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YENCHING
GLOBAL
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全球青年中国论坛

HERALD 2022





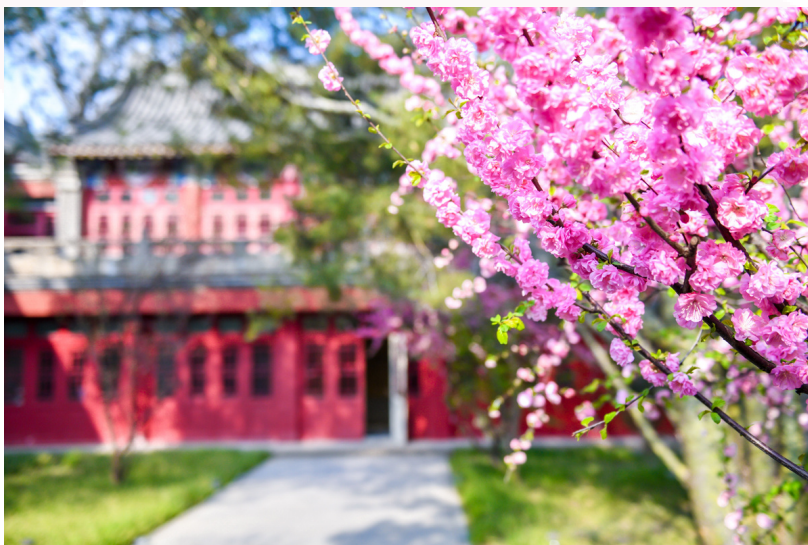
INTRODUCTION

For over a century, Peking University has been the foremost domestic academic setting for understanding China. Yenching Academy provides a rigorous Master's program for the multidisciplinary study of China, with the hope of cultivating a new generation of global citizens.

The Academy's flagship event, the Yenching Global Symposium (YGS), is a continuation of this mission. Hosted at Peking University every spring, the symposium comprises engaging lectures, panel discussions, and interactive sessions addressing both China's impact on the world and the influence that the world has on China.

The 2022 edition of YGS featured prominent Chinese and international speakers across a wide range of fields, including both scholars and leading professionals. These leaders of today shared their insights with their potential counterparts: students and young professionals from around the world with a noted passion for China in their work and research.

This YGS Herald brings together many of the insights shared between our distinguished speakers and delegates, to provide a snapshot of the many fantastic connections made across this three day event.





2022 THEME

Leaders of today's world face crisis after crisis. Yet at the same time, leaders face crucially important questions closer to home: how to raise and spend taxes in a fair way; how to build healthier, resilient societies; how to construct an equitable justice system. How does nationalism interact, challenge, or complement globalisation?

The 2022 YGS theme examines what it means to operate in today's hyper-globalised framework from an interdisciplinary perspective. We welcome you to take part in a packed roster of dialogues and debates that take countries and their constituent politics, cultures, and histories as the starting point and approach the big issues facing the world we live in today.

MISSION

The YGS provides a platform for emerging leaders, established practitioners, and Yenching Scholars around the globe to engage in interdisciplinary dialogues on China through the unique lens of the Yenching Academy of Peking University.

VISION

By exploring key issues related to China and the world, the YGS seeks to enable emerging leaders, established practitioners and Yenching Scholars to develop informed solutions to global problems.





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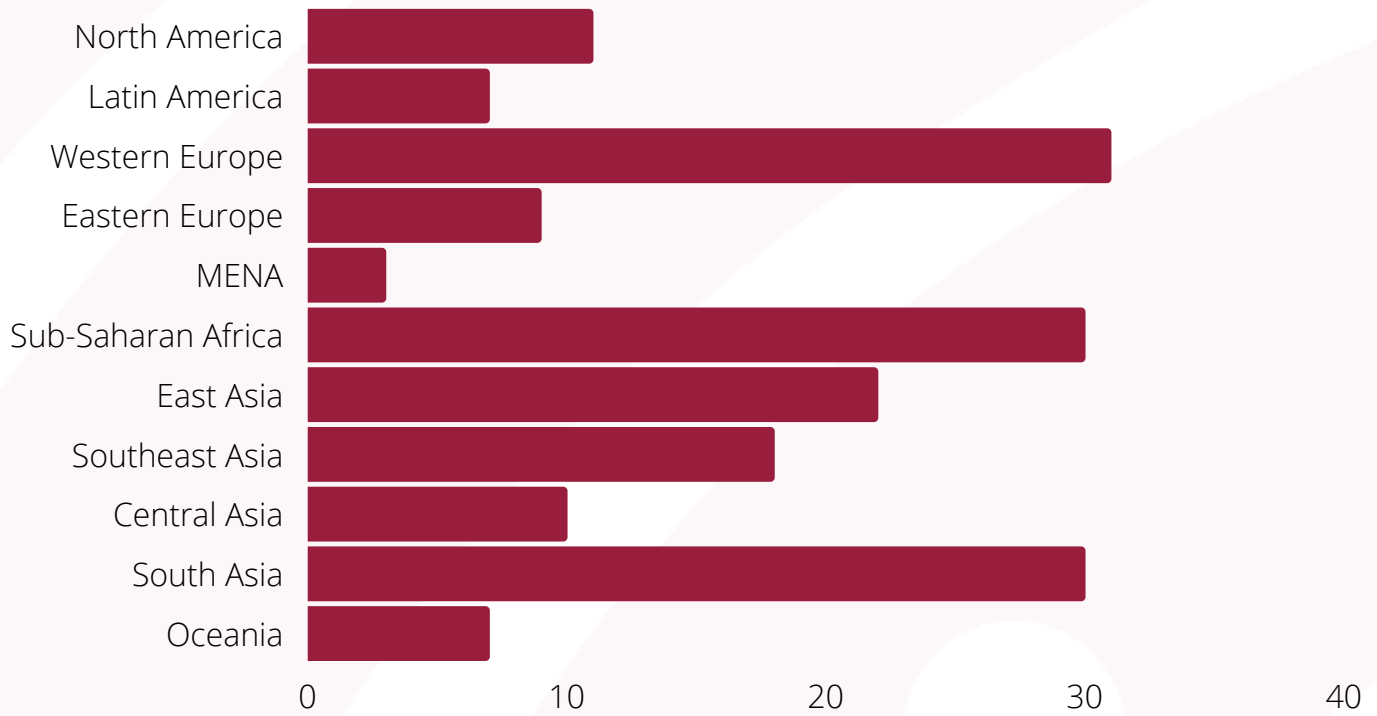


ALEX WHITEBROOK





DELEGATE REGIONS



2022 FIGURES

60

COUNTRIES &
REGIONS REPRESENTED

178

DELEGATES
ADMITTED

40+

SPEAKERS





AGENDA

DAY ONE

Looking Inwards:
Turning Against Globalisation

Day one of the conference considered how, in the wake of international crises of the past years, nations have begun to politically, socially, and economically turn away from the old conceptions of the international order; instead approaching international issues from a more nationally-focused lens.

DAY TWO

Looking Outwards:
Links Across Borders

After spending the first day of the conference considering how nations have turned their backs on international cooperation and laid the essential groundwork for a nuanced discussion of nationalism versus globalisation, the second day of the conference studied how nations work with one another bilaterally and multilaterally.

DAY THREE

Looking Forward:
International Institutions in the
Shadow of COVID-19

Having spent the first two days of the conference thinking about how nations interact with one another in bilateral and multilateral exchanges, day three of the conference looked explicitly at the power of international institutions to respond to the crucial challenges that face humanity in the twenty-first century.





DAY ONE: LOOKING INWARDS

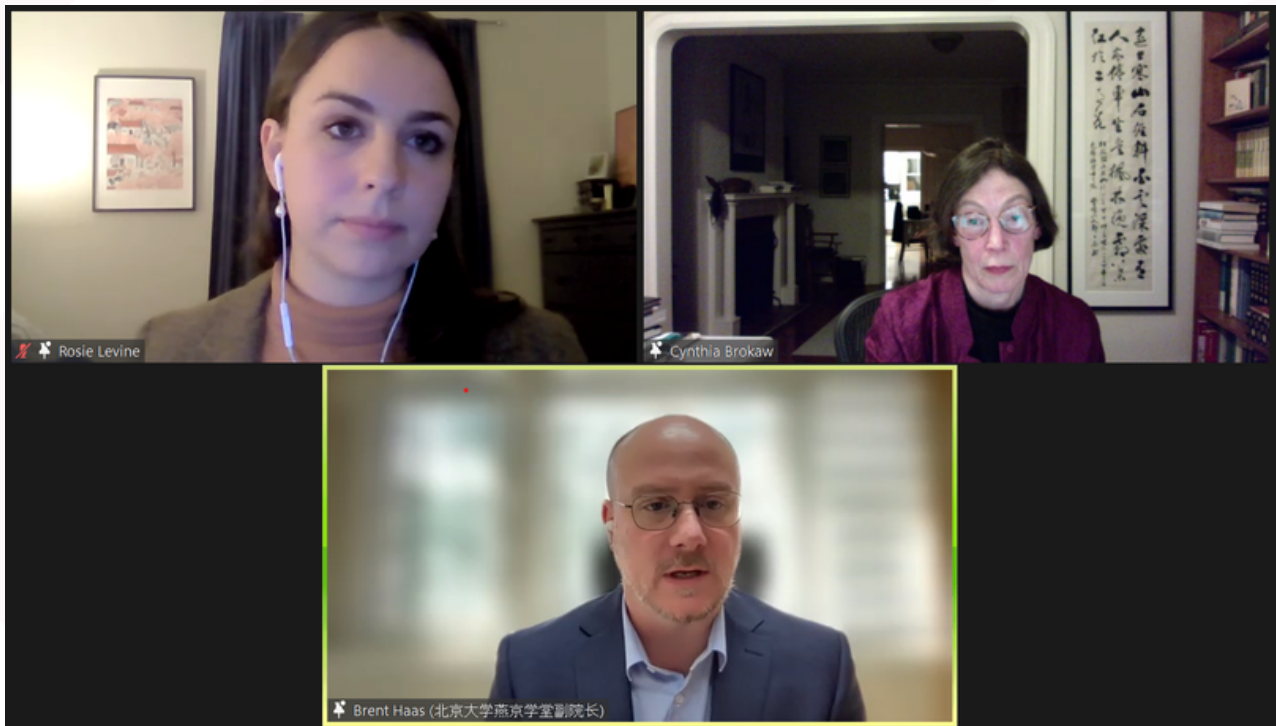
Under the theme “Globalisation or Guóbalisation: Internationalism in Flux”, the 2022 YGS held its opening ceremony. It officially kicked off with a refreshing and powerful call for solidarity and multiculturalism from Dean Dong Qiang of Yenching Academy. Moderators and Co-Chairs of the YGS Executive Committee, Claudia Jiang and Jack Allen, welcomed our delegates and set the tone for an exciting weekend of global cooperation.





Panel | The Stories We Tell: Narratives and Historical Perspectives About Globalisation

Summarised by Emilie Pang, UK



Panellists address thought-provoking questions posed by one of the YGS delegates, David Millstein

The YGS 2022 opened up with a spirited panel on 'The Stories We Tell: Narratives and Historical Perspectives about Globalisation' with Professor Cynthia Brokaw of Brown University and Associate Dean Brent Haas of Yenching Academy, moderated by former Yenching Scholar, Rosie Levine.

The discussion brought us to a topic that marks the beginning of China's globalisation story: the Silk Road. The Silk Road was a series of overland and maritime routes within the Eurasian periphery and was given its name in the 19th Century, some 1500 years after its inception by German geographer Ferdinand von Richthofen.



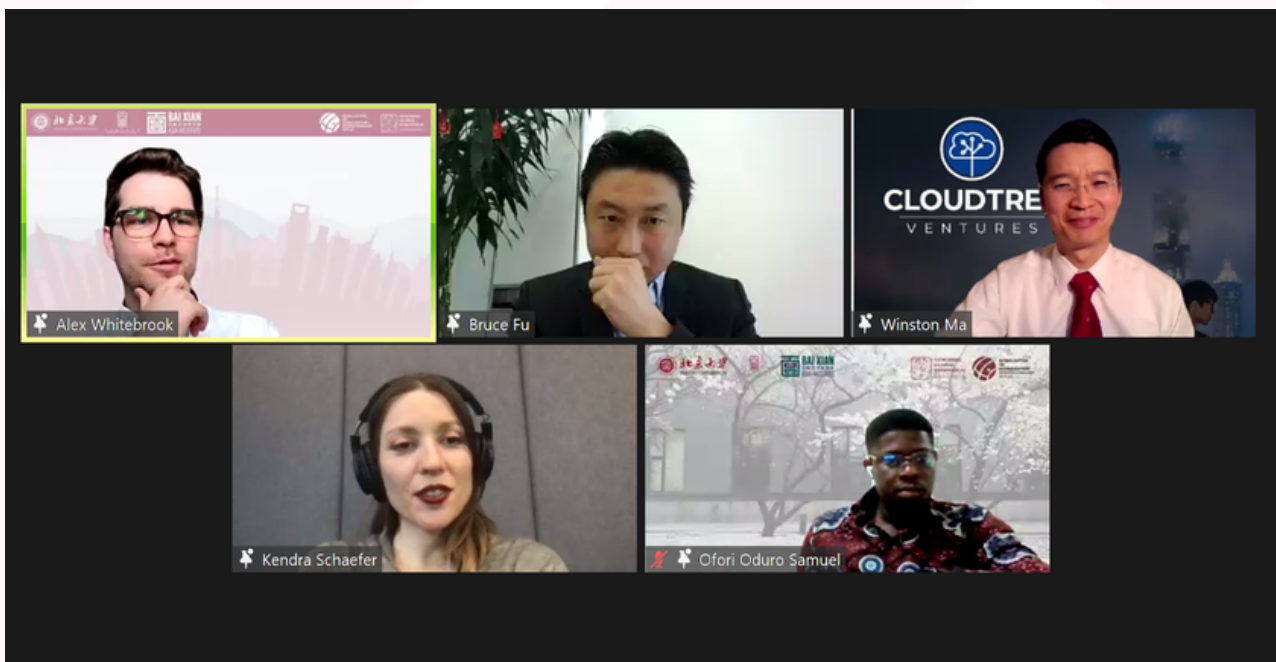


Whilst the route is infamous for its trade of physical goods including tea (a section was nicknamed 'the Ancient Tea Horse Road'), porcelain (which gave rise to the trend of 'Chinoiserie' in the West), and, of course, silk, it was also characterised by the exchange of people and ideas. Political envoys, refugees, and missionaries each transcended the simple act of trade in the region to something akin to globalisation. The Silk Road was a means of forging political alliances, learning new craftsmanship and broadening religious horizons.

For further reading on the Silk Road, Brent recommended James A. Millward's 'The Silk Road: A Very Short Introduction' and Valerie Hansen's 'The Silk Road: A New History'.

Panel | Technology and Data Protection Rules Across Nations

Summarised by Yifan Wang, China



Our panellist Kendra Schaefer discusses her research into Chinese data regulations





The second panel of the day covered 'Technology and Data Protection Rules Across Nations,' moderated by YGS Co-Director of Public Relations, Alex Whitebrook. It featured three panellists, Mr Winston Ma, Co-Founder & Managing Partner of CloudTree Ventures, Ms Kendra Schaefer, Head of Tech Policy Research at Trivium China, and Mr Bruce Fu, Managing Director of APCO Worldwide's Beijing office. Together, they discussed how rules and regulations around technology will affect the future of globalisation and relations between nations today.

To begin with, Winston raised three aspects of data protection work in China, including data privacy, data security, and data value. He went through the evolution of legal regulations in China over the past five years, and how three forces – government, industries, and individuals – are working together to utilize data during the pandemic.

Following on, Kendra gave us a '30,000-foot view' of why China is instituting data protection laws. In April 2020, the State Council defined data as an economic resource in the country, along with land, labor, capital, and technology. This macroeconomic rationale laid a unique foundation for the governance of data in China.

Picking up from this point, Bruce dove into the differences between the Chinese and EU data governance systems. In China, data regulation is driven by the Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) with a focus on state security, while the EU's primary motivation is to protect individuals' rights.

Reflecting on Bruce's comparison, Kendra highlighted that China has become a leading player in data regulation in recent years. As regulations develop in different parts of the world, our speakers noted that they may diverge, with Winston commenting that companies face an immense challenge to comply with regulations in foreign markets.

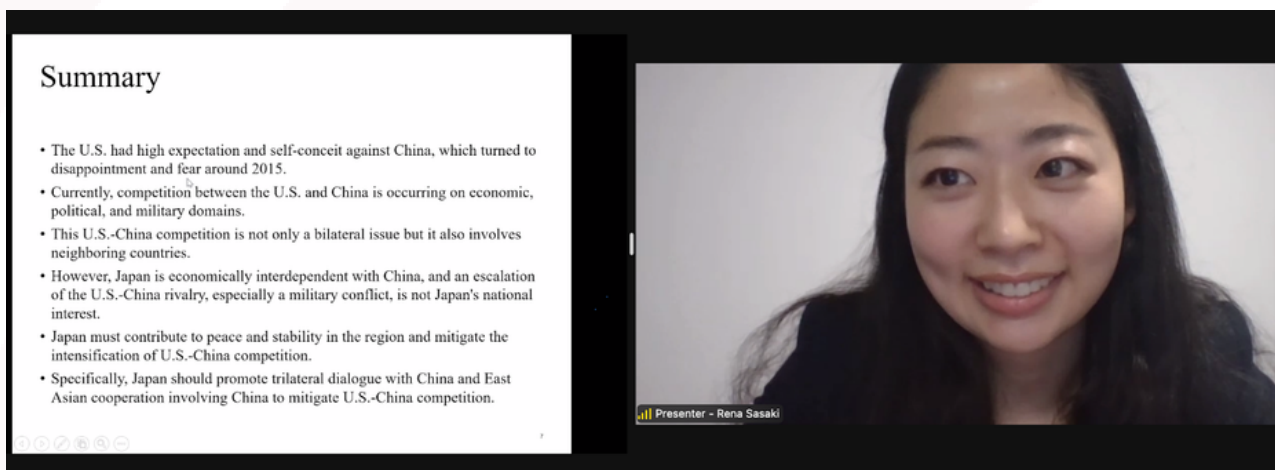
One 2022 YGS delegate, Glenn Wijaya, commented on the session, saying "I was really inspired by the panel... I hope that in the future, countries will see the value of sitting down together and having discussions about ubiquitous rules on data protection regulations."





Delegate Presentations

Summarised by Emilie Pang, UK



Rena Sasaki with a refreshing view of the US-China trade war from Japan's perspective

Starting off with the big questions

William Rau kicked off our delegate presentations with his discussion on 'How US-China Policy is Fracturing America's Political Parties', exploring the opposing China narratives within both Republican and Democratic camps and explaining the fine line Biden has to walk in regards to US-China diplomacy. Rena Sasaki took to the Zoom stage next, presenting the argument that it is in Japan's interest to broker the increasingly tumultuous US-China relationship.

Another important relationship for China is with Africa. Natania Seah's research on 'Ghana and China: Youth Perceptions and Perspectives' delved into China's presence in the region and demonstrated the challenges that come with rapid economic development and the contradiction that many young Ghanaians who pursue the 'China Dream' have to grapple with.

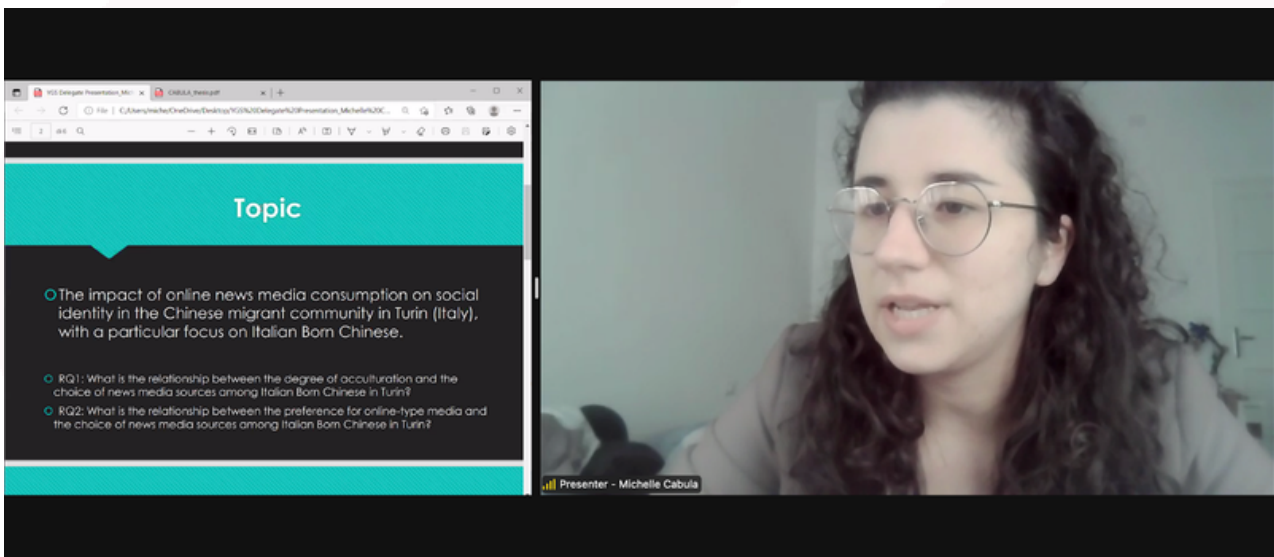




Exploring the hidden doors

Alma Weijia Chen's study on Diaspora Diplomacy revealed yet another facet of Chinese foreign policy: the unconscious yet potentially powerful voice of overseas Chinese. This was reinforced by Michelle Cabula's work on 'News Media Consumption among the Italian Chinese Community in Turin: A Multidisciplinary Analysis' which revealed the complex relationship the Chinese diaspora has with both the country where they live and the country where they are from.

Igor Szpotakowski concluded the delegate presentations with a comparative law study on the regulation of blockchain technologies in China.



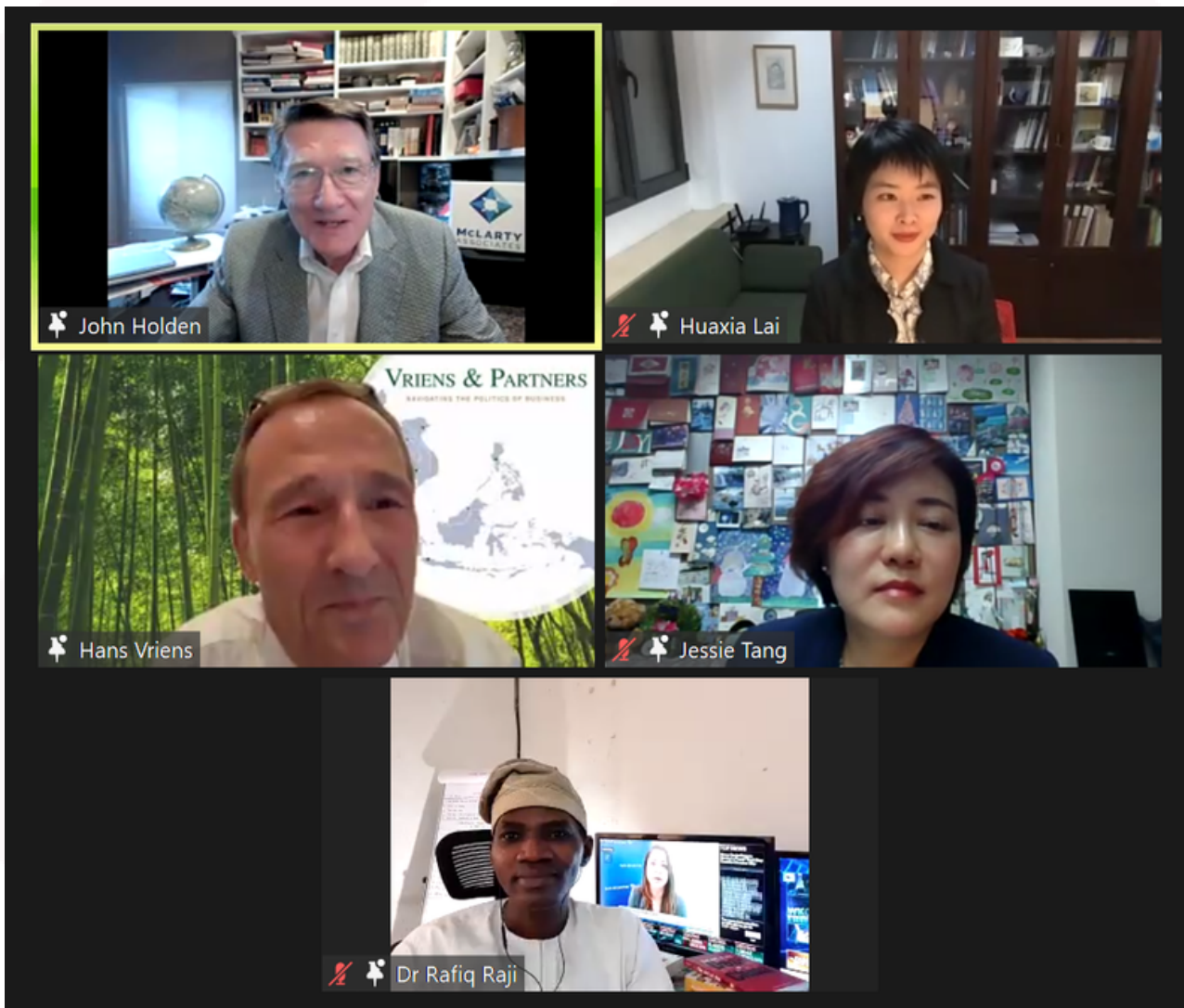
Michelle Cabula tells a tale of two countries: China and Italy

Panel | International Politics and Trade in Flux

Summarised by Sherilynn Ngerng, Malaysia

Although the international landscape remains tense, this panel discussion was moderated by Mr John Holden, Managing Director at McLarty Associates, with friendly faces and interesting dives into each panellist's passions and motivation for their subject.





A panel with diverse backgrounds but a common goal for world peace

Dr Rafiq Raji, a research fellow who regularly writes posts on BusinessDay, kicked off the discussion by arguing that we are currently experiencing the third wave of globalisation. This third wave can be seen from the increasingly open access of information globally, such as the ease with which our panellists were able to change ideas at this Symposium.

Rafiq also stressed the importance of globalised collaboration toward finding sustainable and profitable solutions to food security and many other problems.





It all goes back to the law

Providing an alternative perspective, Associate Professor Lai Huaxia, of Peking University's School of International Studies, proposed that the continued development of globalised politics and trade relies on a strong judicial system against violators of international law.

Reflecting on this point, Ms Jessie Tang, Partner-In-Charge at Jones Day's Beijing office, highlighted Hong Kong's historical ability to attract business thanks to its common law system. Jessie argued that this trend will continue despite current US-China tensions, as the Chinese government has committed to continue offering a stable common law system in Hong Kong.

Navigating through diverse topics and perspectives raised by the panellists, the discussion on international politics and trade reinforced the global influence of China. All speakers agreed that the world will continue to watch China closely as its influence continues to grow.





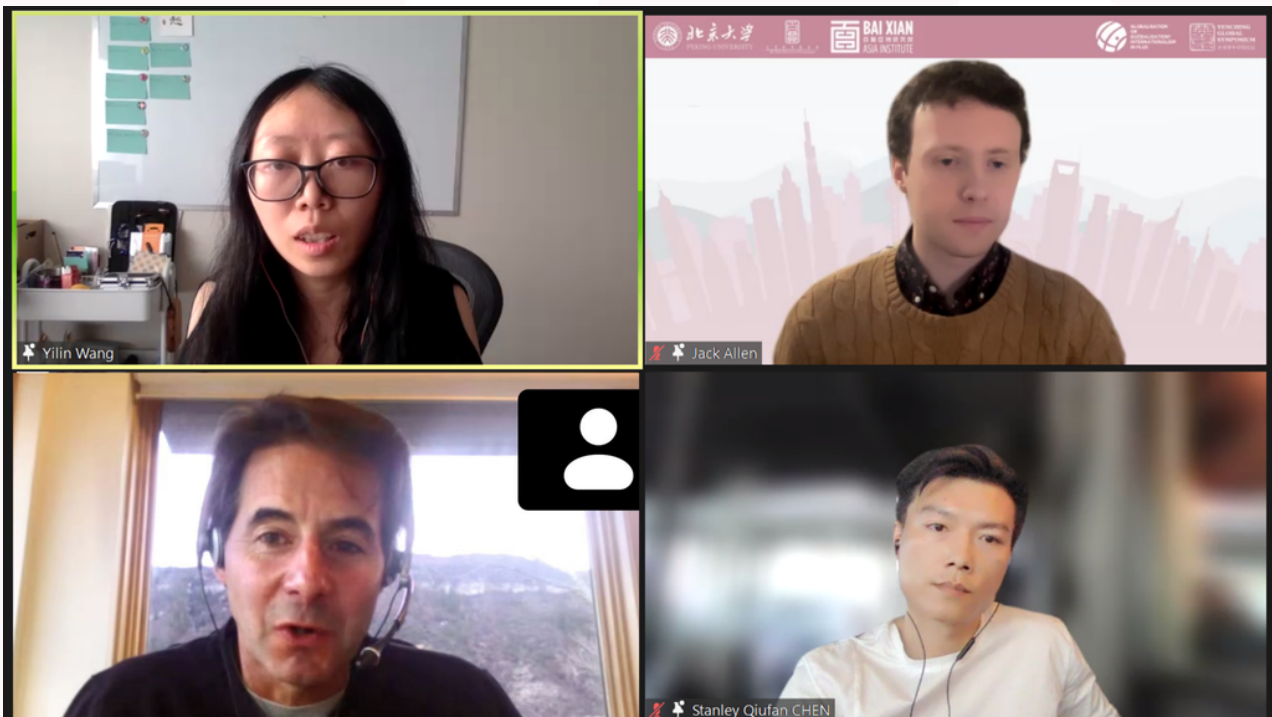
DAY TWO: LOOKING OUTWARDS

Panel | Writing on China

Summarized by Yifan Wang, China

The Writing on China panel, hosted by Co-Chair of YGS 2022, Jack Allen, featured both fiction and non-fiction writers with experience writing about China for both domestic and international audiences.

Mr Stanley Qiufan Chen, an award-winning Chinese speculative fiction author, lamented that audiences have a fixed mindset about what science-fiction books should look like. "You need to find a distinctive voice or perspective to tell a story," said Stanley; "each book should have its own definition." Ms Yilin Wang, a Chinese-Canadian writer and translator, echoed that genres set boundaries for writers' creations, but may often be seen merely as a system to organise books in the bookstore or library.



Distinguished author Peter Hessler discusses his perspectives on writing on China





Reflecting on the reception and distribution of his own works, award-winning author & staff writer at the New Yorker, Mr Peter Hessler, agreed with Stanley. They both found that all literature has the universal power of delivering messages that transcend boundaries like genres, enriched by their own cultural context. Yilin commented on how she struck the balance between keeping the originality of stories and contextualising when translating.

All our distinguished speakers agreed that the anthropologist's method of living and connecting with local people helped enrich their creations, allowing them to explore characters, settings and narratives.

Looking ahead

In the end, the panellists touched upon their exciting projects to watch. A sci-fi book for kids about climate change and carbon neutrality written by Stanley will be published in June 2022. The translation of *The Lantern and Night Moths* by Yilin will be published this fall, while Peter set his sights on teaching the current generation of Chinese youth as a natural progression from his time as a Peace Corps teacher years before.

Panel | Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation

Summarised by Enzo Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China

Hosted by YGS Co-Director of Public Relations, Jiayu Zhang, the panel provided extraordinary insights into building a business in China and promoting social innovation

Location, location, location

One of the biggest transformations happening in business today, as observed by the co-founder of RedOctane, Mr Charles Huang, is that companies (especially early-stage start-ups) have been going fully remote during the pandemic, which has been a boon to the recruitment of international talent.





However, Charles lamented that despite the wide availability of talent and ideas all around the world, venture capital is still clustered in about 5 cities globally, which makes it immensely difficult for entrepreneurs coming from non-target markets to raise funds. While acknowledging the challenge, the Founder and CEO of Young China Group, Mr Zak Dychtwald, noted that venture capital firms are actively trying to look past China's first-tier cities and create fluidity and opportunities in lesser markets.



Our panel featured an all-star line-up of entrepreneurs, guaranteeing a lot of insights

"It is not just about innovations for China but also innovations from China"

- Zak Dychtwald

Zak also floated the possibility of exporting China's business ideas and experience with entrepreneurship to developing countries, where there is still a big chunk of the population yet to engage in the digital economy. He highlighted the huge size of the youth population which will contribute to rapid market penetration for technology solutions.





Social innovation: the Chinese model

If innovation itself is full of challenges, social innovation is certainly no easy task. That's why Park Professor of Sociology at Georgetown University Dennis McNamara reminded us that social innovation is an incremental process. The key to success, as Dennis put it, is building social networks between stakeholders, which is something Japan and South Korea have been nailing so far.

To explain why social innovation has not really taken off in China, Zak observed that while young people in Europe and the US are raised socially-minded, China's youth are faced with a more competitive job market and so are more concerned with career progression. He added that the government's effort to incentivise social innovation will be crucial.

Final takeaway

Summing up the discussion, Dennis stressed that the key to success is always imagination, noting that there is nothing better for young people to do than seek inspiration from peer groups at home and abroad.

Panel | International Education: Educating the Young Leaders of Tomorrow

Summarised by Sherilynn Ngerng, Malaysia

The third panel of day two, moderated by YGS Co-Director of Delegates Vedika Kedia, discussed the role of education in shaping the future of international cooperation.

The evolution of education

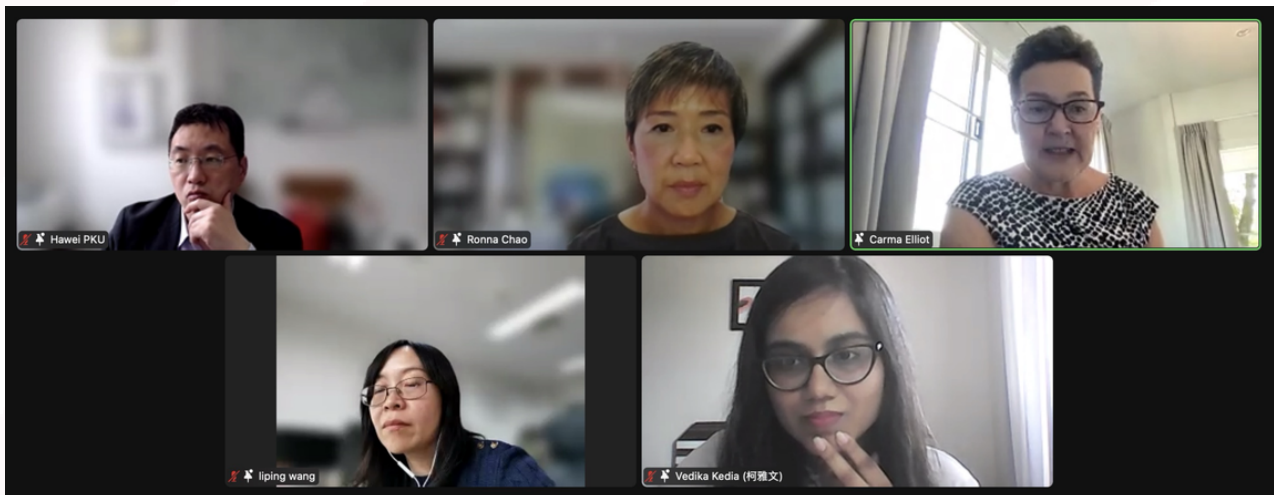
Starting with a foundational discussion on the role of education throughout history, Associate Dean Ha Wei of the Peking University Graduate School of Education recalled that not just students but education providers themselves have been crossing borders extensively since World War II. For example, John Hopkins University has had a joint program with Nanjing University called the "Hopkins-Nanjing Centre" dating back to the 1990s. However, it has become increasingly difficult to study across borders recently due to hindrances such as the COVID-19 pandemic.





"In the past 20 years, we see increasing privatisation and commercialization of higher education"

- Ha Wei



The panel gives a brief history of higher education, as well as a look ahead

Ms Ronna Chao, CEO of the Bai Xian Education Foundation, explained how Bai Xian was founded by her father, Ronald Chao. Although there were grievances between China and Japan post-World War II, her father's university education experience in Japan very much affected his perspective of Asia as a whole, inspiring him to connect people across Asia through the power of education he himself has experienced. Instead of having his name engraved on buildings by donating to universities, he preferred to directly sponsor Asian students to study abroad in Asian countries as an opportunity to resolve conflict and for youth to learn about each other.

The president of United World College (UWC) South East Asia, Ms Carma Elliot, noted that UWC's mission mirrored that of Bai Xian: to use education as a driving force for peace and sustainable futures. She described education as a soft power tool to promote and engage global youth, building bridges across separation and divide. Furthermore, a community of similar interest is built through the interests of youths, their parents, and grandparents, who invest time and money by sending the next generation into these schools.





"Thorough engagement creates a greater understanding of others."

- Carma Elliot

Striking the balance

Associate Professor Wang Liping, from Peking University, noted that many international schools focus on the idea of cultivating full people and global citizens. She further explained the context of international schools in China, where some are established to solely admit wealthy foreign students studying in China. There are also attempts by China in building "world schools" that are rooted in traditional Chinese culture but look outward to the international world. It can be difficult to strike a balance between these competing aims.

Although Carma understood that international schools are funded and attended by more privileged families, she explained that it helps sustain more choices for people interested in independent schools. She also discussed pooling funds to provide scholarships for underprivileged youth to ensure international schools are inclusive. Hence, the classroom becomes the foundation for building diverse perspectives and a sense of community within each child's mind.

"Strike the balance. We don't lose ourselves, we know who we are. We become the ambassador of where we come from."

- Ronna Chao

Panel | Comparative Philosophies in a Globalising World

Summarised by Sherilynn Ngerng, Malaysia

The final panel of day two provided an animated discussion on Chinese philosophy, moderated by YGS Co-Chair Claudia Jiang.





Confucius and Plato

Starting the discussion, Professor Bryan Van Norden passionately encapsulated the sophistries against teaching Chinese philosophy in the US, lamenting the barriers for Western minds in acknowledging Chinese philosophy. He provided an example, whereby Immanuel Kant's philosophy has propagated barriers to philosophy and spread the idea that Chinese philosophy is nothing but "moral doctrines for princes with no virtue and morality".



The panel revisits the origins of Chinese philosophies and draws parallels with Western ones

Bryan outlined that the origins of Confucius (or Kongzi) overlapped with that of Plato, as they were both born in a time of civil war and chaos. Confucius believed that virtue is taught through poetry and history while Plato sought mathematics and dialectic as mediums. A greater wedge is introduced through the concept of filial piety rooted in Confucianism, deeply contrasting Platonism's concept that a true philosopher should have an objective perspective of the world.





Digging deeper into Chinese philosophical tradition, Professor Roger Ames highlighted the concept of 'infinite games,' which emphasises the win-win relationship built between individuals in society. He pointed to this concept as fundamental to Chinese philosophy, perpetuated by Confucianism for over 2,500 years.

"Infinite games are really grounded in the concept of family, something familiar, strengthening relationships to deal with the world in the most effective way."

- Professor Roger Ames

Professor Lili Lai welcomed this exploration and explanation of Chinese philosophy. She emphasised the importance of raising awareness of Chinese philosophical concepts to the deconstruction of Western, hegemonic philosophy concepts. This is essential to invoke worldly collaborations, allowing different countries to connect and learn from one another, she noted.





DAY THREE: LOOKING FORWARD

The final day of YGS 2022 laid out the roadmap for tackling the trickiest global issues of the next decade, including climate change, healthcare equity, and geopolitical tensions.

Panel | Role of Intergovernmental Organizations in Addressing Global Issues

Summarised by Enzo Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China



An interesting discussion hosted by Yenching Scholar Daniel Tafelski

The worst of times?

Dr Mathew Burrows started off the first panel of the day by discussing the evolution of global governance over the past century. Mathew lamented that relations between major powers are breaking down again at this particular moment, as highlighted by US-China tensions and, more recently, the war in Ukraine. The huge amount of distrust makes it hard for intergovernmental organisations to operate effectively, he suggested.





Echoing the sentiment, Professor Karin Costa Vazquez mentioned that although she was encouraged by countries' recent commitment to net-zero carbon targets, issues such as increased digital divide, social exclusion and inequality aggravated by the pandemic cannot be ignored. Intergovernmental organisations may need to do more to overcome these challenges, she said.

Building BRI-dges

Karin offered a more positive note when it comes to the Belt and Road Initiative. She pointed out 3 new features that have emerged under China's development finance, namely an increasingly market-oriented strategy through a combination of aid and trade, more concern about financial and environmental sustainability, and financing that is increasingly hybrid in nature, driven by the presence of the New Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Karin argued these banks are creating an Asian approach to development finance, with an emphasis on trade and industrialisation.

“Although China plays a prominent role in both NDB and AIIB by hosting their HQs and acting as an important financial backer, it does not necessarily mean that they are driven solely by China's geopolitical or economic interests.”

- Karin Costa Vazquez

Bringing back the best of times

To sum it up, Mathew said he can still envision a brighter future, although it might take a serious global crisis, like more extreme weather events, to bring all countries together. These events could provide the momentum for consensus on more divisive issues.

Karin hailed the empowerment of parties other than the state, such as think tanks and the private sector, citing the success of the sustainable development plan agreed among banks and financial institutions in her homeland, Brazil.





Panel | 'New Concert of Powers' or the 'New Engagement Consensus': A World in Flux?

Summarised by Yifan Wang, China



A fruitful discussion about "A World in Flux?" hosted by YCA Associate Dean Fan Shiming

"New Concert of Powers"

Professor Charles Kupchan started off this session by mentioning how the present geopolitical game-changer – the war in Ukraine – marked a new geopolitical divide. He highlighted the pressing need for collaborative global governance with balance and flexibility.





"A New Engagement Consensus"

Professor Wang Dong stressed that under the background of the 50th Anniversary of Richard Nixon's historic visit to China, the US and China need to find a new engagement consensus based on mutual respect and prosperity. He used an analogy of a traditional Chinese fable story, "A man of Chu State," to appeal to an overarching intellectual framework, which he termed G2RS - a vision of global US-China leadership together as a group of two responsible stakeholders, rather than engaging in a divisive rivalry.

Speaking of the roles of less developed countries in the concerted system, Charles asserted that "we're moving towards small groups that are solving collective problems," giving examples of the six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear issue, the Iran-Russia-Turkey alliance on the Syrian war, the remarkable success story of ASEAN, and many others. He considered that the US and China had many sources of potential collaboration, from physical economies to cyberspace.

Looking forward

In the sum-up, Charles encouraged delegates to keep studying and engaging these issues, explaining that history would be made in the next few months. Wang cited Charles Dickens, saying that "this is the worst times, this is the best times," and offered a piece of advice, which is to "always bring reason and optimism together – this is how we carry on."

"The smarter, the more engaged, and the wiser we are, the more likely that we will be able to generate outcomes that serve to the benefit of all."

- Charles Kupchan





Panel | Healthcare Equity and the Post-COVID Order

Summarised by Sherilynn Ngerng, Malaysia

Moving from the discussion of international tensions to one of extensive international collaboration, the next panel discussed the COVID-19 pandemic.



Our speakers contemplated what lies ahead after the pandemic

No one was ready

In this session, our speakers discussed how underprepared our world was to face a global pandemic. Professor Rama V. Baru, from Jawaharlal Nehru University, described the perfect storm whereby healthcare systems are overwhelmed, unemployment rates are high and many are experiencing deaths of loved ones. In efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic globally, the less developed and middle-income countries urged the WTO to waive intellectual property rights on vaccine development. This waiver, however, was met with resistance from richer countries including the US and EU.





"We have the capacity to produce vaccines and need the science, but it wasn't a level playing field"

- Rama Baru

With Western countries purchasing more vaccines than required before COVAX was rolled out, patterns of power and dominance between countries quickly became evident. Less-developed countries were unable to overcome the pandemic on a level playing field. She highlighted this dynamic as something that the world should seek to overcome in future pandemics.

COVID-19's messenger was nowhere to be found

Professor Gordon Liu from Peking University pointed out another matter of importance learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic, namely that the WHO should work to better distribute health information. With widespread disinformation, there is little regulation of what people can talk about in an open society. Therefore, the WHO should advocate and distribute sound information on COVID-19, he said. This inherently allows countries to better focus their containment strategies.

"If the WHO can promote changes in the guidelines, that can allow many countries' strategies to be more cost-effective."

- Professor Gordon Liu

We're all at a critical juncture

Ms Madhurima Nundy, Fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress, recounted how many public healthcare systems have failed during the pandemic. With the collapse of public healthcare systems, private sectors had been called up to act, she said. Moreover, with many lockdown measures being implemented without providing notice, the public soon descended into chaos, while governments were unable to provide a systematic delivery system for food supplies.

With the discussion of predicaments experienced in Shanghai and India, Gordon added that countries should better strategise on establishing sustainable non-medical supply chains to ensure optimal conditions in fighting against the virus.





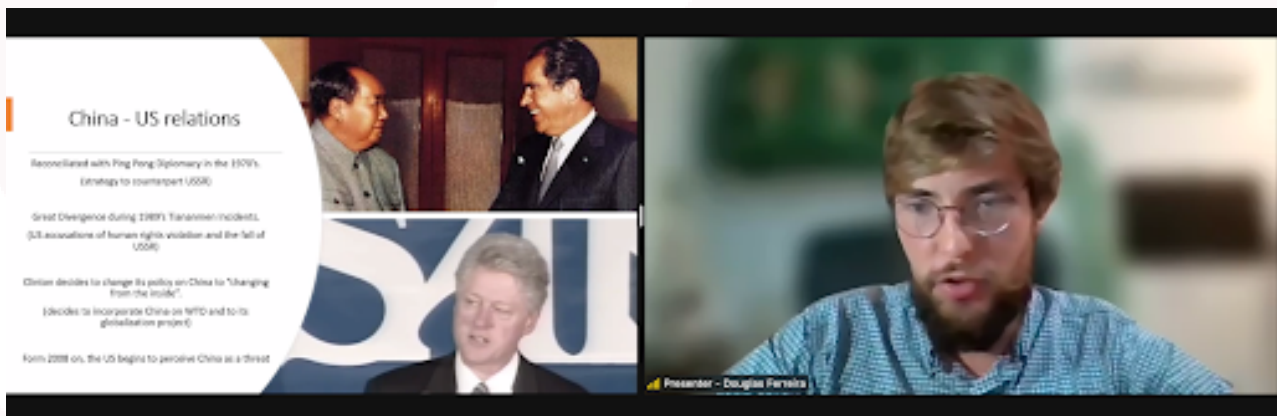
Delegate Presentations

Summarised by Emilie Pang, UK | Special assistance from Ardita Osmani, Italy/North Macedonia

The second round of delegate presentations provided a showcase of the range of expertise and experience that YGS delegates hold.

Haoyu Xing began the second session of delegate presentations with a lively illustration of the impact of the US-China trade war on market volatility.

On the subject of language, Veronica Strina shared her perspective on the Chinese language teachings of Confucius Institutes in Italy as a soft power tool.



Douglas Ferreira presenting a brief history of US-China relations in 'The Cold War 2.0. Fallacy'

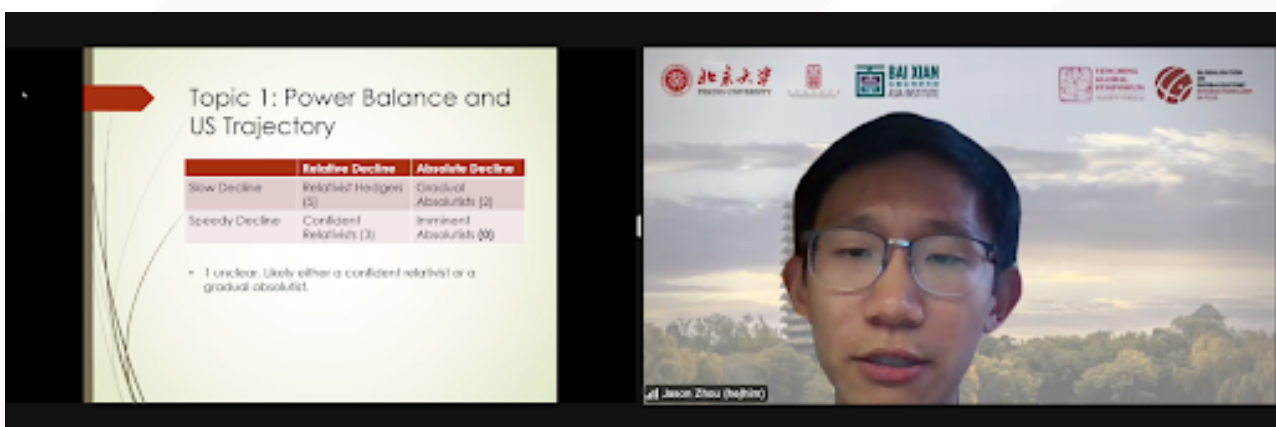
Douglas Ferreira revisited an argument familiar to China watchers: Cold War 2.0. Douglas challenged the convention that systemic competition in the world economy equated to war, explaining that the Cold War was in fact, "a fallacy and a really bad metaphor for the relationship [between the US and China]".





Goh Zheng Cong introduced the dark underworld of advertising fraud and the unclear international legal regulations that cybercriminals use to their advantage. He pointed to the need for a global solution.

Finally, Jason Zhou gave us an overview of US-China focused academics who are taking centre stage on the mainland. He highlighted the key areas of their divergence in thought.



Jason Zhou discusses why perceptions of the US-China power balance divides scholars

Panel | Subnational and Other Actors in International Relations

Summarised by Ardita Osmani, Italy/North Macedonia

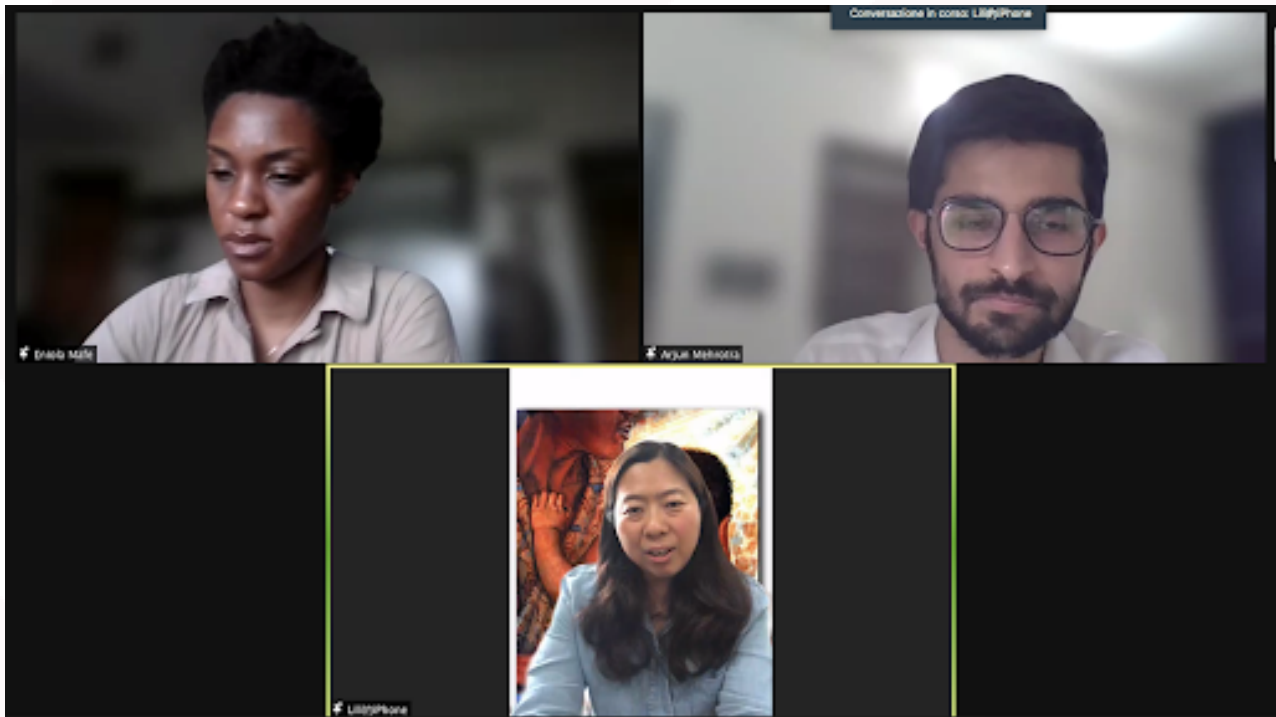
During this panel, delegates had the opportunity to dialogue with two very interesting leaders who each discussed subnational actors in international relations and their role in impacting on international affairs.

Ms. Lili Qiu has had a career focused on child welfare, health care, humanitarian assistance, and other fields, for more than a decade. She has founded or participated in several charities and worked with NGOs around the world.





Lili shared with us her experience with Chinese NGOs and some difficulties encountered when participating in international programs. Among these, she shared her experience of a case in Afghanistan, where there was difficulty in connecting local volunteers with local people due to language and religious barriers. Another experience she shared was a Thailand rescue project, where an NGO she ran found other volunteers from the EU and Australia, who were able to contribute to the implementation of safety ropes for rappelling into caves. Lili also gave us an overview of the internationalisation of Chinese NGOs, explaining that in the previous years they were more locally focused and only after 2008 did a lot of Chinese NGOs start to establish offices overseas.



Ms Lili Qin explains the internationalisation of Chinese NGOs

Ms. Eniola Mafe is a strategist and international development leader with a track record in facilitating high-level policy dialogue and partnership building to accelerate Africa's transformation agenda.





Eniola brought attention back to the need for international collaboration not only between states but also between non-governmental entities and local associations. She underlined the importance of creating institutional mechanisms to allow more people to come to the table and more conversations to be had. She suggested some really useful tools that can connect subnational players to the ecosystem of global governance and data sharing. Eniola emphasised that in the development of sustainable policies it is necessary to take into account disabled people and women, who are the two most vulnerable groups to climate change.

“Significant system change requires bringing together every single player and entity”

— Eniola Mafe

Panel | Tackling Climate Change in an Era of (Inter)nationalism

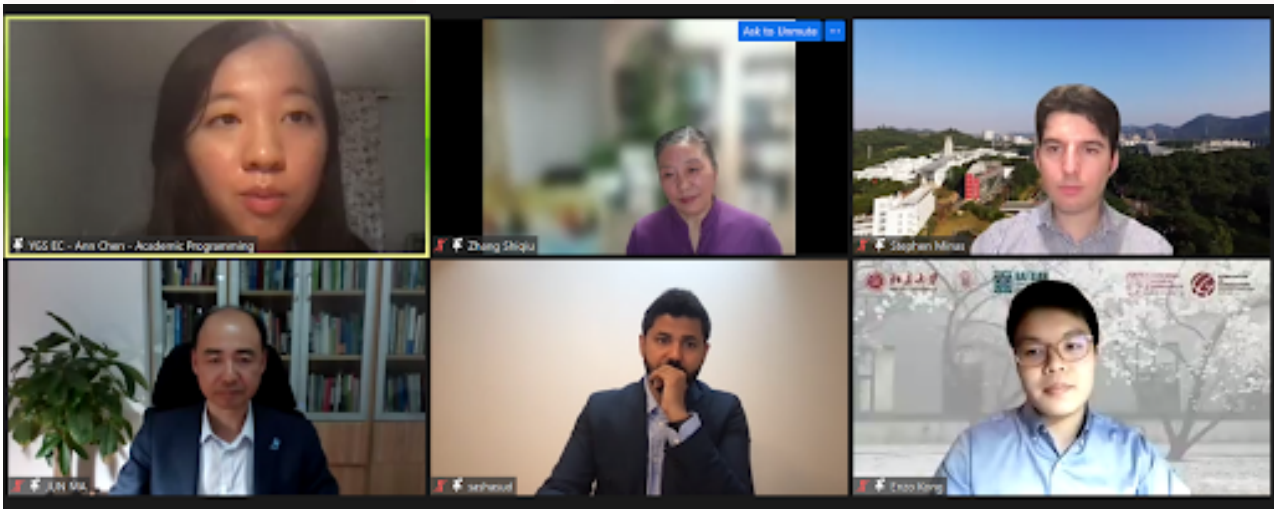
Summarised by Enzo Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China

Back to square one

From the very beginning, the panellists unequivocally recognised the gravity of the challenge that climate change poses to mankind, as articulated in the latest IPCC report. As Mr Sasha Sud, Director of Smart Cities for MaRS Partnerships put it, the current situation warrants an “all-hands-on-deck” approach.

Mr Ma Jun, Director of the Institute of Public & Environmental Affairs, was particularly disappointed with the rebound of global emissions in 2021 after the dramatic drop due to the pandemic. Dr Stephen Minas, reiterated these points, stating “Many countries simply missed the opportunity to ‘build back better’ from the pandemic.”





Our panellists offer a 360-degree view on the combat against climate change

Laying the groundwork

Dr Shiqiu Zhang, Professor at Peking University, Institute of Environment and Economy, hailed China's ambitious carbon neutrality targets. She observed that China has been more active than ever before in promoting international governance and global collaboration through the launch of the Green BRI.

As for the role of subnational actors, Sasha highlighted the non-profit sector's ability to incubate capacity and take hard climate decisions that governments and the private sector feel unable to take. It is equally important to work on financial regulations, incentives, and standards to motivate the private sector to take action, according to Stephen. This is particularly true for China, whose industries contribute a large portion of global emissions, as illustrated by Jun, who also provided an outlook of his tremendous efforts in helping Chinese companies report their emission data.

"Actions ultimately need to take place in cities and communities and we must always bear in mind the human factor."

- Sasha Sud





Closing Ceremony

Summarised by Alex Whitebrook, Australia

The 2022 Yenching Global Symposium was brought to an end with a closing ceremony hosted by Co-Chairs Claudia Jiang and Jack Allen. Together they thanked all the Delegates for a wonderful conference, noting some highlights they particularly enjoyed. Ms Ronna Chao, CEO of Bai Xian Asia Institute, gave a brief presentation on the importance of the YGS in connecting young leaders and facilitating international cooperation. This key message was exemplified in the cultural performance that was to follow, featuring a series of musical arrangements performed by talented Yenching Scholars and Peking University students.

Before the final farewell, each of the YGS Executive Committee Members responsible for organising and hosting this year's Symposium took a moment to express their gratitude to all the delegates for making it a success. Associate Dean of Yenching Academy, Professor Fan Shiming, then ended the closing ceremony with some final words, reminding all delegates to continue to keep in touch with the new connections and friends they made over the course of the previous 3 days.



The YGS 2022 Co-Chairs (top-left) lead the closing ceremony





THANKS TO ALL OUR DELEGATES

Dear delegates,

Thank you for an incredibly fruitful three-day conference. We enjoyed every minute, every question, and every comment you all gave. Really, the life of YGS is our delegates; you all inspire us to continue adapting and bettering the symposium.

The theme of this year's symposium was about all reaching across borders. We hope you've formed meaningful connections with other delegates, speakers, and our executive committee team. As we move forward in these uncertain times, we hope you continue to form bridges, retain an open mind, and offer your opinions.

祝你们身体健康、心想事成。Please stay safe and healthy! We look forward to meeting you all one day in Beijing in the future.

Truly,
Co-Chairs of YGS 2022

Claudia Jiang

Jack Allen

