

INTERNATIONAL AUTHORS' WORKSHOP

**CONTESTING ROLES IN WORLD POLITICS:
GREAT POWER IDENTITY
AND THE MAKING OF GLOBAL ORDER**

Tue/Wed, 12th and 13th May, 2026

University of Duisburg-Essen

Institute of East Asian Studies

Room SG 183, Geibelstraße 41, 47057 Duisburg

The workshop is organized
by the Chair of Chinese Politics
(Nele Noesselt)

The Workshop is open for the public
Registration required: nele.noesselt@uni-due.de

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

10:00–10:30 Welcome & Opening Remarks

10:30–11:45 Panel 1: Theorizing Role Contestation and Its Limits

Nele Noesselt & Elizaveta Priupolina

Multilayered Global Role Contestation: US, China, Russia

Igor Sevenard

Role Entitlement in Chinese Order-Building: The 'Global Community of Shared Future' and the Authorization of Governance Roles

Sebastian Harnisch & Simone Dossi

How China May Go Wrong: Overconfidence, Domestic Structures and the Roles China's Government Fail to Play

11:45–12:00 Coffee Break

12:00–12:55 Panel 2: Order, Status, and Global Positioning

Wang Ziyuan & Zhang Chang

Easy to Join? Liberal International Order, Democracy, and China's Status Anxiety

Pu Xiaoyu

Selective Leadership and Role Contestation: China's Global Initiatives in a Changing World Order

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–15:15 Panel 3: Geo-Economics and Economic Role Negotiation

Markus Taube

On China's Evolving Role in the Global Economy: Catching-up Growth, Economic Statecraft and Geo-economics

Gordon Friedrichs & Stella Kim

Negotiating Roles under Rivalry: Constructing Conflict and Cooperation in U.S.-China Economic Relations

Mateus Bilhar, Igor Sevenard & Richard Cook

Internal Role Conflict and Competing Foreign Policy Paradigms: The Dependence-Autonomy Dilemma in Brazil's Foreign Policy Amid the China-US Strategic Competition

15:15–15:30 Coffee Break

15:30–16:45 Panel 4: China in Asia: Regional Orders and Hierarchies

Guo Xiaoli

Not One Initiative, Not One Role: Reading China's Foreign Policy Through Linkage

Brantly Womack

China-Southeast Asia, US-Latin America: Neighborhood and Backyard

Zhang Runan, Wang Yuan & Han Rongbin

Cheering for the Enemy? Nationalist Discourse on Sino-Japanese Relations and China's Great Power Status

16:45–17:00 Coffee Break

17:00–18:15 Panel 5: Europe and Comparative Role Contestation

Jörn-Carsten Gottwald, Niall Duggan & Mireia Paulo

Unilateral Role Change and Altercasting in EU-China Relations

Sebastian Bersick

Role Contestation and Change: A Comparison of China's Roles in Asia and Europe and the EU's Response

18:30–20:00 Workshop Dinner

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

9:15–9:30 Wrap-up of Day 1

9:30–10:45 Panel 6: Great Power Relations and Strategic Alignments

Jeanne L. Wilson

Russian Perceptions of China's National Role Identity as a Global Leader

Carolijn van Noort

China's Soft Power and the Blue Economy: Introducing a Blue Power Typology to Assess Role Conceptions

Flavia Lucenti

Reconceptualise China and Russia as Self-Categorised Outsiders: The Evolution of a Partnership

10:45–11:00 Coffee Break

11:00–12:15 Panel 7: Identity, Discourse, and Status Politics

Arne Meyer

The Illusion of Great Power Competition? China's Post-Colonial Socialist Identity and Outer Space Cooperation (Tiangong-3)

Omar Serrano Ramon & Maria Ljung

Recognizing China through the AIIB: European Expectations and Reassessments, 2015–2025

12:30 Lunch

14:00–15:00 Wrap-up, Discussion of Publication Plans

