

Curriculum Vita Steven C.Y. Kuo

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EDUCATION

University of St. Andrews (UK)	PhD	International Relations	2013
University of Cape Town	MA	Philosophy	2003
University of Cape Town	BA (hons)	Philosophy	2000
University of Cape Town	BA	Philosophy; Private Law	1998
Newcastle High School (South Africa)	Senior Certificate (with Chinese A-Levels)		1995

PhD thesis: "Enter the Dragon: The Emerging Chinese Approach to Peacebuilding in Liberia" supervised by Prof. Ian Taylor.

PUBLICATION

Books and Monographs

1. *Chinese Peace in Africa: From Peacekeeper to Peacemaker*. New York, Routledge, 2020.
2. (under preparation, expected end of 2025) *The Ethics of Peace*, Co-editor with Patrick Tom, University of Sheffield and Abel Tabalaka, University of Botswana. Part of Palgrave Macmillan's Global Ethics book series. Series editors: Professors Anthony Lang and Joy Gordon.

Peer-reviewed

1. Kuo, S.C.Y. 2023. Ahead of the curve: what Ian Taylor's 'China's foreign policy towards Africa in the 1990s' tells us about China's grand strategy today, *Contemporary Voices-The St. Andrews Journal of International Relations* 6(1). DOI: <http://doi.org/10.15664/jtr.1659>
2. Kuo, S.C.Y. 2021. South Africa – People's Republic of China Relations: Anchoring Beijing's African Partnerships. *展望與探索 [Prospect & Exploration]* 19 (3):71-94.
3. Kuo, S.C.Y. 2015 Chinese Peace: An Emergent Norm in African Peace Operations. *China Quarterly of International Strategic Studies* 1 (1): 155-181.
4. Kuo, S.C.Y. 2013. Chinese Peacebuilding in Liberia as Soft-Power Projection: Perspectives from Monrovia. *African-East Asian Affairs* 1 (4): 6-23.
5. Kuo, S.C.Y. 2012. Beijing's Understanding of African Security: Context and Limitations, *African Security* 5 (1): 24-43.

Book Chapter

1. (expected end of 2025) Chinese Peace in the multipolar world order: Understanding the limits of Beijing's Soft and Hard Power. In the edited volume "Coercion in Peacebuilding" edited by Peace Research Institute Frankfurt.

Public Commentary

Regularly interviewed by Chinese and South African media on international affairs: People.com (China); The Paper (China); Economic Review (China); Radio 702 (SA); Newzroom Afrika (SA).

Currency News

1. Behind Trump's Calculation on China, 29 April 2025

Fortnightly International Relations Column for Business Day (South African business daily)

2. China-US rivalry will continue to loom over global politics, 14 December 2023
3. SA lacks knowledge of Asia and its possibilities, 10 Nov 2023
4. It's possible to stand with both Israelis and Palestinians, 12 Oct
5. Modi the kingmaker as India takes centre stage at G20 get-together, 14 Sept
6. Brics+ marks the beginning of the end of US hegemony, 31 Aug 2023
7. Future of divided BRICS depends on growing intra-bloc trade, 17 Aug
8. Brics should be seen as a route to growth and opportunity 3 Aug
9. African Delegation to Moscow and Kyiv unlikely to secure peace. 8 June
10. Pretoria should cut its losses and focus on the G20. 11 May
11. East and West use the current world order against the Global South. 26 April
12. France's insistence on freedom fries US brains. 13 April
13. Instead of a middle finger to the West, SA should take the Third Way. 30 March
14. Beijing's role as peacemaker could prove effective. 16 March
15. Business must keep an eye on geopolitics, another on Brics expansion. 2 March
16. Neither good China nor bad, a nuanced view will reveal. 16 Feb.
17. Knee-jerk Western response to Brics relations with Russia not in SA's interests. 2 Feb
18. China's opening bodes well for SA and the world. 19 Jan 2023.
19. 2022: The rise of Brics+ and slow decline of the West 15 Dec 2022
20. Opportunities headed our way as China intensifies statist bent. 16 Nov
21. Saudi Arabia is emerging as a global power broker. 2 Nov
22. SA should wring better deals with China and use it as leverage. 19 Oct
23. The second decade of the 21st century will be a white-knuckle ride. 5 Oct
24. Putin takes flak over Ukraine war from SCO allies China and India. 21 Sept
25. Mbeki dropped the ball on energy; Ramaphosa can't afford to do the same. 7 Sept
26. A chance for SA to woo Japanese investors. 24 Aug
27. SA can learn some lessons from India. 27 July
28. Three foreign policy paths SA could learn from. 13 July
29. Russia is finished as a great power, so SA should realign. 29 June
30. Expansion of Brics will add to its heft. 1 June
31. How SA can protect itself from the war in Ukraine. 18 May
32. SA can't remain an anti-West Brics lackey. 4 May
33. The SA government, lacking leadership, has slighted the Ukrainian ambassador. 20 April
34. The strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must. 6 April
35. US and Nato firm up a coalition of the unwilling. 23 March
36. Remaining neutral allows SA to be available as a viable peace facilitator. 9 March
37. A failure of dialogue and all of humanity. 24 Feb
38. With US power waning, SA stands at a Brics crossroad. 26 Jan
39. With the US and China glaring at each other, business needs to keep its eyes peeled. 12 Jan. 2022
40. Trade is so much more profitable than cross-border friction. 8 Dec 2021
41. Stitching together continental business plans will change fabric of SA society. 24 Nov
42. Metros should get more serious about wooing investors. 10 Nov
43. SA and Japan important for each other. Business Day. 14 Oct
44. Much at stake for SA over new German government's China policy. 30 Sept
45. Decentralised regions are the spur for China's economic growth. 16 Sept

46. No longer the world's policeman, the US aims to keep China at bay. 1 Sept
47. Afghans were dumped so the US can focus on China. 18 Aug
48. Reining in innovation could cool China's growth, Business Day. 5 Aug
49. SA needs a new script if it wants to avoid being a failed state. 21 July
50. Aid Africa back in fashion as authoritarian and liberal capitalism compete. 7 July
51. Let's not miss the boat offered by rival infrastructure initiatives. 23 June
52. Relax. Africa is not at the top of Beijing's economic agenda. 17 June
53. Notice who the cool kids are at the G7 party. 9 June
54. It's complicated for South Korea as US and China square off. 26 May
55. China watching as important for SA as eyeing the US. 12 May
56. Black Business Council should target Chinese investors. 28 April
57. Strike season shows that, like China, SA can learn from Singapore. 14 April
58. Middle powers face conundrum of choosing sides in US and China duel. 31 March
59. US and China poised for a silly/serious cold war. 17 March
60. Asean's handling of Myanmar issue to test its credibility. 3 March
61. Chaos looms unless junta yields to Myanmar's people. 17 Feb
62. Deng's lesson for the comrades: get out of the way. 3 Feb
63. SA could be a Joe Biden favourite if it plays its cards right. 20 Jan 2021
64. Trade-Hungry SA Must Jump at being Big in Japan, Business Day 16 Dec 2020.
65. Building on a great civilisation, China deserves respect. 2 Dec
66. SA needs to Catch that Boat from China to ASEAN. Business Day. (South Africa). 18 Nov
67. SA needs a stable compass to navigate between East and West. 4 Nov
68. Biden victory would be a chance for SA to repair US bridges. 21 Oct
69. SA in a quandary as new iron curtain descends. 7 Oct
70. SA needs to be a leader in Africa, but its leading party isn't helping. 25 Sept.
71. SA ignores the chances Japan offers at its own peril. 12 Aug
72. Few options left for Zanu-PF to pull Zimbabwe back from the abyss. 26 Aug
73. It's not just US vs China — the EU is watching. 12 Aug 2020

Op-eds and Commentary

1. The real China-Africa dream. Financial Mail 27 Oct 2022
2. China's approach to peace in Africa is different. How and why, The Conversation, 27 January 2020.
3. Be Humble, Make Friends, and Take the Long View. Acumen Magazine. 10 Nov. 2020
4. Letter: West need to take China as it is, not for what it prefers China to be. Business Day 24 July 2020
5. Letter: SA a fully Committed Member of the South. Business Day 21 July 2020.
6. (Chinese) 南非土地改革会步津巴布韦的后尘? 特朗普想多了 (Will South Africa's land reform follow that of Zimbabwe? Trump is Wrong) 澎湃新闻 (The Paper, Shanghai) 2 Sept. 2018.
7. (Chinese) 祖马下台似已无疑, 2018 年的南非政治面临三种前景 (Zuma's resignation a certainty - Three South Africa political scenarios in 2018), 澎湃新闻 (The Paper, Shanghai), 13 Feb 2018.
8. "The South African-based academic talks about green-tech opportunities along the Belt and Road countries". China-Britain Business Council (Shanghai), 1 Nov 2017.
9. (Chinese) 2016 年地方大选的风险和缓解措施 (Risk Mitigation measures after 2016 local elections) 非洲时报 (Africa Times published in Johannesburg), 28 Oct 2016
10. China's Investment in Africa – The African Perspective, Forbes, 10 July 2015.
11. China's soft-power suffers a blow in South Sudan, Caixin Online, 3 Jan 2014

12. North Korean provocations will not lead to war, International Policy Digest, 29 April 2013.
13. China's Xi Jinping Seeks to Strengthen Relations with Russia and Africa, International Policy Digest, 22 Mar 2013.
14. Understanding China's academic woes: China's position as economic superpower may be hampered by the patrimony and poor academic ethics of its universities, Guardian (UK), 21 Aug 2010.

Consulting Reports

1. "A Report on the Situation of the Thai Workforce in the Republic of South Africa". Commissioned by the Royal Thai Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa. 2023
2. "Promoting Thai Investment to South Africa: Critical Skilled Worker Visa". Commissioned by The Royal Thai Embassy in Pretoria, 2022
3. "Indonesia Jamu in South Africa: A market intelligence report". Commissioned by the Indonesia Embassy in Pretoria. 2020.
4. (Chinese) 非洲土地改革——选票还是土地? (Land reform - for votes or for land?) The Consilium Institute, Chongqing University, China, 2 April 2018.
5. South Africa's role in Africa: The View from Beijing, South African Foreign Policy Initiative, Open Society Foundation for South Africa, Policy Brief No. 7, August 2012.
6. Not Seeking to Lead: Beijing's View of the Crisis between the Two Sudans, China and South Sudan: Saferworld Briefing, July 2012.
7. Riding the Tiger: How South Africa could take advantage of China's plan for a multi-polar world order, South African Foreign Policy Initiative, Open Society Foundation for South Africa, Policy Brief No. 34. May 2013.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Columnist (International Affairs), Business Day, South Africa	2020-
Head of China Desk, Barloworld Equipment Southern Africa	2019-
Consultant Chinese Clients Africa, Control Risks, Johannesburg	2016-2017
Political Risk Analyst, Control Risks, Johannesburg	2015-2016
Tour guide & English-Chinese translator, Cape Town	2004 -2007
Taiwan Communications Monthly (bilingual), English Editor	2003

TEACHING RECORD

1. Adjunct Senior Lecturer, Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town 2021-2023
2. Research Associate, Gordon Institute of Business Science, University of Pretoria 2018-2020
3. Lecturer, School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Shanghai International Studies University 2013-2015
4. Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Political Studies, University of the Western Cape 2013-2013
5. Tutor, School of International Relations, University of St. Andrews 2008-2010
6. Lecturer, Philosophy, St. Francis Xavier Cape Town Diocesan Seminary 2005-2006
7. Tutor, Department of Philosophy; Department of Economics, University of Cape Town 1999-2002

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate

1. Introduction to International Relations
2. International Relations and Foreign Policy Analysis

3. Introduction to International Political Economy
4. Globalization and Africa
5. Introduction to Philosophy
6. Introduction to Modern Philosophy

Graduate

7. International Security
8. Research Methodology
9. Chinese Foreign Policy
10. China in Africa

Executive Education

11. Doing Business with China
12. Political Risk Analysis

Accredit professional course for continuing education (Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA))

13. Political Risk Analysis

ACCREDITED ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

1. 2021, "The rise of Asian values and Chinese norms in United Nations Peace Operations: Hold on a minute- what are the Chinese norms again?" in 15th Biennial Conference of South African Association of Political Studies (SAAPS)
2. 2015, China and the post-liberal peace: Lessons from Chinese participation in the United Nations Mission in Liberia, West Africa Peace and Security Network Symposium, Kofi Annan Peacekeeping Training Centre, Accra, Ghana.
3. 2014, Reassessing Chinese Peace Operations in Africa. Sixth Oceanic Conference on International Studies, University of Melbourne, Australia.
4. 2013, (presented in Mandarin) 评估中国参与非洲联合国维和 [Assessing Chinese participation in peacekeeping in Africa], at the 全球冲突与人的安全研讨会 [Global Conflict and Human Security Conference], held at the University of International Relations, Beijing, China.
5. 2012, The Reluctant Peacemaker: China and the Two Sudans, paper presented at the 2nd Meeting of the China-Africa Think Tanks Forum, Bishoftu, Ethiopia.
6. 2011, The People's Republic of China's Position on Security in Africa: Motivations and Limitations, paper presented at the 4th European Conference on African Studies, Uppsala, Sweden.
7. 2010, Chinese and Western Models of Development aid in Africa: What do Liberians Think? Presented at 'After the G20 Toronto Summit: Canada, China and the Global Governance', held at School of International and Diplomatic Affairs, Shanghai International Studies University, China.
8. 2010, (presented in Mandarin) 中国是负责任的大国吗? 利比里亚的观点 [Is China a Responsible Great Power? A Perspective from Liberia], at the 2010 年政治学与国际关系学术共同体会议 [Chinese Community of Political Studies and International Studies Conference], Tsinghua University, Beijing

FELLOWSHIPS

1. Honorary Research Fellow (non-residential), Consilium Research Institute, Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences, Chong Qing University. 2018-2020
2. Non-resident Research Fellow, School of International Relations, Shanghai International Studies University. 2015-2017
3. Visiting Fellow, Centre for African Studies, University of Cape Town, 2011
4. Visiting Fellow, School of International Studies, Renmin University, Beijing, 2010

5. Visiting Fellow Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University, 2010

KEYNOTE ADDRESS, THINK TANK CONFERENCES, GUEST LECTURES

1. 2023, November, Author Workshop – Coercion in Peacebuilding. Sponsored by: Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Accra, Ghana; Peace Research Institute Frankfurt; Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University.
2. 2023, July, The Future of Africa-China Trade and How to Get There. South African Institute of International Affairs.
3. 2022, October, The Dakar Action Plan: A decisive turn in Africa-China relations. Institute for Security Studies supported by the Chinese embassy in SA, Pretoria.
4. 2021, September, Africa's security partnership with China: Looking to the Future. Institute of Security Studies supported by Chinese embassy in SA, Pretoria.
5. 2019, March, Keynote Speaker. Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA) Infrastructure Indaba, Durban.
6. 2018, MBA class, University of Stellenbosch Business School, "Perspectives on African Frontiers: Views from China"
7. 2018, MBA class, Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town, "Emerging Markets and Risks: Chinese Experiences in Africa".
8. 2017, LLM (Extractive Industry Law in Africa) class, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria: "Corruption and Whistleblowing in the Context of the Extractive Sectors".
9. 2017, MBA class, Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town: "Emerging Markets and Risks: Chinese Experiences in Africa"
10. 2016, Centre for Developing Markets, Gordon Institute of Business Science; "China and the Pacific Alliance"
11. 2016, LLM (Extractive Industry Law in Africa) class, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria: "Corruption and Whistleblowing in the Context of the Extractive Sectors".
12. 2015 Energy Crisis – Solutions for Business Continuity Workshop; Gordon Institute of Business Science: "Managing risk during load shedding and a national blackout"
13. 2014 The Middle East Studies Institute, Shanghai International Studies University, Seminar Series: "Chinese Model of Peace Operations?"
14. 2013 Centre for European Studies, Fudan University, Symposium 'China, EU, and US in a Global Environment: Which role for Africa?'
15. 2012 Desmond Tutu Centre for War and Peace Studies, Liverpool Hope University, Guest Speakers Series
16. 2012 Nobel Institute, Oslo, Research Seminar: 'China in Africa, Dragon in Norway's Backyard?'
17. 2011 Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, as a South African representative at workshop 'BRICS/IBSA-Africa Relations: Turning threats to opportunity?'

ACADEMIC SERVICE

1. External Advisory Board, Milpark Business School, Johannesburg April 2019-
2. Journal referee:
 - International Studies Review
 - Defence and Security Analysis
 - Social Dynamics: A Journal of African Studies
 - Studia Orientalia: Journal of the Finnish Oriental Society
3. External examiner
 - Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town

- Political Studies Department, University of Cape Town

REFEREE

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