



Young China Watchers (YCW) – Lau China Institute China Conference 2020

The 2020s: China's decade?

#YCWChina2020

November 7, 2020
10:00 – 16:30 GMT



YOUNG
CHINA
WATCHERS



YOUNG
CHINA
WATCHERS

The 4th Young China Watchers (YCW) – Lau China Institute China Conference **The 2020s: China's decade?**

Following on from the success of our last three conferences,¹ YCW and the Lau China Institute at King's College London invite you to join an esteemed array of speakers to examine China's past, present and future impact on world affairs.

This year's Conference coincides with the advent of the twenties and unprecedented, destabilising shifts around the world. These include not only the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting global economic downturn, but also tech security fallouts; environmental catastrophes; Black Lives Matter; and struggles between the left- and right-leaning movements/governments.

In response to the often-understated complexity of the role played by China in those turning points, as well as the rise of pressing questions on how the world envisions a new, post-COVID "normal", this year's Conference theme is: **"The 2020s: China's decade?"**.

As part of a half-day programme, YCW and King's College Lau China Institute are bringing together both seasoned China experts and up-and-coming thinkers to explore this theme through three complementary, interlocking perspectives. These are:

Panel 1: Geopolitics and journalism

- India-China: the other great power rivalry?

Panel 2: Tech ventures in the 2020s

- China and the shifting global tech, business and finance landscape

Panel 3: Global narratives in the 2020s

- China's power over popular culture at home and abroad

YCW have sourced speakers from the UK and beyond, and are delighted to welcome this year's keynote speakers:

- **Cindy Yu** (Broadcast Editor, *The Spectator*; Host, Chinese Whispers Podcast);
- **Dr Yukon Huang** (former Country Director for China, World Bank; Senior Fellow, Carnegie Asia Program).

Due to COVID-19 restrictions globally, this conference will take place via Zoom.

Please join the conversation on social media using the hashtag: **#YCWChina2020**

Please note: the conference is being recorded and will be uploaded as a webinar.

¹ For further information, see our previous conference summaries: [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#).



YOUNG
CHINA
WATCHERS

Organisers



The Lau China Institute, Kings College London

The Lau China Institute is a multi-disciplinary centre for the study of all aspects of China and with partners across Greater China. It undertakes three core functions:

High quality teaching through masters and doctoral programmes: The Institute currently has almost forty students in both categories, undertaking research in areas from China's globalisation to its political economy, culture, history and scientific traditions.

Extensive outreach through working in partnership with organisations in the business, government, media and public realms. King's sits at the heart of a global city and next to an internationally important financial centre. Through its events, publications, policy seminars and other activities, the Lau China Institute seeks to engage with these communities and their expanding interests in China, and actively participates in the public debates on China-related issues within the UK and globally.

Credible and high impact research: The Lau Institute seeks to support through visiting researchers, academic partnerships in China as well as publication and dissemination of clear, insightful and high-quality research. It has a particular interest in promoting innovative, multi-discipline research and research that can be related to policy outcomes.

The Lau China Institute aspires to be the strategic body at the heart of King's College London's multi-faceted links with institutions, individuals and issues across Greater China. It aims to be a global centre, at the global university, in a global city, on a global issue.



YOUNG
CHINA
WATCHERS

Young China Watchers

Young China Watchers (YCW) is a dynamic group of China - focused young professionals. Through regular roundtables and talks with senior figures in academic, policy and business communities, it provides a chance for engaged individuals to interact and discuss the most pressing issues emerging from China today. Through its fast-growing global network, the organisation seeks to foster the next generation of China-focused thought-leaders.



YCW operates on an open membership policy, actively attracting all China-engaged, knowledgeable and policy-interested individuals. Its mission is to nurture a new community of people focused on and alert to China's growing importance in international affairs.

Expanding global network: YCW was first established in Beijing in the spring of 2010 and has steadily expanded its network to ten chapters, including Shanghai, Hong Kong, London, New York, Singapore, Brussels, San Francisco, Washington and Berlin with over 4,000 members globally.

YCW carries out this ambitious agenda through both its **Global Speaker Series and Dinner Discussions**, which aim to bring together local communities of members with expert speakers in an informal setting.

Engaging YCW's local communities: In addition to fostering local YCW communities through its city chapters, YCW's Global Editorial Team interviews leading experts and past YCW speakers on leading China-related issues as well as featuring outstanding young professionals working on China across all topics and disciplines.

YCW's **Mentorship Programmes** in Beijing and London link "YCWers" as mentors to young professionals and graduate students at leading universities. Its annual **Pulse Survey** examines the views of the global community of young professionals engaged in China. YCW also runs an Annual **Essay Competition** in partnership with King's College London that aims to discover bright young writers, addressing topics related to China.

Conference Agenda

10:00 - Welcome remarks from **Sue Anne Tay** (YCW Global Director) and **Prof Kerry Brown** (Director of the Lau China Institute, King's College London)

10:15 - **Opening Keynote**

Cindy Yu (Broadcast Editor, *The Spectator*; Host, Chinese Whispers Podcast)

Moderator: **Cameron Hunter** (YCW London Director)

11:00 - Break

11:30 - Panel 1: **Geopolitics and journalism – India-China: the other great power rivalry?**

- **Shashank Joshi** (Defence Editor, *The Economist*)
 - **Ananth Krishnan** (China Correspondent, *The Hindu*)
 - **Ruiyao Luo** (Independent reporter)
- Moderator:* **Ankur Shah** (YCW London Director)

12:30 - Panel 2: **Tech ventures in the 2020s – China and the shifting global tech, business and finance landscape**

- **Thomas Tsao** (Co-founder, Gobi Partners)
 - **Chris Schroeder** (Tech investor and entrepreneur; former CEO)
 - **Bulelani Jili** (PhD Candidate, Harvard University; Researcher, Oxford University)
- Moderator:* **Di Fu** (YCW London Director)

13:30 - Break

14:30 - Panel 3: **Global narratives in the 2020s – China's power over popular culture at home and abroad**

- **Becky Davis** (China Bureau Chief, *Variety Magazine*)
 - **Runako Celina** (Co-founder, Black Livity China)
 - **Aladin Farré** (Host, SupChina "Middle Earth" Podcast)
- Moderator:* **Gary Izunwa** (Mobility Manager, British Council)
Panel Lead: **Sarah Montgomery** (YCW London Director)

15:30 - **Closing Keynote**

Dr Yukon Huang (former Country Director for China, World Bank; Senior Fellow, Carnegie Asia Program)

Moderator: **Michael Yip** (YCW London Head)

16:30 – Closing remarks from **Michael Yip** (YCW London Head)

Biographies

YCW and Lau China Institute Leadership Team



Sue Anne Tay, YCW Global Director; Head of Strategy & Planning, HSBC Singapore

Sue Anne Tay is Global Director of YCW. She is the Head of Strategy & Planning for HSBC in Singapore and previously Director for China and RMB Internationalisation for HSBC Group in London. She is also a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader. Sue Anne has created *Shanghai Street Stories*, a visual documentary of the city's heritage architecture and urbanisation trends.



Professor Kerry Brown, Professor of Chinese Studies and Director, Lau China Institute, King's College London

Kerry Brown is Professor of Chinese Studies and Director of the Lau China Institute at King's College, London. He is an Associate of the Asia Pacific Programme at Chatham House, London, an adjunct of the Australia New Zealand School of Government in Melbourne, and the co-editor of the *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*, run from the German Institute for Global Affairs in Hamburg. He is President-Elect of the Kent Archaeological Society.

From 2012 to 2015 he was Professor of Chinese Politics and Director of the China Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, Australia. Prior to this he worked at Chatham House from 2006 to 2012, as Senior Fellow and then Head of the Asia Programme. From 1998 to 2005 he worked at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, as First Secretary at the British Embassy in Beijing, and then as Head of the Indonesia, Philippine and East Timor Section. He lived in the Inner Mongolia region of China from 1994 to 1996. He has a Master of Arts from Cambridge University, a Post Graduate Diploma in Mandarin Chinese (Distinction) from Thames Valley University, London, and a Ph D in Chinese politics and language from Leeds University.

Professor Brown directed the Europe China Research and Advice Network (ECRAN) giving policy advice to the European External Action Service between 2011 and 2014. He is the author of almost 20 books on modern Chinese politics, and has written for every major international news outlet, and been interviewed by every major news channel on issues relating to contemporary China.

Keynote Speakers



Cindy Yu, Broadcast Editor and China reporter at *The Spectator*, host of *The Spectator's* Chinese Whispers podcast

Cindy Yu is a China reporter and broadcast editor at *The Spectator*, and the host of their Chinese Whispers podcast. She was born and raised in Nanjing, China, until the age of 10. She read politics, philosophy, and economics at the University of Oxford, where she also read for a master of science in contemporary Chinese studies. Her research specialised on Chinese political propaganda and modern youth opinion. She lived and worked in Hong Kong for five weeks in the summer of 2015. She has written extensively about Chinese society – from marriage to education – and politics for *The Spectator*. She is a frequent commentator on China issues for RTE and BBC World Service and World TV. Follow Cindy on Twitter: @CindyXiaodanYu



Dr Yukon Huang, Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; former Country Director for China, World Bank

Yukon Huang is a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington D.C. and a noted expert on China's economy and its regional and global impact. He was formerly the World Bank's Country Director for China. He is an advisor to the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and various governments and corporations.

Dr. Huang has published widely on US-China economic and foreign policy issues. His articles are seen frequently in the *New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Foreign Affairs* and *Foreign Policy*. His latest book is *Cracking the China Conundrum: Why Conventional Economic Wisdom Is Wrong* (Oxford University Press). He has a PhD in economics from Princeton University and a BA from Yale University.

Panellists

Geopolitics and journalism



Shashank Joshi, Defence Editor, *The Economist*

Shashank Joshi is *The Economist's* defence editor. Prior to joining *The Economist* in 2018, he served as Senior Research Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and Research Associate at Oxford University's Changing Character of War Programme. He has published books on Iran's nuclear programme and India's armed forces, written for a wide range of newspapers and journals, and appeared regularly on radio and television. He holds degrees from Cambridge and Harvard, where he served as a Kennedy Scholar from Britain to the United States.



Ananth Krishnan, China Correspondent, *The Hindu*

Ananth Krishnan is *The Hindu's* China Correspondent. Previously, he was a fellow at the Brookings Institution India Center, where his research focus was India-China economic relations. Before that, Krishnan was based in Beijing for nine years as the China correspondent for *The Hindu* newspaper and later as the China Bureau Chief for the India Today Group. Ananth's new book, *India's China Challenge*, tells the complex story of what China's rise means for India.



Ruiyao Luo, Independent Reporter

Ruiyao Luo is an independent reporter based in Bangalore, India. She has published her work in Chinese news platforms like *Tencent News*, *Phoenix Weekly*, *SCMP* and *The Initium Media*. Ruiyao used to track Chinese investment in India, with a focus on the Indian start-up ecosystem when she was working for *The Passage*. More recently, she has focused on social issues and India's domestic politics, as she believes it is underreported in China, including farmers' protests, challenges facing migrant workers, oppression of Dalits and the India-China standoff.

Tech ventures in the 2020s



Chris Schroeder, Global Tech Investor and Entrepreneur

Christopher M. Schroeder is a leading global tech investor and former CEO/founder and tech media entrepreneur of companies such as washingtonpost.com and healthcentral.com. Among his investment funds he co-founded Next Billion Ventures focused on fin-tech, business to business and marketplace tech platforms in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Schroeder speaks around the world, has written regularly on global economics, entrepreneurship and innovation for *The Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Fortune* among others and regularly appears on CNN and CNBC. He wrote the bestseller *Startup Rising: The Entrepreneurial Revolution Remaking the Middle East*.

Schroeder served in the White House of President George H. W. Bush, and on Secretary of State James A. Baker's staff with then Under Secretary (and recent President of the World Bank) Robert Zoellick. He obtained his Bachelor's degree from Harvard College majoring in Diplomatic History with a minor in Ancient History and his MBA from Harvard Business School. Follow him on Twitter, and on LinkedIn where he was one of the first 50 Influencers.



Thomas Tsao, Co-founder, Gobi Partners

Thomas G. Tsao co-founded Gobi Partners in 2002. Gobi's regional platform supports entrepreneurs from the early to growth stage, and has expanded to 11 offices across Asia.

In China, Tom and his partners were first-round investors into Airwallex, Dianwoda, Teambition, Tuniu and UR. He was named on the Forbes List of China's Top VCs from 2013 - 2017. For two years, he served as CEO for DMG and created the world's first subway soap opera starring Huang Xiaoming. Tom also leads the team that manages the Alibaba Hong Kong Entrepreneurs Fund, which has invested in companies like AutoX, DayDayCook, GoGoX, Prenetics and WeLab.

In 2015, Tom relocated to Kuala Lumpur where he set up several funds with MAVCAP, Malaysia's largest VC firm. Gobi has invested in over 60 companies in Southeast Asia, including Aerodyne, Carsome, EasyParcel, iStoreiSend and Kumu. Tom is now building Gobi's TaqwaTech investment practice focused on innovative startups serving Muslim communities such as UmrahMe.

Tom graduated from Harvard University with a BA in Economics and was the inspiration for Seinfeld's 'Movie Phone' episode. In 2006, he founded SEO China, a non-profit organization, which has provided more than 200 internships for underserved college students. He

also serves as Chair of the Presidential Scholars Foundation, which cultivates, connects, and celebrates U.S. Presidential Scholars (161 of the nation's top high school seniors who are selected annually and honored by the White House).



Bulelani Jili, Researcher, Harvard University

Bulelani Jili is a Ph.D. student with Harvard's African and African American studies department. His research interests include Africa-China relations, Cybersecurity, ICT development, African Political Economy, Internet Policy, and Privacy Law. He is also conducting research with the China, Law, Development project at Oxford University, funded by the European Research Council. He has also advised and supported the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Human Rights Initiative at large, which investigates the spread of facial recognition technology in Africa. His recent paper, Chinese surveillance tools in Africa, particularly discerns the exportation of Chinese surveillance technology in Africa. He has also written about the Chinese guiding cases system (Peking University Law Journal, 2019) with Guo Li, Professor of Law and Vice Dean at Peking University Law School.

Global narratives in the 2020s



Runako Celina, Co-founder, Black Livity China

Runako Celina is the co-founder of Black Livity China, a platform which documents the experiences of Africans and people of African descent in China and in relation to China. She holds an MA in International Politics and African Studies from Peking University, sitting on the inaugural committee for the Peking University Africa Think Tank and working closely with Peking University Africa Think Tank during her studies. She spent two years working for Star Times, one of China's largest Digital TV platforms broadcasting in African countries and currently lives and works in Beijing.



Becky Davis, China Bureau Chief, *Variety*

Rebecca Davis is *Variety's* China Bureau Chief, establishing the magazine's first permanent outpost in the country in 2018. Fluent in Mandarin and French, she has a decade of experience in China, including stints at Agence France-Presse, *Le Monde*, and the *New York Times*. Her breaking news reporting received a 2019 merit award from the Human Rights Press Awards. Davis covers all aspects of China's entertainment industry, and has a special interest in the intersection between culture and politics in authoritarian systems.



Aladin Farré, Host, Middle Earth podcast

Aladin Farré is a French factual content producer, based in Beijing. His podcast on SupChina focuses on China's cultural market, and comprises interviews with over 100 key figures in China's cultural industry.



Gary Izunwa, Manager, Outward Mobility, British Council

Gary Izunwa is Manager of Outward Mobility at the British Council in Beijing. He works on the flagship Generation UK campaign which provides funded opportunities to those who would not normally have access or the financial means to undertake an overseas internship or study programme. Prior to the British Council, he worked at LinkedIn where he joined as an Associate on the Business Leadership Programme. Gary is passionate about social mobility and building equality of opportunity for all. For his work in promoting diversity and inclusion, he was recognised as an Ethnic Minority Future Leader by the Financial Times. Gary enjoys travelling, listening to podcasts and going to the gym. He holds a BA in Management Studies with Politics from the University of Leicester.

Team



Michael Yip FRSA, YCW London Head; Yenching Scholar, Peking University

Michael Yip FRSA is the Head of YCW in London. He is also a Yenching Scholar at Peking University, where he researches how legal systems are shaping and being shaped by the Belt and Road Initiative. Previously, he was a British civil servant, covering portfolios relating to international trade, infrastructure and banking during Brexit and COVID-19. Having developed grassroots community campaigns to increase British East Asian representation within the UK Parliament, Michael was awarded Fellowships by the Royal Society of Arts and the Royal Commonwealth Society. He is also a UK Ambassador for One Young World. Michael has a background in international politics (BA, Warwick) and English commercial law.



Sarah Montgomery, YCW London Director; China Projects and Sales, Everledger

Sarah Montgomery is Director of YCW London. Sarah works at Everledger, executing the technology company's expansion into China. Through studying and working in China, Sarah has developed a deep interest in the intersection of China, sustainability and technology which she is pursuing through her work at Everledger, which uses blockchain, AI and IoT to build more trust and transparency in global supply chains. Sarah studied Chinese, History of Art and Business at Durham University. She has obtained HSK Level 6, previously studied at Peking University and as a Huayu Enrichment Scholar at National Taiwan University.



Di Fu, YCW London Director; Investment Executive, CDC Group

Di Fu is Director of YCW London. She is an Investment Executive at CDC Group, UK's development finance institution. She focuses on investing in private equity and venture capital funds across South Asia and Africa to build private markets and generate positive long-term socio-economic impact. Prior to CDC, she was a macroeconomic research analyst covering Latin America at Credit Suisse. Originally from Shanghai, Di has lived and worked in New York City, Dakar, Paris, and London and travelled extensively across Latin America, South Asia, and Africa. She has obtained her M.A. in International Development from Sciences Po, Paris and her Bachelor's degree in Applied Mathematics with minors in Economics and Hispanic Studies from Columbia University.



Ankur Shah, YCW London Director

Ankur Shah is Director of YCW London. He studied Chinese and Russian at the University of Edinburgh, before working for the UNESCO Silk Roads Programme in Paris and on the Russia desk of a political risk consultancy in London. Ankur was previously a Yenching Scholar at Peking University and a National Geographic Young Explorer. He has written for The Economist, Foreign Policy, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies and others.



Cameron Hunter, YCW London Director; Civil Servant, Great-Britain China Centre and All Party Parliamentary China Group

Cameron Hunter is Director of YCW London. He currently works at the Great Britain China Centre (GBCC) managing high-level political dialogues between the UK and China. This complements his role as coordinator of the All Party Parliamentary China Group (APPCG). Prior to this, Cameron spent three years as a global mobility adviser at the University of Sydney and two years as a board director for United Nations Youth Australia. He has a BA (Lang) in Chinese Studies from the University of Sydney and master's degrees from Renmin University of China and King's College London.



Frederick Ladbury, YCW London Director of Operations; Policy Analyst, Bank of England

Frederick Ladbury is Director of Operations for YCW London. He is a Policy Analyst at the Bank of England, focused on foreign exchange and Chinese markets. Previously he worked at New York-based FX fintech firm. A native French and English speaker, he lived in Beijing 2013-2014. He holds master's degrees in government from Peking University and from the London School of Economics and a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the University of Oxford.



Sam Colombie, YCW Head Editor

Sam Colombie is a digital production journalist with a master's degree in China Studies. Sam lives in Hong Kong, where he produces content on Hong Kong-China relations and environmental policy.



Emily Riddell, YCW Global Editorial Team

Emily Riddell is a member of the YCW Global Editorial Team. She is a Marketing Executive at digital marketing agency Qumin whose mission is to “open the world to China”. She edits their not-for-profit online publication about China, Dao Insights. Emily studied Chinese & History at the University of Edinburgh and has lived in Chengdu and Taipei. She has also worked in several youth leadership roles.