

Research Student Seminar Series

Date : 25 January 2021 (Monday)
Time : 3:30 to 5:00 pm
Venue : Register in advance for this zoom meeting:
<https://cityu.zoom.us/join/tJArd-uhqj4qHtAr2s3J0nlZOigt6ZdsIG55>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
Language : English



A Rising Great Power at a Crossroad: The Liberal International Order and China's State Socialization

by Mr LU Yue (Presenter 1, 3:30 - 4:15 pm)

PhD Candidate, Department of Asian International Studies

ABSTRACT: Since the emergence of the US's engagement policy toward China, the central question concerning China's entry into the US-led liberal international order is whether a once Maoist and realpolitik China can be gradually incorporated into the liberal international order. At the heart of this strategy is the assumption that interaction with China over time can socialize China into a "responsible stakeholder". However, in recent years, this assumption has come under heavy criticism. It seems that instead of being socialized into the order, China as a "revisionist power" is fundamentally undermining the liberal order. This sentiment thus points to a realist confrontational approach toward China. Although this thesis recognizes the rationale behind this argument, it contends that this one-sided view is unproductive for understanding China's relations with the liberal international order and international behavior. This is because China's approach toward the liberal international order is characterized by selective participation and hesitant adaptation rather than extreme revisionist hostility. The thesis thus argues that another way to examine the impact of the liberal international order on China is to ask when and why China would be subject to socialization and take the views of others and when and why it would not. Thus, by focusing on socialization, this thesis intends to examine under what conditions and why China is more likely to take the views of others and be socialized so that its foreign policy is more convergent with the liberal order and under what conditions and why it is not.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Lu Yue is a second-year PhD in the Department of Asian and International Studies at the City University of Hong Kong. He graduated from the University of International Relations with a bachelor's degree in International Politics. He also holds a master's degree in International and European Politics from the University of Edinburgh. His research interests mainly revolve around China's foreign policy, constructivism, and state socialization.



The rise of China and the US-Western Europe alliance: a crack in the liberal building?

by Mr Antonio Jose PAGAN SANCHEZ (Presenter 2, 4:15 - 5:00 pm)

PhD Candidate, Department of Asian International Studies

ABSTRACT: The triangular relationship between Western Europe, the United States and China is called to have a crucial role in the 21st century. In an increasingly multipolar world, there is no country mighty enough to be the leader of the international order by itself: it needs a group of allies and supporters. Under a possible situation of power transition, this triangular relationship will directly impact the very future of the liberal international order.

Western Europe has been, for decades, a close ally of the United States. After World War II, they were the main members of the international coalition that established the current liberal international order, as well as its norms and institutions. And more importantly, they perceived the maintenance of that order as their shared goal during the subsequent decades of Cold War. However, in spite of the growing rivalry between the United States and China during the last decade, the liberal West has been unable to forge a common response to deal with China. Sometimes, Western European countries decide to engage with China and take part in some of its international initiatives against the admonition of their American ally, whereas in other cases, they maintain a position similar to that of the United States.

The presentation will explain the theoretical and methodological basis of my research plan. Its final goal is to test diverging hypothesis, derived from competing theories in the field of International Relations, in four cases of Western Europe's engagement with China: the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the adoption of Huawei's 5G technology, and the consideration of China as a "threat" within NATO's framework. The conclusions will shed light on the role of Western Europe in the transatlantic alliance in a moment of growing international instability.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Antonio José Pagán Sánchez is a PhD candidate in International Relations at the City University of Hong Kong and at Nankai University under the Mainland Collaboration Scheme. He holds a Master's Degree in Chinese Studies from Pompeu Fabra University (2015). He has previously published with *Revista Electrónica de Estudios Internacionales*, *Jiexi Zhongguo*, and *Política Exterior*.