



Fourth National Meeting of China Matters Young Professionals
Perth, 7 September 2018

Biographies of panellists and moderators

Samuel Bide

Samuel is an adviser in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's International Economy Unit. In this capacity, he is responsible for preparing advice for the Prime Minister on issues at the intersection of Australia's economic and strategic interests. This includes both international issues (such as regional infrastructure) and domestic priorities (such as foreign investment). Prior to joining the Commonwealth, Sam was an analyst in Western Australia's Department of Treasury, specialising in economic analysis and forecasting. He holds a double Bachelor's degree in International Business Economics and Commerce from the University of Western Australia.

Elena Collinson

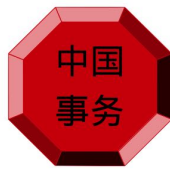
Elena is a Senior Project and Research Officer at the Australia-China Relations Institute at the University of Technology Sydney. Her research focuses on Australia's China policy, the US-China-Australia relationship, the South China Sea, and the Belt and Road Initiative. Her work has been published in the Sydney Morning Herald, the South China Morning Post and the Diplomat, amongst other outlets, and she has contributed chapters to edited volumes. Previously, Elena was a policy researcher for a NSW state minister, a project officer at the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, and a researcher for a federal senator.

Mark Eels

Mark holds a Bachelor of International Relations and International Business from Bond University on the Gold Coast and a Master of International Affairs from Peking University in Beijing. Since 2013 he has held positions with China Policy, Peking University Australian Studies Centre, Wikistrat, and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies. Mark was also the Founder and Director of China Cooperative, a platform for online opinion and research publication for young China watchers. Mark is currently balancing life as a new father while working as Operations and Communications Manager at New York University.

Oscar Fong

Oscar is Managing Director of Overtures:Co, an international trade and investment advisory. He focuses on infrastructure, trade and technology with projects spanning across Australia, Asia-Pacific, Africa and Middle East. Oscar has several active roles in facilitating cultural and commercial engagement between China and Western Australia. He is Director of Australia-China Young Professionals Initiative Perth Chapter. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of Australia China Business Council Western Australia, and an Honorary Trade Advisor of the Hong Kong International One Belt One Road Federation.



Amy Hallam

Amy has over ten years' experience working for multinational professional services firms, government and the not-for-profit sector in both Australia and China. Amy holds a Bachelor of Environmental Science (First Class Honours) from Monash University and Postgraduate Diploma in Forest Science from Melbourne University. Amy's technical and project management skills were developed during consultancy roles in the environmental and social impact assessment sector in China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Liberia and Australia. During her six years in China Amy developed fluency in spoken and written Mandarin. Amy sits on the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA WA), Australia China Business Council (ACBC WA) committees and Curtin University Humanities Faculty Advisory Council.

Belinda McEniery

Belinda is a healthcare economist with Johnson & Johnson, based in Sydney. She graduated from Tsinghua University with a Masters of Global Affairs in 2017. In Beijing, she studied in the inaugural cohort of Schwarzman Scholars and was the Treasurer of Schwarzman College. Belinda previously worked at Queensland Treasury, focusing on the public health budget and infrastructure finance. In 2014, she graduated with an honours degree in quantitative economics from the University of Queensland, where she researched health expenditure. During her undergraduate degree, she interned in finance in Hong Kong and Shanghai.

Martin Symonds

Martin has around 15 years of international and national security policy expertise in the public and private sectors. As Assistant Director Regional Strategy in the Department of Defence's Strategic Policy Division, he is responsible for providing policy advice on strategic challenges, focused on the Indo-Pacific region. He is also leading the review and update to the classified Defence White Paper. Martin was the international policy adviser to the Chief of Joint Operations in 2016, and immediately prior he was posted to China for Mandarin language training. Previous positions include several within Defence's International Policy Division, a Rudd Government taskforce to review Australia's national innovation system, the Lowy Institute for International Policy, adviser to a Federal Member of Parliament, and an international policy consultancy in Washington DC.

Oscar Thompson

Oscar is an Associate of Resource, Energy & Infrastructure at ANZ, and was previously an Analyst at ANZ for just over one year. Prior to this, he spent 1.5 years studying Chinese Language at Peking University, and several years working at engineering firm Clough (with 2 years working on Inpex's USD54bn LNG project in Darwin). He graduated from the University of Western Australia in Civil Engineering with Honours.