

AFRICA-CHINA JOURNALISTS FORUM 2016

Perspectives on Africa-China Reporting

ABSTRACTS

PANEL 1: Framing the debate on African reporting perspectives

China in Africa through a black pen: My experiences in Africa-China reporting

The media's portrayal of Africa-China relations and the factors that influence how relations are framed.
Baboki KAYAWA, Freelance journalist, Botswana

Reporting on the third phase of the Sino-African engagement

If 1949 to 2000 was the first phase of the epochal Africa-China relationship, and 2000 to 2014 the second phase, what does this third phase mean—and how do we go about reporting on it?
Kevin BLOOM & Richard POPLAK, Journalists, South Africa

The Africa-shaped gap in Africa-China reporting: How can journalists increase African voices?

Too much Africa-China reporting is characterized by reporters speaking about Africans, instead of with them. In this talk we explore how this happens, and how journalists can avoid this trap.
Dr Cobus VAN STADEN, Lecturer: Wits Media Studies, South Africa

Humanising the Africa-China relationship: Who and how?

The human relations between Chinese migrants and local populations are one of the most important yet least well-covered aspects of the Africa-China story. How can these angles be covered from an African perspective and who can do it?
James WAN, Freelance journalist, UK; Editor of African Arguments

PANEL 2: Africa-China reporting and investigations on ground level

Behind the perception barrier: Why are African perspectives missing in Africa-China reporting?

As a Chinese reporter in Africa I am "Chinese" to western colleagues, a reporter with "liberal views" to journalists from state-owned media, and a journalist attached to a "pink" outlet (i.e. pro-government patriotic Chinese) by an audience who do not align their views with the government; but in fact I am a story teller on Africa. With discontent and self-criticism in the western media, the reasons why African perspectives are filtered in Africa-China stories need to be better understood in the context of the media's own incentives.
ZHANG Zizhu (Shirley), Journalist, Phoenix TV, Kenya

Who are the Chinese involved in wildlife crime in Africa and how did I investigate them?

What brings these Chinese people to Africa and what Africa means to them; and how I investigated them and some tips for other journalists.
SHI Yi, Journalist, Shanghai, China

The hydra-headed dragon and the dead hand of the Aakwambahu

The findings of a 30-month-long investigation into the links between political elites and criminal syndicates in rhino poaching in Namibia, setting out how the networks collude to undermine effective law enforcement.
John GROBLER, Freelance journalist, Namibia

The many roots of Africa's mistrust of China

On a government-to-government level it's all moonshine and roses. But for people of countries like South Africa the love affair with China is a lot more complex - and tinged with a great deal more mistrust. Not all of that mistrust is rooted in fact, and much of it is entirely unfair, but we ignore it at our peril.
Phillip DE WET, Journalist and Associate Editor, Mail & Guardian, South Africa

PANEL 3: Perspectives on Africa-China as reported in the media

How Africa-China is reported in West African media

A review of China's presence in West Africa and the media strategy Chinese are developing to attract audiences based on the bad perceptions ordinary Africans have of their presence on the continent. Also, a look at the media offering Africans are presenting, and suggestions for the way forward for better stories on China in Africa. Gerard GUEDEGBE, Media consultant and training expert, Benin

Is the East African media fair in its reporting on China's investments within the region?

The East African region has seen a surge in Chinese investment worth more than US\$200 billion over the last five years, but the region's reporting of these investments has always pitted China against the West, always pointing to a 'catch' rather than how these mega infrastructure investments will change livelihoods. Allan Olingo OGUNAH, Journalist, The East African, Kenya

Framing China in Africa: Perspectives from African TV news programmes on CCTV and the BBC

When international broadcasters tell Africa-China stories in news programmes targeted at African audiences, what kind of news is chosen and which frames are evoked in their reporting? Based on recent content analysis and interviews with journalists and managers at BBC World News and CCTV Africa. Vivien MARSH, Former BBC journalist; Currently pursuing PhD at Westminster University, UK

China in Africa in digital media: A case study of a Quartz obsession

An analysis of Quartz's Africa-China coverage since 2012, looking at the most common framings and themes as well as reader responses. Lily KUO, Reporter, Quartz, Kenya

PANEL 4: New opportunities and challenges in Africa-China reporting

Taking the lead in Africa-China reporting: The Ugandan experience

What does it take to run a publication focusing on Africa-China? For the last four years, a group of Africa-China enthusiasts in Uganda have done just that, and the editor of the magazine will share experiences, provide insights and offer suggestions on other opportunities that abound in Africa-China coverage. Herbert Benon OLUKA, Freelance journalist, Uganda

How to conduct investigative journalism in the DRC

Africa-China coverage is dominated by tabloid stories from African, Chinese or western media outlets. Investigative stories are still hidden or unexplored. Based on my experience, I will share my vision on how to do different stories in this arena. HU Jianlong, Journalist, Beijing, China

The Chinese operational mechanism in Africa: The Nigeria journalists' experience

From personal experience on my beat as a business correspondent, I found that obtaining information from the Chinese can be difficult, and generally reporting on Chinese activities in Nigeria is not an easy task. Most African countries, including Nigeria, cannot finance capital projects and infrastructure, so the assistance of China is a welcome development, but I would like to interrogate their sincerity. Itunu AJAYI, Journalist, Nigeria

The two existing gaps in Sino-(South) Africa reporting

Based on reporting experience, this presentation will address the gap between local journalists and Chinese business communities in Africa, and the gap between local common people and officials on both sides in terms of bilateral relations. ZHANG Jiexian (Sissy) & YU Meng (Morrie), Journalists, People's Daily Online, South Africa

United pan-African voice and agencies as the missing links in the current Africa-China partnership

A united African voice and agencies are the missing links in the current Africa-China partnership. This presentation will address the above issue using the experience of Oxfam International's Africa-China Dialogue Platform (ACDP). Gedion JALATA, Program Manager, Africa-China Dialogue Platform, Oxfam, Ethiopia