

Sinan Chu

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(Updated: 2025-06)

Professional Appointment

Employment

- 2022.10 – present Editor-in-Chief, [Journal of Current Chinese Affairs](#)
Institute for Asian Studies, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, Germany
- 2018.12 – present Research Fellow
Institute for Asian Studies, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, Germany
- Principal investigator “[Intellectual Contestation over China’s Multiethnic Regime](#),” Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)/German Research Foundation (2025-2027)
- Project member “[Drifting Apart: International Institutions in Crisis and the Management of Dissociation Processes](#),” Leibniz Association (2019-2021)
- Project member, “[Legitimate Multipolarity](#),” Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)/German Research Foundation (2018-2022)

Visiting

- 2022.05 – 2022.07 Visiting Fellow
Joint Center for Advanced Studies “Worldmaking from a Global Perspective: A Dialogue with China,” Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- “[Reimagining the World of China: The Intellectual Foundation of Multiethnic Governance under Xi Jinping](#),” Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF)/German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
- 2016.08 – 2018.11 Visiting Fellow
Institute for Asian Studies, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, Germany
- “[The Minzu Debate: Policy Subsystem, Knowledge Community, and Academic Discourse in Post-Mao China’s Ethnic Policy-Making](#),” Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)/Konrad Adenauer Foundation

Education

- 2019.05 Ph.D. Political Science
Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, USA
- 2010.12 M.A. Political Science & M.A. International Relations
Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, USA
- 2007.06 B.A. International Politics
Nanjing University, Nanjing, Jiangsu, China

Publications

Peer-Reviewed

- 2024 **Sinan Chu**, Heike Holbig, Amrita Narlikar, & Johannes Plagemann. “In the Eyes of the Beholders: The Legitimacy of Global Governance Institutions under Multipolarity.” *International Studies Quarterly*, 68(2): sqae034. <https://doi.org/10.1093/isq/sqae034>
- 2023 **Sinan Chu**. “Fantastic Theories and Where to Find Them: Rethinking Interlocutors in Global IR.” *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 50(3): 700–729. <https://doi.org/10.1177/03058298221110923>
- 2022 **Sinan Chu**. “Whither Chinese IR? The Sinocentric Subject and the Paradox of Tianxia-ism.” *International Theory*, 14(1): 57–87. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1752971920000214>
- 2021 Johannes Plagemann, Sreeradha Datta, & **Sinan Chu**. “The Paradox of Competing Connectivity Strategies in Asia.” *Third World Quarterly*, 42(10): 2265–2281. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2021.1941846>

Non-Peer-Reviewed

Forthcoming	Sinan Chu. “The Chinese IR Trio and Good International Citizenship.” In: Charalampos Efstathiopoulos and Hakan Mehmetcik (eds.) <i>Good International Citizenship and Non-Western International Relations: Perspectives and Cases from the Global South</i> . Palgrave Macmillan.
2025	Sinan Chu. “Che cento fiori sboccino: il dibattito sulla politica etnica della Cina fra il 2004 e il 2015” [Let a Hundred Flowers Bloom: Revisiting China’s Ethnic Policy Debate, 2004-2015]. In: Marco Fumian (ed.) <i>Leggere La Cina, Capire Il Mondo: Narrazioni dominanti e discorso critico in un’era di competizione</i> [Reading China, Understanding the World: Dominant Narratives and Critical Discourse in an Age of Competition]. Mimesis: Milano; Udine, pp. 301-327.
2022	Sinan Chu. “Dissociation via Alternative Institutions: The Establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and US-China Conflict.” <i>Historical Social Research – Historische Sozialforschung</i> 47(2): 109-137. https://doi.org/10.12759/hsr.47.2022.18
2022	Sinan Chu. “Nichtwestliche Perspektiven in den Internationalen Beziehungen” [Non-Western Perspectives in International Relations]. In: Frank Sauer, Luba von Hauff, and Carlo Masala (eds.) <i>Handbuch Internationale Beziehungen</i> [Handbook of International Relations]. Springer Reference Sozialwissenschaften. VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, Wiesbaden, pp. 263-285. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-531-19954-2_50-1

Under Review

R&R	Heike Holbig & Sinan Chu. “Rethinking Legitimacy Challenges of Global Governance Institutions under Multipolarity: The Case of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.”
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Working in Progress

Book	Sinan Chu. <i>The Minzu Debate: Politics and Knowledge in Post-Mao China’s Ethnic Policy</i> .
Articles	Kerry Brown & Sinan Chu. “Special issue introduction: Belt and Road Initiative – 10 Years On.” Stephen Noakes & Sinan Chu. “Beyond Identity Politics in Chinese IR.” Sinan Chu & Stephen Noakes. “Interlocution” Sinan Chu & Stephen Noakes. “Teaching Chinese IR.” Kai Wang, Sinan Chu, & Chuyu Liu. “Mapping Chinese IR Scholarship on East Asia.” Sinan Chu & Faiz Sheikh. “Where is the non-West?” Ahmet Hojam Pekiniy & Sinan Chu. “Qing’s Failed Legitimacy Claim in the Islamsphere.” Johannes Plagemann & Sinan Chu. “What Kind of Multipolarity?” Valentina Punzi & Sinan Chu. “Othering within Minzu.” Sinan Chu. “The Intellectual Foundation of Multiethnic Governance under Xi.” Sinan Chu. “The Revival of Chinese Ethnology and the First Post-Mao Ethnic Policy Debate.”

Selected Conference Presentations

2025.06	“Taking Knowledge Decolonization Seriously: Beyond Identity Politics in Chinese IR.” The China Quarterly Symposium on “The Politics of Knowledge Production about China,” SOAS University of London, London.
2025.04	“Intra-cultural/civilizational Interlocution.” Workshop “Global IR Research Methodology,” University of Rostock, Rostock.
2025.03	“Beyond the ‘Chinese School’: Mapping the Evolution and Diversity of Chinese IR Scholarship on East Asia, 1978-2018.” International Studies Association (ISA), Chicago, Illinois, USA.
2024.08	“Interlocution: A Nondual Methodology to Disrupt the Non-Western National Self.” The 17th European International Studies Association (EISA) Pan-European Conference on International Relations (PEC), Université Catholique de Lille, Lille, France.
2024.07	“‘You have no power here!’: Qing’s Failed Legitimacy Claim in the Islamsphere and the Limits of Its Universal Rule.” 11th European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS), Workshop “(Re)Orienting International Relations: theorizing the world between Beijing and Baghdad,” Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Türkiye.
2024.04	“Where is the Non-West? Four Intellectual Positions Toward the Study of Non-Western IR.” International Studies Association (ISA), San Francisco, California, USA.
2023.09	“What Does the Subaltern Really Say? A Situated Approach to Intellectual Politics in the Non-West.” The 16th European International Studies Association (EISA) Pan-European Conference on International Relations (PEC), University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany.
2023.06	“Critical Insiders and Liberal Values in the Global South: Normative Contestation in Contemporary China.” Workshop “Rethinking Euro-Asian Relations in Complex Times: Managing

- Asymmetric Relationships under the Conditions of Uncertainty,” Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland.
- 2023.05 “Beyond West vs. Non-West: A Critique of Global IR Perspective on Good International Citizenship.” Workshop “Good International Citizenship: A Global IR Perspective,” Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2023.04 “Beyond ‘Global South vs. Liberal Value’: Contestation over Minority Rights in Post-Socialist China.” Workshop “Worldmaking in a Sinophone context: Conceptions, processes and practices,” Jacob-Spenerhaus, Frankfurt (Main), Germany.
- 2022.06 “Rethinking Non-Western Interlocutors of Worldmaking: A Critique of Dialogues with Chinese IR.” Annual Conference of the Joint Center for Advanced Studies “Worldmaking from a Global Perspective: A Dialogue with China”: Global Conflicts, Global Collaboration: China in a Changing World Order, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany.
- 2021.11 “Othering within Minzu: the Peripheral Tibetanness of Baima.” International Workshop “The Other in Chinese History and Thought: Territory, Race, Culture, Philosophy, Religion,” Ghent University, Virtual Event.
- 2021.08 “The Intellectual Foundation of Assimilationism in PRC Multiethnic Governance.” European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), Virtual Event.
- 2020.08 “Discursive Self-Legitimation of Emerging Power-Led Global Governance Institutions: The New Development Bank (NDB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).” European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), Virtual Event.
- 2019.10 “Legitimate Multipolarity and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).” Changing Asia 2019: Perspectives on Regional and Global Cooperation, Beijing, China.
- 2019.07 “The Paradox of Competing Connectivity Strategies in Asia.” the 11th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS), Leiden, the Netherlands.
- 2018.08 “The Conservative Experts: Chinese Marxist ethnology, advocacy coalition, and the non-reform of contemporary Chinese ethnic policy.” European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), Hamburg, Germany.
- 2017.09 “Applying Critical Discourse Analysis in Postcolonial Analysis of Foreign Policy-Making.” American Political Science Association (APSA), San Francisco, California, USA.
- 2017.04 “Critical Discourse Analysis between Postcolonial Theory and Foreign Policy-Making.” Western Political Science Association (WPSA), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.
- 2017.04 “Open Policy Debate and Policy Legitimation: China’s Ethnic Policy in the Post-Mao Era.” Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Chicago, Illinois, USA.
- 2016.04 “Policy Advocates or Professional Researchers? The Role of Experts in China’s Ethnic Minority Policymaking.” Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Chicago, Illinois, USA.
- 2015.02 “The Logic of Othering: Dynamic Constructions of Tibet and China in US Foreign Policy Discourse.” International Studies Association (ISA), New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

Selected Invited Talks

- 2024.10 “Book Launch with Professor Chih-yu Shih: Relations and Roles in China’s Internationalism: Rediscovering Confucianism in a Pluriversal World.” Center for China’s International Grand Strategy, Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies, and Institute of International Relations, National Chengchi University, Online Talk.
- 2024.06 “Security Cooperation in Asia: The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).” Seminar “Chinese Global Governance” taught by Prof. Dr. Christian Kreuder-Sonnen, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Online Talk.
- 2023.12 “Critical Insiders and Liberal Values in the Global South: Normative Contestation in Contemporary China.” Lecture Series “Gli Studi Cinesi e il Discorso Pubblico sulla Cina Oggi,” Associazione Italiana Studi Cinesi & Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale,” Online Talk.
- 2023.09 “Roundtable: Global China as method in international studies.” The 16th European International Studies Association (EISA) Pan-European Conference on International Relations (PEC), University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany.
- 2021.07 “De facto (In-)equality Among Nationalities’: The Revival of Chinese Ethnology and the First Nationality Policy Debate in the Post-Mao Era, 1979-1989.” Oriental Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, Czechia.
- 2021.05 “How China Is Reshaping Global Economic Governance: Lessons from the New Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.” German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Online Talk.
- 2021.04 “The Specter of Sinocentrism and the Hope for ‘Chinese IR.’” Shiv Nadar University, Online Talk.

2020.11	“The Sinocentric Subject and the Paradox of Tianxia-ism in Contemporary Chinese Discourse on International Relations.” Istituto Confucio Napoli & Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale,” Online Talk.
2019.12	“Empirical Legitimacy of New International Institutions: The Case of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.” Università degli Studi di Macerata & Istituto Adriano Olivetti, Ancona, Italy.
2019.09	“International Legitimacy and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).” New York University Shanghai, Shanghai, China.
2019.03	“Nation, nationalism, national identity: introduction to contested concepts” & “Variety of Nationalisms: The Case Study of China.” Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Berlin, Germany
2018.03	“Variety of Nationalisms: The Case Study of China.” Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Gersfeld, Hessen, Germany.
2016.04	“Let a Hundred Flowers Bloom...or Not: Intra-Elite Conflict and Open Policy Debate in China,” Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, USA.
2014.12	“The Logic of Othering in US Foreign Policy Discourse: A Case Study of the Dynamic Construction of Tibet and China.” Central Minzu University of China, Beijing, China.

Teaching

2021	Instructor German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, Germany “GIGA Session on Philosophical Assumptions in Empirical Research”
2018	Instructor Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany “Nationalism in Emerging Powers: The Case of China and India” (co-taught with Medha)
2014 – 2015	Instructor Syracuse University SU Abroad Beijing Center, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China “Minority Policy and National Identity in China”
2009 – 2013	Teaching Assistant Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, USA “International Relations,” “International Law,” “Media and Politics”

Supervision

2024	Doctoral Board Member German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, Germany; Goethe University Frankfurt Askan Weidemann, “ICT Enactment and Institutional Change in the Chinese Petitioning System.”
2022	Doctoral Board Member German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, Germany; Goethe University Frankfurt Lukian De Boni, “The Quest for Cultural Power: China, Russia, and International Human Rights 2008-2018.”
2020	Bachelor Thesis Second Examiner Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany Fabian Kleinschmidt, “How can ancient Chinese values and normative leadership contribute to shaping the emerging multiplex international order?”

Training

2023.12	2 nd Methods Training Workshop – Remote Ethnography of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (“Remote XUAR”), Brussels, Belgium.
2023.06	1 st Methods Training Workshop – Remote Ethnography of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (“Remote XUAR”), Würzburg, Bavaria, Germany.
2019.02	The Eighth European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Winter School in Method and Techniques, University of Bamberg, Bamberg, Bavaria, Germany.
2016.07	The Sixth Chinese Political Sociology Workshop, University of Chicago Center in Beijing, Renmin University of China, Beijing, China.
2015.07	The Second Advanced Seminar on Northwest China-Central Asian Ethnology, Xinjiang Normal University, Urumqi, Xinjiang, China.

2014.07	Max Planck Institute Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Summer School, Center for the Study of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity, Central Minzu University, Beijing, China.
2012.06	Institute for Qualitative and Multi-method Research (IQMR), Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, USA.

Award & Grant

2025-2027	Temporary position for principal investigator (Eigene Stelle), Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)/German Research Foundation (project no. 536620936, “Intellectual Contestation over China’s Multiethnic Regime”)
2022	Visiting fellowship, Joint Center for Advanced Studies “Worldmaking from a Global Perspective: A Dialogue with China,” Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF)/German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
2016 – 2018	Ausländerförderung/Foreign Student Scholarship, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)/Konrad Adenauer Foundation
2016	Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs Summer Research Grant, Syracuse University
2014	Roscoe-Martin Fund for Research, Maxwell School, Syracuse University Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs Summer Research Grant, Syracuse University Graduate Student Organization Research Grant, Syracuse University
2013	Research Travel Grant, Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library

Service

2023 – present	Principal organizer of the GIGA China Series German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, Germany
2020 – 2024	Member of GIGA Ethics Committee German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg, Germany
2013 – 2014	Graduate Student Representative on Meredith Professor Award Committee Graduate Student Representative on Political Science’ Promotion & Tenure Committee Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, USA
2012 – 2013	University Teaching Associate of Future Professoriate Program Graduate Student Representative on Political Science’ Promotion & Tenure Committee Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, USA
2011 – 2012	Post-Comps Cohort Representative on Political Science Graduate Student Association Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, USA

Reviewer

All Azimuth: A Journal of Foreign Policy and Peace, International Relations, International Theory, International Studies Review, Journal of Contemporary Asia, Research in Globalization

Additional Skills

Languages	Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent), German (intermediate), Italian (intermediate)
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