

Authors Workshop, 25-26 September 2025 (Online)

**Beyond Hegemony:
China's Quest for Domestic Autonomy, Creation of Global Dependencies?**

Thursday, 25 September 2025

13:30-14:00 (CEST) Welcome and opening remarks

14:00-15:00 Panel 1: Raw materials

Shifting geopolitics and inter-imperiality: China's expansion in Latin America between autonomy, dependence, and Eurocentric legacies

Fabricio Rodríguez (*Arnold-Bergstraesser-Institut*), **Julia Gurol** (*German Institute for Global and Area Studies*)

Chinese investments in the Lithium Triangle: Autonomy, dependency, and the struggle for value chain integration

Leandro Bona (*FLACSO Argentina*), **Mariano Treacy** (*Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento*)

Discussant: Wiebke Rabe (University of Bremen)

15:00-16:00 Panel 2: Finance

The geopolitics of crude oil futures contracts benchmarks: RMB-denominated oil futures and the shift towards autonomy

Alexandru-Stefan Goghie (*Freie Universität Berlin*)

The expansion of Chinese financial technology platforms: A new financial order in Southeast Asia?

Felix Garten (*Hertie School*)

Discussant: Johannes Petry (Goethe Universität Frankfurt)

***** Break *****

17:00-18:00 Panel 3: Diplomacy

The BRICS+ role in the search for Chinese autonomy

Mingchun Xu (*University of Cambridge*)

The spatial politics of autonomy: China's infrastructure diplomacy as strategic insulation

Tymoteusz Chajdas (*University of California*)

Discussant: tbc

18:00-18:30 Wrap-up day 1

Friday, 26 September 2025

9:45-10:00 (CEST) Welcome day 2

10:00-11:00 Panel 4: Trade

Made in China 2025: Has China broken free from foreign techno-dependency and the US tech blockade?

Sean Kenji Starrs, Peiwen Xiong, Xinzhe Zhang (*King's College London*)

China's expanding role in GVC-linked dependency: Insights from China–Middle East trade relations
Xiaoyu Wang (*Fudan University*)

Discussant: tbc

11:00-12:00 Panel 5: Green energy

Developmentalism for autonomy: China's industrial policy as economic statecraft
Geoffrey Chun-fung Chen, Tian He, Robert Pauls (*Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University*)

Green LNG: Energy autonomy for China, dependency for the rest?
Ceren Ergenc (*Autonomous University of Barcelona*), **Yitong Liu** (*University of Macau*)

Discussant: Tobias ten Brink (*Constructor University*)

*****Break*****

13:00-14:30 Panel 6: Digital economy

Landlocked and network-bound: Kazakhstan's pursuit of digital autonomy in China's technological orbit
Oyuna Baldakova (*King's College London*)

Changing geo-technical affordances: Foresight on China's strategies for transforming digital infrastructural orders
Nadia El Ghali, Andreas Kruck, Simon Weisser (*Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München*)

Shifting alignments at the age of digital transformation: Growing dependencies between China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates
Sirma Altun (*Ankara University*), **Emre Demir** (*TED University*)

Discussant: Genia Kostka (*Freie Universität Berlin*)

14:30-15:00 Wrap-up and next steps
