



# The United States and China's Global Maritime Relations: Inevitable Competition or Feasible Collaboration?

**Thursday, April 18, 2024**

10:00am - 11:30am EDT

In-Person (Washington, DC) & Online (Zoom)

As science and technology continue to advance, the ocean, covering 71% of the Earth's surface, is undeniably assuming an increasingly vital role for humanity. Consequently, nations are diligently pursuing their respective maritime interests, revealing both commonalities and distinctions. The United States and China, widely recognized as major powers in contemporary international politics and prominent maritime nations, are increasingly focusing their attention on global maritime domains.

How do the maritime policies of China and the United States differ in terms of strategic objectives and priorities? What are the primary areas of competition between China and the United States in global maritime affairs? How do the maritime disputes, such as those in the South China Sea, impact the overall relations between China and the United States? Are there any ongoing cooperative efforts between China and the United States in global maritime security or environmental protection? What role do international law and institutions play in shaping the interactions between China and the United States in global maritime relations? How do the military doctrines and strategies of China and the United States intersect or diverge in the maritime domain?

In her new book *US-China Global Maritime Relations*, Dr. Nong Hong explores the U.S.-China maritime relationship within the global context and investigates six key maritime regions: the South China Sea, the Northeast Asia waters, the Indian Ocean, the South Pacific Ocean, as well as the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Through detailed observations, this book offers a comprehensive exploration of these regions and their significance in shaping the dynamics between the two nations. This event will feature the author of *US-China Global Maritime Relations*, who will discuss the evolution and execution of maritime strategies pursued by both the United States and China. Moreover, three panelists will provide their insights on this subject, representing perspectives from the United States, China, and a third-party viewpoint.

*Moderator*

**Philippe RHEAULT**

Director  
*The China Institute,  
University of Alberta*

*Book Talk by*

**Nong HONG**

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

*Panelists*

**Gregory POLING**

Director, Asia Maritime  
Transparency Initiative  
*Center for Strategic and  
International Studies*

**Dingli SHEN**

Professor Emeritus and Former  
Executive Dean, Institute of  
International Studies  
*Fudan University*

**Gilang KEMBARA**

Research Fellow,  
S. Rajaratnam School of  
International Studies  
*Nanyang Technological University*

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**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. She is also a Senior Fellow with Beijing Club for International Dialogue

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).



**L. Philippe RHEAULT**, a lawyer and diplomat, takes on the leadership of The China Institute following a 25 year career in the Canadian foreign service, where he mainly focussed on China and East Asia. He has been posted to the region six times: to Beijing, Taipei, Chongqing (twice), Mongolia, and Guangzhou. Notably, he has headed two of Canada's four missions in Mainland China, as Canada's first Consul General to the southwestern metropolis of Chongqing (2012-2017) and most recently as the Consul General of Canada for South China, based in Guangzhou (Canton) (2019 to 2023). Over the course of the last two and a half decades, he has had the opportunity to witness first-hand China's extraordinary rise, as well as most of the key milestones marking the evolution of Canada-China relations.

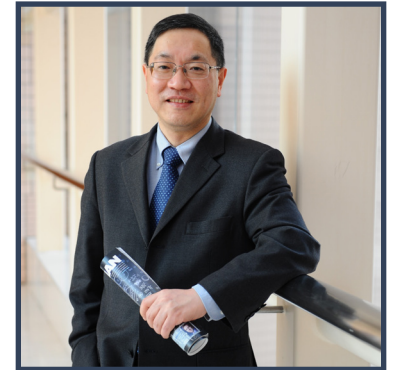
Philippe's extensive network spans China, Canada, and beyond, and he has over the years provided advice and support to a wide cross-section of top leaders from government, business, academia, and civil society. He looks forward to deploying his experience, networks, and leadership skills in the service of the China Institute, with a view to continuing to enhance its profile, relevancy, and impact. He also looks forward to playing a role in deepening understanding of China at the University of Alberta itself and also within the broader Albertan and Canadian community. Philippe holds degrees in Philosophy, Political Science, and Law, all from McGill University. He has served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at China Southwest University, is a member of the Québec bar, and is professionally fluent in Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, English, and French.

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**Gregory POLING** directs the Southeast Asia Program and Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, where he is also a senior fellow. He is a leading expert on the South China Sea disputes and conducts research on U.S. alliances and partnerships, democratization and governance in Southeast Asia, and maritime security across the Indo-Pacific. He is the author of the recently published *On Dangerous Ground: America's Century in the South China Sea*, along with various works on U.S. relations with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and Southeast Asia at large. His writings have been featured in *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Naval War College Review*, among others. Mr. Poling received an MA in international affairs from American University and a BA in history and philosophy from St. Mary's College of Maryland.



**Dingli SHEN** is a professor emeritus and former executive dean at Fudan University's Institute of International Studies, and former Director of Center for American Studies. He is also an Honorary Visiting Professor of Washington University in St. Louis. He has taught international security, China-U.S. relations, China's foreign and defense policy in China, the U.S. and the "Semester at Sea" Program. His research and publication covers China-U.S. security relations, regional security and international strategy, arms control and nonproliferation, foreign and defense policy of China and the U.S., among others.



He is Vice President of Shanghai UN Research Association, and Shanghai Public Policy Research Association. He was Vice President of Chinese Association of South Asian Studies, Shanghai Association of International Studies, Shanghai Association of International Strategic Studies, and Shanghai Association of American Studies. He received his PhD in physics from Fudan in 1989 and did post-doc in arms control at Princeton University from 1989-1991. He was an Eisenhower Fellow in 1996, and advised in 2002 the then-UN Secretary General Kofi Annan for his strategic planning of second term. He is on the Global Council of the Asia Society. He has been appointed by both Shanghai and Hangzhou Municipality as Convention Ambassador, respectively. He has co-edited 17 books and published over 2,500 papers and articles worldwide.

**Gilang KEMBARA** is a Research Fellow with the Maritime Security Programme (MarSec) at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

He holds a MA in International Relations, and a BSc in Business Management from the University of Birmingham. He has seven years of experience working as a Researcher with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Indonesia where his research covers maritime policies; Indonesia's foreign policies; Indo-Pacific strategies; as well as strategic and security issues. His research interests include Maritime Security; Maritime Safety; Indonesia's/ASEAN's Maritime Policy; and Strategic Studies.

