### Researchers

#### Austria

**. Melanie Pichler**  
Researcher  
*Austrian Institute of International Affairs*

Melanie Pichler is Affiliated Researcher at the Austrian Institute for International Affairs in Vienna. She is specialized in international environmental and energy policies and a PhD candidate for the topic of palm oil and biofuels politics in South East Asia.

#### Belgium

**Mr. Duncan Freeman**  
Senior Research Fellow  
*Brussels Institute of Contemporary Chinese Studies (BICCS)*

Duncan Freeman is currently Senior Research Fellow at the Brussels Institute of Contemporary Chinese Studies at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) where he teaches and carries out research on developments in the Chinese economy, domestic policy and EU-China relations. Among his current research interests are China’s outward investment, domestic economic policy and climate change policy, EU-China relations, especially focusing on perceptions of key issues such as human rights and democracy.

He previously lived in China and Hong Kong for over 15 years where he worked in publishing and research on business in China. During this time he was the editor and publisher of a number of leading publications on trade and investment in China. He was also the founder of a company providing business information to companies investing in China, including many major multinationals.
Denmark

Mr. Michael Ulfstjerne
Researcher
Asia Centre – Copenhagen Business School

Michael Ulfstjerne obtained his MA in anthropology from Copenhagen University in 2009, minoring in Chinese language and culture. Throughout 2008-9 he has carried out fieldwork in the “art villages” near Beijing, exploring how the commercialization of the cultural sphere affects the practices of contemporary Chinese artists.

More broadly, he has worked on the development patterns of Chinese creative industries and has lately been focusing on emerging challenges of urbanism, particularly in the border regions of China.

France

Mr. John Seaman
Junior Research Fellow
Centre Asie – Institute Francaise de Relations International

John Seaman is a Junior Research Fellow in the Center for Asian Studies at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI) in Paris, where he coordinates the China Program and researches topics related to China’s energy and foreign policies. He holds an MA from Sciences Po, Paris in International Affairs - International Security (2009) and a BA in International Economics and French from Seattle University (2004).

From 2005 to 2007, John worked as an Assistant Language Teacher in public elementary and junior high schools in Kawasaki, Japan, and in 2002-2003 he studied as a NSEP David L. Boren Scholar at the Beijing Center for Chinese Studies in Beijing, China. He has also worked at the US Mission to NATO in Brussels (2004-2005) and the FAO Liaison Office in Paris (2008-2009).

John is an avid hiker and loves the outdoors and team sports, particularly basketball, baseball and ultimate frisbee. He was born in Salt Lake City, Utah and made France his second home in 1999. He has been living in Paris continuously since the fall of 2007. He is fluent in English and French and has a basic level command of Japanese, Chinese and Spanish, but he regards with awe the ability of his European colleagues to master a handful of languages.
Germany

Ms. Tanja Bauer
Researcher
German Council on Foreign Relations

Tanja Bauer graduated from the University of Trier in 2008 with a Magister Artium degree (Master of Arts) in Political Science and Chinese Studies. With a focus on International Relations and Asian politics, she wrote her thesis on the Indo-Pakistani Conflict. While studying, she spent one study year abroad at the University of Sydney and did a three-month internship in Guatemala with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. After graduating she spent six months working for the German Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai. After her return to Germany, she was working in different positions for the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Berlin, amongst others for the Team Asia-Pacific. She is currently pursuing a PhD at the Universität der Bundeswehr in Munich, the working title being „Regimes under Stress“, using the example of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and its current challenges. Her main fields of research and interest are Security Politics, International Relations and Development Politics with a focus on Asia.

Italy

Mr. Stefano Braghioli
Researcher
University of Siena

Stefano Braghioli is a 4th year Ph.D. researcher in Comparative and European Politics at the Centre for the Study of Political Change (CIRCaP), University of Siena. My main research interests include Europeanization, EU party politics, Euroscepticism, and – more specifically – European parties and party systems.

I have recently spent visiting research periods at the Sussex European Institute (SEI) and at the Institute for European Studies (IES), Université Libre de Bruxelles. Both the centres were designated Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence by the European Commission. So far there are only 25 such centres in the EU.
I got my BA from the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Bologna in October, 2005. Following the admission to the 2nd year of doctoral studies, I received a Master Scientifico-Culturale.

I am currently serving as Teaching Assistant in Italian Political System and Public Policy Analysis.
Romania

Mr. Radu Megelea
Researcher
Romanian Institute of European – Asian Relations

Radu Megelea is currently a student in the first year of the Master of Business Administration in the Academy of Economic Studies Bucharest, where he also earned his Bachelor Degree in the same field.

He has always been fascinated with Asia, his interest for the continent was awakened originally by the works of the East Asian Cinema, especially Japan, China, Hong Kong, Korea and Thailand. This interest was increased by the opportunity to meet Asian Students while on exchange in Germany, whose stories about their homelands have only served to arouse my curiosity even further. On returning to Romania he continued his interest in Asia by studying Mandarin Chinese.

United Kingdom

Ms. Sarah Harrison
Research Officer
London School of Economics

Sarah Harrison is a full-time research officer currently working on a project studying electoral psychology within a new research structure directed by Dr. Michael Bruter at the London School of Economics. She has recently completed her PhD in political science within the department of Government at the LSE. Her doctoral thesis investigated the ideological profiles of extreme right political parties and their voters in the UK, France and Germany.

She has previously worked on various diverse research projects including young people and their political participation in Europe and in South America, European Identity, European Parliament campaigns and interdisciplinary research in UK universities among others. She has authored several articles in peer-reviewed journals and has co-authored two books with Dr. Bruter with more forthcoming.