ASIA-JAPAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE RITSUMEIKAN UNIVERSITY

Global China Studies Seminar Series

State Rhetoric and Chinese Foreign Policy Behaviour: The Case of Economic Sanctions

11 December 2026 (Friday)

Co-organized by Monthly Young Scholars Research Meeting (IIRAS MYSRM Program)

Does China's rhetoric toward foreign countries provide insights into its foreign policy behaviour? This talk introduces a new dataset capturing China's diplomatic rhetoric, including threats, criticism, praise, promises, and expressions of support, based on People's Daily, Global Times, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs press conferences. Using this dataset, the talk examines the relationship between rhetorical threats and China's imposition of economic sanctions from 2010 to 2025. The findings reveal a close temporal association between threatening rhetoric and sanctions, with the likelihood of sanctions increasing as rhetoric escalates. However, explicit economic threats provide the clearest evidence of rhetoric preceding action.

Time

- 13:10–14:45

Location

- Ritsumeikan University, Kinugasa Campus
- Koshinkan Building Room KS204

Inquiry

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https://en.ritsumei.ac.jp/research/aji/

Speaker



Victor A. Ferguson

Victor A. Ferguson is an Assistant Professor of International Relations in the Graduate School of Law at Hitotsubashi University. He researches economic statecraft and the political economy of economic security in the Indo-Pacific. Prior to joining Hitotsubashi, Victor was a JSPS Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Tokyo. He received his PhD from the School of Politics and International Relations at the Australian National University's Research School of Social Sciences.

Moderator



Mina Tadrous
Senior Researcher
Research Organization of Open Innovation and Collaboration