

Orient Express: Chinese Infrastructure Engagement in Africa 2016 China-Africa Research Initiative (CARI) Conference

Deborah Bräutigam

Deborah Bräutigam is the Bernard L. Schwartz Professor and Director of the International Development Program (IDEV) and CARI at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. She is the author of *The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa* (Oxford University Press, 2010; Chinese version published by Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Press) and *Chinese Aid and African Development: Exporting Green Revolution* (St. Martin's Press, 1998). She is also co-editor of *Taxation and State-Building: Capacity and Consent* (Cambridge University Press, 2008) as well as articles in academic journals and public affairs media. Professor Bräutigam advises international agencies and governments on China-Africa engagement. Her latest book, *Will Africa Feed China?*, was published in 2015 by Oxford University Press.

PANEL 1: ROADS, RAILROADS, and PORTS I

Chair:

Jamie Monson

Jamie Monson is Director of African Studies at Michigan State University, where she is a Professor of History. She has been a visiting professor at Beijing University and Zhejiang Normal University. Dr. Monson's research focuses on Chinese development assistance to Africa. She is a specialist on the TAZARA railway, a development project built in Tanzania and Zambia with Chinese cooperation in the 1970s. Her book, *Africa's Freedom Railway: How a Chinese Development Project Changed Lives and Livelihoods in Tanzania* (Indiana, 2009) was recently published in Chinese (2015). Dr. Monson's new research concerns technology transfer and civil diplomacy in China-Africa engagement. She also has a background in African agricultural and environmental history, an interest she developed as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kenya.

"How do Chinese Contractors Perform in Africa? Evidence from World Bank Projects."

Jamie Farrell

Abstract: This paper explores the poor reputation of Chinese contracting firms in Africa, and finds that based on data from World Bank project completion reports, there is no statistically significant difference between the quality of work of Chinese firms versus OECD country firms on World Bank transportation projects in Africa completed between 2000-2013.

Jamie Farrell completed her Master's Degree in International Economics at SAIS in May 2016, and is currently working as a Financial Analyst for Scully Capital, a firm that specializes in project

finance and infrastructure development. Prior to SAIS, Ms. Farrell served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Burkina Faso.

“Tracking Local Narratives of Chinese Infrastructure Engagement in Kenya: A Case Study of the Standard Gauge Railway Project”

Josh Maiyo

Abstract: This research seeks to examine the ways in which Chinese infrastructure engagement in Africa is viewed from the perspective of local policy makers and opinion leaders through an analysis of the media coverage of the on-going Chinese funded and Chinese built standard gauge railway in Kenya. The objective is to shed light on understanding how such perceptions are generated, sustained and transformed in space and time. The essence of the research is to portray the differentiated nature of such perceptions based on the diverse positions of various interest groups at the local level. In so doing, the research seeks to dispel some of the more dominant and homogenizing “myths” about China in Africa that are still prevalent in contemporary Sino- Africa discourse and scholarship.

Josh Maiyo is adjunct lecturer in politics and international relations at Webster University, Leiden campus in the Netherlands and a Ph.D. Fellow at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam where he is a recipient of the Netherlands Scientific Council (NWO-WOTRO) scholarship. His research examines the dynamics of transnational large-scale land acquisitions, agrarian modernization, and rural development in central Uganda with case studies of Chinese, Indian and Norwegian owned farms.

“The Road is Open: Comparing Chinese with Traditional Donors in the Democratic Republic of Congo”

Ignace Pollet

Abstract: In 2011, a team of Chinese, Congolese and Belgian researchers carried out field studies to compare Chinese and Western aid interventions in the DRC, including of road rehabilitation projects. While differences were striking as to local involvement and direct effectiveness, both approaches struggled to ascertain the nature of road maintenance into the future.

Ignace Pollet is a sociologist who has carried out research at HIVA–University of Leuven in a variety of domains, notably about decent work, partnership conditions, and new development actors. He has co-authored books on interculturalism, cooperatives and global education. He is currently involved in a project on the informal economy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

PANEL 2: ROADS, RAILROADS, and PORTS II

Chair:

David Kiwuwa

David Kiwuwa is Associate Professor of International Studies, School Research Director and Director of the Center for Political Ideologies in the School of International Studies, University of Nottingham Ningbo campus in China. His research interests are in nationalism, ethnopolitics, conflict analysis and democratic transitions. He is a recent Princeton University visiting research fellow (2013-2014) and a 2006 Lord Bryce prize winner (PSA UK). He is currently working on a One Belt One Road project examining infrastructural development as peace building and regional integration.

“Structure-Performance Relationships in Complex System Developments: The Case of Infrastructure Projects in Developing Economies”

Nuno Gil

Abstract: This study aims to further our understanding of the structure-performance relationship in infrastructure projects in developing economies. Our analysis reveals two approaches to problem-solving. One involves slow acquisition of critical resources from independent actors during planning (horizontal cooperation) before selecting the suppliers for implementation (vertical cooperation). The other approach involves an extreme overlap between planning and implementation enabled by rushing upfront buyer-supplier agreements. We discuss the implications of this choice between alternatives, none of which is unarguably superior.

Nuno Gil is Professor of New Infrastructure Development at the University of Manchester; he joined the Manchester Business School in 2004. Dr. Gil studies and develops theories to advance an understanding of how societies develop long-lasting infrastructure. He earned a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering at UC Berkeley. He is working on a new book, *Designing under Pluralism: Debunking the Performance Myth* (MIT Press).

“From Gwadar to Kribi: Chinese Engagement in the Development of Africa's Ports”

Wang Lin

Abstract: The paper will present a comparative case study of Kribi Port in Cameroon and Gwadar Port in Pakistan, both of which were lead-financed, constructed, invested and operated by the same Chinese company. The paper concludes that financing is a mechanism for Chinese stakeholders to have critical leverage to engage more in African ports operations with third party players.

Wang Lin is a fellow researching China's overseas investments with the China Business Network Research Institute (CBNRI), an independent, non-profit think tank running under the auspices of

CBN. She is also a financial reporter on China's foreign policy and overseas investments with China Business News, the leading financial daily newspaper in China.

“Skills Transfer in Chinese Infrastructure in Africa: A Case Study of the Kribi Deep Sea Port in Cameroon”

Keren Zhu

Abstract: The Kribi Deep Sea Port, as the first project of its kind in Central Africa, faces problems with communication that severely affect skills transfer in infrastructure engagements. Through interviews and comparisons with some other projects, the research seeks to identify and evaluate alternative solutions to enhancing communication in skills transfer.

Keren Zhu works for Research and Development International, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS-RDI). She has worked in Ghana and Ethiopia. Her research focuses on Chinese enterprises going out and occupational training in the process. She studied social anthropology at the University of Oxford, with a focus on Africa and international development.

PANEL 3: POWER

Chair:

David Benazeraf

David Benazeraf is the China Programme Deputy Manager of the International Energy Agency (OECD-IEA). He graduated from Sciences Po Paris and holds a PhD from Sorbonne University. He worked for several years in China where he developed in-depth expertise on energy, environment and urban development. In Africa, he has done fieldwork in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, and Angola. He led a recent IEA report on Chinese electricity projects in Africa.

“A Comparison of the Chinese Adama Wind Farm with the French Ashegoda Wind Farm in Ethiopia”

Yanning Chen

Abstract: This article looks into the sustainable development impact of Adama and Ashegoda Wind Farms in Ethiopia financed and constructed by the Chinese and the French respectively. Findings suggest that the host country has a large capacity and plays a vital role in maximizing sustainable development benefits.

Yanning Chen is a first-year PhD student at Johns Hopkins SAIS in the International Development program. Her research focuses on the role of investment in the diffusion of renewable energy in Africa. She holds a Master's degree from Boston University and a Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University.

“Capturing the Rains: A Study of Chinese and World Bank-Financed Hydropower Projects in Cameroon”

Yunnan Chen and David Landry

Abstract: This paper compares two Cameroonian hydropower projects: one financed by China Eximbank, the other by a World Bank-led consortium. The case studies offer an opportunity to evaluate the projects’ tendering, approval, and implementation processes, and the role their financing arrangements played in their approaches to environmental and social impact mitigation.

Yunnan Chen is a PhD student at Johns Hopkins SAIS and a research assistant at the SAIS-CARI. She is a graduate of the University of British Columbia and the University of Oxford. She has previously worked for the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, and at Chinadialogue.

David G. Landry is a PhD candidate at Johns Hopkins SAIS specializing in good governance. He is a graduate of the University of Oxford and McGill University. He has worked at the International Anti-Corruption Academy, Transparency International, the World Bank and the Natural Resource Governance Institute.

“Great Walls over African Rivers: Chinese Engagement in African Hydropower Projects”

Jyhjong Hwang

Abstract: Recent acceleration of Chinese engagement in African hydropower is attracting more attention and concern. Yet there is few research and fewer reliable data on this engagement. This paper analyzes Chinese hydropower engagement based on a new, verified dataset. We examined over 100 projects reported by the media and lists compiled by other organizations, amassing case studies for each project using desk research, interviews, and field visits. We demonstrate that Chinese engagement in African hydropower is often overestimated in both numbers and value. Further, misunderstanding and myths abound regarding Chinese financing and construction practices. This evidence-based understanding provides a firmer foundation for advocacy, research, and efforts by other companies and funding agencies to cooperate with Chinese actors in this controversial sector.

Jyhjong Hwang is the Senior Research Assistant at SAIS-CARI. Jyhjong graduated from Johns Hopkins SAIS with a MA in International Economics and International Development. Previously, she was a Peace Corps Education Volunteer in Namibia. Her research focuses on Chinese official subsidized loans to African countries and Sino-Africa trade. She holds a B.A. from Tufts University in English and International Relations.

“Unpacking African Agency: Examining the Labor Politics and Activism of Ghanaian Workers at the Bui Dam in Ghana”

Isaac Odoom

Abstract: This paper explores labor practices of Ghanaian workers at the Bui Hydro Dam project which was constructed by Sinohydro. Framing such practices as a form of agency, the study examines effects on employee-management relations and uncovers the extent to which Ghanaian actors exert agency and attempt to shape and influence their relations with Chinese enterprises for their own economic ends.

Isaac Odoom recently completed his PhD in Political Science at the University of Alberta, Canada. His main research interests include African international relations, Africa–China relations, political economy of South-South cooperation, critical international relations theory, and political economy of development. Some of his recent review publications have appeared in the *Third World Quarterly*, *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, and the *African Review of Economics and Finance*.

PANEL 4: FINANCING

Chair:

David Ehrhardt

David Ehrhardt is CEO of Castalia LLC, a firm solving economic, financial and policy challenges of developing infrastructure around the world. He advises governments in Nigeria, Ghana and Uganda on procurement of renewable energy generation. He is developing new models for privately-financed energy transmission with the World Bank, and recently co-authored a report on ensuring water services to Africa’s urban poor. He assisted Ghana’s Infrastructure Fund to identify the country’s total infrastructure financing gap, and advises a number of infrastructure investors on global opportunities. A citizen of Jamaica, the UK, and New Zealand, he is qualified in law and economics.

“From Contractors to Stakeholders? Chinese State-Owned Companies and Overseas Infrastructure Development.”

Wendy Leutert

Abstract: How is Chinese state-owned enterprises’ involvement in overseas infrastructure development changing in the twenty-first century? This paper contends that Chinese state firms are going beyond their traditional role as contractors supported by preferential financing from Chinese policy banks. Diversification of project types and financing for Chinese state-owned companies’ overseas infrastructure work is emerging, amid a changing institutional environment in China, host countries, and international organizations. Through case study analysis of infrastructure projects in Ghana and additional cross-national evidence, this study shows the growing diversity of Chinese state-owned companies’ project types and financing for energy and transportation infrastructure. For example, these firms are taking equity stakes in

infrastructure joint-ventures in addition to their role as contractors; expanding the development of public-private partnership (PPP) projects; and serving as investors themselves. The study concludes by identifying implications of this diversification for state-firm relations.

Wendy Leutert is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Government at Cornell University. Her research focuses on Chinese political economy, specifically the reform and globalization of China's state-owned enterprises. She was a visiting researcher at the Brookings Institution (2014-2015) and Peking University's Guanghua School of Management (2013-2016). She also worked previously for International Crisis Group in Beijing, focusing on regional security. Her writing has been published by the National Bureau of Asian Research, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Financial Times. She holds master's degrees in international relations from Cornell University and Tsinghua University, where she was the first American to earn the degree.

“Age of Choice for Development Finance in the Infrastructure Sector in Sub-Saharan Africa: Evidence from Country Case Studies”

Shakira Mustapha

Abstract: We analyse the implications of a changing infrastructure financing landscape from the perspective of recipient country governments in Sub-Saharan Africa. We take a case study approach investigating negotiation strategies, access and management of development finance flows in the road, railway and energy sectors in Ethiopia and Kenya.

Shakira Mustapha is researcher at the Overseas Development Institute working particularly on development finance issues as well as public financial management reform. Previously, she worked at the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development in Trinidad and Tobago, supporting donor funded projects related to policy reforms in priority sectors.

“Efficiency or Effectiveness: Decision Mechanisms of Chinese Concessional Loans to Infrastructure in Africa”

Ye Yuan

Abstract: This paper combs through the decision-making process of Chinese concessional loans to Africa through a detailed case study of Tanzania and comparison with Japan International Cooperation Agency's model. Given changes in the loan allocating mechanism, concessional loans will likely become policy leverage tools rather than market entry strategies.

Ye Yuan is a Master's student in International Security at SciencesPo, Paris. He has been admitted to Tsinghua University as a Ph.D. candidate in Public Policy. His research interests are China's engagement in Africa and Sino-French climate and energy cooperation. Ye is interning at the China Exim Bank in Africa.

“Financing of Chinese Infrastructure in Africa: Concessional Loans, Public-Private Partnerships, and International Donors”

Youyi Zhang

Abstract: This article focus on the changing financing models for Chinese SOEs’ infrastructure projects in Kenya, and examines the domestic sources of these changes. The main argument is that China’s domestic reforms have heterogeneous effects on the financing structure of Chinese SOEs’ African infrastructure investments, contingent on the size of the SOEs and their affiliations with different levels of Chinese government.

Youyi Zhang is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in the Government Department at Cornell University. He mainly focuses on politics of foreign investment and foreign aid, with a particular interest in the political implications of China's infrastructure engagement in Africa and Southeast Asia. In 2015, he was a recipient of an award from the CARI Fellowship Program and has conducted field research in Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

PANEL 5: ENVIRONMENT AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Chair:

Jian Ni

Jian Ni is an Associate Professor at Carey Business School and Economics Department of Johns Hopkins University, with expertise in healthcare, environment and energy, financial services and emerging markets. He has consulted with both government agencies and private entities such as Highmark, Lincoln Financial, and Li&Fung, among others. He was named a 2017 MSI Young Scholar.

“Occupational Safety and Hidden Health Costs Among Construction Workers: Analysis of Chinese Construction Companies in Lagos State”

Gbemiga Adeyemi

Abstract: This study examines the occupational safety and hidden health costs among construction workers in Nigeria using both qualitative and quantitative methods. The study confirms that 58% of the workers are experiencing Ergonomic Hazards while a significant relationship was established between number of years on the job and the hidden health risks.

Ezekiel Oluwagbemiga Adeyemi holds a PhD in Demography and Social Statistics from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife Nigeria. He is a Lecturer in the Department of Demography and Social Statistics, Federal University, Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. His research areas include Gender, Labor Force, Inequality, Sexuality and Reproductive Health. He has published in these areas in high impact journals.

“A Complex Governance Matrix: How Chinese businesses in African Infrastructure Make Decisions on Social and Environmental Compliance”

Lila Buckley

Abstract: Based on interviews with Chinese companies in Africa we present the complex governance environment that shapes companies’ decision-making on social and environmental compliance, including labor relations, community development, land compensation and environmental impact assessment. Contrary to popular belief, the Chinese government policies plays a limited role in shaping such behaviors. Instead, the role of contract conditions, host country legislation as well as other local institutional norms – the “unwritten” rules – stood out as important. Our research also presents first-hand accounts of the challenges that Chinese companies face in maneuvering the local business environment and navigating the delicate relationship with the host government as the project proprietor.

Lila Buckley is a Senior Researcher on China and leads the China Strategy Team at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in London. She is an anthropologist focusing on Chinese civil society, agriculture and environmental policy, with over 15 years’ experience in China. Previously, she served as assistant executive director for a Beijing-based Chinese environmental organization, the Global Environment Institute, and was China correspondent for the Worldwatch Institute. Her work focuses on China-Africa agriculture technology transfer, aid, trade and investments, with a particular focus on Uganda and Malawi. She also leads a new IIED initiative on disruptive change, looking at funding, partnership and organizational management approaches from the perspective of NGO leaders in the global South.

“Chinese Contractors and Their Social Responsibilities: A Case Study in Mathare Valley, Nairobi”

Zhengli Huang

Abstract: This paper tries to understand the meaning of social responsibilities for Chinese contractors by looking at a small aid project in Nairobi: the MCEDO school expansion project in 2014. Though small in scale, it is a typical Chinese aid project, sponsored by Chinese companies and supported by the Embassy of China in Kenya, yet represents a very different management method. The author was involved in the project from initiation to construction completion, and worked on the site until the project was finished. The author paid attention to key factors of social impact such as labor relations, technology transfer and capacity building. By examining the practice of a small school building project, this paper explores the social impact of Chinese contractors in infrastructure projects in Africa, and the possibilities to establish an institutional structure to extend their social influences.

Zhengli Huang is an architect and urbanist. Since 2010 she has been a senior researcher and editor at Urban China Magazine, and served as Editor-in-Chief for the Special issue of “Urban China 63: Chinese Urbanism in Africa.” Her PhD research focuses on informal settlements and their building systems. In 2014 she worked as project manager in a school-building project in

Mathare Valley, Nairobi. In the spring of 2016 she was invited as a Luce Scholar to teach Sustainable Urban Development at Trinity College, Hartford, CT. She is now a research assistant at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

“An Evaluation of the Impacts of Chinese Development Projects in Ecologically Sensitive Areas”

Bradley Parks

Abstract: With satellite imagery on forest cover change and sub-nationally geo-referenced data on Chinese-funded infrastructure projects implemented between 2000 and 2014, we use a quasi-experimental, differences-in-differences model to estimate the forest cover impacts of Chinese-funded infrastructure projects in Tanzania and Cambodia.

Dr. Bradley Parks is the Executive Director of AidData at the College of William & Mary. His research on the allocation and impact of international development finance has been published in *Science*, *World Development*, the *Journal of Development Studies*, *Global Environmental Politics*, the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, and *China Economic Quarterly*.

PANEL 6: LABOR AND SKILLS TRANSFER

Chair:

Diane McMahon

Diane McMahon is the Vice President, International Government Affairs at the Bechtel Corporation, where she leads the Corporate Affairs team efforts in managing international issues that may affect Bechtel’s reputation, ability to win and implement projects successfully. She supports the Africa regional business development and marketing teams on global policy and issues, and public and government affairs.

“Chinese Investment in Africa's Telecoms Sector: Contributions to Skills and Technology Transfer? A Case Study of Huawei in Nigeria.”

Motolani Agbebi

Abstract: This paper explores the presence of Chinese telecom companies in Africa with a particular focus on whether or not Huawei contributes to skills and technology transfer including capacity building and human development in Nigeria’s telecom industry. The paper is based on findings from a field study conducted in Nigeria.

Motolani Agbebi is a PhD candidate in the School of Management at the University of Tampere, Finland. Her current research focuses on China’s economic engagement in Africa; she examines the implications of this engagement for human capital development in Africa, with a particular focus on Nigeria.

“Cooperation Between China and Tanzania in ICT”

Hezron Makundi

Abstract: This paper assesses the role of public-private partnerships with Chinese institutions in terms of technology transfer and technological capacity building in local firms in Tanzania. The analysis reveals that the labor localization by Chinese firms is at 60% on average, coupled with provision of training services to Tanzanian nationals and supply of services and equipment to Tanzanian firms. However, the overall level of technology transfer has been met with weak incentives for collaboration between Chinese and Tanzanian firms and low-level technology embedded in activities offshored by Chinese multinationals to Tanzania.

Hezron Makundi is affiliated with IDS, University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, currently undertaking his PhD at HIVA-KU Leuven in Belgium. His main research interests are on technology policy and development cooperation. Hezron’s doctoral research assesses technology transfer and technological capacity building under development cooperation between China and Tanzania.

“Chinese Infrastructure Engagement in Eastern and Southern Africa: Lessons from Kenya, Zambia, and South Africa”

Lisa Qixun Siebers

Abstract: This paper signifies the role of the micro-level practices of Chinese infrastructure companies in sustainable growth, with similarities and differences in their management practices, in Kenya, Zambia, and South Africa. Hard- and soft-infrastructure companies present different learning paths, making different extents to mutual growth of their businesses and host economies.

Dr. Lisa Siebers was born in China and educated in both China and the UK. She is a Reader in International Business at Nottingham Business School, Nottingham Trent University, UK. Her research focuses on transfer of management practices and how foreign firms respond to local institutions, cultures, and consumers.

“Creating a Market for Skills Transfer: A Case Study of AVIC International's Skills Transfer Programs in Kenya”

Irene Sun and Lin Qi

Abstract: We provide an in-depth case study of a major Chinese infrastructure firm’s local skills development programs in Kenya, which buck the stereotype of Chinese firms ignoring local workforce issues. The programs combine business and social motives, showing that Chinese companies can see it in their enlightened self-interest to invest in local skills development in Africa. The implementation of these projects has been characterized by flexibility and co-learning with local stakeholders, suggesting a perhaps uniquely Chinese approach to development.

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ABSTRACTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

Irene Yuan Sun is the author of *The Next Factory of the World*, a book about Chinese investment in Africa that will be published by Harvard Business Review Press next year. She is also an engagement manager at McKinsey & Company's Washington, D.C. office. Irene has worked in the area of China-Africa economic cooperation for the African Development Bank and the Gates Foundation. She is a graduate of Harvard Business School, Harvard Kennedy School, and Harvard College.

Lin Qi is a freelance photographer based in New York. His photographs have appeared in Xinhua News and the China Daily. From 2010 to 2015, he worked for AVIC International as a Project Manager, based in Beijing and then in Kenya. In that role, he worked with the Kenyan government and other stakeholders to manage more than US\$100 million worth of vocational education projects. He is a graduate of Northwestern Polytechnical University School of Astronautics in China.