



**CENTRE FOR
ASIAN AFFAIRS**
University of Lodz

PAMPHLET

www.osa.uni.lodz.pl



The Centre for Asian Affairs of the University of Lodz is the first university think-tank in Poland that brings together experts on Asian issues. Monthly publications significantly build understanding of the dynamics of East Asia, and the CAA team provides substantive support for political and business activities in East Asia. Through cooperation in the international consortium EastAsiaNet and projects implemented as part of grants from the National Science Center, KGHM, University of Lodz IDUB and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, the activities of the center fit into the remit of Asian research centers on a national and international scale.

Elżbieta Żądzińska, Professor,
Rector of the University of Lodz

In the context of the changing international reality, the research undertaken by the Centre for Asian Affairs of the University of Lodz, namely the economic, political and societal studies in East Asia and Southeast Asia region - is an important contribution to understanding the dynamics of contemporary conditions on the ground. The Centre for Asian Affairs' team consists of experts with experience of studying and working in China, Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam. The conducted projects and articles published prove that the work carried out by the team is highly appreciated in the scientific field and is also used in decision-making processes, both in the political and economic arenas.



Dominik Mierzejewski, Associate Professor,
Chair at the Centre for Asian Affairs

COOPERATION/PUBLICATION



ABOUT US

The Centre for Asian Affairs (CAA) is **the first university think-tank in Poland dealing with the issues of East Asia**. The Centre's team has many years of experience in Asian matters, gained during studies in China, Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam, and then working as academics, consultants and interpreters. The Centre's analysts **conduct research on the issues regarding the domestic and foreign policies** of the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Korean Peninsula, and the countries of Southeast Asia.



TEAM

The team of the Centre for Asian Affairs consists of **specialists with very good substantive preparation and extensive practical experience combined with a knowledge of Asian languages**. We cooperate with business and political practitioners actively involved in shaping relations with Asian entities.

We act to strengthen the substantive base of state and local government administration, as well as the business environment, institutions and entrepreneurs cooperating with Asian partners, identify and areas of cooperation and challenges, and participate in public debate in the local, national, and European arenas.


DOMINIK MIERZEJEWSKI - Chair at CAA UL

university professor at the Faculty of International and Political Studies; Chinese language studies at Shanghai International Studies University; internship at the Heritage Foundation in Washington; visiting professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing; principal investigator and co-investigator of the NSC, Horizon 2020 and MFA grants; specializes in the rhetoric of Chinese diplomacy, the political transformation of the PRC, and the role of provinces in Chinese foreign policy.

 @d_mierzejewski

中国


BARTOSZ KOWALSKI - research associate at CAA UL

assistant professor at the Faculty of International and Political Studies; PhD in political science; Chinese language studies at Shandong University in Jinan and Yunnan Shifan University in Kunming; head of the IDUB UŁ grant; co-investigator in research grants of the National Science Center, MFA and KGHM Polska Miedź; specializes in China's relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, China's policy in the post-Soviet region and the recent history of Xinjiang.

 @BartekKowalski1

中国


MARCIN SOCHA - research associate at CAA UL

assistant professor at the Faculty of International and Political Studies; PhD in political science; Japanese language studies at Kwansai Gakuin University; scholarship holder of the Japanese Foundation; co-investigator in grants from the National Science Center and MFA; head of the Regional Center for International Debate; contractor of training and consulting projects in the field of development of the renewable energy sector; specializes in Japan's climate policy, social and cultural changes in Japan, and Japan's investment policy.

 @MarcinSocha87

日本


JOANNA BECZKOWSKA - research associate at CAA UL

assistant professor at the Faculty of International and Political Studies; PhD in political science; MA in Cultural Studies, Korean language studies at Korea University in Seoul; contractor in the Regional Center for International Debate project; contractor in the IDUB University of Lodz grant; author of publications dedicated to the formation of Korean identity; specializes in the issues of South Korean national identity, relations between South Korea and Central European countries, and inter-Korean relations.

 @beczkowska_joan

한국



MATEUSZ CHATYS - research associate at CAA UL

PhD in political science; Chinese language studies at Hainan University; EU Window Chinese Government Scholarship in China; coordinator of a team of volunteers during the "Understanding Poland" summer school for students from China; co-investigator in grants of the National Science Centre, MFA and KGHM and Horizon 2020; specializes in economic diplomacy and China's foreign policy towards ASEAN countries.

 @mateusz_chatys



PRZEMYSŁAW CIBOREK - research associate at CAA UL

PhD in political science; Chinese language studies at TUST in Tianjin; trainee at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Beijing; coordinator of the "Understanding Poland" summer school for students from China; co-investigator in grants of the National Science Center, MFA and KGHM; internship at the Sigur Center at George Washington University; specializes in the political and economic relations of the People's Republic of China with the countries of the Balkan Peninsula and Chinese policy in the United Nations.

 @przemek_ciborek

中国
ASEAN

中国
UN

ASSOCIATES

JOANNA CIESIELSKA-KLIKOWSKA, assistant professor at the Faculty of International and Political Studies UL, PhD political scientist and German expert, assistant professor at the Faculty of International and Political Studies UL; DAAD scholarship holder at Technische Universität Chemnitz, lecturer at the summer school at Universität des Saarlandes in Saarbrücken; collaborates with the Otto-von-Guericke-Universität in Magdeburg; co-investigator in NSC grants; specializes in German foreign policy in the context of German-Chinese relations and the German perception of Chinese activity in Europe.

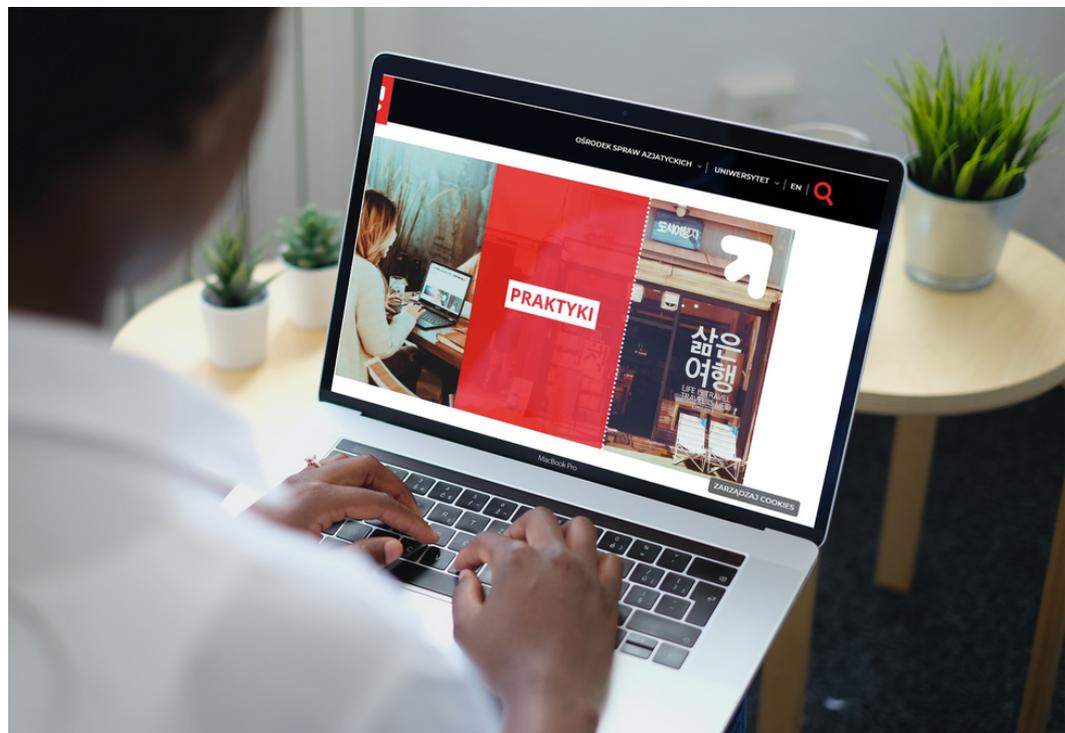
MICHAŁ ZARĘBA, assistant professor at the Faculty of International and Political Studies UL; PhD in political science; Vietnamese language studies at Hanoi University; organizer of scientific expeditions to Southeast Asia: Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia; and to Thailand, Burma/Myanmar, Malaysia and Vietnam; contractor of the RODM project of the MFA of the Republic of Poland and organizer of Asian debates; specializes in hydro politics in the Southeast Asian region, and social as well as economic changes in Vietnam.

ADRIAN BRONA, PhD lecturer at the Institute of the Middle and Far East, Jagiellonian University, conducts research into the Provincial Committees of the CCP, financed by the National Science Center under the auspices of the Preludium program, specializes in the internal and foreign policy of the PRC.

JOANNA NAWROTKIEWICZ, MA, a graduate of sinology and law at the MISHS College of the University of Warsaw; winner of the Diamond Grant; scholarship holder of the Rowny-Paderewski Foundation, DAAD and the Minister of Science and Higher Education; graduate of the TFAS program in Washington, where she studied at George Mason University; cooperates with institutions including the National Bureau of Asian Research and the Polish-Chinese Education Foundation, specializes in historical narratives and historical politics of the PRC.

INTERNSHIP

The Centre for Asian Affairs invites students to cooperate as part of CAA internships. During the internship, trainees prepare materials that are the basis for CAA publication. The main task of interns is to query and prepare materials related to the current situation in East and Southeast Asia.



Contact for internships:



OSA@uni.lodz.pl

PUBLICATIONS

The Centre for Asian Affairs regularly publishes analysis and comments:

CAA MONITORS

Monitors is a **wide-ranging review of political, economic, and social events** taking place in the countries of East Asia, accompanied by comments from the Centre's specialists. The centre publishes five monthly monitors: China Monitor, Japan Monitor, Korea Monitor, ASEAN Monitor and China in the UN. These monthly studies contain a compendium of current events, with particular emphasis on the activity of Asian countries in the region of Central and Eastern Europe.

CAA BLOG/FOCUS

BLOG/FOCUS is a **brief analysis** of political and economic events which is published on an ongoing basis by the employees of the Centre for Asian Affairs of the University of Lodz in the form of blog comments and brief in-focus entries. **The CAA Blog** discusses the internal political situation and foreign policy of China, Japan and Korea. **The Focus CAA** series, on the other hand, focuses on short comments on the activities of China, Japan and South Korea in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans and their policy towards ASEAN.



REPORTS

The team at the Centre for Asian Affairs **prepares reports and studies commissioned by central and local government authorities and business environment institutions.** We have prepared reports commissioned by the Łódź Special Economic Zone, the Office of the Marshal of the Łódź Voivodeship, and reports with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and the KGHM Polska Miedź Foundation. The topics of the reports included the issue of investments in photovoltaic energy, promotion of agricultural products of the Łódź Voivodeship in China, and political and economic relations between China and Central European countries from local and central perspectives.

Find published reports here:

www.osa.uni.lodz.pl/en/reports

COMMENTARY

In English, we publish commentaries on current political and economic events related to the domestic and foreign policies of China, Japan, South Korea, and ASEAN countries. These short-form opinions are intended to **present the opinions of the experts** of the Centre for Asian Affairs to a wider audience on an international scale.

CAA PAPERS

The Centre for Asian Affairs Papers (CAA Papers) are **current analyses of developments in Asia**. These studies mainly concern the internal politics in China and Japan as well as the foreign activity of both countries, including their regional impact. In addition, we bring our readers closer to the dynamics of the situation on the Korean Peninsula, as well as the escalating Sino-American rivalry in Southeast Asia. In CAA Papers, we present a wide range of different ideas and views, providing an excellent platform for exploring new processes taking place in the East Asian region.

CAA BRIEFS

The Centre for Asian Affairs Brief (CAA Brief) is an English-language publication that aims to provide **a short and accessible presentation of contemporary changes and processes** as well as international interactions taking place in the East and South-East Asia region. The CAA Brief series also includes analyses of Asian countries' domestic policies and their implications for the situation in the region. These publications are also a form of recommendations for central and local authorities as well as the European Commission.

PODCASTS AND DEBATES

The "Asian Debates of the University of Lodz" project was created in response to the growing demand for knowledge and the public debate on **the role of Asia in international relations**. This project aims to become a permanent part of the scope of social responsibility of science and the dissemination of scientific research. The project provides for the recording of scientific debates and podcasts. The topics are based on research carried out by experts from Poland and abroad. The form of dissemination of research online is both a platform for scientists to exchange views (debates) and present research results (podcasts), as well as a modern form of enabling a wider audience to access knowledge in the field of social sciences.

Published videos and podcasts:
www.osa.uni.lodz.pl/en/asian-debates



**ASIAN
DEBATES**

PROJECTS

The Centre for Asian Affairs carries out research projects related to Asia:

CHINA'S GLOBAL IDENTITY

The National Science Centre (NSC) OPUS 9 grant

The research project, "Ideas and Identities in Chinese Foreign Policy, presents the evolution and changes taking place in the Central State/China in relation to ideological discussions shaping China's international identity. The main goal of the project is to create a model based on constructivist considerations based on the three main identity matrices of China in foreign policy: statehood, Marxism-Leninism, and culture.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN PRC

NSC OPUS13 grant

The research project, "The Roles of Local Authorities in China's Foreign Policy", analyzes the evolution of the role of local authorities in China's foreign policy during the post-1978 reform and opening up period. The economization of Chinese foreign policy and the increase in interaction with the outside world resulted in increased competition and rivalry between Chinese regions, with the central authorities having to react dynamically to the needs of local entities in external policy. The project assumes that as the external interaction of local actors increased, so did their internal influence, which led to the need to centralize their tasks in China's foreign policy under the Belt and Road Initiative.

CHINA IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

NSC OPUS17 grant

The research project, "The Belt and Road Initiative in Developing Countries: The People's Republic of China as a Multilateral and Normative Power", is a response to extensive discussions on China's growing role in international relations. Based on the analysis conducted by a research team in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America, the project presents Chinese multilateral mechanisms and normative influence in the context of the following formats: ASEAN+1, 16+1 (China-Central and Eastern European cooperation format), China-Central Europe Cooperation Forum Africa (FOCAC) and the China-Latin America and Caribbean Forum (China-CELAC).



CHINESE MULTILATERALISM IN PRC-US RELATIONS**support from the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange**

The aim of the research is to identify the premises of the foreign policy of the People's Republic of China towards the countries of Central and Eastern Europe under the 16+1 cooperation mechanism, with particular emphasis on Sino-American interactions. The research focuses on the following issues: to what extent is China's policy in Southern Europe part of China's policy towards the US; how can the two powers cooperate in the wider area of South-North transport corridors in Central and Eastern Europe; what are the main motivations of Central and Eastern European countries in cooperation with China? The project is carried out in cooperation with the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, Elliott School of International Affairs, and George Washington University.

**PRC-USA IN THE ERA OF COVID-19****Univeristy of Lodz grant**

The project, "Political and economic interactions of the People's Republic of China with the United States in the era of COVID-19", aims to identify and analyze challenges for the liberal global order and the impact of the pandemic on the ongoing changes in the global balance of power. The aim of the project is to create a map of interactions between China and the United States, which have a decisive influence on the redefinition of the international system. The starting point of the project is the analysis of building competitive advantages of the People's Republic of China, which is based on the development of new technologies in the era of the "fourth industrial revolution".

CHINESE DIPLOMACY TOWARDS SOUTHEAST ASIA**The Faculty of International and Political Studies of the University of Lodz grant**

The research project focuses on the changes in Chinese foreign policy towards Southeast Asia since Xi Jinping took power in 2012. The aim of the project is to investigate how China uses the patron-client concept in peripheral diplomacy towards countries involved in territorial disputes in the South China Sea. The project is carried out in cooperation with the S.Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) research center in Singapore.



CHINA IN CEE AND 16+1

Financing from the KGHM Polska Miedź Foundation

The aim of the research project, "Economic and political activity of the People's Republic of China in the region of Central and Eastern Europe", is to explain the role of the Chinese 16+1 multilateral mechanism in the CEE region and to determine its effectiveness. For this purpose, the declarative sphere of the format was subjected to a detailed analysis, interpreting the official communiqués published after the summits of the heads of government of the countries involved in the aforementioned mechanism of cooperation.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN 16+1 FORMAT

Support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

The research project, "Interactions of local authorities in the 16+1 format", analyzes how local administration is used by the central government of the People's Republic of China for international activities, with particular emphasis on the countries from the 16+1 format. Firstly, the activities of Chinese local authorities in the international arena were discussed. Then they were compared with the activity within the 16+1 format, where all messages issued by leaders after the format's summits were subjected to a qualitative analysis in terms of references to interactions between local authorities.

Detailed project descriptions with publications:
www.osa.uni.lodz.pl/en/projects



SUMMER SCHOOL



The Asian Affairs Center is also the organizer of **the largest summer school in the region of Central and Eastern Europe for partner universities from China**. Since 2017, a total of over 500 students and academic teachers from about 20 universities from the People's Republic of China have come to the University of Lodz. Students participated in lectures about Poland: history, art, and traditions, as well as optional trips to Warsaw, the Łódź region and a special guided tour of Łódź.



IN MEDIA

The experts of the Centre for Asian Affairs cooperate with the media, giving interviews and commenting on the current situation in East Asia.



CAA EXPERTS' MEDIA COOPERATION INCLUDE:

7.05.2022 r.



Commentary in a **Radio RMF24** broadcast on **inflation policy** in Japan.

11.05.2022 r.



Commentary on **Radio TOK FM** about the **presidential election** in the Philippines.

19.08.2022 r.



Commentary for the British **"The New Statesman"** on **Sino-Serbian cooperation**.

01.09.2022 r.



Participation in the **"Without Passport"** podcast on **Serbian foreign policy**.

15.09.2022

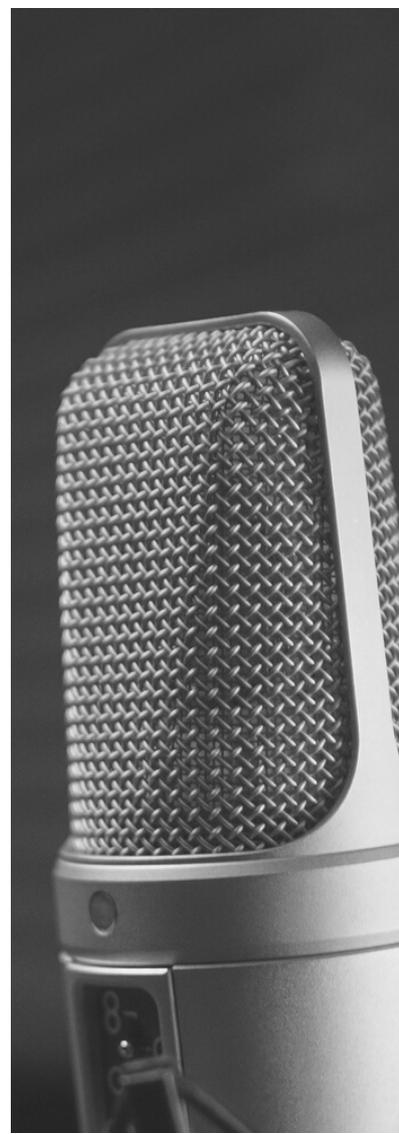


Commentary for **"the South China Morning Post"** on **Li Zhanshu's statements** in Moscow.

19.09.2022 r.



Interview for **"300 Gospodarka"** about the **involvement of the Republic of Korea** in Central Europe.



COOPERATION

The team of CAA experts, based on experience and knowledge, offers the preparation of analyses, reports, consulting as well as training and webinars for local government authorities and business environment institutions.

- ANALYZES AND REPORTS
- TRAINING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
- TRAINING FOR BUSINESS
- COOPERATION WITH THE MEDIA
- JOINT PROJECTS WITH OTHER RESEARCH CENTERS AND THINK-TANKS

The Centre for Asian Affairs works to strengthen the substantive base of state and local government administration as well as business environment institutions and entrepreneurs cooperating with Asian partners; identify and indicate areas of cooperation with Asia by participating in public debate at the local, national, and European level; support and development of cooperation with Asia at the civic level and building public understanding to develop contacts with the countries of the region.

CONTACT



Franciszkańska 1/5 Street (room 205)
91-431, Łódź
tel. 42 665 54 82



OSA@uni.lodz.pl



www.osa.uni.lodz.pl



[@CAAUniLodz](https://twitter.com/CAAUniLodz)



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