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We gratefully acknowledge the support that made this conference possible.

First and foremost, this event is convened under the auspices of the collaboration agreement between [Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna](#) and [Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe](#), reflecting our shared commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship and engagement.

We also extend our deepest thanks to the [Johns Hopkins SAIS Europe Integration Fund](#), whose strategic and sustained support has been pivotal in bringing this conference to fruition by linking SAIS Europe faculty with the wider Johns Hopkins community, catalyzing joint initiatives with the University of Bologna, and enabling the academic exchanges that strengthen our global network.

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PROGRAM

Monday, October 27, 2025

@ University of Bologna | Aula VIII Centenario, Via Zamboni 33

h. 14:30 **Welcome Coffee**

h. 15:00 **Opening Remarks**

Giovanni Molari, Rector, University of Bologna

James B. Steinberg, Dean, Johns Hopkins University SAIS

Renaud Dehousse, Rector, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe

Chair: **Francesco Moro**, Professor of Political Science and Head of Department, Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna; Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe

h. 15:30 **European Leaders Outlook on EU-China Relations**

Paolo Gentiloni, Former European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs; Former Italian Prime Minister

Sylvie Matelly, Director, Institute Jacques Delors

Romano Prodi, President, Foundation for Worldwide Cooperation; Former President of the EC; Former Prime Minister of Italy

Chair: **Nathalie Tocci**, Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali; Professor of the Practice, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe

h. 17:00 **Coffee Break**

h. 17:15 **Roundtable: Practicing EU-China Relations:
Views From Within**

Thomas Bagger, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Italian Republic and the Republic of San Marino

Radosław Flisiuk, Minister Counsellor, Asia-Pacific Department, Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Benoît Guidée, Director for Asia Pacific, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

Stefano Sannino, Director-General, Department MENA and the Gulf, European Union

Armando Varricchio, Senior Fellow on Transatlantic Relations, Johns Cabot University

Caroline Wilson, Ambassador, UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

Chair: **Enrico M. Fardella**, Associate Professor, Department of Social and Human Sciences, University of Naples 'L'Orientale'; Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe,

Noah Barkin, Visiting Senior Fellow, Indo-Pacific Program GMF; Senior Advisor, Rhodium Group's China Practice

h. 19:15 **Aperitivo**

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

@ Johns Hopkins SAIS Europe Auditorium – via B. Andreatta 3

h. 9:00 **It is the Economy, Stupid: EU-China Economic
Relations at a Crossroad**

Noah Barkin, Visiting Senior Fellow, Indo-Pacific Program GMF; Senior Advisor, Rhodium Group's China Practice

Elvire Fabry, Senior Researcher in Geopolitics of Trade, Jacques Delors Institute

Michael Pettis, Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Michael G. Plummer, Eni Professor of International Economics, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe

Chair: **Tommaso Sonno**, Associate Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, University of Bologna; Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe

h. 10:15 **Parallel Divergences? Transatlantic Relations and China**

Stéphanie Balme, Professor and Director, Center For International Studies (CERI), SciencePo

Francis J. Gavin, Giovanni Agnelli Distinguished Professor and Director, Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs, Johns Hopkins University SAIS

Julien Gewirtz, Senior Research Scholar, Columbia University

Jessica Chen Weiss, Inaugural Faculty Director, Institute for America, China, and the Future of Global Affairs; David M. Lampton Professor of China Studies, Johns Hopkins University SAIS

Chair: **Paolo Wulzer**, Director of Department, Humanities and Social Sciences; Professor of History of International Politics, University of Naples 'l'Orientale'

h. 11:30 **Coffee Break**

h. 11:45 **Strategic Dialogue: Limited but Strategic Alignment: Sino-Russian Relations. Implications for the EU**

Oriana Skylar Mastro, Center Fellow and Director of the Indo-Pacific Policy Lab, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University

Sergey Radchenko, Wilson E. Schmidt Distinguished Professor, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe

Joseph Torigian, Associate Professor, School of International Service, American University

Feng Yujun, Full Professor of History of Sino-Russian Relations, Peking University

Chair: **Antonio Fiori**, Associate Professor, Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna

h. 13:00 **Lunch Break**

@ Johns Hopkins SAIS Europe | Penthouse (Forth Floor)

h. 14:15 **From Fire to Embers? The Future of EU-China Relations**

Matteo Dian, Associate Professor, Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna

Rosemary Foot, Professor Emeritus, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford

Michael Leigh, Director of the Master of Arts in European Public Policy; Senior Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe

Zhu Feng, Professor and Dean, School of International Studies, Nanjing University

Chair: **David Arase**, Resident Professor of International Politics, Hopkins-Nanjing Center

h. 15:45 **Europe-China Digital Partnership Cooperation: New Legal Frontiers**

Federico Casolari, Full Professor and Head of Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna

Elaine Fahey, Professor of Law, Jean Monnet Chair in Law & Transatlantic Relations, City St George's, University of London

Marina Timoteo, Full Professor of Comparative Private Law, Department of Legal Studies, University of Bologna

Chair: **Giuseppe Martinico**, Full Professor of Comparative Public Law, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies

h. 16:45 **Final Remarks**

Sergey Radchenko, Wilson E. Schmidt Distinguished Professor, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe

Francesco Moro, Professor of Political Science and Head of Department, Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna; Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe

Enrico M. Fardella, Associate Professor, Department of Social and Human Sciences, University of Naples 'L'Orientale'; Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe

List of Participants

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Yujun Feng

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Zhu Feng

Professor and Dean, School of International Studies, Nanjing University



David Arase

Resident Professor of International
Politics, Hopkins-Nanjing Center

David Arase has been Resident Professor of International Politics at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center since 2012. Prior to that he was Professor of Politics at Pomona College where he began teaching in 1989. He has taught at the University of London (SOAS), Tsukuba University, Meiji University, Aoyama Gakuin, National Chengchi University, and has received research fellowships at the University of Adelaide, Japan's National Institute of Defense Studies, Singapore's ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute, University of Hong Kong Asia Global Institute, and the Center for Asia-Pacific Resilience and Innovation (CAPRI) in Taipei, Taiwan. In recent years he has edited and contributed to *The Belt and Road Initiative in Asia, Africa, and Europe* (Routledge 2022); *Routledge Handbook of Africa-Asia Relations* (2018); *China's Rise and Changing Order in East Asia* (Palgrave 2016); and *The US-Japan Alliance: Balancing Soft and Hard Power* (Routledge-Nissan Institute 2010) which was awarded the Ohira Memorial Foundation Special Prize in 2011; and has published 80 journal article, book chapter, and policy commentaries.



Thomas Bagger

Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Italian Republic and the Republic of San Marino

Ambassador Dr. Thomas Bagger served as the State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, from August 2023 to June 2025.

Previously, he was German Ambassador to Poland. From 2017 to 2022, he acted as Foreign Policy Advisor to Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

Thomas Bagger joined the German Diplomatic Service in 1992 and served in Prague, Ankara and Washington, DC. He studied International Relations in Munich, Paris, and Washington, DC. Having grown up in West Germany, Thomas Bagger served in the army in 1984-86.





Stéphanie Balme

Professor and Director,
Center For International Studies (CERI),
SciencePo

Stéphanie Balme was elected Director of the CERI (Sciences Po/CNRS) at the end of 2023. Previously, she served as Dean of the Sciences Po Undergraduate College from 2018 to 2023. During her tenure, she collaborated with Nicolas Benvegno to develop the Bachelor of Arts and Sciences (BASc) program at Sciences Po, which offers integrated dual training in the humanities and sciences. She also strengthened the links between teaching and research, as well as regional programs. She joined the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a diplomat working on Franco-Chinese scientific cooperation based in Beijing (2018-2019). As a professor at the Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA) and Director of Research at the FNSP, she was appointed as the academic freedom officer in 2022. A founding member of the ESDI (European Science Diplomacy Initiative), established in 2020, Stéphanie Balme launched the courses on science diplomacy at Sciences Po, aimed at training future diplomats, policymakers, and journalists. She serves on several scientific and strategic councils, including those of IDDRI (Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations), IHEDN (Institute for Advanced Studies in National Defense), and EURICS (European Institute of China Studies). She is also the vice-president of the ECLS (EU-China Law Studies Association) and member of the European scientific council of Springer Nature.

Previously, she directed the research program “Law, Justice and Society in China” and was a research associate at the IHEJ (Institute for Advanced Studies on Justice) alongside Antoine Garapon for many years. Stéphanie undertook a mission for Sciences Po at the Chinese University of Hong Kong from 2003 to 2006, and then in Beijing at Tsinghua University (Law School) from 2006 to 2012.

She also served as the China delegate for the Médecins du Monde Adoption Initiative (1996-1998), was in charge of the office for the Foundation for Continental Law (Civil Law Initiative 2010-2011), and worked as a university and scientific cooperation attaché at the French Embassy in Beijing (2017-2018).

Stéphanie Balme has taught at several institutions worldwide, including in Paris, Hong Kong, Beijing, New Delhi (Ashoka), Montreal (UQAM), Vancouver (UBC), and New York, where she was a Visiting Professor at Columbia University during the 2014-2015 academic year. She obtained her Habilitation in Law in 2016 and a PhD in Political Science under the supervision of Professor Guy Hermet in 2000.

She graduated from Sciences Po, INALCO, IEP Bordeaux, Fudan University (Shanghai), and the Faculty of Letters of Bordeaux. She received the 1998 Prize from the Chancellery of Paris Universities and the Montesquieu Prize in 2015 with Antoine Garapon, Daniel Schimmel, Li Bin, and Jean-Louis Langlois for the book "The Civil Trial in Original Version: Comparative Judicial Cultures: France, China, United States."

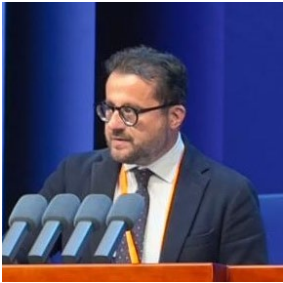
- Teaching: Science, Power and the Power of Innovation in China, Introduction to Science Diplomacy, Science & Tech Diplomacy, Navigating the G3 (EU-US-China) dynamics
- Languages: French, English, Chinese/Mandarin, and Italian



Noah Barkin

Visiting Senior Fellow, Indo-Pacific Program GMF; Senior Advisor, Rhodium Group's China practice

Noah Barkin is a Senior Advisor in Rhodium Group's China practice, based in Berlin, where he focuses on Europe-China relations and transatlantic China policy. He is also a Visiting Senior Fellow in the Indo-Pacific Program at the German Marshall Fund of the United States and creator of the popular "Watching China in Europe" newsletter. Previously he worked as a journalist, writing for publications including Reuters, The Atlantic, The New York Times, Foreign Policy and Politico. Noah studied at the University of California at Berkeley and at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.



Federico Casolari

Full Professor and Head of Department
of Legal Studies, University of Bologna

Federico Casolari is a Full professor of European Union Law at the Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna, where he teaches EU law and EU Constitutional Law. He currently serves as Chair of the Law Deans Group – The Guild Network (2024-2026), board member of the Italian Society of International and European Union Law, member of the Joint Managerial Committee of the China-EU School of Law (CESL), and member of the Centre for Digital Ethics (CedE) at the University of Bologna.

Since 2024, he has been Head of the Department of Legal Studies of the University of Bologna (Dean, School of Law).



Renaud Dehousse

Rector, Johns Hopkins University
SAIS Europe

Renaud Dehousse is the Inaugural Rector of SAIS Europe and Vice Dean of SAIS. He began his term at SAIS in January 2024, following the completion of his term as president of the European University Institute (EUI). Before becoming EUI president, Dehousse was a professor and holder of the Jean Monnet Chair of European Law and Policy Studies at Sciences Po Paris, where he founded and directed the Centre for European Studies. He chaired Sciences Po's Board from 2013 to 2016. He also was a scientific advisor to the center for study and research founded by Jacques Delors, Notre Europe, and was a member of several working parties on the reform of European institutions established by the European institutions and national governments.

After studying law at the University of Liège (Belgium), Dehousse obtained a doctorate at the European University Institute. Before joining Sciences Po in 1999, he taught at the European University Institute, then at the University of Pisa. He was a visiting professor at the Universities of Florence (Cesare Alfieri), Cologne, Rome (LUISS), Lausanne, the College of Europe and at the University of Michigan Law School. His research covers multiple aspects of European law and politics.



Matteo Dian

Associate Professor, Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna

Matteo Dian is an Associate Professor of International Relations of East Asia in the Department of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Bologna. He has previously held research and teaching positions at the University of Oxford, the London School of Economics and Political Science, and Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

His latest books are *China's Blueprint for Global Leadership: GSI, GDI, GCI and Xi Jinping's Vision for the International Order* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2025, with Silvia Menegazzi) and *Reluctant Remilitarization: The Transformation of Defence Policy and Armed Forces in Italy, Germany, and Japan* (with Fabrizio Coticchia and Francesco Moro, Edinburgh University Press, 2023).

His research focuses on security in East Asia, U.S. foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific, great power competition, and Chinese and Japanese foreign policies.





Elvire Fabry

Senior Researcher in Geopolitics of Trade, Jacques Delors Institute

Senior Research Fellow, Jacques Delors Institute, in charge of Geopolitics of trade and Rapporteur of the working group on EU-China relations.

Areas of expertise: EU trade policy, strategic autonomy, economic security, regional agreements, EU-US relations, EU-China relations, investment, WTO reform, global governance.

Member of the board of CEPII, leading French center for research and expertise on the world economy, the Policy Advisory Committee of the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) in Paris, the Scientific Council of Elcano Royal Institute, and the Editorial board of the journal *Futuribles*.

Director, European programme, Fondation pour l'Innovation Politique (2005-09); Research Fellow, Fondation Robert Schuman (2003-04); Research Fellow, Prospective Studies and Foresight Centre, *Futuribles International* (1996-2002); Forward Studies Unit; European Commission (1995).

PhD in political science, Sciences-Po Paris; MA in philosophy and MA international relations, Panthéon Sorbonne – Paris I. Auditor (“Defense policy” 64th session), Institute of Higher National Defence Studies (IHEDN) in 2011-2012. Colonel of the Citizens’ Reserve of the French Air Force.



Elaine Fahey

Professor of Law, Jean Monnet Chair in Law & Transatlantic Relations, City St George's, University of London

Elaine Fahey is Professor of EU Law at the City Law School, City St. Georges, University of London and Deputy Head of Department (academic programmes). She is co-convenor of the Institute for the Study of European Law (ISEL), City Law School. Her research interests span the relationship between EU law and global governance, trade, transatlantic relations, the EU's Area of Freedom, Security and Justice and the study of law beyond the State. Her monograph, *The EU as a Global Digital Actor* has been published by Hart in 2022..



Enrico M. Fardella

Associate Professor, Department of Social and Human Sciences, University of Naples 'L'Orientale'; Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe

Enrico Maria Fardella is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social and Human Sciences at the University of Naples 'L'Orientale'. He serves as the Director of the ChinaMed.it Project, Associate Director of the Guarini Institute for Public Affairs at John Cabot University in Rome, and a Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, DC. He is also an Honorary Life Member of Trevelyan College at Durham University and sits on the editorial boards of the European Journal of East Asian Studies and Orizzonte Cina. Previously, Dr. Fardella held the position of Associate Professor at Peking University, where he also served as Director of the Center for Mediterranean Area Studies. Additionally, he was a Fellow of the Science & Technology China Program of the European Commission. His research interests encompass the history of Chinese foreign policy, as well as China's relations with the European Union, the Middle East, and Italy, from the Cold War to the present.



Yujun Feng

Full Professor of History of Sino-Russian Relations, Peking University

Feng Yujun is a professor in the Department of History at Peking University, vice president of the China Society for the Study of the History of Sino-Russian Relations, and a well-known expert on Russian issues in China. He once served as the Director of the Russian Institute of the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, Vice President of the Institute of International Studies and Director of the Russian and Central Asian Studies Center at Fudan University. Mainly engaged in research on Russia-Soviet issues, the history and reality of Sino-Russian relations, international strategy and major power relations, and international energy security. His major works include "Who Will Assume Control of Russia: The Russian Political Elite after Putin", "The New Eurasian Order" (three volumes), "Russian Development Prospects and the Trend of Sino-Russian Relations", "Russian Diplomatic Decision-making Mechanism : From the Collapse of the Soviet Union to the Russia-Ukraine War. In April 2024, Feng Yujun published an article titled "Russia is sure to lose in Ukraine" in The Economist.



Antonio Fiori

Associate Professor, Department of
Political and Social Sciences, University
of Bologna

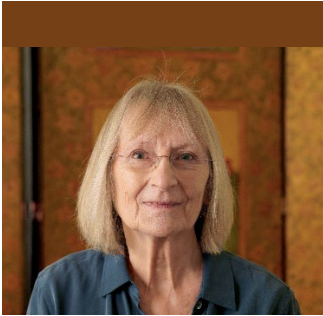
Antonio Fiori is Associate Professor of History and Institutions of Asia at the University of Bologna (Italy) and President of the Asia Institute. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Korea University in Seoul and at UPES in Dehradun (India). He has been a Visiting Scholar at the United International College (Zhuhai, PRC), the East-West Center (Honolulu, USA), Ewha Womans University (Seoul, ROK) and the Kyujanggak Center for Korean Studies at Seoul National University. His research focuses primarily on inter-Korean relations and the foreign policies of both Koreas and the People's Republic of China. His recent publications include *The Korean Paradox: Domestic Political Divide and Foreign Policy in South Korea* (Routledge, 2019), *The Routledge Handbook of Europe-Korea Relations* (Routledge, 2022), and *Asia: History, Institutions and International Relations* (Le Monnier, 2022).



Radosław Flisiuk

Minister Counsellor, Asia-Pacific
Department, Polish Ministry of Foreign
Affairs

Mr. Radosław Flisiuk is Minister-Counsellor at the Asia-Pacific Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. He has been a career diplomat in the MFA since 2006 and returned recently from his postings in China and the DPRK, where he served as Deputy Ambassador of Poland to China (2020-2023) and Head of Mission at the Embassy of Poland in the DPRK (2023-2025). Prior to that he was the Head of China Division at the MFA (2016-2020), Head of Political Division and Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Poland to the UN in New York (2009-2014) and an expert at the United Nations and Human Rights Department at the MFA (2007-2009). He holds an MA degree in International Relations from Warsaw University (2005).



Rosemary Foot

Professor Emeritus, Department of
Politics and International Relations,
University of Oxford

Rosemary Foot is Professor (Emeritus) at the University of Oxford's Department of Politics and International Relations, an Emeritus Fellow of St Antony's College, and a Research Associate at the Oxford China Centre. In 1996, she was elected a Fellow of the British Academy. Her research interests cover China as a multilateral actor, security relations in the Asia-Pacific, China and regional and global order, China-US relations, human rights, and Asian regional institutions. She is the author or editor of some 15 books, and over 80 articles and book chapters. Her latest book is entitled *China, the UN, and Human Protection: Beliefs, Power, Image* (Oxford University Press, 2020)..



Francis J. Gavin

Giovanni Agnelli Distinguished Professor and Director, Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs, Johns Hopkins University SAIS

Francis J. Gavin is the Giovanni Agnelli Distinguished Professor and the director of the Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs at Johns Hopkins SAIS. Previously, he was the first Frank Stanton Chair in Nuclear Security Policy Studies at MIT and the Tom Slick Professor of International Affairs and the Director of the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law at the University of Texas. From 2005 until 2010, he directed The American Assembly's multiyear, national initiative, The Next Generation Project: U.S. Global Policy and the Future of International Institutions. He is the founding Chair of the Board of Editors for the Texas National Security Journal. Gavin's writings include *Gold, Dollars, and Power: The Politics of International Monetary Relations, 1958-1971*; *Nuclear Statecraft: History and Strategy in America's Atomic Age* ; and *Nuclear Weapons and American Grand Strategy* (Brookings Institution Press), which was named a 2020 Choice Outstanding Academic Title. His IISS-Adelphi book, *The Taming of Scarcity and the Problems of Plenty: Rethinking International Relations and American Grand Strategy in a New Era* was published in 2024. In 2025, he published *Wonder and Worry: Contemporary History in an Age of Uncertainty* with Stolpe Press, 2025 and *Thinking Historically - A Guide to Statecraft and Strategy* with Yale University Press.



Paolo Gentiloni

Former European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs; Former Italian Prime Minister

Paolo Gentiloni served as European Commissioner for Economy from 2019 to 2024. He was previously Prime Minister of Italy (2016–2018), Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (2014–2016), and Minister of Communications (2006–2008). As of December 2024, he serves as Co-Chair of the UN Group of Experts on the Debt Crisis. He is also a Nonresident Distinguished Fellow at the Brookings Institution, Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins SAIS Europe, and Adjunct Professor at Università Cattolica in Milan.

From 2001 to 2019, Gentiloni was a member of the Italian Parliament. During his tenure, he served as Chairman of the Broadcasting Services Watchdog Committee (2005–2006) and as a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee (2013–2014). Earlier in his career, he worked as a professional journalist and was Councilor for the City of Rome (1993–2000). He was among the 45 founding members of the Democratic Party (Partito Democratico – PD), leading it as President from 2018 to 2019.

Born in 1954, Gentiloni graduated in Political Science from La Sapienza University in Rome. His most recent book is *La sfida impopolista* (The (Un)populist Challenge, Rizzoli). He also contributes as a columnist to *La Repubblica*.



Julien Gewirtz

Senior Research Scholar, Columbia University

Julian Gewirtz is Senior Research Scholar at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and a non-resident Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. He served in multiple roles over four years in the Biden administration, including Senior Director for China and Taiwan Affairs at the National Security Council, Senior Advisor to the Principal Deputy National Security Advisor, and Deputy China Coordinator at the State Department.

Gewirtz is the author of three books: *Never Turn Back: China and the Forbidden History of the 1980s*, which was named a best book of the year by Foreign Affairs and BBC History, *Unlikely Partners: Chinese Reformers, Western Economists, and the Making of Global China*, which The Economist called "a gripping read, highlighting what was little short of a revolution in China's economic thought," and *Your Face My Flag: Poems*. He was previously Senior Fellow for China Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, Lecturer in History at Harvard University and Columbia University, and a special advisor at the Department of Energy in the Obama administration.

He received his doctoral degree in modern Chinese history in 2018 from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and his undergraduate degree from Harvard College in 2013.





Benoît Guidée

Director for Asia Pacific, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

Benoit Guidée holds a degree from the Institut d'etudes politiques de Paris and a bachelor's degree in Chinese language and civilization from the Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (Inalco). He began his career in 1995 as a national service cooperant and then as deputy director of the ADETEF office in Hanoi.

He joined the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2000, and began his career by following political matters of Japan, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia in the Asia and Oceania Department, before becoming Second Secretary at the French Embassy in Beijing in 2002.

In 2005, he joined the Department of the United Nations and International Organizations, then, in 2007, the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York where he was in charge of monitoring Asian issues at the Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly.

In 2010, he became cultural advisor in Tokyo, before returning to the Asia and Oceania Department in 2011 as deputy director for the Far East. In 2012, he joined the cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Laurent Fabius, as Asia-Americas advisor.

From 2015 to 2019, Benoit Guidée directed the French Office in Taipei. He was then appointed Consul General of France in Shanghai, a position he held until August 2022.

Prior to his appointment as Director of Asia and Oceania, Benoit Guidée was a Foreign Affairs Inspector, and also participated as a rapporteur in the Etats généraux de la diplomatie.



Michael Leigh

Director of the Master of Arts in European Public Policy, Senior Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe

Sir Michael Leigh is distinguished visiting fellow at the German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States and was previously senior fellow at Bruegel; he has served as senior advisor, Covington & Burling LLP, Brussels; earlier he was Director-General for Enlargement of the European Commission (2006-2011); Deputy Director-General for External Relations (2003-2006); cabinet member and official, European Commission (1977-2003); Assistant Professor of International Relations, SAIS Bologna Center (1976-1977); Lecturer in International Relations University of Sussex (1974-1976). Erskine Fellow (2017) University of Canterbury, New Zealand. He received the KCMG award for his services to the European Commission.

His research, writing and public speaking focus on the future of the EU, enlargement, EU foreign and security policy; transatlantic relations; Turkey's relations with the EU; energy questions in the eastern Mediterranean; He writes and comments on European affairs for Geopolitical Intelligence Services reports online, Euractiv, EUalive, and other media.

Leigh holds a Bachelors degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford University and a PhD in Political Science from M.I.T.



Giuseppe Martinico

Full Professor of Comparative Public Law,
Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies

Giuseppe Martinico is a Full Professor of Comparative Public Law at the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, where he also serves as co-director of the Sant'Anna Legal Studies programme (www.stals.santannapisa.it). Prior to joining the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies he was García Pelayo Fellow at the Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales (CEPC), Madrid, and Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute, Florence. He has also been affiliated with several international research centres (amongst others, the Centre for Judicial Cooperation of the European University Institute, Florence, and the Centre for Studies on Federalism, Turin-Moncalieri). There, he has carried out international projects related to comparative federalism and subnational constitutionalism, and the constitutional dimension of EU law and international human rights law (especially the European Convention on Human Rights).

His research interests cover both comparative and European law, fields in which he has written extensively, including five monographs in English (published by Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Edward Elgar, and Routledge) and articles in international peer-reviewed journals in four languages (English, French, Spanish, Chinese and Italian). His research was cited by the Advocates General of the Court of Justice of the EU.



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Oriana Skylar Mastro

Center Fellow and Director of the Indo-Pacific Policy Lab, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University

Oriana Skylar Mastro is a Center Fellow and Director of the Indo-Pacific Policy Lab at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and Courtesy Assistant Professor of Political Science at Stanford University where her research focuses on Chinese military and security policy, Asia-Pacific security issues, war termination, and coercive diplomacy. She is also a Non-Resident Scholar, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She continues to serve as a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve for which she currently works at the Pentagon as Deputy Chief of Reserve China Global Strategy. For her contributions to U.S. strategy in Asia, she won the Individual Reservist of the Year Award in 2016 (CGO) and 2022 (FGO). She has published widely, including in *International Security*, *Security Studies*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *The Washington Quarterly*, *The Economist* and the *New York Times*. Her most recent book, *Upstart: How China Became a Great Power* (Oxford University Press, 2024), evaluates China's approach to competition. Her book, *The Costs of Conversation: Obstacles to Peace Talks in Wartime*, (Cornell University Press, 2019), won the 2020 American Political Science Association International Security Section Best Book by an Untenured Faculty Member. She holds a B.A. in East Asian Studies from Stanford University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton University. Her publications and other commentary can be found at www.orianaskylarmastro.com and on twitter @osmastro.



Sylvie Matelly

Director, Institute Jacques Delors

Sylvie Matelly holds a master's degree in international economics with a specialization in financial and commodity markets. She earned her Ph.D. in 2000 from Université Pierre Mendès France in Grenoble, with a PhD on The Economic Determinants of Military Spending. She also pursued academic studies in Barcelona and Montpellier.

In 2001, she joined the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS) as a researcher in defense economics, becoming Director of Research in 2008. In 2009, she joined the Ecole de Management Léonard de Vinci (EMLV) as a faculty member, later heading the Department of Economics, Finance, and International Relations. She left EMLV in 2016 to become Deputy Director of IRIS, and in 2023, she was appointed Director of the Institut Jacques Delors.

In 2003, she launched the master's program in Economics and International Relations at IRIS Sup', which is now titled Geoeconomics and Risk Management.

Between 2001 and 2002, she worked with the Groupe Transition et Développement in Grenoble and the Institute for the Economy in Transition (Moscow) on a European TACIS project to establish a development agency in Kaliningrad. From 2009 to 2016, she served as Associate Professor at EMLV in La Défense, where she led the Department of Finance, Economics, Law, and International Relations from 2014 to 2016.

Her research sits at the crossroads of economics and geopolitics, focusing on issues such as industrial and defense policy, economic coercion (including export controls, investment screening, sanctions, and anti-corruption policies), and the financing of defense companies in the context of ESG and sustainable finance. She also explores the emerging concept of corporate geopolitical responsibility.

She has published extensively and is the author of several books, including *L'Europe peut-elle faire face à la mondialisation?* (2015, Documentation Française), *Argent sale: à qui profite le crime?* (2018), *Géopolitique de l'économie* (2021), and *L'économie, tout simplement* (2023, Eyrolles).



Giovanni Molari

Rector, University of Bologna

Giovanni Molari has served as Rector of the Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna since 2021. A full professor of Agricultural Mechanics, he previously held the position of Director of the Department of Agro-Food Science and Technology at the University of Bologna and was a member of the Academic Senate from 2018 to 2021.

He is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Center for Sustainable Mobility Foundation, serves as President of the Magna Charta Observatory, and is a Benedictine Academic Member of the Academy of Sciences of the Institute of Bologna.



Francesco Moro

Professor of Political Science and Head of Department, Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna; Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe

Francesco Niccolò Moro is a Professor of Political Science and serves as Head of Department in the Department of Political and Social Sciences (SPS) of the University of Bologna (UNIBO). He is also an Adjunct Professor of International Relations at the School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University (Europe Campus).

Professor Moro has been teaching and/or researching at the University of Warwick, University of Milan-Bicocca, LUISS Guido Carli in Rome, AgroParisTech, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Florence, Istituto di Scienze Militari Aeronautiche of the Italian Air Force, Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane (SUM), Dickinson College, and at the Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK).

His research primarily focuses on collective violence, organized crime, and defense and national security policies and has been published - among else - in the Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Terrorism and Political Violence, European Sociological Review, PlosOne, and World Politics. The latest book he co-authored, *Reluctant Remilitarisation: Transforming the Armed Forces in Germany, Italy and Japan After the Cold War*, was published by Edinburgh University Press in 2023.



Michael Pettis

Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Michael Pettis is a nonresident senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. An expert on China's economy, Pettis is professor of finance at Peking University's Guanghua School of Management, where he specializes in Chinese financial markets.

From 2002 to 2004, he also taught at Tsinghua University's School of Economics and Management and, from 1992 to 2001, at Columbia University's Graduate School of Business. He is a member of the Institute of Latin American Studies Advisory Board at Columbia University as well as the Dean's Advisory Board at the School of Public and International Affairs.

Pettis worked on Wall Street in trading, capital markets, and corporate finance since 1987, when he joined the sovereign debt trading team at Manufacturers Hanover (now JPMorgan). Most recently, from 1996 to 2001, Pettis worked at Bear Stearns, where he was managing director principal heading the Latin American capital markets and the liability management groups. He has also worked as a partner in a merchant-banking boutique that specialized in securitizing Latin American assets and at Credit Suisse First Boston, where he headed the emerging markets trading team.

In addition to trading and capital markets, Pettis has been involved in sovereign advisory work, including for the Mexican government on the privatization of its banking system, the Republic of Macedonia on the restructuring of its international bank debt, and the South Korean Ministry of Finance on the restructuring of the country's commercial bank debt.

He formerly served as a member of the Board of Directors of ABC-CA Fund Management Company, a Sino-French joint venture based in Shanghai. He is the author of several books, including *The Great Rebalancing: Trade, Conflict, and the Perilous Road Ahead for the World Economy* (Princeton University Press, 2013).



Michael G. Plummer

Eni Professor of International Economics,
Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe

Michael Plummer is the Eni Professor of International Economics and has been Professor of International Economics since 2001. He was Director of SAIS Europe from 2014 to 2023. Professor Plummer was Head of the Development Division of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris from 2010 to 2012; an associate professor at Brandeis University (1992-2001); and Fellow at the East-West Center (1988-1992). From 2007 to 2015 he was Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Asian Economics (Elsevier) and president of the American Committee on Asian Economic Studies (ACAES) from 2008 to 2015. A former Fulbright Chair in Economics and Pew Fellow in International Affairs at Harvard University, he has been an Asian Development Bank (ADB) distinguished lecturer on several occasions and team leader of projects for various organizations including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the United Nations, the OECD, the ADB, the World Bank, the IMF, and the World Trade Organization. Professor Plummer has advised several governments on the Transpacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations and ASEAN governments of economic integration issues and was a member of the Trade Policy Modelling Review Expert Panel of the UK government (2020-2022). He is a member of the editorial boards of the Asian Economic Journal, the Journal of Southeast Asian Economics (formerly ASEAN Economic Bulletin); and the Global Economic Journal.



Romano Prodi

President, Foundation for Worldwide Cooperation; Former President of the EC; Former Prime Minister of Italy

Romano Prodi was born in Scandiano (Reggio Emilia, Italy) in 1939. After graduation at the Faculty of Law of the Catholic University in Milan and at the London School of Economics, his academic career began at the Department of Economics and at the Faculty of Political science of the University of Bologna, where he worked as an assistant professor (1963), associate professor (1966) and lastly full professor (1971-1999) of industrial organisation and industrial policy. In 1974 he was a visiting professor at Harvard University and at the Stanford Research Institute. He helped establish the “Italian school of industrial policy”, and acted for several years as the editor of its quarterly journal, *L’Industria, Rivista di Economia e Politica Industriale*. In 1981 he founded Nomisma, the largest Italian institute of economic studies, whose scientific committee he chaired until 1995. From November 1978 to March 1979, Romano Prodi was Minister of Industry. From November 1982 to October 1989, he was chairman and CEO of the Institute for Industrial Reconstruction (IRI), which was the largest Italian public holding. Recalled to head the Institute in 1993, he saw through the privatization of a number of industrial, banking and service companies. In February 1995 he founded the “Olive tree” centre-left coalition, which designated him as its candidate for premiership. The coalition won the 1996 election and, in May 1996, he was appointed Prime Minister. He remained in office until October 1998. The bold measures introduced by his Cabinet enabled Italy to meet the Maastricht criteria for joining the Euro zone. From 1999 to 2005 he has been President of the European Commission. During his presidency, the euro was successfully introduced, the Union was enlarged to 10 new countries from Central, Eastern and Southern Europe and the treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe was signed. In 2006 Romano Prodi was elected leader of the centre-left coalition in Italy and after a victory in the 2006 elections he became Prime Minister, until May 8, 2008.

He is, since then, President of the Foundation for Worldwide Cooperation and in July 2008 to 2010 he has been named Chairman of the United Nations-African Union High-level Panel for Peacekeeping in Africa.

From February 2009 to December 2013 he was Professor at-large at Brown University (USA). From 2010 to November 2015 he was Professor of CEIBS (China Europe International Business School) in Shanghai and now he is Member of the Board of the same School. From October 2012 to January 2014 he was Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel. From March 2021 to February 2023 he was President of the Italy-Asean Association. During his academic and institutional career, Romano Prodi has been awarded a number of recognitions and he also holds various honorary degrees.



Sergey Radchenko

Wilson E. Schmidt Distinguished Professor,
Johns Hopkins University SAIS Europe

Sergey Radchenko is Wilson E. Schmidt Distinguished Professor at SAIS Europe, and Director, Bologna Institute for Policy Research. Previously he was Professor of International Relations, Cardiff University. Radchenko has an international reputation for research on the history of the Cold War.

He has written on Sino-Soviet relations, on Soviet and Chinese foreign policies, on atomic diplomacy, and on Cold War crises. In addition, he has published work on North Korea and Mongolia and continues to have interests the international politics of East and Central Asia and in contemporary Sino-Russian relations, Russian foreign policy, and Russia-NATO relations. He has served as a Global Fellow and a Public Policy Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Centre (in Washington D.C.), and as the Zi Jiang Distinguished Professor at East China Normal University (Shanghai).

Currently his research interests center around the global history of the Cold War. He is a frequent contributor to The New York Times, The Washington Post, Foreign Policy, National Interest, The Moscow Times, and other national and international media.



Stefano Sannino

Director-General, Department MENA and the Gulf, European Union

Mr Stefano Sannino leads the Directorate-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (DG MENA) from its creation on 1 February 2025.

He was the Secretary-General of the European External Action Service (EEAS) from January 2021 to December 2024.

From March 2016 to April 2020 he was the Ambassador of Italy to Spain and Andorra.

From July 2013 until March 2016 he held the position of Permanent Representative of Italy to the EU in Brussels.

Previously, Mr Sannino was Director-General of DG Enlargement (2010-2013).

He first joined the EU institutions in 2002 and worked at the Cabinet of the President of the Commission (until 2004). He then moved to the Directorate General for External Relations as Director for Crisis Management and Representative at Political and Security Committee (2004-2006), then Director for Latin America (2008-2009) and finally as Deputy Director-General for Asia and Latin America (2009-2010).

From 2006 to 2008 he was the Diplomatic Advisor to the Italian Prime Minister and his Personal Representative to G8 summits.

He has also held the position of Ambassador and Head of the OSCE Mission in Belgrade from 2001 to 2002 and within the Italian Diplomatic Service: Deputy Head of Mission of the Italian Embassy in Belgrade (1994-1996), Head of the Secretariat of the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (1996-1998), Diplomatic Advisor and Head of the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Trade (1998-2001).

Mr Sannino is a native Italian speaker and fluent in English, French and Spanish.



Tommaso Sonno

Associate Professor of Economics,
Department of Economics, University of
Bologna; Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins
University SAIS Europe

Professor Sonno is also an Associate at the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics, and an Adjunct Professor at Bocconi University and the Italian Institute for International Political Studies. Since 2022, he has served as Vice Director of the PNRR Lab at the SDA Bocconi School of Management. He has been a member of the Board of Directors at Anemocyte since 2024 and has served as Head of Fundraising for the Nasara for Burkina NGO since 2003.

His research interests lie in international economics, political economy, and development economics. He is currently studying the impact of multinational enterprises on violence, the environment, and labor force participation in developing countries. His work also investigates the organizational dynamics of business groups. He holds a PhD in Economics from the Université Catholique de Louvain and was an Affiliate PhD Candidate in Economics at the London School of Economics within the European Doctoral Programme in Quantitative Economics.



James B. Steinberg

Dean, Johns Hopkins University SAIS

James B. Steinberg is the tenth Dean of SAIS. Previously, he served as University Professor of Social Science, International Affairs and Law at Syracuse University, where he was Dean of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs for five years. Prior, he served as Deputy Secretary of State to Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, from 2009-2011. From 2005-2008, Steinberg was Dean of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. From 2001 to 2005, Mr. Steinberg was vice president and director of Foreign Policy Studies at the Brookings Institution. Mr. Steinberg was deputy national security advisor to President Bill Clinton from 1996 to 2000.

Steinberg's most recent books are *A Glass Half Full? Rebalance, Reassurance and Resolve* and *Strategic Reassurance and Resolve: US-China Relations in the 21st Century* (Brookings Institution Press, 2017) and *Strategic Reassurance and Resolve: US-China Relations in the 21st Century* (Princeton University Press, 2014), both with Michael O'Hanlon. He has also authored *Difficult Transitions: Foreign Policy Troubles at the Outset of Presidential Power* (Brookings Institute Press, 2008) with Kurt Campbell.

Steinberg received his A.B from Harvard College and a J.D. from Yale Law School.



Marina Timoteo

Full Professor of Comparative Private Law,
Department of Legal Studies, University of
Bologna

Marina Timoteo is Full Professor of Comparative Private Law at the University of Bologna, lecturing in Comparative Private Law, Law of the Asian Countries, Law and Business in China. She is member of the Eight Panel of Arbitrators of the Beijing Arbitration Commission/Beijing Arbitration Center.

Since 2008 is responsible of the module on “European Private Law” of the Master Program in European and International Law of the China-Europe School of Law of Beijing

She is currently coordinator of the Jean Monnet module “Law and Business in China, in the framework of the Eu-China investment and trade relations: the challenges of the digital-tech age” (2023-2026) financed by the European Commission and has coordinated several Eu-China research and cooperation networks working on intellectual property rights, environmental law, law and development processes.

Co-founder of the Europe China Law Studies Association she is also member of the International Academy of Comparative Law, member of the scientific committee of the Centre for Digital Ethics, University of Bologna, editor of the “China and WTO review”, member of the editorial board of “China-Eu Law Journal.

Her research activity focuses on contemporary Chinese Law, exploring the processes of Chinese legal modernization and integration in the international and global law frameworks, Specific fields of research are intellectual property rights, environmental law, digital innovation, data law.



Nathalie Tocci

Director, Istituto Affari Internazionali;
Professor of the Practice, Johns Hopkins
University SAIS Europe

Nathalie Tocci is Director of the Istituto Affari Internazionali, part-time professor at the School of Transnational Governance (European University Institute), Honorary Professor at the University of Tübingen and independent non-executive director of the multi utility company Acea. She has been Special Advisor to EU High Representatives Federica Mogherini and Josep Borrell. In that capacity, she wrote the European Global Strategy and worked on its implementation.

She is Europe's Futures fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences (Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen, IWM). She was Pierre Keller Visiting Professor at the Harvard Kennedy School and, prior to joining Acea, she was independent board member first of Edison and then of Eni. She has held research positions at the Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels, the Transatlantic Academy, Washington, the European University Institute, Florence, and has taught at the College of Europe, Bruges. Her research interests include European integration and European foreign policy, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, transatlantic relations, multilateralism, conflict resolution, energy, climate and defence.

Her major publications include: Framing the EU's Global Strategy, Springer-Palgrave Macmillan, 2017 (author); The EU, Promoting Regional Integration, and Conflict Resolution, Springer-Palgrave Macmillan, 2017 (co-editor); Turkey and the European Union, Palgrave Macmillan, 2015 (co-author); Multilateralism in the 21st Century, Routledge, 2013 (co-editor), Turkey's European Future: Behind the Scenes of America's Influence on EU-Turkey Relations, New York University Press, 2011 (author); and The EU and Conflict Resolution, Routledge, 2007 (author); A Green and Global Europe, Polity, 2022 (author).

Nathalie is a frequent media commentator, with regular op-eds in Politico Europe, La Stampa and The Guardian, as well as being a regular panellist on BBC's "The Context



Joseph Torigian

Associate Professor, School of International Service, American University

Joseph Torigian is an associate professor at the School of International Service at American University in Washington and a Center Associate of the Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Michigan. Previously, he was a Research Fellow at Stanford's Hoover History Lab, a Visiting Fellow at the China in the World Program at Australian National University, a Stanton Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, Postdoctoral Fellow at Princeton-Harvard's China and the World Program, a Postdoctoral (and Predoctoral) Fellow at Stanford's Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), a Predoctoral Fellow at George Washington University's Institute for Security and Conflict Studies, an IREX scholar affiliated with the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, and a Fulbright Scholar at Fudan University in Shanghai. His first book, "Prestige, Manipulation, and Coercion: Elite Power Struggles in the Soviet Union and China after Stalin and Mao" was released with Yale University Press, and "The Party's Interests Come First: The Life of Xi Zhongxun, Father of Xi Jinping" was published by Stanford University Press in 2025.





Armando Varricchio

Senior Fellow on Transatlantic Relations,
Johns Cabot University

Ambassador Armando Varricchio has a comprehensive knowledge of international relations and global economic issues. In his four-decade diplomatic service he has played a pivotal role in policy making and high-level negotiations both at national and European level.

Ambassador of Italy to the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States and Serbia.

As a young diplomat in Budapest he witnessed the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union.

He developed a deep knowledge of European affairs as Counselor at the Italian Representation to the EU, Chief of Staff to the Minister for European Affairs and Chief Diplomatic Advisor to the President of the European Commission.

As Diplomatic Advisor to the President of the Republic and National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister he has been deeply involved in the most sensitive political and security dossiers.

As Personal Representative (“Sherpa”) at the G7/8summits for the EU as well as the G7 and G20 for Italy he has led critical negotiations on economic, financial and industrial global issues.

Born in Venice, Ambassador Varricchio graduated in International Relations from the University of Padua (Summa con Laude). He has been bestowed by the President of the Republic of Italy with the honor of Knight of Grand Cross - the highest Italian award - and is the recipient of prestigious honors by several Foreign States.



Jessica Chen Weiss

Inaugural Faculty Director, Institute for America, China, and the Future of Global Affairs; David M. Lampton Professor of China Studies, Johns Hopkins University SAIS

Jessica Chen Weiss is the David M. Lampton Professor of China Studies at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and the inaugural faculty director of the Institute for America, China, and the Future of Global Affairs (ACF) at SAIS. From August 2021 to July 2022, she served as senior advisor to the Secretary's Policy Planning Staff at the U.S. State Department on a Council on Foreign Relations Fellowship for Tenured International Relations Scholars (IAF-TIRS). Weiss is the author of *Powerful Patriots: Nationalist Protest in China's Foreign Relations* (Oxford University Press, 2014). Her research appears in *International Organization*, *China Quarterly*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Security Studies*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, and *Review of International Political Economy*. With commentary in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Los Angeles Times*, and the Ezra Klein show, Weiss was profiled by the *New Yorker* and named one of *Prospect Magazine's* Top Thinkers for 2024. Weiss is also a nonresident senior fellow at the Asia Society Policy Institute Center for China Analysis and previously the Michael J. Zak Professor for China and Asia-Pacific Studies at Cornell University and an assistant professor at Yale University. She founded FACES, the Forum for American/Chinese Exchange at Stanford University. Born and raised in Seattle, Washington, she received her Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego.





Caroline Wilson

Ambassador, UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

Dame Caroline Wilson DCMG is a senior British diplomat who is currently preparing for her next diplomatic appointment. She finished as British Ambassador to China in the summer of 2025 after 5 years in the role. A fluent Mandarin speaker she has previously studied and served in Beijing 1996-2000 also Hong Kong 2012-16 as HM Consul General. Caroline graduated in Law from the University of Cambridge (Downing College) where she is an Honorary Fellow, qualified as a Barrister in the UK and has a licence spéciale in European law from the Université Libre de Bruxelles. She worked as Antici at the UK's Permanent Representation to the EU in the early 2000s, in the Cabinet Office European Secretariat, subsequently as Europe Director in the Foreign Office. In addition to French and German Caroline speaks Russian, and worked as Minister Counsellor at the British Embassy in Moscow from 2008-12.



Paolo Wulzer

Director of Department, Humanities and Social Sciences; Professor of History of International Politics, University of Naples 'l'Orientale'

Paolo Wulzer (Phd in International Relations) is Professor of History of International Relations at the University L'Orientale of Naples, where he also teaches courses on the History and International Relations of the European Union, as well as the History of International Politics.

He serves as Head of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences and is a member of the Board of Supervisors for the PhD Program in International Studies at the same university.

His research and teaching interests include Italian foreign and security policy in the Greater Middle East during and after the Cold War, transatlantic relations in the Mediterranean and the Middle East, the foreign and security policy of the European Community/European Union from the Cold War to the post-bipolar system, the history of U.S. security policy in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf and the evolution of the Chinese Foreign Policy after the end of the Cold War.

Professor Wulzer is lecturer in American Foreign Policy at John Cabot University and lecturer in Chinese History and Foreign Policy at Lumsa University.

He has published extensively on subjects pertinent to his research.



Zhu Feng

Professor and Dean, School of International Studies, Nanjing University

Professor ZHU Feng is the Dean of the School of International Studies at Nanjing University and the Executive Director of the Collaborative Innovation Center of South China Sea Studies at Nanjing University (ICSCSS). He previously served as the Deputy Director of the Institute of International Strategic Studies at Peking University and as a professor at the School of International Studies at Peking University. In 2014, he was recruited to Nanjing University to lead the establishment of ICSCSS. Professor Zhu's research expertise includes China-U.S. relations, security in the East Asian region, and maritime security in the South China Sea. He has held visiting scholar positions at several prestigious international academic institutions, including the Brookings Institution, the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in the United States, Tulane University in the United Kingdom, and Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. Currently, Professor Zhu serves as the Vice President of the China Association for International Studies, the Vice President of the Chinese Association for Japanese Studies, and the Chief Expert at key collaborative think tanks of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

WI-FI at SAIS Europe

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