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## April 4 (16:00-18:00): Book presentation "China's Foreign Policy Contradictions" by Tim Rühlig

On April 4, Tim Rühlig will present his newest book "[China's Foreign Policy Contradictions: Lessons from China's R2P, Hong Kong and WTO Policy](#)" in a

room 3.46.

You can register for the presentation via [our website](#).

### About the author

Tim Rühlig is a research fellow at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) researching Europe-China relations, Chinese foreign and industrial policy including high technology and Hong Kong politics. He is also an associate research at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs (Utrikespolitiska institutet, UI).

The other panelists are:

- Frans-Paul van der Putten, senior research fellow at the Clingendael Institute.
- Vincent Chang, research fellow at the LeidenAsiaCentre and lecturer modern Chinese history at Leiden University
- Linda van der Horst, senior policy officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and PhD candidate at the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs

### Back cover text of the book

Throughout the post-Mao reform era, China has championed the principle of sovereign state control, which holds that states should not intervene in the affairs of other states. Yet as Tim Nicholas Rühlig argues in *China's Foreign Policy Contradictions*, in recent years they have not actually acted this way. This is not the only issue area where Chinese foreign policy actions fail to match up with official rhetoric, and these inconsistencies—in combination with China's growing power—will have dramatic effects on the future shape of international order.



To explain these contradictions, Rühlig draws from a rich battery of in-depth interviews with party officials to explain the foreign policy dynamics and processes of the normally opaque Chinese party-state. He demonstrates how different sources of the Chinese Communist Party's domestic legitimacy compete within the complex and highly fragmented Chinese party-state, resulting in contradictory foreign policies. He focuses on three issue areas: international human rights law and "responsibility to protect" (R2P); China's role in World Trade Organization (WTO) policymaking; and China's evolving relationship with Hong Kong. In each

area, different factions within the party-state wrestle for control, with domestic legitimacy of the party always being the overriding goal. This incessant

an alternative to the existing international order (and more specifically as a champion of nonintervention). Instead, it often pursues narrowly nationalistic interests.

By elucidating how foreign policymakers strategize and react within the context of a massive and complex bureaucratic system that is constantly under pressure from many sides, Rühlig shows not only why China's foreign policy is so inconsistent, but why it is likely to contribute to a more particularistic, plural, and fragmented international order in the years to come. This book represents a significant advance in our understanding of the foreign policymaking process in authoritarian regimes.

[Register for the presentation \(free\)](#)

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## New Publication: "Public Health in Asia during the COVID-19 Pandemic - Global Health Governance, Migrant Labour, and International Health Crises"

In collaboration with the [Konrad Adenauer Stiftung's \(KAS\)](#) Regional Economic Programme Asia (SOPAS) and the [IAFOR Research Centre at Osaka School of International Public Policy \(IRC\)](#), the LeidenAsiaCentre published a book titled "Public Health in Asia during the COVID-19 Pandemic". The volume provides an accessible framework for the understanding the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia, with a specific emphasis on global governance in health and labor.

The book is edited by [Anoma P. van der Veere](#) (LAC researcher), [Florian Schneider](#) (LAC director) and Catherine Yuk-ping Lo.

Every nation in Asia has dealt with COVID-19 differently and with varying levels of success in the absence of clear and effective leadership from the WHO. As a result, the WHO's role in Asia as a global health organization is coming under increasing pressure. As its credibility is slowly being eroded by public displays of incompetence and negligence, it has also become an arena of contestation. Moreover, while the pandemic continues to undermine the future of global health governance as a whole, the highly interdependent economies in Asia have exposed the speed with which pandemics can spread, as intensive regional travel and business connections have caused every area in the region to be hit hard. The migrant labor necessary to sustain globalized economies

precarious than ever, as millions have been left stranded, seen their entry blocked, or have limited access to health services.



[Click here to access the publication](#)

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## New LAC Shorts

*LAC shorts are articles written by or interviews conducted with LeidenAsiaCentre researchers on important developments in Asia.*

Recently, two new LAC Shorts articles have been published.

### **"WWII memory aims to unite Chinese people, deepen China-Russia bond"**

LAC research fellow [Vincent Chang](#) wrote an article on the revival of the remembrance of World War II in China and how this deepens the China – Russia bond.



### "The Russia-Ukraine War in the Chinese Media"

Manya Koetse is a Sinologist and Japanologist (MPhil, Leiden University) and the editor-in-chief of [What's on Weibo](#), a news site that provides insights into Chinese social trends and online media.

For the LeidenAsiaCentre, she wrote a LAC Short article on some of the trends dominating Chinese media discussions within the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.



[Click here to access the LAC shorts](#)

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Looking back: China Café "China's digital economy and the Dutch business sector"

development of the Chinese digital economy and its impact on Europe and the Netherlands. Rogier Creemers (Leiden University), Gert-Jan van Eck (COO Huawei) and Leah Li (Seedlink) shared their views on cooperation and dependence in the field of Chinese technology.

The key question at this meeting was whether there is sufficient knowledge and insight in the field of data-intensive technologies in the European Union and in the Netherlands. To what extent is cooperation with China possible and desirable in the field of these technologies? And what are the consequences for Dutch and European companies in case of dependence on Chinese technologies?

For future China Café events, keep an eye on the [China Café agenda on our website](#).



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## New Podcast Episodes

### [#6 Tech Investment and Finance in China](#)

In this episode of the China Smart State Podcast, Rogier talks with Rui Ma about tech investment in China. Rui has over fifteen years of experience in investment banking and venture capital finance, and spent eight of those years working across multiple industries including real estate and media as well as technology in Shanghai and Beijing. She is currently an angel investor, advisor to several startups and funds, and founder of Techbuzz China.

In this episode they discuss everything to do with innovation in China, the private internet sector, companies, finance and investment. On the

side of tech investment and finance.

### [#5 The Rise of China's Semiconductor Industry](#)

In episode 5 of the China Smart State Podcast, Rogier chats with John Lee about semiconductors. John Lee is the director of East-West Futures, a consulting firm focusing on the global impacts of China's digital technology industries and cyberspace governance system. Previously, John worked as a senior analyst at the Mercator Institute for China Studies in Berlin.

In this episode, Rogier and John talk about the evolution of the Chinese semiconductor sector.



[Click here to listen to the China Smart State podcast!](#)

## Podcasts



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