

**23-24 March 2022**  
**Helsinki, Finland, Times in EET**

**Project for Peaceful Competition/The Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)**

*Conference*

**Managing Sino-Western Relations in the New Geoeconomic World Order**

**Wednesday 23 March**

9:45-10:00 Welcome and opening remarks

- **Oliver Letwin**, Chair, Project for Peaceful Competition
- **Mikael Wigell**, Research Director, FIIA

10:00-11:45 'Competitive Interdependence and the New Geoeconomic Power Politics'

The past years have witnessed the acceleration of geoeconomic competition characterized by the broad use of economic tools to achieve geostrategic goals. As China, Europe and the United States ramp up this competition, economic interdependence is cast in a new light. What was once heralded as a barrier to conflict, is seemingly now turned into a currency of power, feeding a geoeconomic chain reaction with states applying broader trade controls, investment screening and data localization measures out of concern for their economic sovereignty. The panel discusses this new geoeconomic power politics and the way economic connectivities and interdependencies are being leveraged for power politics ends.

Panelists:

- **Alexander Stubb**, Professor, European University Institute
- **Anthea Roberts**, Professor, Australian National University
- **Mikael Mattlin**, Professor, University of Turku
- Moderator: **Mika Aaltola**, Director, FIIA

16:15-18:00 'Artificial intelligence and the New Geotechnological Competition'

Technological innovation has always played a key role in great power rivalries. Technological leadership has helped fuel US's economic advantage and military predominance. To underpin its own rise, China now faces an 'innovation imperative', i.e. it needs to obtain and develop technologies in order to continue climbing the global value chain, overcome the 'middle-income trap' and equip itself with critical military resources. China has sought to close this technological gap by adopting a wide panoply of geoeconomic means ranging from new industrial policies to technological cooperation and acquisition. The United States has responded by increasingly seeking to decouple from the Chinese economy and putting pressure on others to follow suit. In addition, recent export control measures against Russia suggest that the U.S. and her allies are prepared to take strong decoupling measures under extreme circumstances. The panel discusses what effects technological decoupling is having on technological cooperation and progress with China, and whether decoupling is set to increase or decrease over time.



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- **Jessica Brandt**, Policy Director, Brookings
- **Edward Hunter Christie**, Senior Research Fellow, FIIA
- **Valtteri Vuorisalo**, Professor of Practice, University of Tampere
- Moderator: **Charly Saloniuss-Pasternak**, Leading Researcher, FIIA

## Thursday 24 March

10:00-11:45 'The Future of Multilateral Economic Governance'

The new era of geoeconomic competition is putting pressure on the rules and institutions that govern the international economy. Economic and security thinking is increasingly converging with a greater focus on relative economic gains and zero-sum competition, given their implications for security, rather than mutual economic benefits. As a result, multilateral economic organizations such as the WTO find themselves side-stepped and weakened. This panel discusses the effects of the accelerating geoeconomic competition on the future of multilateral economic governance. Can multilateral economic governance be revived under these conditions?

Panelists:

- **Daniele Archibugi**, Professor, Birkbeck, University of London
- **Susan Sell**, Professor, School of Regulation and Global Governance, Australian National University
- **Pasi-Heikki Vaaranmaa**, Director, Trade Policy Unit, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
- Moderator: **Oliver Letwin**, Visiting Professor KCL Policy Institute. Chair, Project for Peaceful Competition

16:15-18:00 'Managing Competitive Interdependence'

While the world is more interconnected and interdependent than ever before, competition again appears to be a primary driver of international relations. This casts the concept of interdependence in a new, more nuanced light than the positive angle from which it predominantly has been viewed during the liberal international order. The risk is that the new data-driven economy generates ever more asymmetric networks of dependence, in which the control of data and its exchange becomes more centralized. In this new geoeconomic order, connectivity and interdependence will thus not produce the 'flat' world of diffuse power relations and cooperation, but enduring power imbalances, digital divides and conflict. How can such a scenario be prevented? This panel will discuss what new international institutions are needed to better manage this new competitive interdependence.

- **Alicia Garcia Herrero**, Chief Economist for Asia Pacific, Natixis
- **Claudia Schmucker**, Head of Geo-Economics Programme, DGAP
- **Lauri Tähtinen**, Non-Resident Fellow, FIIA
- Moderator: **Mikael Wigell**, Research Director, FIIA