



SMA Future of Global Competition and Conflict Panel Discussion (Part 1 of 3)

Chinese Outreach Activities

Booklet

4 February 2020

1000-1130 ET

**Dial (866) 712-4038;
Passcode 37250264#**

Strategic Multi-Layer Assessment (SMA) provides planning support to Commands with complex operational imperatives requiring multi-agency, multi-disciplinary solutions that are NOT within core Service/Agency competency. Solutions and participants are sought across USG and beyond. SMA is accepted and synchronized by Joint Staff/J-39 DDGO and executed by ASD (EC&P).

Agenda

Panel Description: This panel discussion is part one of a three-part series, focused on the SMA white paper, entitled “Chinese Strategic Intentions: A Deep Dive into China’s Worldwide Activities.” This first part will focus on Chinese outreach activities across the globe.

Speakers: The speakers for this discussion will include:

- Prof. Anoush Ehteshami (Durham University)
- Dr. Cynthia Watson (National Defense University)
- Dr. Thomas Sherlock (United States Military Academy, West Point)
- Col E. John Gregory (United States Military Academy, West Point)
- Ms. Nicole Peterson (NSI, Inc.)- moderator

Agenda: The following are brief descriptions of what each panelist will discuss during their presentation:

- **Prof. Anoush Ehteshami (Durham University)- “China in Central, West, and South Asia”**
 - China’s ‘look west’ strategy has emerged where the rest of the world has been developing a set of ‘look east’ policies designed to capitalize on China’s continuing rise, the prosperity of East and Southeast Asian regions more broadly, and China’s insatiable thirst for raw and industrial materials and mineral resources to propel its economy forward toward a ‘developed’ state stage. The blueprint for China’s ‘look west’ strategy is its comprehensive Belt and Road Initiative, through which Beijing is financing and building a web of infrastructure and transportation networks across Asia, and leading into East Africa and Europe. The delivery of this massive project, designed to make China the center of the Eurasian sphere, is contingent on its successful integration of as many Central, West, and South Asian economies as possible into a web of economic relationships. But in each regional theater, China faces structural and geopolitical challenges, which it must manage if its ‘look west’ strategy, underpinning its arrival as a global power, is to be successful.
- **Dr. Cynthia Watson (National Defense University)- “China’s Creeping Interests in Latin America”**
 - China is increasing its engagement with Latin American in order to 1) guarantee long-term access to energy, natural resources, and food; 2) increase diplomatic links to support China’s global power aspirations and replace the US as the primary country for long-term relations in general; and 3) eliminate any existing recognition of Taipei as the legitimate regime in China. Although Latin America is nowhere near China’s periphery, when the United States began to distance itself from the region to focus on the “war on terrorism,” China recognized an opportunity and began strengthening its relationships with Latin American nations. Consequently, Latin American countries are increasingly turning to China to fulfill their economic needs, as opposed to the US, which is rapidly losing influence in the region.
- **Dr. Thomas Sherlock (United States Military Academy, West Point) and Col E. John Gregory (United States Military Academy, West Point)- “How Russia and China View Each Other and America: The Perceptions of Students at Elite Universities”**
 - The problem of “great power competition” and Sino-Russia cooperation in opposition to the US is an important concern of foreign policy scholars and experts. A significant obstacle to the accurate evaluation of this problem is disagreement over whether growing collaboration between China and Russia is best explained as “hedging” behavior, in which bilateral cooperation faces limitations due to its primarily contingent nature, or as norms-based conduct, which assumes an inter-state partnership will be anchored in shared principles and values. The central purpose of this study is to provide evidence as to which of these assessments holds greater explanatory power. It does so through an investigation of Russian and Chinese public opinion, specifically, the attitudes of future elites—students at the top universities in China and Russia. Our findings indicate that a majority of the students in both Beijing and Moscow do not believe their respective countries share common values and norms that would bind them in durable, deep cooperation. By contrast, a majority of students in both countries expressed respect and often admiration for the values, institutions, and power of the United States. The analysis of the views of these future elites should provide assistance in forecasting the quality and extent of cooperation between the two most important rivals to American influence abroad.

Speaker Biographies

Prof. Anoush Ehteshami (Durham University)

Professor Anoush Ehteshami is Professor of International Relations in the School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University. He is the Nasser al-Mohammad al-Sabah Chair in International Relations and Director of the HH Sheikh Nasser al-Mohammad al-Sabah Programme in International Relations, Regional Politics and Security. He is, further, Director of the Institute for Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies (IMEIS) at Durham, one of the oldest and noted centres of excellence in Middle Eastern studies in Europe. He acts as Co-director (2016-2021) of the £3.9 million AHRC-funded Open Worlds Initiative entitled Cross-Language Dynamics: Reshaping Community. Previously (2006-2016).



Col E. John Gregory (United States Military Academy, West Point)

Colonel E. John Gregory, US Army, is a trained China historian, lawyer, and Chinese linguist. He currently serves as the Academy Professor and Director of the Chinese Program (Department of Foreign Languages) as well as the Director of the Center for Languages, Cultures, and Regional Studies at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York. He holds a PhD in Late Imperial Chinese History from Georgetown University (2015), an LLM in Military and International Law from The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School (2010), and a JD from the University of Florida (2001). He has been a member of the Florida Bar since 2001. He was previously a Fulbright Fellow and Visiting Scholar at the Institute of History and Philology of the Academia Sinica in Taiwan (2013-14). He travels frequently in Taiwan and China. Colonel Gregory has served as an advisor on numerous US-China exchanges and military-to-military events. He has also published numerous articles and made presentations on the topics of law, Chinese discourse, Chinese history, society, politics and language.



Ms. Nicole Peterson (NSI, Inc.)

Nicole Peterson is an Analyst who assists in qualitative research and strategic analysis in support of Strategic Multi-Layer Assessment (SMA) efforts primarily focused on national security issues and Department of Defense (DoD) concerns. She has contributed to NSI's Virtual Think Tank (ViTTa®) and discourse analyses during her time at NSI. Nicole coordinates SMA's speaker series, which encompasses a broad range of topics from radicalization of populations and violent extremist organizations to artificial intelligence. She is also the publisher of SMA's weekly newsletter, which summarizes SMA speaker sessions, outlines upcoming events, and disseminates relevant publications. Nicole began her career at NSI as an undergraduate intern for its commercial sector and was subsequently promoted to an associate analyst for its government sector in 2016. She graduated with honors from the University of San Diego where she received a BA in applied mathematics and a minor in accountancy.



Dr. Thomas Sherlock (United States Military Academy, West Point)

Thomas Sherlock is a professor of political science at the United States Military Academy, West Point. He received his doctorate in political science from Columbia University and teaches courses on comparative politics, democracy and democratization, comparative institutions, international security, and the politics of the post-Soviet region. His book, *Historical Narratives in the Soviet Union and Post-Soviet Russia*, was published in an expanded, translated edition in 2014 by Rosspen (Moscow). He is also the co-author of *The Fight for Legitimacy: Democracy vs. Terrorism*.

Thom has contributed chapters to several edited volumes and his articles have appeared in numerous journals, including *Comparative Politics*, *Washington Quarterly*, *National Interest*, *Problems of Communism*, *Ab Imperio*, *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, *Prepodavanie istorii i obshchestvovedeniia v shkole* (Russia), and *Rossiia v global'noi politike* (Russia).

Thom's opinion pieces have appeared in the *New York Times* (international edition), the *Washington Post* (*the Monkey Cage*) and other news outlets. He has served as a consultant or project manager for the Carnegie Council, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Open Society Foundations, and EUROCLIO in The Netherlands, among other institutions. He has given invited presentations at Columbia University, Yale University, Wesleyan University, TRADOC, the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) and other academic and government institutions. Thom frequently conducts field research in post-Soviet space. His current research, which is supported by grants from the Minerva Initiative, examines Russian nationalism and foreign policy, popular and elite assessments of Russian history and identity, and civic and democratic values in Russia.



Dr. Cynthia Watson (National Defense University)

Cynthia Watson holds degrees from the University of Missouri-Kansas City (which honoured her as Alumna of the Year in 2011), the London School of Economics, and University of Notre Dame. She is the Dean of Faculty & Academic Programs at the National War College, teaching at that NDU facility since 1992. Dr. Watson has written ten books and many articles. She is a member of several professional organizations.

