The 21st Century China Program is a university-based think tank that produces original research to anchor major policy discussions on China and U.S.-China relations. At the UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS), the program hosts the largest cluster of social scientists in the U.S. working on contemporary China. It emphasizes scholarly and policy engagement with China and partnership with professional and business organizations.

Our goal is to become the preeminent international hub for policy-relevant research on China and to strengthen ties between Chinese and American communities.
Distinguished China Scholars
UC San Diego has a distinguished faculty on contemporary China, many of whom work collaboratively across disciplines and have served in business, nonprofit and government positions.

Tai Ming Cheung, associate professor; and director, UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation
Karl Gerth, Hwei-Chih and Julia Hsiu Chair in Chinese Studies; and professor of history
Lei Guang, director, 21st Century China Program; and professor of political science, San Diego State University
Ruixue Jia, assistant professor of economics
Ping-hui Liao, Chuan Lyu Endowed Chair in Taiwan Studies; and professor of literary and critical studies
Richard Madsen, distinguished professor of sociology; and director, Fudan-UC Center on Contemporary China
Barry Naughton, Sokwanlok Professor of Chinese International Affairs
Kwai Ng, associate professor of sociology
Paul Pickowicz, distinguished professor of history and Chinese studies
Molly Roberts, assistant professor of political science
Kuiyi Shen, professor of Asian art history, theory and criticism; and director, UC San Diego Chinese Studies Program
Weiyi Shi, assistant professor of political science
Victor Shih, associate professor of political science
Susan Shirk, research professor of political science; and chair, 21st Century China Program
Yiqing Xu, assistant professor of political science
Junjie Zhang, associate professor of environmental economics
Yingjin Zhang, professor of modern Chinese literature

Salon Events
Community salons feature distinguished China scholars and practitioners in addition to our own faculty:
Jorge Guajardo, former Mexican Ambassador to China
Xiaoqing Zhang, professor, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Carl Walters, former China chief operating officer, JPMorgan
Hairong Lai, senior researcher, China’s Central Compilation and Translation Bureau

Recent Activities
The 21st Century China Program connects local and national communities in China and the U.S. by providing a regular forum for dialogue among concerned citizens, opinion leaders, as well as academic, business, media and foreign policy experts.

Select Conferences
“Analysis of China’s Institutions” | January 2016 | Beijing
California-Shanghai Innovation Dialogue | February 2015 | San Diego
“Religion in China Today” | November 2014 | San Diego
“Politics of Stability Maintenance in China” | August 2014 | San Diego
“China’s Outbound Direct Investment” | September 2013 | Beijing
“Competition, Compliance and Collaboration” | July 2013 | Shanghai
“Internationalization of the Renminbi” | June 2012 | San Diego

Robert F. Ellsworth Memorial Lecture
“U.S.-China Economic Relationship” | March 2, 2015
Robert Hormats, vice chairman, Kissinger Associates Inc.; former Under Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Environmental Affairs

“China’s Current Challenges and U.S.-China Relations” | May 6, 2014
Clark Randt Jr., former U.S. Ambassador to China

“Obama and China’s Rise” | March 12, 2013
Jeffrey Bader, senior fellow, Brookings Institution; former special assistant to the U.S. president for national security affairs

Sokwanlok Distinguished Lecture on Contemporary China
“Understanding China’s New Normal” | Dec. 8, 2015
Qian Yingyi, dean, Tsinghua University School of Economics and Management

Select Public Lectures
Peter Cowhey, dean, GPS; Tai Ming Cheung; Barry Naughton; Moderator: James Fallows, national correspondent, The Atlantic

“Are the U.S. and China Headed Toward a New Cold War?” | Nov. 13, 2015
Susan Shirk; Orville Schell, Arthur Ross Director of the Center on U.S.-China Relations, Asia Society; Thomas Christensen, director, Princeton University China and the World Program

“The Rule of Law under Xi Jinping” | Feb. 24, 2015
Jerome Cohen, professor of law, New York University School of Law

“From Baghdad to Beijing” | Dec. 4, 2014
Evan Osnos, staff writer, The New Yorker

View faculty profiles and events at china.ucsd.edu
“The history of the 21st century will depend on how China’s economy, politics and society evolve and how China manages its relations with the world. Our program brings together UC San Diego’s renowned scholars, professionals involved with China, and Chinese partners to address critical policy issues that are front and center as this history unfolds.”

Susan Shirk
Chair, 21st Century China Program

Producing Research on Contemporary China

The program advances UC San Diego’s leadership in the study of contemporary China. Scholars conduct cutting-edge research on some of the most pressing issues facing China and U.S.-China relations. Areas include leadership politics, innovation policy, economic growth, financial stability, foreign and security policy, cybersecurity, environmental protection, energy, media and Internet, societal change and political reform.

Training the Next Generation of Experts

Educating and training the next generation of experts on China and U.S.-China relations is an important mission of the 21st Century China Program. Students choose GPS specifically for the opportunity to learn from faculty who have deep expertise in China, interact with acclaimed visiting scholars, government and business leaders, and collaborate on research projects.

Forging Partnerships and Bilateral Engagement

To promote U.S.-China cooperation and understanding, the program has launched collaborative research projects supported by foundations and private donations. It organizes academic conferences and policy dialogues with Chinese partner institutions and invites scholars from China to work on joint research projects.

Connecting Communities in the U.S. and China

Community engagement is vital, and the program is committed to knowledge-sharing and interaction with educators, entrepreneurs, business and civic leaders, engaged citizens and youth groups, as well as those active in scientific and technology research and innovation in San Diego and beyond. These activities are key to fostering an informed public opinion about China and mutually beneficial relationships between the U.S. and China.
Beyond Academia: Leadership in China and U.S.-China Relations

UC San Diego faculty and alumni have held important leadership positions in international public policy on China. Notable among them are the following:

Peter Cowhey served as the senior counselor to Ambassador Ron Kirk in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (2009-2010) and continues to serve on the binational experts group appointed by the U.S. and Chinese governments on innovation policy.

Susan Shirk served as the deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific Affairs, with responsibility for China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Mongolia (1997-2000).

Kurt Campbell ‘80 served as the assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific Affairs (2009-2012). He now is a member of the GPS International Advisory Board.

Melanie Hart ‘10 serves as the senior fellow and China policy director for the Center for American Progress.

Christopher Johnson ‘94 is the Freeman Chair in China Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Alison Kelly ‘92 is the associate director for policy at the Center for Global Health Leadership at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Elizabeth Phu ‘00 is the director for Southeast Asia, Oceania, and East Asia Security Affairs at the National Security Council.

Part of a Larger Success Story

GPS addresses the great societal challenges of the 21st century. The School’s pioneering research builds on internally recognized expertise on the Americas and Asia, integrates analysis of public policy and markets and explores global issues of conflict and cooperation. Anchored in the reputation and success of UC San Diego’s renowned programs in science and technology, GPS shapes better solutions for a transforming world.

University of California and Fudan University Collaboration

Based at GPS, the Fudan-UC Center on Contemporary China is the first overseas research center established by a Chinese university at a North American university. The 21st Century China Program collaborates closely with the Fudan-UC center on research, policy and educational initiatives, including academic conferences and community events.