

Xuechen Chen

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Appointments

Faculty of Social Science, Northeastern University – London

Associate Professor in Politics & International Relations, 08/2024 –

Assistant Professor in Politics & International Relations, 05/2020 – 08/2024

Visiting Lecturer in Politics & International Relations, 09/2018 – 04/2020

London Asia Pacific Centre for Social Science, King's College London

Visiting Research Fellow, 09/2020 –

Department of Politics and International Relations, SOAS, University of London

Teaching Fellow, 09/2017 – 09/2019

Education

PhD in European Studies, King's College London, 2020

MSc in European Studies, London School of Economics, 2014

BA in French Studies, Beijing Language and Culture University, 2013

Teaching qualification

Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy, 2021

Research interests

EU foreign policy, EU-Asia relationship (especially with ASEAN and China), Chinese politics and foreign policy, Norm and policy diffusion in global politics, Digital and cyberspace governance

Other Academic Appointments

Department of Political Science, Northeastern University (Boston)

Affiliate Faculty, 05/2023 –

NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks, Northeastern University (Boston)

Core Faculty member, 10/2022 –

Institute of Cybersecurity for Society, University of Kent

Honorary Member, 04/2023 –

Cyber Security Research Group, King's College London

Member, 03/2023 –

European Institute for Asian Studies (Brussels)

Visiting Fellow, 07/2017 – 07/2020

EU Centre in Singapore, National University of Singapore

Visiting Fellow, 06 – 08/2017

Publications

Book project and edited special issue:

1. Normative or Normal Power Europe? Understanding the EU's Norm and Policy Diffusion in ASEAN (2024) **Routledge**
2. Nexus between digital trade and security: geopolitical implications for global economy in the digital age. (2024) *Asian Review of Political Economy* Volume 3 (with Dr Chi Zhang, Dr Jilong Yang, Dr Xinchuchu Gao)
3. Contesting Western and non-Western approaches to global cyber governance beyond Westlessness, *The International Spectator* (2022) co-edited with Yifan Yang

Peer-reviewed journal articles:

4. Chen, X. & Gao, X. (forthcoming) Norm diffusion in cyber governance: China as an emerging norm entrepreneur?. *International Affairs*.
5. Pennisi di Floristella, A., & Chen, X (2023). "Strategic narratives of Russia's war in Ukraine: perspectives from China". *Policy Studies*. Online first.
6. Pennisi di Floristella, A., & Chen, X. (2022). "Building resilient supply chains in uncertain times: A comparative study of EU and ASEAN approaches to supply chain resilience". *Asia Europe Journal*. Online first.
7. Gao, X. & Chen, X. (2022). "Role enactment and the contestation of global cybersecurity governance". *Defence Studies*. 22(4):689-708.
8. Chen, X. (2022). "Bridging Normative and Market Power Europe: the EU's diffusion of market-related norms and policies in ASEAN". *Journal of European Integration*. 45 (4): 593-612.
9. Chen, X., & Yang, Y. (2022). "Different Shades of Norms: Comparing the Approaches of the EU and ASEAN to Cyber Governance". *The International Spectator*. 57 (3): 48-65
10. Chen, X. (2021). "Unpacking Normative Power Europe: EU Promotion of Security Norm Cluster in ASEAN". *European Security*. 31 (2): 262-288.
11. Chen, X., & Gao, X. (2021). "Analysing the EU's collective securitisation moves towards China". *Asia Europe Journal*. 20:195-216.
12. Chen, X., & Gao, X. (2021). "An Analysis of the Perception Gap between the EU's Connectivity Strategy and China's Belt and Road Initiative". *L'Europe en Formation*. (2), 78-93.
13. Gao, X & Chen, X. (2021) "Understanding the EU's changing trade policy strategy towards Asia-Pacific from a role-theory perspective". *Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies*. 13(2): 5-16.
14. Yang, Y. & Chen, X. (2020) "Globalism or nationalism? The paradox of Chinese official discourse in the context of the Covid-19 outbreak". *Journal of Chinese Political Science*. 26: 89-113.
15. Chen, X. & Gao, X. (2020) "Bridging the Capability-Expectations Gap? An Analysis of the New Dynamics in the EU's Security Strategy towards Asia". *Asia Pacific Journal of EU Studies*. Special Issue entitled "European Union and Asia-Pacific political dialogue"
16. Chen, X. (2018) "The Role of ASEAN's Identities in Reshaping the EU-ASEAN Relations". *Contemporary Southeast Asia*. Vol. 40, No. 2, pp. 222-46.

Book chapters:

17. Gao, X., & Chen, X. (2023). Beyond the dichotomy of hard and soft power: a case study of the EU's naval engagement in the Indo-Pacific region. In Hoerber, T., et al. (ed) EU in a Globalized World. Routledge.
18. Chen, X., & Gao, X. (2022). "Comparing the EU's and China's approaches in data governance". In Fahey, E., & Mancini, I. (ed) Understanding the EU as a Good Global Actor: Ambitions, Values, and Metrics. Edward Elgar.
19. Chen, X. & Gao, X. (2020) "Exploring the dynamic nexus between the EU's trade and foreign policy towards Asia-Pacific", in Weiß, W. edited Global Politics and EU Free Trade Policy. Special Issue to the European Yearbook of International Economic Law, Springer.

Selected working papers:

- "Understanding the Evolution of Transatlantic Data Privacy Regimes: interests, ideas, and institutions" (with Gao, X. under review)
- "The narratives of counter-terrorism and the prospects of Sino-European security cooperation" (with Zhang, C., and Yang, J. under review)

Op-eds and policy reports:

- "Russia's war in Ukraine: mapping China's perceptions about the United States, the EU and Russia", with Angela Pennisi di Floristella. UK in a Changing Europe Blog (Dec 2023)
- "Is Sino-European cooperation on counter-terrorism possible in the near future?", with Chi Zhang & Jilong Yang. 9DASHLINE (Aug 2022)
- "EU casts itself as Asia's security provider", with Xinchuchu Gao. ECPR The Loop (Apr 2022)
- "EU foreign policy is damaging relations with China, and dividing EU member states", with Xinchuchu Gao. ECPR The Loop (Nov 2021)
- "Preventing the Next Pandemic: Lessons from East Asia", with Ramon Pacheco Pardo et al., King's College London (May 2020).
- "Learning and Remembering: How East Asia Prepared for Covid-19 over the Years", with Ramon Pacheco Pardo et al., published at Global Policy (May 2020).
- "The EU's Pivot to Asia and EU-China Relations", published at Istituto Per Gli Studi Di Politica Internazionale (ISPI) (Sep 2019)
- "BRICS: Post Xiamen Summit", with Anthony Spanakos, published at East Asian Institute NUS Background Brief (Nov 2017)

Research grants

- **The British Academy/ Leverhulme Small Research Grants 2022**, Understanding China's role in global cyberspace governance, PI (£7,580)
- **Northeastern University 2023 Tier 1 interdisciplinary research grant**, Reimagining cyberspace governance from a multilayered perspective, co-PI (\$ 50,000)
- **Northeastern University 2023 Tier 1 interdisciplinary research grant**, Artificial Intelligence to unpack the dynamic relationship between media narratives, foreign policy, and public opinion, contact-PI (\$ 50,000)
- **NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks 2023 Seedling grant**, Strategic Narratives of the War in Ukraine from a comparative perspective, PI (\$3,000)

Conference presentations/invited talks

2024

- The Conference on Trade Negotiations, Trade Policy, and Law-Making in an Era of Soft Law at City, University of London, ‘The Regime Complex for Digital Trade in the Asia-Pacific Region and China’s Engagement’, presenter (London, UK, June 2024)
- Initiative for US-China Dialogue on Global Issues, Georgetown University, ‘China’s role as a norm-shaper in cyber governance’, speaker (online, April 2024)
- Workshop on Digital China in the Global South, Department of International Development, LSE, “Norm diffusion in cyber governance: China as an emerging entrepreneur?”, panelist (London, UK, February 2024)

2023

- Oxford University’s Global Cyber Security Capacity Centre Roundtable on Cyber Norms and Capacity Building, panelist, (Online, September 2023).
- UACES Annual Conference 2023, “China's Strategic Narratives of the War in Ukraine”, panelist (Belfast, North Ireland, September 2023).
- Chinese Internet Research Conference 2023, “China's norm-entrepreneurship in cyber governance”, panelist (Chiang Mai, Thailand, July 2023)
- Institute of Cybersecurity for Society, University of Kent, Research Seminar, “Beyond the dichotomy of Western versus non-Western approaches to cyber governance”, guest speaker
- Dupont Summit 2023, “US-EU Transatlantic Relationship on Data Flow & Privacy”, panelist
- The 3rd Interdisciplinary Conference on Belt and Road Initiative, Lancaster University, “Unpacking Beijing Effect and China’s Digital Silk Road”, panelist

2022

- Centre for Democratic Futures at Southampton University, “Who Needs EU? The Maastricht Treaty at 30”, guest speaker

2021

- 9th EISA Conference, “Comparing the EU’s and ASEAN’s approaches to supply chain security”, paper accepted (with Dr Angela Pennisi di Floristella)
- Northeastern University, postgraduate taster lecture series, “Power and Governance in Cyberspace”, guest speaker
- ESSCA Workshop on “EU and a globalized world”, panelist

2020

- ECPR General Conference 2020, “Disentangling the EU’s Actorness in Cybersecurity Governance: A Case Study on EU Cybersecurity Strategies Towards Asia”, panelist
- Contemporary Issues in Transatlantic Relations, “EU-China cooperation against the backdrop of US-China tech war”, City University of London, panelist
- Closing the Gap Conference on the EU’s Digital Diplomacy, “Bridging the Gap: How Can the EU’s Digital Connectivity Strategy Fit into Asia’s Digital Landscape”, panelist
- CEPS Research Workshop, RESPECT Seminar on EU-China trade relations, panelist

2018

- EUTIP Doctoral Seminar on Methods and Methodology, “Exploring the Nexus Between EU Trade and Foreign Policy Towards Asia-Pacific”, panelist
- EUTIP Conference, “The EU’s trade and foreign policy towards Asia-Pacific”
- IPSA Annual Convention, “The EU’s connectivity strategy and its geopolitical implications on the BRI”, panelist
- LASA Annual Conference, “Status, Voice, and Leadership for New Claimants: ASEAN, the BRICS, and Brazil”, panelist

2017

- The Belt and Road Initiative: EU-China Logistics and Supply Chain, “An analysis of the perception gap between the EU’s connectivity agenda and China’s BRI”
- Beijing Forum 2017, “The adaptation of China’s regional policy and the projection of normative power”, panelist
- ISA Annual Convention, “Reconsidering Normative Power Approaches: a case of China”, panelist
- European Institute for Asian Studies Briefing Seminar, “the EU and ASEAN at 40: Towards Normative Convergence?”, organizer & panelist
- European Union Institute for Security Studies, “Chinese Futures: Horizon 2025 - 3rd Task Force Meeting: China as Global Actor”, invited as panelist
- The 13th Graduate Seminar on China, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, panelist

Teaching and Supervision

Undergraduate level:

International Relations: Theory and Practice (Level 4), NU London, lecturer, 2020 –

Comparative Politics (Level 4), NU London, course leader, 2020 –

Societies in Transition (Level 5), NU London, course leader, 2024 –

The European Union in the World (Level 5), NU London, course leader, 2019 –

International Organisations: Global and Local, Northeastern University London (Level 6), course leader (2018 – 2019), lecturer, 2019 –

European Comparative Political Systems (mobility), Northeastern University, course leader, 2019 – 2020

The Integration of the European Union (Level 5), King's College London, tutor (2017 – 2018)

Dissertation supervisor for more than 20 undergraduate projects, (2018 – 2022)

Postgraduate level:

Global Politics in the Digital Age, NU London, course leader, 2024 –

Research Methods, NU London, course leader, 2021 –

International Politics of East Asia, SOAS University of London, tutor, 2017 – 2019

Dissertation supervisor, NU London, 2021 – 2022

Dissertation supervisor for 8 postgraduate projects, King’s College London, 2022

PhD level:

Proposed and designed a fully funded PhD research project (implemented by NU London and University of Kent) entitled 'From AI governance to digital trade: regulating and governing cyberspace', PhD researcher: Ms Danni Zhang

Service experience

University level:

Head of Digital Governance Research Cluster, NU London (2023)

Member of Research Committee, NU London (2023)

Member of Teaching, Learning and Enhancement Committee, NU London (2022)

Teaching peer reviewer for other Faculties, NU London (2022-2023)

Faculty level:

Admission coordinator at Faculty of Politics & IR, NU London (2022 – 2023)

Admission tutor at Faculty of Politics & IR, NU London (2018 – 2022)

Coordinator for Mobility Affairs at Faculty of Politics & IR, NU London (05-07/2022)

Member of the recruitment panel at Faculty of Politics & IR, NU London (2022)

Other service:

Member of the International Advisory Board, The International Spectator (2024 –)

Member of the Global Partnership for Responsible Cyber Behaviour (GP-RCB), Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies (RUSI) (2023 –)

Referee (Journals)

International Affairs, Global Policy, The International Spectator, Asia Europe Journal, Contemporary Southeast Asia, Journal of Chinese Political Science, Pacific Review, Government and Opposition, Journal of Global Security Studies, International Politics

Other

Research Skills: excellent skills in qualitative research, literature search and review; good knowledge of various research methodologies including quantitative, qualitative, and normative approaches; experienced in Case Study Methods, Critical Discursive Analysis (CDA), and quantitative Corpus Linguistics (CL)

Language: Fluent in English (C2) and French (C1); Native in Chinese and Cantonese