



**University
of Victoria**
Retirees
Association

UNDERSTANDING CHINA

AN ELDER ACADEMY EVENT

As globalization takes hold as never before, it is important that we take every opportunity to learn about the major influencers of globalization. China has and is asserting itself as a major influencer, perhaps THE major influencer in the world. This 6-part series provides an opportunity for us to learn from expert and experienced journalists, ex-diplomats and commentators on China's environmental, economic, social, political and cultural issues of the day.

(NB: This is the first of several planned "Understanding..." series offered by Elder Academy. "Understanding the EU" is planned for November 2021).

The Birth of a
New Global Order



WHEN, WHERE, HOW MUCH?

DATES: Saturdays, October 2, 9, 16, 20*, 23, 30, 2021

TIME: 10:00am to Noon. Zoom entry available starting 15 minutes prior to scheduled time

WHERE: Online via Zoom

LINK TO JOIN THE SESSIONS: Emailed to registrants via Eventbrite two days before first session

COST: \$30.00 for the six sessions.



Oct 2: "China and Global Green Prosperity"

Presenter: Art Hanson, Officer of the Order of Canada (OC), and Advisor.

Oct 9: "China As A Global Neighbor: Towards A Rethinking Of Canada-China Relations"

Presenter: Senator Yuen Pau Woo, Senator- Senate of Canada (public policy issues – Asian affairs).

Oct 16: "Learning About China: Sipping Through a Firehose"

Presenter: Joann Pittman, Senior Associate ChinaSource and Author.

Oct 20*: "China's 14th Five Year Plan: New Policy Directions."

Presenter: Mark Kruger, Opinion Editor Yicai Global.

(*NB: Wednesday 7pm – presentation from Shanghai)

Oct 23: "Claws Of The Panda, Beijing's Campaign of Influence and Intimidation in Canada"

Presenter: Jonathan Manthorpe, Political Commentator, Journalist and Author.

Oct 30: "The Dragon and the Snow Lion: China's Relationship with Tibet"

Presenter: Dr. Tsering Shakya, Professor UBC (Institute of Asian Research).

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

Registration & payment done through EventBrite. Please click on: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/understanding-china-tickets-158856663557>

Students attend free but need to register by emailing UVRAElderAcademyevents@uvic.ca to secure the Zoom link.

Need to know more? Email UVRAElderAcademyevents@uvic.ca

UNDERSTANDING CHINA: An Elder Academy Event

Saturday, Oct. 2nd, 10am

Zoom Only

“China and Global Green Prosperity”

Presenter: Art Hanson

Officer of the Order of Canada (OC), and Independent Advisor

“Prosperity of a country and for all people is a condition that goes well beyond financial capital, high GDP, and abundance of material things. Nowadays the term is applied to having access to a broader range of assets and conditions, including those related to natural capital, happiness, even sustainability for our existence. Achieving global prosperity on these broader terms is far from a given, although ambitious efforts such as the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals may help. Global emergencies such as Climate Change and COVID-19 require new multilateral efforts for shared prosperity. Through its domestic development initiatives and some of its external relations China is seeking transformative changes towards what it calls an ‘Ecological Civilization’ approach. This should relate to a ‘global green new deal’ for climate change and also for biodiversity conservation, ‘green recovery’ from the COVID pandemic, and other international green development efforts. The question is whether we can make sufficient progress over this current decade, setting the stage for mid-century success on global green prosperity. And what can we expect from China’s contributions?”

Reading material:

Arthur Hanson. 2019. Ecological Civilization in the People’s Republic of China: Values, Action, and Future Needs. ADB East Asia Working Paper Series. No. 21. <https://www.adb.org/publications/ecological-civilization-values-action-future-needs>



Distinguished Fellow and former President of International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD): Member and former Chief Advisor China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED), an advisory body chaired by the Executive Vice Premier of China: Advisor to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and various other Boards and Councils in Asia.

UNDERSTANDING CHINA: An Elder Academy Event

Saturday Oct 9th: 10am

Zoom Only

“China As A Global Neighbor: Towards A Rethinking Of Canada-China Relations”

Presenter: Senator Yuen Pau Woo

Senator- Senate of Canada (public policy issues – Asian affairs).

“Relations with the People’s Republic of China (PRC) will be the single biggest Canadian foreign policy challenge for the foreseeable future. The trajectory of bilateral relations will be shaped, above all, by US–PRC strategic competition. Canadian views on the PRC are defined by a litany of problems in the current relationship, with relatively little reflection on the broader and longer-term problématique. The presentation is based on the author’s recent article in International Journal, available at:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0020702021996315>

The article proposes a reconceptualization of the PRC as Canada's “global neighbour” since, on virtually all the issues that matter to Canada, the PRC is in our neighbourhood, and we are in the PRC’s, whether we like it or not. The article offers five principles for the conduct of relations with Beijing—emphasizing the importance of independence in Canadian foreign policy in the context of a Sino–US great power conflict that is likely to persist for decades.”



Appointed to the Senate of Canada in November 2016, the Honourable Yuen Pau Woo sits as an independent representing British Columbia. He has been the Facilitator of the Independent Senators Group since 2017, and was re-elected for a second two-year term in December 2019. Senator Woo has worked on public policy issues related to Canada’s relations with Asian countries for more than 30 years. From 2005-2014, he was President and CEO of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, where he continues to serve as Distinguished East Asia Fellow. He is also Senior Fellow at Simon Fraser University’s Graduate School of Business, and at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs at the University of British Columbia. He is a member of the Trilateral Commission and on the board of the Vancouver Academy of Music. He also serves on the Advisory Boards of the Mosaic Institute, the Canadian Ditchley Foundation, and the York Centre for Asian Research. Senator Woo has been a member of the following Senate Standing Committees: Foreign Affairs and International Trade; National Finance; Energy, the Environment and Natural Resources; Selection; and Rules, Procedures and the Rights of Parliament.

UNDERSTANDING CHINA: An Elder Academy Event

Saturday Oct 16th: 10am

Zoom Only

“Learning About China: Sipping Through a Firehose”

Presenter: Joann Pittman

Senior Associate, ChinaSource and Author.

“China is complicated. It is both a 5000 year old civilization and a 72 year old nation. It has a free-wheeling capitalist economy presided over by a Communist party. Traditions run deep and change happens at a dizzying pace. Where do you go to make sense of it all? In this talk, we will explore ways to learn about China, from language and culture to history and contemporary society. What books to read? What online resources to dip into? The goal is not merely point you to facts and figures, but to provide tools that will set you on a path of life-long learning.”



Joann Pittman is the Vice President of Partnership and China Engagement for ChinaSource and editor of *ZGBriefs*. Prior to joining ChinaSource, Joann spent 28 years working in China, as an English teacher, language student, program director, and cross-cultural trainer for organizations and businesses engaged in China. She has also taught Chinese at the University of Northwestern-St. Paul (MN), and Chinese Culture and Communication at Wheaton College (IL) and Taylor University (IN). She is the author of [*Survival Chinese Lessons*](#) and [*The Bells Are Not Silent: Stories of Church Bells in China*](#). Her personal blog, *Outside-In* can be found at joannpittman.com, where she writes on China, Minnesota, traveling, and issues related to “living well where you don’t belong.” Joann makes her home in Roseville, Minnesota.

UNDERSTANDING CHINA: An Elder Academy Event

Wednesday Oct 20th: 7pm

Zoom Only

****** 10 am Thurs. Oct 21st, Shanghai time

****** Because of the time difference between Shanghai and BC, this presentation will be held in BC on Wednesday Oct 20th evening between 7 and 9 pm]

“China’s 14th Five Year Plan: New Policy Directions”

Presenter: Mark Kruger

Opinion Editor Yicai Global

“This year, China is embarking on its 14th Five Year Plan. These planning documents outline the government’s medium-term strategic thinking. They are required reading for those who want to know where the leadership wants to take the country.

The 14th Five Year Plan represents a turning point in China’s economic development. Having successfully built a moderately prosperous society, China policymakers have developed an ambitious agenda to create a modern socialist country.

With a basic level of material comfort achieved, a greater stress will be put on (i) innovation-driven development, (ii) promoting green growth and (iii) creating a strong domestic market.

Join Mark to find out what’s behind the thinking of China’s policymakers.”



Mark Kruger is the Opinion Editor at Yicai Global. He holds Senior Fellow appointments at the Yicai Research Institute, the Centre for International Governance Innovation and University of Alberta’s China Institute. Mark was formerly a Senior Policy Director in the Bank of Canada’s International Department, a Senior Advisor to the Canadian Executive Director at the IMF and head of the Economic and Financial Section in the Canadian Embassy in Beijing. Mark began his career at the Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission. You can find Mark’s short, data-driven insights into China’s economy here: <https://www.yicaiglobal.com/opinion/mark.kruger> .

UNDERSTANDING CHINA: An Elder Academy Event

Saturday Oct 23rd: 10am

Zoom Only

“Claws Of The Panda, Beijing's Campaign of Influence and Intimidation in Canada”

Presenter: Jonathan Manthorpe

Political Commentator, Journalist and Author.

“Canada’s long relationship with the People’s Republic of China - first based on missionary zeal, followed by diplomacy and trade – has been complicated in the last few decades as a result of covert efforts by Beijing to exert undue influence on Canadian government, educational institutions, and business. Canada has continued to misjudge the reality and potential of the relationship, while the Chinese Communist Party has benefited from Canadian naiveté.

The depth and breadth of self-delusion among Canadian establishment institutions and their belief they have a special friendship with the Chinese Communist Party has been brought into sharp focus by the Huawei Affair. The crisis in bilateral relations following the detention of the company’s CFO Meng Wanzhou on a United States extradition request, and the associated detention, torture, and trial in the PRC of Canadians Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor carries a harsh message. In the future Canada can only have a minimalist, transactional relationship with a regime with which it shares no civic, international or moral values. “



Jonathan Manthorpe has been a foreign correspondent, political reporter, and international affairs columnist for nearly forty years, with extensive TV and radio interview experience.

His last book, *Claws of the Panda: Beijing's Campaign of Influencer and Intimidation in Canada*, was one of the *Globe and Mail* Top 100 Books of 2019 and was also shortlisted for the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Award. He is based in Victoria, BC.

UNDERSTANDING CHINA: An Elder Academy Event

Saturday Oct 30th: 10am

Zoom Only

"The Dragon and the Snow Lion: China's Relationship with Tibet"

Presenter: Tsering Shakya

Professor UBC (Institute of Asian Research).

"On 21st July 2021, a plane carrying Xi Jinping, the president of China, landed in Kongpo in South-Eastern Tibet. Xi's visit marked the first visit to Tibet by the paramount leader of China. No, other PRC General Secretary or president has ever visited the region. Xi's visit coincided with the 70th anniversary of the 17-point agreement that firmly established Chinese control over Tibet.

This talk will explore the fraught relationship between China and Tibet. For China, Tibet is seen as a nationalistic triumph of "unification" of China's territories, and the past 70 years have marked economic development and social progress, whereas, for the Tibetan, the past 70 years has been a period of Chinese colonization and destruction for Tibetan culture and religion. This presentation will focus on the sources of the conflict and why the Tibet issue remains a problem for China."



Tsering Shakya is an Associate Professor at the Department of Asian Studies and School of Public Policy and Global Affairs (SPPGA) at the Institute of Asian Research, The University of British Columbia. Tsering is a world-renowned and widely published scholar on both historic and contemporary Tibet. His most expansive work to date, *The Dragon in the Land of Snows: A History of Modern Tibet Since 1947* is the first comprehensive account of Tibet's recent history. Tsering has addressed the European parliament and is regularly invited to advise Western governments on Tibet/China policy as well as fulfilling various public-speaking engagements. Tsering has contributed to many television and radio programmes, both location documentaries and studio-based discussions.