

ICAS 2021 Annual Conference

Prospects for U.S.-China Relations Under the Biden Administration

- *Speaker Biographies* -

Thursday, December 9, 2021

9:00am - 1:00pm EST

Organized By



In Collaboration With



Introduction & Concluding Remarks



HONG Nong

Executive Director & Senior Fellow, Institute for China-America Studies

Dr. HONG Nong 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 and Visiting Fellow at Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security, the Center of Oceans Law and Policy, University of Virginia, and at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law. She is concurrently a research fellow with China Institute, University of Alberta, Canada, and the National Institute for South China Sea Studies. She is also a China Forum expert.

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). Full CV available at <https://chinaus-icas.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/20210301-Nong-HONG-CV.pdf>

Opening Remarks



WU Shicun

*Chair of Advisory Board, Institute for China-America Studies
Founding President, National Institute for South China Sea Studies*

Dr. Wu Shicun serves as Chair of the Advisory Board at the Institute for China-America Studies. He is also founding president, director of academic committee and senior research fellow at China's National Institute for South China Sea Studies, chairman of board of directors of the China-Southeast Asia Research Center on the South China Sea, vice president of the China Institute for Free Trade Ports Studies, and adjunct professor of Nanjing University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

Dr. Wu has a PhD in history. His research interests cover the history and geography of the South China Sea, maritime delimitation, maritime economy, international relations and regional security strategy. His recent books include: *Hainan Free Trade Port: A Global Perspective* (Guangdong People's Publishing House, 2021), *The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road: Challenges and Opportunities for Asia and Europe* (Routledge, 2019), *South China Sea Lawfare: Post-Arbitration Policy Options and Future Prospects* (South China Sea Think Tank / Taiwan Center for Security Studies, 2017), *Arbitration Concerning the South China Sea: Philippines versus China* (Ashgate, 2016), *UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the South China Sea* (Ashgate, 2015), *Non-Traditional Security Issues and the South China Sea-Shaping a New Framework for Cooperation* (Ashgate, 2014), *Recent Developments in the South China Sea Dispute: The Prospect of a Joint Development Regime* (Routledge, 2014), and *Solving Disputes for Regional Cooperation and Development in the South China Sea: A Chinese Perspective* (Chandos Publishing, 2013). Dr Wu has also published widely in academic journals and been the subject of frequent media interviews as a senior commentator on South China Sea, regional security issues, the Belt & Road Initiative and the development of Hainan Free Trade Port.

Keynote Dialogue



XU Xueyuan

Deputy Chief of Mission & Minister, Embassy of the People's Republic of China

Xu Xueyuan is Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States of America. Prior to this assignment, she was deputy director-general at the Department of North American and Oceanian Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing from 2015 to 2018 and served as a counselor for political affairs at the Embassy in Washington, D.C. from 2011 to 2015. From 1996 to 1998, and again from 2001 to 2010, she worked in the Department of North American and Oceanian Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She was also posted to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago from 1998 to 2001. Minister Xu is from Zhejiang province and graduated from Fudan University.



Susan THORNTON

*Senior Fellow, Paul Tsai China Center, Yale Law School
Non-resident Senior Fellow, John L. Thornton China Center, Brookings Institution*

Susan A. Thornton is a retired senior U.S. diplomat with almost 30 years of experience with the U.S. State Department in Eurasia and East Asia. Until July 2018, Thornton was acting Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the Department of State and led East Asia policymaking amid crises with North Korea, escalating trade tensions with China, and a fast-changing international environment. In previous State Department roles, she worked on U.S. policy toward China, Korea, and the former Soviet Union and served in leadership positions at U.S. embassies in Central Asia, Russia, the Caucasus, and China. Thornton received her master's in international relations from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and her bachelor's from Bowdoin College in economics and Russian. She serves on several non-profit boards and speaks Mandarin and Russian.

Moderated By



Gordon HOULDEN

*Director Emeritus, China Institute, University of Alberta
Professor of Political Science, University of Alberta
Adjunct Professor, Alberta School of Business, University of Alberta*

Professor Gordon Houlden joined the Canadian Foreign Service in 1976, serving in Ottawa and abroad. Twenty-two of his thirty-two years in the Canadian Foreign Service were spent working on Chinese economic, trade and political affairs for the Government of Canada including five postings in China. He also served at the Canadian Embassy in Havana and Warsaw, and at Canada National Defence College. His last assignment before joining the University of Alberta in 2008 was as Director General of the East Asian Bureau of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, responsible for Greater China, Japan, the Koreans and Mongolia. Under Professor Houlden's leadership, the China Institute focused on contemporary China studies, with an emphasis on Canada's trade, investment and

bilateral relations with the PRC, and Asian security issues. His third co-edited book on the South China Sea was published in the summer of 2021 by Bristol University Press.

Panel I: Outlook for U.S.-China Strategic Rivalry in the Biden Era



Michael SWAINE

Director, the East Asia program, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft

Michael D. Swaine, director of QI's East Asia program, is one of the most prominent American scholars of Chinese security studies. He comes to Quincy Institute from Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where he worked for nearly twenty years as a senior fellow specializing in Chinese defense and foreign policy, U.S.-China relations, and East Asian international relations. Swaine served as a senior policy analyst at the RAND Corporation.

Swaine has authored and edited more than a dozen books and monographs, including *Remaining Aligned on the Challenges Facing Taiwan* (with Ryo Sahashi; 2019), *Conflict and Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region: A Strategic Net Assessment* (with Nicholas Eberstadt et al; 2015) and many journal articles and book chapters. Swaine is currently directing, along with Iain Johnston of Harvard University, a multi-year crisis prevention project with Chinese partners. He also advises the U.S. government on Asian security issues. Swaine received his doctorate in government from Harvard University and his bachelor's degree from George Washington University.



ZHU Feng

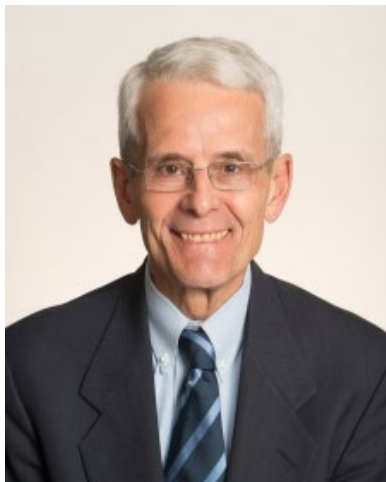
Director, China Center for Collaborative Studies for the South China Sea, & Professor, Nanjing University

Zhu Feng was formerly Deputy President of the Institute of Strategic & International Studies and a Professor in the School of International Studies at Peking University. Zhu started his current position in August 2014. He specializes in East Asian regional security, power relations and maritime security in the Asia-Pacific, and North Korea's nuclear proliferation issue.

As a leading Chinese security expert, Professor Zhu's book includes *International Relations Theory and East Asian Security* (2007), *China's Ascent: Power, Security, and Future of International politics* (co-edited with Professor Robert S. Ross, 2008), *China-Japan Security Cooperation and Defense Communication: the Past, Present, and Future* (Tokyo: Aiji Press, 2011), *China-US Relations and the World Order* (co-edited with Prof. G. John Ikenbery and Prof. Wang Jisi, MacMillan, 2014) and *America, China, and the Struggle for World Order: Ideas, Traditions, Historical Legacies, and Global Visions* (co-edited with G. John Ikenbery and Wang Jisi, Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).

He sits on a couple of editorial boards of scholarly journals, consults independently for the Chinese government and the private sector, and comments frequently on television and radio and in the print media on Chinese foreign affairs and security policy. Professor Zhu also sits on the Advisory Board of the Institute for China-America Studies, and was a former visiting fellow with the Center for East Asia Policy Studies at the Brookings Institution. Professor Zhu began his undergraduate studies at the Department of International Politics at Peking University in 1981 and received his PhD from Peking University in 1991.

ICAS 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Robert SUTTER

Professor, Elliott School, George Washington University

Robert Sutter is Professor of Practice of International Affairs at the Elliott School of George Washington University (2011-Present). He also served as Director of the School's main undergraduate program involving over 2,000 students from 2013-2019. His earlier full-time position was Visiting Professor of Asian Studies at Georgetown University (2001-2011).

Sutter's government career (1968-2001) saw service as senior specialist and director of the Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division of the Congressional Research Service, the National Intelligence Officer for East Asia and the Pacific at the US Government's National Intelligence Council, the China division director at the Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research and professional staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

A PhD graduate in History and East Asian Languages from Harvard University, Sutter has published 22 books (four with multiple editions), over 300 articles and several hundred government reports dealing with contemporary East Asian and Pacific countries and their relations with the United States. His most recent book is *The United States and Asia: Regional Dynamics and Twenty-first Century Relations Second Edition* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2020).



DA Wei

China Forum Expert

Director, Center for International Security and Strategy, Tsinghua University

Professor, Department of International Relations, Tsinghua University

Prior to his current positions, Dr. Da Wei was the deputy director at the Center for International Security and Strategy at Tsinghua University, the assistant president of University of International Relations (UIR), director of the Institute of American Studies, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR). Da Wei has written hundreds of policy papers to the Chinese government, and published dozens of academic papers on journals in China, the US and other countries. Da Wei earned his BA and MA from UIR, and his PhD from CICIR. He was a visiting senior fellow at the Atlantic Council of the United States from 2006 to 2007, and a visiting senior associate at SAIS, Johns Hopkins University from 2008 to 2009. His research

expertise covers China-US relations and US security & foreign policy.



David FIRESTEIN

Inaugural President and CEO, George H.W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations

David J. Firestein is the inaugural president and CEO of the George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations (Bush China Foundation) and a founding and current member of the Foundation's Board of Directors. He is based in Austin, Texas.

Prior to joining the Bush China Foundation, Mr. Firestein was the founding executive director of The University of Texas at Austin's (UT) China Public Policy Center (CPPC) and a clinical professor at UT's Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. Before moving to UT, Mr. Firestein served as senior vice president and Perot Fellow at the New York City-based EastWest Institute (EWI), where he led the Institute's track 2 diplomacy work in the areas of U.S.-China relations, East Asian security and U.S.-Russia relations. A decorated career U.S. diplomat from 1992-

**ICAS 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

2010, Mr. Firestein specialized primarily in U.S.-China relations. He also served as the elected president of the large community associations of the U.S. embassies in Beijing and Moscow. Mr. Firestein currently serves on the boards of directors or advisors of over a dozen foreign affairs-focused, business-focused, China-focused and Texas-focused U.S. non-profit organizations.

Mr. Firestein is the author or co-author of three books on China, including two China-published Chinese-language best-sellers, as well as a large number of China-focused monographs, policy reports and articles (and publications on non-China-related topics). He is a prolific public speaker and frequent commentator in the U.S. and Chinese media, starting in the mid-1990s when he became the first foreign citizen to have a regular column in a Chinese newspaper.

A native of Austin, Texas and current resident of the Austin area, Mr. Firestein holds a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and two master's degrees from The University of Texas at Austin, as well as various advanced training certifications from the National Foreign Affairs Training Center of the U.S. Department of State.

Panel II: Outlook for U.S.-China Engagement on Trade, Tech and Climate

Moderated By



LIU Yawei

Director, China Program, The Carter Center

Yawei Liu has been a member of numerous Carter Center missions to monitor Chinese village, township and county people's congress deputy elections from 1997 to 2011. He has also observed elections in Nicaragua, Peru and Taiwan. He has written extensively on China's political developments, grassroots democracy and U.S.-China relations.

Yawei is also the associate director of the China Research Center based in Metro Atlanta (since 2007). He was president of the United Society of China Studies (2010-2011). He is a senior fellow at the Chaha'er Institute, a think tank based in Beijing. He is visiting professor at the Institute of Advanced Studies in Social Sciences at Fudan University (since 2008) and a research fellow at the School of International Affairs and Public Administration at Shanghai Jiaotong University (since 2010).

Yawei Liu is a professor of political science at East China Normal University and adjunct faculty member at the Department of Political Science at Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

Yawei has edited three Chinese book series: *Rural Election and Governance in Contemporary China* (Northwestern University Press, Xian, 2002 and 2004), the *Political Readers* (China Central Translation Bureau Press, 2006) and *Elections & Governance* (Northwestern University Press, 2008). He is the coauthor of *Obama: The Man Who Will Change America* (Chinese language, 2008). He is the founder and editor of *China Elections and Governance* (www.chinaelections.org, a website sponsored by The Carter Center on political and election issues of China. It was forced offline by the Chinese government in April 2012; it can still be accessed outside China.) He has also published numerous commentaries in *Global Times*, *Study Times* and *China Youth Daily*. Recently, Yawei was involved in launching a new magazine called *US-China Perception Monitor*, part of the new initiative on US-China relations by The Carter Center (www.uscnpm.org). He earned his B.A in English literature from Xian Foreign Languages Institute (1982), MA in recent Chinese history from the University of Hawaii (1989) and PhD in American History from Emory University (1996).

ICAS 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Anna ASHTON

Vice-President, Government Affairs, US-China Business Council

Anna began her tenure at the US-China Business Council in January 2016. Since August 2019, she has served as the senior director and later vice president of government affairs, developing and implementing USCBC's advocacy on behalf of member companies. She previously served as the director of business advisory services, leading staff across USCBC's three offices in providing member companies with analysis of China's commercial policies, business operating environment, and best practices.

Anna has served as a China analyst in both public and private sector positions. She began her career as an intelligence officer for the Department of Defense, where she briefed the Vice President, the Secretary of Defense and top military officials on strategic China issues. Following her time at the Defense Department, Anna worked for her home state of Arkansas at the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, where she helped to develop a strategy for recruiting Chinese investment, organizing and managing visits by Chinese trade delegations and identifying a Chinese consultant to represent Arkansas in Beijing. From 2008 through 2012, she worked in the International Division of the US Chamber of Commerce, primarily focused on China trade and investment issues. She then worked as an economic and trade analyst at the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission while pursuing a JD at Georgetown University.

Anna began her China studies in 1997. In addition to her JD from Georgetown Law, she holds a BA in Chinese Studies from Wellesley College, and an MA in East Asian Languages and Civilizations from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She and her family live in McLean, Virginia.



TENG Fei

China Forum Expert

Deputy Director and Professor, Institute of Energy, Environment, and Economy, Tsinghua University

Prior to his current position, Teng Fei served as an advisory expert for China's negotiation team under UNFCCC from 2007 to 2017. He was the chief negotiator for transparency in Chinese delegation from the year 2009 to 2016. He is also a member of the BASIC expert group in BASIC ministerial meeting since 2011 and an advisory expert for LMDC countries and second-track dialogues between China-India, China-EU, China-UK, and China-U.S. He also served as the Chair of Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) under UNFCCC in 2013 to help developing countries to increase their reporting capacity on climate change. Teng Fei's research interests include energy and climate policy analysis using modeling tools, and international climate regime.

ICAS 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Denis SIMON

Senior Adviser to the President for China Affairs and Professor of the Practice, Fuqua School of Business, Duke University

Dr. Denis Simon has more than four decades of experience studying business, competition, innovation and technology strategy in China. He is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and, in 2006, 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. Simon is the author of several books including *Corporate Strategies Towards the Pacific Rim*; *Techno-Security in an Age of Globalization*; and *China's Emerging Technological Edge: Assessing the Role of High-End Talent*.



Paul TRIOLO

Practice Head, Geo-Technology, Eurasia Group

Paul S. Triolo leads the Eurasia Group'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.