This half-day research presentation will focus on the effect of the China International Import Expo (CIIE) and China’s new round of opening-up, which are important research topics studied by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS), one of the top 25 high-level think tanks in China recognized by the CPC Central Committee.

CIIE is an annual trade fair held in China since 2018. It represents an important move of China to open its market and promote trade, while also serving as a platform for international cooperation for all countries to showcase their development achievements and discuss global economic and trade issues. To further elaborate the significance and dynamics of China’s opening-up strategy, scholars from SASS will give presentations based on their research findings from the following three perspectives:

I  **International trade:** how will the new strategy of opening-up affect global trade and international relations?

II  **Open innovation:** how will the normalization of the CIIE affect open innovation?

III  **Shanghai’s role:** in response to China’s new round of opening-up, which role will Shanghai play and how will it act?
Welcome remarks by Philippe PEYCAM, Director of the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), WANG Yumei, Research Professor, Vice President of Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS), ZHANG Guosheng, Economic and Commercial Counsellor of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

10:00-10:20

WANG Jian, Research Professor, Director, Institute of International Relations, SASS
Promote a High-quality Development of BRI with Openness, Green and Integrity

10:20-10:40

SU Ning, Associate Research Professor, Institute of World Economy, SASS
Toward Global City 2.0: The Role of CIIE on Enhancing Shanghai Global City Functions

10:40-11:00

Richard T. GRIFFITHS, Affiliated Fellow, International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS)
The Maritime Silk Road

11:00-11:15

Break with coffee and tea

11:15-11:35

KE Jing, Assistant Research Professor, Institute of International Relations, SASS
US-China Trade frictions, China’s New Opening-up Strategy and Europe

11:35-11:55

SUN Jie, Associate Research Professor, Institute of National Economy, SASS
Development of Shanghai Biopharmaceutical Industry with the Opening-up Strategy

11:55-12:15

SUN Lixing, Research Professor, Institute of World Economy, SASS
China’s Strategy in Expanding Opening-up and Deepening China-Netherlands International Cooperation

12:15-12:35

TANG Yunyi, Research Professor, Centre of International Competitiveness of New Economy and Industry, SASS
Improving Business Environment and the International Competitiveness of Industry in Shanghai

12:35-13:00

Q & A
SHANGHAI ACADEMY OF SOCIALLY SCIENCES

Founded in 1958 and administered by the Municipal Government of Shanghai, SASS is China’s oldest institution for the humanities and social sciences and is the largest one outside the capital of Beijing. Although SASS receives most of its funds from the municipal government of Shanghai, it also draws financial support from various non-governmental sources at home and abroad.

SASS is a distinguished academic institution in China and has been shortlisted into the first batch of national Top Think Tank Construction pilot units. SASS has 17 institutes and more than 20 interdisciplinary centers which conduct theoretical research and applied studies in humanities and social sciences, with a special focus on important issues arising from the current social and economic transformation and the country’s continual reform and development.

With its comprehensive research achievements, SASS contributes greatly to the nation and the municipality through its policy studies for government authorities, training, and consulting services. Its research findings and publications have been particularly influential with both policy-makers and the greater public.

SASS is administered by an executive leadership committee, which oversees all academic and administrative affairs. SASS currently has 745 employees, of which 475 are research staff. Among SASS researchers, there are 122 research professors and 161 associate research professors. SASS also has more than 20 honorary professors and specially invited professor.

SASS has signed over 80 cooperative agreements with international partners. Every year it hosts over 1000 foreign visitors and hundreds of international conferences, lectures and seminars, as is represented by bi-annual World Forum on China Studies, sponsored by the State Council Information Office and the Shanghai Municipal People’s Government, which sees over 500 participants at each session.

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IIAS INTRODUCTION

The International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) is a research and exchange platform based in Leiden, the Netherlands. Its objective is to encourage the interdisciplinary and comparative study of Asia and to promote (inter)national cooperation. IIAS focuses on the humanities and social sciences and on their interaction with other sciences. It stimulates scholarship on Asia and is instrumental in forging research networks among Asia Scholars. Its main research interests are Global Asia, Asian Heritages and Asian Cities.

Abstract

Eighty per cent of the volume of world trade is conducted by sea, forty per cent of it is conducted between the countries bordering the maritime silk road as it stretches from Russia and South Korea to Germany and Norway. The most valuable part of that trade is in manufactured goods, which account for seventy per cent, by value (though only twenty-three per cent by volume). Much of it is carried in containers. Possibly because of this, the container trade is the best studied branch of the modern maritime silk road. This lecture explores, in this context, how China’s Belt and Road initiative contributes to, and aligns itself with, the recent developments in trade and shipping along the seas and oceans of the Eurasian continent.

Biography

Richard T. Griffiths is emeritus professor of International Studies at Leiden University and Research Fellow at the International Institute for Asian Studies, where he directs its ‘New Silk Road’ research project. He is an expert of 19th and 20th century economic history and the history of European integration. He is the author of ‘Revitalising the Silk Road. China’s Belt and Road initiative in context’ (2017) and ‘The New Silk Road: Challenge and Response’ (2019). He is currently completing a monograph ‘The Maritime Silk Road. China’s Belt and Road at Sea’.