

# CHINA'S 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY SILK ROAD

## Setting the Terms of An Alternative Globalisation?

SOCIETY  
FOR  
ANGLO-CHINESE  
UNDERSTANDING

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### SPEAKERS

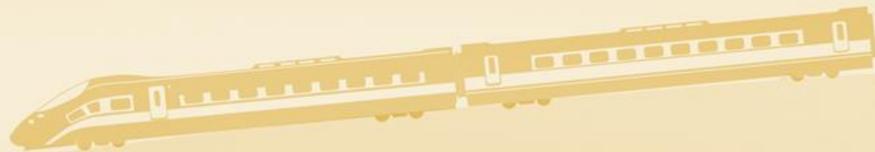
- Keith Bennett** Vice-Chairman of The 48 Group Club
- Shao Zheng** Counsellor for Policy Analysis and Strategic Planning, Chinese Embassy to the United Kingdom
- Dr Frances Wood** SACU Vice President, historian and former Curator of Chinese Collections at the British Library

### CHAIR

- Prof Kerry Brown** Director of Lau China Institute, King's College London

### EVENT PROGRAMME

- 1.30 pm** Registration and refreshments
- 2.00 pm** Panel Discussion and Q&A
- 4.00 pm** Networking and refreshments
- 5.00 pm** Event closes



Saturday 20 May 2017, 1.30-5.00pm Strand Campus of King's College London, WC2R 2LS

Book your free place

Via Eventbrite: <https://sacu-chinas-new-silk-road.eventbrite.co.uk>

Or by email to [rosamund.wong@ntlworld.com](mailto:rosamund.wong@ntlworld.com)

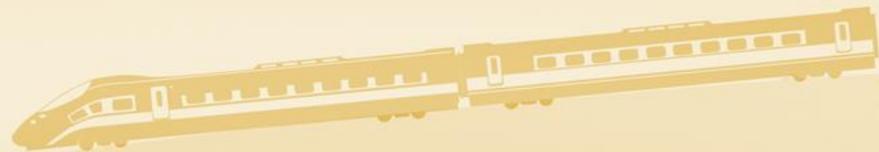


China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has been hailed as "the greatest economic development project ever undertaken", of huge significance in redefining China's place in the world through a different kind of globalisation. By reawakening the Eurasian super-continent, it may help to shift the global landscape fundamentally away from a Transatlantic axis.

The ancient Silk Road was the world's first and greatest trade route, a meeting point of the major civilisations of Asia, Europe and Africa, and today's new connectivities seek to build on this historical legacy of peaceful economic and cultural interchange. The scale of the project demonstrates huge ambition but is it really workable? To what extent will it open opportunities across the three continents to 'hitch a ride on China's economic express train'?

Sceptics view the scheme as a bid by China for greater land and maritime power. Might the initiative trigger a modern day great game, with Chinese influence spreading into the back yards of Russia and India? Or a new Cold War between East and West for dominance over Eurasia? Then again are the critics missing the point? Will the Belt and Road evolve a new type of 'heritage diplomacy', releasing a dynamic of inter-civilisational exchange to transcend today's geopolitics of rivalry?

To coincide with the major international summit on the Belt and Road to be held in May in Beijing, SACU is bringing together a panel of experts to discuss the economic, intercultural and geopolitical dimensions of the project and to weigh its globally transformative potential. The panel will consider whether the West is taking the initiative sufficiently seriously and how we in Britain in particular should be responding.



*This free event is supported by  
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