hanoi...The North has suggested recently through the short-range missile launches that they may be inching back toward the provocations cycle...as a way to get the U.S. attention and force the United States back to the table.”

– Evan Medeiros on CNN, May 24, 2019

“China has low expectations of easing the overall strategic competition, but they still believe that Trump as a businessman is capable of making deals with them on issues such as Huawei that can place a floor under the relationship.”

In spring 2019, the initiative expanded its outreach with a new podcast series on U.S.-China relations. Four decades after the normalization of U.S.-China relations, the series captures the incisive and candid reflections of ambassadors, cabinet secretaries, and senior officials whose actions have shaped and are shaping what arguably is the most complex relationship in international diplomacy today. Initiative Senior Research Fellow James Green hosts the series. He has worked for over two decades on U.S.-China relations for the U.S. government and in the private sector. Most recently he served as minister counselor for trade affairs in the Office of the United States Trade Representative at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.
SUSAN THORNTON
Former U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

Working with China is extremely frustrating, time-consuming, and needs to be done. It needs to have resources devoted to it. It’s not going to go on autopilot for sure. The way to work on that relationship other than in it and on it is to work with other countries in the region to have kind of common approaches and to have priority setting and to have, be able to be pushing in, in the same direction with regards to overall policy toward the region.

AMBASSADOR JOHN NEGROPONTE
Former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State

The Chinese put tremendous value on dialogue. I think some people would criticize and say that they think of it as a substitute for a results oriented diplomacy. I'm not sure I agree with that. I think with a country with such a different background than ours, and different perspectives and history, it’s probably good that Americans and Chinese sit down together and make a systematic effort to understand each other better and understand each other’s perspectives.

WENDY CUTLER
Former Deputy U.S. Trade Representative

When I look back at my negotiating career, one of the things that I learned was that according respect across the negotiating table is extremely important. Listening to the concerns of the other countries and just being patient and really trying to problem-solve are all important attributes for dealing with China and other countries as well.

JOSEPH PRUEHER
Former U.S. Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China

Having communications, even if they’re hostile, is very important. I think if people are not communicating, and there’s some subject of tension, even if there’s nothing going on, if you’re not communicating, you’re thinking the worst about the other side. So, communications are very important to keep going, particularly when you have tense relations with another entity of some sort. And this is the case with China too.
DENNIS WILDER
Managing Director and Senior Fellow
Assistant Professor of the Practice, Asian Studies, School of Foreign Service

Wilder served as the U.S. National Security Council’s (NSC) director for China (2004-2005) and then as the NSC special assistant to the president and senior director for East Asian affairs from 2005 to 2009. He also served from 2009 to 2015 as senior editor of the President’s Daily Brief, the worldwide intelligence update produced under auspices of the director of national intelligence. Wilder holds a B.A. from Kalamazoo College and an M.S. in foreign service from Georgetown University.

EVAN MEDEIROS
Penner Family Chair in Asian Studies
Cling Family Distinguished Fellow in U.S.-China Studies

Medeiros served as the Obama administration’s senior director for Asian affairs and special assistant to the president in the National Security Council and led the Asia practice at the Eurasia Group in Washington, DC. He is the author of numerous books and journal articles on a broad range of Asian security issues, including Reluctant Restraint: The Evolution of China’s Nonproliferation Policies and Practices, 1980-2004 (Stanford University Press, 2007). Medeiros holds a Ph.D. in international relations from the London School of Economics and an M.Phil. from the University of Cambridge.

JAMES GREEN
Senior Research Fellow
Host of the U.S.-China Dialogue Podcast

Green has worked for over two decades on U.S.-China relations for the U.S. government and in the private sector. Most recently he served as minister counselor for trade affairs in the Office of the United States Trade Representative at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing from 2013 to 2018.

TUOYA WULAN
Director of Programs

Wulan holds a B.A. in international relations from Renmin University of China, an M.A. from Baylor University, and an MBA from Georgetown’s McDonough School of Business.

LEANN DECKERT
Program Associate

Deckert holds a B.A. in foreign affairs and East Asian studies from the University of Virginia and an L.L.M. in international relations from Xiamen University.
The initiative’s bilingual website features research, student programs, and publications around the five core themes of the initiative, as well as China-related events on campus and in the Washington area. The website also hosts a curated blog written by initiative-affiliated faculty and student fellows on the emergence of globalization and its challenges and on opportunities to promote U.S.-China collaboration for the benefit of the global community.