



Yale

**Making Sense of the China-Africa Relationship:  
Theoretical Approaches and the Politics of Knowledge**

18-19 November 2013

Maurice R. Greenberg Center Amphitheater  
Yale University, New Haven

**Program**

**Sunday, 17 November 2013**

Participant arrivals, 7:30 informal welcome dinner at the Roia Restaurant (261 College Street, New Haven).

**Monday, 18 November 2013**

**9:00-9:30 Welcome and Introductions**

Chris Udry (Yale University) and Tatiana Carayannis (Social Science Research Council)

**9:30-11:15 Panel 1: The Politics of Knowledge**

*Why has scholarship and policy and public discourse on Africa and China's relationship grown so dramatically in recent years? How do researchers located in different geographical and disciplinary locations view the evolving relationship of Chinese-African engagement? What kinds of knowledge have been produced from different vantage points, for whom, and for what purpose? What conditions need to be put in place for African and Chinese researchers to actively participate in the international production of knowledge on this topic, as well as research collaborations, given differences in resources and capacity (access to data, publications, etc.), and the challenges of transnational collaboration? What are the policy and advocacy implications of various research agendas? How do we create constructive institutional linkages, knowledge networks, and common research agendas?*

Chair: Cyril Obi, Social Science Research Council

Presenters:

He Wenping, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences  
Daouda Cissé, Stellenbosch University  
Jamie Monson, Macalester College  
Seifudein Adem, Binghamton University

Discussants:

Liu Haifang, Peking University  
Aminata Diaw-Cissé, CODESRIA

**11:15-11:30 Coffee Break**

**11:30-1:15 Panel 2: Migration and Diasporas**

*What are the theoretical implications of empirical work in this thematic area? How do the various analytical and methodological approaches that underpin the scholarship relate to each other? What are the dominant frames of reference? How does this work connect to broader bodies of theoretical knowledge?*

Chair: Yoon Jung Park, CA/AC Research Network

Presenters:

Solange Chatelard, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris/ Max Planck  
Institute  
Howard French, Columbia University  
Xu Liang, Harvard University  
Elle Wang, George Mason University

Discussants:

Helen Siu, Yale University  
Zhang Zhenjiang, Jinan University

**1:15-2:30 Lunch** (Dining Room, Greenberg Center)

**2:30-4:15 Panel 3: International Peace and Security**

*What are the theoretical implications of empirical work in this thematic area? How do the various analytical and methodological approaches that underpin the scholarship relate to each other? What are the dominant frames of reference? How does this work connect to broader bodies of theoretical knowledge?*

Chair: Tatiana Carayannis (Social Science Research Council)

Presenters:

Xue Lei, Shanghai Institute for International Studies  
Dan Large, Central European University  
Cyril Obi, Social Science Research Council  
Jason Tower, American Friends Service Committee, China

Discussants:

Sanusha Naidu, Open Society Institute Southern Africa  
Chris Alden, London School of Economics and Political Science

**5:30-6:30 Keynote Lecture** (Luce Hall auditorium (34 Hillhouse Ave, Suite 311)

Chair and Moderator: Chris Udry (Yale University)

Professor Immanuel Wallerstein, Yale University  
“China, Africa, and the World-System Since 1945”

Hosted by the Yale Council on African Studies

**6:30-7:30 Reception hosted by the Yale Council on African Studies**  
(Luce Hall Common Room, 34 Hillhouse Avenue, Suite 311)

**Tuesday, 19 November 2013**

**9:00-10:45 Panel 4: Trade, Aid, and Development**

*What are the theoretical implications of empirical work in this thematic area? How do the various analytical and methodological approaches that underpin the scholarship relate to each other? What are the dominant frames of reference? How does this work connect to broader bodies of theoretical knowledge?*

Chair: Jackie Klopp (Columbia University)

Presenters:

Paul Kamau, Institute for Development Studies/University of Nairobi  
Luke Anthony Patey, Danish Institute for International Studies  
Isaac Odoom, University of Alberta  
Romain Dittgen, Université Paris, Panthéon-Sorbonne

Discussants:

He Wenping, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences  
Chris Udry, Yale University

**10:45-11:00 Coffee Break**

**11:00-12:45 Panel 5: Theoretical Approaches and China-Africa Scholarship**

*How does the China-Africa relationship, and the scholarship on it, inform and how is it informed by broader bodies of theory and analytical approaches? How does it connect to broader scholarly and policy discourses regarding the economic, political and cultural dimensions of globalization? What does it reveal to us about new relationships in a changing global order? Is there a larger frame or field within which to understand these relationships, and what would it be (transformations in the global South? emerging geopolitical powers?) How do we teach and prepare students in our respective institutions to research and engage in this cross-regional research?*

Chair: Ron Kassimir, Social Science Research Council

Presenters:

Stephanie Rupp, Lehman College  
Chris Alden, London School of Economics  
Sanusha Naidu, Open Society Institute Southern Africa  
Liu Haifang, Peking University  
Ching Kwan Lee, University of California, Los Angeles

Discussants:

Leonard Wantchekon, Princeton University

**12:45-1:15 Closing and next steps**

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**Participant List**

**Seifudein Adem**  
Binghamton University

**Christopher Alden**  
London School of Economics and  
Political Science

**William P. Alford**  
Harvard Law School

**Ciara Aucoin**  
Social Science Research Council

**Tatiana Carayannis**  
Social Science Research Council

**Solange Guo Chatelard**  
Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris/  
Max Planck Institute

**Daouda Cissé**  
Centre for Chinese Studies,  
Stellenbosch

**Deborah Davis**  
Yale University

**Aminata Diaw-Cissé**  
Council for the Development of Social  
Science Research in Africa  
(CODESRIA)

**Romain Dittgen**  
University of Paris, Panthéon-  
Sorbonne

**Cheryl Doss**  
Yale University

**Howard French**  
Columbia University

**Gao Jun**  
Social Science Research Council  
/Beijing Foreign Studies University

**He Wenping**  
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

**Paul Kamau**  
Institute for Development  
Studies/University of Nairobi

**Ron Kassimir**  
Social Science Research Council

**Jackie Klopp**  
Columbia University

**Daniel Large**  
Central European University

**Ching Kwan Lee**  
University of California, Los Angeles

**Liu Haifang**  
Peking University

**Jamie Monson**  
Macalester College

**Sanusha Naidu**  
Open Society Foundation-South Africa

**Nicoli Nattrass**  
Yale University

**Cyril Obi**  
Social Science Research Council

**Isaac Odoom**  
University of Alberta, Canada

**Yoon Jung Park**  
CA/AC Research Network

**Luke Anthony Patey**  
Danish Institute for International  
Studies (DIIS)

**Stephanie Rupp**  
Lehman College, CUNY

**Nancy Ruther**  
Yale University

**Elliot Sclar**  
Columbia University

**Jeremy Seekings**  
Yale University

**Derek Sheridan**  
Brown University

**David Simon**  
Yale University

**Helen Siu**  
Yale University

**Aaron Tesfaye**  
William Patterson University

**Jason Tower**  
American Friends Service Committee

**Chris Udry**  
Yale University

**Gabe Walker**  
Social Science Research Council

**Immanuel Wallerstein**  
Yale University

**Elle Wang**  
George Mason University

**Leonard Wantchekon**  
Princeton University

**Jessica Chen Weiss**  
Yale University

**Xu Liang**  
Harvard University

**Xue Lei**  
Shanghai Institute for International  
Studies

**Zhang Jingjing**  
Harvard Kennedy School

**Zhang Zhenjiang**  
Jinan University, Guangzhou