The 2016 Brexit vote, the election of the U.S. president shortly thereafter, and most recently a notable shift in the political landscape in Brazil are prime examples of the rise of populist and anti-globalist sentiment throughout the world. In contrast to countries succumbing to nationalist impulses, China has seemingly embraced a globalist approach through its Belt and Road Initiative, also known as BRI. This trillion-dollar development strategy is ambitious, and targets economic growth in many countries across Eurasia, the South Pacific, West Africa, and even Latin America. Reinforcing China’s outward-facing rhetoric on trade, economics, and cultural exchanges, BRI is a step towards forging strategic partnerships and new alliances. This year’s symposium considers whether BRI may be positioning China at the helm of reshaping the security and economic architecture of the international order.

The first panel will discuss the overarching impact of the BRI on the shift in global power and its resulting trajectory. The second panel will highlight the legal implications of BRI amidst complex interactions with citizens, systems, and social values by discussing the impact of BRI on national and international legal frameworks. The symposium will conclude with an address by keynote speaker, Dr. Adil Najam, Dean, of the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University, who will share his thoughts on the implications of populist and anti-globalist movements and the role of BRI in the international world order.

AGENDA

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. 
Registration

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. 
Panel One: Belt and Road Initiative and the Shift in Global Power 
MODERATOR
Avery Goldstein 
Director of the Center for the Study of Contemporary China and Professor of Global Politics and International Relations, University of Pennsylvania
Scott Moore 
Director, Penn Global China Program
Mary Gallagher 
Professor of Political Science, Director of the Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan
Matthew Erie 
Associate Professor of Modern Chinese Studies, University of Oxford

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. 
Break

10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. 
Panel Two: Legal Implications of the Belt and Road Initiative 
MODERATOR
Jacques deLisle 
Director, Center for East Asian Studies and Professor at Penn Law
Neysun Mahboubi 
Research Scholar for the Center for the Study of Contemporary China, University of Pennsylvania
Nowell D. Bamberger 
Partner, Cleary Gottlieb
Heng Wang 
Associate Professor and Co-Director of UNSW Law’s Herbert Smith Freehills China International Business and Economic Law Centre

12:15 – 1:00 p.m. 
Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. 
Keynote Address 
Adil Najam 
Dean, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies

This program has been approved for 3.5 substantive CLE credits for Pennsylvania lawyers. CLE credit may be available in other jurisdictions as well. Attendees seeking CLE credit should bring separate payment in the amount of $140.00 ($70.00 public interest/non-profit attorney) cash or check made payable to The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.