

**Institutional design of China-led international institutions: The Belt and Road Initiative, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation**

**Principal Investigators:** [Dr. Hylke Dijkstra](#) (promotor/supervisor), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and [Dr. Clara Weinhardt](#), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

In the last 20 years, China has been at the forefront of establishing new international institutions, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. This project studies how these international institutions have been designed and whether their design differs from the post-Second World War formal intergovernmental organizations, such as the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. Just as there is a 'Beijing Consensus' as opposed to a 'Washington Consensus' to China's foreign relations, it is important to know whether China-led international institutions have unique institutional features. This in turn has consequences for the effectiveness and legitimacy of these institutions and China's contribution to international relations. It also has important consequences for debates about the liberal international order. This project focuses particularly on the permanent bureaucracies of the Belt and Road Initiative, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. Interviews with key officials in these institutions will provide invaluable data and new insights as to the inner workings of these institutions.

This project will be part of the prestigious research group led by Dr. Hylke Dijkstra, and funded by the European Research Council, on the transformation and development of international organizations (further details: <https://www.nestior.eu>).

**Key words:** China, international institutions, cooperation, design, Belt and Road Initiative, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

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