



UNSW
SYDNEY

China International
Business & Economic
Law (CIBEL) Centre

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2025 CIBEL Global Network Conference

Australia in a Changing Global Economic Order

Program

Date: 25-26 November 2025

Location: UNSW CBD Campus

About the CIBEL Global Network

Established in 2015 as a UNSW long-term strategic initiative within UNSW Law & Justice, the China International Business and Economic Law (CIBEL) Centre is the world's largest centre outside China for the research and teaching of international business and economic law issues focusing on the impact of China domestically, in the Asia Pacific and internationally. The CIBEL Global Network, initiated in 2018, aims to connect and engage on CIBEL issues with scholars, practitioners, regulators, and the public in the Asia Pacific and worldwide. The CIBEL Centre supports and promotes this network by, among other things, holding our flagship Global Network Conference and Young Scholars Workshop annually.

About the conference

Global changes and geopolitical uncertainties dictate a reconsideration of the global economic order and Australia's place in it. Post-Covid realities, the reduced role of the WTO, and the growth of industrial policy including greater focus on foreign investment are changing the momentum of international relations and policy development. The growth in individual rather than collective responses to these challenges creates further tensions, heightened by the withdrawal of the US from its leadership roles in the Asia Pacific region and globally.

This one-and-a-half-day conference will explore policy and regulatory responses to this new agenda, their implications for domestic and cross-border commercial activities, and ways to rebuild regional and international cooperation to stabilise and modernise the global economic order for long-term security and prosperity.

Bringing together researchers, policymakers and business, the CIBEL Global Network Conference in 2025 will create a platform for discussions across a wide range of fields including the growth of AI, international trade law, international investment law, competition law, and the way forward focusing on cutting-edge issues faced by governments and the world economy.



The Chatham House Rule

The Chatham House Rule helps create a trusted environment to understand and resolve complex problems. Its guiding spirit is: share the information you receive, but do not reveal the identity of who said it. The Rule reads as follows:

When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

The Rule explained

Meetings do not have to take place at Chatham House, or be organized by Chatham House, to be held under the Rule. Any group of individuals in any sector can use the Rule as a pre-agreed guide for running an event, especially when sensitive issues will be discussed. Used effectively, the Chatham House Rule helps to bring people together, break down barriers, generate ideas and agree solutions. Meetings, events and discussions held at Chatham House are normally conducted 'on the record' with the Rule occasionally invoked in relevant cases. In cases where the Rule is not considered sufficiently strict, an event may be held 'off the record'.

Source: <https://www.chathamhouse.org/about-us/chatham-house-rule>



Program overview

Day 1: Tuesday 25 November 2025	
Time	Session
8.30am–8.45am AEDT	Registration
8.45am–9.00am AEDT	Welcome and Conference Opening
9.00am–10.30am AEDT	Keynote Dr Geoff Raby AO: Australia's Strategic Choices in a Fragmenting Global Economic Order
10.30am–11.00am AEDT	Morning tea
11.00am–12.30pm AEDT	Panel 1: Digital China in Global Context
12.30pm–1.30pm AEDT	Lunch break
1.30pm–3.00pm AEDT	Panel 2: Industry Policy and Competition Law
3.00pm–3.30pm AEDT	Afternoon tea
3.30pm–5.00pm AEDT	Panel 3: Navigating a Chaotic Global Trading System
Day 2: Wednesday 26 November 2025	
9.00am–10.30am AEDT	Panel 4: Foreign Investment in a Geopolitical Context
10.30am–11.00am AEDT	Morning tea
11.00am–12.30pm AEDT	Panel 5: Outlook for Australia's Global Engagement
12.30pm–12.45pm AEDT	Closing Remarks



Full Program

Day 1: Tuesday 25 November 2025

8.45am AEDT	Welcome and Conference Opening	Professor Andrew Lynch , Dean at UNSW Law & Justice CIBEL Directors
9.00am- 10.30am AEDT	Keynote/Fireside chat	Dr Geoff Raby AO Australia's Strategic Choices in a Fragmenting Global Economic Order Facilitator: Professor Mimi Zou (UNSW Law & Justice)
10.30am- 11.00am AEDT		Morning tea
11.00am- 12.30pm AEDT	Panel 1: Digital China in Global Context	Dr Roger Zhang (Tencent) Professor Wanning Sun (UTS) Associate Professor Marina Zhang (UTS) Chair: Professor Mimi Zou (UNSW Law & Justice)
12.30pm- 1.30pm AEDT		Lunch break
1.30pm- 3.00pm AEDT	Panel 2: Industry Policy and Competition law	Dr Rhonda Smith (Melbourne University) Professor Chenying Zhang (Tsinghua University) Scientia Professor Richard Holden (UNSW Business School) Chair: Yan Yu (RBB Economics)
3.00pm- 3.30pm AEDT		Afternoon tea
3.30pm- 5.00pm AEDT	Panel 3: Navigating a Chaotic Global Trading System	Catherine Raper (Head of the Office of Global Trade Negotiations, DFAT) Professor Henry Gao (SMU) Professor James Laurenceson (UTS) Chair: Professor Weihuan Zhou (Co-Director of CIBEL Centre, UNSW Law & Justice)



Day 2: Wednesday 26 November 2025

9.00am-10.30am AEDT **Panel 4: Foreign Investment in a Geopolitical Context** **Helen Zhi Dent** (KPMG/ACBC)
Professor Vivienne Bath (University of Sydney Law School)
Associate Professor Jonathan Bonnitcha (Member of CIBEL Centre, UNSW Law & Justice)
Chair: Associate Professor Kun Fan (Member of CIBEL Centre, UNSW Law & Justice)

10.30am-11.00am AEDT **Morning tea**

11.00am-12.30pm AEDT **Panel 5: Outlook for Australia's Global Engagement** **Charles Zhan** (Moulis Legal)
Lizzie Knight (King & Wood Mallesons)
Dr Prudence Gordon (ACITI)
Chair: Professor Deborah Healey (Co-Director of CIBEL Centre, UNSW Law & Justice)

12.30pm **Closing Remarks** **Professors Weihuan Zhou and Deborah Healey** (CIBEL Co-Directors)



About the Speakers



Professor Deborah Healey

Deborah Healey is a professor at the UNSW Faculty of Law & Justice and a co-director of China International Business and Economic Law (CIBEL) Centre. Her research and teaching focus on competition law and policy in Australia, China, Hong Kong and the ASEAN nations and she has written widely on them over a long period of time. She is a regular visitor to China and ASEAN jurisdictions to research and teach. Within the area of competition law, she is particularly interested in the role of government in the market, both in Australia and internationally, and researches on Competitive Neutrality, Regulatory Impact Assessment and the roles and governance of SOEs; merger regulation; competition in banking and finance; and competition in the digital economy. Deborah has undertaken substantial research in the development of the Anti-Monopoly Law of China against the background of its political economy and has written widely alone and with Chinese co-authors and in material translated into Chinese. She has consulted with, and completed research projects for, UNCTAD, OECD and ASEAN. She is a Non-Government Adviser to the International Competition Network and a member of the Law Council of Australia Competition Law Committee.



Professor Weihuan Zhou

Weihuan Zhou is a professor at the UNSW Faculty of Law & Justice and a co-director of the China International Business and Economic Law (CIBEL) Centre. His research explores the most current and controversial issues in the field of international economic law, particularly the nexus between international trade law and China. His work has been cited widely, including in reports of the European Parliament, the Parliament of Australia, Australia's Productivity Commission, US Congressional Research Services and World Economic Forum. He is a regular contributor to public discussions on all range of issues relating to international economic law and China through opinion articles and interviews with leading institutions and media outlets. Professor Zhou sits on the Council of Future Trade and Investment at the World Economic Forum, the Executive Council of the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL), and editorial boards of the World Trade Review, the Journal of International Trade Law and Policy and the Journal of WTO and China.



Professor Mimi Zou

Professor Mimi Zou is Head of the School of Private and Commercial Law at UNSW. She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law. Professor Zou has published extensively on law and emerging technologies, as well as Chinese and comparative private law. She received the prestigious Global Australian Award in 2024 which recognises individuals who have made a significant global impact throughout their careers. Prior to joining UNSW, Professor Zou was a senior academic leader in the UK and held the Chair in Commercial Law at the University of Exeter and the first fellowship in Chinese law at the University of Oxford. She was also a senior adviser to the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. She holds a BCL (Distinction) degree and a DPhil in Law degree from the University of Oxford.





Dr Geoff Raby AO

Geoff Raby was Australia's Ambassador to China from 2007-11, during which he visited all provinces in China officially. He served in Beijing as First Secretary (Economic) and then Counsellor (Economic), 1986-91. He was Ambassador to the WTO in Geneva, Ambassador to APEC, and Deputy Secretary, 2003-07. He was also head of the Trade Policy Issues Division of the OECD, Paris, 1993-95. He was a non-executive independent director of ASX listed-companies Yancoal 2012-24, where he chairs the Health, Safety, Environment and Community Committee.

His most recent book, *Great Game On: the contest for central Asia and global supremacy*, was published by Melbourne University Press on 12 November 2024. His previous book was *China's Grand Strategy and Australia's Future in the World Order* (MUP Nov 2020). He regularly contributes op eds and travel writing to the *Australian Financial Review*. He holds a PhD in economics. He was awarded the Order of Australia (AO) in June 2019 for services to Australia-China bilateral relations and to multilateral trade.



Dr Roger Zhang

Dr. Roger Zhang, a Ph.D. in Law, currently holds the position of Vice President of Public Affairs at Tencent. He brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his role, having previously served as a Fulbright visiting scholar at George Washington University (2012-2013), and a visiting researcher at the Competition Law Center of GWU. He has held the position of senior expert for the China-EU Competition Week program since 2017. Prior to Tencent, Roger has provided professional antitrust legal services to international and domestic clients at a law firm.



Professor Wanning Sun

Wanning Sun is a professor of Media and Communication Studies at University of Technology Sydney. She also serves as the Deputy Director of the UTS Australia-China Relations Institute. A fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities since 2016, Wanning writes about Chinese diaspora, diasporic Chinese media, and Australia-China relations against the backdrop of geopolitical tensions. She is the co-editor of *WeChat and the Chinese Diaspora Digital Transnationalism in the Era of China's Rise*, and co-author of *Digital Transnationalism: Chinese-Language Media in Australia*. She writes a regular column for Crikey.



Associate Professor Marina Zhang

Marina Yue Zhang is an Associate Professor at the Australia-China Relations Institute, University of Technology Sydney (UTS: ACRI). She holds a Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from Peking University, and an MBA and PhD from the Australian National University. Before joining UTS, she worked at Tsinghua University and held senior managerial positions at IBM and Ericsson.

Marina's research explores the intersection of innovation policy, emerging technologies, and geopolitics, with a particular focus on how science and technology in China are reshaping global industrial and technological landscapes. Dr. Zhang is the author of three books, including *Demystifying China's Innovation Machine: Chaotic Order*, co-authored with Mark Dodgson and David Gann (Oxford University Press, 2022).



Dr Rhonda Smith

Rhonda is currently a Senior Lecturer/Senior Fellow in the Economics Department and the Law School respectively at the University of Melbourne. She teaches several competition subjects in the Law Masters as well as an undergraduate economics subject. From November 1995 to November 1998 Rhonda was a Commissioner with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. From 2000 until 2023 she was a member of the Copyright Tribunal of Australia. She has appeared as an expert witness in a number of competition cases and has advised competition agencies in Papua New Guinea and the Cook Islands. Rhonda's research areas include competition policy and law, competitive neutrality, and industrial policy.



Professor Chenying Zhang

Professor Chenying Zhang is Professor of Law at Tsinghua University and Director of its Center for Competition Law. She holds a PhD in Law and serves as a member of the Expert Advisory Group of the State Council's Anti-Monopoly and Anti-Unfair Competition Committee. Her research spans competition law, digital regulation, law and economics, and public policy. Professor Zhang has advised governmental authorities and contributed to the development of China's competition law enforcement guidelines. Her work addresses key issues such as abuse of dominance in digital platforms, merger control involving data-intensive enterprises, and antitrust remedies in the digital economy. She has published widely in leading international and Chinese journals and is a frequent speaker at major academic and professional forums worldwide.

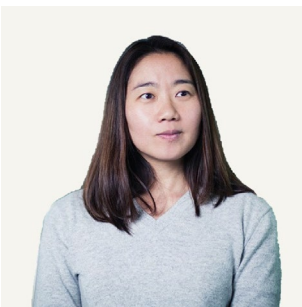


Scientia Professor Richard Holden

Richard Holden is Scientia Professor of Economics at UNSW Business School, Director of the Manos Institute for Cognitive Economics, and President Emeritus of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia.

Prior to that he was on the faculty at the University of Chicago and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He received an AM and a PhD in economics from Harvard University. His research focuses on contract theory, organizational economics, law and economics, and political economy. He has written on topics including: network capital, political districting, the boundary of the firm, incentives in organizations, mechanism design, voting rules, and blockchain.

Professor Holden has published in top general interest journals and is currently editor of the *Journal of Law and Economics*. He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society, a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, a Fellow of the Royal Society of NSW, a Distinguished Fellow of the Luohan Academy, and a Senior Academic Fellow at the e61 Institute.



Yan Yu

Yan Yu is an Asia based Partner with more than 18 years' experience in providing economic advice on competition matters. Yan has experience in a wide range of sectors including digital, mining, aviation, healthcare, energy, advertising, retailing, entertainment, and transport. Yan is recognised as an expert economist in litigation by Chambers and Partners.



Cathy Raper

Cathy Raper is First Assistant Secretary of the Office of Global Trade Negotiations at the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, responsible for World Trade Organization (WTO), OECD and G20 Foreign and Trade Ministers processes. She is also Australia's Chief Negotiator for the Australia-European Union Free Trade Agreement negotiations. Previously she was Australian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea (2021-24) and Head of Post (Representative) at the Australian Office in Taipei (2014-17). Earlier she served at the Australian Embassies in Washington and The Hague and at the Australian Permanent Mission to the WTO in Geneva.



Professor Henry Gao

Henry Gao is Professor of Law at Singapore Management University and Senior Fellow at CIGI. With law degrees from three continents, he started his career as the first Chinese lawyer at the WTO Secretariat. He has been an advisor on trade issues for many national governments as well as the WTO, UN, World Bank, ADB, APEC, ASEAN and the World Economic Forum. Widely published on China and WTO and digital trade issues, he sits on the Advisory Board of the WTO Chairs Program and the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law, as well as the editorial boards of *American Journal of International Law* and *Journal of International Economic Law*.



Professor James Laurenceson

Professor James Laurenceson is an economist and Director of the Australia-China Relations Institute at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS:ACRI). His academic research has been published in leading scholarly journals including *China Economic Review*, *China Economic Journal*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, *China International Strategy Review* and *Australian Journal of International Affairs*.

Professor Laurenceson also provides regular analysis on developments in China's economy and the Australia-China economic and broader relationship. His commentary pieces have appeared in *Australian Financial Review*, *The Australian*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *South China Morning Post*, amongst others.



Helen Zhi Dent

Helen joined KPMG UK in 2004 after obtaining her MBA degree. She was the first full time China Markets employee globally outside of KPMG China firm, focusing on developing opportunities from Chinese investors and businesses for KPMG UK firm.

Helen transferred to Sydney in 2012 and was made a Partner at KPMG in 2015. She is the first Mainland Chinese-background Partner in KPMG Australia and the first China Markets Partner within the KPMG global network outside of China firm.

She is the co-author of KPMG's signature *Thought Leadership Demystifying Chinese Investment in Australia* which is a joint research with the University of Sydney for the last 10 years over 18 reports. She is the co-author of the New Chinese Australian Entrepreneurs report which is the first of its kind in Australia studying the new generation of Australia-based entrepreneurs with Chinese background.



Professor Vivienne Bath

Vivienne Bath is Professor of Chinese and International Business Law at Sydney Law School and Associate Director – International of the Centre for Asian and Pacific Law at the University of Sydney. Her teaching and research interests are in investment law, Chinese law (with a focus on investment, both inbound and outbound, and China's approach to private and public international law), international business and economic law and private international law. She has first class honours in Chinese and in law from the Australian National University, and an LLM from Harvard Law School. She has also studied in China and Germany. She is qualified to practice law in Australia, New York, England and Hong Kong and spent 20 years in legal practice in Hong Kong/China, New York and Sydney, specialising in international commercial law, with a focus on foreign investment and commercial transactions in China and the Asian region.



Associate Professor Jonathan Bonnitcha

Jonathan is an Associate Professor in Law at the UNSW Faculty of Law & Justice and a member of the China International Business and Economic Law (CIBEL) Centre. His primary area of research interest is international economic governance, with a particular interest in investment treaties. Much of his research is interdisciplinary, drawing on perspectives from the disciplines of economics and political science.

Prior to joining UNSW Law Jonathan lived in Myanmar, where he worked as an advisor to the Myanmar Government on investment governance. For several years he also worked for the Australian Attorney General's Department, as a member of the team that successfully defended a multi-billion dollar challenge to Australia's tobacco plain packaging laws brought under an investment treaty.



Associate Professor Kun Fan

Kun Fan is Associate Professor of UNSW Law & Justice's China International Business and Economic Law (CIBEL) Centre. She was named Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Scholar in Arbitration & Commercial Law in 2017 and received numerous awards in recognition of her academic contribution. She held academic positions at the Faculty of Law, McGill University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and was also a Visiting Scholar of the Harvard Yenching Institute (2012-2013) and a Visiting Scholar at Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy (SIDRA) (2023). She also has extensive experience in ADR practice, having worked as counsel, legal expert, secretary for the arbitration tribunal, arbitrator and domain names panellist, and deputy counsel at the ICC International Court of Arbitration. She is called to the New York Bar, an Academic Council Member of the Institute of Transnational Arbitration, a Domain Names Panellist of the HKIAC and the ADNDRC, an Accredited Mediator of the HKMAAL, and an Arbitrator of a number of arbitration institutions.



Lizzie Knight

Lizzie Knight is a Partner in the KWM Canberra office. With over 25 years' experience, Lizzie is one of Australia's leading FDI practitioners – the intersection of geoeconomics, domestic policy and regulations. In the global race for capital Lizzie is passionate about foreign investment policy and seeks to ensure her clients have a voice on key issues driving the national agenda and delivering important policy outcomes. Her work has included "The Evolution of National Security at the Interface between domestic and international investment law and policy" – *Journal of World Investment and Trade*.



Charles Zhan

Charles Zhan is a partner at Moulis Legal and heads its flagship international trade practice. Charles has a deep understanding of cross-border issues and a nuanced approach to international trade defence, compliance, and dispute settlement. An expert in anti-dumping and countervailing investigations and disputes, as well as supply-chain management and compliance for private and public sector clients across various industries, Charles regularly argues cases before domestic regulatory authorities, courts and tribunals in Australia and internationally, including before the WTO. He is the Secretary at the International Bar Association's international trade and customs law committee, and is completing his terms as the vice-president of the Australia China Business Council's ACT chapter.



Dr Prudence Gordon

Dr Prudence Gordon is Executive Director of the Australian Centre for International Trade and Investment (ACITI). Prior to taking on the role at ACITI, she was a Senior Adviser and Adviser to three Australian Ministers for Trade, Tourism and Investment. Other previous roles include General Manager, Trade and Economics at the National Farmers Federation, and eight years with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). At DFAT, Pru worked in the Office of Trade Negotiations and the China Economic and Trade Section. She spent three years as a diplomat working in the Trade Branch of the Australian Embassy in Washington DC. Prior to joining DFAT, Pru worked in the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of New South Wales, and the Department of International Relations at the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University (ANU). She spent two years as Dean and Acting Head, Fenner Hall, at the ANU. She began her career as the Trade Policy and Research Adviser at the Parliamentary Research Service, Parliament House, Canberra.



Venue Information

Location, Parking and Transport

UNSW CBD Campus is located at the Poly Centre, Level 4 / 210 George Street, Sydney.

- Google Maps reference [here](#).

Please note that there is no parking available on-site. The closest carpark is Wilson Parking - Grosvenor Place, The Rocks Sydney, NSW Car Park or Wilson Parking, Gateway Building 4 min walk (entry via Reiby Place). Visit [Wilson Parking](#) for more information.

Alternatively, the closest light rail stop is Bridge Street. If you are catching a bus, the nearest stop is Circular Quay.

Public Transport - [Trip Planner](#).

The nearest drop-off point for individuals with accessibility requirements is Dalley Street.

Wi-Fi

Complimentary Wi-Fi is available onsite. Further details can be found [here](#).

Guests and visitors to UNSW Campus can access Guest Wi fi on their personal or work devices. User Guides can be accessed [here](#) via the IT Website.

Catering

Catering at the UNSW CBD Campus is provided by [Vanilla Blue](#). Refer to the event schedule for mealtimes.

Water fountains are available on Levels 4 and 5 along the corridors. Guests are encouraged to bring their own water bottles.

