

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE GUEST LECTURE:

Changing our Minds? The Ideational Consequences of China's Rise



Speaker: **Professor Shaun Breslin**, PhD, FAcSS and Leverhulme Major Research Fellow, Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Warwick

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There seems to be something of a growing consensus that previous assumptions about the long term consequences of China's rise have turned out to be misplaced. Rather than China becoming socialized into the liberal global order (and democratizing at home), a China challenge to that order is instead being identified. Not just a challenge to the distribution of power within the current system, but to some of the fundamental norms and principles that underpin it; and also to the theories and concepts that are used to try to understand it and predict future behaviour and ambitions. Of course, there are those who always expected it to be this way. But at least some are now seeing an ability and willingness to promote Chinese alternatives that they didn't envisage even a decade ago.

This presentation explores how what were originally designed as defensive norms and theories for China have transformed into putative ideational platforms that might have salience and utility for others outside China as well (though noting that the domestic dimension clearly remains very important as well). Here, the emphasis is partly on the extent to which the Chinese position is better understood as a critique of universalism than the basis of an alternative world order. It is also partly on the aspirational qualities of Chinese thinking on international relations built on a form of "Occidentalism". And it is also partly on the way in which we think about China, and how this influences the way we respond to signals and search for evidence of Chinese objectives and intentions.

WELCOME!

Time: 27th November 14:15-15:45

Venue University Main Building Auditorium XII

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