

# “China's Belt and Road Initiative: curse or blessing for democracy in Eurasia?”

12-14 March 2021

## PROGRAMME

**14:00-14:30 Welcome notes [\(video\)](#)**

*Alexander Wolters*, Director, OSCE Academy, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

**Introductory remarks**

*Anja Mihr*, DAAD Associate Professor, OSCE Academy, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

*Brigitte Weiffen*, Senior Lecturer, The Open University, United Kingdom

**14:30-15:30 Keynote Lecture: Future Impact of BRI in Eurasia [\(video\)](#)**

*Richard Pomfret*, Professor of Economics, University of Adelaide, Australia

**15:45-17:00 Panel 1: BRI and political and economic transformation**

The Belt and Road Initiative and Its impact on Human Rights and Democracy – A Mixed-Method Analysis

*Débora Ramires Pelisson* and *Marketa Maria Jerabek*, Postdoctoral research fellows, International Relations Institute, University of São Paulo, Brazil

Road to peace or bone of contention? The impact of the Belt and Road Initiative on conflict states [\(video\)](#)

*Pascal Abb*, Senior Researcher, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF), Germany, *Rob Swaine* and *Ilya Jones*, Saferworld

Does the Institutional Environment in the Host Country Matter? Determinants of Chinese Outward Foreign Direct Investment in the Belt and Road Initiative Countries [\(video\)](#)

*Dmitry Erokhin*, Research assistant, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Laxenburg, Austria

## Saturday 13 March 2021

### 14:00-15:00 **Keynote Lecture: Official visions of democracy in Xi Jinping's China** [\(video\)](#)

*Heike Holbig*, Professor, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in East Asia, Department of Political Sciences, University of Frankfurt, Germany

### 15:00-16:00 **Panel 2: Regime change and BRI**

Black Knight Rising: China's Strategies to Promote Autocracy around the World

*Henoch Gabriel Mandelbaum*, University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil, and Brigitte Weiffen, Senior Lecturer, The Open University, United Kingdom

Chinese surveillance technologies in the Eurasia. A catalysator for authoritarian tendencies or enabler of democratic reform

*Tobias Burgers*, Assistant Professor, Cyber Civilization Research Center, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan

### 16:30-18:00 **Panel 3: BRI and Central Asia**

Hitting Below the Belt: BRI and China's Grand Strategy in Central Asia

*Srdjan Uljevic*, Senior Lecturer, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Kazakhstan responses to China's security strategy in Xinjiang [\(video\)](#)

*Elzbieta Pron*, Assistant Professor, University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland

Chinese foreign aid and Autocratization of Central Asia [\(video\)](#)

*Nurseit Niyazbekov*, PhD, KIMEP University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

China's Belt and Road Initiative and sustainable urban development in Central Asia:

challenges for democratization of Central Asian societies [\(video\)](#)

*Artem Dankov*, PhD, Director of Confucius Institute and Associate Professor at the Dept. of Global Politics, Tomsk State University, Russia

## Sunday 14 March 2021

### 14:00-15:30 **Panel 4: BRI's impact on Regime Change in Asia and Africa**

Autocratization by Linkage: The de-democratizing effect of Chinese investments in Africa

*Eltion Meka*, Researcher, University of New York Tirana, Albania

Belt and Road Initiative Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats: Afghanistan Perspectives

*Abdullah Zahid*, School of Public Affairs, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China

China's Belt and Road Initiative: Impact on Democratization and Regime Change in Pakistan

*Gul-i-Hina Shahzad*, Doctoral Research Fellow, New Silk Roads Project, International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Netherlands

Does the Belt and Road Initiative undermine democracy? Evidence from South Asia

*Filippo Boni*, Lecturer, The Open University, United Kingdom

**15:45-17:00 Panel 5: BRI's impact on Regime Change in Europe**

China in Central Europe: Threat Perceptions, Influence, and Interference ([video](#))

*Alica Kizekova*, Senior Researcher, Institute of International Relations Prague, Czech Republic

Opportunities and Risks in the Implementation of the "One Belt, One Road" Initiative: A View from Ukraine ([video](#))

*Yurii Poita*, Head of the Asia-Pacific Section at the Center for Army, Conversion and Disarmament Studies, Ukraine

Is China's New Silk Road Strengthening the Autocratic Apparatus of Belarus?

*Prakash Raj*, Doctoral Research Fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad, India

**17:00-18:00 Keynote Lecture: Varieties of Authoritarianism in Eurasia ([video](#))**

*Edward Schatz*, Professor, University of Toronto, Canada