



Pleinlaan 15 5-L15  
1050 Brussels  
Belgium

**Subject: Call for papers and conference on 7 and 8 December 2009 in Brussels  
The strategic relevance of China's multilateral engagement**

Dear colleague,

The Brussels Institute of Contemporary China Studies (BICCS) is glad to announce a new call for papers related to the strategic relevance of China's multilateral engagement. The call is open for researchers working in European member states. Applicants who are selected will be invited to participate in a conference in Brussels on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

As an academic institute, BICCS is committed to deepening knowledge of China's development, to contribute to effective and integrated research among European experts, and this way to promote strategic thinking about the impact of China's rise on the European Union.

For this call, applicants are asked to submit an abstract of their paper by June 19<sup>th</sup>. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, we will inform the applicants about the decision. All abstracts will be reviewed by a group of leading experts. Draft papers are due by October 31<sup>th</sup>. At that stage, all participants will be asked to peer-reviewed two papers. A final version is expected by January 30<sup>th</sup>.

For more details about the conference you can consult the attachment. For additional information, please contact Bert Jacobs: [berjacob@vub.ac.be](mailto:berjacob@vub.ac.be).

This project is supported the Brussels Government.

Best wishes,

Jonathan Holslag  
Gustaaf Geeraerts  
Gudrun Wacker  
Jürgen Haacke



## The strategic relevance of China's multilateral engagement

Call for papers - conference on 7 and 8 December 2009 in Brussels

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**Reviewers:** Asad Beg (European Commission); Gustaaf Geeraerts (BICCS), Jurgen Haacke (LSE), Jonathan Holslag (BICCS), Dries Lesage (Ghent University), and Gudrun Wacker (SWP). **Book editors:** Jonathan Holslag, Jurgen Haacke, Gudrun Wacker, and Gustaaf Geeraerts.

**Objective:** China's growing involvement with multilateralism has tempted many scholars to conclude that the Asian giant is seeking to preserve the status quo in regional and global affairs. Yet, membership of multilateral bodies is an unreliable variable for making predictions about China's intentions or its impact on the balance of power. Participation in multilateral bodies might allow Beijing to deflect suspicion while continuing to increase its power. Such organizations can also allow China to work with a majority of developing countries to develop new international rules, without having to meet the expectations of the minority of developed countries.

**The main question** this project seeks to answer is how China's posture on multilateral cooperation is evolving, and how much influence it is gaining through multilateral bodies compared to other powers.

**The academic relevance** of this project is manifold. To start with, it aims at bridging the divide between realist and institutional liberalist interpretations of the engagement of rising powers with multilateral cooperation. While both approaches tend to be mutually exclusive, we will examine whether apparent institutional liberalist policies can in fact be the by-product of realist strategies. In regard to constructivist thinking, this could lead us to examine the distinction between accepting institutions on the one hand, and a more fundamental redefinition of interests and objectives on the other. Secondly, it will cover a rather new dimension of China's foreign policy. While several scholars assessed the extent to which China has been integrated in global society and how strongly multilateral institutions have influenced it; we will analyze how much China is starting to influence the agenda and the organization of these forums. Finally, the project will add to the wide literature on Asian area studies, in which once again multilateralism seems to be taken for granted as a positive trend.

**Methodology:** All papers will be based on solid and innovative empirical research, including: review of policy documents, interviews, etc. All chapters should start with a brief chronology of how China's posture towards a given multilateral institution has changed. The second step is to evaluate China's influence within these bodies. The emphasis should be on the question how much influence China is exerting on the agenda setting, decision-making and policy implementation. Measuring influence inevitably asks for comparing China's position to these of other countries. While in-depth comparative research is not required, authors are asked to explain the impact of China's growing activism on other states, weak and strong.

**The call:** Applicants are asked to submit an abstract of their paper **by June 19<sup>th</sup>**. Abstracts should count between 500 and 800 words. They should start with a clear research question. Subsequently, a short paragraph should explain how the author foresees to develop his argument: What are the main issues that will be analyzed? A second paragraph should elaborate on the methodology and sources. In the third para, the author should explain how he seeks to contribute to the existing literature. Finally, we expect a concise biography, including publications. All abstracts should be sent in a Word file to Bert Jacobs: [berjacob@vub.ac.be](mailto:berjacob@vub.ac.be).

By June 30<sup>th</sup>, we will inform the applicants about the decision. The academic committee will review all abstracts. Draft papers are due by October 31<sup>th</sup>. At that stage, all participants will be asked to peer-review two papers. A final version is expected by January 30<sup>th</sup>. Applicants should be affiliated with institutes in European member states.

Topics to be covered are:

- . Regional cooperation in Southeast Asia
- . Regional cooperation in South and Central Asia
- . Regional cooperation in Northeast Asia
- . China's role within the Asian Development Bank
- . China's evolving posture in the UN (UNSC-HRC-GA)
- . International trade law: China's posture on negotiations for new international trade rules
- . International technical regulation
- . International environmental rules
- . China's posture on global economic governance (WTO, G-20, IMF,...)
- . The relevance of multilateralism in China's Africa offensive
- . The relevance of multilateralism in China's relations with Latin America

**Instructions for papers:** Papers of between 6,000- 7,000 words, with a 150-word summary, should be well researched and not have been published before. They should strike a balance between innovative academic research and analysis that is relevant for policy makers. Manuscripts should be written in English and understandable for a wide public. Theoretical concepts can be introduced but are not an end as such. Authors are encouraged to avoid jargon and to clarify specific technical terms. The text should be well structured in paragraphs, using 1 cm indents for each new paragraph, but without additional blank lines. Fonts should be in Times New Roman size 10. Use headings sparsely: "**1. First level heading**" and "1.2. Second level headings". Do not quote authors in between brackets, but refer to them in footnotes:

Haass, Jeffrey (2005), *China's trade policy*, Europe Press, Brussels, pp. 2-3.

Haass, Jeffrey (2005), *China's trade*, in Avarés, Mighuel ed., *Trade Policy*, Europe Press, Brussels, pp. 2-20.

Haass, Jeffrey and Mighuel Avarés (2005), *China's trade policy*, in *Trade Policy*, vol. 1 (1), pp. 2-20.

First draft papers should be submitted by October 31<sup>th</sup>. Papers will be reviewed by the conference organizers, but also by the other participants. A final version is expected by January 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Tentative planning of the conference**

. *Day 1: arrival and dinner*

. *Day 2: academic conference*

. 08h30: Opening speech: Chinese expert on the strategic explanations for multilateralism

. 09h00: Session on Asian multilateralism: 4 speakers

. 12h00: Lunch

. 14h00: Session on global multilateralism: 4 speakers

. 17h00: Session on bilateral multilateralism (Africa, Latin America)

. 19h00: Dinner

. *Day 3: what it means for Europe*

. 09h00: Breakfast meeting with officials: China's posture on multilateralism: challenges for the EU

. Afternoon: trip