

LSE Global China PhD Working Group Seminar, 2021

Tuesdays, 5-6:30 pm via Zoom and in-person (CON 7.03)

This seminar is organized by LSE Global China PhD working group. It is for PhD students and early scholars at LSE working on China and global south related studies. It is a forum for discussions and questions on China in development contexts. Researchers from all theoretical backgrounds and methodological traditions are welcome. This seminar will be hosted in hybrid format, via Zoom and in-person at LSE.

If you would like to join the working group and/or attend the seminar, please email Yuezhou Yang (y.yang91@lse.ac.uk). She will send out a Zoom invite link ahead of each session.

This is an open-access research group. Please circulate this flyer in your networks to anyone who may be interested. Please contact us if you would like to present.

Regular Members

Bruno Binetti (IR) b.binetti@lse.ac.uk
The Political Economy of Chinese Infrastructure in Latin America

Felix Brender (IR) f.brender@lse.ac.uk
Sima Zhao's Intentions? Chinese Peacekeeping, Private Security Contractors and Securing Interests, Assets and Citizens in the Sudans

Yuezhou Yang (ID) y.yang91@lse.ac.uk
Property institutions and their explanatory power on Chinese agricultural investment in Tanzania and Zambia

Yunxiong (George) Li (GEOG) Y.Li181@lse.ac.uk
Chinese Outward Foreign Direct Investment, One Belt One Road Initiative

MT 2021

5 Oct 2021 **Yunxiong (George) Li**, Dept of Geography and Environment
Understanding Chinese OFDI using the "Three Internationalization Advantages" framework

19 Oct 2021 **Elisa Gambino**, Dept of IR, Fellow in the International Politics of China
The Internationalisation of Chinese State-Owned Companies in Kenya's Infrastructure Sector

2 Nov 2021 **Bruno Binetti**, Department of IR, PhD candidate
South American Agency in China's Infrastructure Diplomacy

30 Nov 2021 **Jing Zhang**, Development Planning Unit of Bartlett School, UCL

Learning State in the Making the Development of Industrial Park Program in Ethiopia and its Engagements with China

14 Dec 2021 **Hang Zhou**, SOAS
Presentation title TBD

Abstract

5 Oct 2021 **Yunxiong (George) Li**, Dept of Geography and Environment

Understanding Chinese OFDI using the “Three Internationalization Advantages” framework

I develop a “three internationalization advantages” framework to study Chinese OFDI. CMNEs invest abroad not only on the basis of firm-specific advantages (FSA) but also on state-created and network-based advantages which can make up the shortage of FSA. Using this framework, this chapter attempts to critically review the extensive literature in this research field to contribute to our understanding of the strategies and choices made by EMNEs, and particularly CMNEs. The heterogeneity of CMNEs, their diversified OFDI behaviours and evolution trajectories are explained by different combination modes of the three internationalization advantages. This chapter provides a new interpretation of the unique internationalization process of CMNEs: unlike MNEs from developed countries (DMNEs) which have strong and established FSAs over global competitors, Chinese firms need “relative FSA” over domestic competitors to get access to state-created and network-based advantages to internationalize.

19 Oct 2021 **Elisa Gambino**, Dept of IR, Fellow in the International Politics of China

The Internationalisation of Chinese State-Owned Companies in Kenya’s Infrastructure Sector

Currently, over 10000 Chinese-owned companies are operating in Africa, with SOEs leading in both size and revenues, yet the modalities of their internationalisation on the African continent remain puzzling to international observers and policy practitioners alike. In this presentation, I will explore the ‘outward’ journey of Chinese state-owned companies to reflect on emerging patterns of Sino-African engagement through the case study of Kenya’s infrastructure sector. More specifically, I will deploy key concepts in economic geography and political economy to discuss the internationalisation of Chinese state-owned contractors in Africa by focusing on the evolution of state-business relations in China’s political economy, the companies’ growing embeddedness in political and business networks in the context of operation, and Kenyan elites’ construction of legitimacy for the development of mega-infrastructure.

2 Nov 2021 **Bruno Binetti**, Department of IR, PhD candidate

South American agency in China’s infrastructure diplomacy

While China's infrastructure projects abroad are receiving growing attention, especially since the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the agency of recipient countries is frequently overlooked. How do host states of China-led infrastructure projects define and pursue their interests vis-a-vis Chinese corporations and banks? In this presentation I will analyse this topic from the perspective of South American hosts of Chinese infrastructure, and argue that local governments and social actors (especially business interests in the infrastructure sector) play a key role in envisioning and shaping these projects.

30 Nov 2021 **Jing Zhang**, Development Planning Unit of Bartlett School, UCL

Learning State in the Making the Development of Industrial Park Program in Ethiopia and its Engagements with China

Among other African countries, Ethiopia is widely considered as a notable case in the continent to draw lessons and learn from major East Asian economies for latecomer industrialization. From institutionalization of the Japanese Kaizen approach to the establishment of sectoral institutes, science and technology universities in line with the South Korean model, learning from China's industrialization especially taking the "Special Economic Zone (SEZ)" approach becomes increasingly evident in recent years. In this context, my research intends to use a learning lens to investigate the development of industrial park program in Ethiopia and its engagements with China. Through tracing the policy learning process of the Ethiopian state— more specifically the change of different types of ideas and the interplay between actors/ ideas over the evolution of industrial park program, I aim to contribute a better understanding of how ideas, institutions and interests have shaped the policy and politics in the context of African late industrialization. An adapted political settlement framework is mainly applied in my research, combined with theoretical constructs from the discussion on various aspects of policy change.