

Research Student Seminar Series

Date : 1 November 2021 (Monday)
Time : 3:30 to 4:15 pm
Venue : Register in advance for this zoom meeting:
<https://cityu.zoom.us/j/9107paiZ5turZ18RI0m>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
Language : English



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

by Mr Antonio Jose PAGAN SANCHEZ

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ABSTRACT: The system of alliances is the only element of US power that China is unable and unwilling to surpass in the short and medium-term. However, in the past decade, China's rise has posed a challenge to the transatlantic alliance in the form of a potential alliance drift that has not been addressed by existing literature. Western European allies of the US have not hesitated at times to adopt a stance contrary to Washington's interests, but at other times, they still maintain a position similar to that of the US when dealing with China. This presentation argues that the presence of security concerns is the factor that largely prevents Western Europe from adopting a position favorable to China's interests, and that these concerns are increasingly prevalent. This conclusion is reached after the examination of four independent variables (economic opportunities, security concerns, the state of the bilateral relationship with the US, and Washington's pressures) in the behavior of Germany, the UK, France, Italy, and Spain -the five largest European economies among US allies- in four crucial cases for the balance of power between Washington and Beijing: the AIIB, the BRI, Huawei's 5G and the consideration of China as a threat by NATO. In this regard, the evolution of Western Europe's attitude towards Beijing suggests that the rise of China, once a divisive factor among allies, has now become an unexpected source of unity for the transatlantic alliance.

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 published with *Relaciones Internacionales*, *Revista Electrónica de Estudios Internacionales*, *Jiexi Zhongguo*, *Política Exterior*, and *Deusto Journal of European Studies* (forthcoming).