



XJTLU | SCHOOL OF  
HUMANITIES AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES  
西浦人文社科学院



SCHOOL OF  
HUMANITIES AND  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

## Global challenges in turbulent times: decentering the study of the international

International Conference 27-28 October 2022

Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, Suzhou

Department of International Studies and School of Humanities and Social Sciences



## Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to our conference, *Global challenges in turbulent times: decentering the study of the international*. This conference was made possible thanks to a large group of people. We would like to thank all participants and guest speakers who have committed to this project, and who will contribute to the intellectual exchange in person, or virtually.

We thank the Department of International Studies and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), in particular, Professor Beibei Tang (HSS Dean), Professor Adeline Johns-Putra (HSS Director of Research), and Dr. Alessandra Cappelletti (Head of Department, International Studies), for supporting the conference.

A special thanks to Sichun Li (MA IBGA student) that has supported the Organizing Committee in overseeing the conference's organization with her constant dedication, and attention to detail; our gratitude also goes to our students volunteering during the two-days.

We would also like to thank our colleagues in the administration team, Monica Yang, Qiushi Liu, Xiaomeng Tong, Yixuan Zhang and Ying Jiang for their day-to-day organizational support.

We wish you a wonderful experience  
Chair of the Organizing Committee  
Dr. Debora Malito

## The Organizing and Advisory Committee

Dr Tabe Bergman, Department of Media and Communication, XJTU

Dr Ceren Ergenc, Department of China Studies, XJTU

Dr Evangelos Fanoulis, University of Galway

Dr Dimitris Kitis, Department of Applied Linguistics, XJTU

Dr Yuexi Liu, Department of Literature, XJTU

Dr Debora Malito, Department of International Studies, XJTU

Dr Dragan Pavlicevic, Department of China Studies, XJTU

Dr Ariel Shangguan, Department of International Studies, XJTU

## Conference themes

“The world is closed” – has been the leitmotif of the COVID-19 pandemic. The world we were familiar with has become a more unexpected and unpredictable place, entering a temporally undefined lock-down, limiting its inherent outreach and becoming more localised and regionalised. The world faces today significant global challenges such as power shifts in the international system, climate change, terrorism, healthcare, justice, war, food and human security to mention but a few. Understanding these challenges, especially during rapid instances of transformation and turbulence requires both epistemic and ontological rethinking. For the scholarship interested into the research and teaching of 21st-century global challenges, a better understanding of the world depends also recognising epistemic unbalances and injustices put forward by hegemonic systems of knowledge production. Expanding the scope and instruments of analysis in the way we teach and research the international is impelled by changes in the real world. In the context of uncertainty and crisis of the liberal international order, emerging powers contest the centrality of existing configurations of powers, norms, and institutions. At the same time, systems of belief and knowledge production anchored to pre-existing systems of world hegemony are increasingly questioned. Yet, how do we research and teach the ‘international’ and global challenges? How does an interdisciplinary outlook by contributors from around the globe enable our understanding of these challenges? How are changes, continuities and paradoxes defining “the international” studied, imagined, constructed, and mutually produced? To study global dynamics, we inherently need to place the study of global challenges in context and perspective, as unequal access to power, educational opportunities and funding transform how knowledge is constituted in the first place.

The conference aims to collect both theoretical and empirical studies that contribute to developing a better understanding of contemporary global challenges and the study of the ‘international’.

# Programme

## Thursday 27 October

**11.00 Welcome and Opening, Room IA121**

**Zoom link room 121**

---

Debora Malito, Tabe Bergman, Organizing Committee

Alessandra Cappelletti, Associate Professor and Head of Department, International Studies, XJTLU

Beibei Tang, Professor and Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, XJTLU

**11.15- 12.30 Room IA121**

**Zoom link room 121**

---

**Plenary Session: On the Future of Cooperation in a Challenging World**

**Chairs:** Debora Malito, Dragan Pavlicevic, XJTLU

**Speakers:**

Liping Xia, Professor, School of Political Science & International Relations, Tongji University

You Ji, Professor, Department of International Studies, XJTLU

**12.30-14.00 Lunch break**

# Programme

## Thursday 27 October

**14.00-15.30 Room IA125**

**Zoom link room 125**

**Panel 1 – Global and Regional (In)Securities**

**Chair: Ceren Ergenc, XJTLU**

---

“Japan as an International Power to Join the PKO”, Yuansheng Li, Osaka University

“Deconstructing Hegemony in Regional Security Governance and the Theorisation Dilemma”, Ayodele S. Owolabi, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

**14.00-15.30 Room IA123**

**Zoom link room 123**

**Panel 2– China's Economy and its Global Impact**

**Chair: Weibke Rabe, XJTLU**

---

“A Crowded Passage to the Chinese Market: U.S.-China Computer Trade and Western Competition, 1969-1976”, Bingyi Gong, Osaka University

“China's Way towards Decarbonization: Unrealistic Promise or a Credible Commitment?”, Francesco Macheda, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

“Liquidity Regimes and the Global Financial System - The Case of China”, Robert Pauls, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

“The Kuznetsian Moment Appears to be Over: Patterns of Reoccurring Income Inequality in China”, Jan-Niclas F Schubert, Fudan University

# Programme

## Thursday 27 October

**14.00-15.30 Room IA121**

**Zoom link room 121**

**Panel 3 – Communication, Media, and Education**

**Chair: Tabe Bergman, XJTLU**

---

“Global Media Divergence: Comparing Media Systems in the Digital Epoch”, Leiyuan Tian, Duke Kunshan University

“Being Chinese Online – Discursive (Re)production of Internet-Mediated Chinese National Identity”, Zhiwei Wang, University of Edinburgh

“Investigating the Influence of Teaching Women-themed Korean Cinema on Students' Concept of Gender Equality Cognition in a Beijing University college”, Jialu Chu, University of Science and Technology Beijing, Tianjin College

**15.30-16.00 Coffee break**

**16.00-17.30 Room IA121**

**Zoom link room 121**

---

**Plenary Session: Global Conflicts and Information**

**Chairs:** Tabe Bergman, XJTLU

**Speakers:**

Piers Robinson, Co-Director Organisation for Propaganda Studies, Bristol, and founder of the Working Group on Syria, Propaganda and Media

Kai Wang, Assistant Professor, Shanghai International Studies University

**17.30 Dinner, East Hall, IA Building ground floor**

# Friday 28 October

**09.20-10.30 Room IA121**

**Zoom link room 121**

**Plenary Session on Climate Change**

**Chairs: Ariel Shangguang, Debora Malito, XJTLU**

---

**Keynote speakers:**

Adeline Johns-Putra, Professor of Literature, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

Jiangli Wang, Associate Professor of International Politics, Zhejiang University

**10.30-11.00 Coffee break**

**11.00-12.30 Room IA121**

**Zoom link room 121**

**Panel 4 – Redefining the International**

**Chair: Debora Malito, XJTLU**

---

“The Anglosphere as an Area Studies Subject: A step toward Reinforcing or Challenging Anglocentrism in Global International Relations?”, Sibe Sun, and Weiqing Song, University of Macau

“South-South Cooperation between the Millstones of 'the International': A Critical Realist Approach to Close the Gap”, Ivy Ye, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen

“Reconstructing and Interrogating Ecological Modernisation in Global Climate Governance”, Sidan Wang, China Foreign Affairs University

“Liberal International Order Reinvestigating, Repositioning, and Redefining”, Lei Tang, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, and Hangbo Li, Hong Kong Baptist University

**Friday 28 October**

**11.00-12.30 Room IA125**

**Zoom link room 125**

**Panel 5- Redefining the International**

**Chair: Dimitris Kitis, XJTLU**

“An Ethical Response to the Challenge of Kidnapping in Ogba Land, Rivers State, Nigeria”, Chibor Messiah Chibor, Espam Formation University

“Beyond East Asian Exceptionalism: An Epistemic Turn from Eurocentric Theoretical Interpretations on East Asian Ontology”, Mengdie Zhou, and Weiqing Song, University of Macau

“Sinology and China Studies: Who’s Studying Whom and What’s The Problem with That?”, Tung-Yi Kho, Lingnan University

**12.30-14.00 Lunch break**

**14.00-15.30 Room IA123**

**Zoom link room 123**

**Panel 6 – Epistemologies of the International**

**Chair: Ariel Shangguan, XJTLU**

“The Missing Conceptual History of the ‘International’”, Zizhu Wang, University of Sussex

“Challenges in Teaching International Politics and China-related Topics in UK Universities”, Chi Zhang, University of St Andrews, Xuechen Chen, New College of the Humanities London at Northeastern University, and Joe Lin, University of Bristol

“Rethinking Regionalism in New International Realm: A Conceptual, Methodological and Theoretical Inquiry”, Burcu Ermeydan, independent researcher

“Paradoxes of Formal Racial Equality – Self-Undermining Feedback Effects of Formal Racial Equality in a Context of Racial Hierarchy”, Shuting Ling, University of Zurich

“Epistemic Communities and Instrument Constituencies’ Roles in the Dissemination of Private Pensions and Conditional Cash Transfer Models”, Maria Clara Oliveira, University of Coimbra

**Friday 28 October**

**14.00-15.30 Room IA125**

**Zoom link room 125**

**Panel 7 - World Politics in turbulent times**

**Chair: Evans Fanoulis, University of Galway**

“China’s Bid for International Leadership in Central and Eastern Europe: Role Conflict and Policy Responses”, Rudolf Fürst, Institute of International Relations, and Weiqing Song, University of Macau

“Chinese Participation in Development under the African Agency and the Influence of the West: The case of Konza Technopolis”, Yabo Wu, Maastricht University

“Chinese Transnational Corporations in the Ukraine Crisis: Risk Perception and Mitigation”, Shaohua Yan, Fudan University

“Classical Realism, Status, and Emotions: Understanding the Implications of the Canada-Saudi Arabia Dispute for Global Politics”, Grant Dawson, University of Nottingham Ningbo

**15.30-16.00 Coffee break**

**16.00-17.15 Room IA121**

**Zoom link room 121**

**Concluding Plenary: How Do We Rethink the International?**

**Chairs:** Debora Malito, Ceren Ergenc, XJTLU; Evans Fanoulis, University of Galway

**Keynote speaker:**

Karen Smith, Senior Lecturer, Leiden University