

BLUE CHINA: IMPLICATIONS FOR EUROPE OF CHINA'S MARITIME SILK ROAD

On Wednesday 25 April 2018, at 10:00–11:30
At the Seminar Hall
Arkadiankatu 23, entrance H (inner courtyard), Helsinki

In November 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping launched the Maritime Silk Road (MSR) initiative during a state visit to Indonesia. The Maritime Silk Road is about geopolitics and influence, but Europeans should not overlook the importance of the 'blue economy' for China, nor should they dismiss the Maritime Silk Road as simply an exercise of public diplomacy. In fact, Chinese actions already affect European interests in areas such as maritime trade and shipbuilding, as well as through emerging growth niches in the blue economy, the global presence of the Chinese Navy and geopolitics and the global competition for influence. This seminar will address what China has already achieved and highlights the maritime areas where China is set to grow in importance in the next five years.

Opening remarks: **Mika Aaltola**, Programme Director, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Speaker: **Mathieu Duchâtel**, Deputy Director, Senior Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations

Comments: **Marcin Kaczmarek**, Senior Research Fellow, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Chair: **Bart Gaens**, Project Director, Senior Research Fellow, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Speakers' biographies 

Biographies



Mika Aaltola is the Programme Director of the Global Security research programme at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. His areas of expertise are US foreign and domestic policies as well as the international system and major-power relations. He has been a visiting researcher in universities in the US and France, and he holds the rank of docent from the University of Tampere.



Mathieu Duchâtel is Senior Policy Fellow and Deputy Director of the Asia and China Programme at the European Council of Foreign Relations. Based in the Paris office of the ECFR, he works on Asian security, with a focus on maritime affairs, the Korean peninsula, China's foreign policy and EU-China relations. Before joining ECFR in November 2015, he was Senior Researcher and the Representative in Beijing of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (2011-2015), Research Fellow with Asia Centre in Paris (2007-2011) and Associate Researcher based in Taipei with Asia Centre (2004-2007). He holds a Ph.D in political science from the Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po, Paris). He has spent a total of nine years in Shanghai (Fudan University), Taipei (National Chengchi University) and Beijing, and has been visiting scholar at the School of International Studies of Peking University in 2011/2012 and the Japan Institute of International Affairs in 2015.



Bart Gaens currently works as Senior Research Fellow at the FIIA. He is also Specially-Appointed Associate Professor at the University of Osaka, Japan. In the recent past he has worked as Acting Professor of Japanese Studies at the University of Helsinki. He has published on Europe-Asia inter-regional relations with a special focus on the ASEM process. His research interests further include Japan's foreign and security policy and the country's role in East Asian integration.



Marcin Kaczmarek currently works as Senior Research Fellow at the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Russia research programme in FIIA. His research interests include Russia-China relations, Russia's foreign policy, great-power regionalism. He was a visiting scholar at Aberystwyth University (UK), Chengchi University (Taiwan), Slavic-Eurasian Research Center (Japan) and Aleksanteri Institute (Finland). He combined his scholarly research at the University of Warsaw with policy analysis for the Warsaw-based think-tank, Centre for Eastern Studies, OSW. He is the author of *Russia-China Relations in the Post-Crisis International Order* (Routledge 2015). He published recently in *International Affairs* and *Europe-Asia Studies*. He blogs on current developments in Russia-China relations at www.RussiaChinaRelations.com.