



Jack D. Gordon
Institute for Public Policy



**THE AFRICA-AMERICAS
FORUM ON CHINA**

**FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
TAMIAMI HALL MULTIPURPOSE ROOM (121)
11201 SW 17TH STREET, MIAMI, FL 33174**

OCTOBER 12 - 13, 2023



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023

0830 - 0900: **Arrival at Tamiami Hall**

0900 - 0930: **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- Leland Lazarus, Florida International University, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy
- Paul Nantulya, National Defense University, Africa Center for Strategic Studies
- David Shullman, Atlantic Council - Global China Hub
- Yanqiu Zheng, Social Science Research Council

0930 - 1045: **Session 1: Trade and Investment**

- Panelists
 - Hannah Wanjie Ryder, Development Reimagined, *Virtual*
 - Victoria Chonn Ching, University of Southern California
 - Gerard Johnson, Former General Manager-Caribbean, Inter-American Development Bank
 - Osvaldo Rosales, Former Director, Trade Division, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Moderated by:
 - Juliana Gonzalez Jauregui, FLACSO Argentina /CONICET

1045 - 1100: **Networking**

1100 - 1215: **Session 2: Security**

- Panelists
 - Obert Hodzi, University of Liverpool
 - Elijah Munyi, United States International University
 - Evan Ellis, U.S. Army War College
 - Javier Melendez, Expediente Abierto
- Moderated by:
 - Paul Nantulya, National Defense University, Africa Center for Strategic Studies

1215 - 1330: **Lunch**

1330 - 1445: **Session 3: Media and Cultural Exchanges**

- Panelists:
 - Bob Wekesa, Africa Center for the Study of the United States, Witwatersrand University
 - Fikayo Akeredolu, University of Oxford
 - Isabel Bernhard, Independent Researcher
 - Parsifal D'Sola, Andrés Bello Foundation
 - Maria Montt, Universidad Católica de Chile
- Moderated by:
 - Margaret Myers, Inter-American Dialogue

1445 - 1500: **Networking**

1500- 1615: **Session 4: Technology and Cybersecurity**

- Panelists:
 - Iginio Gagliardone, Witwatersrand University, *Virtual*
 - Bulelani Jili, Harvard University, Atlantic Council Global China Hub
 - Juan Manuel Aguilar Antonio, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
 - Fernanda Magnotta, Brazilian Center for International Studies
- Moderated by:
 - Donavon Johnson, Florida International University, Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy



1615 - 1630: **Closing Remarks**

- Henry Tugendhat, United States Institute of Peace

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2023

0830 - 0900: **Arrival at Tamiami Hall**

0900 - 1030: **Partner Organization Research Presentations**

- Leland Lazarus, Florida International University - Chinese Companies Dashboard
- Yanqiu Zheng, Social Science Research Council - SSRC Programming on China and the Global South
- Juliana Gonzalez Jauregui, FLACSO Argentina /CONICET - Presentation on Argentina Lithium Project with The Wilson Center

1030 - 1100: **Networking**

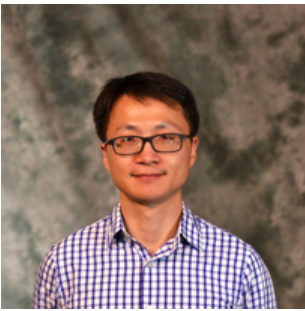
1100 - 1200: **Conclusions and Wrap-Up**



Leland Lazarus is the Associate Director of Research at Florida International University's Jack D. Gordon Institute of Public Policy, specializing in China-Latin America relations. He leads a team collecting data and analyzing U.S. national security and governance in Latin America and the Caribbean. Leland has extensive government service, including advising on China-related policy as a Special Assistant and Speechwriter to the Commander of U.S. Southern Command and serving as a State Department Foreign Service Officer in Barbados, China, and Washington, D.C. He is an advocate for diversity and inclusion, with a strong record of publications and awards in national security and foreign policy. Leland is fluent in Mandarin and Spanish, holding an M.A. in U.S.-China Foreign Policy and a B.A. in International Relations.



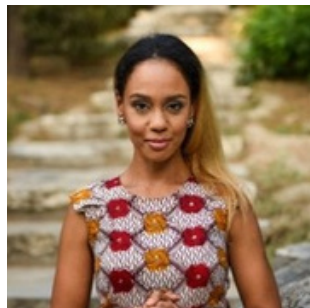
Paul Nantulya, a research associate at the Africa Center, specializes in contemporary African security issues. His expertise encompasses Chinese foreign policy, China/Africa relations, Southeast Asian partnerships with Africa, mediation, peace processes, and regions including the Great Lakes, East, and Southern Africa. Before joining the Africa Center, he served as a regional technical advisor for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in South Sudan, where he supported crisis mitigation efforts and collaborated with international partners. Mr. Nantulya has also worked with the Africa Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and played key roles in various African peace processes. He holds a B.A. in international relations, a Graduate Certificate in Japanese, and an M.S. in Defense and Strategic Studies.



Yanqiu Zheng is Program Officer for the new China and the Global South Project. Beginning as a philosophy major at Peking University in China, he further studied education and history at Indiana University Bloomington. For his Ph.D. in modern Chinese history from Northwestern University, Yanqiu completed a dissertation on the Chinese efforts in institutionalizing cultural diplomacy in the United States in the twentieth century with the support from Doris Quinn Foundation and China Times Cultural Foundation (California). Broadly interested in the politics of intercultural encounters, Yanqiu has conducted extensive archival research in the United States, mainland China, and Taiwan, and published peer-reviewed articles in *Journal of American-East Asian Relations*, *Trans-Asia Photography Review*, and *Twentieth-Century China*, among others. Prior to joining SSRC, Yanqiu taught East Asian and world history full-time in several American universities.



David Shullman is the Senior Director of the Global China Hub at the Atlantic Council, overseeing the council's China-related work. Previously, he was a Senior Advisor at the International Republican Institute, focusing on strengthening democratic institutions worldwide against the influence of autocracies like China and Russia. With nearly twelve years of experience as a top US government expert on East Asia, he served as the Deputy National Intelligence Officer for East Asia on the National Intelligence Council (NIC) and as a senior analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency. David has testified before Congress, published in leading publications, and provided commentary for major media outlets. He holds a PhD in Political Science from UCLA, a MALD from the Fletcher School, and a BA from Georgetown.



Hannah Wanjie Ryder is the Founder & CEO of Development Reimagined. A former diplomat and economist with 20 years of experience, named one of 100 most influential Africans in 2021, she is also Senior Associate for the Africa Program of the Center for Strategic International Studies (CSIS), sits on the Board of the Environmental Defence Fund, and is a member of UAE's International Advisory Council on the New Economy. Prior to her role at DR, Ms. Ryder led the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s work with China to help it scale up and improve its cooperation with other developing countries, including in Africa. She has also played various advisory roles for the UN and OECD and co-authored the seminal Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change in 2006.



Victoria Chonn Ching holds a PhD in Political Science and International Relations, an MA in Economics from the University of Southern California (USC), and an MA in Chinese Studies from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Currently, she is a Postdoctoral Scholar-Teaching Fellow at USC and a Non-Resident Fellow at the Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center at the Atlantic Council. Previously she worked at the Center for China and Asia-Pacific Studies in Peru and has experience in market research and investment consulting, including roles at the U.S. Embassy in Peru. Her expertise includes economic policy, Chinese politics, Latin America's political economy, and China-Latin America-U.S. relations, with research skills in social science research, big data analysis, and fieldwork in various regions.



Gerard Johnson was the former General Manager for the Caribbean at Inter-American Development Bank. He has extensive experience in economic development in the Latin American and Caribbean Region. His knowledge of development finance provides him with a strong foundation from which to provide strategic support to private clients, governments and development agencies. Gerard has conceptualized, negotiated and managed projects and programs to promote financial inclusion throughout the region. This included multiple credit programs, regulatory reforms, training initiatives, and credit rating pilots. He has navigated the multi-layered procedures and methodologies of the development finance. His understanding of the challenges to effective trade relationships include a focus on the process of increased transition from the informal-to the formal sector in the Caribbean.



Osvaldo Rosales is a Chilean economist and former director of the International Trade and Integration Division at the United National Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Between 2000 and 2004, he was also director general of international economic relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, where he was chief negotiator of the Free Trade Agreement with the United States and the Commercial Pillar of the Association Agreement with the European Union. He additionally led negotiations for Chile's free trade agreements with Korea and the European Free Trade Association, as well as preliminary negotiations for Chile's free trade agreement with China.



Juliana Gonzalez Jauregui is a researcher in the International Relations Area of FLACSO Argentina, and an assistant researcher at CONICET, within the framework of the Program for Strengthening Research and Cooperation with China/Asia in terms of R&D&i. In the International Relations Area of FLACSO, she coordinates the Chair of China Studies. Her research topics focus on the links between China and Latin America and Argentina in the economic and financial area from an International Political Economy perspective. Her publications analyze the role of China in the Argentine political economy, focusing on strategic sectors, and the implications of the relations between China and Latin American countries for their development models and international insertion strategies.



Obert Hodzi is an International Relations scholar focusing on international politics, conflict and security, and non-Western emerging powers in global governance with empirical expertise in China and Africa. He joined the University of Liverpool in September 2019. Prior to joining the University of Liverpool, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Helsinki, Finland. He has been a visiting researcher at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Nordic Africa Institute, Renmin University of China and the African Studies Centre at Boston University. He also worked for international and regional organizations in Zimbabwe, Kenya and Germany on democratic governance and transitional justice projects - and he is admitted as a Legal Practitioner in the High Court of Zimbabwe.



Elijah Munyi obtained a PhD in international relations from Aalborg University in Denmark. He is currently an assistant professor of international relations at the United States International University in Nairobi. His research interests are Africa's international economic relations.



Evan Ellis is a research professor of Latin American studies at the U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, with a focus on the region's relationships with China and other non-Western Hemisphere actors as well as transnational organized crime and populism in the region. He previously served on the secretary of state's policy planning staff with responsibility for Latin America and the Caribbean as well as international narcotics and law enforcement issues. In his academic capacity, he presented his work in a broad range of business and government forums in 27 countries on four continents. He has given testimony on Latin American security issues to the U.S. Congress on various occasions, where he has discussed his work regarding China and other external actors in Latin America.



Javier Melendez is an Analyst at Expediente Abierto (EA), an emerging Central American think tank focused on research and promotion of dialogue on security and defense, international affairs, transparency and human rights. EA brings together researchers and practitioners from the hemisphere to generate analyses without political affiliation and that seek to contribute to the discussion of topics of general interest in society such as security, public sector efficiency, institutional opacity, organized crime, corruption and control of public resources.



Bob Wekesa is Partnerships and Research Coordinator and Acting Director at the African Centre for the Study of the United States, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. He is also a senior lecturer in the department of journalism and media studies where he supervises masters and doctoral projects in international communications. He holds a doctoral degree in international communications from the Communication University of China, Beijing. His work on African diasporas includes *African Diaspora: before and after COVID-19* (ed.) (Johannesburg: Africa in Fact, 2018), *The age of digital diaspora diplomacy* (Johannesburg: Africa in Fact, 2018). He is currently co-editing a volume on African Americans and Africans. He is well-published in academic and popular platforms on the intersection of communications and diplomacy.



Fikayo Akeredolu is studying for a DPhil in Politics and her research focuses on Climate Change, Multilateralism in the Sino-African Relationship. She has a Master's in Contemporary Chinese Studies from the University of Oxford and a Master's in Global Affairs from Tsinghua University in China, where she studied as a Schwarzman Scholar. Before Oxford and Tsinghua, Fikayo worked as a Financial Products and Technology Growth expert in the Middle East, Europe, China and Africa. She worked at Bloomberg, Stears and Refinitiv (now The London Stock Exchange Group). She also founded the Growth Network, a community of intelligent and like-minded people who want to understand how to survive and grow in the Nigerian business landscape.



Isabel Bernhard was an Assistant Director at the Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center, where she developed the Center's China-Latin America and Brazil programming. During her time at the Council, Isabel contributed to various reports on topics such as China's vaccine diplomacy in Latin America and the Caribbean, US - China competition in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts, strategies to combat political violence against women in Brazil, and policies to strengthen Brazil's democratic institutions. She also organized the Center's 2022 Brazilian elections series, featuring public conversations with presidential candidates. Isabel has provided commentary on key China-Latin America and Taiwan-Latin America topics to international and domestic media outlets.



Parsifal D'Sola is the Founder and Executive Director of the Andres Bello Foundation. He is a Chinese foreign policy analyst specializing in Sino-Latin American relations with a focus on Venezuela. Parsifal is a nonresident senior fellow in the Atlantic Council's Global China Hub. Between 2019 and 2020, he acted as Chinese foreign policy advisor to the Foreign Affairs Minister of the Interim Government of Venezuela. Parsifal lived in Beijing in between 2008 and 2016 where he worked as communications manager for the news agency China Files. He holds a BS in Telecommunications Engineering from Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, an MA in East Asian Studies from Columbia University, an MSc in International Politics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, and an advance language diploma from Beijing Language and Culture University.



Maria Montt is an Assistant Professor of the Institute of History, and a member of the UC Center for Asian Studies at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Her areas of interest focus on cultural and diplomatic relations between China and Latin America, as well as between Asia and Latin America; cultural history and public history. She is currently dedicated to the study of the perception and representation of the 'Chinese; and Asian in the region; the Chinese diaspora and Asian communities in Latin America, and trips and travelers to China, from an inter-and multidisciplinary perspective. She has been a beneficiary, among others, of the President of the Republic Scholarship (2006-2007) and Chile Scholarships for Doctoral Studies Abroad (2013-2017). Since 2016 she is a member of the Executive Council of the Asia and the Americas section of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA).



Margaret Myers is the Director of the Asia & Latin America Program at the Inter-American Dialogue. She established the Dialogue's China and Latin America Working Group in 2011 to examine China's growing presence in Latin America and the Caribbean. Myers also developed the China-Latin America Finance Database, the only publicly available source of empirical data on Chinese state lending in Latin America, in cooperation with Global China Initiative at Boston University's Global Development Policy Center. Before arriving at the Dialogue, Myers worked as a Latin America analyst and China analyst for the US Department of Defense, during which time she was deployed with the US Navy in support of Partnership of the Americas. Myers also worked as a senior China analyst for Science Applications International Corporation, a consultant for the Inter-American Development Bank, among other roles.



Iginio Gagliardone is Associate Professor in Media and Communication at the University of the Witwatersrand and Associate Research Fellow in New Media and Human Rights in the Program in Comparative Media Law and Policy, University of Oxford. He holds a PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science and has been living between Italy, Ethiopia, the UK, and South Africa, researching the relationship between new media, political change, and human development, and exploring the emergence of distinctive models of the information society in the Global South. His most recent publications include “China, Africa, and the future of the Internet” (ZED), “The Politics of Technology in Africa” (Cambridge University Press), and “World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development” (UNESCO).



Bulelani Jili is a nonresident fellow at the Cyber Statecraft Initiative of the Atlantic Council's under the Digital Forensic Research Lab (DFRLab) and a PhD candidate at Harvard University, as an Oppenheimer graduate fellow. His research interests include Africa-China relations, Chinese geopolitical expansion, cybersecurity, Information and communications technology (ICT) development, internet policy, and privacy law. He is also a cybersecurity fellow at the Belfer Center, research associate with the China, Law, Development project at Oxford University, visiting fellow at Yale Law School, and former futures fellow at the Mercator Institute for China Studies. His research brief discerns the exportation of Chinese surveillance technology in Africa.



Juan Manuel Aguilar Antonio holds a degree in International Relations from Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) and Master's degrees in Public Administration and in Socioeconomics, Statistics, and Applied Computing. He is currently pursuing a PhD at FCPyS of UNAM, and is a Cyber Policy Development course graduate from the William J. Perry Center in Washington D.C. He serves as a Senior Researcher and Communication Officer at CASEDE, focusing on public security, citizen security, and the use of force in the "Analyzing Citizen Security Policies" project across various Mexican states. His research areas include National Security, Public Security, and Cybersecurity.



Fernanda Magnotta holds a Ph.D. and Master's degree from PPGR I San Tiago Dantas (UNESP/UNICAMP/PUC-SP). She is an expert in US politics. She is a Professor and Coordinator of the International Relations course at FAAP and serves as a consultant to the Brazilian Bar Association's Committee on International Relations (OAB/SP). She was head of Brazil's delegation at the G-20 Youth Summit in China, followed the US presidential elections in Ohio at the invitation of the US Embassy in Brasilia, and was selected by the UCLA/Banco Santander W30 Program as one of the 30 most outstanding women in academic management in the world.



Donavon Johnson is an Assistant Professor of Public Policy & Administration at Florida International University's Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy. He is a Fulbright Scholar from the Global South with dynamic research interests. One tranche of his research examines the consequences of administrative burdens bureaucratic encounters and policy making. He connects these literatures to research on, implementation, program evaluation, and social equity to raise questions related to understanding how administrative burdens disrupt Public Administration's role as an enabler of democracy and good governance. Dr. Johnson has engaged in consulting and training with local government and private managers and employees in the Caribbean, as well as data management consulting with embassies, public bodies, and non-government organizations such as the Organization of American States, USAID, European Union, and the World Bank.



Henry Tugendhat is an Economist with the China team at the U.S. Institute of Peace. He focuses on issues related to China's impact on conflict dynamics in Africa and Latin America. Tugendhat has worked on these issues for over a decade through previous employment at the Institute of Development Studies in the U.K., the China-Africa Research Initiative at Johns Hopkins University SAIS, and the World Bank Group's macroeconomics, trade and investment team. His core areas of interest include conflict, economics, telecommunications, and cybersecurity in the context of China-Africa and China-Latin America relations. He lived and worked in China for three years and holds a master's from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London and a bachelor's from the University of Leeds. He speaks Mandarin, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.



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