



The Center for Iberian & Latin American Studies

China's relations with Venezuela: political and economic opportunities and challenges for China

Thursday, January 17, 2013 • 3-4:30 pm

Deutz Room in the Copley International Conference Center,
Institute of the Americas Complex, UCSD

Motivated by rapid economic growth, China has emerged to be a global player in the past three decades and seeks to expand its presence in remote regions including Latin America. It is noteworthy that Venezuela, a country geographically far from East Asia and without conventional ties with China, is seeking to enhance political and economic partnership with it. In fact, the bilateral relations have undergone a rapid development since the late 1990s because of President Hugo Chavez's pursuit of close partnership with major powers in the world which facilitates his radical domestic reform. However, the rapid development is also a result of China's increasing involvement in Latin America that allows it to gain weight over regional affairs. This talk seeks to explore the opportunities and challenges for China from the unconventional bilateral relationship and tries to analyze the prospects for China to project its power into new frontiers like Latin America.



Peng Wang received his BA in English Literature and MA in History from Shanxi University and his Ph.D. from the Graduate School at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). He is a Chinese political scientist who works in the Department of Latin American Political Studies of the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS), CASS. He began his formal research on Latin American politics and especially Venezuelan politics in 2004 when Hugo Chavez and other leftist rulers in the region began to attract increasing attention in China. His research includes Hugo Chavez's socialist idea, political development in Venezuela, and Chinese-Venezuelan relations. He has received a research grant from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences for 2012-2013 which has given him the opportunity to be a Visiting Scholar at CILAS.

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