



**Young China Watchers (YCW) –
Lau China Institute China
Conference 2021**

**China, Risen: Adjusting to a
new status quo**

#YCWChina2021

November 13, 2021
10:15 – 16:15 GMT



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The 5th Young China Watchers (YCW) – Lau China Institute China Conference

China, Risen: Adjusting to a new status quo

This year, we frame our fifth conference¹ around the reality that the world is adjusting to a new China.

Despite the pandemic and tightened borders, China has expanded its global reach, becoming a pervasive influence in so many aspects of life and a critical consideration for policy makers around the world. As a result, seismic recalibrations in bilateral relationships have taken place, forcing countries to think about China in new ways and with new terms of engagement. Zhongnanhai's new strategies in diplomacy, political economy and technological self-sufficiency have revealed unforeseen challenges, prompting waves of fresh analysis from China Watchers worldwide.

This year, we hone in on three fields of China nexuses: in the Indo-Pacific, in low carbon technologies and in financing a sustainable Belt and Road. We also elevate the findings of this year's winning entry for the YCW-KCL Essay Competition on curbing deforestation. Finally, we unveil results from the YCW Pulse Survey, which tracks global attitudes on China.

Panel 1: Low-Carbon Technologies

- The Global Battery Race: What's Next?

Panel 2: China, Capital & SDGs

- Financing a Sustainable Belt and Road: What's the State of Play?

Panel 3: Regional Security

- A Securitised Indo-Pacific: Implications for China

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

- **Brian Wong** (Founding Editor-in-Chief, Oxford Political Review).

Due to the ongoing pandemic, this conference will take place via Zoom.

Please join the conversation on social media using the hashtag: #YCWChina2021

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

¹ For information on prior conferences, see our conference summaries: [2017](#), [2018](#), [2019](#). You can view recordings from our conference in [2020](#).



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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 (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

10:15 - Welcome remarks from **Michael Yip** (Co-Head, YCW London) and **Professor Kerry Brown** (Director of Lau China Institute, King's College London)

10:30 - Opening Keynote Address

Brian Wong (Founding Editor-in-Chief, Oxford Political Review)
Moderator: Michael Yip (Co-Head, YCW London)

11:15 - Break

11:30 - Panel 1: **Low-Carbon Technologies – The Global Battery Race: What's Next?**

- **Summer Chen** (Senior Climate Change Consultant, ERM)
 - **Tu Le** (Managing Director, Sino Auto Insights)
 - **Henry Sanderson** (Executive Editor, Benchmark Mineral Intelligence)
 - **Chang Che** (Business Editor, SupChina)
- Moderator: Sarah Montgomery* (Co-Head, YCW London)

12:30 - Panel 2: **China, Capital & SDGs – Financing a Sustainable Belt and Road: What's the State of Play?**

- **Eugenia Gusilov** (Founding Director, Romania Energy Center)
 - **Rastraraj Bhandari** (Senior Research Fellow, Geopolitics & Ecology of Himalayan Water Initiative)
 - **Yingzhi (Sarah) Tang** (Green Belt and Road Researcher, International Institute of Green Finance)
- Moderator: Michael Yip* (Co-Head, YCW London)

13:30 - Lunch

14:00 – Roundup 1: **Attitudes on China –2021 YCW Pulse Survey Results**

- **Jordyn Dahl** (Senior News Editor, LinkedIn News; YCW Head of Communications)
- **Insa Ewert** (EU Development Cooperation Professional; YCW Social Media Editor)

14:30 – Roundup 2: **Curbing Deforestation – Winner's Remarks: YCW-KCL Essay Competition**

- **John Dodsworth** (Senior Programme Advisor, WWF UK)

15:00 - Panel 3: **Regional Security – A Securitised Indo-Pacific: Implications for China**

- **Raffaello Pantucci** (Senior Associate Fellow, RUSI; Global Director, YCW)
 - **Andrew Chubb** (British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow)
- Moderator: Cameron Hunter* (Director, YCW London)

16:00 – **Reflections and Close – On Adjusting to the New Status Quo**

- **Sandile Dlamine** (2019 Yenching Scholar; start-up founder)
- **Michael Yip** (Co-Head, YCW London)

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, 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 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 Speaker

Brian Wong, Founding Editor-in-Chief, Oxford Political Review



Brian Wong is a Rhodes Scholar and DPhil in Politics candidate at Balliol College, Oxford. They are the Founding Editor-in-Chief of Oxford Political Review and a columnist for the Hong Kong Economic Journal. Their writings - intersecting Chinese foreign policy, contemporary political and moral philosophy, and the international relations of small and medium-sized states - have appeared in publications such as Foreign Policy, TIME, the Diplomat, US-China Perception Monitor, Fortune, SCMP, Nikkei Asia, Foreign Policy, amongst others.

As a Founding Fellow of Governance Partners Yangon, Brian also serves as the Head of Speakers and Asia Lead for Polemix, a new app where users engage in critical debate over current issues. Spending much of his time in the year hovering between Hong Kong - where they work as a policy wonk across multiple think-tanks they helped co-found - and Britain, Brian most recently published Metamorphosis - a compendium of their Chinese writings and interviews (in English, Mandarin, and Cantonese) with politicians and academics straddling the US-China divide.

Panellists

Low-carbon Technologies

Summer Chen, Senior Climate Change Consultant, ERM



Summer works for ERM as Senior Climate Change Consultant, supporting companies at all stages of their decarbonisation journey, from developing a net zero strategy, implementing energy efficiency or reduction measures, to deploying low-carbon technologies, repurposing (or retiring) fossil fuel assets and managing related environmental liabilities.

Before that, Summer worked as the Head of Energy and Environment (East China) for the UK Foreign Commonwealth Office based in British Consulate-General Shanghai. She led a team to oversee the delivery of projects to support regional low carbon economy transition. She acquires expertise in climate and energy policy and depth knowledge around power and renewables, oil and gas as well as emerging clean technologies such as hydrogen, CCUS.

Summer is passionate about promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, and was selected to be the 2021 Impact Champion by Women in Renewables Asia.

Tu Le, Managing Director, Sino Auto Insights



Tu Le is Managing Director at Sino Auto Insights (SAI), a Beijing based management consultancy that specializes in the mobility sector. In that capacity he authors the weekly SAI Newsletter, a round-up and analysis of the most important news on the electric vehicle, autonomous vehicle and mobility sectors. Tu Le is also Co-Host of the weekly “EVs & More” podcast.

Tu Le is globally recognized as a subject matter expert in the electric vehicle, autonomous vehicle and mobility sectors, and provided commentary through: Fortune, Le Monde, The Atlantic, Business Insider, CNN, Deal Street Asia, WSJ, Financial Times, The Economist and CNBC.

Henry Sanderson, Executive Editor, Benchmark Mineral Intelligence



Henry Sanderson is Executive Editor of the Benchmark Membership division at Benchmark Mineral Intelligence, where he is leading the expansion of their editorial team and creation of content that doubles down on their leading position in the lithium ion battery and electric vehicle supply chain. He previously served for over seven years as Commodities Correspondent at the Financial Times, with a focus on the impact of the electric car and renewable energy. Henry has spent time in China, the DRC and Chile, writing features and making an FT Feature Film about Chile's copper industry. He has also worked as a reporter for Bloomberg and The Associated Press.

Chang Che, Business Editor, SupChina



Chang Che is Business Editor at SupChina. His coverage spans across China's technology and business spheres and includes the automotive and raw materials aspects of China's low carbon economy. Chang also writes for The Washington Post, The Atlantic, Foreign Affairs, The LA Review of Books, The Point, Nikkei Asia, and others. He is also a founder of the Oxford Political Review and former editor-in-chief of the Oxford Review of Books.

China, Capital and SDGs



Eugenia Gusilov, Founding Director, Romania Energy Center

Eugenia Gusilov is the Founding Director of Romania Energy Center, Romania's first energy studies think tank. Concurrently, she consults for international organizations, the most recent assignment being for the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs on aligning the SDGs and BRI. Previously, Eugenia held positions at the Romanian Diplomatic Institute (Romanian MFA) in the Department for Strategic and Political Analysis covering developments in the Former Soviet Union countries. Her current areas of interest include energy markets, policies and regulation, oil and gas, heat and co-generation, energy transition and energy economics. She holds a BA in European Cultural Studies from the University of Bucharest and was a Fulbright Scholar at Columbia University, where she received a Master's degree in International Affairs.



Rastraraj Bhandari, Senior Research Fellow, Geopolitics & Ecology of Himalayan Water Initiative

Rastra (白欢) is a climate finance and policy specialist, passionate about climate action. He is the founding member of the Geopolitics & Ecology of Himalayan Water Initiative with eARThumanities at NYU Abu Dhabi; a contributing writer for the Nepali Times; and a consultant who has worked with a number of international development organizations on climate finance and policy in Asia and the Pacific region. His most recent assignment is at the Asian Development Bank, where he works on carbon pricing and low-carbon development initiatives.



Yingzhi Sarah Tang, Green Finance Researcher, Green Belt and Road Initiative Center

Yingzhi Sarah Tang is a green finance researcher at the Green Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Center at the International Institute of Green Finance (IIGF) based in Beijing. She tracks the latest development of Chinese overseas investment policies and strategies in the BRI countries. She has been working closely with multilateral development banks, Chinese ministries, policy banks, and state-owned enterprises on various projects ranging from comparisons between Chinese and international project financing practices (co-authored publication: [China Third-Party Market Cooperation for Infrastructure Projects: Financing Mechanism Handbook](#)) to the design of sustainable finance roadmaps for the two BRI countries.

Her latest [op-ed](#) (co-authored) analyses what China's new "Green Development Guidelines for overseas Investment and Cooperation" means for its BRI investment strategies. She also shares her views on China's latest pledge of no longer building overseas coal power plants in her recent panel [event](#).

Before joining IIGF, Sarah has worked on insurance and banking sectors' climate risk assessment projects at UNEP Finance Initiative (Switzerland) and the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation (Canada). She holds a master's degree in Environmental Studies (Sustainability Management specialization) from the University of Waterloo, Canada, and double bachelor's degrees in Environmental Studies and Business Administration, both from Canada and China.

Regional Security

Raffaello Pantucci, Senior Associate Fellow, *Royal United Services Institute for Defense and Security Studies*



Raffaello Pantucci is a Senior Associate Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute for Defense and Security Studies (RUSI) and a Senior Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). His research focuses on China's relations with its Western neighbors and terrorism. He is the author of "We Love a Death as You Love Life" (Hurst/ Oxford University Press, 2015) and the forthcoming "Sinostan: China's Inadvertent Empire" (Oxford University Press, 2022). His writing has appeared in the Financial Times, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and Foreign Policy amongst others. Much of his writing can be found at: <http://www.raffaellopantucci.com>. He is also a proud co-founder and global director of Young China Watchers.

Andrew Chubb, British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow



Andrew Chubb is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, undertaking a three-year investigation of the role of domestic public opinion in international crisis diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific. A graduate of the University of Western Australia, his work examines the linkages between Chinese domestic politics and international relations. More broadly, Andrew's interests include maritime and territorial disputes, strategic communication, political propaganda, and Chinese Communist Party history.

He is the author of *PRC Overseas Political Activities: Risk, Reaction and the Case of Australia*, published in September 2021 by Routledge and the Royal United Services Institute.

YCW-Lau China Institute Essay Competition Remarks

John Dodsworth, Senior Programme Advisor, *WWF UK*



John Dodsworth is a Senior Programme Advisor for Asia as part of WWF UK's Conservation Programme's team. His areas of work include commodity supply chains, drivers of deforestation, and addressing environmental crime.

Prior to joining WWF, he spent three years with an international Development consultancy, specialising in forestry and supply chain projects, whilst supporting programmes related to the illegal wildlife trade. Before that he lived in the Middle East (working in shipping) and China (working in the manufacturing sector). John completed an MBA from the University of Edinburgh Business School, with a focus on business-led sustainability and social enterprises. He studied undergraduate politics at the University of Nottingham with a focus on China.

Reflections and Close

Sandile Dlamini, 2019 Yenching Scholar and start-up founder



Sandile Dlamini, from the Kingdom of eSwatini, is founder of a last-mile delivery business in Uganda. Begun during Covid-19, its mission is to provide essential goods to informal enterprises, direct from the manufacturer. Sandile's interests are focused on connecting Chinese capital with impact-driven African businesses. To this end, he has worked with McKinsey & Co and HOPU Investment in China, as well as leading business owners in Sub-Saharan Africa's key economies: South Africa, Nigeria, and Kenya. Previously, Sandile studied Mandarin in Beijing and was a 2019 Yenching Scholar at Peking University, where he pursued a Master's degree in Chinese Philosophy.

YCW Moderators and Presenters

Michael Yip FRSA, Co-Head, YCW London



Michael Yip FRSA is Co-Head of YCW London. He is a Yenching Scholar at Peking University, where he researches how legal systems are shaping and being shaped by the Belt and Road Initiative. Michael is also a Research Associate in the China, Law and Development programme at the University of Oxford. Previously, he was a British civil servant, covering portfolios relating to international trade, infrastructure and finance during Brexit and COVID-19.



Sarah Montgomery, Co-Head, YCW London

Sarah Montgomery is Co-Head of Young China Watchers London and runs the Young China Watchers Climate Series due to her keen interest on building more global collaboration to tackle climate change. She is also Co-founder and CEO of Infyos, a technology venture helping car makers improve the resilience of their electric vehicle supply chains and is backed by the climate tech accelerator Carbon13. She is fluent in Chinese, built the China and Asia expansion at Everledger, the Tencent-backed supply chain traceability scale-up, and was part of the World Economic Forum's Global Battery Alliance.



Cameron Hunter, Director, YCW London

Cameron Hunter is Director of YCW London. He currently works at the Department for International Trade after previous positions at the Great Britain China Centre and the All Party Parliamentary China Group. 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.



Jordyn Dahl, Senior News Editor, *LinkedIn News*; YCW Head of Communication

Jordyn Dahl is a Senior News Editor at LinkedIn News, covering economic policy and leading entrepreneurship coverage for the platform's 800 million global members. She worked in Beijing for five years as a journalist and in the foreign policy space at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Her writing has appeared in Forbes, MIT Technology Review and other publications.



Insa Ewert, EU Development Cooperation Professional; YCW Social Media Editor

Insa Ewert works on development cooperation for the European Union in Indonesia and ASEAN. Before joining the EU Delegation in Jakarta, she was a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA), where she completed a PhD on EU-China relations. Insa previously worked with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Beijing and in the European Parliament in Brussels.