



The Good, the Bad, the Ugly, and the Mean: Assessing China's Economic Trajectory

Dr Scott Kennedy, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

Monday 26 August 2024: 5.30pm for 6-7pm - Level 13, 356 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

There is rarely, if ever, a consensus about the state of China's economy. To some extent, this is the product of ambiguous data. Few trust Chinese official economic growth data, and there is no agreement on what might serve as a suitable proxy to evaluate the economy's performance.

Internationally, China's global footprint has grown dramatically, and domestically, the services sector and consumption are larger parts of the economy. However broader liberalisation of economic activity and a reduced role for the state are no longer at the centre of the agenda. There is a growing sense of uncertainty about the future and a loss of confidence in China's overall direction.

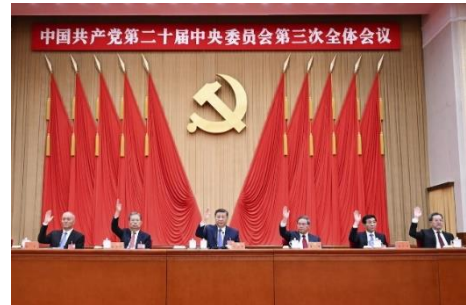
Few multinational companies (MNCs) are abandoning China, but some are selling off China-based assets and diversifying their places of production and supply chains - and few MNCs are investing in China for the first time. Why?

What kinds of calculations are firms and countries making in trying to 'derisk' relations with China? What are the costs and benefits?

Organised by the [National Foundation for Australia China Relations](#), Dr Kennedy's visit to Australia is a unique opportunity to hear his insights first-hand.



Dr Scott Kennedy is Senior Adviser and Trustee Chair in Chinese Business and Economics at the [Center for Strategic and International Studies](#) (CSIS) in Washington DC. A leading authority on Chinese economic policy and U.S.-China commercial relations, Dr Kennedy has travelled to China for 36 years. His ongoing areas of focus include China's innovation drive, Chinese industrial policy, U.S.-China relations, and global economic governance. His articles have appeared in a wide array of publications, including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, and China Quarterly. He hosts the China Field Notes podcast, featuring on-the-ground voices from China, and co-runs the Big Data China initiative, which introduces pathbreaking scholarly research to the policy community. From 2000-2014, Kennedy was a professor at Indiana University (IU), where he established the Research Center for Chinese Politics & Business and was the founding academic director of IU's China Office. Dr Kennedy received a PhD in political science from George Washington University, his MA from Johns Hopkins-SAIS, and his BA from the University of Virginia.



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