



China-Africa Joint Research and Exchange Programme Webinar Series

New Dimensions of Growth and Development in Africa and China:

Trade, Infrastructure and the Fourth Industrial Revolution

13 & 15 October 2020, Zoom

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

- **Ambassador CHEN Xiaodong, Ambassador, Embassy of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of South Africa**

Amb CHEN Xiaodong was born in December 1965 in Lujiang, Anhui Province, China, and graduated with a Master's Degree of Business Administration. From October 2020 he has served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of South Africa. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1988 and has since served in various positions for the MFA in China and other countries, including Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq. Before his posting to South Africa, Amb CHEN Xiaodong served as Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs between 2017 and 2020, and from 2015 to 2017 as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Singapore.

- **Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Chief Executive, SAIIA**

Elizabeth Sidiropoulos has been SAIIA's Chief Executive since 2005. With more than 26 years of experience in the field of politics and international relations, Elizabeth's expertise lies in South Africa's foreign policy, South-South Cooperation and the role of emerging powers in Africa. She is a regular commentator in South African and foreign media. She has published on various aspects of South Africa's foreign policy including on its peace-making model as a key dimension of its soft power, its development diplomacy and edited a volume on SA's foreign policy in the first decade of democracy – *Apartheid Past, Renaissance Future* (SAIIA, 2004). She has also co-edited two books exploring the rise of the new development cooperation providers: *Development cooperation and emerging powers: New Partners or Old Patterns* (Zed Books, 2012) and *Institutional Architecture and Development: Responses from Emerging Powers* (Jacana, 2015). She is the editor-in-chief of the DHET accredited South African Journal of International Affairs. She is the co-chair of the Think 20 Africa Standing Group, one of the task forces of the Think 20, which is one of the engagement groups of the G20. Most recently she co-edited a volume titled 'Values, Interests and Power: South African foreign policy in uncertain times', which was published in October 2020.

Session 1 – Enhancing China – Africa Economic Cooperation

13 October 2020, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm GMT+2

- Palesa Shipalana, Programme Head, Economic Diplomacy Programme, SAIIA

Palesa Shipalana has been the Programme Head of the Economic Diplomacy Programme at SAIIA since 2017. Her key research portfolio focuses on public finance, regional integration and the South African economic and policy development landscape. Previously she worked as an economist in the public sector for nine years focusing on public finance management, public entities oversight management, provincial turnaround strategies, and various policy reform programmes in the pensions and medical schemes sector. She also worked on the South African social sector reform programme at UNICEF, and regional integration of capital markets at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

- Bhaso Ndzendze, Research Director, Center for Africa-China Studies (CACS)

Bhaso Ndzendze is a Research Director at the University of Johannesburg's Centre for Africa-China Studies (CACS) and a Senior Lecturer on technology dynamics, international law, and Africa-China relations in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Johannesburg (UJ). Bhaso's work is extensively focused on the relationships between African countries and the People's Republic of China compared to Taiwan since the late 1990s; emerging technologies and international relations, and quantitative analysis of the international political economy of interstate war in late 20th century East Africa. He has published on these topics in journals and various press outlets such as the Daily Maverick, Mail and Guardian, the Sunday Independent, and Modern Diplomacy among others.

- Weiwei Chen, Weiwei Chen, PhD Candidate in Development Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

Weiwei CHEN is a PhD candidate in Development Studies at SOAS, University of London. Her PhD focuses on 'The Dynamics of Chinese Private OFDI in Ethiopia: A Comparison of Light Manufacturing Industry and Construction Materials Industry'.

Weiwei worked as the research assistant for the Principal Investigator, Prof. Carlos Oya in a 4-year international collaborative academic research project on 'Chinese Firms and Employment Dynamics in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Comparative Analysis', funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) and Economic Social Research Council (ESRC) (2015/19).

Weiwei was affiliated with the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) as the Chinese Investment Advisor between Oct 2017 and Sep 2018. She was also the National Research Consultant of International Trade Center (ITC) for the Partnership for Investment and Growth in Africa and the Pacific (PIGA) project during her fieldwork in Ethiopia (2018).

Weiwei completed her PhD fellowship at UNU-WIDER (2019) in Helsinki, Finland to work on 'The Political Economy of Chinese Investment in Ethiopia: A Case Study of the Eastern Industry Park'.

Currently, she is doing a 15-month ESRC-funded project on 'Learning to Manage the Factory Floor in Ethiopia: Skills, Work Cultures and Organisational Capabilities in Ethiopia's Light Manufacturing' led by Prof Carlos Oya.

- Dr Lauren Johnston, Research Associate, SOAS China Institute

Dr Lauren Johnston is Research Associate, China Institute, School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, and Research Fellow, Faculty of Social Sciences, Mohammed V University, Rabat.

Lauren is widely published in English and Chinese on China-Africa economic relations and economic demography topics. She has previously held positions at the Mercator Institute for China Studies (Berlin), the University of Melbourne, Beijing Foreign Studies University, and World Economic Forum (Geneva). She was an Overseas Development Institute Fellow and economist for a year in each of the Ministries of Finance of Sierra Leone and Guyana. As Founding Director of New South Economics, she has consulted for the World Bank and United Nations.

Lauren holds a PhD in International Economics from Peking University (2013), MSc Development Economics (London (SOAS)), and a BA/BCom from the University of Melbourne.

- Kwame Owino, Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Economic Affairs

Kwame is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Economic Affairs (Kenya). Kwame has been instrumental in leading IEA Kenya's strategic intervention into the go-to think tank for Sub-Saharan Africa and the region. Having risen through the ranks at IEA Kenya, Kwame's led research and policy dialogue in economic regulation and competition policy. He also has diverse interests on economic regulation, employment economics and public sector reform. He undertakes and oversees research in IEA Kenya's key policy areas on public expenditure and revenue analysis, international trade, economic regulation, devolution and the use of futures methodologies to inform public affairs in Kenya

Session 2 - Different Dimensions of Infrastructure Development & Financing

15 October 2020, 9am – 11h15am GMT+2

- Dr Cobus van Staden, Senior Researcher: China-Africa, SAIIA

Cobus van Staden completed his PhD in Japanese studies and media studies at the University of Nagoya in Japan in 2008. He expanded his work to comparisons between Japan and China during postdoctoral positions at the University of Stellenbosch, and the SARCHI Chair on African Diplomacy and Foreign Policy at the University of Johannesburg, before joining the Department of Media Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand in 2013. His focus on China-Africa relations is further developed through the multi-platform China-Africa Project, which includes the China in Africa Podcast, the most prominent podcast dedicated to China-Africa relations, which is downloaded about 30,000 times per month.

- Mr. Li Nan, Deputy Chief of Mission, Minister Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in South Africa

Li, Nan, Deputy Chief of Mission, Minister Counselor of Chinese Embassy in South Africa, Between September 2014 and September 2018, Deputy Chief of Mission, Political Counselor of Chinese Embassy in Botswana, and Chinese Embassy in Namibia respectively. From 2008 to 2014, Director of Department of General Administration of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of China. From 2004 to 2008, First Secretary in Chinese Embassy in United States of America. He joined the MFA in 1994 and worked in various positions in Department of Information and Department of Policy Planning of MFA respectively. Mr. Li graduated from Beijing Foreign Studies University with a BA degree of English Literature. He also studied in London School of Economics and Political Science and was granted a MSc degree of Public Policy and Management between 2002 and 2003.

- Faith Mabera, Senior Researcher, Institute for Global Dialogue

Ms Faith Mabera is currently a Senior Researcher at the Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD). Ms Mabera joined the IGD in October 2014 after completing an MA (cum laude) in International Relations from the University of Pretoria. She also holds a BA Honours degree in International Relations and a BPolSci degree in International Studies, both obtained with distinction from the University of Pretoria. Ms Mabera's research interests include the Responsibility to Protect, African diplomacy, African foreign policies, African peace and security issues and global governance. She is a regular commentator and analyst on South African media speaking on African foreign policy developments and international relations.

- Peter Fabricius, Consultant, Institute for Security Studies

Peter Fabricius is a consultant at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and he is the former Editor of Independent Newspapers. He is a well-known researcher and media commentator on South African and African foreign affairs. His previous research has included the continent's engagement with key external partners, including the US, EU and China, as well as developments in multilateral forums such as the G20 and BRICS. His current research focus on African infrastructure debt management and the role of the G20, China and private creditors in debt management issues following the coronavirus pandemic.

- Hang Zhou, PhD Candidate in Politics and International Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

Hang ZHOU is currently a PhD candidate at School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Prior to enrolling at SOAS, he worked consecutively as research assistant and researcher in the China and Global Security Program at Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (2012-2015), with a focus on China's foreign policy and China-Africa relations. He later worked as program officer at the China and the Developing World Program at Oxfam Hong Kong (2015). He has also worked as short-term consultant and assistant for research and engagement projects with the African Leadership Centre (ALC) of King's College London, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS China). He earned his master's degrees in peace and conflict studies from Uppsala University, Sweden and *étude comparative du développement* from École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS-Paris). He holds his bachelor's degrees in international politics from Sichuan University, China and political science from Université Paris-X Nanterre.

- Mma Amara Ekeruche, Research Fellow, Center for the Study of the Economies of Africa

Ms. Mma Amara Ekeruche is a Research Associate at the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA). In addition, she runs a column 'Your Nigerian Economist' on Stears Business, Africa's leading business publication. She holds a Master's in Economic Policy from University College London (UCL), United Kingdom and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana. Her research interests are development economics, macroeconomics, and fiscal policy. Consequently, her research experience cuts across key issues in development including government debt and public financial management, South-South Cooperation and the impact of Chinese investment in Africa. You can find her work on Brookings, the United Nations Office on South-South Cooperation, Southern Voice, Africa Portal, and On Think Tanks.

- Dr Folashade Soule, Senior Research Associate, Global Economic Governance Programme (University of Oxford)

Dr Folashadé Soulé is a Senior Research Associate (Blavatnik School of Government / Global Economic Governance programme) and an Africa advisor to the Stiglitz-Spence Commission on Global Economic Transformation (CGET). As a researcher, the research project that she started at the London School of Economics in 2015 has been investigating negotiation practices in asymmetric relations between African states and China (infrastructure projects).

She is a former Oxford-Princeton Global Leaders fellow and holds a PhD in International Relations from Sciences Po Paris. She led extensive fieldwork (interviews, archive consultation, participant and non-participant observation) in India, Brazil, South Africa and at the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). She has also taught courses in International Relations and Political Science; Africa and Global Politics, the Politics of Globalization and International Political Economy.

- Dineo Ramokgopa, Development Specialist, Mazra Solutions

Dineo Ramokgopa is a development specialist with a focus on corporate development strategies and inclusive economic growth. Her expertise lies primarily in the areas of policy development and review (particularly in the mining, infrastructure, privatisation, competition policy and local government sectors). Currently, she is a Director at Mazra Solutions, which is a consultancy firm that provides advisory services on economic analysis, risk management, evaluation and monitoring, local and regional economic development, investment and finance for the public and private sector. Her duties

entail identifying new business opportunities, overseeing current projects, project management and financial management. Clients have included the Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development (GDID), UNISA School of Business Leadership and the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) amongst others. During her employment at the Anglo-American Group, she developed the Group's policy and advocacy response on issues in relation to land reform and mineral royalties. This entailed extensive stakeholder interaction with public officials and parliamentarians through written submissions and presentations. In addition, she has interacted with a number of southern African governments on issues related to facilitating private sector participation in infrastructure development as well as regulation of network industries during her tenures with both the World Bank Group and the South African Competition Commission. Moreover, she has assisted in developing capacity building programmes for women in government whilst employed by the Office on the Status of Women (OSW) in the Presidency and the Women's Development Foundation.

Session 3 - Harnessing the 4IR for Economic Development

15 October 2020, 11h30am – 13h30am GMT+2

- Seth Mulli, Executive Director, Youth Bridge Trust

Seth currently serves as the Executive Director of the Youth Bridge Trust, a multi-million dollar grant-making body in partnership with the Ford Foundation, which aims to create collaborative opportunities for young people on the African continent to succeed, through entrepreneurship, livelihood skills, and further education in the future of work. Recently he completed the GIBS Social Entrepreneurship Programme sponsored by RMB. In Seth's view, if business doesn't pay it forward, it will be left behind.

Seth is also the host of The Mentorship Challenge with Marc Weiner the Chairman of Redefine properties. The show is currently being broadcast on ENCA and ETV and has a viewership of over 2 Million people. The show sees local leadership luminaries interviewed and gently pressured to pledge hours of their personal time towards mentoring budding entrepreneurs from all backgrounds.

Seth's vision is firmly embedded and invested in communities, emboldening players in the NGO space to upskill and find access to platforms of power, opportunity, and funding. With 10 years of experience in the youth development space, he's area of expertise is incapacitating organizations to create meaningful change in the communities they serve. He is the owner of The Collective, a community of creatives helping NGOs make a meaningful impact in the social media space. Will & Heart, another project he co-founded with his wife is an international volunteer travel company, focused on telling the stories of non-profit organizations on the African continent, through film, design, and branding

- Rendani Mamphiswa, Presidential Commission for 4IR, South Africa

Rendani Mamphiswa is a Commissioner: Fourth Industrial Revolution, Presidential Commission on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). He is a Senior Technical Advisor on Energy at Sasol. Rendani's research contributions include, framework for managing technological innovation and the rise of machines in the workplace in emerging economies; new paradigms for commercializing 4IR technologies; policy imperatives for Africa to realise and exploit opportunities in the 4IR; and pathways for organizations to be digitally transformed. Rendani was part of a South African 4IR delegation to Europe in 2019, tasked to co-create knowledge on development of 4IR technologies, innovation, and business ecosystems. Such knowledge contributes to the development of the decadal plan for the 2019 White Paper on science, technology, and innovation (STI). Rendani is exploring a number of 4IR applications, recently he developed and presented a paper on "African political economy in 4IR" for the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). Further, Rendani is a doctorate candidate in Engineering and Innovation Management at the University of Johannesburg.

- Methi Bekele, Senior Project Officer, Ethiopian Academy of Science

Meti Bekele is a senior project officer at the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences, a non-governmental organization with the vision of promoting scientific knowledge in Ethiopia. She facilitates the implementation of various projects of the Academy, which serve to advance its larger vision of instilling a culture of inquiry and appreciation for the arts. Meti led the preparation of an Amharic dictionary of technical population and development terms, many of which were not previously available in a local language. She has also coordinated studies and policy dialogues that shed light on how Ethiopia can achieve the demographic dividend. Bringing these ideas into policy-making circles is

critically important in Ethiopia, one of the fastest growing countries in the world. Since 2017, Meti is responsible for following up on the Science Centre and Creative Arts Centre of the Academy, established as a space where people can learn about science and art in an interactive and engaging manner. Meti holds a Masters in Peace and Security Studies from Addis Ababa University and she co-authored the paper titled 'The 4IR Prospects and Challenges for Africa' with Rendani Mamphiswana.

- Alastair Tempest, Chief Executive Officer, E-commerce Forum South Africa

Dr Alastair Tempest is the CEO of Ecommerce Forum South Africa. He has served as the Director-General of the European Advertising Tripartite; was a Director at Reader's Digest and was Director-General of the Federation of European Direct & Interactive Marketing in Brussels. He also chaired the Self-Regulatory and Consumer Protection working party of the Global Dialogue on Ecommerce and was a member of the International Chamber of Commerce's Marketing and Telecoms commissions for 30 years. Upon moving to South Africa, he was elected as president of the Institute of Interactive and Direct Marketing and became the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Direct Marketing Association of Southern Africa. He sits on various advisory boards, such as the International Omni Retailing Markets Association and the Young Entrepreneurs Exchange Programme. He has a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree from York University, United Kingdom, an MA from the College of Europe Bruges and read for his PhD at the University of Ghent.

- Michelle Chivunga, Founder & CEO, Global Policy House

Michelle has predominantly worked on government policy and designing financing instruments working with parliamentarians, bankers, and international organisations to develop policy and support financing/economic development programs. At the British Bankers Association Michelle worked within corporate banking with a focus on UK/EU/global financing and SME business policy. Working with representation for the UK banking sector and supporting many of the major banks including Barclays, HSBC, Santander, Lloyds, RBS and many other smaller challenger banks to support financial stability programs, strengthen policy and support innovative transactions including business financing arrangements for SMEs. Michelle also holds several board positions including being a Board Member of the African Union Digital Trade and Transformation Taskforce; Global Fintech Advisory Board (GFAB), she has also served as an Advisor to the Government of Bermuda. Michelle co-authored the paper titled, 'Digital Disruption in Africa – Mapping Innovations for the African Free Trade Area in Post COVID Times,' with Dr Alastair Tempest.

- Kartik Akileswaran, Policy Advisor on Inclusive Growth

Currently based in India, Kartik has worked as a policy advisor and researcher on inclusive growth for various developing country governments. Recently, he worked with the Governments of Ethiopia and Sierra Leone on private sector development and structural transformation with the Tony Blair Institute (TBI). He has worked in various roles in the development sector throughout his career, with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), J-PAL, and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA). He holds a Master in Public Administration in International Development (MPA/ID) from the Harvard Kennedy School.