

MARGARET M. PEARSON

Professor and Distinguished Scholar-Teacher
Department of Government and Politics
University of Maryland, College Park

APPOINTMENTS

University of Maryland, College Park, Department of Government and Politics

- Dr. Horace V. and Wilma E. Harrison Distinguished Professor, 2017-2026.
- Professor, 2002 to present
- Interim Chair, 2019; Associate Chair 2018 to 2020
- Associate Professor, 1996 to 2002

Brookings Institution, John L. Thornton China Center, Non-Resident Senior Fellow

Salzburg Global Fellow, 2024-present

Center for International Development and Conflict Management, University of Maryland
Research Faculty

Dartmouth College, Department of Government.

Associate Professor with tenure, 1993 to 1995; Assistant Professor with tenure, 1987 to 1993.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Yale University (Political Science).

Dissertation: "The Control of Foreign Direct Investment in a Socialist State: Equity Joint Ventures in the People's Republic of China."

M.Phil. and M.A. Yale University (Political Science).

A.B. Smith College (Government).

BOOKS/MONOGRAPHS

Aligning with China: How States Navigate Ties with Beijing, with Scott Kastner and Guan Wang. (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.)

The State and Capitalism in China, with Meg Rithmire and Kellee S. Tsai. (Element Series on East Asian Politics and Society (Cambridge University Press, 2023. Open access)

- Cited in *The Economist*, November 26, 2023.

China's Strategic Multilateralism: Investing in Global Governance, with Scott Kastner and Chad Rector. (Cambridge University Press, 2019.)

International Political Economy in China: The Global Conversation, (Routledge Press, 2015) ISBN: 978-1-138-85115-3. Co-editors: Gregory T. Chin, Margaret M. Pearson, Wang Yong. [Book publication of "International Political Economy in China: The Global Conversation."]

China's New Business Elite: The Political Consequences of Economic Reform. University of California Press (hardcover, 1997; paperback 1999.)

Joint Ventures in the People's Republic of China: The Control of Foreign Direct Investment Under Socialism. Princeton University Press (hardcover, 1991; paperback, 1992).

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Influential but Unwanted: Comparing Chinese and US FDI in Africa” (with John McCauley and Xiaonan Wang) *Studies in Comparative International Development*, March 2026.
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12116-026-09495-5>.

Summarized in “Foreign Investment is Not Making Friends for China – Or the US,”
Brookings Institution, May 6, 2026. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/foreign-investment-is-not-making-friends-for-china-or-the-us/>.

“Economic Benefactor or Risky Dependence? Ambivalence in China-Brazil Agribusiness Ties”
(with Pedro Abelin). *Journal of Politics in Latin America*.
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1866802X261434254>

“The Ties that Bind?: Affinity and Challenges in Contemporary Brazil-China Relations” (with
Pedro Abelin), *Global Society* (November 2025).
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13600826.2025.2578467>.

“Is China-Taiwan Rapprochement Possible? Experimental Evidence from Taiwan” (with Hsin-
Hsin Pan and Scott L. Kastner). *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 69 (7-8): 1143-1171 (2024). DOI:
10.1177/00220027241300045

“Do China’s Foreign Economic Ties Lead to Influence Abroad? New Evidence from Recent
Events” (with Guan Wang Scott L. Kastner). *Foreign Policy Analysis* Vol. 19, Issue 4 (October
2023). <https://doi.org/10.1093/fpa/orad016>.

“China’s Party-State Capitalism and International Backlash: From Interdependence to
Insecurity,” (with Meg Rithmire and Kellee S. Tsai). *International Security*, Vol. 47, No. 2 (fall
2022). https://doi.org/10.1162/isec_a_00447 (open access).

“FDI, Unmet Expectations, and the Prospects of Political Leaders: Evidence from Chinese
Investment in Africa” (with Xiaonan Wang and John F. McCauley). *Journal of Politics* 84 (3),
(2022): DOI: 10.1086/717849.*

- *Featured on the CSIS Pekingology Podcast, January 2023.*

“Taiwan and the ‘One China’ Principle in the Age of Coronavirus: Assessing the Determinants
and Limits of Chinese Influence” (with Scott L. Kastner, Guan Wang, Laura Phillips-Alvarez
and Joseph Yinusa). *The China Quarterly*. [Fall 2022], open access. DOI:
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305741022001321>

“Static Electricity: Institutional and Ideational Barriers to China’s Electricity Market Reforms”
(with Michael Davidson), *Studies in Comparative International Development* (May 2022). DOI
10.1007/s12116-022-09358-9 (open access).

“The Role of Political Networks in Anti-Corruption Investigations” (with Kainan Gao), *China
Review* 22 (2) (May 2022): 81-111.

“Does Chinese FDI in Africa Inspire Support for a China Model of Development?” (with John F. McCauley and Xiaonan Wang). *World Development* 150 (February 2022): <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105738>.*

“Exploring the Parameters of China's Economic Influence” (with Scott L. Kastner). *Studies in Comparative International Development* Vol. 56, Issue 1 (March 2021): 18-44. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12116-021-09318-9>

“Party State Capitalism in China” (with Meg Rithmire and Kellee S. Tsai), *Current History* 120 (827) (September 2021): 207–213. <https://doi.org/10.1525/curh.2021.120.827.207> [Invited.]
• Swedish translation in *Fronesis*, January 2026.

“China and Global Governance: Opportunistic Multilateralism” (with Scott L. Kastner and Chad Rector). *Global Policy Journal* Vol. 11, Issue 1 (2020): 164-169. DOI:10.1111/1758-5899.12772

The Dilemma of ‘Managing for Results’ in China: Won’t Let go” (with Ciqi Mei). *Public Administration Development*, Vol. 37, Issue 3 (August, 2017).

“China's Hybrid Adaptive Bureaucracy: The Case of the 863 Program for Science and Technology,” with Qiang ZHI), *Governance* No. 30.3 (July 2017), DOI: 10.1111/gove.12245

“Invest, Hold-Up or Accept? China in Multilateral Governance,” (with Scott L. Kastner and Chad Rector). *Security Studies* 25, no. 1 (2016), pp. 142-179. DOI: 10.1080/09636412.2016.1134193

“Killing the Chicken to Scare the Monkeys? Deterrence Failure and Local Defiance in China,” (with Ciqi Mei), *The China Journal*, No. 72 (July 2014): 75-97. DOI: 10.1086/677058

Special Issue on “International Political Economy in China: The Global Conversation” (with Gregory Chin). *Review of International Political Economy* 20:6 (Dec. 2013).

“Globalization and the Role of the State” (with Tianbiao Zhu, Beijing Univ.), in *Review of International Political Economy* 20:6 (2013). Special Issue on International Political Economy in China: The Global Conversation” (eds. Gregory Chin & Margaret Pearson).

“Introduction: IPE in China” (with Gregory Chin and Wang Yong), in Special Issue on International Political Economy in China: The Global Conversation (co-editor with Gregory Chin). *Review of International Political Economy* 20:6 (Dec. 2013): 1145-1164.

“Domestic Institutional Constraints on China’s Leadership in East Asian Economic Cooperation Mechanisms,” *Journal of Contemporary China*, Vol. 19, No. 66 (September, 2010). [Republished in *China and East Asian Regionalism* (Routledge Press, 2012), and in *China and the World*, Shaun Breslin, Carla Freeman and Simon Shen, eds. (Sage Publications, 2014).]

“Regulating Decentralized State Industries: China’s Auto Industry,” (with Yukyung Yeo), *China Review*, Vol. 8, No. 2 (Fall 2008): 231–259.*

“Governing the Chinese Economy: Regulatory and Administrative Reform in the Service of the State,” *Public Administration Review* (Vol. 67, Issue 4, July-Aug. 2007): 718-730.

"The Business of Governing Business in China: Institutions and Norms of the Emerging Regulatory State," *World Politics*, Vol. 57, No. 2 (January 2005): 296-322.

"China's WTO Implementation in Comparative Perspective," *Review of International Affairs*, Vol. 3, No. 4 (Summer 2004): 567-583. Reprinted in *China as a Rising World Power and its Response to Globalization*, edited by Ronald Keith. (London and New York: Routledge, 2005).

"The Janus Face of Business Associations in China: Socialist Corporatism in Foreign Enterprises." *Australian Journal of Chinese Affairs* [now *The China Journal*] , 31 (January, 1994).

"Breaking the Bonds of 'Organized Dependence': Foreign Sector Managers in China." *Studies in Comparative Communism*, 25: 1 (March, 1992): 57-77.

"The Erosion of Controls over Foreign Capital in China, 1979-1988: Having their Cake and Eating it Too?" *Modern China*, 17: 1 (January, 1991): 112-150.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES (refereed unless noted as "invited")

"The Political Economy of Chinese Development" (with Meg Rithmire and Kellee S. Tsai), in *Handbook of Comparative Political Economy*, Marino Regini (ed.), Edward Elgar Publishing (2025). [Invited.]

"The Private Economy under Party-State Capitalism" (with Meg Rithmire and Kellee S. Tsai), in *Chinese Politics: The Xi Jinping Difference* (2nd ed.), Stanley Rosen and Dan Lynch (eds.), (Routledge, 2024).

"Party Business," in *The Party Leads All? The Role of the Chinese Communist Party in China's Politics, Governance, Society, Economy, and External Relations*, in Jacques DeLisle and Guobin Yang (eds.) (Brookings Press, 2022).

"What Kind of State Capitalism Does China Pursue?" (with Meg Rithmire and Kellee Tsai) in Jennifer Rudolph and Michael Szonyi (eds.) *China Questions II: US-China Relations* (Harvard University Press, 2022).

"China's Enduring Leninist Toolkit: Perspectives on CCP Organization and Ideology," in Vladimir Tismaneanu and Jordan Luber (eds.), *One Hundred Years of Communist Experiments* (Budapest, Central European University Press, 2021).

"China and Global Climate Change Governance," in Ka Zeng (ed.), *Handbook of the International Political Economy of China* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2019), pp. 411-423. [Invited.]

"Local Government and Firm Innovation: China's Clean Energy Sector" in Loren Brandt and Thomas Rawski (eds.), *Policy, Regulation and Innovation in Chinese Industry* (Cambridge University Press, 2019), pp. 96-133.

- Featured on CNN, Forbes, BookAuthority (one of the top 15 books on telecommunications in 2019: <https://bookauthority.org/books/new-telecom-books>.)

- "Local Government: Friend or Foe of the Market?" in Scott Kennedy (ed.) *State and Market in Contemporary China: Toward the 13th Five-Year Plan*, (Washington: CSIS, 2016). [Invited.]
- "Winning Hearts and Minds? On the sources and efficacy of economic engagement policies in US-China and China-Taiwan relations," with Scott Kastner, in Scott Lobell and Norrin Ripsman, eds., *The Political Economy of Regional Peacemaking*, (Univ. of Michigan Press, 2016).
- "State-Owned Business and Party-State Regulation in China's Modern Political Economy," in *State Capitalism, Institutional Adaptation, and the Chinese Miracle*, edited by Barry Naughton and Kellee Tsai (Cambridge University Press, 2015): 27-45.
- "China's Foreign Economic Relations and Policies," in John Ravenhill, Rosemary Foot, and Saadia Pekkanen (eds.), *Oxford Handbook on the International Relations of Asia*, (Oxford University Press, 2015). [Invited.]
- "Local Defiance: How Shared Beliefs Among Local Officials Creates Unintended Paths of Policy Diffusion and Sources of Innovation," with Ciqi Mei, in *The Politics and Patterns of Policy Diffusion in China*, William Hurst and Jessica Teets, eds. (Routledge Press, 2015.)
- "Regulation and Regulatory Politics in China's Tiered Economy," in Scott Kennedy (ed.), *Beyond the Middle Kingdom: Comparative Perspectives on China's Capitalist Transformation* (Stanford University Press, 2011).
- "Business Professionalism in Mainland China: Wading in Shallow Waters," in William Alford, William Kirby, and Kenneth Winston (eds.), *The Professions in China* (NY: Routledge, 2010).
- "The Impact of the PRC's Economic Crisis Response on Regulatory Institutions," *China Analysis*, No. 78 (February 2010). [Invited.]
- "Trade Policy and Regulatory Politics: China's WTO Implementation in Comparative Perspective," in David Zweig and Zhimin Chen (eds.), *China's Reforms and International Political Economy* (London: Routledge, 2007): Ch. 6.
- "China in Geneva: Lessons from China's Early Years in the World Trade Organization," in Alastair Iain Johnston and Robert Ross (eds.), *New Directions in the Study of China's Foreign Policy* (Stanford University Press, 2006): 587-644.
- "Yi Bijiao de Yanguang Kan Zhongguo dui Rushi Xieyi de Shishi" ["Comparative Perspective on China's WTO Implementation,"] in Chen Zhimin and David Zweig (eds.) *Guoji Zhengzhi Jingjixue yu Zhongguo de Quanguohua [IPE and China's Globalization]* (Shanghai: Shanghai Sanlian Shudian Publishers: 2006): 262-284.
- "The Institutional, Political, and Global Foundations of China's Trade Liberalization," in *Japan and China in the World Political Economy*, Saadia Pekkanen and Kellee S. Tsai (eds.). (New York: Routledge Press, 2005): 89-107.
- "China's Emerging Regulatory Structure," in *China IT Regulatory Update* (Beijing: MFC, 2003). [Invited.]

- "Entrepreneurs and Democratization in China." Chapter in *The New Entrepreneurs of Europe and Asia: Patterns of Business Development in Russia, Eastern Europe, and China*, edited by Victoria Bonnell and Thomas Gold (M.E. Sharpe, 2002): 154-180.
- "The Case of China's Accession to GATT/WTO." Chapter in *The Making of Chinese Foreign and Security Policy in the Era of Reform*, ed. David M. Lampton (Stanford Univ. Press, 2001): 337-70.
- "China's Membership in Multilateral Economic Institutions and Compliance with International Economic Agreements," in Gerrit Gong, Pieter Bottelier, Nicholas R. Lardy, Margaret M. Pearson and Minxin Pei (eds.), *China Economic Briefing: Issues for a New Administration and Congress* (Washington, D.C.: CSIS, February 2001). [Invited.]
- "China and the Norms of the Global Economic Regime," ["Zhongguo yu Quanguo Jingji Tizhi de Guifan"] *China Studies [Zhongguo Yanjiu]* (Beijing and HK), No. 6, 2000: 145-72. [Invited.]
- "Bringing China Into the International Economic Regime: Strategies and Successes." Chapter in *Engaging China: The Management of an Emerging Power*, edited by Alastair Iain Johnston and Robert Ross (Routledge, 1999): 207-234.
- "China's Integration into the International Trade and Investment Regime." Chapter in *China Joins the World: Progress and Prospects*, edited by Michel Oksenberg and Elizabeth Economy (Council on Foreign Relations Press, 1999): 177-221.
- "China's Track Record in the Global Economy," *China Business Review*, 27:1 (Jan-Feb, 2000): 48-53. [Invited.]
- "China's Emerging Business Class: Democracy's Harbinger?," *Current History*, Vol. 97, No. 620 (September, 1998): 268-272. [Invited.]
- "Foreign Trade and Investment in the 1990s." Chapter in *China Briefing, 1994*, edited by William Joseph, (Boulder: Westview Press, 1994): 55-86. [Invited.]
- "A Muted Voice for Reform." *China Business Review*, 19: 5 (September-October, 1992): 19-23. [Invited.]
- "Party and Politics in Joint Ventures." *China Business Review*, 17: 6 (Nov.-Dec., 1990): 38-40. [Invited.]
- "Foreign Sector Managers in China: Some Preliminary Generalizations." *China-European Community Management Institute, Working Paper Series*. Beijing: CEMI, 1991. [Invited.]
- "Limits to Maritime Power: The Politics of Controversy over Chinese Infrastructure Investment" (with Saadia M. Pekkanen), https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3285430

PUBLIC FACING WORK: CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY, PUBLIC SERVICE TALKS, OP-EDS, & COMMENTARY

"Foreign Investment is Not Making Friends for China – Or the US," (with John F. McCauley and Xiaonan Wang). Brookings Institution, May 6, 2026.

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/foreign-investment-is-not-making-friends-for-china-or-the-us/>.

*"[Military parades and memory wars: China and Russia commemorate history to reimagine international order](#) |" (with Kainan Gao). Brookings Institution, August 29, 2025

"[Where are the US and China on addressing climate change?](#)" (with Michael Davidson). Brookings Institution, October 22, 2024

"The Problem of Overestimating China." China and the World Institute, John's Hopkins SAIS, October 7, 2024

"What to Expect from China's Third Plenum," *Brookings Institution*, July 17, 2024.
<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-is-chinas-domestic-situation-evolving/>

"The New China Shock: How Beijing's Party-State Capitalism is Changing the Global Economy" (with Meg Rithmire and Kellee S. Tsai). *Foreign Affairs*. December 8, 2022.
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/china/new-china-shock>.

NextChina Conference, panel on US-China Trade, The China Project, November 9, 2022.

"African Leaders Often Welcome Chinese Investment. How do African Citizens Feel?" (with John McCauley and Xiaonan Wang). *Washington Post Monkey Cage*. December 9, 2021.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2021/12/09/africas-leaders-often-welcome-chinese-private-investment-how-do-african-citizens-feel/>

"China's Strategic Approach to Global Governance," Roundtable Series on Rising Powers and Global Governance, Council on Foreign Relations, Washington, DC. March 14, 2019.

"What the Trump Administration's Confrontational Approach Misses about China" (with Scott L. Kastner and Chad Rector). *Washington Post Monkey Cage*. October 12, 2018.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/10/12/is-china-working-with-or-against-the-global-order/?utm_term=.74280add0a45

"Global Climate Governance: If China Leads, How Will the United States Respond?" Council on Foreign Relations, Rising Powers and Global Governance Roundtable, Washington, D.C. March 9, 2017

Congressional Senior Staff Roundtable, sponsored by Council on Foreign Relations, US-China Relations, October 23, 2015.

Commentator, Hu Jintao's visit to Washington, January 2010. "On the Point," Public Radio International live radio show. January 17, 2011.

Testimony (oral and written) before the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Hearing on "Is China Playing by the Rules?: Free Trade, Fair Trade, and WTO Implementation," September 24, 2003, Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Testimony (oral and written) before the US-China Security Commission, Hearing on "WTO Compliance and Sectoral Issues," January 18, 2002, Dirksen Senate Office Building.

"China's Freshman Year in World Trade: An Interview with Margaret M. Pearson," *New York Times*, December 8, 2002.

"The Meaning of Jiang's US Visit," with Tara Sonenshine, op-ed, *Boston Globe* (Oct. 23, 1997, A25).

"Meet Me in Beijing: Why It's Urgent That Our Next President Make Plans to Visit China," with Tara Sonenshine, op-ed in *The Washington Post* (Sunday, May 19, 1996, p. C5).

On-screen commentator for public educational television series, *The Chinese*. Produced by Nebraska Educational Television and National Video Communications, Inc.: 1991.

GRANTS, HONORS AND AWARDS

2023 Elmer Plischke Award for Publication Excellence, Department of Government and Politics

2021 Undergraduate Mentorship Award, Department of Government and Politics

Dr. Horace V. and Wilma E. Harrison Distinguished Professor (2017-2026).

2015 Elevate Fellow, UMD, \$12,000.

2014-15, 2015-16, ADVANCE Professor for BSOS (NSF funded, \$10,000).

2013, Distinguished Scholar-Teacher Award, University of Maryland.

2010-12 University of Maryland, Department of Government and Politics research support grant (with Scott Kastner). Project: "Explaining the Effectiveness of Engagement Logic"

2008 Graduate Research Board, University of Maryland semester research grant.
Project: Explaining China's Tiered System of Economic Governance

2004 Excellence in Teaching Award, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Maryland, May 2004. (One prize awarded annually.)

2004-5 Freeman Foundation Grant, University of Maryland, "Undergraduate Internships in the Politics of East Asia," \$8,000.

2002 Fulbright Research Fellowship Award: 2002 Fellow. Research based at Beijing University.

Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Research and Travel Grant, 1996-2000.

Mary Ingraham Bunting Fdtn, Radcliffe College: President's Discretionary Award, 1991-92.

Dartmouth College Faculty Fellowship: Competitive Scholarly Research Award, Spring, 1991.

Harvard University, Fairbank Center for East Asian Research: Associate-in-Research, 1988-1995.

Burke Research Initiation Grant: Scholarly Research Funding, Dartmouth College, 1987-1990.

Center for International Studies, Univ. of Southern California: Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1987.

TEACHING

Domestic Politics of the People's Republic of China (undergraduate)

Core Field Seminar in Comparative Politics and Political Economy of Development (graduate)

Graduate Seminar: International Relations and Domestic Politics of China

China's International Relations (undergraduate and honors undergraduate)

Economic and Political Reform of Socialist Countries

Introduction to Comparative Politics (undergraduate)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Editorial Board Member, Cambridge University Press, *Elements in Chinese Economy and Governance*, 2023 to present.

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Contemporary China*, 2005 to present.

Editorial Board Member, *Asia Policy*, 2006 to 2019.

Editorial Board Member, *Problems of Post-Communism*, 2003 to 2014.

Editorial Board Member, *Global Public Policy and Governance*, 2020 to present.

Advisory Board, Cambridge University Press *Elements in the Chinese Economy and Governance*, 2023 to present.

Academic Advisory Board Member, Cambridge *Elements Series on the Chinese Economy and Governance*, 2023-present.

Board Member, Oklahoma University Institute for US-China Issues, 2007-present.

Distinguished Academic Board member, *Asia Pacific Business Review*, London, May 1 2015ff

Advisory Board, Research Center for Chinese Politics & Business, Indiana University, 2007- 2015.

Research Institute Council, board member, Institute for International Research, Hopkins-Nanjing Center for Chinese and American Studies, board member, 2002-2008.

Study Group on Security Implications of U.S.-China Trade, Council on Foreign Relations, 2003.

Task Force on China's Economy, member, Council on Foreign Relations, 2000 to 2002.

Study Group on Governance in China, member, Council on Foreign Relations, Washington, D.C., October, 1998 to February, 1999.

Task Force on Constructive Engagement with China, chaired by Michel Oksenberg and Elizabeth Economy, member, Council on Foreign Relations, New York, 1995 and 1996.

Association for Asian Studies, 1987 to present

American Political Science Association, 1987 to present