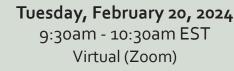
Renewing the U.S.-China Science and Technology Agreement. Can S&T Cooperation Coexist with Technology Decoupling?

Institute for China-America Studie





In late-February 2024, the U.S.-China Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement will expire if it is not signed or extended. The first major agreement to be signed by the two governments following the normalization of ties in 1979, the STA was last renewed in 2018 (and temporarily extended in August 2023). In the time since its last renewal, S&T ties have been battered by a raft of decoupling measures as well as probes by the Justice Department and the National Institutes of Health into Beijing's economic espionage and intellectual property diversion activities. On the other hand, the U.S. and China remain each other's top scientific partners, with collaborative research between American and Chinese nationals being a standout feature among the most-cited academic papers.

As the late-February deadline approaches, can the two sides buck the trend on technology decoupling and renew or at least temporarily extend their STA? How important is it to renew the agreement? What have been its main achievements and what are the chief criticisms levied against the agreement? Where do the negotiations on renewal stand, and what are the key improvements sought? Realistically, what are the chances of a technology cooperation agreement being signed during a charged election year? Broadening the frame, what is the state of U.S.-China S&T exchanges, and how has China's domestic S&T ecosystem evolved over the past four decades? Will the new (Party) Central Science and Technology Commission and its emphasis on self-reliance scramble the prospects for bilateral cooperation? How should the STA be improved to reflect the new maturity, and tensions, in cross-border scientific ties? To listen to these and other answers and insights on pressing U.S.-China S&T policy questions, tune in to the event on February 20.

Panelists



Caroline WAGNER Professor, John Glenn College of Public Affairs The Ohio State University



Denis SIMON Distinguished Fellow Institute for China-America Studies

Moderator: **Sourabh GUPTA** - Senior Fellow & Head of Trade `n Technology Program (Institute for China-America Studies)

Welcoming Remarks: Nong HONG - Executive Director (Institute for China-America Studies)

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Caroline WAGNER is a Professor at the John Glenn School of Public Affairs, The Ohio State University. Between 2011 and 2021, she was the inaugural holder of the Milton & Roslyn Wolf Chair in International Affairs. Dr. Wagner is an expert on science, technology and innovation and its relationship to public policy.

Prior to a 14-year academic career, Dr. Wagner consulted to and worked for the United States government on science and technology policy. As a staff member for the United States Congress, Dr. Wagner advised and wrote legislation on U.S. competitiveness. As a staff member for The RAND Corporation, Dr. Wagner served the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the U.S. National Science Foundation with policy analysis. Dr. Wagner is the author of two books on the governance of science and technology, 60 academic articles and book chapters, and 25 monographs. She has delivered

more than 10 conference keynotes, including for the United Nations; and she served on the UN (United Nations) Millennium Development Goals Task Force on Science and Technology Policy, and the Canadian Advisory Board on International Collaboration in Science and Technology.

Dr. Wagner is an elected Distinguished Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and an elected member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Between 2009 and 2023, she served as the Chair of the Advisory Committee to the Office of International Science & Engineering, National Science Foundation. Her work has been featured in The Economist, Nature Magazine, Times Higher Education, South China Morning Post, Chronicle of Higher Education, and other media outlets.

Dr. Wagner earned a doctorate from the University of Amsterdam School of Communications Studies (ASCoR) in Science and Technology Dynamics, Netherlands; a Master of Arts degree in Science, Technology and Public Policy from George Washington University, Elliott School of International Affairs, Washington D.C.; and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Trinity College.



Denis SIMON is a recognized expert on international business and technology issues. He has more than four decades of experience studying business, competition, innovation and technology strategy in China. Most recently, he served as director of corporate partnerships at the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise at UNC at Chapel Hill. And, he also served as Clinical Professor of Global Business and Technology at the Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC. Before going to UNC, he served as Professor of Practice at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business (2015-2022) and Executive Vice Chancellor of Duke Kunshan University in China (2015-2020). Dr. Simon's extensive publications include numerous books and articles on business, innovation and technology issues in China and the Pacific Rim. He was a founding member of the Experts Group of the US-China Innovation Dialogue organized by the White House Office of Science

and Technology Policy and China's Ministry of Science & Technology. He also served as a special adviser on several crossborder innovation-related projects, including at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on intellectual property rights issues in U.S.-China relations and as senior adviser on China and global affairs at several U.S. universities. Along with his academic achievements, Dr. Simon also served as General Manager of Andersen Consulting in Beijing (now Accenture) and was founding President of Monitor Group China. He earned his PhD and MA from the University of California at Berkeley and his BA from the State University of New York.



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Sourabh GUPTA is a senior Asia-Pacific international relations policy specialist with two decades of Washington, D.C.-based experience in a think tank and political risk research and advisory capacity. His key area of expertise pertains to the intersection of international law, both international trade and investment law and international maritime law (Law of the Sea), with the international relations of the Asia-Pacific region. His areas of specialization include: U.S.-China trade and technology competition; analysis of developments in World Trade Organization and Asia-Pacific economic regionalism; analysis of major power relationships (China-U.S., China-Japan, China-India, U.S.-Japan, U.S.-India, Japan-India; Russia-Japan relations) and key flashpoint issues in the Asia-Pacific region; and analysis of outstanding territorial disputes and maritime law-related developments. He is a member of the United States Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (USCSCAP).



Prior to joining ICAS, he was a Senior Research Associate at Samuels International Associates, Inc., an international consulting firm specializing in government relations and global trade and investment matters. He holds master's degrees in security studies and international relations from the Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, respectively. His bachelor's degree was awarded by the University of Mumbai.

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 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.

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 *US-China Global Maritime Relations* (Routledge, 2024), *China's Role in the Arctic: Observing and Being Observed* (Routledge, 2020), and *UNCLOS and Ocean Dispute Settlement: Law and Politics in the South China Sea* (Routledge, 2012).

