

FUTURE TRAJECTORIES OF THE RUSSIA–CHINA RELATIONSHIP

On Thursday 25 January 2018, at 10:00–12:00
In the Auditorium of the Annex Building of the Parliament,
Arkadiankatu 3, Helsinki

With converging interests in their immediate neighborhood, dissatisfaction with real or perceived Western constraints on their geopolitical aspirations, and a common desire to create a more multi-polar world, the relationship between Beijing and Moscow has reassumed prominence in recent years. Today China is Russia's top trading partner, and both Beijing and Moscow are involved in regional institutions and groupings, such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and BRICS, that exist in parallel to, but are not integrated with, U.S.-led institutions. Since 2014 when sanctions precluded Western financing of some of Russia's key energy, infrastructure and transportation projects, China has become increasingly involved in these sectors of the Russian economy.

At the same time, historical complexities, power asymmetries and potential frictions in Sino-Russian relations have prompted questions about the states' cooperation. What are the Russian national security establishment's key priorities vis-à-vis China the run-up to what is likely to be President Putin's fourth presidential term? What role will Russia play in China's Belt and Road Initiative? How does this situation look from Washington and what are the implications for Europe and the West in general?

Programme:

Welcoming remarks: **Teija Tiilikainen**, Director, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Speakers:

Paul Stronski, Senior Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and author of forthcoming study on the Russian-Chinese relationship in Central Asia, the Russian Far East and Arctic.

Alexander Gabuev, Chair of the Russia in Asia Program, Carnegie Moscow Center

Xin Zhang, Assistant Professor, School of Advanced International and Area Studies, East China Normal University

Comments: **Jyrki Kallio**, Senior Research Fellow, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs

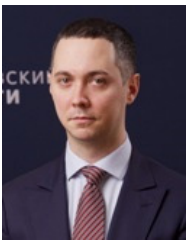
Chair: **Arkady Moshes**, Programme Director, the Finnish Institute of International Affairs



Teija Tiilikainen is the Director of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA). Previously, Dr. Tiilikainen was the Director of the Network of European Studies at the University of Helsinki (2003–2009). She has also served as Secretary of State at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland from 2007 to 2008. Dr. Tiilikainen was the Special Representative of the Prime Minister of Finland in the Convention on the Future of Europe in 2002–2003. Currently, she is also Editor-in-Chief of *Ulkopolitiikka* – the Finnish Journal of Foreign Affairs.



Paul Stronski is a senior fellow in Carnegie’s Russia and Eurasia Program, where his research focuses on the relationship between Russia and neighboring countries in Central Asia and the South Caucasus. Until January 2015, Stronski served as a senior analyst for Russian domestic politics in the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Intelligence and Research. He was director for Russia and Central Asia on the U.S. National Security Council Staff from 2012 to 2014. Stronski has taught history and post-Soviet affairs at Stanford, George Mason, and George Washington universities. He is the author of *Tashkent: Forging a Soviet City, 1930–1966* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010). Since the mid-1990s, he has undertaken extensive research and work experience in Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Armenia.



Alexander Gabuev is a senior fellow and the chair of the Russia in the Asia-Pacific Program at the Carnegie Moscow Center. His research is focused on Russia’s policy toward East and Southeast Asia, political and ideological trends in China, and China’s relations with its neighbors—especially those in Central Asia. Prior to joining Carnegie, Gabuev was a member of the editorial board of *Kommersant* publishing house and served as deputy editor in chief of *Kommersant-Vlast*, one of Russia’s most influential newsweeklies. Gabuev started his career at *Kommersant* in 2007 working as a senior diplomatic reporter, as a member of then president Dmitry Medvedev’s press corps, and as deputy foreign editor for *Kommersant*. Gabuev has previously worked as a nonresident visiting research fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) and taught courses on Chinese energy policy and political culture at Moscow State University.



Zhang Xin is an Assistant Professor and Faculty Fellow at the School of Advanced International and Area Studies of the East China Normal University in Shanghai. Previously he was a Research Associate at the Centre for Co-development with Neighboring Countries, Center for Russian Studies, East China Normal University. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California (2010). His research interests include comparative political economy, international development, Russia and Eurasia, corporate foreign policy and global governance.



Jyrki Kallio is Senior Research Fellow at the FIIA. Prior to joining the Institute, he worked for fifteen years as a diplomat in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. His research interests include Chinese political culture and foreign policy, and regional issues in East Asia. He has a special interest in the instrumentalization of traditional schools of thought in East Asian politics, and is the editor and translator of *Mestari Kongin keskustelut – Kungfutselaisuuden ydinolemus* (Gaudeamus).



Arkady Moshes is the Programme Director of the EU’s Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia research programme at the FIIA. From 2008 to 2015 he was an Associate Fellow with the Russia and Eurasia Programme at Chatham House. He received his PhD from the Institute of Europe, Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. His main areas of expertise include Russia–EU relations and the internal and foreign policy of Ukraine and Belarus. He has written extensively on those issues, as well as on Russia’s policy toward the CIS and Baltic States.