

A 'Chinese Scramble'?

The Politics of Contemporary China-Africa Relations

12-13 July 2006, Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge

Synopsis

The geopolitical landscape of contemporary China-Africa relations has provoked wide media interest but China's deepening engagement with the African continent has been relatively neglected in academic and development policy circles. In particular, beyond narrow concerns of 'a Chinese scramble' or a 'new imperialism', the concrete ways in which different Chinese actors are operating in different parts of Africa, their political dynamics and implications for development, have yet to be explored in depth.

This international conference will explore different strands of China's new relations with Africa. Combining insights from specialists in African and Chinese politics and foreign relations, and bridging these hitherto largely separate areas of study, it aims to produce an analytically rich and empirically grounded assessment of contemporary China-Africa relations and how these might develop. In doing so, it seeks to broaden the debate, enable African and Chinese perspectives to be aired and contribute toward establishing China-Africa relations as a research area.

The conference will be of interest to diplomats, development policy makers, corporate actors, journalists, students and academics (especially IR, development studies, African politics and foreign relations, China's foreign relations). Panels will address:

- the international relations of China in Africa;
- the political economy of trade and resource extraction, including oil;
- the impact on development and the politics of development in Africa;
- case studies of South Africa, Nigeria, Sudan, Angola, Cape Verde, East Africa;
- China and African futures.

Date and Venue

12-13 July 2006 at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

Convenors: Christopher Alden (LSE), Ricardo Soares de Oliveira (Cambridge) and Daniel Large (SOAS).

Advance Registration (*includes coffee and refreshments*):

Waged: £30 (£40 on the day) Institutional: £120 (£150) Students: £15 (£20)

Further Information and to Register - please email Daniel Large dlarge@soas.ac.uk



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Provisional Programme

Wednesday 12 July 2006 - *Mong Room, Sidney Sussex College*

8.45-9.30 am *Arrival and registration*

9.30-11.00 Perspectives on Contemporary China-Africa Relations

'The View from Beijing' – He Wenping (*Institute of West Asian & African Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences*)

'The View from Paris' – Roland Marchal (*CNRS/CERI*)

The View from Washington – Bates Gill and Chin-Hao Huang (*CSIS*)

An African View – Garth le Pere (*Institute for Global Dialogue*)

Chair: Lindsey Hilsum (Channel 4)

11.00-11.30 Coffee

11.30-1.00 The Political Economy of China-Africa Relations

'The Rise of China: What's in it for Africa?' – Nicolas Pinaud (*OECD*)

'The Political Economy of Chinese Oil Companies in Africa' – Ricardo Soares de Oliveira (*University of Cambridge*)

'The Political Consequences of China's Return to Africa' – Denis Tull (*German Institute for International and Security*)

Chair: Alex Vines (Chatham House)

1.00-2.00 Lunch

2.00-3.30 China in Africa: Case-Studies 1

'China in Angola: 'we don't need no advises or another brick in the wall" – Manuel Ennes Ferreira (*Technical University of Lisbon*)

'Chinese Economic Diplomacy in the African Continent: the Lusophone Strategy' – Ana Cristina Alves (*Technical University of Lisbon*)

'Chinese in Cape Verde: the lucky, the unlucky, the players and the dealers' - Heidi Haugen (*PRIO*)

Chair: Margaret Hall (FCO Research Analysts)

3.30-4.00 Coffee

4.00-5.30 Anthropological Perspectives

‘Friends and Strangers: Constructing Anti-Hegemony along the TAZARA Railway’ –
Jamie Monson (*Carlton College*)

‘Chinese Medicine in East Africa’ – Elisabeth Hsu (*University of Oxford*)

Chair: John Ryle (Rift Valley Institute)

Thursday 13 July - *Andrew Room, Sidney Sussex College*

9.30-11.00 Development and the Politics of Development

‘Chinese Business and African Development: Flying Geese or Hidden Dragon?’ –
Deborah Brautigam (*American University*)

‘A Warning in China’? The New Politics of Development in Africa’ – Daniel Large (*SOAS*)

Chair: Devon Curtis (University of Cambridge)

11.00-11.30 Coffee

11.30-1.00 China in Africa: Case-Studies 2

‘Bang for Barrel: who will get the most out of the Sino-Nigerian relationship?’ - Sharath Srinivasan
(*University of Oxford*)

‘South Africa and China: A Strategic Partnership?’ – Garth Shelton (*Wits University*)

‘China-Sudan Relations: Militarized Commerce and Petro-Politics on the Nile’ - Daniel Large
(*SOAS*)

Chair: Robert Weatherly (Mills & Reeve)

1.00-2.00 Lunch

2.00-3.30 China and African Futures

‘An Africa without Europeans’ – Chris Alden (*LSE*)

Discussant: Christopher Clapham (*University of Cambridge*)

Chair: Stephen Chan (SOAS)

