

This talk discusses the rise of Chinese presence and influence in post-Soviet Central Asia. With the EU's policy towards the region over-ambitious and under-resourced and US presence waning, it is non-western players that are shaping Central Asian politics. In this presentation Fumagalli will map and unpack the various ties between Central Asia, Russia, and China, focusing especially on China-Central Asian linkages. Based on this, he will tease out the extent of Beijing's leverage in the region and its implications for regional politics and development. In the talk he will contend that China is now the most 'consequential' player in the region. At the same time it would be inaccurate to underestimate the degree of local political agency in shaping the relationship. Finally, the limits to Chinese influence and possible challenges will be examined.

CHINA IN CENTRAL ASIA: PROMISE AND PERILS OF NON-WESTERN LEVERAGE

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Speaker: Prof. Matteo Fumagalli

Matteo Fumagalli is Associate Professor in the Department of International Relations at Central European University in Budapest (Hungary). His work lies at the interface of comparative politics (the domestic politics of non-democratic regimes) and international relations (especially non-traditional security issues).