

China's Belt and Road Initiative: a View from the Periphery

China's "Belt and Road" Initiative has been the subject of intense debates for many years, most of which have focused on its geopolitical and economic aspects. What has often been overlooked is the BRI's potential to transform the countries that have signed up for it, and what challenges these often fragile states are facing in its implementation.

These aspects will be covered by the speakers of this event co-organized by the Department for East Asian Studies/ Sinology and the Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict. Based on their research or on the spot observations, academic experts and NGO practitioners will discuss a range of often-neglected questions connected to the BRI, with a particular focus on the perspective of its member states:

- What effects can we expect from massive infrastructure investments in conflict regions?
- How does this play out in conflict ridden countries such as Myanmar and Pakistan?
- Are Chinese enterprises prepared to handle local conflicts? What role can international actors play to achieve a conflict-sensitive implementation?

Moderator:

Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna

Speakers:

Pascal Abb, ASPR Vienna

Khurram Siddiqui, University of Nottingham

Bernardo Mariani, Saferworld, Vienna

Sebastian Holler, Europe Goes Silk Road, Vienna

The presentations will be given in English; the discussion will be in English and German.

There will be drinks and snacks after the event and a possibility to continue discussions in an informal manner.

Please double check before you come to make sure the event can take place despite the Corona virus epidemic. You will find information on our homepage:

<https://sinologie.univie.ac.at/>

Date: Wednesday, March 11th, 2020

Time: 6 to 9 PM

Location: Aula am Campus der Universität Wien, Hof 1.11, Spitalgasse 2-4, 1090 Wien