The dismantling of the Soviet bloc led to a period of political and economic dominance for the United States and its allies. Since the beginning of the twenty-first century a number of regional powers and associations have arisen which, while not challenging the structure of the international system, have sought greater recognition. In the coming decade regional post-socialist associations such as the BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the Eurasian Economic Union, the Great Silk Road Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road are likely to increase in economic power, strategic position and political importance. China and Russia are leading members of these new regional groups. Papers to be presented consider the role of China in regional organisations and the country’s relationships with members of other groups of states: the BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the Eurasian Economic Union, the Great Silk Road Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. And particularly the relationships of China to other countries within each region of which they are members and between various overlapping regional associations. See Programme below.

The conference will be held at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands, on Thursday 5 Jan and Friday 6 Jan 2017. It is organised under the auspices of the Confucius Institute at Leiden University.

Attendance will be free of charge, but we need to plan refreshments, please register by sending email directly to guichang@sdu.edu.cn before January 3, 2016.

Programme

Location: Lipsius Building, room 227
Cleveringaplaats 1, 2311 BD Leiden

THURSDAY 5 JANUARY 2017

9.00 Registration
9.30 Opening of Conference
Chair: Zhu Guichang, Confucius Institute at Leiden University

Frank Pieke, Academic Director of the Leiden University Institute for Area Studies (LIAS)
Rint Sybesma, Director of Confucius Institute at Leiden University and Chair of Department of Chinese studies, Leiden University

10.00-11.30 THE CHANGING PATTERN OF WORLD TRADE AND POLITICS
Chair: André Gerrits, Leiden University

David Lane, University of Cambridge, UK
Regional Economic Perspectives for China and its Neighbours

Stefan Schmalz, University of Jena, Germany

Changing Governance and Geography of World Trade

11.30 -13.00 CHINA’S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INITIATIVES
Chair: André Gerrits, Leiden University

Richard Griffiths, University of Leiden, Holland
‘One Belt, One Road’ as a development strategy

Michael Slobodchikoff, Troy University, USA
Chinese Relations with International and Regional Governmental Organizations

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.45 CHINA AND ASIA
Chair: Vsevolod Samokhvalov, University of Liege

Akram Ulmarov, Academy of Public Administration, Uzbekistan,
The Afghan Factor in China’s Silk Road Economic Belt Initiative

Harry Roberts, OSCE Academy, Bishkek,

The China - Pakistan Economic Corridor

Wang Xueyu, Shandong University, China.
China’s OBOR and India’s reaction

15.45- 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 - 17.30 CHINA, SCO AND BRICS
Chair: Zhu Guichang, Confucius Institute

Mikhael Molchanov, St Thomas University, Canada
Russia-China relations in Central Asia and the SCO.

Carlos Henrique Santana, TU Darmstadt, Germany,
Energy Infrastructure Policy and State Capacity in BRIC countries

19.00 Conference Dinner

FRIDAY 6 JANUARY

9.30 – 10.45 CHINA AND RUSSIA
Chair: Richard Griffiths, Leiden University

Gao Shuqin, Zhejiang University and UCL, London
Russian’s ‘Pivot Strategy’ in the Re-balancing of the Asian-Pacific region
Kaneshko Sangar, UCL, London
*The Silk Road and the Eurasian Economic Union*

**10.45- 11.00 Coffee break**

**11.00- 12.45 CHINA AND WORLD POLITICS**
Chair: Zhu Guichang, Shandong University

He Zhigao, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences,
*Comparative Analysis of China’s policies towards integrated organizations*

Jeanne Wilson, Wheaton College, USA
*The USA’s policy of ‘pivot’ to Asia.*

Kees van der Pijl, University of Sussex
*The Eurasian Union and BRICS under attack*

**12.45. Publications plans**

**13.00 Lunch**

END OF CONFERENCE