

Consensus-builders and problem-solvers: understanding the role of experts in EU-China diplomatic relations

Promotor: Prof. Dr. Sophie Vanhoonacker

Supervision team: Dr. Aneta Spendzharova

(<https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/a.spendzharova>);

(<https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/s.vanhoonacker>)

Project outline: The International Relations literature has examined the diverging interests among major global actors, such as the USA, China, and the EU, in different areas of global rule-making, ranging from ‘high politics’ areas, such as defence and security to ‘low politics’ areas, such as finance. At the same time, scholars have also identified the growing importance of transnational cooperation and, especially, the active role of experts, such as ministry officials, regulators, and academics in developing mutually acceptable solutions at the global level. This PhD project in the field of **Political Science-International Relations will examine the role that experts play in the contemporary diplomatic relations between China and the EU**, developing a comparative case study of cooperation in the areas of finance and security (including non traditional security threats). The project will entail qualitative analysis, in particular, process tracing the causal factors and mechanisms that promote consensus-building and joint problem-solving in the diplomatic relations between China and the EU. The research will draw on a variety of data sources, such as official documents, press coverage, and semi-structured interviews with relevant policy-makers, diplomats, and experts.

Key words: diplomacy; EU-China relations; experts; finance; security and defence

Publications:

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