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## CSIS Trustee Chair August 2025

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From CSIS Trustee Chair in Chinese Business and Economics <cbe@csis.org>

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## August 2025

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This month, the Trustee Chair team analyzed the recent easing of U.S.-China trade restrictions and examined how shifting leverage in ongoing negotiations is shaping both leaders' strategies and prospects for progress ahead.

Trustee Chair Scott Kennedy published a new **commentary in *TIME*** examining the recent easing of U.S.-China trade restrictions, highlighting several factors driving this abrupt shift and cautioning that the current calm is unlikely to last.

Scott Kennedy was also featured on the **German Marshall Fund's *China Global* podcast** with host Bonnie Glaser, where they discussed the dynamics of U.S.-China trade talks, including the balance of leverage between Washington and Beijing and how ongoing negotiations may shape the future of the bilateral relationship.

The Trustee Chair team is pleased to welcome **our new Non-resident**

**Affiliate, Margaret Jackson.** She brings extensive experience in U.S.-China commercial engagement and advancing U.S. clean technology trade and industrial policy objectives.

Lastly, we invite you to join us for our **upcoming virtual event**, “China’s Economy: How Bad Is It?” on September 9 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am.

## Featured Analysis

### **Why the U.S. and China Are Playing Nice**

***TIME***, August 16, 2025

[Read Here](#)



**Scott Kennedy** unpacks the latest developments in ongoing U.S.-China trade negotiations and speculates why relations have appeared to de-escalate in the short term.

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### **After Stockholm: What's Next for US-China Trade Talks?**

***GMF China Global Podcast***, August 5, 2025

[Listen Here](#)



**Scott Kennedy** and **Bonnie Glaser** assess the dynamics in the U.S.-China trade talks, including the balance of leverage between Washington and Beijing, and how the trade negotiations might shape the future of the U.S.-China relationship.

## Events

### China's Economy: How Bad Is It?

September 9, 2025

Please save the date for our upcoming virtual event, "China's Economy: How Bad Is It?" on September 9 from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. **Scott Kennedy** will host a panel of leading China experts from policy and academia to discuss the challenges and opportunities ahead. More details on how to join will be shared in the following days.

## Big Data China

**BIG DATA CHINA**

Visit Our Microsite

Big Data China bridges the gap between cutting-edge quantitative academic research and the Washington policy community. Interactive features and analysis from Big Data China on topics such as significant shifts in popular sentiment in China regarding the causes of economic inequality, China's post-Reform Era trajectory, and the expansion of Chinese state sector influence over private firms are all available on our microsite **here**.

## Welcome, Margaret!



Please join us in welcoming our newest Non-resident Affiliate, Margaret Jackson! Margaret is currently a fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Project on the Future of U.S.-China Relations, and brings significant experience in U.S.-China commercial engagement and advancing U.S. clean technology trade and industrial policy objectives. Read her full profile **here**.

## China Field Notes Podcast



Subscribe

Catch up on the current episodes of our podcast *China Field Notes with Scott Kennedy*. Understanding China has become more difficult than ever. It has also become more important than ever. Whether the United States and China are rivals, partners, or a mix of both, effective policy will only be as good as the information on which it is based.

## In The News

### **China's Decarbonization Is So Fast Even New Coal Plants Aren't Stopping It**

*Foreign Policy*, August 21, 2025

**Deborah Seligsohn** and **Hu Bin** examine China's surge in renewable energy, and how it may offset the impact of new coal plant construction. [Read here.](#)

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### **Trump's AI chip deal sparks legal questions and national security concerns**

*PBS News*, August 13, 2025

President Trump stunned many in the tech world after announcing a controversial deal with chipmakers Nvidia and AMD, allowing them to sell advanced artificial intelligence chips to China in exchange for giving the U.S.

government a 15% cut of their revenue. Amna Nawaz discussed the legality of this deal and its implications with **Scott Kennedy** of the Center for Strategic and International Studies. [Watch here.](#)

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### **Trump's chip deal sets new pay-to-play precedent for U.S. exporters**

*The Washington Post*, August 12, 2025

"I imagine the C-suites of many companies and many industries around the U.S. are now evaluating the potential that this kind of approach could be used against them," said **Scott Kennedy**, a longtime China expert who is a senior adviser and trustee chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank. [Read here.](#)

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### **Global Lens | US Extends China Trade Truce, But Imposes Penalty On India Over Russian Oil**

*CNBC*, August 12, 2025

"Trump admin has double standards and lacks a consistent approach towards countries around the globe," says **Scott Kennedy** of CSIS on the penalty over Russian oil on India. He tells Parikshit Luthra that the USA-China relationship outweighs the USA-India ties. [Watch here.](#)

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### **How the world's most valuable company got caught in the middle of Trump's spat with China**

*CNN*, August 11, 2025

"If there's a legitimate national security concern about exporting these chips to China, then I don't see how the payments to the US government address those risks. In fact, they don't at all," said **Scott Kennedy**, senior adviser and trustee chair in Chinese business and economics at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "And if there's not a sufficient national security risk or they can be adequately mitigated ... then the US government should just get out of the way and expect nothing in return." [Read here.](#)

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### **Trump Bid for Cut of Chip Revenue Risks 'Dangerous World**

*Bloomberg*, August 11, 2025

While the US has intervened before, including by taking stakes in private companies after the 2008 financial crisis, a similar deal like the one struck with Nvidia and AMD is hard to remember and — without proper oversight — could lead to a "crony capitalism state," according to **Scott Kennedy**, senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. [Read here.](#)

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### **In US-China battle over rare earths, developing nations are the front line**

*South China Morning Post*, August 5, 2025

“The United States and other countries have been seeking to diversify for years, and the challenge remains difficult to overcome, yet I think we’re seeing more momentum now than in the past,” said **Ilaria Mazzocco**, deputy director with the Trustee Chair in Chinese Business and Economics at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington. [Read here.](#)

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## How to deal with untrustworthy government economic data? Look to China

*Marketplace*, August 4, 2025

**Scott Kennedy** at the Center for Strategic and International Studies said retailers who are deciding whether to open a new storefront in China don’t really consult government stats. [Listen here.](#)

## Trustee Chair in Chinese Business & Economics

Scott Kennedy, *Senior Adviser and Trustee Chair in Chinese Business & Economics*

Ilaria Mazzocco, *Deputy Director and Senior Fellow*

Ryan Featherson, *Research Associate*

Isabella McCallum, *Program Manager*

Cosima Zaveta, *Intern*

Jeannette L. Chu, *Senior Associate (Non-resident)*

John L. Holden, *Senior Associate (Non-resident)*

Margaret Jackson, *Senior Associate (Non-resident)*

Claire Reade, *Senior Associate (Non-resident)*

Daniel H. Rosen, *Senior Associate (Non-resident)*

Deborah Seligsohn, *Senior Associate (Non-resident)*

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