

## 19h Lodz East Asia Meeting

### “Rewriting Geopolitical Narratives and Power Politics in the Asian and Global Context”

University of Lodz

25-26 June 2026

#### CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**Thursday (JUNE 25) - ALL TIMES IN CET (WARSAW)**

**Venue: Conference and Training Centre of the University of Lodz (Stefana Kopcinskiego 16/18 Street, Lodz)**

and online participation

**Plenary Hall (Aula)**

10.00-11.30	<b>WELCOMING REMARKS</b> <b>Anna Rolczak</b> , Deputy Chancellor of the Univeristy of Lodz <b>Prof. Ryszard Machnikowski</b> , Dean of the Faculty of International Relations and Political Studies, University of Lodz <b>Dr hab. Bartosz Kowalski</b> , Head of the LEAM conference
	<b>KEYNOTE SPEECH: Dr Katja Freistein</b> (Academy of International Affairs, Bonn) <b>„Shrimps, Pandas, and Hedgehogs: Narrating Geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific Region”</b>  moderator: Joanna Ciesielska-Klikowska
11.30-11.45	<b>Coffee and tea break</b>

**Plenary Hall (Aula)**

<p>11.45-13:15</p>	<p><b>Panel discussion: Redefining Multilateralism through Relationality: China’s Diplomacy in the United Nations</b></p> <p>Moderator: Dominik Mierzejewski</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bartosz Kowalski (University of Lodz)</li> <li>2. Jarosław Jura (Lazarski University)</li> <li>3. Mateusz Chatys (University of Lodz)</li> <li>4. Joanna Nawrotkiewicz (University of Lodz)</li> <li>5. Emilie Szwajnoch (University of Silesia)</li> <li>6. Paulina Matera (University of Lodz)</li> </ol>	
<p>13.15-14.00</p>	<p><b>Lunch break</b></p>	
	<p align="center"><b>Room 1</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Room 2</b></p>
<p>14:00-15:30</p>	<p><b>Panel 1: Political Narratives and International Engagement in Asia and Beyond</b></p> <p>Moderator: Joanna Nawrotkiewicz</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Michał Lubina (Jagiellonian University), 'You son of a Russian mother!' Gustaw Herling-Grudziński’s trip to Burma and the reception of his lectures</li> <li>2. David O’Brien (Jagiellonian University), Global(ising) Discourse Power: CCP Neo-Propaganda and New Media</li> <li>3. Zdeněk Rod (CEVRO University), Between Pragmatism and Values: Czech Foreign Policy toward the Indo-Pacific in a Multipolar World (online)</li> <li>4. Karolína Francisciová (Prague University of Economics and Business), “Sovereignty versus Universalism: China’s Civilizational Discourse and the Ideational Crisis of the Liberal International Order”</li> </ol>	<p><b>Panel 2: Japan: Security, Society, and Strategic Change</b></p> <p>Moderator: Joanna Beczkowska</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Karol Żakowski (University of Lodz), No Longer Passive? Shift in Japan’s Response to Gaiatsu</li> <li>2. Renata Iwicka (Jagiellonian University), "Kawaiiification" of Japan Self-Defence Forces amid Global Tensions</li> <li>3. Paulina Rogoziecka (University of Lodz), Mobilizing the Past: Japan’s 80th Anniversary Narratives and Regional Diplomacy</li> <li>4. Marcin Socha (University of Lodz), Sanae Takaichi and new platforms of technological cooperation strategy</li> <li>5. Yeonsu Lee (University of Leeds), Beyond Environmental Risk: The Convergence of Geopolitics and Non-Traditional Security in the Fukushima Water Discharge (online)</li> </ol>

	5. Maximilian Ohle (Catholic Institute of Vendee), Embracing the Bear, the Dragon or the Wolf? Narrating Central Asia's Alignment Discourses between Russia, China and Turkey	
15:30-15:45	<b>Coffee and tea break</b>	
<b>Plenary Hall (Aula)</b>		
15.45-17.00	<p><b><u>GUEST LECTURE: Dr Tatiana Carayannis</u></b> (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton)</p> <p><b>“From Rule-Takers to Rule-Makers: The Fault Lines of Global AI Competition”</b> (online)</p> <p>Moderator: Dominik Mierzejewski</p>	
17.00-18.00	<b>Conference break, a walk together to the Biedermann Palace (Franciszkanska 1/5 Street, Lodz)</b>	
18.00-19.00	<p><b>Roundtable discussion: <i>Recalibrating Germany's Asia Policy. Between Values, Markets, and Security</i></b></p> <p>Moderator: Joanna Ciesielska-Klikowska</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Matthias Niefenführ (Zeppelin University)</li> <li>2. Anna Shpakovskaya (University Duisburg-Essen)</li> <li>3. Agnieszka Kuszewska-Bohnert (Jagiellonian University)</li> </ol>	
20:00	<p><b>Evening networking reception (Piwoteka Narodowa, gen. Romualda Traugutta 4, Lodz)</b></p> <p><i>Following the conference, participants are warmly invited to an informal get-together nearby. A complimentary first refreshment will be provided by the organizers.</i></p>	

**Friday (JUNE 26) - ALL TIMES IN CET (WARSAW)**

**Venue: Conference and Training Centre of the University of Lodz (Stefana Kopcinskiego 16/18 Street, Lodz)**  
and online participation

**Room 1**

**Room 2**

10:00-11:30

**Panel 3: Technology, Infrastructure and Strategic Competition**

Moderator: Paulina Rogoziecka

1. Sylwia Ting Yu Lee (SWPS), Weaponized Interdependence: Evaluating China's "5Ms" Strategy and Social Media Penetration of the Taiwan Frontline (2013–2025)
2. Emilie Szwajnoch (University of Silesia), Popular narratives amidst geopolitical tensions: Misinformation around the Chinese Social Credit System and beyond
3. Jan Železný (Center for Asia-Pacific Studies (CAPS), CEVRO University in Prague) and Elżbieta Proń (University of Silesia - online), Sino-Kazakh cooperation along the Space Silk Road: trajectories of development and implications for the power balance in Central Asia
4. Martyna Sulima Samujłło (University of Warsaw), The semiconductor industry as a catalyst for Poland-Taiwan cooperation: Global Value Chain and Triple Helix perspectives
5. Stanislav Myšička (University of Hradec Kralove), China's Anti-Satellite Capabilities: The Technological Frontier of Contemporary Geopolitical Competition

**Panel 4: Contemporary Challenges in East Asian Governance and Diplomacy**

Moderator: Bartosz Kowalski

1. Beata Bochorodycz (Adam Mickiewicz University), Japan's Strategic Autonomy in Historical and Contemporary Contexts
2. Tomasz Kamiński (University of Lodz), Cities as the Third Level of EU–China Relations: Explaining Variation in Subnational Diplomacy
3. Matthias Niedenführ (Zeppelin University), Relational Governance in the Age of Trump – What are the options for China's Belt and Road Initiative going forward?
4. Joanna Beczkowska (University of Lodz), Human rights and inter-Korean relations

11.30-11.45

**Coffee and tea break**

11.45-13.15	<p><b>Panel 5: China and the Politics of Regional Order</b> Moderator: Michał Zaręba</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mateusz Zych (University of Lodz), The Myth of Control: Limits of Beijing's Influence over the Chinese Diaspora in Southeast Asia</li> <li>2. Hu Haisheng (University of Lodz), From Bilateralism to Multipolar Legitimacy: China's Economy Cooperation with ASEAN Countries under the Belt and Road Initiative (online)</li> <li>3. Ahmed El Mehdi El Jouad (Mohammed V University), Morocco-South giants Asian states economic cooperation: The case of Morocco-China economic relations</li> </ol>	<p><b>Panel 6: Students panel</b> Moderator: Joanna Ciesielska-Klikowska</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aleksander Kotlarz (Jagiellonian University), Beyond Earthly Borders: BeiDou, Guowang, and the Sino-American Rivalry for Global Information Supremacy</li> <li>2. Konstanty Mazur (University of Lodz), The role of the Philippines in Japan's defence policy in the years 2011-2025</li> <li>3. Wiktoria Majkrzyk (University of Lodz), The Role and Impact of Korean Feminist Movements on South Korean Policies Affecting Women: From Moon Jae-in to Yoon Suk-yeol</li> <li>4. Robert Olczyk (University of Lodz), Contemporary Japanese Soft Power – how Silent Hill delivers elements of Japanese culture in a modern way</li> <li>5. Barbara Stachowiak (University of Lodz), Confucian Values in Contemporary South Korean Cinema as a Component of Social Narratives and the State's International Image</li> </ol>
13.15	<b>Closing remarks</b>	
13.30-14.15	<b>Lunch break</b>	