

Academic Curriculum Vitae and Thesis Summary

Steven Langendonk

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EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019-present **Doctoral Programme in the Social Sciences 2019-2024**

Doctoral School for the Humanities and Social Sciences, KU Leuven, Belgium

Research topic: “Decoding Chinese diplomatic behaviour in international organizations: domestic logics of action meet multilateral order”.

Research scope: a mix of interviews, in-person observation of Chinese multilateral diplomacy, historical cases, and semantic network analysis is combined with comparative analysis of domestic rhetoric, laws, policies, and debates to draw out how Chinese multilateral diplomacy is understood, organized and practiced.

Deliverables: practically applicable insights on how Chinese diplomats behave in multilateral settings, a theoretically relevant argument about Chinese diplomacy in International Relations, and a set of methodological innovations in interpretative analysis of international relations.

Funding: Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) fundamental research fellowship 2020-2024 (11J7721N)

Courses completed during the programme:

China in Europe Research Network (CHERN)

-2023 Training School from China Scholarship to Policy Advice

-2022 Introduction to Computational Methods in Contemporary Chinese Studies – Learn by Doing

KU Leuven:

-Diplomatic History: National Identity and International Conduct

-Academic Writing for Junior Researchers

-Managing your PhD

-Research Integrity

ECPR Winter School 2021:

- Knowing and the Known: The Philosophy and Methodology of the Social Sciences
- Quantitative Text Analysis with R

Flanders Training Network for Methodology and Statistics (FLAMES) Summer School 2021

- Ethnographical Research
- Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis
- Narrative Research

FLAMES Standalone Courses 2019-2021

- Causality in Qualitative Research
- Introduction to Social Network Analysis
- Quality Assessment in Qualitative Research
- Introduction to Critical Discourse Analysis
- Essential Tools for R

Participation in academic conferences and policy workshops:

Organized or conducted:

- Decoding China's Multilateral Strategy: A Discussion with Steven Langendonk, Young China Watchers Brussels Chapter Event.
- Narrative as an approach to Europe-China relations. Presentation delivered to CHERN Working Group 4 on Public Diplomacy and Knowledge Production.
- Panel at the 2021 Interpretive Policy Analysis Conference: Discourse as an Interface in the Study of Interactions Between China and the World: Foreign Policy, Narratives, and Diplomacy.

Presented at:

- 2024 ISA Conference Panel on China at the United Nations.
- 2022 UACES Conference Panel Narrating Europe and China: The Role of European Narratives of the EU-China Relationship.
- 2021 EUJA Conference Panel Challenges to EU-China Cooperation.

Participated in:

- 2024 Special Issue Launch – Power Shifts in International Organisations: China at the United Nations
- 2023 CHERN Joint Working Group Conference China-Europe: Reconnecting in an Era of Competition and Rivalry?
- 2022 Workshop on a Special Issue for the Journal Global Policy Coordinated by the China Centre at the University of Oxford, Fudan University and the German Institute of Development and Sustainability.
- 2022 Workshop on EU-China Think Tank Exchange Organized by European Policy Centre.
- 2022 Workshop on an Edited Volume on Narrative in Europe-China Relations.

- 2021 Workshop on Addressing the Emerging New Cold War narrative on China – the Role and Space of European Academics. Organized by CHERN.
- 2021 Chinese Soft Power in Context. Organized by CHERN.
- 2021 4+5 Online Sino-European Dialogue: Where is the relationship heading?
- 2021 Doing Fieldwork in China: Conversations with Practitioners.
- 2020-2021 Methods Clinic: Issues in Interpretive Research (monthly). Organized by Interpretive Methodologies and Methods section and the Women’s Caucus in Political Science of APSA.
- 2020 Expert exchange: The Sino-American World Conflict. Organized by Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik.
- 2020 Expert roundtable Wind of Change – A New EU-China Policy? Organized by ECFR and the Heinrich Boll Stiftung.
- 2020 China’s role in the United Nations – Revisionist, Reformist, or Status Quo? Organized by Chatham House.
- 2020 State of the Union – Europe Caught up in Polycrisis. Organized by Clingendael.
- 2019 De Nederlandse China strategie [the Dutch China strategy]. Co-organized by Clingendael Institute, Leiden Asia Centre, and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 2019 Which future for multilateralism? Perspectives from the EU and major powers. Organized by the Egmont Institute and the GLOBUS Horizon 2020 program.

2018-2023 **Lecturer at the Faculty of Social Sciences (KU Leuven)**

I taught a senior Bachelor level seminar on themes in International Relations ranging from international intervention to Chinese foreign policy and diplomacy. As part of this seminar, I also taught research design, academic and policy writing and IR theory.

I also supported the following courses:

- International Organization
- International Relations Theories
- International Politics for the 21st Century

2018-2019 **Programme Coordinator of the Master of International Politics (Faculty of Social Sciences, KU Leuven)**

Responsible for the daily management of the programme, including marketing, administration, research support and extracurricular activities.

During my time as programme coordinator, the team managed to triple the number of students from 30 to 90 which made the programme profitable.

I also supported the following courses:

- European Foreign Policy
- Global Environmental Politics
- Global Politics and Diplomacy
- Russia and Eurasia in the Global Context

2017-2018 **MSc in Comparative and International Politics (KU Leuven) – Magna Cum Laude**

2014-2017 **BA in History (KU Leuven) – Cum Laude**

- 2012-2014 **Chinese Language Programme (Soochow University, Suzhou, China)**
2006-2012 **Voortgezet Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs (Augustinianum, Eindhoven, Netherlands)**

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Languages:

- Dutch, English: native.
- Mandarin Chinese: intermediate speaking and writing skills, advanced reading comprehension.
- German: intermediate reading comprehension.

Software:

- Advanced user of Microsoft Office and text analysis software such as Nvivo.
- Intermediate user of R and Python (Jupyter) for the purposes of web scraping, network analysis and topic modelling. Basic user of Gephi for the purpose of network visualization.

PUBLICATIONS AND ONGOING RESEARCH

Peer-reviewed articles and book chapters:

- Langendonk, S. (work in progress). Using Semantic Network Analysis to Interpret Stability and Change in China's Narratives in the UNSC. *Journal Article*.
- (work in progress). Diplomacy as the Art of Managing Relations Through (Hi)story: a Praxis Perspective on China's Multilateral Diplomacy in Geneva, Paris, and New York. *Journal Article*.
 - (work in progress). Comparing Anglo- and Sinophone Scholarly Knowledge Production about China's Multilateral Diplomacy. *Journal Article*.
 - (work in progress). Bearing Mao to the Stage: The People Republic of China's Long March to the United Nations from a Narrative and Praxis Perspective. *Journal Article*.
 - (2024, forthcoming). Introduction: The Narrative Approach to Europe-China Relations. In Agota Revesz, Duncan Freeman, Magnus Feldmann and Steven Langendonk (eds.). *Narrating China and Europe in Uncertain Times* (Bristol: Bristol University Press).
 - (2024, forthcoming). The Unicorn, the Dragon, and the Storytellers: Comparing Praxes of Narrating China in EU Foreign Policy. In Agota Revesz, Duncan Freeman, Magnus Feldmann and Steven Langendonk (eds.). *Narrating China and Europe in Uncertain Times* (Bristol: Bristol University Press).
- Revesz, A., Freeman, D., Feldmann, M. and Langendonk, S. (2024, forthcoming). Conclusion: Narratives and China-Europe Relations. In Agota Revesz, Duncan Freeman, Magnus Feldmann and Steven Langendonk (eds.). *Narrating China and Europe in Uncertain Times* (Bristol: Bristol University Press).

Langendonk, S., Drieskens, E. and Kelchtermans, H. (under review, March 2024). Securitization between narrative and practice: a praxis perspective on the multilateral securitization of Orthodox heritage in Kosovo between 1999 and 2011. *Journal Article*.

Langendonk, S. and Drieskens, E. (2024). Chinese power in the World Heritage Committee: from learning the game to shaping the rules. *Global Policy*, 15(2). doi:10.1111/1758-5899.13318

- (2022). The EU's Embrace of Geopolitics: Insights from the EU-China Relationship. In Olivier Costa and Steven van Hecke (eds.). *The EU Political System after the 2019 European Elections*; pp. 479-499. Cham: Springer Switzerland.

Langendonk, S. (2020). Discourse Power as a Means to 'Struggle for Position': a Critical Case Study of the Belt and Road Narrative's Effects on Foreign Policy Formulation in the Netherlands. *Journal Of Chinese Political Science*, 25(2). doi:10.1007/s11366-019-09649-4

Book reviews:

Langendonk, S. (2022). *EU-China Security Paradox: Cooperation against all Odds?*, by Gurol, J. (Bristol: Bristol University Press, 2022, ISBN 9781529219630); x+209pp., £80.00 hb. *JCMS-Journal of Common Market Studies*, 60(5), 1530-1531.

- (2022). *China's civilian army: the making of Wolf Warrior diplomacy*. By Peter Martin. New York: Oxford University Press. 2021. 298pp. £21.99. ISBN 978 0 1975 13705. Available as e-book. *International Affairs*, 92(2), 807-808.

- (2021). Alister Miskimmon, Ben O'Loughlin and Jinghan Zeng, eds., *One Belt, One Road, One Story? Towards an EU-China Strategic Narrative*. *Journal Of Chinese Political Science*, 26(3), 609-611.

- (2020). *The Evolving Relationship Between China, the EU and the USA: A New Global Order?*, edited by J. Men, S. Schunz and D. Freeman (London and New York: Routledge, 2019, ISBN 9780367133887); xviii+234pp., £120.00 hb.. *Journal Of Common Market Studies*, 58(5), 1352-1353.

- (2020). Commissioned Book Review: Thomas Christiansen, Emil Kirchner and Uwe Wissenbach: *The European Union and China*. *Political Studies Review*, 18(4), 1-2.

Policy contributions:

Langendonk, S. (2022). *Multilateralism in China's foreign relations: A normative-rhetorical tool for suasion and system reform. EU-China relations at a crossroads, Vol. I: Looking for a new modus vivendi*. European Policy Centre. Available at: <https://www.epc.eu/en/Publications/EUChina-relations-at-a-crossroads-Vol-I-Looking-for-a-new-modus-vi~49af48>

- (2022). *EU Foreign Policy Towards China is Little More Than the Sum of its Parts*. The Loop: ECPR's Political Science Blog. Available at: <https://theloop.ecpr.eu/eu-foreign-policy-towards-china-is-little-more-than-the-sum-of-its-parts/>

- (2022). *Belgium: Exploring the non-debate about dependence on China with Magritte*. ETNC Report on Dependence in Europe's Relations with China: Weighing Perceptions and Reality; pp. 48-55. Available at: <https://www.ifri.org/en/publications/publications-ifri/ouvrages-ifri/dependance-europes-relations-china-weighing-perceptions>

- (2021). Geopolitics? Not a Useful Concept for the China Challenge. *Clingendael Spectator*. Available at: <https://spectator.clingendael.org/en/publication/geopolitics-not-useful-concept-china-challenge>
- (2020). *How stories about China shape our post-COVID-19 outlook on (geo)politics*. KU Leuven blogt.
- (2020). Is China Pursuing a 'Divide and Rule' Strategy in Europe? The Politburo.

Media contributions:

- Langendonk, S. (2022). TV Interview: Pelosi in Taiwan. VRT NWS.
- (2022). China is er als de dood voor om als een 'bad apple' afgeschilderd te worden. *De Morgen*.

Advice, outreach and consultancy:

I have consulted the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Belgium and The Netherlands on China policy and have presented my research to the permanent delegations of EU member states and the EEAS in Geneva and New York.

REFERENCES

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Professor of International Relations at the Department of Politics and International Relations – University of Oxford

THESIS SUMMARY

Managing relations through (hi)story: a praxis and narrative perspective on the People Republic of China's multilateral diplomacy.

With this dissertation, I argue that a praxis and narrative-oriented perspective improves our understanding of China's multilateral diplomacy. By extension, I will argue that this perspective addresses a set of problems that scholars and practitioners of international relations face in dealing with China. These problems are sorted into three broad issues: the issue of how to employ history responsibly; the issue of theory's (limited)

relevance for practice; and the issue of ethics (or 'good' practice). Each chapter in this dissertation offers insights on one or more of these issues. As such, my goal with 'Managing relations through (hi)story' is to critically interrogate the way we interpret Chinese diplomacy and clear the way for the imaginative approaches that will be required to manage 'our' relations with China and China's relations to multilateral settings.

In the introduction (Chapter 1), I discuss contemporary encounters with Chinese diplomacy in Anglophone and European debates about international relations and argue that this encounter has been by and large unproductive. Departing from a discussion of the three abovementioned issues, I offer up the praxis perspective as a corrective and outline the structure of the thesis. In the literature review (Chapter 2), I expand the discussion of China's multilateral diplomacy by contrasting the Anglophone and Sinophone debates. In the subsequent 'theoretical' chapter, I elaborate on the praxis approach, my use of the central concepts of 'diplomacy', 'narrative', and 'practice', and the different ways I applied these tools in each case. I then turn to the research design (Chapter 4), where I discuss my interpretive methodology, case selection and methods of data collection and analysis.

The analysis is divided in seven chapters. Chapter 5 covers China's multilateral diplomacy during the Cold War and focuses on its entry in the United Nations. It also covers contemporary storytelling about that history in China. Chapter 6 is a comparative analysis of China's contemporary multilateral diplomacy in Geneva and New York. It is preceded and followed by extensive added sections that contextualize the findings. Chapter 7 experiments with using semantic network to analyse Chinese diplomatic narratives to assess whether (gradual) policy shifts can be identified through minimal shifts in storytelling. Chapter 8 extends the praxis approach with Barnett and Duvall's power typology to analyse China's diplomacy in UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee. Chapter 9 does the same with the notion of soft power, which is employed to study meaning making about the Belt and Road Initiative, a key multilateral narrative, in the Netherlands. Chapter 11 does not touch on Chinese diplomacy. It extends the praxis perspective to the notion of 'securitization' and analyses how Orthodox heritage in Kosovo became an issue in multilateral security governance. Chapters 8 through 11 thereby shows that the perspective can be applied to different cases and draw on different theories if the integrity of the underlying approach is maintained. Finally, chapter 12 analyses storytelling about China in EU foreign policy, returning us to the issue of how 'we' (as Europeans, 'Westerners' or non-Chinese) might deal with Chinese diplomacy.

In the conclusion, I bring together the most significant findings from the individual chapters and tease out what they teach us about the three issues discussed in the introduction. I also offer some advice to scholars and practitioners for applying the praxis perspective to their own endeavours.