

6TH ANNUAL HELSINKI SUMMER SESSION

US-CHINA RELATIONS: FRICTION AND ENGAGEMENT

Mirror Room, Kämp Hotel (Kluuvikatu 2), Helsinki
August 27th, 2019, 8:45-11:00

It has become commonplace to argue that the world has entered an era of great-power competition after a brief post-Cold War interregnum. The United States and China, as the two most powerful states in the system, are at the epicentre of this contest. The evolution of this most vital international relationship in various contexts – whether security matters, trade or cyber – will also have profound implications for the future of the global order. The first panel of the 6th Annual Helsinki Summer Session explores the current state and future prospects of US-China relations. What are the most important areas of confluence and conflict between the two powers? How can the potential for further deterioration in the relationship be mitigated in the short- and longer term? To what extent is responsible great-power competition possible, and what would be its central parameters?

Opening Remarks: **Teija Tiilikainen**, Director, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Mika Aaltola, Programme Director, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Speakers: **Charles Kupchan**, Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations

Valérie Niquet, Head of Asia Department, Fondation pour la recherche stratégique

Deborah McCarthy, Visiting Senior Fellow, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Chair: **Teija Tiilikainen**, Director, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Speakers' biographies



Teija Tiilikainen is the Director of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA) since 2010. She is also Editor-in-Chief of *Ulkopolitiikka* – the Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs. Dr Tiilikainen is a part-time professor at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy and Vice-Chair of the Board of the University of Helsinki. Previously, Dr Tiilikainen was the Director of the Network of European Studies at the University of Helsinki (2003–2009). She has also served as Secretary of State at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland from 2007 to 2008. Dr Tiilikainen was the Special Representative of the Prime Minister of Finland in the Convention on the Future of Europe in 2003.



Mika Aaltola is the Programme Director of the Global Security research programme at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. His areas of expertise are US foreign and domestic policies as well as the international system and major-power relations. Dr Aaltola is a visiting professor at the Tallinn University since 2011 and he holds the rank of docent from the University of Tampere. He has been a visiting researcher at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (fall 2013) and at the CERI Sciences Po (fall 2011). He obtained his PhD in social sciences from the University of Tampere in 1999.



Charles A. Kupchan is Professor of International Affairs in the School of Foreign Service and Government Department at Georgetown University, and Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. From 2014 to 2017, Kupchan served as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for European Affairs on the National Security Council in the Obama White House. He was also Director for European Affairs on the National Security Council during the first Clinton administration. His most recent books are *No One's World: The West, the Rising Rest, and the Coming Global Turn* (2012), and *How Enemies Become Friends: The Sources of Stable Peace* (2010). In 2020, he will publish *Isolationism: A History of America's Effort to Shield Itself from the World*.



Valérie Niquet, Head of the Asia Department at Fondation pour la recherche stratégique and former Director of Asia Center at Ifri (French Institute of International relations) works on strategic issues in Asia and the interaction between economic development, political transformation and security policy in China. Her last publications include “Chine-Japon : l'affrontement” (in French). She is associate fellow to the JIIA and teaches a course on Sino-Japanese Relations in Perspective at Keio University.



Deborah A. McCarthy is an expert on U.S. foreign and national security policy with over 30 years of diplomatic experience. Currently, she is a consultant with the Transnational Security Group and the producer of the national security podcast “The General and the Ambassador” (<https://www.generalambassadorpodcast.org>). She served as the U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania from 2013 to 2016. Previously, she was the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs. Ms McCarthy also served as Deputy Ambassador at the U.S. Embassy in Greece and the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua. In Washington, she was the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Narcotics and Law Enforcement, the Senior Advisor for Counter Terrorism and the Special Coordinator for Venezuela. Other diplomatic postings include: Consul General Montreal, Economic Counselor U.S. Embassy Paris, Financial Economist U.S. Embassy Rome and assignments in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.