



# The Digital Frontier of U.S.-China Relations: Challenges and Opportunities

Monday, September 13, 2021

9:30am - 11:00am EDT

The digital frontier is an arena of immense opportunity as major economies race to build a smart digital economy fueled by a range of innovations such as 5G, artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing and the internet of things (IoT). The worldwide market for new digital technologies is expected to reach into the trillions of dollars by 2025 and significant domestic growth potential is expected to reside in these markets. The digital frontier is also an arena of growing challenges as citizens, businesses and governments fret over the loss of control over their data, the potential theft of their intellectual property (IP), and their ability to shape and enforce legislation in the digital environment. Compounding these challenges is the increasingly bitter U.S.-China geopolitical rivalry, including in the digital space where both parties have adopted a variety of heavy-handed approaches to protect data and technologies.

The event will feature a discussion of the immense opportunities and growing challenges at this rapidly evolving digital frontier. How does the U.S. effort to retain the commanding heights in terms of core technologies and commercial advantage compare with the innovation and progress in China? Where do commercial enterprises of these two major economies stand on the digital frontier? With the notion of 'digital sovereignty' emerging as a means of promoting leadership and strategic autonomy in the digital field, how are the US, China and the EU reconciling the competing trifecta of national security, privacy and data protection, and market competition and regulation related priorities? Should Beijing's drastic actions to rein-in Alibaba and DiDi's practices and listings, for example, be seen as a step forward or a step backward, given the negative impact that these actions have had on global capital markets? And as the U.S. and China seek to selectively decouple from segments of technology and data exchange, how do their approaches on access – and decoupling – be it with regard to Google, Facebook and Twitter in China or Huawei and ZTE in the U.S., compare and differ from that of their counterpart?

## **PANELISTS**

### **Paul TRIOLO**

Practice Head, Geo-Technology, Eurasia Group

### **Amy KARAM**

Fellow, Canadian Global Affairs Institute  
Instructor, Stanford University and Duke Corporate Education

### **YANG Nan**

Assistant Research Fellow, Institute of American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Science

### **Denis SIMON**

Senior Advisor to the President for China Affairs and Professor, Duke University



**Paul S. TRIOLO** leads the firm's newest practice, focusing on global technology policy issues, cybersecurity, internet governance, ICT regulatory issues, and emerging areas such as automation, AI/Big Data, ambient intelligence, and fintech/blockchain. He is building a cross-issue and cross-regional team that helps clients understand and assess the risk generated by the complex intersection of politics, technology innovation, security threats, and the changing global regulatory environment.

Prior to joining Eurasia Group, Paul served in senior positions within the US government for more than 25 years, focusing primarily on

China's rise as a science and technology (S&T) and cyber power. He provided analytic support to the president and senior policymakers and was the lead drafter for a number of widely acclaimed national estimates on China S&T innovation and industrial policies, as well as cyberspace issues. Paul's technical background, including a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Penn State University and work experience in Silicon Valley, along with his extensive work on internet governance and policy issues in government, have prepared him to tackle the substantial challenges companies will face in cyberspace. Paul is a China Digital Economy Fellow (non-resident) at New America. He is also an avid early adopter of all sorts of green and information technologies and platforms and has been the family chief technology officer for some time.



**Amy KARAM** is a global competitive strategy consultant, 5G thought leader, author of [\*The China Factor: Leveraging Emerging Business Strategies to Compete, Grow and Win in the New Global Economy\*](#) and an instructor for Stanford, Duke, and McGill universities. As a global competitive strategy consultant, she advises Western-based companies and governments on how to compete in the new global economy given China's rise, and the ensuing powershift in innovation and business practices, including the dominating influence of geopolitics on trade. In her work as a 5G thought leader, Karam translates the relevance of technology capabilities into the economic and social impact for 5G adopters and government policy makers.

Of note, she was asked to contribute to the UK parliamentary committee on 5G infrastructure strategy to explore building their innovation capacity and address 5G economic and national security considerations. Amy Karam brings to the classroom 20 years of international business experience, having trained sales teams and managers across all continents and at companies like Cisco, Apple, Nationwide, CapitalOne, Visa, SAP, Bell Canada and the US Senate. She has also worked with government agencies such as Global Affairs Canada, The Bank of Canada, EDC and the World Bank. As lecturer and facilitator, Amy has personally engaged thousands of students with her dynamic and effective presentation style. Amy received her International MBA from the University of Ottawa and also completed the Innovation for Economic Development Program at the Harvard Kennedy School and Mastering Design Thinking at MIT. She is a Fellow at think-tank *The Canadian Global Affairs Institute*, a media commentator on BNN Bloomberg and has been published in Forbes, Entrepreneur, the Globe and Mail among others.



**YANG Nan** is an assistant research fellow and a former post-doctoral fellow at the Institute of American Studies within the Chinese Academy of Social Science. Yang's research interests center around U.S. digital policy and cybersecurity, U.S. national security and homeland security, and Sino-U.S. relations. In recent years, Yang has released multiple publications over the years related to the intersection of cyberspace, militarization, and comparative international politics during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, with a focus on understanding the United States' national security perspective.

Yang has a Ph.D. in International Relations History from Zhejiang University, a M.Sc in International Relations from Liaoning University, and a B.A. in English Language and Literature from Liaoning University.



**Denis SIMON** is Senior Adviser to the President for China Affairs at Duke and Professor of China Business and Technology at Duke's Fuqua School of Business. He is also a Senior Advisor to the Institute for China-America Studies Trade 'n Technology Program. Fluent in Mandarin Chinese, Simon has more than four decades of experience studying business, competition, innovation and technology strategy in China.

In 2006, he was awarded the China National Friendship Award by Premier Wen Jiabao in Beijing. Prior to returning to Duke, Dr. Simon served as Executive Vice Chancellor at Duke Kunshan University in China (2015-2020). Simon's career included spells as senior adviser on China and global affairs in the Office of the President at Arizona State University; vice-provost for international affairs at the University of Oregon; and professor of international affairs at Penn State University's School of International Affairs. He also has had extensive leadership experience in management consulting having served as General Manager of Andersen Consulting in Beijing (now Accenture) and the Founding President of Monitor Group China.

Dr. Simon holds an MA in Asian Studies and a PhD in Political Science from UC Berkeley. He speaks and reads Chinese.

**Moderated by Dr. Yawei LIU**

Director, China Program, Carter Center



**Yawei LIU** manages the China Focus at the Carter Center and has been a member of numerous Carter Center missions to monitor Chinese village, township, and county people's congress deputy elections since 1997. Dr. Liu has written extensively on China's political developments and grassroots democracy, including three edited book series: "Rural Election and Governance in Contemporary China" (Northwestern University Press, Xi'an, 2002 and 2004), "The Political Readers" (China Central Translation Bureau Press, Beijing, 2006), and "Elections & Governance" (Northwestern University Press, Xian, 2009). He is the founder and editor of the China elections and governance website [www.chinaelections.org](http://www.chinaelections.org). Dr. Liu is also co-author of the popular Chinese book "Obama: The Man Who Will Change America" (October 2008).

**With Welcoming Remarks by Dr. Nong HONG**

Executive Director, Institute for China-America Studies



**Nong HONG** holds a PhD of interdisciplinary study of international law and international relations from the University of Alberta, Canada and held a Postdoctoral Fellowship in the University's China Institute. She was ITLOS-Nippon Fellow for International Dispute Settlement (2008-2009) and Visiting Fellow at Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (2019), the Center of Oceans Law and Policy, University of Virginia (2009) and at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law (2007).

She is concurrently a research fellow with China Institute, University of Alberta, Canada, and the National Institute for South China Sea Studies, China. Her research takes an interdisciplinary approach to examining international relations and international law, with focus on International Relations and Comparative Politics in general; ocean governance in East Asia and the Arctic; law of the sea; international security, particularly non-traditional security; and international dispute settlement and conflict resolution. Her selected publications include *China's Role in the Arctic: Observing and Being Observed* (London and New York: Routledge, 2020), *UNCLOS and Ocean Dispute Settlement: Law and Politics in the South China Sea* (Routledge, 2012).