

Travel Report

Student Name: Feifei Zeng

Major: International Business

Research Project Title: What Does China's Belt and Road Initiative Mean to the U.S.?

Faculty Adviser: Dr. Banerjee

Program Name: Global Governance Forum

Website: <http://www.puccuschina.org/conference-information/>

Location: Princeton University

Date: April 4th to April 8th

It was an honor and privilege to represent the Shackouls Honors College and Mississippi State University at the Global Governance Forum held at Princeton University. The travel fund allowed me to participate in the program and I am very grateful for the generous donors who made this possible for students in the honors college. Thank you, Honors College for your continuous support.

Program Mission:

Uniting the most promising student leaders across the world on Princeton's campus, the Princeton US-China Coalition is proud to announce our annual Global Governance Forum. Selected students will have the opportunity to participate in discussions led by prominent US-China academics, engage in fast-paced crisis simulations, and network with companies working at the forefront of the US-China interface. The conference will culminate in a capstone policy proposal project, where students will be presented with a theoretical case in US-China relations and challenged to present substantive recommendations in response to the issue. Featuring prominent academics and industry leaders, an intimate environment with students hailing from across the globe, and the resources of a world-class university, the Global Governance Forum offers a unique and unforgettable experience in the exploration of US-China policy.

Programming

- a. **Lecture** series by both prominent Princeton faculty, and other distinguished scholars in the field of US-China relations.
- b. **Policy Proposal.** Delegates will be assigned teams and presented with a policy issue relevant to both the US and China. They will then be expected to formulate a comprehensive policy proposal and present it to a panel of academics and US-China scholars for critique.
- c. **Crisis simulations** are loosely based on the simulations run by Princeton's Center for International Security Studies. Delegates will each have the opportunity to represent the US and China during a simulation.
- d. **Career Panel:** several prominent non-governmental organizations, non-profits, and companies working in the field of US-China relations to attend the Global Governance Forum.

Delegates (<http://www.puccuschina.org/2018-delegates/>)

The delegates included both undergraduate and graduate students from institutions in the U.S., China, and Europe.

The diversity of the delegate group allowed for intellectual exchange and peer-to-peer learning. Not only we found common ground through our common passion for the U.S.-China Relation, we also build friendships that will last a life-time.

Speakers (<http://www.puccuschina.org/speakers/>)

The speakers were outstanding to say the least. They ranged from the Managing Director at the Silk Road Fund to the Arthur Ross Director of the Center on U.S.-China Relations. Every speaker and panelist shared with us insightful information and challenged us intellectually.

Why this program?

This year's conference was centered around China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which is the research topic for my Honors Senior Thesis. This program connected me with experts in the field and on this topic as well as networking opportunities.

Honors Thesis**Abstract**

This thesis through a case study method examines U.S. involvement in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), 一带一路, also known as One Belt, One Road, with an emphasis on analyzing the benefits and costs associated with U.S. involvement, lack of involvement, and maintenance of current status. As a rising power, China hopes to further expand its influence through BRI. Historically, whenever there is a rising power and an existing dominant power, there exists a potential risk of war¹. What does this mean for the U.S.? Should the U.S. oppose this initiative to lessen China's power? Or should the U.S. be involved in the infrastructure initiatives to help with the development of the countries involved in the BRI? Or should the U.S. continue to standby and observe where the BRI will lead? Three case studies are generated based on the following hypothetical scenarios: (a) the U.S. actively supports BRI, (b) the U.S. actively opposes BRI, and (c) the U.S. maintains the current status.

Research Symposium

I will be presenting the research at this summer's Undergraduate Research Symposium at MSU.

¹ Allison, Graham. "The Thucydides Trap: Are the U.S. and China Headed for War?" *The Atlantic*. September 24, 2015. Accessed December 04, 2017.