



FINNISH INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

THE FINNISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
CENTER ON US POLITICS AND POWER (CUSPP)

6TH ANNUAL HELSINKI SUMMER SESSION

Rising Rivalry? US-China Relations in an Age of Competition

26-29 August 2019

Dear Xing Li,

The 6th Annual Helsinki Summer Session is a high-level annual conference organized by the Center on US Politics and Power (CUSPP) at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA). This year's event will take place from 26 to 29 August 2019, bringing together academic researchers and policy experts from Asia, Europe and the United States to discuss the future of the US-China relationship. The three-day interdisciplinary conference includes public plenary sessions and panel discussions as well as closed thematic workshops.

It is our pleasure to invite you to this conference as a keynote speaker. Other invited speakers include James J. Przystup, Amy Studdart and Frank Rose.

During the conference, you will be a guest of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, and we will provide your return flight to Helsinki (economy class), meals and local accommodation.

The outcomes of the conference will be published in a FIIA report, to appear in 2020. Already at this stage, we cordially invite you to contribute a chapter to this report. We will provide an honorarium to all authors.

We are convinced that you will make an invaluable contribution to the conference. Please let us know at your earliest convenience whether you are able to accept this invitation.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Project Manager Marie-Louise Hindsberg (Marie-Louise.Hindsberg@fiia.fi or +358 9 432 7712).

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bart Gaens', with a stylized, cursive script.

Bart Gaens,
Project Director and Senior Research Fellow



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Short outline of the conference theme:

Rising Rivalry? US-China Relations in an age of competition

Relations between the United States and China have become noticeably strained in the past few years. Talk of a new great power rivalry between the most important players in the international arena has proliferated in the speeches of politicians, the media and the research community.

In Washington, there is profound disappointment over recent domestic developments in China, as well as its more assertive grand-strategic posture in the economic and military domains. Beijing, meanwhile, seems intent on challenging US hegemony not only in the Asia-Pacific, but also globally through forays like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). Overall, it appears that the two most powerful states in the international system will find it increasingly difficult to find common ground on vital strategic, institutional and normative questions in the future.

Against this backdrop, the Sixth Annual Helsinki Summer Session focuses on the multifaceted nature of the US-China relationship. Beyond the geostrategic and geoeconomic dynamics driving the emerging great power rivalry, the event will also explore future prospects for contestation and engagement in key issue areas, such as arms control, trade, technology and infrastructure.