



Notice of Zoom Webinar:

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Professor Frédéric Lasserre, Laval University **The Belt and Road Initiative: myths and realities**

All are welcome. Q & A will follow the presentation.

**Registration is required for this free webinar event
and will be available after October 16.**



The Belt and Road Initiative, is a vast economic and political endeavour initiated by China in 2013. Often compared to the Marshall Plan by commentators, it is a very ambitious scheme that aims at promoting “connectivity” between China and several other countries, initially in Asia, then as far away as Europe, Africa and even America. There are no specific criteria to determine the scope and regions where the BRI takes place, as it appears very flexible in its management. Similarly, the nature of the projects is very diversified, from oft-reported railways and ports, to energy transportation, telecommunications, culture, financial cooperation and health cooperation. The BRI is not a new concept: it was inspired from previous schemes and projects and thus recycles past projects

in an opportunistic process. The very large scope and budget involved triggered fears abroad about the political and financial implications of the BRI. To what extent are those fears warranted? Eight years going, what is the part of myths about the BRI?

Frédéric Lasserre holds a master's degree in Commerce (ESC Lyon), an MBA (York Univ., Toronto), a DEA in Geopolitics (U. Paris VIII) and a PhD in Geography (U. Saint-Etienne). He was a consultant, then an international affairs advisor at the Quebec Ministry of Industry and Commerce, then at Investissement Québec. He has been professor since 2001 with the Geography Department of Laval University (Quebec), and heads the Quebec Council of Geopolitical Studies (CQEG). He has carried out research on water management, the Arctic, transportation geopolitics, maritime borders in Asia and the policies of China. He was project director within the international research network ArcticNet from 2010 to 2015. He currently coordinates an international research project about the Belt and Road Initiative.

If you prefer to send in questions for the Q&A session prior to the event, please send them to contact.ccfso@gmail.com. For more information, please visit www.ccfso.org, or email contact.ccfso@gmail.com.