



**First International Conference on  
"Rethinking International Relations in an Age of Uncertainty"**

**Hybrid Event**

- In-person at Ng Teng Fong· Sino Group Belt and Road Research Institute, Hong Kong Chu Hai College, Hong Kong SAR, China.
- Online via Zoom

**Timeline:**

- **Abstract Submission Deadline:** 29 May 2025
- **Notifications of Abstract Acceptance:** 10 June 2025
- **Full Article Submission Deadline:** 30 July 2025
- **Final List of Accepted Presenters:** 1 September 2025
- **Conference Dates:** 14-15 November 2025 (Friday-Saturday)

**Organized by:**

Ng Teng Fong· Sino Group Belt and Road Research Institute, Hong Kong Chu Hai College, Hong Kong, China.

**Overview:**

The international system is undergoing profound transformations driven by geopolitical rivalries, technological advancements, climate crises, and evolving economic paradigms. This conference aims to bring together scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and thought leaders from around the world to critically examine these shifts, explore their implications, and propose pathways for a resilient and equitable global future. Under the theme ***Rethinking International Relations in an Age of Uncertainty***, we will address the forces reshaping global governance, security, economics, and societal structures.

## Call for Papers and Participation:

We invite submissions for papers, panel discussions, and presentations that align with the conference theme. Submissions should explore the current state of the international system and its ongoing changes.

## Important Deadlines:

1. **Abstract Submission:** The deadline for abstract submissions is **29 May 2025**. Abstracts must be 200–300 words and accompanied by a 150-word author biography, including the author's ORCID iD and Google Scholar page link. Please specify your preference for attending the conference in-person or online. Notifications of acceptance will be sent to successful applicants by **10 June 2025**.
2. **Full Article Submission:** Authors with accepted abstracts must submit their full articles, ranging from 3,000 to 5,000 words, by **30 July 2025**. Accepted papers will be published in either an *edited book* or a special issue of the *Hong Kong Review of Belt and Road Studies* Journal, with publication scheduled for 2026.
3. **Final Announcement:** The list of accepted articles and presenters will be announced by 1 September 2025.

## Submission

Email abstracts to: [obor.events@chuhai.edu.hk](mailto:obor.events@chuhai.edu.hk)

## Conference Structure:

The conference will feature 6 panels across two days. Authors are encouraged to select one of the designated topics for their submissions; however, they are not strictly limited to these options. If your proposed topic is broadly aligned with the overarching themes and objectives of the conference, even if it does not directly correspond to any of the specified panels, we warmly invite you to submit your paper. Our conference is committed to supporting diverse perspectives and innovative contributions that enrich the dialogue, and we are here to assist you in presenting your work.

## Conference Program (Tentative) – Subject to Change

**Please Note:** This schedule is preliminary and serves as an initial guide to the timeline. Additional details and updates will be shared as they are finalized. Panels timings are subject to potential adjustments.

### Day 1: Geopolitical Dynamics and Power Transitions

#### Panel 1: The Rise of Multipolarity: Redefining Global Power Dynamics

**Time:** Friday, November 14, 2025, (9:00–12:00) (Hong Kong Time Zone)

1. What are the key indicators of the decline of unipolarity in the international system and what are the implications of the decline of unipolarity for global governance and multilateral institutions?

2. Is the decline of unipolarity leading to a more stable or unstable international order? Why or why not?
3. How has the U.S. foreign policy approach accelerated the decline of its unipolar dominance?
4. How has multipolarity influenced regional power dynamics in Asia, Europe, and Africa?
5. What role do regional organizations (e.g., ASEAN, EU, African Union) play in a multipolar world?
6. How are middle powers (e.g., South Korea, Turkey, Indonesia) navigating the rise of multipolarity?
7. How does multipolarity affect global trade, investment, and economic interdependence?
8. What are the implications of multipolarity for global financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank?
9. What are the risks of increased geopolitical competition in a multipolar world?
10. Is multipolarity more likely to foster cooperation or competition among major powers?

## **Panel 2: Rising Powers and the International System**

**Time: Friday, November 14, 2025, 12:00–15:00 (Hong Kong Time Zone)**

1. How do middle powers collaborate to counterbalance the dominance of superpowers like the U.S. and China?
2. Can rising powers in the Global South form a cohesive bloc to challenge Western hegemony?
3. How do middle powers navigate the tension between regional leadership and global integration?
4. How do middle powers like India, South Korea, Japan, Iran, Turkey, Australia, Indonesia, and Brazil shape the dynamics and influence within their regional spheres?
5. What role do rising powers play in reforming international institutions like the UN Security Council?
6. How are middle powers using soft power (e.g., culture, technology) to gain global influence?
7. How do middle powers balance military modernization with diplomatic engagement?
8. What challenges do rising powers face in gaining recognition from established superpowers?
9. How are middle powers contributing to global cybersecurity norms and frameworks?
10. Can coalitions of rising and middle powers (e.g., BRICS,) reshape economic governance?

## **Panel 3: China's Belt and Road Initiative and Global Influence**

**Time: Friday, November 14, 2025, 15:00–18:00 (Hong Kong Time Zone)**

1. What role does the BRI play in China's vision for a new global order?
2. How has the BRI influenced global trade patterns and economic connectivity?
3. What are the economic benefits and risks for participating countries in the BRI?

4. How does the BRI challenge or complement existing global economic institutions like the World Bank and IMF?
5. How has the BRI enhanced China's geopolitical influence in regions like Asia, Africa, and Europe?
6. How have regional powers (e.g., India, Japan) responded to the BRI, and what are their concerns?
7. What are the perspectives of European countries on the BRI, particularly in light of EU-China relations?
8. How has the BRI influenced China's relationships with African nations?
9. What are the implications of the BRI for U.S. and Western influence in the developing world?
10. How does the BRI contribute to China's soft power and global image?

## **Day 2 conference: Global Economy in Flux**

### **Panel 4: Trade Wars and Economic Decoupling**

**Time: Saturday, November 15, 2025, 9:00–12:00 (Hong Kong Time Zone)**

1. How have U.S.-China trade tensions impacted global supply chains and economic stability?
2. What strategies can countries adopt to mitigate the negative effects of U.S.-China trade tensions?
3. How has the U.S.-China trade war influenced global trade rules and institutions like the WTO?
4. What are the geopolitical implications of the U.S.-China trade war?
5. What role do regional trade agreements play in mitigating the effects of economic decoupling?
6. How has the U.S.-China trade war accelerated the formation of regional trade blocs?
7. How can countries build more resilient and sustainable supply chains in a fragmented global economy?
8. How can countries balance the need for economic security with the benefits of global economic integration?
9. Is economic decoupling a sustainable long-term strategy, or will it lead to greater global fragmentation?
10. How will the economic interdependence of nations evolve under a multipolar power structure?

### **Panel 5: Digital Economies and Cryptocurrencies**

**Time: Saturday, November 15, 2025, 12:00–15:00 (Hong Kong Time Zone)**

1. How do digital economies affect traditional industries and business models?
2. How do cryptocurrencies impact global financial stability and monetary policy?
3. What are the environmental implications of cryptocurrency mining and energy consumption?
4. What are the ethical and legal challenges associated with cryptocurrencies, such as money laundering and fraud?
5. How does the digitization of financial systems impact global economic security?
6. How do international sanctions intersect with digital security measures in global politics?
7. Can cryptocurrencies effectively undermine economic sanctions imposed by Western nations?
8. How can cryptocurrencies bridge the financial inclusion gap in developing countries?

9. Can digital currencies empower Global South nations to resist economic dominance by the Global North?
10. What is the future of digital economies and cryptocurrencies in a rapidly evolving technological landscape?

### **Panel 6: Artificial Intelligence and Global Governance**

**Time: Saturday, November 15, 2025, 15:00–18:00 (Hong Kong Time Zone)**

1. How does AI-powered disinformation threaten democratic governance worldwide?
2. How do digital transformations in military technology (e.g., drones, AI) reshape global power dynamics?
3. What are the security consequences of AI-driven deepfakes in international diplomacy?
4. How are terrorist organizations exploiting digital platforms for recruitment and coordination?
5. How do AI and digital tools challenge traditional notions of sovereignty in security matters?
6. Can AI help address global challenges like climate change through coordinated governance?
7. How does the AI race between the U.S. and China affect global governance structures?
8. How does AI challenge traditional notions of sovereignty in international relations?
9. What are the geopolitical consequences of AI monopolies held by a few nations or corporations?
10. How does AI affect the power dynamics between state actors and non-state actors in governance?

### **Registration:**

This conference is **free for all attendees**, both in-person and online.

### **Note for Presenters:**

Presenters who wish to attend the conference in person are responsible for covering their own expenses, including travel and accommodation. The conference organizers are unable to provide financial support for attendees.

### **Language of the Conference:**

The conference will be conducted entirely in **English**. All presentations, papers, and discussions must be prepared and delivered in English to ensure clear communication and accessibility for all participants.

## **Full Article Guideline**

### **Word Limit**

- The maximum length for full papers is 5,000 words, including the abstract, main text, references, tables, and footnotes.

### **Formatting Requirements**

- File Format: Submit your paper as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx).
- Font: Use Times New Roman, 12-point font size.
- Spacing: Double-space the main text; single-space references and footnotes.
- Margins: Set 1-inch (2.54 cm) margins on all sides.
- Page Numbers: Include page numbers in the bottom right corner.
- Title Page: Include a separate title page with the paper title, author(s) name(s), affiliation(s), email address(es), and a 200–300-word abstract.

### **Structure and Content**

- Papers should include the following sections where applicable: Introduction, Methodology, Results/Discussion, Conclusion, and References.

### **Citation Style**

- Follow the APA citation style (7th edition) consistently throughout the paper.

### **Language**

- Papers must be written in clear, concise English.

### **Figures and Tables**

- Include figures, tables, or images only if necessary. These should be numbered sequentially (e.g., Table 1, Figure 1) and accompanied by descriptive captions.

### **Publication**

- Accepted papers will be published in either an edited book or a special issue of the Hong Kong Review of Belt and Road Studies Journal, with publication scheduled for 2026.

### **Additional Notes**

- Submissions must be original work, not previously published or under consideration elsewhere.
- Plagiarism checks will be conducted, and papers found to violate ethical standards will be rejected.
- Authors are required to maintain a plagiarism rate of 5% to 15% for submitted articles, as determined by standard plagiarism detection tools, excluding properly cited quotations and references.

- Articles may be authored by multiple contributors with no restriction on the number of authors.
- If you utilize artificial intelligence (AI) during the writing process, please clearly indicate its use and provide a detailed explanation of how it was applied.

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