



LSE-PKU Summer School 2020

LPS-IR209 | China's Belt Road Initiative: Development as Grand Strategy and the Emerging Global Order

Instructors

Professor Chris Alden: (Lead Lecturer): Chris Alden is a Professor in International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), a senior research fellow with the South African Institute of International Affairs . Professor Alden taught International Relations at Wits University from 1990 to 2000 where he conducted research into South African foreign policy, China-Africa relations and post-conflict peace building. He completed his PhD at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (Tufts/ Harvard) and has held visiting fellowships at Tokyo University, Ritsumeikan University, Ecole Normale Superiere, International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and a MacArthur Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Cambridge University. Professor Alden is the author and editor of numerous books, including his ground-breaking publication *China in Africa* (Zed 2007), *Emerging Powers and Africa* (LSE-IDEAS 2013), a second edition of his successful *Foreign Policy Analysis – new approaches* (with A Aran, Routledge 2017). He has published in leading international journals and is frequently invited to speak at international conferences.

Dr Alvaro Mendez (Co-Lead Lecturer): Dr. Alvaro Mendez is Co-Director of the Global South Unit at the LSE, where he is also Senior Research Fellow in the International Relations Department. He is also a Research Associate at the University of Bristol, and a former editor of *Millennium-Journal of International Studies* at the LSE. He currently lectures at the LSE on two courses – *China and the Global South* and *Foreign Policy Analysis*. The Department of International Relations at LSE awarded him its 2003-2004 Teaching Prize. Dr. Mendez lectures at the University of Shanghai, the Singapore Institute of Management, Universidad Torcuato di Tella (Argentina), Universidad del Pacifico (Peru), and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. More information is available here: [LSE Experts Page](#). His most recent publications include: [Colombian Agency and the Making of US Foreign Policy](#). Abingdon, UK (Routledge, 2017) and [The China-Latin America Axis: Emerging Markets and their Role in an Increasingly Globalised World](#) (co-authored with Gaston Fornes – Palgrave Macmillan, 2017).

Course Outline:

This course focuses on China's Belt Road Initiative (BRI) and how Beijing is leveraging its preponderance of material power in pursuit of global leadership through the implementation of 'development as grand strategy' that places special focus on developing regions. China's economic position, coupled to an astute use of finances flowing from its neo-mercantilist policies, has enabled it to become the leading trading partner and a significant investor in the developing world (or Global South). Moreover, through the onset of the BRI, the Global South is increasingly figuring in Beijing's expanding security interests and soft power provisions. Understanding how dynamics in this relationship are impacting upon a host of global and contemporary issues (BRICs, multilateralism, peacekeeping, the environment) is crucial to the shape of the 21st century. Students will acquire a deeper appreciation of the concept of agency linked to the varied response of countries and regional organizations to the BRI from policy elites to local communities in the rest of the world, to China's growing structural power, as well as placing Chinese engagement within the context of other 'traditional' and emerging powers.

Topic Session Titles

- Day 1: Introduction to China Rising – BRI and development as grand strategy
- Day 2: China's economic development model and the BRI
- Day 3: China's policy making process
- Day 4: China and Africa
- Day 5: China and Southeast Asia
- Day 6: China and Central Asia
- Day 7: China and Latin America
- Day 8: China and International Organizations
- Day 9: China, BRI and the Global South: implications for relations with the US, Europe and Japan
- Day 10: Conclusion/review

Main texts/ essential reading:

Alden, Chris. 2012. 'China and Africa – The Relationship Matures', *Strategic Analysis* 36:5 2012, pp. 701-707.

Fornes, Gaston and Alvaro Mendez. 2017. *The China-Latin American Axis: emerging markets and their role in an increasingly globalised world*. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Lanteigne, M. 2016. *Chinese Foreign Policy: an introduction* (Third edition. ed.). London: Routledge.

Norris, William. 2016. *China's Economic Statecraft: commercial actors, grand strategy and state control* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press).

Shambaugh, David. 2014. *China Goes Global: the partial power*. Oxford University Press.

Assessment

Coursework (50%) and final exam (50%).

Pedagogy

Curriculum development of the course will be led by Prof Chris Alden. The course will be delivered via a mixed media approach, with Dr Mendez as lead co-lecturer and Dr Zheng as contributing lecturer/teaching assistant in situ at PKU and Prof Alden providing three lectures in pre-recorded video format complemented by a live webinar discussion seminar with PKU based students. As technical issues regarding the webinar will be critical to the success of this approach, considerable time will be set aside to trial and perfect this modality of delivery and experience will be drawn from comparable broadcasts Professor Alden has been involved in with PKU/SSRC-New York.