

China-U.S. Relations: A Way out of the Abyss?

Monday, November 22, 2021 | 3:30 – 5:00pm Hawaii; 8:30 - 10:00pm Washington DC

Thursday, November 11, 2021 | 9:30 – 11:00 am Beijing

Speaker Biographies



Rick WATERS

Deputy Assistant Secretary for China, Taiwan and Mongolia, Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs, US Department of State, Washington, DC [@USAsiaPacific](#)

Rick Waters is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for China, Taiwan and Mongolia in the Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs. In this role, he supervises the Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs and the Taiwan Coordination staff and has day-to-day responsibility for the diplomatic missions in China and Mongolia and the relationship with the American Institute in Taipei. His previous roles at the State Department include executive assistant to Under Secretary of State David Hale, director of the Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs, and political counselor positions at Embassies Beijing and Islamabad and Consulate General Jerusalem. Mr. Waters has served multiple tours in China including 1998-2001, during the accidental bombing of the Belgrade Embassy and the EP3 Hainan Island crisis. His department tours include staff assistant to Bill Burns, deputy director in the Office of Israeli-Palestinian Affairs, and Middle East action officer in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs. Mr. Waters speaks Mandarin, Arabic, and Spanish.



Mingjiang LI

Associate Professor and Provost's Chair in International Relations, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore [@JackLi72342096](#)

Mingjiang Li is an associate professor and provost chair in international relations at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. He is also coordinator of the PhD Program at RSIS. His main research interests include Chinese foreign policy, Chinese economic statecraft, the Belt and Road Initiative, Chinese politics, China-ASEAN relations, Sino-U.S. relations, and Asia-Pacific security. Dr. Li is the author, editor and co-editor of 15 books, including most recently *China's Economic Statecraft* (World Scientific, 2017) and *New Dynamics in US-China Relations: Contending for the Asia Pacific* (Routledge, 2014). He has published papers in various peer-reviewed outlets including *International Affairs*, *Asian Perspective*, *Asian Politics & Policy*, *Asian Security*, *Oxford Bibliographies*, *Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs*, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *Global Governance*, *Cold War History*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, the *Chinese Journal of International Politics*, the *Chinese Journal of Political Science*, *China: An International Journal*, *China Security*, *Harvard Asia Quarterly*, *Security Challenges*, and the *International Spectator*. He received his PhD in political science from Boston University.



Yun SUN

Senior Fellow and Co-Director of the East Asia Program and Director of the China Program at the Stimson Center, Washington, DC [@Stimson EAsia](#)

Yun Sun is a senior fellow and co-director of the East Asia Program and director of the China Program at the Stimson Center. Her expertise is in Chinese foreign policy, U.S.-China relations and China's relations with neighboring countries and authoritarian regimes. From 2011 to early 2014, she was a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution, jointly appointed by the Foreign Policy Program and the Global Development Program, where she focused on Chinese national security decision-making processes and China-Africa relations. From 2008 to 2011, Ms. Sun was the China analyst for the International Crisis Group (ICG) based in Beijing, specializing on China's foreign policy towards conflict countries and the developing world. Prior to ICG, she worked on U.S.-Asia relations in Washington, DC for five years. Ms. Sun earned her master's degree in international policy and practice from George Washington University, as well as a MA in Asia Pacific studies and a BA in international relations from Foreign Affairs College in Beijing.

Moderator:



Julie MCCARTHY

NPR Correspondent, Manila, Philippines [@JulieMcCarthyJM](#)

Julie McCarthy has spent most of her career traveling the world for NPR as a foreign correspondent. For more than 25 years she has criss-crossed Asia, Europe, the Middle East, South America, and South Asia covering wars, international affairs, economics, the arts, and sciences. Ms. McCarthy's first posting was in 1994, becoming the first staff correspondent in Japan, managing the Tokyo Bureau. She's recently returned to Asia to open the newest NPR overseas bureau in Manila. As NPR's Southeast Asia Correspondent, Ms. McCarthy has closely followed events in Hong Kong and the geopolitical developments in the South China Sea. She was honored this year with an Edward R. Murrow Award from the Radio Television Digital News Association as well as a Gracie Award from the Alliance of Women in Media for an investigation of a 75-year old atrocity committed in Japanese-occupied Philippines during WWII. Before her current posting, Ms. McCarthy served as NPR's New Delhi Correspondent for six years, focusing on women, caste, and the rise of Narendra Modi. She crossed the border from Pakistan, where she had established NPR's first permanent bureau in Islamabad and she won a Peabody Award for her coverage of Pakistan. She was named the Gracie Correspondent of the Year in 2011 and was honored with the Southeast Asia Journalists Association's Environmental Award for her coverage of Pakistan's 500-year flood in 2010. Ms. McCarthy covered South America as NPR's bureau chief in Rio de Janeiro from 2005-2009 and was based in the Middle East for NPR from 2002-05. As NPR's London bureau chief, she reported from NATO Headquarters and following the 9/11 terror attacks, Ms. McCarthy reported on al-Qaida in Europe, and travelled extensively in Iran to report on the Iranian reaction to Sept. 11th and the subsequent war in Afghanistan. Her coverage of the 1997 Asian economic crisis earned her the 1998 Overseas Press Club of America Award and her coverage of the 1995 Kobe earthquake, the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, and the turmoil over U.S. troops on Okinawa earned her the East-West Center's Mary Morgan Hewett Award for the Advancement of Journalism. Ms. McCarthy's Jefferson Fellowship at the East-West Center in 1994 helped launch her long career as an international correspondent for NPR. She holds degrees in literature and history, and is a lawyer by training.