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In this newsletter

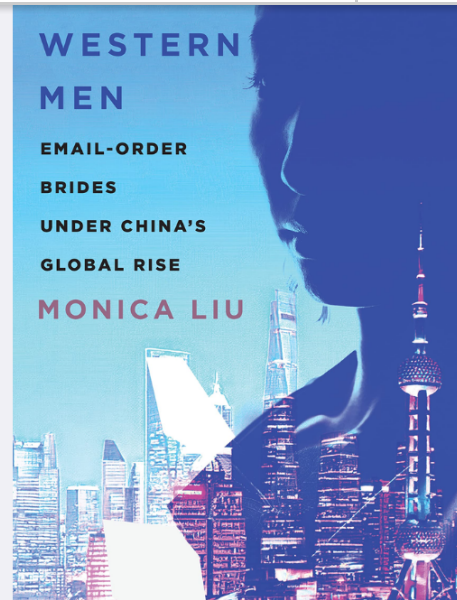
- Book Talk 25-5-2023: Seeking Western Men with Monica Liu [[Read more](#)]
- Publication: Influence and interference of the People's Republic of China among the Chinese population in the Netherlands [[Read more](#)]
- Publication: The Evolution of Chinese Perspectives on Cyber Deterrence and Attribution [[Read more](#)]
- China Smart State Podcast: The Digital Silk Road [[Listen here](#)]
- In de media: Frank Pieke over de 'zachte dreiging' van China



[Visit the LeidenAsiaCentre website](#)

Book Talk with Monica Liu

The Hague, May 25th



Book Talk 25-5-2023: Seeking Western Men

On 25 May, The LeidenAsiaCentre hosts a lecture by Monica Liu, who will discuss her new book "Seeking Western Men: Email-Order Brides under China's Global Rise."

Liu's research, conducted between 2008 and 2019 in China, explores the life histories and decision-making processes of Chinese women seeking to marry Western men they met through online dating agencies. Most of these women were middle-aged, divorced, and from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

Liu's investigation asked several questions: How did the inequalities that emerged during China's transition from state socialism toward a global market economy shape these women's desires to pursue out-migration via marriage? How did the women's social and economic status in China affect their expectations about their new lives abroad?

Liu's study demonstrates how the Western men, a relatively homogenous group employed in agriculture, manufacturing, and small business, coupled with the Chinese women, and what factors proved decisive in the success or failure of their relationships. Lastly, Liu reflects on how changing economies challenge gender ideologies.

Monica Liu received her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California – San Diego. She is currently Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of St. Thomas – Minnesota. Her research

China and men from Western countries. Her research has been published in *Men and Masculinities*, *Qualitative Sociology*, and *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. Her monograph, *Seeking Western Men: Email-Order Brides under China's Global Rise* (Stanford University Press) has just appeared in 2023.



Monica Liu

[Sign up now](#) to join the event!

Date: 25-5-2023

Time: 16:00-18:00

Location: The Hague Humanity Hub

Note: If you have any problems registering via the online form, please do not hesitate to email us (info@leidenasiacentre.nl)

[Click here for more information and registration](#)

Publication: Influence and interference of the People's Republic of China among the Chinese population in the Netherlands

Our latest report, commissioned by the Dutch government and written by Professor Frank Pieke, researches the extent of China's influence and interference among the Chinese population in the Netherlands. For this comprehensive research report, a large and diverse group of people in the Netherlands with a Chinese background were interviewed.



An earlier LeidenAsiaCentre study from 2021 already concluded that conditions and infrastructure for Chinese influence among the Chinese population in the Netherlands are present. It has now been investigated whether there is interference, and how vulnerable the

The report concludes that there is unwanted influence: "Statistically speaking, the most influenced and impressionable people of Chinese background living in the Netherlands are men with a low level of education who speak poor Dutch. The most threatened Chinese in the Netherlands are people from Xinjiang and, to a lesser extent, those who came to the Netherlands for study."

But the study finds "little or no active interference by the Chinese authorities among the ordinary Chinese population in the Netherlands". In the case of this group, there is "a soft threat" from China. "Many Chinese Dutch from the People's Republic and Hong Kong avoid airing their views on a number of sensitive issues, a form of self-censorship both as a precaution in case it comes to the Chinese authorities' attention and to avoid discussions with other Chinese."

We've published this report in both Dutch and English. You can read both versions on our website, as well as summaries in Dutch, English, and Chinese.



[Summary in English](#)



[Summary in Dutch](#)



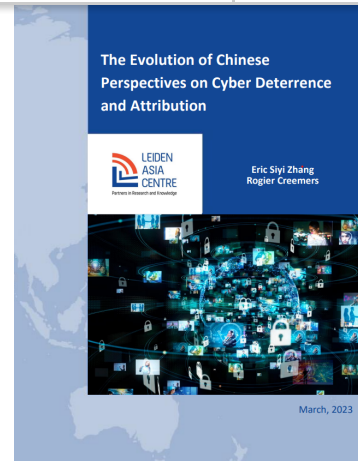
[Summary in Chinese](#)

[Click here for more information](#)

Publication: The Evolution of Chinese Perspectives on Cyber Deterrence and Attribution

This report, written by LAC's [Eric Siyi Zhang](#) and [Rogier Creemers](#) reviews

practice of cyber deterrence focused on developing asymmetrical offensive capabilities to create a state of 'mutually assured destruction' in cyberspace. However, China's growing digitalization prompted a pivot to defensive capabilities such as network resilience and more recently cyber attribution capabilities.



On cyber attribution, China had previously maintained that technical attribution is near impossible, and that public attribution is counterproductive and hypocritical. Meanwhile, China has most likely heavily invested in cyber forensic technologies. With the recent CVERC attribution, it is logical to assume that China's official position on attribution has changed. However, it remains to be seen if China will adopt the 'naming and shaming' tactics of public attribution.

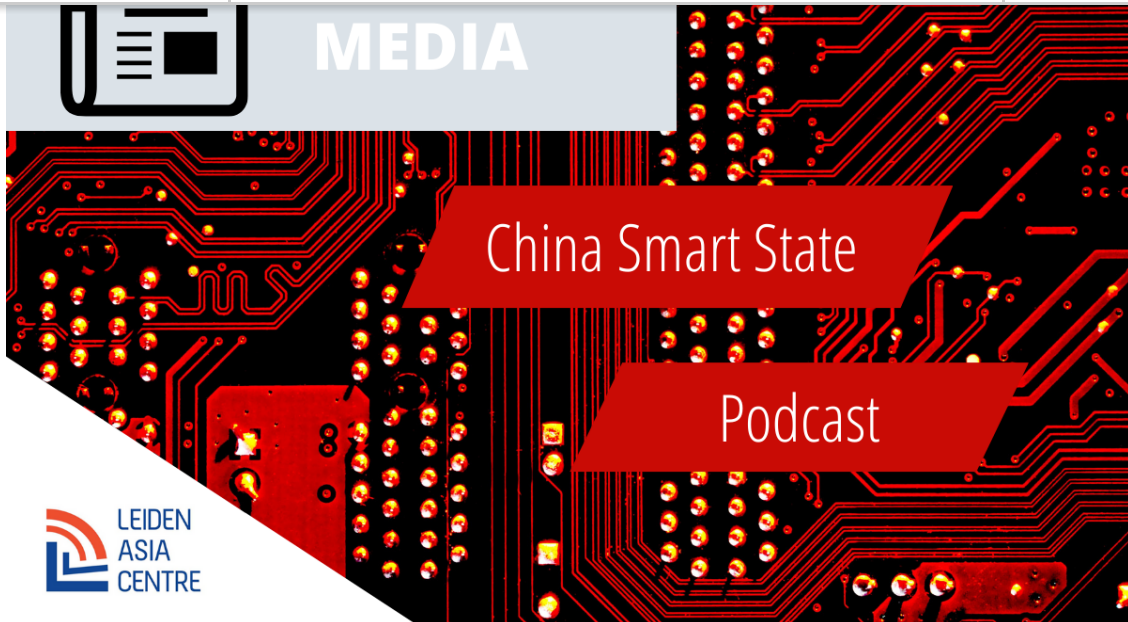
The perceptions that Chinese authors have of other actors in cyberspace seem to reflect prevalent Chinese geopolitical views in the physical space. While Chinese authors have consistently referred to the US as the 'cyber hegemon', China has meticulously studied how the US practises cyber deterrence and attribution. And when it suited China's interests, it adopted these practices, as far as China's capabilities allow. By comparison, there is substantially less Chinese literature written on European countries, while their strategies in cyberspace are often described as defensive. Lastly, as most Chinese authors reviewed in this report seem to adopt a state-centric approach, they see organizations such as NATO more as state-actors' policy tool, instead of an actor with agency of its own.

[Click here to read the report](#)

The China Smart State Podcast: The Digital Silk Road



MEDIA



This month's guest is Meia Nouwens, senior fellow for Chinese Security and Defence Policy and head of the China Programme at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in London. Her expertise lies in Chinese cross-service defence analysis, China's defence industry and innovation, as well as China's regional strategic affairs and international relations. Meia joins the podcast to talk about her new book 'The digital Silk Road – China's Technological Rise and the Geopolitics of Cyberspace'.

The Digital Silk Road often remains a ill-defined and poorly understood concept. There are many misconceptions, for example the idea that the the Digital Silk Road is only an extension of the Belt and Road Initiative, with the same actors and geographical boundaries. Or that China is going to completely take over the digital world. In reality, the Digital Silk Road is a lot more complex and operates according to its own rules. In this podcast Rogier, Linda and Meia delve deeper into the nuances of this Chinese cyber initiative.

[Click here to listen to our podcasts](#)

In de media: Frank Pieke over de 'zachte dreiging' van China

Professor Frank Pieke van het LeidenAsiaCentre is in [Trouw](#) en op [NPO Radio 1](#) geïnterviewd naar aanleiding van zijn recente onderzoek: 'Invloed en inmenging van de Volksrepubliek China onder de Chinese bevolking in Nederland'.

rapport is vertaald naar het Engels, en er zijn samenvattingen in Nederlands, Engels en Chinees.

Uit het onderzoek blijkt dat de gewone Chinese bevolking in Nederland weinig voelt van directe inmenging van de Chinese autoriteiten. Maar de 'zachte dreiging' van China is reden tot zorg.

Klik hier voor meer in de media



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