



Panel's title : Narratives on the Rise of China: a Japanese and Chinese perspective

Coordinator (Affiliation, University...) : Dr. LLuc Lopez i Vidal (Open University of Catalonia and Autonomous University of Barcelona)

Language : English

Topics : (International relations)

Panel presentation :

The aim of this panel is to understand the role of narratives and perspectives on the Foreign Policies of two of the most important actors in East Asia: People's Republic of China and Japan. On the one hand, the goal of the panel is to explore and analyze the narratives surrounding the rise of China within the Chinese epistemic community of International Relations (IR). We will understand how Chinese IR scholars provide an alternative view from a Chinese perspective about the 'rise' of China that differs from mainstream IR theories. As we will demonstrate, Western IR theories do not provide appropriate theoretical frameworks capable of revealing distinctive Chinese historical phenomena. On the other hand, we will analyze how discourses on the rise of China have been shaping Japanese foreign policy since the end of the cold war. Contrary to what IR theory states, there is an ongoing debate in Japan about the best strategy in dealing with China. According to most specialists, there is an alternative narrative to realism and liberalism that affirms that Japan is following a clear hedging strategy, a middle path in the dilemma between cooperation and competition with China.

Key words : Chinese Foreign Policy ; Japanese Foreign Policy ; Non-Western Theory of IR .

Participants :

1) **Name(s) (Affiliation, University...)** : Ferran Perez Mena (PhD Candidate, University of Sussex)

Communication's title : The 'rise' of China from a Chinese perspective: narratives surrounding the 'rise' of China within the Chinese epistemic community

Language : English

Presentation :

The opening up of China in 1979 triggered a great debate among both Western and Chinese scholars about the prospects of its 'rise'. Due to the Eurocentric nature of IR, Western IR paradigms and theories have hegemonised the discussion, tending to overlook Chinese perspectives that provide alternative views. This presentation argues that in order to understand the narratives surrounding the 'rise' of China from a Chinese perspective, it is vital to comprehend how Chinese IR scholars perceive, analyze and present such a 're-emergence'. As Qin Yaqing notes, Western IR theories do not provide appropriate theoretical frameworks capable of illuminating distinctive Chinese historical phenomena. In recent years, several Chinese IR scholars, with varying theoretical standpoints, namely Yan Xuetong, Zhao Tingyang and Qin Yaqing have put forward contrasting models and narratives. These have been inspired largely through Chinese political thought and local historical experiences that both describe and envisage from a Chinese perspective how the 'rise' has occurred. Unlike their American counterparts, these models argue that the 'rise' of China will be a peaceful one due to the cultural legacy of Confucian Chinese diplomacy based on ideas such 'harmony' and Confucian 'order'. Others claim that the clash between China and the US is inevitable. This presentation will be an exploration and analysis of these narratives.

Key words : Chinese Foreign Policy ; Chinese IR Theory ; Non-Western Theory of IR ; Rise of China



2) Name(s) (Affiliation, University...) : Ivan Gonzalez. And (PhD. Candidate, Open University of Catalonia)

Communication's title : Is the rise of China a threat or an opportunity for Japan? Analysis from a security perspective

Language : English :

Presentation :

The rise of China has entailed deep changes in both regional and global power dynamics. Approaches on the rise of China have progressively become more influential on the security policy of Japan as a rational and great power. Some groups are deeply concerned about the challenges that China is placing on Japanese security. They identify a clear balancing strategy vis-à-vis China. Other groups would rather opt for cooperative positions to exploit the benefits of the rise of China. Different narratives on the rise of China are shaping the so-called normalization of Japanese foreign policy, especially the economic interdependence between Japan and China. Thus, despite the inherent uncertainty of the rise of China, Japan seems to have found its way by using a strategy of hedging, a middle path in the dilemma between competition and cooperation with China.

Key words : Japanese Foreign Policy ; Rise of China ; Japanese Security ; ...