

**Latin America Symposium of the World Forum on China Studies**  
**The Belt and Road Initiative and China-Latin America Cooperation**

December 3-4, 2018

Salon Diamante, American Congreso Hotel

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Simultaneous Chinese/Spanish Interpretations Are Provided

**Organizers:**

**China**

Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

Institute of Latin American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences Think Tank Foundation

**Argentina**

Argentine Council for International Relations

National University of La Plata

ICBC Foundation

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## **Introduction of the World Forum on China Studies**

The World Forum on China Studies is a Shanghai-based academic event jointly organized by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and the Information Office of the Shanghai Municipality. Sponsored by the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China and the Shanghai Municipal Government, the Forum is dedicated to reflecting upon global challenges while fostering an informed understanding between China and the rest of the world. It provides the worldwide community of China-focused studies a biennial platform to share face-to-face their latest research achievements and strengthen their academic ties of friendly cooperation face-to-face.

Founded in 2004, the Forum has convened 11 times, including seven forums, one special conference and three overseas symposiums. In addressing the themes like “China in Multi-Perspectives”, “China and the World: Harmony & Peace”, “Common Challenges, Common Efforts: Working Together for a Better World” and “Living Together, Growing Together: China and the World Integrate”, the first four forums focused primarily on highlighting the traditional Chinese culture and its application to the modern day agenda. Since the 5th forum held in 2013, more emphasis has been placed on the affairs of contemporary China, with themes ranging from “China's Modernization: Road and Prospect”, “International Dialogue on the Chinese Dream” to “China's Reform: Opportunities and Challenges” as well as “China in a New Era”.

In May 2015, the Forum successfully held its first overseas symposium in New York and Atlanta, in partnership with the Asia Society and the Carter Center. In May 2016, the Forum convened its second overseas symposium in Seoul, in partnership with Korea University. The third overseas symposium was held in July 2017 in Berlin on the sideline of the G20 Hamburg Summit through cooperation with the German Institute of Global and Area Studies as well as the Bertelsmann Stiftung.

The Forum has now established its academic and social fame internationally, and is attended by around 2000 scholars, experts, opinion leaders, veteran politicians, think-tank representatives, and diplomatic missions of over 50 countries and regions. Besides, its activities have received extensive coverage by dozens of professional media outlets, with its views and findings widely quoted in the academic community around the world.

# **The Latin America Symposium of the World Forum on China Studies**

## **The Belt and Road Initiative and China-Latin America Cooperation**

The “Belt and Road” Initiative is widely supported across the world and is becoming a new platform for strengthening contacts between countries and regions. What China and Latin America are doing now, like giving play to each other’s comparative advantages, sharing experience on each other’s development, and advocating a synergized concept, are conducive to a sustainable development for both parties. Currently, the Latin American countries are fervent about the Belt and Road Initiative. The cooperation between China and Latin America, by focusing on the Belt and Road Initiative, has depicted an enchanting picture for the future.

### **Topic 1: China’s Development: Review and Achievements**

China and Latin American countries are all developing countries. Sustainable economic development and a shrinking economic gap with developed countries are the common goals pursued by both sides. Over the past 40 years of reform and opening up, China has made tremendous achievements in its development, the experience of which can be shared and communicated with all developing countries including those in Latin America. With the transformation of global governance systems, the interweaving of globalization and regionalization, and structural adjustment becoming important drivers for development, China-Latin America collaboration should seize the opportunity and momentum to give impetus to encourage each other on new carriers and platforms.

### **Topic 2 The Belt and Road Initiative: Reality and Prospect**

Latin America is an important region for the natural extension of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The “Belt and Road” Initiative has become the new focal point for China-Latin America cooperation. Latin America is an indispensable participant in the current "Belt and Road" international cooperation. The "Five in One" new pattern of China-Latin America

relations highly accords with the essence of the "Five Links" of the "Belt and Road" Initiative. China and Latin America have observed tremendous active trials at different levels and sectors on promoting the “Belt and Road” Initiative and integrating development strategies of throughout Latin America, though sufficient concrete and practical projects are still pending. The days ahead are calling for consolidated achievements in infrastructure, capacity cooperation and humanities exchange among others.

### **Topic 3: China-Latin America Cooperation: Opportunities and Challenges**

China and Latin America have their own comparative advantages. The two are strongly complementary in their industries, and therefore have great opportunities and potential advantages for their cooperation. Both China and Latin America should seize these opportunities, strengthen cross-regional cooperation and develop close partnership through leveraging of the “Belt and Road” platform. Meanwhile, both China and Latin America should fully understand the unfavorable situation and factors in the practical application across the macroeconomic landscape, overcome external influence and spatial distance and enhance multi-sector cooperation at the corporate level on a regular basis. To this end, China and Latin America should formulate a timetable and road map for cooperation, expand the scope of trade, raise the quality of cooperation, and consolidate the microbasis for China-Latin American partnership so that new impetus is added to fuel a deeper and wider cooperation between China and Latin America.

# AGENDA

**MONDAY, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**14:30-15:30 Registration**

**15:30-16:10 Opening Session**

**Chair:** *Zhen Wang*, Vice President and Research Fellow, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

**Opening Keynotes** (8 minutes per piece)

*Wanming Yang*, Chinese Ambassador to Argentina

*Eduardo Acevedo Díaz*, Director of the Asia Pacific Division, Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship

*Daogen Zhang*, President and Research Fellow, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

*Eduardo Sadous*, Director of the Committee of Asia at the Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI)

*Martín Aníbal López Armengol*, Academic Vice President, National University of La Plata - Academic Area

**16:10-16:30 Group Photo**

MOU Signing Ceremony Between SASS and Latin American Universities & Research Institutes

**16:30-17:10 Assembly Speech I** (20 minutes per piece)

**Chair:** *Dongzhen Yuan*, Deputy Director of the Institute of Latin America Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

**Speakers: Theoretical Perspectives to the Construction of the Belt and Road**

*Daogen Zhang*, President and Research Fellow, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

**A Strong Relationship for the Future with Great Potential for Mutual Gains**

*Félix Peña*, Vice President of CARI, Head of the ICBC Foundation

**17:10-17:40 Q&A and Discussions**

**17:50-18:10 Coffee/Tea Break**

**18:10-19:30 Assembly Speech II (20 minutes per piece)**

**Chair:** *Renwei Huang*, former Vice President and Professor of Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

**Speakers: China's Development: Practical Experience in Social Integration**

*Youmei Li*, President of the Chinese Sociological Association, former Vice President and Professor of Shanghai University

**Cooperation Between China and Latin America: The Initiative “One Belt-One Road” as New Challenges of the Contemporary World**

*Carolina Mera*, Dean of the Gino Germani Research Institute at the School of Social Sciences, National University of Buenos Aires

**Evolution of China's Grand Strategy and Its Impact on Sino-Latin American Relations**

*Jorge Malena*, Chair of the China Working Group, Argentine Council for International Relations and Director of Contemporary China Studies, Universidad del Salvador

**Argentina and Another Historic Opportunity**

*Norberto Consani*, Director of the Institute of International Relations and the Confucius Institute, National University of La Plata

**19:30-19:50 Q&A and Discussion**

**20:00-21:30 Welcome Reception**

**Venue:** Ground Floor, American Congreso Hotel

**Welcome** *Zhen Wang*, Vice President and Research Fellow, Shanghai Academy of  
**Addresses:** Social Sciences

*Gustavo Martinez*, Secretary of Coordination, Managing Director, CARI

*Félix Peña* , Vice President of CARI, Head of the ICBC Foundation

**TUESDAY, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30-12:50 Topic 1: China's Development: Review and Achievements**

China and Latin American countries are all developing countries. Sustainable economic development and a shrinking economic gap with developed countries are the common goals pursued by both sides. Over the past 40 years of reform and opening up, China has made tremendous achievements in its development, the experience of which can be shared and communicated with all developing countries including those in Latin America. With the transformation of global governance systems, the interweaving of globalization and regionalization, and structural adjustment becoming important drivers for development, China-Latin America collaboration should seize the opportunity and momentum to give impetus to encourage each other on new carriers and platforms.

**Chair:** *Carola Ramon Berjano*, Deputy Coordinator of the China Working Group, the Argentine Council of Foreign Relations

**9:30-11:30 Round Table 1 (15 minutes per piece)**

**Speakers: Private Sector Development and Its Implications to Chinese Economy**

*Zhen Wang*, Vice President and Research Fellow, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences



**The Repercussions of China's Recent Development in Politic and Economy of South America**

*Fortunato Mallimaci*, Professor and Researcher in Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina and the Buenos Aires University

**“Peripheral Realism’s” Homage to Deng Xiaoping**

*Carlos Escudé*, Senior Tenured Researcher, Argentine Council of Scientific Research

**The Chinese Initiative and Its Deployment in Latin America and the Caribbean**

*Gustavo Girado*, Director of “Specialization in Contemporary Chinese Studies” Master Program, National University of Lanús

**China's Development: Achievements and Revisions**

*Jorge Castro*, President of the Institute of Strategic Planning (IPE), Argentina

**The Relations Venezuela – China (1999-2017)**

*Norbert Molina Medina*, Researcher, Center for African and Asian Studies at Universidad de Los Andes, Venezuela

**The Chinese Dream of National Rejuvenation: Origins, Dimensions, Nuances, Domestic and International Implications**

*Gustavo Santillán*, Professor in Modern Asian History and Chinese History, National University of Cordoba

**The Implications of Chinese Reform and Opening-up for the World Demonstrated by the Belt and Road Initiative**

*Yiwei Wang*, Jean Monnet Chair Professor, Director of the Institute of International Affairs, Renmin University of China

**11:30-11:50 Coffee/Tea Break**

**11:50-12:40 Panel 1** (10 minutes per piece)

**Panelists: Overseas Chinese Migration in Mercosur: Main Flows and Projections in the XXI century**

*Laura Lucía Bogado Bordazar*, Professor, Coordinator of the Department of Latin America and the Caribbean of the Institute of International Relations (IRI)

**Soft Power in China's Relations with Argentina: the Approach of Para-political Organizations, CYL and CLEPEC**

*Dafne Estesó*, Advisor in the Ministry of Finance (which manages financial negotiations with Chinese banks that invest in infrastructure works in Argentina), Adviser on political topics in Latin American Center for Political and Economic Studies on China

**China in Peru: Economic and Soft Power Perspectives**

*Marco Alberto Carrasco Villanueva*, Economist, Grupo ASIA - National University of San Marcos

**China's Internet Model: an Alternative Digital Road for Latin America**

*Alejandro Razzotti*, Executive Director of the House of Chinese Culture, University of Congress

**China's Development: Practical Experience in Social Integration**

*Youmei Li*, President of the Chinese Sociological Association, former Vice President and Professor of Shanghai University

**12:40-12:50 Open Discussion**

**12:50-14:10 Lunch**

**14:10-16:55 Topic 2: The Belt and Road Initiative: Reality and Prospect**

Latin America is an important region for the natural extension of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The "Belt and Road" Initiative has become the new focal point for China-Latin America cooperation. Latin America is an indispensable participant in the current "Belt and Road" international cooperation. The "Five in One" new pattern of China-Latin America relations highly accords with the essence of the "Five Links" of

the "Belt and Road" Initiative. China and Latin America have observed tremendous active trials at different levels and sectors on promoting the "Belt and Road" Initiative and integrating development strategies of throughout Latin America, though sufficient concrete and practical projects are still pending. The days ahead are calling for consolidated achievements in infrastructure, capacity cooperation and humanities exchange among others.

**Chair:** *Carlos Escudé*, Senior Tenured Researcher, Argentine Council of Scientific Research

**14:10-15:55 Round Table 2** (15 minutes per piece)

**Speakers: The Belt and Road Cross-border Parks Construction and China-Latin America Cooperation**

*Guilong Shen*, Director and Professor of the Institute of China Studies, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

**The Road and Belt Initiative in the Recent Global Conditions: Perspectives for Latin American Countries**

*Gladys Hernandez Pedraza*, Deputy Director of Global Financial Tendencies, World Economy Research Centre, Havana, Cuba

**The Latin-American MSMEs in the Context of OBOR**

*Anibal Carlos Zottele*, Coordinator, China-Veracruz Studies Center, Veracruz University, Mexico

**The Belt and Road Initiative: Propulsive Innovation from Cooperation to Integration**

*Maria Francesca Staiano*, Director of Center for Chinese Studies of the International Relations Institute, National University of La Plata

**Belt and Road: from the Historical Context, towards an Agenda for Mutual Benefit in the Framework of Deepening the China-South America Relationship**

*Milton Reyes Herrera*, Professor at Sociology Department in Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador, Coordinator of Chinese Studies Center in Ecuadorean National Institute of Advanced Studies

**The Relations Between the Belt and Road Initiative and Global Governance**

*Renwei Huang*, Former Vice President and Professor of Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

**15:55-16:45 Panel 2** (10 minutes per piece)

**Panelists: The Belt and Road Initiative: A City System with Great Challenges in Latin America**

*Diana Andrea Gomez Diaz*, Professor of the Institute of Political Studies and International Relations, National University of Colombia, Director of Asia-Latin America Academic Network

**Sociology of Chinese Public and Private Mining Investments in Argentina (Iron, Gold and Lithium): Field Studies, Debates and Proposals**

*Nicolás Damin*, Sociologist, Associate Professor of the Department of Planning and Public Policies, National University of Lanús

**Latin America: the Education Silk Road**

*Esteban Zottele*, Researcher at the Center for Latin American Studies of Changzhou University, Researcher at the Center for China Studies of Veracruz University

**China in the Caribbean: Opportunities and Challenges**

*John Angus Martin*, Former Curator of the Grenada National Museum

*Zhen Wang*, Vice President, Professor, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

**16:45-16:55 Open Discussion**

**16:55-17:15 Coffee/Tea Break**

**17:15-19:40 Topic 3: China-Latin America Cooperation: Opportunities and Challenges**

China and Latin America have their own comparative advantages. The two are strongly complementary in their industries, and therefore have great opportunities and potential advantages for their cooperation. Both China and Latin America should seize these opportunities, strengthen cross-regional cooperation and develop close partnership through leveraging of the “Belt and Road” platform. Meanwhile, both China and Latin America should fully understand the unfavorable situation and factors in the practical application across the macroeconomic landscape, overcome external influence and spatial distance and enhance multi-sector cooperation at the corporate level on a regular basis. To this end, China and Latin America should formulate a timetable and road map for cooperation, expand the scope of trade, raise the quality of cooperation, and consolidate the microbasis for China-Latin American partnership so that new impetus is added to fuel a deeper and wider cooperation between China and Latin America.

**Chair:** *Yihai Li*, Secretary General, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences Think Tank Foundation

**17:15-19:00 Round Table 3 (15 minutes per piece)**

**Speakers: The Belt and Road Initiative and the Opportunities and Challenges of Infrastructural Cooperation Between China and Latin America**

*Ping Wang*, Professor of Nankai University, Vice President of China Association of Latin American History Studies

**Academic Exchanges and the Development of Chinese Studies in the Social Sciences and Humanities in Latin America**

*Ignacio Villagrán*, Director of the Argentina-China Studies Center, National University of Buenos Aires

**Dialogue among China and LAC Civilizations: Implications, Goals, Means and Mechanism**

*Cunhai Guo*, Director of the Center for Argentine Studies, Institute of Latin American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

**China, Central America and the Dominican Republic: Facing a Strategic Partnership for Development**

*Sergio Rivero*, Associate Professor, Latin American University of Science and Technology

**History and Prospect: New Opportunities for Sino-Latin American Relations**

*Jian Shao*, Professor of the Institute of History, Director of President's Office, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

**The Advance of the Chinese Initiative Belt and Road towards Great Caribbean Zone: Strategic Relevance and Challenges**

*Ruvislei González Saez*, Professor in Economics, the Havana University, Head of the Research Team of Asia and Oceania, the Research Center of International Policy (CIPI )

**China-Latin America Cooperation in the Context of the Belt and Road Initiative: Advantages, Obstacles and Their Resolutions**

*Dongzhen Yuan*, Deputy Director, Institute of Latin American Studies - Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

**19:00-19:40 Panel 3** (10 minutes per piece)

**Panelists: Associative Mechanisms and Tools in Latin American and Caribbean States for Promoting the Belt and Road Initiative**

*Sergio Cesarín*, National University Tres de Febrero - UNTREF, Researcher CONICET

**Chinese Learning Approaches: Fostering Academic Cooperation with Latin America**

*María Azpiroz*, Director of International Affairs, Universidad ORT Uruguay

**Brazilian Competitiveness Through Chinese Direct Investment**

*Mirna Larissa Wachholz Cabral*, Partner-Director, Vallya Group (a Brazilian private equity and investment advisory firm)

*Yiwei Wang*, Jean Monnet Chair Professor, Director of the Institute of International Affairs, Renmin University of China

**19:40-19:50 Open Discussion**

**19:50-20:20 Closing Ceremony**

**Concluding Speeches**

**Speakers:** *Zhen Wang*, Vice President, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

*José María Lladós*, Executive Director of the Argentine Council for International Relations

*Norberto Consani*, Director of the International Relations Institute and Director of the Confucius Institute, National University of La Plata

**20:30 Banquet**

**Venue:** Marriot Hotel (by invitation only)

## PARTICIPANTS

(in alphabetical order of surname)

### María Azpiroz



María Azpiroz is currently Director of International Affairs and Coordinator of the Language Center at Universidad ORT Uruguay. She received both her PhD and Master's degrees in Education at Universidad ORT Uruguay, and completed a postgraduate course in Human Resources Management at Catholic University in Uruguay. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Universidad de la República. Awarded the Certificate TESOL in teaching English as a second language by Trinity College of London, she is the former Head of Languages at Oxford Oriental School of Languages in Hong Kong, China, as well as DELE examiner for the Diploma in Spanish as a Foreign Language at Instituto Cervantes. Her other positions include Professor of educational change and innovation and Director of the Joint Program between Harbin Normal University (China) and Universidad ORT Uruguay.

### John Angus Martin



John Angus Martin is a historian, archivist and researcher. He completed a BSc in Biological Sciences at SUNY at Stony Brook, as well as Master's Degrees in both Agricultural & Applied Economics and History from Clemson University. He spent three years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Sierra Leone, West Africa, where he taught at an agricultural institute and served as an agricultural extension agent to subsistence farmers in rural villages. His speciality lies in colonialism and slavery in Grenada, but his work also comments on the island's political history. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Heritage Management with the Faculty of Archaeology at Leiden University, the Netherlands. He has worked as Director/Curator of the Grenada National Museum, and a researcher for the NEXUS 1492 project at Leiden University under Dr Corinne Hofman. In 2017 he participated in the Visiting Program for Young Sinologists in Shanghai, and in 2016, as curator of the Grenada National Museum, conducted visits of



museums and heritage sites in four Chinese cities as part of a learning experience. He is the author of *Island Caribs and French Settlers in Grenada, 1498-1763* (2013), and the forthcoming *Fédon's Rebellion in Grenada: Timeline and Who's Who* (2019). He also co-authored *The Temne Nation of Carriacou: Sierra Leone's Lost Family in the Caribbean* (2016) with Joseph Opala and Dr Cynthia Schmidt, and co-edited *Perspectives on the Grenada Revolution, 1979-1983* (2017) with Dr Nicole Phillip-Dowe.

### **Laura Lucía Bogado Bordazar**



Laura Lucía Bogado Bordazar is currently the Coordinator of the Department of Latin America and the Caribbean of the Institute of International Relations (IRI) and a member of the Center for Chinese Studies of the IRI at the National University of La Plata (UNLP). She is also a professor and researcher in Public International Law from the Faculty of Legal and Social Sciences at UNLP and the Academic Secretary of both the Master's in International Relations (categorized "A" by the CONEAU) and the Specialization in Chinese Studies (accredited by the CONEAU in 2017).

### **Marco Alberto Carrasco Villanueva**



Marco Alberto Carrasco Villanueva is an economist from the National University of San Marcos in Peru, graduated Summa Cum Laude. He has worked for the Organization of American States (OAS) at its headquarters in Washington D.C. and is currently working at the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion of Peru. He has also worked as a researcher and professor at the Universidad Nacional Mayor San Marcos and the Universidad del Pacífico, both in Peru. With a Master's Degree in Economics and Management at the University of Paris 1: Pantheon - Sorbonne in France, he was recently admitted to postgraduate studies in International Development at Harvard University. As an academic, he served as a visiting scholar at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences in 2016 and at the National University of Córdoba (Argentina) in 2017. He was also an international delegate in the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations 2017 at Harvard University (USA) and the Yenching Global Symposium 2017 at

Peking University (China). Recently, in 2018, he served as a guest speaker at the VI Latin American Congress on Economics and Banking (Quito, Ecuador), TEDxLima (Lima, Peru) and the XXV National Congress of Economists (Tingo María, Peru). He is a co-founding member of "Grupo ASIA", a Peruvian group of Asia-Pacific studies led by Professor Carlos Aquino. He came in first place in Chinese calligraphy contests organized by the Confucius Institute PUCP in 2011 and 2012. His main areas of expertise are in the international development of East Asia (China, Japan, Korea) and Latin America, as well as Behavioral Economics applied to public policies and development.

### **Jorge Castro**



Jorge Castro is currently President of the Institute of Strategic Planning (IPE), Argentina. He has worked as a columnist for national and foreign news media, including *Clarín* (since 2009), *La Nación*, *Perfil* and *El Cronista Comercial* (as Deputy Director). Early in his career, he served as the 1998-1999 Secretary of Strategic Planning of the Nation. He has also been a professor at the University of Buenos Aires, Universidad del Salvador, School of National Defense, War Superior School, Foreign Service Institute (ISEN), Latin American Faculty of Social Science (FLACSO), National Intelligence School, and Naval War School. Castro has achieved many distinctions, including being one of the 4 main international economic journalists chosen by the Russian Official Government Agency (Moscow, November 2016). He was also granted the insignia of the "National Order of Cruzeiro Do Sul" by the Federative Republic of Brazil, and has lectured on several occasions in the People's Republic of China, his most recent visit being last year, to speak about the G20 meeting. His other positions include Member of the Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI) and Visiting Professor on the international strategic situation at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Rome. He is the author of 13 books, including *The Strategic Vision of Juan Domingo Perón*, *The Strategic Vision of Pope Francis*, *Argentina after Kirchner: facing a historic opportunity* and *Globalization and Social Justice*.

## **Sergio Cesarín**



Sergio Cesarín balances two roles: One, as a research fellow on the Asian Studies of National Council for Technological and Scientific Research (CONICET) in Buenos Aires, Argentina; and two, as Deputy Director for Center for Asia Pacific and India Studies Center (CEAPI) at Tres de Febrero National University. He obtained his Bachelor's in International Policy from del Salvador University, Buenos Aires, and completed postgraduate studies on China Political Economy through the Department of Peking University. He has also served in the public sector through various positions, as Secretary of Science and Technology (SECyT) in Beijing, the Assistant for Commercial and Trade Section at the Argentinian Embassy in China, and the Head of the Asia Studies Center at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He authored *Pragmatic Temptations? China in Latin America and Caribbean*, published in 2016.

## **Norberto Consani**



Norberto E. Consani currently works as the Director of the Institute of International Relations (IRI) and the Confucius Institute at the National University of La Plata -UNLP- (Argentina). He also serves as Professor of Public International Law as a part of the Faculty of Legal and Social Sciences at UNLP. Consani is the director of a number of graduate programs for UNLP, including the Doctorate Program in International Relations (categorized "A" by CONEAU, University Evaluation and Accreditation Commission), the Master's Program in International Relations (categorized "A" by CONEAU) and the specialization in Chinese Studies (accredited by CONEAU in 2017). In October 1996, he founded the Center for Chinese Studies of the IRI. He received a PhD in International Law from University of Law, Economics, Social Sciences, Paris II.

## Nicolás Damin



Nicolás Damin, Sociologist and Doctor in Social Sciences from the University of Buenos Aires, is an Associate Professor of the Department of Planning and Public Policies at the National University of Lanús. He is the author of two books and two compilations on the historical-political sociology of labor relations in Argentina, the development of communities and the railway transport network in Argentina, and on Chinese mining investments in Argentina and Peru. He participated in the creation of CIMI-CONICET-SHU, the Sino-Argentine Binational center in Social Sciences, where he did his post-doctorate on Sino-Argentine cooperation ties. He has served as a visiting professor at Université Paris 10 and a visiting scholar at Chicago University, Waseda University, Hankuk University, Bielefeld University, Adelaide University, San Marcos University, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, ILAS-CASS, SHU, and many other Chinese and Latin American universities. His main topics of interest are the analysis of Chinese mining investments in Latin America, the national and subnational levels of Sino-Argentine, and the Argentine geopolitical imaginaries about Asia-Pacific.

## Carlos Escudé



Carlos Escudé retired as Senior Tenured Researcher (*Investigador Principal*) at the Argentine Council of Scientific Research (CONICET) in 2016. He now remains active as a “Miembro Consejero” of CARI. In 1973 he studied as an undergraduate at the Universidad Católica Argentina, graduating with a *License* in Sociology. In Michaelmas term 1977 he was matriculated at Oxford University’s St. Antony’s College. In 1978 he was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship for use at Yale University, to which he transferred. Yale awarded him three degrees in Political Science: an MA in 1979, an MPhil in 1980 and a PhD in 1981. In 1983 he received a Post-Doctoral grant from the (U.S.) Social Science Research Council (SSRC). In 1984 he was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, and as such returned to Oxford as a Visiting Fellow of St. Antony’s. Among other

academic appointments outside Argentina, he has been visiting professor at Harvard University (1994) and Madrid's Instituto Ortega y Gasset (1997). He has also been appointed visiting scholar at Universität Augsburg (1996), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1992), the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of The Johns Hopkins University (1990) and the University of Texas at Austin (1989). In 1986 he was decorated with the Order of Bernardo O'Higgins for his public campaign for peace between Argentina and Chile. He has also received honors from the Argentine Council of Scientific Research (1987), Fundación Konex (1996) and Fundación El Libro (2001). In 2003 the Senate of Trent University (Canada) awarded him its 2003-2004 Ashley Fellowship. In the early 1990s he was advisor on foreign policy strategy to former Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella. During that time he developed the normative doctrine and explanatory International Relations theory of "peripheral realism".

## **Dafne Estesó**



Dafne Estesó is currently an advisor for financial negotiations with Chinese banks that invest in infrastructure works in Argentina at the Ministry of Finance. In 2011, she completed an MA in Political Science with honors from the University of Buenos Aires. She also holds a Master's Degree in Negotiations and International Relations from Universidad de San Andrés, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Beijing Normal University. She is a specialist in Chinese work issues, bilateral relations and political risk analysis. In 2004, she began a career in public management in various sectors of the National Public Administration. She is also a member of the Latin America Study Group Shi Jian (世见) Global Affairs Development Research Team (NBU), a member of the UBACYT Project "China, Russia and India in Latin America: Political, Economic and Military Interactions" (UBA), as well as the Vice President of ADEBAC (the Association of Former Scholars in Argentina and China). She also serves as an adviser on political topics in CLEPEC (Latin American Center for Political and Economic Studies of China).

## Lavinia Fan (樊慧慧)



Lavinia Fan is the Vice Director of the Office of the World Forum on China Studies, organized by the PRC Information Office and Shanghai Municipal People's Government. She also serves as the Deputy Director of Visiting Programs for Young Sinologists (Shanghai), organized by the PRC Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Since 2010 Ms. Fan has worked as a Program Officer and Assistant Director for the Office of the World Forum on China Studies, as well as the Academic and Foreign Affairs Secretary of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) Institute of China Studies. She has worked simultaneously as protocol officer and assistant manager at the Shanghai Municipal Foreign Affairs Office, and as project manager at the Shanghai Municipal Information Office. Previously, Ms. Fan worked in the International Liaison Department of Shanghai Women's Federation and SASS International Office. She completed her Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in law and is a Ph.D. candidate at SASS. Her academic interests are in political science, overseas study of China, comparative study of political parties, and international studies.

## Gustavo Girado



Gustavo Alejandro Girado is currently Director of the Postgraduate Course in "Specialization in Contemporary Chinese Studies" at the National University of Lanús (UNLa), where he also directs the Project (FONCyT - UNLa) PICTO 2018-2021 on "The Future of Sino-Latin American Relations". Apart from 30 years' experience as a professor at UBA, he is also professor-researcher at UNLaM, co-coordinator and Academic Committee member of the "Diploma in Business Management with China", and Guest Professor of postgraduate studies at national universities, where he directs research projects relevant to his specialization. He obtained a Master's Degree in International Relations (FLACSO) and in Economics (UBA). His specialization in Tokyo, Taipei and Bolivia (UN-CEPAL) led to the authoring of two books: *"How did the Chinese do it? Some of*

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### **Diana Andrea Gomez Diaz**



Diana Andrea Gomez Diaz, PhD in Political Studies and International Relations, is currently a full-time Professor at the Institute of Political Studies and International Relations (IEPRI) at National University of Colombia. She has been conducting research on "China and the Configuration of the New World Order" at National University of Colombia since 2005. She also served as Director of the Asia-Latin America Academic Network since 2015. In her academic experience, she has been a visiting professor to many Chinese universities and China-related academic events. These visits include the "Visiting Program for Young Sinologists 2018" in Shanghai and Beijing, held by Ministry of Culture and Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences in 2018, and "Foreseeing 19th National Congress of CPC - Perception and Expectation from the Spanish Speaking Scholars" held by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China in 2017. She jointly published *The Reemergence of Asia. China and Russia: Socio-historical, Cultural and Political Keys to the Construction and Rise of Two Great Powers*.

## **Ruvislei González Saez**



Ruvislei González Saez is currently Head of the Research Team of Asia and Oceania of the Research Center of International Policy (CIPI in Spanish) and a member of the Scientific Council of CIPI. In 2015, he obtained his PhD in Economic Sciences from Havana University (HU). He also advocates for the inclusion of Cuba in the Belt and Road Initiative directed by Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment (MINCEX). His other positions include Professor of the Economics Faculty of the Havana University, former adviser for the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) of Cuba, and supervising professor and consultant of doctoral degrees, master's degrees, and bachelor theses regarding China, Vietnam, India, Southeast Asia and general integration in to Asia. He holds membership in a number of academic institutes, such as a the Academic Committee of Master's Degrees in International Relations in the High Institute of the International Relations (ISRI) of the Ministry of Foreign Affair of Cuba and a the Latin American Studies Association (LASA). Apart from working in Vietnam and Russia, he studied at the English and Foreign Languages University of Hyderabad, India. He participated in conferences in Cuba, India and Vietnam. He wrote about 50 articles published in select countries across America, Europe and Asia. He is actively working on books about Asia, including two books on One Belt One Road that are in the process of publication.

## **Cunhai Guo (郭存海)**



Cunhai Guo is currently Director of the Department of Social and Cultural Studies and Director of Center for Argentine Studies, at the Institute of Latin American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (ILAS-CASS). He is also co-founder and director of CECLA (Comunidad de Estudios Chinos y Latinoamericanos, [www.cecla.org](http://www.cecla.org)), as well as Subsecretary-General of the Chinese Association of Latin American Studies. Earlier in his career, he was Sub-Director of the Department of Social and Cultural Studies at ILAS-CASS (2011-2015), Sub-Director of the Department of



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### **Gladys C. Hernandez Pedraza**



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## Renwei Huang (黄仁伟)



Renwei Huang is former Vice President of Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, a senior fellow for international studies, a chairman for Think Tank Research Center, and Secretary-general of World Forum for China Studies. He is also the Executive Director-General at Fudan Institute for Belt and Road and Global Governance.

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Huang has published many books and articles on global governance, Sino-US relations, Asia regional cooperation, international trade and cross strait relations. His books have been widely quoted and include *The Time and Space of China's Rise* (2002). He has also participated in many second-track strategic dialogues between China and US.

## José María Lladós



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## **Youmei Li (李友梅)**



Youmei Li, PhD in sociology at Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po), is currently professor of Shanghai University and its former Vice President. Her numerous past titles include President of Chinese Sociological Association, First Vice President of Shanghai Academy, Vice President of Shanghai Federation of Social Science Associations, Chief Editor of Sociology, Director of the editorial board of Chinese Journal of Sociology, and Director of Research Centre for Local Governance (one of the first University Think Tanks in Shanghai). Her research focuses on the changes of human cooperation mechanisms in modern society and the transformation of Chinese social governance. She is likewise devoted to studying the innovation in theoretical paradigm of the sociology of China's transition.

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Martín Lopez Armengol is currently Executive Director of the Professional Council of Economic Sciences of the Province of Buenos Aires and Vice President of Academic Area at the National University of La Plata (UNLP). He also serves as Professor of Administration and Professor of Post Graduates at UNLP, the National University of Mar del Plata, and the National University of the Northeast. Earlier in his career, he served as Academic Secretary, Vice Dean and Dean of the Faculty of Economic Sciences (FCE-UNLP). He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Administration from UNLP, and two Master's Degrees: One in Business Administration from UNLP and the other as a Marketing Specialist from Universidad Argentina de la Empresa. With extensive experience in Human Resources training at the undergraduate and graduate level, he is a categorized researcher and participant of national and international accredited projects of scientific research. These projects include book coordination and authorship of book chapters and articles in specialized journals. He is also a panelist and speaker on issues of educational quality and responsibility at national and international congresses, symposiums and conferences.

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His recent Publications are: *Atlas de las creencias religiosas en la Argentina*. Biblos. / *Cristianismos en América Latina. Tiempo presente, historias y memorias*. Buenos Aires, CLACSO / *Nacionalistas y nacionalismos: debates y escenarios en América latina y Europa*. Editorial Gorla.

## Norbert Molina Medina



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Earlier in his career, he held the position of Undersecretary of Foreign Trade at the Ministry of Economy of Argentina and was appointed as a full member of the Common Market Group of Mercosur (1998-99). He acted as an external consultant for Moltedo Law Firm (2000-2002) and formed part of the group of experts who prepared the protocol for the Mercosur Parliament (2005). He also has experience as an Undersecretary of International Economic Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina (1982-83), Executive Director of the

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## **Alejandro Razzotti**



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## **Sergio Rivero**



Sergio Rivero is a political scientist that specializes in Chinese economy. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Social Sciences at Latin American University of Science and Technology (ULACIT) teaching Qualitative Research and Globalization, Environment and Development. He obtained an MA in Economics from Renmin University of China and is an MA candidate in Commerce and International Markets at LEAD University. His main areas of research include China's Commercial and Political Relations with Central America and the Caribbean, China's Economic Diplomacy, and International Economic Policy. He has published opinion articles on the Chinese economy as well as China-Central America and Caribbean relations in Costa Rican media such as *La Nación*, *La República* and *ADiariocr.com*. He is also the author of the article "China and Latin America and the Caribbean: competitiveness for development" (2013) published by the International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) in Geneva, Switzerland. He has been interviewed by international media outlets such as Xinhua News Spanish, Sputnik and El País. He is a regular contributor to the Brazilian digital magazine Radar China.

In addition to his academic experience, he has extensive professional experience in consulting Central American companies on trade and investment decisions in China. He has also worked for the Chinese oil company SINOPEC as Economic Analyst within the Production and Exploration Research Institute (PEPRIS) and as Finance Manager for ICBC Financial Leasing, the aviation arm of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

## **Eduardo Sadous**



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## **Gustavo Enrique Santillán**



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Santillán participated in several international academic events, in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, México, and the PRC. He published three books (two collective works and a sole authorship work) and several articles in academic journals in Argentina, Chile, Spain, and the PRC. He was invited to be a visiting professor in México, China and Brazil, where he also obtained a Postdoctoral Degree in Social Sciences at the State University of São Paulo (UNESP).

His main areas of interest areas include Chinese History and Chinese Political Thinking.

## **Jian Shao (邵建)**



Jian Shao, PhD in history, Professor of the Institute of History, Director of President's Office, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, and a visiting scholar of the University of Erlangen -Nuremberg in Germany. In recent years, he has published many monographs and papers focusing on the study of Macao and the history of the relationship between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. In addition, he has carried out a number of research projects in cooperation with governments and enterprises, including the cultural development planning research with Changzhou City, and related research carried out with PetroChina West-East Gas Pipeline Company. He has acquired rich experience in foreign cooperation and exchange.

## **Guilong Shen (沈桂龙)**



Guilong Shen is currently Director of the Institute of China Studies, as well as a professor and doctoral supervisor at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS). He is also the Vice Chairman of Huangpu Association for Science and Technology and the Vice President of Shanghai Institute of Ideological and Political Work of State-owned Enterprises (Shanghai Association for Promotion of Culture of State-owned Enterprises). He successively served as Assistant Director of SASS Office of Academic Research, Deputy Director of SASS General Administrative Office, Assistant Director of SASS Institute of Economics, Director of the Office of Academic Secretary at SASS Institute of Economics and Deputy Director of SASS Institute of Economics. His main research fields are international investment and international trade. Shen has published extensively on economic issues, with works including: *The Study of FDI Performance in China*, *FDI & the Income Distribution Disparity in China*, *The Study of Transnational Corporations Disinvestment in China in Global Financial Crisis*, *Trading Power and the Development of Transnational Corporations*, *The Report on the development of China's Cross-border Parks in OBOR*, and many more. He has published numerous papers in

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### **Maria Francesca Staiano**



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## **Ignacio Villagrán**



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## **Mirna Larissa Wachholz Cabral**



Larissa Wachholz holds a Master’s Degree in Contemporary China Studies from Renmin University of China and executive education degrees in Corporate Finance and International Relations (focus on emerging economies) from the London School of Economics together with Peking University. Larissa lived in Beijing, China, from 2008 to

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### **Ping Wang (王萍)**



Ping Wang, Professor of Nankai University, is currently a member of the Expert Committee of China Public Diplomacy Association and the Vice President of China Association of Latin American History Studies. Earlier in her career, she was Director of the Center for Latin American Studies at Nankai University and Director of Center for Latin American Studies at the Research Base of Countries and Areas Studies, Ministry of Education of China. In her academic experience, she has been to Instituto de Relaciones Internacionales de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia (1999-2001), Center for Asian Studies of Hong Kong Chuhai College (2007-2008) and Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies of University of California at San Diego (2011-2012) as a Visiting Scholar. She was also a senior researcher at the auspices of the Ministry of Education of China at the Center for Latin American Studies at University of Texas at Austin (2017) and Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (2018). She has led more than 10 research projects, including those from the National Social Science Fund of China, the Ministry of Education, the

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### **Zhen Wang (王振)**



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Forestry Economics from Tokyo University, and became Post-Doctoral Professor in Applied Economics. His major research areas include the economic development of Yangtze River Delta and Yangtze River Economic Belt, talent strategies and policies, and medium and small enterprises. He is the author of *Report on Economic Development of Yangtze River Delta Economic Zone* and *Blue Book for Yangtze River Economic Belt*. He has received several national honors, including the National Achievement Award for Returned Overseas Students, Shanghai Elite Talent, and Special Subsidies from the State Council and Government.

### **Dongzhen Yuan (袁东振)**



Dongzhen Yuan, PhD in Law, joined the Institute of Latin American Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (ILAS-CASS) in 1987 and is currently Professor, Doctoral Supervisor, and Vice Director of ILAS. He is also Executive Director of Latin American and Caribbean Culture Center (LACC). His other positions include Vice President of Chinese Association of Latin American History (2013-present), Vice President and Secretary-General of Chinese Association of Latin American Studies (2018.6-present). He has dedicated his time to Latin American studies since 1987 with special interests in political and social issues of Latin America. Earlier in his career, he was visiting professor at the Institute of Social Research at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (IIS-UNAM) in 1997-1998 and at the Latin American Social Sciences Institute (FLACSO-Chile) in 2003-2004. He also served as a diplomat at the Chinese Embassy in Peru in 2010-2012. He has become a doctoral supervisor since 2008 and is the author to many academic publications, research papers and commentaries.

## Daogen Zhang (张道根)



Daogen Zhang is currently the President of Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS). He is also the Director and Chief Expert of China National High-Rank Think Tank Council. Earlier in his career, he served as Director of the Office of Market Economy at the Institute of Economics at SASS, Deputy Director of the Research Centre of Deng Xiaoping Theory at SASS, Chief Economist and Director of the Office of Development and Planning at Shanghai Development and Planning Committee, Chief Economist and Director of the Institute of Comprehensive Economic Studies, Deputy Director and Director of the Research Office of CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee, Secretary General and Director of Shanghai Advisory Committee for Policy Making, and Undersecretary General of the CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee. He has been long engaged in research on socialist political economy with special interests in development theory, strategies, planning, and policies.

## Anibal Carlos Zottele



Anibal Carlos Zottele is currently the Coordinator of the Center for China-Veracruz Studies of Veracruz University, Mexico, and the Director of the magazine *Orientando*, a publication specialized in East-Asian topics., He graduated from the National University of the South in Bahia Blanca, Argentina, as an economist, and obtained a Master degree in Business Administration from the Veracruz University, Mexico. He also has a PhD in Veterinary Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology, from the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

One of his special appointments is "Honorary Counselor and President of the Chapter Veracruz" of the Mexican Chamber of Commerce in China (Mexcham), since 2014.

Within his extensive career as a professor in different universities, he served as chair of department at the National University of Mar de Plata in Argentina, the Metropolitan Autonomous University in Mexico, and the Veracruz University in Mexico. The latter is

where he currently teaches the subjects of Contemporary Economy of China and Economic Geography of China which are part of the Master's Degree in Economics and Society of China and Latin America, offered by that institution.

As part of his long career path, he also served as a Consultant of the Pan-American Health Organization of the United Nations. It can also be highlighted his participation as a speaker in multiple international seminars, academic forums, conferences and workshops in different countries.

He has also collaborated as author or co-author in different publications, such as articles, chapters of books and own titles. His most recent books are: *China: Stories of the New World* (2011), *After Beijing 2014: A New Commercial Order?* (2016), *Mexican and Chinese SME's in the face of the Accelerated Growth of the Relationship between both Countries* (2017), and *Veracruz University: a decade of experience in China* (2018).

## **Esteban Zottele**



Esteban Zottele is currently Researcher of the Center for Latin American Studies of the University of Changzhou in Jiangsu, China; President of the Argentinean Association in China (ADEACH), and Researcher of the Center for China Studies at the Veracruz University in Veracruz, Mexico.

He has lived in China for 14 years and has obtained a Bachelor's Degree in International Trade from the Marina Mercante University, as well as a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Palermo, a Master's Degree in Culture and Society of China from the University of Alcala, Spain, and a PhD in Business Administration from Renmin University of China in Beijing. He also holds other positions, namely the President of the Argentinean Association in China (ADEACH) and Honorary Member of the Mexico Chamber of Commerce in China (MEXCHAM). He has published numerous essays and articles in recognized publications, and has participated in conferences and forums on topics such as leadership, relations between China and Latin America, and One Belt One Road. He has lectured at universities and institutions in Mexico, Argentina, China and Southeast Asia.

## ABSTRACTS

### Opening Keynote

#### **The Importance of Internationalization in Higher Education Institutions**

*Martín Aníbal López Armengol*, Academic Vice President, National University of La Plata - Academic Area

Towards the end of the 20th century different thinkers and various scientific studies already predicted the importance of knowledge as an essential element for the development of nations. Taking into account technology, labour, social, economic, and educational implications, surely they already knew that years later, entering the 21st century, the world would be renamed as the knowledge society. In this society a fourth key element would be added to the traditional factors of production: capital, land, labour, and knowledge.

Internationalization in higher education institutions arises as a response to globalization, which is not a new phenomenon. However, its intensification in academic, scientific, technological, and artistic fields, along with the development and innovation of technologies of information and communications, has allowed for knowledge to be generated and disseminated to all corners of the world. This is due to the exchange of students and teachers, the access to remote education programs, the promotion of joint or double degree courses and postgraduate studies, and the development of international cooperation projects financed by international organizations and by governments interested in spreading their culture and knowledge to other countries in the world.

Beyond the fact that these various forms of cooperation and international mobility are the most visible, known and widespread activities, the process of internationalization of higher education is determined by more complex cultural and systemic dimensions. All of these aspects are essential for developing the path to the future.

An authentic strategy of internationalization must consider the intercultural capacities and the international performance of the different university collectives. It must also take into account the processes of reorientation of the academic, scientific, technological and artistic activities towards internationalization, and the comparison and emulation with institutions of reference at the international level.

It is crucial for current educational organizations to adapt their education systems to the demands of the knowledge society, orienting their objectives and resources to maximize the attractiveness and visibility of higher education throughout the world. Today, the educational

quality of higher education institutions is reflected, in large part, by its ability to be applied globally and to have effects in teaching, research, and connections. It should be able to satisfy the growing need for intercultural understanding that is dominant in the world and that is visible from concrete actions of exchange.

It is this conviction and this strategic vision that brings us to co-organize the Latin American Symposium of the World Forum on China Studies, together with the Institute of International Relations of the Faculty of Legal and Social Sciences of the National University of La Plata, and prestigious institutions of Argentina and the People's Republic of China. This event is undoubtedly a new milestone that consolidates the relations of our university with academic and scientific institutions of our respective countries.

## **Assembly Speech I**

### **Theoretical Perspectives to the Construction of the “One Belt, One Road”**

*Daogen Zhang*, President and Research Fellow, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

It is an objective necessity for China to promote the construction of the “One Belt, One Road”, which is also an inevitable choice for China to increase world economy in the current new situation and promote tolerant, inclusive and balanced development. The “One Belt, One Road” initiative is proposed amongst the increasing opinion divergence in the process of globalization, emerging multilateralism, isolationism, trade protectionism and many other policies that may not benefit all parties involved, along with a global economic structure that is in profound adjustment in a twisted path to recover. This initiative is for joint development and mutual benefit on the basis of equality. Modern China is going to enter a new stage while the world hasn't seen big changes for over a hundred years. The “One Belt, One Road” initiative answers the question of what new international view is needed for humankind nowadays. The “One Belt, One Road” initiative respects other countries' rights in making their own choices in development path and social systems. China will not interfere, and is against any kind of export of systems. The “One Belt, One Road” initiative is inspired by the history of the ancient silk road and maritime silk road in China, as well as the profound understanding of the philosophy of “Taoism follows nature” and “all under heaven are of one family”. The “One Belt, One Road” initiative enhances China and other countries' cooperation in economy, trading and investment, and builds a development path that is inclusive and fair, open and tolerant through joint construction and result sharing. This will expand international exchanges, foster mutual trust and allow different countries and civilizations to learn from each other.

## **Assembly Speech II**

### **China's Development: Practical Experience in Social Integration**

*Youmei Li*, President of the Chinese Sociological Association, former Vice President and Professor of Shanghai University

The historic leap in China's development of becoming prosperous and strong nation is the contribution of the world's most populated country to the world's common development and the progress of human civilization. New China was founded in the turbulent global political and economic environment of the Cold War. Despite the comprehensive blockade, China established its own political and economic systems and effectively integrated the Chinese society that was in a state of disunity. After 1978, China embarked on the historic journey of reform and opening-up. On the way to developing socialism with Chinese characteristics, China has evolved from a closed society to an open one, with the reform of the economic system steadily deepened and the transformation of the social structure constantly accelerated. As a result, from a backward agricultural country it has leaped to the world's second biggest economy and a modern socialist country with the resident population and urbanization rate reaching 58.5%. In the context of the drastic changes in economy and society, how can China sustain healthy development and maintain overall social stability despite the huge pressure from population, resources, and environment? Its practical experience shows the institutional advantage of socialism with Chinese characteristics, which, in essence, is to uphold the leadership of the CPC with the people's interests at the core. It is under this premise that the Chinese people have moved toward building a moderately prosperous society and can look forward to a better life, from growing rich to becoming strong.

### **Cooperation Between China and Latin America: the Initiative "One Belt, One Road" as New Challenges of the Contemporary World**

*Carolina Mera*, Dean of the Gino Germani Research Institute at the School of Social Sciences, National University of Buenos Aires

The relationship between Latin America and the People's Republic of China began several centuries ago. Since then, cultural, commercial, and political exchanges of different intensity have been deployed according to the conjunctural events and the situation of each country. This has established, especially from the second half of the twentieth century, specific bilateral relationships, which took a new direction after the global economic, political, and cultural presence of China. The current situation puts our continent in front of a new

challenge given that China is the main engine of global growth.

In this sense, this paper will focus on the case of Argentina. Diplomatic relations between this country and the People's Republic of China (PRC) were established in 1972, shortly after the PRC was officially recognized as a Member State of the United Nations. Since then, the bilateral exchanges between both countries existed on a level of cordiality and mutual respect. This boosted a cooperative relationship in several international forums, such as the UN Decolonization Committee, where China supports the Argentine claim in front of Great Britain regarding the diplomatic discussion of the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands. These links were intensified in the last decades. Thus, the relationship with China acquires a new dimension, focused mainly on the commercial and financial issues. Meanwhile the presence of investments by state, mixed, and private Chinese companies in our country were increasing. Moreover, in political terms, there was an important closeness when the government of Cristina Fernández de Kirchner achieved a privileged relationship with the signing of the Integral Strategic Association (AEI) between the two countries in 2014.

At this juncture, the “One Belt, One Road” initiative opens a new stage in this dialogue. The initiative "One Belt, One Road" includes Latin America and the Caribbean since 2015 when President Xi Jin Ping considered the region a kind of extension of the Maritime Silk Road of the 21st century. It proposes a complex and sophisticated invitation for cooperation, coordinating policies, connectivity, trade, financial integration, and the human bond, reinforcing socio-cultural relations. This represents a challenge for Argentina and the Latin American region. This initiative opens a series of theoretical and political debates, critical for the academic and intellectual field in general, bearing in mind that it can be part of a new ideological framework to think about the contemporary world. The country of the center, cradle of great theories and social projects throughout history, returns to propose to the world a new and transgressive dialogue that looks at the long-term future by challenging the unstable equilibrium of the international powers. This poses a great challenge for Latin America.

### **Evolution of China's Grand Strategy**

*Jorge Malena*, Chair of the China Working Group, Argentine Council for International Relations and Director of Contemporary China Studies, University of El Salvador

When analysing the PRC policy towards Latin America, scholarly work can't avoid probing into China's all-encompassing interest worldwide, more precisely it's "grand strategy" (da zhan lue).

Wang Jisi, Dean of the School of International Studies at Beijing University, wrote in 2011 that a grand strategy "must, at least, answer what a nation's core interests are, what external forces pose a threat and how the leadership can safeguard its interests". Wang also noted that "the Chinese government has yet to produce a document that expounds the country's strategic goals and the ways to achieve them".

In recent years, since president Xi Jinping came into power in 2012, both the international scenario and the PRC have undergone several changes.

This paper intends to analyse the evolution of China's grand strategy since the launching of the reform and opening policy in the late 1970s, in order to characterize the initial adoption (and later transformation) of Deng Xiaoping's dictum of "keeping a low profile". In so doing, a more precise understanding of the PRC growing relationship with Latin America will be achieved.

### **Argentina and Another Historic Opportunity**

*Noberto Consani*, Director of the Institute of International Relations and the Confucius Institute, National University of La Plata

46 years after the beginning of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, Argentina is once again facing a great historic opportunity: to enter the great Asian space with the help of our Chinese strategic partner.

The agreement signed by our countries in 2004 has established a strategic alliance, and we must render concrete content for it. Following the Confucian teachings, the fundamental aspects are culture and education.

From the Institute of International Relations that we founded in 1990 at the National University of La Plata, one of the first Departments that we created was the Asia and the Pacific Department. The Ambassador of China in our country dictated the opening conference. A few years later, in October 1996, we created the Center for Chinese Studies within that Department. From there, we prepared the project to establish the headquarters of a Confucius Institute (2009) in our university, which was supported by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in our country. Since then, we started a journey which included, among other significant contributions, the creation of the Federal Confucius. This allowed us to create Teaching Points of the Chinese language in different provinces of our extensive country, as well as the most recent creation of the Postgraduate Programme in Chinese Studies (2017) with the participation of national, Latin American, and Chinese professors,



constituting an unprecedented experience in the national and Latin American fields.

From our relations with the leaders and the Chinese people, we have verified that, like us, they considered themselves (and most importantly, they are still considered today) a developing country as shown by their diplomacy in multilateral organization, where they participate together with the Group of 77 within the United Nations. In addition, our stories show us that we were (and in our case we still are), victims of colonialism and neo-colonialism, with the illegal occupation of islands of our territory in the South Atlantic. Likewise, Chinese people had to endure the humiliation of the colonial powers in the past and still have a part of their territory amputated.

Those who analyze history have to recognize the impressive current Chinese development, which for some is the only example in the history of humanity of such a qualitative leap in such a short time. From suffering one of the worst famines between 1959 and 1962, China has become the third world scientific power with a budget in research that exceeds several developed powers and currently has hundreds of Internet users.

We have to think of China with the realities of the 21st century; we have to review many things, strip ourselves of our mental laziness and not repeat stereotypes. Let's not let the train of history repeat itself again. Let us know how to build with intelligence a strategic relationship as symmetrical as possible, betting on education, research, science, and technological development.

## **Topic 1 - Round Table 1**

### **Private Sector Development and Its Implications to Chinese Economy**

*Zhen Wang*, Vice President and Research Fellow, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

From an economic perspective, since the reform and opening-up in China 40 years ago, three major reforms have given impetus to fast economic growth in the long run. The first revolution is the rural contract responsibility system, which started the market-oriented reform and the transfer of surplus labour in the agricultural sector. The second reform is on ownership, which has given bigger space to the development of private companies, allowing them to become one of the main forces in the economic development of China. The third reform is the policy of opening-up, which has invited a big scale of foreign investment and companies, especially after China joining WTO. China has become one of the countries with the highest level of openness.

The rapid growth in private sector has made huge contributions to the economic

development of China. It is not only the biggest provider of jobs for Chinese people, but also a major source of tax for the government. Above all of these, it has changed the major structure of Chinese market and added to its vitality. It has driven China towards a more open and regulated market economy system, allowing all kinds of companies to compete and cooperate in an open and fair market environment.

The private sector in China will have greater influence in three main areas in the future. The first area is emerging industries, including digital economy, healthcare economy, etc. More private enterprises may outperform state-owned and foreign enterprises. Second area is investment abroad. With the “One Belt, One Road” initiative gaining more recognition and support from the world, more private enterprises will go abroad and take on larger scale of investments, which is one step closer to multinational enterprises. The third area is the public sector in China. With the government giving more freedom in the public sector, state-owned enterprises will be pushed towards mixed ownership while private enterprises will become a main provider for the public sector.

### **The Repercussions of China's Recent Development in Politics and Economy in South America**

*Fortunato Mallimaci*, Professor and Researcher in Scientific and Technical Research Council for Argentina and the Buenos Aires University

This lecture focuses on the repercussions of China's recent development in politics and economy in South America. At the beginning of the XXI Century, the region experienced a significant political autonomy advancing in fundamental issues through regional integration, social policies and reducing gap between rich and poor. Also, the political rhetoric developed a common sense of State participation in the economy. During the same years, China became one of the largest trading partners of the region, suggesting a link between the Pink Ties (New Lefts) governments and emerging of China as a global player. By understanding how Chinese presence affects the U.S. hegemony in Latin America, we try to provide an interpretation of previous regional achievements and the current wave of neo-conservative governments.

### **“Peripheral Realism’s” Homage to Deng Xiaoping**

*Carlos Escudé*, Senior Tenured Researcher, Argentine Council of Scientific Research

In April 2018, the *Revista de Estudios Sociales*, one of Latin America’s most prestigious and best indexed social science academic journals, edited by Bogotá’s Universidad de Los Andes, published Raúl Bernal-Meza’s “The Use of Two Latin American Theoretical

Contributions to International Relations in Contemporary Chinese Thought: The Cases of Prebisch and Escudé.” The initiative emerged partly from the research project of the Chilean scholar Eduardo Devés Valdés on the global reach of knowledge produced in the Latin American region. Concerned with the oft-pronounced opinion regarding an alleged irrelevance of social science knowledge generated in Latin America, Bernal-Meza first surveyed the works in English produced by Chinese scholars about Raúl Prebisch’s “theory of the deterioration of the terms-of-trade,” mainly consulting the writings of Jiang Shixue. Concomitantly, Chilean funds were raised in order to translate writings in Mandarin Chinese on Carlos Escudé’s “Peripheral Realism”. In this case, the main sources were Sun Ruoyan’s “Comments on Carlos Escudé’s Theory of Peripheral Realism” (《评卡洛斯·埃斯库德的外围现实主义理论》), published in the *Journal of World Economy and Politics* 8, 2005; and the chapter titled “Peripheral Realism” of the erudite volume edited by Xu Shicheng, *Trends in the Modern Latin American Thought* (拉丁美洲现代思潮), published by the Institute of Latin America Studies (ILAS) of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, 2010. According to Bernal-Meza, in the framework of domestic Chinese debates, “Escudé is used by those who defend Deng Xiaoping’s foreign policy doctrines, according to which Chinese international relations should be based on a good understanding with the hegemonic power, because this is in the best interests of China itself.” This is the reason why, as Jiang Shixue points out, towards the end of the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s China’s great modernizer, Deng, advised adopting a low international profile for his country (“never adopt a position of leadership”), and furthermore pointed out that countries that always quarrel with the United States usually fail.

This presentation briefly explores the reasons why China’s “peripheral realism” succeeded while Argentina’s failed.

### **The Chinese Initiative and Its Deployment in Latin America and the Caribbean**

*Gustavo Girado*, Director of Specialization in Contemporary Chinese Studies Master Program, National University of Lanús

Today the multilateralism’s supporters must show why international cooperation is not only valuable, but also necessary. China has a lot to do with this defense, since fostering shared prosperity through interpersonal exchanges, improving trade flows and increasing currency circulation would be precisely what the world needs. China is the mirror that for decades was used in the western northern hemisphere to show the population what path not to follow.

China’s deployment over multilateral organizations, as well as the under-representation it has in them, is the political floor necessary for the creation of entities and mechanisms that allow China to link with the world, develop its policies and secure the future. It uses various

mechanisms, among which is the "One Belt, One Road Initiative".

The complementary needs of LAC and China find a channel of confluence: the BRI would allow China to promote more and better its institutions and its integration strategy with LAC, while LAC perceives that a large part of the offer is functional to its material and political interests. The economic dependence has drawn doubts about China's intention. Therefore, the use of political mechanisms is plausible so that the BRI is not invasive or unidirectional. LAC has, in general, a historical cultural relationship and shared values with the Western North hemisphere. Before the establishment of the national States in America, the presence of the Europeans who settled throughout the continent was decisive. The values made it more difficult for China to enter and deploy in LAC through novel ways. China makes up for it with soft power but must use it differently than it would in Eurasia. The deployment of the BRI should consider that not all Chinese projects in LAC can be successful. The new phase of relationships implies the physical presence of China and companies of that origin. It has created new imperatives for the Chinese government in order to help its companies and staff, testing the ability of the Chinese government to make use of soft power.

The initiative seems to catalyze noncommercial complementarities, such as the requirement of technology, capital and infrastructure. The Chinese project is independent of Western knowledge, which is manifested by the rise of Chinese capital within the Global Value Chains. It may well be the spearhead to involve companies from LAC and residents, who had the capacity to develop as the Chinese did, but now under their umbrella and not as a mirror.

### **China's Development: Achievements and Revisions**

*Jorge Castro*, President of the Institute of Strategic Planning (IPE), Argentina

The Chinese economy grows by 6.7% annually in 2018 and is deeply stable, which is why it has grown between 6.5% and 6.7% annually in the last 11 consecutive quarters. The fundamental thing in this growth is its qualitative bias, which is the result of the crossing of two trends:

- a) a consumption boom of historical magnitude (US \$ 6.9 billion in the first six months of 2018), which makes consumption equitable to 77.4% of GDP growth in the 1st. quarter of the year, with imports that grow in a 3 to 1 ratio with respect to exports and
- b) the shift to a digital economy that already covers 34% of GDP and grows 18% per year based on the most digitized population in the world (810 million Internet users). These would be the fundamental features of my presentation., along with a brief C.V in Spanish and English, as well as a personal photo.

## **The Relations Venezuela – China (1999-2017)**

*Norbert Molina Medina*, Researcher, Centre for African and Asian Studies at Universidad de Los Andes, Venezuela

Venezuela - China relations date from 1943. Since then, they have experienced at least three stages. The first one corresponds to the period 1943-1974, which had as background the creation of the first General Consulate of Venezuela in Shanghai (1936), the first approaches in the mainland and the recognition of Taiwan after 1949. The second stage (1974 -1999), is linked to the break with Taipei and the normalization with the People's Republic of China from June 28, 1974, which has its radius of action until the arrival of Hugo Chávez Frías to the presidency of Venezuela (1999). Finally, the third stage (1999-2017), without doubt, the one of greater political action and dynamism in different sectors of the cooperation, was impelled by the ex-president Chávez and continued by his successor, Nicolás Maduro.

After being sworn in as president of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez Frías promoted a more dynamic foreign policy towards the Asian continent. In October 1999, he made his first tour to Asia, visiting China for the first time (Beijing and Shanghai, from 10 to 12, and Hong Kong, 17 and 18). The interest in the Asian giant increased little by little, seen in the repeated visits of the Venezuelan Head of State to China in 2001, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2009. In 2001, the creation of the Venezuela - China strategic alliance was signed in the framework of the tour of Latin America by President Jiang Zemin, who was in Venezuela from April 15 to 17, this being the first visit of a Chinese head of state to the South American nation.

Venezuela and China have worked together on different projects, covering areas such as energy, petrochemical, iron and aluminium, agriculture and fisheries, infrastructure, housing, transportation, telecommunications, health, finance, mining, defence, education, culture, science and technology, tourism, information, sports and Special Economic Zones, among others. For the second semester of 2016, Venezuelan officials reported 672 projects developed jointly, of which 338 had already been completed, 203 were in execution and another 131 were to be initiated.

However, one of the subjects of greater questioning of the Sino-Venezuelan relationship is indebtedness. Venezuela leads the list of loans made by China in Latin America, whose financial cooperation from 2007 to 2016 has been in the order of \$ 62.2 billion (17 loans), which represents a little more than 40% of the 150 billion dollars that China has disbursed in the region. Of the 17 loans, 70.5% (12) - \$ 55 billion correspond to the energy sector; 11.8% (2) infrastructure; 11.8% (2) mining; and 5.9% (1) others. It is estimated then, that even

Venezuela owes about \$ 23 billion to China, which makes the Asian country its largest creditor. In this sense, we seek to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of Venezuela - China relations in the first 17 years of the 21st century.

### **The Chinese Dream of National Rejuvenation: Origins, Dimensions, Nuances, Domestic and International Implications**

*Gustavo Santillán*, Professor in Modern Asian History and Chinese History, National University of Cordoba

The Chinese Dream of National Rejuvenation, since its 2012 proclamation by President Xi Jinping (then General Secretary of the Communist Party of China), is a significant goal for the Chinese society and people (Ming, 2018: 2). The Chinese Dream is also a dense idea delving in previous political foundations, both modern and traditional (Santillán, 2017: 191-207). This idea has been widely discussed and debated since the very beginning of its contemporary formulation.

This presentation argues that the debate around the Chinese Dream notion contributed to the improvement and reformulation of its meaning, as evident in the Chinese political leadership discourse. The Chinese government, academia and media displayed a relevant sensibility towards the domestic and foreign perception of the Chinese Dream notion, responding and arguing this constantly in the emerging debate. The on-going elaborations of the idea brought in different ideological sources of the Chinese Dream to the scene, during time and alternately. This process turned the Chinese Dream into a nuanced idea.

This in turn replicated in the international public and scholarly opinion, which often tended to interpret the Chinese Dream notion in its own fashion.

The underlying dimensions affecting the debate are: the sustained and ongoing Chinese development process, the rapid transformation of Chinese society, and the foreign policies of major international powers.

This presentation proposes a review of the following aspects of its theme: the political and ideological foundations of the Chinese Dream, the domestic and external dimensions of the Chinese Dream of National Rejuvenation goal, the density and nuanced character of the idea, and the domestic and international implications of this significant statement.

## **The Implications of Chinese Reform and Opening-up for the World Demonstrated by the Belt and Road Initiative**

*Yiwei Wang*, Jean Monnet Chair Professor, Director of the Institute of International Affairs, Renmin University of China

The “One Belt, One Road” is an initiative for international cooperation that is open in all levels. It advocates a new form of globalization and global governance, and creates a community for shared future of mankind. This initiative demonstrates the attractive power of Chinese mode to the international world, and serves as a cooperation platform where Chinese dream can merge with dreams of other parts of the world. It is also a public product that China provides for the world. The “One Belt, One Road” reveals the deepest transformation in China’s international relations in modern times: it brings the whole world to China, and takes what’s in China to the whole world. It fully embodies China’s self-confidence in strategy, it vividly demonstrates how Chinese plans and Chinese wisdom can solve humankind’s problems and the implications of its reform being accessible for the world. In order to better achieve the worldwide results of the “One Belt, One Road”, China should respond to the western world’s doubts on this initiative and the Chinese way to forge a greater global voice for Chinese systems.

## **Topic 1 – Panel 1**

### **Overseas Chinese Migration in Mercosur: Main Flows and Projections in the XXI Century**

*Laura Lucía Bogado Bordazar*, Professor, Coordinator of the Department of Latin America and the Caribbean of the Institute of International Relations

During the opening-up process of China (1978), the emigration of citizens of mainland China and Taiwan had witnessed a significant increase in the number of migrants and the diversification of destinations chosen by these. This expansion, among other issues, was increased by the easing of Chinese immigration laws, political openness, expansion of the Chinese economy abroad, as well as the deepening of globalization which simplified communications, reduced transportation costs and encouraged the creation of international migrant networks.

As a result, a greater revenue stream flowed from overseas Chinese to the Argentina due to the transformations in migratory patterns and behaviors of registered Chinese migrants in the

last decades of the 20th century, which were mainly concentrated in large urban conglomerates. This paper analyzes the process of bilateral cooperation arising from the developed migration policy.

### **Soft Power in China's Relations with Argentina: the Approach of Para-political Organizations, CYL and CLEPEC**

*Dafne Esteso*, Advisor in the Ministry of Finance (financial negotiations with Chinese banks that invest in infrastructure works in Argentina), Adviser on political topics in Latin American Center for Political and Economic Studies on China.

While promoting a “go out” foreign strategy, China portrays its relations with other developing countries as complementary and “win-win”. The bilateral relationship between China and Argentina became known as a comprehensive strategy since 2014. China has tried to establish a positive link with countries like Argentina on various fronts. One of the Chinese strategies worth noting is promoting “public diplomacy” (*gonggong waijiao*), that combines hard and soft power, and “popular diplomacy” (*minjian waijiao*), as well. As the organizational link is created between youth of both countries who are closely linked to the political establishment, China seeks to relate to Latin America, not only linking at government level but also through young politicians and via the approach of establishing and projecting its soft power through popular diplomacy. In that context, it is interesting to examine how young people and their para-political organizations in both countries have driven the political and cultural links. To be more specific, we will consider the characteristics of the organizational links between CYL (Communist Youth League) and CLEPEC (Latin American Center for Political and Economic Studies on China) and their strategies to promote the bilateral relations over the soft power approach, through a qualitative methodology.

### **China in Peru: Economic and Soft Power Perspectives**

*Marco Alberto Carrasco Villanueva*, Economist, Grupo ASIA - National University of San Marcos

China is a country that has been admired in Peru for its remarkable and rapid economic growth. In addition, its culture and history are commonly recognized for its variety of antiquity, being compared locally to that of Peru. The Asian giant is also a very important economic partner of Peru, being the largest market for its exports and an important source of investment. Although its growth rate has moderated in recent years, the continued demand for local raw materials and the need for Chinese to access new markets will help maintain



the relationship between these two countries. It is in this context that China strives to correctly protect its image and its projections of soft power in the region.

The soft power of China in Peru refers to the ability to persuade others to act in a certain way, without resorting to force or coercion. The concept is applied here as a sum of the following components: culture, political values and foreign policy. In addition, the economic perspectives between these two nations will also be analyzed as a complementary.

Regarding culture, the image of China in Peru is relatively good, originally based on the Chinese migrant community in Peru that came in the second half of the 19th century (being the largest in Latin America). These immigrants have shown great assimilation at the local level in terms of culture and customs. Additionally, at present, the Chinese government has tried to spread its culture and language by establishing Confucius Institutes to continue with the dissemination of the positive and attractive image expected from it.

Concerning political values, the shift from the "pink wave" to the "conservative wave" in South America implies a pragmatic vision of Peru regarding Chinese politics. Generally, regulatory interventions at a political and social level are seen respectfully and critically, however, they take a back seat when considering economic and commercial relations. In the local thought, developments such as social credit systems have generated expectations for their upcoming results and implications.

Regarding foreign policy, opinions differ, although there is generally a positive impression of China as the largest market for exports from Peru and a major investor in mining and energy. However, there are also negative perceptions of some sectors, given the perception of unfair competition from Chinese products in the local industries and manufacturers, as well as the problems existing between Chinese mining companies and their unions, in addition to the communities near their extraction points.

Finally, concerning economic cooperation, Peru and China remain as middle-income countries with a growing middle class, driven mainly by domestic demand. China's interest in Latin America is high, foreseeing double trade and investment in the region by 2025. Peru must anticipate this and seize the opportunity to sell higher value-added products to industrialize itself and reduce the current asymmetric trade between both nations.

## **China's Internet Model: An Alternative Digital Road For Latin America**

*Alejandro Razzotti*, Executive Director of the House of Chinese Culture, University of Congress

Since the implementation of a range of technological policies and projects combined with a deep understanding of the needs and expectations of the local consumer, China has cemented a leadership in the digital arena in only two decades that has positioned itself as a global champion. The Chinese Internet ecosystem is a one-of-its-kind framework of infrastructure, connectivity, digitization, industries, competences, and institutional and regulatory features.

Among the characteristics of the Chinese model, their key players are not US-based technological companies-as in Latin America-but world-class local companies. These organizations started in a niche market and then expanded to a full range of services within China and abroad. And the future is also promising because Chinese startups represent one-third of the global tech unicorns while Internet adoption keeps exponential and growing vitality, becoming the first market in the world. Nowadays, the Asian giant has more than 800 million users doubling its Latin American counterpart.

As for Latin American, the current Internet state of affairs is dire. The region has very limited legal power in the digital realm. The states are poorly equipped to face the mighty international tech companies responsible for a business model that trades free-given personal data for paid advertising individually configured with artificial intelligence assistance. The unintended consequences of biased algorithms, data breaches, privacy violations and human hacking-among others-are well known. Some of these schemes can be avoided or minimized if alternative designs were to be elaborated.

In this context, the Chinese conception of "cyber sovereignty" for the Internet governance gives a greater role to the central government and offers a stark contrast with the US-led global structure which favors a theoretically multilateral approach while letting the Internet be effectively run by a handful of US tech companies. These diverging visions may lead to a split Internet-between the US and the Chinese models-or to a unique but richer and more balanced Internet.

To summarize, China's Internet development has unique characteristics due to its demographic, social, political and economic factors. With mutual respect, this Chinese experience must be carefully analyzed to develop new policy alternatives to rethink the asymmetric relationships between Latin American states and tech companies. Since we cannot live our present-day life without the Internet, finding new "roads" for leveling up this imbalance is a hidden but imperative task for Latin America.

## **Topic 2 – Round Table 2**

### **The Belt and Road Cross-border Parks Construction and China-Latin America Cooperation**

*Guilong Shen*, Director and Professor of the Institute of China Studies, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

The pattern of international direct investment has now entered the 3.0 stage, featuring the establishment of overseas cross-border industrial parks, after its evolvement from the 1.0 version, namely European or American multinational corporations establishing factories in host countries, to the 2.0 version, namely a Japanese main multinational corporation with other related supporting enterprises engaged to conform a cluster. As a large developing country, China has become an important country for the construction of overseas cross-border parks. In 2017, Chinese domestic investors added non-financial direct investment to 6,236 overseas enterprises in 174 countries and regions, with an accumulated investment of 120.08 billion dollars. Among them, the investment in the “One Belt, One Road” countries is 14.36 billion dollars, and the construction of overseas cross-border parks is an important part of it. In the list of 20 overseas economic and trade cooperation zones identified by the government and announced by the Ministry of Commerce in 2017, most of them are located in Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Africa. Latin America is an important direction for the natural extension of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The “One Belt, One Road” initiative has become the new starting point for China-Latin America cooperation. However, at present, the amount of China's cross-border parks built in Latin America is few and the level is relatively low. Compared with the potential China-Latin America cooperation, there is a big gap. To this end, Chinese enterprises which are experienced and powerful should be encouraged to choose “Shenzhen” in Latin America, build a park with industrial agglomeration basis, attract multinational companies from China and other countries, and realize deep cooperation between China and Latin America in capacity and trade.

### **The Road and Belt Initiative in the Recent Global Conditions: Perspectives for Latin American countries**

*Gladys Hernandez Pedraza*, Deputy Director of Global Financial Tendencies, World Economy Research Centre, Havana, Cuba

The present context offers an opportunity to rethink global and regional partnership strategies and to put greater emphasis on South- South ties in cultural, technical and financial cooperation, trade, and foreign direct investment (FDI). In the past few years China and the Latin American and Caribbean region have come to enjoy a sufficiently mature relationship and are poised to make a qualitative leap towards a mutually beneficial strategic alliance.

The Latin American and Caribbean countries must redouble their efforts to diversify cultural and financial cooperation with China, embedding more value and knowledge into their exports, and stimulating cultural and business relations, as well as trade and technological ties with their Chinese counterparts. They must also promote Latin American investments in the Asia-Pacific region in order to build the region's presence in Asian value chains, focusing on China. Today, China is viewed as a vital enduring fixture in Latin America's economies and its external affairs.

“One Belt, One Road” construction can help consolidating the China and Latin American opportunities for cultural and economic developments. The nature of Chinese-Latin American relationships is unlikely to change in the coming years, despite political transitions throughout the LAC region and low commodity prices. Trade continues to be the foundation of China's relationships in Latin America, as China continues to import raw materials from the region and export increasingly sophisticated Chinese-made goods such as cellphones and taxi cabs. Although growth in trade has slowed, China will continue to have high demand for raw materials, even as the structure of its economy changes and LAC can improve its export structure to China with new value added products.

### **The Latin-American MSMEs in the Context of OBOR**

*Anibal Carlos Zottele*, Coordinator, China-Veracruz Studies Center, Veracruz University, Mexico

The “One Belt, One Road” initiative was inserted in the world consciousness as a narrative of changes and different considerations; a story in which the development would be characterized as the pointer of its construction. It was only five years ago, in 2013, when President Xi Jinping predicted for the global system an opportunity for joint and inclusive growth; since then, the Initiative, also known as "One Belt, One Road", has been valued with increasing attention by the countries of Latin America (LA), which see favorable transformations for their progress.

Nowadays, this great proposal is in the making of a reality replete with challenges of different kinds. It is a central impulse in China's relationship with the world, whose treatment represents new junctures for our region, with risks involved. However, regardless of the different positions that the countries of the region assume, OBOR will have an important influence in our continent.

It is within this framework that LA focuses its efforts on Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's), organizations with a leading role in generating employment, which have been

propped up as the main edge of the improvement plans at the regional and national levels.

However, while China offers a growth plan for this geographical area, our countries do not yet have a defined common strategy; this is the reason why no general agreement should be expected regarding the Initiative. Therefore, this horizon should be considered to reflect on the most convenient terms to improve the quality of the insertion of SME's, with the objective of granting them greater competitiveness and participation in economic relations.

In this sense, the present analysis makes emphasis on some of the aspects that present greater possibilities advancing in the positioning of these productive units rapidly. Preferably in the field of commerce, where the issues of logistics and virtual development will be the key.

According to the principles of OBOR, two points can be identified to further study: the first corresponds to the points of connection between Latin America and the Initiative; the second points out the necessary strategies for SME's to take full advantage of the support systems adjacent to the "One Belt, One Road" initiative.

That is why, in the end, the factors of connectivity will be the most opportune to ensure an inclusive application of this plan. This process includes a cooperation platform that will have to be based on the coordination of policies, the development of infrastructure, the commercial exchange, the coordination of financing, and the people-to-people exchange among participating nations.

### **The Belt and Road Initiative: Propulsive Innovation from Cooperation to Integration**

*Maria Francesca Staiano*, Director of Center for Chinese Studies, National University of La Plata

This paper will focus on the examination of the BRI as a driving force behind the dynamics of regional integration, constituting a platform of cooperation that goes beyond the static ties of regional organizations. These are constantly being discussed when the member countries must form a common policy to cope with an efficient allocation of resources within the framework of a concrete practice of international cooperation with China. In turn, China is forced to face "dual" political realities, a national and a supranational one.

In particular, the BRI in Europe has generated a dynamic that is shaking the European Union in two ways: on the one hand, it calls into question the economic gap between Eastern Europe and Western Europe; on the other hand, it requires a connectivity that includes states belonging to the EU and non-European countries. This is leading to a progressive promotion of the development of European integration. The VII Summit of the "16 + 1" countries took

place on 6 and 7 July 2018 in Sophia, Bulgaria. 16 + 1 is a China initiative (1) aimed at generating cooperation with 16 European countries, of which 11 are EU members and five are candidates to enter the EU. From this important Forum we understand the drive towards a more united Europe.

For the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the BRI will play a key role in enabling the connection of two of the most dynamic regions in the world through the strengthening of economic ties between the 10 ASEAN members and between the ASEAN countries and China. In addition, the BRI will allow Southeast Asian countries to close the existing gap in infrastructure and promote industrial development: while the formation of the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015 has allowed the Southeast Asian economies to be united in a single market, the Beijing strategy will offer a future integration through the development of physical infrastructure and a solid trade regime.

With reference to Africa, the African Union already includes all the 55 states of the African continent. Despite this, China has in the past promoted a model of bilateral cooperation with each African country, receiving much criticism in terms of African "dis-integration". Recently, however, President Xi, during his speech to the last China-Africa Cooperation Forum (FOCAC), held in Beijing in September 2018, declared his intention to "jointly formulate a China-Africa infrastructure cooperation plan with African Union, and "firmly support African countries and the African Union and other regional organizations in Africa to solve African problems in an African way".

In Latin America it is necessary to consider the presence of various integrated organizations, which are going through a moment of great political impulse, even if in a disorderly way, with multidimensional methods and at different speeds. The regional organizations include MERCOSUR, CAN, CARICOM, UNASUR, SICA, ALBA, the Pacific Alliance and CELAC. China often confronts Latin America by meeting with CELAC, which is the only one to represent all the Latin American states and which presents itself as a "Community". In the Chinese challenge of generating a "community of shared destiny", CELAC probably has a priority role.

### **Belt and Road: from the Historical Context, towards an Agenda for Mutual Benefit in the Framework of Deepening the China-South America Relationship**

*Milton Reyes Herrera*, Professor at Sociology Department in Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador, Coordinator of Chinese Studies Center in Ecuadorean National Institute of Advanced Studies

This paper addresses South America as a unit of analysis, which would share a relatively

homogeneous and particular continuum in relation to the entire Latin American region. Thus, the document reviews, first and generally, the historical-structural framework of the deployment of the relationship between China and South America, presented in five general movements: commercial exchange, establishment and deepening of political dialogue, direct investment, financial deployment, and cooperation. This will allow in a second moment, to understand the scenario, limits and opportunities of the Belt and Road Initiative as a proposal oriented to the deepening of the strategic relations with the region. The analysis will propose as a third point a general minimum viable agenda that could be oriented to materialize mutual interests and benefits for both parties while taking into account the regional and world order scenario. This finally points out some suggestions aimed at generating better mutual understanding and minimizing misunderstandings, and therefore to expand opportunities for effective shared benefit.

### **The Relations Between the Belt and Road Initiative and Global Governance**

*Renwei Huang*, Former Vice President and Professor of Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

The inherent correlation between the Belt and Road and global governance can be categorized into 10 fundamental relations:

1. The relation between global governance and a community with shared future for mankind, which is a Chinese perception of global governance. The Belt and Road is a platform for China to translate global governance to practice.
2. The relation between the regional governance and global governance. The Belt and Road can be divided into several regions. Regional governance can be combined with global governance on the “Belt and Road” platform and new systems for cooperation can be established.
3. The relation between bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The main part for the Belt and Road Initiative is bilateral cooperation, which is not enough and will finally develop into multilateral cooperation.
4. The relation between international law, local law and Chinese law in the regulations of the Belt and Road. The establishment of a balanced relationship among these three is an important exploration of, and great contribution to, the regulation system in global governance.

5. The relation between global economic governance and, social and security governance related to the Belt and Road. Economic governance alone, without social and security governance, cannot guarantee the success of the Belt and Road.
6. The relation between risk control and global governance. Risk control for the Belt and Road almost include risk issues in all sectors.
7. The relation between system innovation for the Belt and Road and other governance systems, such as United Nations. We must create a juncture between new systems for the Belt and Road and the long-standing UN system.
8. The relation between China's responsibility in the initiative and the participation of other big powers. The Belt and Road is not a global project run exclusively by China. It is hard to succeed without other big powers' participation.
9. The relation between industrial chain in the Belt and Road and the allocation of global resources. The initiative is for better allocation of global resources.
10. The Belt and Road concerns the relation between countries in different stages of development. Global governance is about joint governance of different countries.

## **Topic 2 – Panel 2**

### **The Belt & Road Initiative (BRI): A City System with Great Challenges in Latin America**

*Diana Andrea Gomez Diaz*, Associate Professor of the Institute of Political Studies and International Relations, National University of Colombia, Director of Asia-Latin America Academic Network

The governments of Latin America are not clear about the BRI's link with their region and how it can be included within the idea of a community of shared destiny. In addition, Latin America represents three major challenges to China that it must face within the framework of the BRI: 1) in this region, urbanization is not the result of economic growth, as it can be stated in other regions such as North America and Europe. Urbanization process began during the period of the Spanish conquest in order to found cities to expand the borders of the Spanish empire and to avoid leaving gaps that would facilitate entry for other colonial powers. The Spanish monarchy centered and raised its power in cities.

2) Cities in Latin America are not an administrative category -as they are in China- but an



urban fact. The process of conquest brought the new foundation of pre-Hispanic America existing cities and other new ones that with the passing of time were consolidated as urban centers, where the municipal power was overcome by urban growth. The incipient process of State building in Latin America has led to the lack of territorial control of States and the absence of efficient policies for cities.

3) Latin American cities have the highest rates of urban violence in the world. 43 of the 50 most violent cities in the world are located in Latin America. The cities become scenarios for all kinds of violence due to the dispute over the control of territories and the presence of illegal actors.

To study the BRI options in Latin America, the same analysis parameters used in other latitudes cannot be followed. The Latin American context has its own realities.

### **Sociology of Chinese Public and Private Mining Investments in Argentina (Iron, Gold, and Lithium): Field Studies, Debates, and Proposals**

*Nicolás Damin*, Sociologist, Associate Professor of the Department of Planning and Public Policies, National University of Lanús

The sociological study of Chinese mining investments in Latin America provides empirical data that allow a more accurate picture of the trajectory of exchanges between both regions and their impact on different sectors of societies.

If a historical approach is applied and it considers the particularities of each country, the various effects of the exponential growth of the PRC in Latin America are quantifiable in terms of job creation, wealth, environmental impact, relationship with communities and local suppliers, and its political dimension at the regional, national, provincial and municipal levels.

Based on these axes and an inquiry about the status of the Sino-Argentinean association, this presentation adopts an expository strategy with the case study of public and private Chinese mining companies in Argentina in three minerals: Iron (MCC-Sierra Grande; Río Negro), Gold (Minera Andina del Sol-Shandong Gold / Barrick Gold, province of San Juan) and Lithium (Ganfeng Lithium-Exar, province of Jujuy). Although in bilateral Sino-Argentine agreements the issue has been presented since 2000, it was from 2007, when the MCC company acquired an iron deposit, that investments were observed. In 2016/2017, these took a leap with the purchase of 50% of Barrick Gold by Shandong Gold and the installation of private lithium companies in Jujuy and Salta. It is a recent phenomenon compared to the

Peruvian experience that began in the last decade of the last century. However, it has generated a heated social debate and a set of proposals in this regard that will be systematized in this argument.

### **Latin America: the Education Silk Road**

*Esteban Zottele*, Researcher at the Center for Latin American Studies of Changzhou University, Researcher at the Center for China Studies of Veracruz University

China has shown its interest in developing the “One Belt, One Road” initiative in Latin America. Li Guangyu (2015) affirms that this great Initiative conforms to the global efforts and leads the pursuit of peace, development and promotion of the win-win cooperation. Some researchers affirm that “One Belt, One Road” Initiative is the inheritance and extension of the Ancient Silk Road, but history has given a new meaning, because the Initiative focuses not only on economic factors, but also in the establishment of more communication and exchange which are reflected in all the aspects, such as Politics, Economy and Culture. (Zottele & Wei, 2017), in that way all the countries that participate in its implementation will have a great chance of sustained development, with the potential of their reserves, promote faster economic growth and ensure the international status of the areas involved. However, the complexity of the implementation of OBOR in LA involves a deeper understanding of the diversities and similarities in the region. There is a remarkable diversity in economic, political, cultural, and geographical characteristics; there are also some similitudes related with historical processes in the region. Other similarities lie in the structural poverty, inequality, and lack of long-term political projects. It is noteworthy that the LA has had different experiences of governments in the last 15 years, and some of them have a great focus on poverty reduction and the search for social equality. But most indicators are still showing inequality, poverty and lack of opportunities for great part of the population in LA. (Zottele & Wei, 2017)

For its sustainability, the Initiative in LA must consider various factors that go beyond trade or the economic relationship between both regions. If the application of the initiative in LA is not along with opportunities for improving the quality of life of the vast majority of the population, not only may it not be sustained in the long term, but it can even contribute to the growth of inequality in the region.

The development in educational systems is an important element of the development in the quality of life. In that way, education should be analyzed as a fundamental element in the development of “One Belt, One Road” initiative, considering two main aspects:

The first is viewing education as a basis for understanding the initiative. Regarding this point, universities, studies centers and research Institutes in LA should be key players to developing, analyzing and understanding OBOR in the region.

The second is viewing education as a part of the “One Belt, One Road” Initiative to promote development; not only the creation of infrastructure and mobility, but also investment in education as a generator of a long-term sustainable initiative

The key of this research are two important questions: why should the “One Belt, One Road” Initiative cover Latin America? and how can OBOR contribute to the education development?

### **China in the Caribbean: Opportunities and Challenges**

*John Angus Martin*, Former Curator of the Grenada National Museum

The Peoples Republic of China’s influence in the Caribbean region began simply as a plea for political recognition following its acceptance at the United Nations in 1971 as the sole Chinese state (and its subsequent desire to displace Taiwan which had assumed that role between 1945 and 1971). Its increasing sway in the Caribbean is on par with its growing influence across the globe in the past few decades, propelled by its growing economy. It has proved especially influential among developing countries that are looking to the People’s Republic of China as the model and engine of their own development which has eluded them for decades, and to take up the slack left by the lessening influence of western institutions like the World Bank and IMF, and the US and other bilateral aid.

At the same time with China’s emergence on the world stage, the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean, especially in the English-speaking Caribbean, were gaining independence after centuries of colonialism, and despite their small size laid claim to their sovereignty. China’s foreign policy goal to displace Taiwan’s influence, proved to be more effective because of its growing economy and wealth, and changing focus. After nearly four decades, China emerged the winner in terms of influence in the region, despite a few states that still recognize Taiwan (currently five countries in the Caribbean). Its vast economic wealth and the use of that wealth to expand markets through its investments and overall economic aid have led to a growing influence across the region. This has made China poised not only to achieve economic ascendancy in the region, but political, military and cultural influences.

With the increasing opportunities, however, there are challenges for China as it becomes an

important economic, military and cultural player in the region. Chinese firms have probably borne the brunt of criticism on China's investment policies and practices. With its history of colonialism, Caribbean countries are wary of foreign investment and have in the past reserved criticism of western governments and institutions that it regarded as exploitative or heavy-handed. China's role in the region has been well received by many governments who welcome increasing investments, trade and aid, but there has been a small, but growing criticism for some of its practices. As such, these have presented significant challenges as China navigates its growing influence and attempts to achieve a "win-win" situation in the Caribbean via its prominent Belt and Road Initiative.

### **Topic 3 – Round Table 3**

#### **“Belt and Road” Initiative and the Opportunities and Challenges of Infrastructural Cooperation Between China and Latin America**

*Ping Wang*, Professor of Nankai University, Vice President of China Association of Latin American History Studies

Given that the changing international situation has been increasingly complicated since the 21st century, the Chinese government has put forward respectively “the Silk Road Economic Belt” and “the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road” (“the Belt and Road Initiative”) to deal with this situation. This Initiative has drawn attention in the international arena, and also gained great achievements since its establishment.

As for Latin America, the second China-CELAC Ministerial Forum held in Chile in January of 2018 made further close ties between the Belt and Road Initiative and Latin America. “Belt and Road Special Declaration” issued not only illustrates that Latin America countries have become the indispensable players of the initiative, but also demonstrates that the cooperation between China and Latin America has entered into a new era under the framework of the “Belt and Road”. This would offer new method of facing the current international situation based on the interests of both China and Latin America, and also complies with the development needs of both sides, as well as provide new thoughts and new opportunity for the infrastructural cooperation between China and Latin America in particular.

Meanwhile, there are still a number of challenges for realizing the connectiveness of infrastructural cooperation between China and Latin America, such as the need to accurate judgement of the status quo and problems of infrastructure in Latin American countries in order to figure out the connection point for cooperation; the new political situation and

possible changing policies made by the new government; environmental protection and environmental evaluation and labor policy, as well as the increasing differences between the Latin American countries in terms of national conditions, engaging policies into the international economy. In this context, both of China and the Latin American countries need to jointly explore cooperation models suitable for both parties.

### **Academic Exchanges and the Development of Chinese Studies in the Social Sciences and Humanities in Latin America**

*Ignacio Villagrán*, Director of the Argentina-China Studies Center, National University of Buenos Aires

China's economic presence and increasing participation in Latin America in the past decades has been received with both enthusiasm and anxiety. In this context, we observe with some concern the historical and economic processes that have preceded what is currently termed 'China's rise' and how this recent transformation of the Chinese role in international affairs and world markets affects our region and, more specifically, our country, all of which are what our public figures, media personalities, scholars and the general public remain largely ignorant of. Therefore, we understand that, as scholars, we have a great responsibility to contribute to the public debates on foreign policy, investments in infrastructure, commercial relations and sustainable development between China and Latin America. In recent years, several initiatives have been put forth to promote mutual understanding through academic cooperation. Some of the leading Latin American universities have signed academic cooperation agreements with Chinese counterparts, which has allowed the exchanges between Latin American scholars and students and their Chinese counterparts to increase significantly in the past decade. Fostered by these recent developments, a handful of universities in Argentina have created Chinese Studies Centers, as well as programs and initiatives that focus on different aspects of the relationship between our country and China. If we consider the trend, we have reasons to believe that the promotion of Chinese studies in our academic institutions will certainly lead to establishing a network for the production of knowledge on the various aspects of the culture, history and contemporary development of China in local universities that would contribute to the public debates and inform the decision making-processes at different levels of the public and private sectors.

## **Dialogue among China and LAC Civilizations: Implications, Goals, Means and Mechanism**

*Cunhai Guo*, Director of the Center for Argentine Studies, Institute of Latin American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

As China and Latin America are increasingly developing into the comprehensive cooperation partnership, they get closely involved in building the community of shared interests, shared responsibilities and shared future. Consequentially, it is critical for China and LAC to strengthen mutual knowledge, understanding and confidence of each other while civilizational dialogue happens to serve this end. With the natural extension of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to LAC and the region's involvement in the initiative as an indispensable player, BRI is increasingly becoming the main platform to promote civilizational dialogue between China and LAC and build the mechanism of such dialogue. The logic behind lies in the open and inclusive spirit of the Silk Road, which is about peace, mutual learning and win-win cooperation. It is highly compatible with the purpose of civilizational dialogue between China and LAC. The paper tries to answer the following questions, including but not limited to why, on what, with whom and how should civilizational dialogue be established and conducted between China and LAC. Based on these, the writer attempts to give preliminary and exploratory considerations and suggestions for building the mechanism of civilizational dialogue between China and LAC.

## **China, Central America and the Dominican Republic: Towards a Strategic Partnership for Development**

*Sergio Rivero*, Associate Professor, Latin American University of Science and Technology

In the current global context, international economic relations have taken a predominant role for developing countries, over and above the traditional objectives of diplomacy such as international cooperation, security and peacekeeping. This new economic diplomacy is reflected in the countries of Central America and the Dominican Republic (CARD) that have taken the sovereign decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, its second commercial partner.

In the absence of a better classification and for the purposes of this analysis, we establish CARD4 as the bloc of countries of Central America and the Dominican Republic that maintain diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, composed of Costa Rica, Panama, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador.

The decision to recognize the "one China" policy responds to Beijing's leadership in the new

world order and its growing economic presence in Latin America and the Caribbean. Given this reality, the CARD4 countries should define a proactive strategy with Beijing, regardless of the pressure from the United States to prevent China from landing in the area that they have always considered as their backyard.

The CARD4 economies have experienced mixed growth, despite having a high level of commercial integration with the rest of the world. The economic asymmetry between the countries of the bloc means that their development needs are diverse; however, all four face the challenge of taking on structural reforms to take advantage of the market opportunities generated by China's economic presence in the region.

Based on an analysis of the current conditions of economic development and competitiveness of the CARD4 countries and their geostrategic role within the region, the document aims to analyze the opportunities and challenges of the renewed partnership with China, with an emphasis on common axis that require greater impetus to obtain better result in terms of competitiveness, such as infrastructure, education, trade and technological development.

CARD4 has strategic and geographical advantages for global trade. And with the strengthening of diplomatic relations between these countries and the People's Republic of China, further growth in investment and trade is expected. Thus, the study aims to help lay the foundations for the creation of a strategic trade and multilateral cooperation agenda that generates shared benefits for the nations involved.

### **History and Prospect: New Opportunities for Sino-Latin American Relations**

*Jian Shao*, Professor of the Institute of History, Director of President's Office, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

Before the 21st century, Sino-Latin American relations could be divided into three stages: prosperous private trade, inequality under the influence of Colonialism wave, and political confrontation to the climax of diplomatic relations after the founding of New China.

At present, as the United States enters the Trump era, there are uncertainties in the formation of a new global political and economic pattern. To open a new chapter in Sino-Latin American relations and promote both regions' development, it is particularly important to strengthen political mutual trust between two sides and all-round cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, science and technology, culture and education.

This article holds that the Sino-Latin American relations can be further promoted in four

aspects: First, actively promote and support Latin American countries' participation in the Belt and Road Initiative. Second, optimize and upgrade the existing economic cooperation with the help of the Belt and Road Initiative, and jointly pursue innovation and development. Third, further expand cooperation and exchanges in culture, tourism and sports. Fourth, continue to enhance mutual understanding and actively promote track II diplomacy.

### **The Advance of the Chinese Initiative One Belt One Road Toward Great Caribbean Zone: Strategic Relevance and Challenges**

*Ruvislei González Saez*, Professor in Economics, the Havana University, Head of the Research Team of Asia and Oceania, the Research Center of International Policy (CIPI )

In September 2013, the president of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping presented in Kazakhstan the idea of the great project One Belt One Road (OBOR). Two years later, Beijing made official the megaproject with the institutionalization of six corridors and its two slopes, the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road. In its initial projection, the connection of Asia with Europe, crossing the Middle East and involving Africa was proposed. Later on, starting in 2016, the extension to Latin America and the Caribbean has been projected through the development of a series of economic-financial projects. OBOR is more than an infrastructure and economic initiative. In this sense, the article aims to determine its strategic relevance through the analysis of economic-financial dimensions, without ignoring the political and sociocultural issues.

From January 2017 to November 2018, twelve countries of the Latin America and Caribbean have been incorporated to the great project, specifically ten countries belong to the Great Caribbean zone. It's very important in political and economic terms for China. The objective of the presentation is to show the strategic relevance of OBOR in this area via bilateral and multilateral actions. At the same time, this presentation also aims to determine the relevance of the China-Great Caribbean relations by analyzing economic and financial dimensions, without ignoring political and socio-cultural questions. In addition, it also aims to identify the challenges. The article approaches key countries that are members of the OBOR, the action proposals and their relation with the regional projects that can involve new members of the OBOR in the future. It is impossible to discuss the current situation without addressing the US policy towards China as well as the US policy towards Latin America and Caribbean region. The Trump administration poses a great challenge.



## **China-Latin America Cooperation in the Context of the Belt and Road Initiative: Advantages, Obstacles and Their Resolutions**

*Dongzhen Yuan*, Deputy Director, Institute of Latin American Studies – Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Since its launch in 2013, the Belt and Road Initiative has received a positive response in Latin America. Many countries in the region expressed their interests for BRI and their aspiration to join it. Since 2017, the Chinese government has considered Latin America a natural extension of the Maritime Silkroad of the 21st Century, and therefore an indispensable and important participant in constructing the Belt and Road. This also corresponds with Latin American countries' aspiration to jointly construct the Belt and Road. There are many favorable conditions to the cooperation in BRI between China and the Latin American countries: China and Latin America has established solid foundation in economic and trade cooperation, which provides a good basis for the construction of Belt and Road; both parties have high expectations for this initiative; the connotation of strategic partnership between China and Latin America has been continuously enriched, which provides necessary political foundation for the construction of Belt and Road; the mechanism for mutual cooperation has been continuously improved, which provides necessary systematic guarantee for the joint construction of Belt and Road. At the same time, there are some unfavorable factors and obstacles in the process. The two sides differ in their values, ideologies and political systems. Therefore, mutual political trust is still not sufficient, and mutual perception between the two parties is still not very clear. These surely will impede and interfere with the joint construction of Belt and Road. External factors may also produce a negative and uncertain impact on the Chinese-Latin American cooperation. In order to avoid or diminish these possible damages, the two sides must be alert to the possible damages done by the differences in ideologies and values to their cooperation. They should keep working on enhancing political trust and mutual understanding, eliminate or diminish the negative impacts of external factors, and translate the aspiration for cooperation to concrete actions.

### **Topic 3 – Panel 3**

#### **China in Latin America: Active Multilateralism and CELAC's Role**

*Sergio Cesarín*, National University Tres de Febrero - UNTREF, Researcher CONICET

In the last two decades China has become an strategic partner for Latin America and the Caribbean. LAC views China as key player and partner to promote regional insertion into

world economy dynamics, to strengthen regional competitive capacities, promote high added value sectors. LAC looks for technological alliances and integrating regional goods and services into China's global value chains (GVC).

In two decades, China has become a top destination for regional exports. In this time, Latin American countries have assumed China as a model to imitate in many fields like production networks, bureaucratic efficiency, education investment and poverty reduction.

Cooperation is mainly conducted through different associative mechanisms and tools in a wide range, since bilateral treaties of free trade agreements (FTAs) are linked with other action channels (hemispheric, sub regional and multilateral). China has strengthened its regional presence in LAC. In this regard, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) has provided useful multilateral platform to reach these China's strategic goals.

In this stage of emerging economic protectionism, China reaffirms its international standing in the south - south axis; regarding this, for both sides CELAC provides tools within a multilateral platform to build mutual trust and strengthen China's power projection under shared visions on development and cooperation agenda.

### **Chinese Learning Approaches. Fostering Academic Cooperation with Latin America**

*María Azpiroz*, Director of International Affairs, Universidad ORT Uruguay

Internationalization in tertiary education has grown rapidly in the 21st century and China leads with the highest number of students abroad on exchange.

On an economic, political and cultural level, relations between China and Spanish-speaking countries have inspired a growing interest in Spanish language study. In China in 2018 there are 40,000 students studying Spanish, in universities, private institutions and the Cervantes institutes. This has been incentivized through public policies that promote language learning; Spanish was recently added to the optional secondary education curriculum as a second language, along with Russian, English and Japanese. In 2006 the Cervantes Institute in Beijing opened, and in 2018 came the RAE-SISU Joint Research Center in Shanghai. All of this could spark an increase in the number of Spanish speakers in China, favoring bilateral relations with Latin America.

While there are certainly advantageous conditions for choosing Latin America as a destination for university exchange and improving Spanish language skills, there are also disadvantages in terms of the distance from China and the lack of local experience in working with Chinese language speakers. In order to deepen collaboration with China through further academic cooperation, a broadened awareness of the scholarly

characteristics of Chinese students will be beneficial.

Research has looked to identify and understand individual differences in Spanish second language learners, and specifically in Chinese students, in terms of learning approaches, styles and strategies, and their association to academic success. As a result of these studies, the stereotype of the rote-learning, obedient, text-dependent, instructor-centered Chinese student has been put in question. Recent research suggests this type of conduct has more to do with the educative context in which students are immersed than it does with what would be more difficult to change: ingrained cultural values.

### **Brazilian Competitiveness Through Chinese Direct Investment**

*Mirna Larissa Wachholz Cabral*, Partner-Director, Vallya Group (a Brazilian private equity and investment advisory firm)

Brazil is the fourth largest destination of Chinese outward direct investment (ODI) in the world in terms of stock, with a total of about USD 60 billion in confirmed investment. Although most Chinese ODI to Brazil, or approximately 85% in total, has been directed to the sectors of energy, including oil and gas, and mining, recent deals involving major Internet companies from China received great amount of attention and clearly demonstrated how diverse the Sino-Brazilian economic cooperation can be.

Brazil has just elected a new President and this is a good time to review the current state of bilateral relations and to discuss how the two countries can further improve economic ties. Bearing in mind that both are developing economies, it makes sense to strategically think of using China's technical expertise and availability of capital to tackle some of the key issues affecting Brazilian competitiveness, such as lack of sufficient infrastructure and cost-effective logistics. Projects that have the potential to transform the economic landscape of some Brazilian regions should be highlighted and prioritized in bilateral negotiations.

Chinese companies' learning curve for overseas investment has been improving fast and their ability to successfully engage in larger and more complex negotiations opens a new wave of opportunities for greenfield projects, which are in the interest of Brazil due to its job creation potential. As Brazil leaves behind a period of economic hardship and tries to enter a new phase of faster economic recovery, the trend is for more Chinese companies to turn their attention to the 5<sup>th</sup> largest population in the world and a major exporter of oil and agricultural items, especially given the fact that China is a latecomer among international investors and therefore its rate of ODI as a proportion of GDP has yet plenty of room to grow.

Brazil is a continental-size country suffering with a major infrastructure deficit that represents a bottleneck to its economic development. In this regard, it can make better use of the funds made available by the Chinese government with the specific goal of supporting

projects in Latin America and discuss regulatory frameworks that facilitate the use of such financial resources in projects considered strategic. Additionally, with the ambition of being a diversified economy and shifting from a predominantly commodity exporter to a supplier of more value-added products, Brazil can encourage Chinese companies to establish manufacturing plants in the country, which tends to better integrate it to regional and global value chains. A lot can be done in terms of improving Brazilian competitiveness and the Chinese have a role to play in that regard.

## LIST OF FORUM PARTICIPANTS

(in alphabetical order of surname)

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# LOGISTICS

## **I. Hotel Venue**

Amerian Congreso Hotel, Azcuénaga 45, C1029 AAA, Buenos Aires

The forum provides accommodations for non-local participants for three nights (December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>). Expenses for extra nights, stays in other hotels, and any other expenses outside accommodation are not covered by any party of the Forum.

## **II. Registration and Forum Materials**

Non-local participants are expected to arrive on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please collect forum materials upon registration at the hotel lobby. Local representatives of Buenos Aires, audience and journalists are expected to register from 14:30 to 15:30 on December 3<sup>rd</sup> in the hotel lobby.

## **III. Shuttle Bus Arrangements**

Free airport shuttle buses are available for non-local participants at the following times:

December 2<sup>nd</sup>: 8:00-22:00;

December 5<sup>th</sup>: 8:00-22:00;

Participants not using the above pick-up services will be required to arrange their own transport at their own expense.

## **IV. Forum Structure**

1. The Opening Ceremony and Plenary Session on the afternoon of December 3<sup>rd</sup> will include opening addresses, keynote speeches, a group photo of all participants, signing of MoU, etc.
2. On December 4<sup>th</sup> there will be 3 topics, each of which will include a round table (15 minutes a piece), panel (10 minutes a piece), and free discussion (within 3 minutes per piece).
3. The closing ceremony at 20:00 on December 4<sup>th</sup> includes closing addresses, etc.

Please consult the notice of Forum Secretariat for any changes in the abovementioned agenda.

## **V. Meals**

Buffet breakfasts on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> will be provided for non-local participants at the hotel. All participants are invited to the welcome reception on the evening of December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Buffet lunch will be provided on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Round table speakers and panelists are invited to the banquet on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **VI. Conference Facilities**

Simultaneous Chinese/Spanish interpretations as well as projectors are provided throughout the opening and closing ceremonies, the plenary session and 3 topics. Please collect and return the simultaneous interpretation headphones as directed. Speakers using PPT for their presentation should contact our staff before the conference starts to transfer their PPT via USB. Staff will transfer from USB to the computer at the forum venue.

## **VII. Badge**

Please wear the badge when entering the forum venue and dining hall. To ensure order and safety, please attend to your badge and do not lend it to others. Please report to the Secretariat promptly if the badge is lost.

## **VIII. Media Services**

The Media Center is on the ground floor and will be open during the afternoon of December 3<sup>rd</sup> and throughout December 4<sup>th</sup>. It provides services for interviews, and computers and printers are available there. Please note, viewpoints presented at the conference are those of the speakers or authors alone.

## **IX. Paper Abstracts and Bios**

The paper abstracts and biographical data of the participants are edited and distributed as forum materials by the Secretariat with no contribution fees paid.

Participants are welcomed to provide full papers to the Secretariat, however the forum is not responsible for printing or distributing the full papers.

## **X. Formal dress is the attire during conference, reception and banquet.**

## **ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS**

### **Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences**

-One of the 25 Top Think Tanks in China-

Founded in 1958 and administered by the Municipal Government of Shanghai, SASS is China's oldest institution for the humanities and social sciences and is the largest one outside the capital of Beijing. SASS is a leading think tank and a distinguished academic institution in China. In 2015, SASS was just listed in the Top 25 Chinese Think Tanks Construction Program initiated by the central government. Although SASS receives most of its funds from the municipal government of Shanghai, it also draws financial support from various non-governmental sources at home and abroad.

SASS has 17 institutes and more than 20 interdisciplinary centers that conduct theoretical research and applied studies in humanities and social sciences, with a special focus on important issues arising from the current social and economic transformation and the country's continual reform and development.

With its comprehensive research achievements, SASS contributes greatly to the nation and the municipality through its policy studies for government authorities, training, and consulting services. Its research findings and publications have been particularly influential with both policy-makers and the greater public.

SASS currently has 760 employees, of which 550 are research staff. Among SASS researchers, there are 123 research professors and 181 associate research professors. SASS also has more than 30 honorary professors and specially invited professors.

SASS has a Graduate School. SASS started to enroll graduate students in 1979, making it one of the earliest educational institutions authorized by the Academic Degree Commission of the Chinese State Council to confer academic degrees. SASS Graduate School has 8 doctoral degree programs and 62 master degree programs. The current number of doctoral and master degree candidates exceeds 700.

SASS has signed over 60 cooperative agreements with international partners. Every year it

hosts over 1,000 foreign visitors and hundreds of international conferences, lectures and seminars, as is represented by the bi-annual World Forum on China Studies, sponsored by the State Council Information Office and the Shanghai Municipal People's Government, which sees over 500 participants at each session.

**Website: [www.sass.org.cn](http://www.sass.org.cn)**

## **Institute of Latin American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences**

The Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) was founded on 4th July, 1961, and is one of the institutions under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CASS). It is the largest comprehensive Latin American research institute in China. Since its establishment, ILAS has served various functions including academic research, think tank, knowledge dissemination, personnel training and consulting services.

### **Research Areas**

ILAS covers a wide range of research interests in Latin America and the Caribbean, including politics, economics, international relations, social and cultural affairs, and key issues with theoretical and practical implications.

### **Institutional Structure**

The Academic Committee of ILAS is for academic guidance and review. Committee's main duties include gathering latest information, analyzing and forecasting both the status quo and trends of the related areas, reviewing mid-term and long-term research programs and plans, and advising research disciplines and their adjustments, scholar trainings as well as the acquisition of books and materials.

The institute has six research departments, namely, Department of Economics, Department of Political Science, Department of Social and Cultural Affairs, Department of International Relations, Department of Regional Integration and Department of Trans-disciplinary Studies. In addition, it has an editorial department, an archive and information center, and a general office, which is responsible for postgraduate program, research administration and foreign academic exchanges.

ILAS also hosts five centers for state/region studies. These are Center for Argentine Studies, Center for Brazilian Studies, Center for Central America and the Caribbean Studies, Center for Cuban Studies and Center for Mexican Studies respectively. These research centers aim to integrate internal and external research strengths, to enhance research in related fields/countries, to provide respectively policy recommendations and consulting service for governmental officials and entrepreneurs, and to promote the relationship and cooperation

between China and Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Department of Latin American Studies of the CASS Graduate School is based in ILAS. Since 1978, the Department has awarded over a hundred graduates, with master and Ph.D. degrees in Latin American studies. Currently, ILAS offers postgraduate programs. For M.A., ILAS offers M.A. in LAC Economics, M. A. in LAC Political Science and M. A. in LAC International Relations. For Ph.D., ILAS offers Ph. D. in LAC Economics and Ph. D. in LAC Political Science.

Established in 1984, the secretariat of the Chinese Society of Latin American Studies (CSLAS) is currently under ILAS, which also administer the Society. As a national civil society and academic organization, the Society aims at coordinating the studies of Latin America and the Caribbean on politics, economics, international relations (China-Latin American relations), social affairs, and culture, and enhancing mutual understanding between the Chinese and Latin American peoples, and academia in particular. CSLAS holds annual conference on a regular basis.

### **Faculty and Staff**

The institute has 63 staff members, including research fellows, associate research fellows, and assistant research fellows and research assistants. The institute is composed of a group of distinguished and renowned scholars, experts, and young professions, both nationally and internationally. Every year, ILAS sends out its inspiring and talented scholars to universities, research institutes and think tanks all over the world for training and visiting. These exchange programs help promote academic exchanges with Latin American countries, learn latest methodologies and train young research staff members.

### **Academic Exchanges and Cooperation**

ILAS has established extensive cooperation and working relationships with research institutions and scholars in Latin America. It has forged a wide range of academic collaborations with a number of international, regional organizations and national institutions, such as Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Fundación Getulio Vargas y su Instituto Brasileiro de Economía, Universidad Estatal Paulista, Universidad Nacional

Autónoma de México (UNAM), Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina (CAF), Universidad de Costa Rica, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Universidad Externado de Colombia, Consejo Argentino para Relaciones Internacionales (CARI), Fundación de Estudios Políticos, Económicos y Sociales para la Nueva Argentina (FEPESNA), Universidad de Buenos Aires, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba (Argentina), Universidad del Desarrollo (Chile), Universidad de Andrés Bello (Chile), Universidad del Pacífico (Perú), Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales (CLACSO), Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Institute of the Americas (United State of America), and Center for Iberian/Latin American Studies (CILAS) of UCSD, etc. In the past few years, ILAS has sponsored numerous international conferences and seminars, sent its own scholars overseas, and invited Chinese and foreign scholars and government officials for lectures, conferences and academic exchanges.

### **Journal and Website**

Latin American Review, first published in 1979, and renamed as Latin American Studies in 1986 and Journal of Latin American Studies afterwards, is a bimonthly journal published by ILAS. It is China's first and only academic journal exclusively on Latin America and the Caribbean. Distributed both at home and abroad, the journal is well regarded in the relevant research communities.

The official website <http://ilas.cass.cn> releases latest research outcomes and news in Chinese, English and Spanish. It now serves an important link between Chinese and foreign scholars.

### **Publications**

Since its establishment in 1961 and until 2017, ILAS has published over 10,000 research papers, articles, commentaries and policy reports, approximately 200 books, 100 translated works and 10 dictionaries and encyclopedias. Many of these academic achievements are of pioneering significance and important academic value, and gain wide influences from home and abroad. Since 2006, it has produced a set of books under the series of Latin American Studies and Translated Works of Latin America. Since 1999, ILAS publishes Annual Report on Latin America and the Caribbean –Yellow Book of Latin America and Caribbean.

## **Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences Think Tank Foundation**

Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences Think Tank Foundation (SASS TTF) is a non-profit corporate body for public welfare.

The purpose of SASS TTF is to promote the development of top-level think tanks and to provide high-quality decision-making consultation services. SASS TTF funds key policy-oriented research projects, cultivating talents of social sciences, international academic exchanges and cooperation.

SASS TTF, based in Shanghai, provides service nationwide, adheres to the principle of internationalization, promotes the development of China's think tanks and the cooperation with international think tanks by funding or organizing research projects, international conferences, exchange of visits by domestic and foreign experts of think tanks, publication, translation and communication of research findings.

SASS TTF is dedicated to developing and integrating global research networks on policy studies, with a special focus on maintaining a good relationship with America, Europe and Africa, and on policy studies related to these regions. By establishing multi-level communication channels with distinguished foundations, think tanks, universities, government departments and business institutions overseas, the Foundation aims to introduce advanced overseas experience to high-level think tanks in China, and meanwhile explain Chinese ideologies to the international world. To serve this purpose, the Foundation has built a series of influential platforms for international cooperation and communication, including the World Forum for China Studies, the Shanghai Forum on the Belt and Road Initiative, the Academic Symposium on Sino-American-Russian Relations, Shanghai Think Tank Forum, etc. By sponsoring young researchers to travel to international institutions as visiting scholars and by supporting visiting programmes for young sinologists, the Foundation keeps contributing to fostering researchers on domestic and foreign policies and sinologists. The Foundation is also actively making efforts to attract high-level research resources so as to conduct profound and innovative research on issues important to the development of China and destiny of human kind.

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## **Argentine Council for International Relations**

The Argentine Council for International Relations was established on June 15th, 1978 by Carlos Manuel Muñiz and a group of distinguished international affairs professionals. Dr. Muñiz, a former Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador, came up with the idea of creating a think-tank by bringing together foreign policy experts and providing a forum for national dialogue on Argentine international insertion.

CARI is not only a flagship institution in the field of international relations in Argentina but also worldwide. It is a civil society, partisan-free, non-profit think tank, with a long-standing track record. We elevate the principles of pluralism, freedom of speech, objectivity and cooperation with public and private agencies.

CARI thoroughly studies Argentina's insertion and participation in world affairs as well as the main global challenges. CARI provides a forum for dialogue and pluralistic debate on the most relevant issues between major players and their peers from public and private sectors, both domestically and internationally. CARI also produces reliable papers and supplies updated information.

CARI's institutes, committees and working groups carry out their activities covering varied topics and regions, and consist of ad-honorem experts. Each has different ways of working and make up the central component of the Council's activities, whether it is organizing publications, seminars, academic sessions or consulting meetings for public servants or civil society experts.

## **National University of La Plata**

The National University of La Plata (UNLP), founded in 1905 by doctor Joaquín Víctor González, arises from the confluence of two fundamental concepts: the traditional interpretation of the term “University” as a natural place for knowledge, and the updated idea of scientific knowledge of experimental, social and artistic base.

With more than a century of experience, it continues to be a pioneer in studies and developments of advanced culture, artistic and scientific. This places it among the top universities of the country, the American continent and the world. Teaching, Research and extension make up the basic pillars of this University. Currently it has 17 faculties where 110 thousand undergraduate students study.

In the recent years there has been an average enrollment of close to 23,000 applicants, of whom 18,500 are actually enrolled. Approximately 6,000 students graduate annually.

The academic offer of the UNLP includes 111 undergraduate majors, 157 undergraduate degrees and 170 postgraduate degrees (85% of which are accredited or in process, by the University Evaluation and Accreditation National Commission - CONEAU), in addition to 500 postgraduate courses. It receives about 22,000 postgraduate students. It also has 100 chairs attached to the Presidency.

In the preparatory program, the academic offer includes 5 pre-university Colleges with an enrollment of close to 5,000 students.

The UNLP staff is composed of about 12,000 undergraduate and preparatory professors, and 3,000 non-professors.

The University also has 154 Research and Development Institutes, Centers and Laboratories where about 6,000 researchers work. It also has a Museum of Natural Science (and a network of 12 thematic museums), an astronomical Observatory, a planetarium, a public library (and a network of 21 libraries), an physics education institute with a sports field, and 4 dining rooms.

## **ICBC Foundation**

The ICBC Foundation is one of the leading academic institutions in the field of international trade within Argentina. Its main activities are developed by the International Trade Institute and the Institute of International Trade Promotion. It also has activities in the cultural field. All of them are part of the social responsibility activities of the ICBC Bank in Argentina.

The Foundation goals are both to contribute to the development of the Argentine foreign trade sector, and helping to spread knowledge around the world of Argentina's capacity to offer competitive and high quality goods and services. "Help us fill the world with Argentine flags. Export" -the Foundation's historical motto- still rules the steps taken by both Institutes.

The more specific goals are:

- To train human resources specialized in foreign trade, competent to participate in the process of internationalization of the companies operating in the country and facilitate their insertion in the world and in the region - especially within MERCOSUR - in a competitive manner;
- To facilitate through its training activities the process of up-grading the capacity of small and medium size firms to draw and develop their foreign trade activities.
- To contribute to the process of studying, disseminating and debating the issues that are key to the competitive insertion of Argentine goods and services in international, global and regional markets.

Within the framework of the International Trade Institute, the School of Foreign Trade was created in 1973 and is a well-established leading-institution in the field of training specialists well appreciated by the market. Upon graduating, our students will have the necessary skills to:

- Forecast future scenarios in the competition for world markets, intelligently processing the information according to the exporting objective set.
- Have the mind frame of a "moving target hunter" and not that of a "fixed target hunter", since in the era of globalizing markets, competitive edges shift quickly.

- Have thorough knowledge of their competitors – they are everywhere- and of the rules of the game.

Since 2007, the International Trade Institute has been developing activities oriented toward strengthening the capacity of Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SME) to internationalize its operations. As a result, four books had been published containing training material in the field of internationalization of SMEs.

The Institute of Promotion of International Trade , through joint efforts with the Investment Agency, develops a Program aimed at training business groups that will work together to enhance their possibilities to sell their products in foreign markets. They are guided by a coordinator, enhances the likelihood to increase exports. There are also several books published with material related to this activities.

ICBC Foundation with 45 years of experience is leader in training students and small enterprises in the world of international trade.

## **Task Force (Liaison, Translation and Editing)**



Maria Francesca  
Staiano



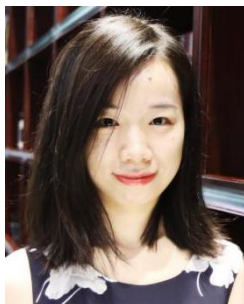
Lavinia Fan



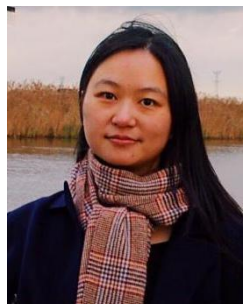
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