

China in Dialogue: Persistent and Emerging Conversations

An Interdisciplinary Symposium on Global China Studies

[LMU China Studies Group \(CSG\)](#), in partnership with [The Beijing Center \(TBC\)](#), is pleased to hold an interdisciplinary symposium on global China (or Chinese) Studies in **Beijing, June 6-7, 2025**. This symposium, as potentially the first of a multi-year series, aims to promote East-West dialogue and collaboration in a time of challenging geopolitical relations. LMU-affiliated scholars are invited to propose individual presentations of recent research on persistent or emerging "conversations" between China and the West. These conversations are not meant to be solely linguistic interlocutions but encompass interactions along a range of dimensions: commercial, technological, social, cultural, philosophical, and so on. Disciplinary foci are open, and interdisciplinary projects are especially encouraged to apply. Presenters should aim to speak to an educated lay audience equipped with general knowledge about China.

The overall symposium, currently envisioned a three-year (2025-2027) series with a different temporal focus for each year, may encompass topics as outlined below. Please note that these topics are illustrative of the kinds that may be a good fit, but topics beyond the list are welcome and will also be considered.

This call is for the 2025 symposium only. Decisions on the 2026, 2027 conferences will be made based on evaluation of the 2025 symposium.

2025: Voices, Visions & Values

The inaugural year of the symposium will focus on historical interactions and persistent themes between China and the West, emphasizing (but not limiting to) the transformative period of the 20th century. For example:

- **Impact of the Silk Road on Global Commerce and Cultural Exchange:** Explore how this ancient trade route laid the foundation for future diplomatic and economic interactions, influencing the geopolitical landscape during the 20th century.
- **Introduction of Chinese Medical Practices to the West:** Examine the significant contributions of Chinese medicine to global health, particularly during World War II, when traditional practices were integrated into Western medical protocols.

- **Legacy of the Jesuits' Missions in China:** Analyze how the Jesuits' efforts in the early 20th century continued to shape educational and scientific exchanges, fostering a deeper mutual understanding between China and the West.
- **20th Century US-China Cooperation During WWII:** Delve into the crucial alliances and collaborative efforts between the United States and China during World War II, emphasizing their joint military strategies, cultural exchanges, and the long-term impact on post-war relations.
- **Chinoiserie in European Art and Design:** Discuss the enduring fascination with Chinese aesthetics in Western art and design, which saw a resurgence in the 20th century as global connections strengthened.

2026: Partnerships, Perspectives & Pathways

The second year of the symposium will delve into contemporary and prominent topics, emphasizing the dynamic and evolving relationships between China and the West. For example:

- **Impact of Trade Wars and Economic Decoupling on Global Supply Chains and International Markets:** Analyze the current trade tensions and their effects on global supply chains, market stability, and economic policies, especially under Trump's 2nd term.
- **Western Responses to and Global Economic Implications of the Belt and Road Initiative:** Discuss the strategic and economic impact of China's Belt and Road Initiative, focusing on Western responses and the broader implications for global trade and investment.
- **Sino-Western Initiatives on Renewable Energy and Climate Change:** Explore collaborative efforts between China and the West to combat climate change, highlighting joint ventures in renewable energy technologies and sustainable practices.
- **TikTok's Global Rise and Regulatory Challenges in the West:** Examine the rapid ascent of TikTok as a global social media platform and the regulatory and political challenges it faces in Western countries.
- **Impact of Chinese International Students on Western Educational Systems and Societies:** Investigate the influence of Chinese students on Western educational institutions, including academic contributions, cultural exchange, and societal impacts.

· **The Role of Soft Power: How Both Sides Use Culture and Philosophy to Build Global Influence:** Discuss the strategies employed by China and the West to project soft power through cultural diplomacy, philosophical exchanges, and media influence.

2027: Humanity, Hope & Horizons

The final year of the symposium will reflect on historical collaborations and themes, exploring how these foundations can shape future possibilities. The focus will be on enduring partnerships and their potential to address contemporary global challenges. For example:

· **Historical Foundations and Future Prospects of Joint Initiatives for Sustainable Investments and Climate Finance:** Analyze past collaborative efforts in environmental sustainability between China and the West, projecting how these partnerships can evolve to tackle climate finance and green investments.

· **Historical Context and Ethical Considerations in Joint Research Projects on Artificial Intelligence:** Examine the historical collaboration in science and technology, focusing on how shared ethical frameworks can guide future joint research in artificial intelligence.

· **Legacy of Technological Exchange and Future Urban Sustainability Projects:** Trace the history of technological cooperation and its impact on urban development, exploring future joint projects aimed at enhancing urban sustainability.

· **Changing Dynamics of Migration: Historical Trends and Future Directions:** Investigate historical migration patterns between China and the West, and discuss how these trends inform and shape future migration dynamics and policies.

· **Collaborative Efforts in Cultural Preservation: From Past to Future:** Reflect on historical efforts to protect and digitize cultural artifacts, emphasizing how continued collaboration can safeguard cultural heritage in the digital age.

Each presenter may only submit one proposal for each symposium but may apply for multiple conferences across the three years. A presentation is typically **30 minutes followed by 5-to-10-minute Q&A**. The language of presentation is **English**, but you may include Chinese text in your visual aid.

The 2025 China in Dialogue Symposium will be held on June 6-7, 2025, in Beijing, China. Presenters at this symposium will include 5-6 scholars from the US and 5-6 scholars from Greater China. For presenters from the US, LMU-affiliated scholars will be given priority.

The symposium will include a half-day local tour related to its theme.

Accepted LMU-affiliated presenters will receive **roundtrip economy-class airfare to China (up to \$2,000 USD), hotel accommodation, meals, and complimentary local tour**. Accepted presenters from Greater China will receive roundtrip domestic airfare, hotel accommodation, meals, and complimentary local tour.

How to Apply

To apply, please send your proposal to the email address csg.symposium@lmu.edu.

Your proposal must include the following **two pages**:

(1) Page 1:

- a. Title of your presentation
- b. Abstract of 300-400 English words
- c. 4-6 key words

(2) Page 2:

- a. Your name
- b. Your affiliation (department, institution)
- c. Your email address

The **priority deadline is February 28, 2025**. The Symposium Review Committee will begin reviewing proposals on March 1st and will notify those who meet the priority deadline of their acceptance by March 7th. If spaces remain available, the Committee will continue to accept proposal submissions until March 12 and will begin reviewing the second batch of proposals on March 13th and send notifications of acceptance by March 15th. All notices of rejection will be sent out between March 15th and March 20th, 2025.