

Legal Dimension of China's Presence in Latin America: CONFERENCE AGENDA

10-12 February 2025, University of Barcelona, Faculty of Law



DAY 1: 10 February 2025

Welcome and Keynote: 9:30-10:30

Andreu Olesti, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Barcelona

Parsifal D'Sola Alvarado, Executive Director of the Andrés Bello Foundation, China Latin America Research Center

Panel 1: 10:30-12:00

The Evolving Legal Landscape for Chinese Investment in Latin America: Perspectives from Peru, Brazil, and Ecuador

Chair: Anna Ayuso (CIDOB - Barcelona Centre for International Affairs)

Diana Patricia Mendoza Curas (Sinohydro Corporation Limited Sucursal del Perú) – Legal Framework Governing Chinese Infrastructure Investment in Peru: Analysis and Perspectives

Marco Germanò (New York University School of Law) – Between Clients and Best Friends: The Ecology of Legal Expertise for Chinese Capital in Brazil

Claudia Martínez Zúñiga (Center for China and Asia-Pacific Studies of the Universidad del Pacífico in Peru) and Ning Leng (McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University) – Legal Challenges for Chinese SOEs in the Infrastructure Sector in Peru

Carolina Fabara (Chinese University of Political Science and Law) and Wen Xiang (University of Copenhagen) – The Legal Aspect of China's Presence in Latin America: Supply Chains, Investment Law, and the EV Industry

Panel 2: 12:30-14:00

Chinese Investments in Latin America: Navigating Environmental and Human Rights Challenges

Chair: Parsifal D'Sola Alvarado (Andrés Bello Foundation, China Latin America Research Center)

Dian Wang (UNCITRAL) – Integrating Environmental and Human Rights into the Reform of Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) System: A Perspective from Chinese Investments in Latin America and the Caribbean

Andrea Freitas (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile) – FDI from China and Environmental Enforcement by Latin American Countries

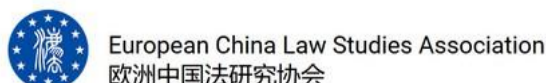
Yanmei Lin (Vermont Law and Graduate School (VLGS); U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law) – Transnational Cooperation for Environmental Justice: Chinese and Latin American Civil Societies in the Context of the Escazú Agreement

Gustavo Cardozo (Universidad Autónoma de Encarnación (UNAE)) – Legal Challenges of Chinese Megaprojects in the Brazilian Amazon: Indigenous Rights and Environmental Law under the Belt and Road Initiative

Researching Latin America Workshop: 15:00-16:00

Speakers: Ruben Gonzalez-Vicente (University of Birmingham); Juliana González Jáuregui (Argentina's National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET); Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO-Argentina))

Chair: Monika Prusinowska (University of Barcelona)



Panel 3: 16:15-18:00

China in Latin America: Geopolitical Shifts, Strategic Alignments, and Emerging Challenges

Chair: Larry Catá Backer (Pennsylvania State University)

Diego Telias (Universidad ORT Uruguay) – Strategies Towards a Great Power: Small States Alignment with China's Core Interests

Camilo Defelipe (Pontifical Xavierian University, Bogotá) – Contradictions and Advancements in the Social and Environmental Governance Norms of Chinese Investments in Latin America

José Luis Evia-Vizcarra (Catholic University of Bolivia) – Chinese Economic Presence and the Rule of Law: The Case of Bolivia

Andrés Bórquez (Universidad de Chile) – The Legal Framework of China's Engagement in Chile: Controversies in Foreign Direct Investment and Public Infrastructure Projects

Franco Renato Danós Lezama (University of Barcelona) – From Chancay to Shanghai: The New Silk Road. Lights and Shadows of the Port of Chancay in Peru

DAY 2: 11 February 2025

Panel 4: 10:00-11:30

Technology, Digital Governance, and Data Protection

Chair: Wim Muller (Maastricht University)

Maria Adele Carrai (New York University (NYU) Shanghai) – China's Normative Power in Digital Governance and its Impact on Latin America

Sebastián Dueñas Müller (Pontifical Catholic University of Chile) – Navigating China's Digital Silk Road in Latin America: Legal Challenges and Strategic Risks in Submarine Cable Infrastructure

Longjie José Wei (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid) – Comparison of Legal System on Personal Data Protection Law between China and Chile

Panel 5: 12:30-14:00

Resource Governance and Energy Transition

Chair: Mar Campins Eritja (University of Barcelona)

Xavier Fernández Pons (University of Barcelona) – China in Latin America for Critical Minerals and the Principle of Permanent Sovereignty of States over their Natural Resources: Leading by Example?

Luciana Denardi (National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET)–Argentina) and Juliana González Jáuregui (Argentina's National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET); Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO-Argentina)) – Regulatory Challenges of Chinese Presence in Argentina: Migration Policies and Lithium Investments

Stella Maris Juste (National Council of Scientific and Technical Research of Argentina (CONICET), National University of Jujuy) – Chinese Investment and Natural Resources in Latin America: Regulatory Framework for Lithium Production in Argentina and Mexico

Angélica Guerra-Barón (Universidad Científica del Sur) and Tatiana Gévez Rubio Colombia (Externado de Colombia University) – Legal Frameworks Governing Chinese Investments in South America's Lithium Sector: Focus on Energy Transition

Researching China Workshop 15:00-16:00

Speakers: Ming Du (Durham University) and Yanmei Lin (Vermont Law and Graduate School (VLGS); U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law)

Chair: Daniel Sprick (University of Cologne)

DAY 3: 12 February 2025

Panel 6: 10:00-11:45

China and Latin America: A Legal and Political Crossroads

Chair: José Peres Cajías (University of Barcelona)

Larry Catá Backer (Pennsylvania State University) – Interlocking Legalities of the Chinese Presence in Latin America and Its Perception: Theory, Operationalization, and Impact in Columbia

Andrew Yue Huang (China Latin American Law Research Center, Guangzhou University) – State Capitalism Abroad: The Model of Chinese Economic Expansion in Latin America

Cristina Font-Haro (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid) – Soft Power and Economic Dependency: China's Growing Influence on Latin American Foreign Policy

Margit Gehre Ramos (Environmental Law and Human Rights Specialist) – Paraguay's Diplomatic Dilemma: Navigating Legal and Economic Isolation in the Shadow of China's Influence in Latin America

Yin Wei (Southwest University of Political Science and Law) – Investment Treaty Paradigm Shift of Latin American Countries and Its Impact on China's Belt and Road Investment

Recommendations for Governments, Civil Society and Investors: 12:15-13:15

Conclusion and Outlook: 13:15-13:30

The conference address: Universitat de Barcelona, Facultat de Derecho, Av. Diagonal, 684, Barcelona, Aula Maria Soteras (New Building, 4th floor)

In case of questions, please contact the Project lead Dr. Monika Prusinowska at:
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