

China and Developing Economies; Examining China-Africa Relations in Post-Covid-19 Africa

Public Lecture

Date: 25th January 2021

Time: 19:00

Venue: <https://zoom.us/j/98782978532>

ABSTRACT

Since the 1950s, China has been involved in African affairs. Often considered a south-south affair, the China-Africa relation has seen continuous and fast-paced growth over the last decades. This relation bothers, among other interests, on economics, governance and security. The presence of Chinese firms and investments, provision of loans in different forms, and China's visible contribution in these countries' infrastructure development have drawn wide attention within and outside the continent. Critics of China-Africa relations often focus on China's economic interests, the on the ground activities of the Chinese government and Chinese companies and their socio-economic impacts in Africa, to describe China's interests as a selfish quest for natural. Others also see China as anti-democratic and destroyer of African governance.

Meanwhile, China's presence in Africa has been welcomed by others as practical, accessible, authentic south-south development-driven relation and an alternative to the dominance of western facilities and influence.

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, China-Africa relation came under pressure due to the ill-treatment meted out to African students and migrants in China, which attracted harsh condemnation from African leaders. Yet how much this relationship is affected by the Covid-19 crises and the future of this relation in post-covid times remains open to examination.

In this lecture, speakers will reflect on China-Africa relations, past present and future. The lecture will explore the role and impact of China on African countries' economies and Africa's perspective in this relationship. This lecture is hosted in collaboration with the 2020/2021 Development Economics course participants from the Master of Arts in International Social Sciences study programme at Friedensau Adventist University.

SPEAKERS:



investments.

Dr Sanne van der Lugt is a Research Associate at Clingendael Institute and the Leiden Asia Centre. Her research is aimed at the consequences of China's re-emergence as a global power for Europe, with a special focus on China's economic activities in Africa and China's position in the fourth industrial revolution. Prior to joining Clingendael Institute she worked for (among others) the Centre for Chinese Studies at Stellenbosch University. She conducted fieldwork in various African countries for projects commissioned by Oxfam, WWF and the European Commission regarding the social and environmental impacts of Chinese



Dr Divine Fuh is a social anthropologist from Cameroon and Director of HUMA – Institute for Humanities in Africa at the University of Cape Town. His research focuses on the politics of suffering and smiling, particularly on how urban youth seek ways of smiling in the midst of their suffering. He has researched Botswana, Cameroon, Senegal and South Africa. His current work focuses on the political economy of Pan-African knowledge production, and also on AI and the ethics of care in Africa. He was Director of Publications and Dissemination Programme at the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa CODESRIA from 2017-2019. He has taught at the universities of Basel, Cape Town, Western Cape, Stellenbosch, and has been visiting lecturer at the Universities of Brasilia, Tokyo, and Gaston Berger.



Lidet Tadesse is an analyst whose work African peace and security, the African Union (AU) and its partnerships with the EU and China, governance and peace and security management under the AU, Africa in multilateralism and the geopolitics of the Horn of Africa. She currently works at the European Centre for Development Policy Management, based in the Netherlands
