

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

Tuesday, February 20, 2024  
9:30am - 10:30am EST  
Virtual (Zoom)

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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## ICAS Trade 'n Technology Program



**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 cross-border 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.

