
CSIS Trustee Chair November 2025

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

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November 2025

This month, the Trustee Chair built on findings shared in our **new report** on strategies for EV adoption in emerging markets, and the role of China in these transitions, through an **interactive chart** and **video** that offer additional ways to engage with this research.

Additionally, Trustee Chair Scott Kennedy moderated an **event** exploring China's exam-centric education system through the lens of a new book, *The Highest Exam: How the Gaokao Shapes China*. The book's co-authors, Ruixue Jia (UC San Diego) and Hongbin Li (Stanford University), were joined by a panel of experts to discuss the book's findings and their broader implications for Chinese society.

Finally, the China Field Notes podcast released two episodes this month. The **first** features Adam Webb of the Hopkins-Nanjing Center and explores the Center's dual-language, dual-university model and how it has navigated

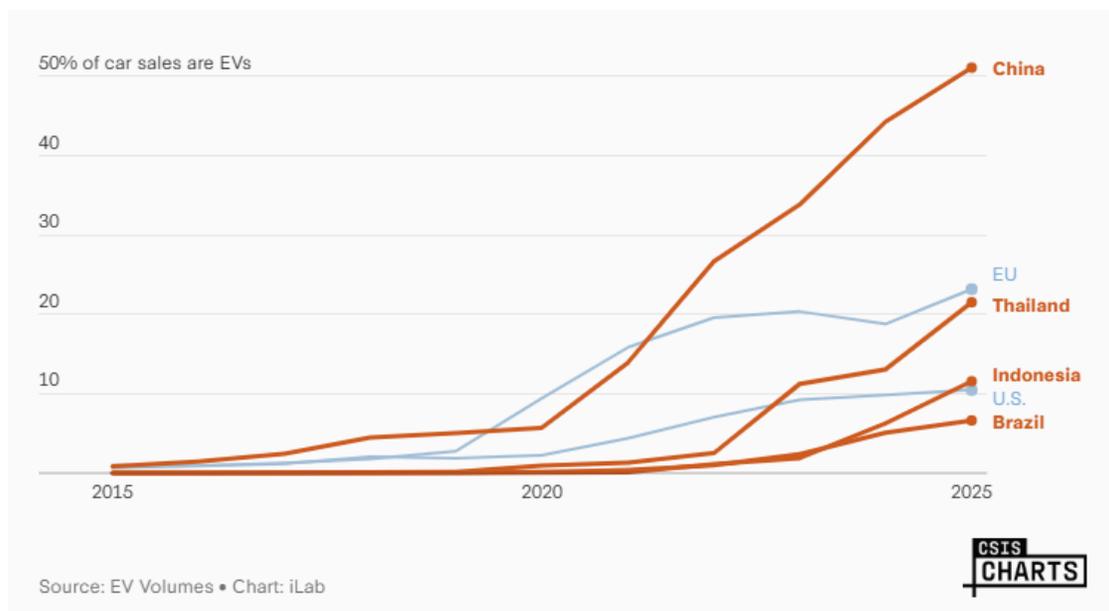
political shifts and an evolving U.S.-China relationship. The **second** features Yao Yang of Dishuihu Advanced Finance Institute at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, who discusses his entry into the economics profession, the sources of China's growth, the challenge of tackling involution, and the state of U.S.-China relations.

Featured Analysis

China Is Driving EV Adoption Rates in Emerging Economies

CSIS Chart, November 10, 2025

[Read Here](#)



Ilaria Mazzocco and **Ryan Featherston** explore how the global auto industry is rapidly evolving, and how the emergence of Chinese manufacturers has created new opportunities and risks for emerging markets.

Got EVs? How Emerging Markets are Navigating an Automotive Industry Shaped by China

Video Explainer, October 31, 2025

[Watch Here](#)



Ilaria Mazzocco and **Ryan Featherston** unpack the different approaches taken by emerging markets and explore what the future may hold for this rapidly evolving sector.

Events

Governing by Numbers: Understanding China's Exam-Centric Education System

November 24, 2025

[Watch Here](#)

Scott Kennedy hosted a virtual event with **Ruixue Jia** (UC San Diego) and **Hongbin Li** (Stanford University) alongside a panel of experts to discuss their new book, "The Highest Exam: How the Gaokao Shapes China," on China's exam-centric education system and its effects on society.

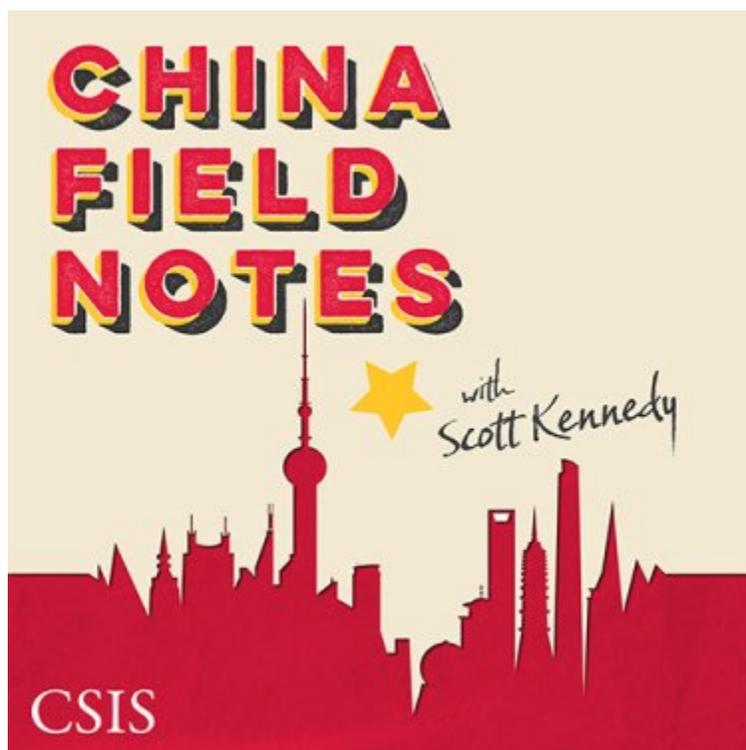
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China Field Notes Podcast



[Subscribe](#)

Catch up on the current episodes of our podcast *China Field Notes with Scott Kennedy*. Understanding China has become more difficult than ever, yet also more important than ever. Hardening geopolitics has made travel to China more difficult, but not impossible. In this podcast, Scott Kennedy offers an on-the-ground look at China, featuring insights from those shaping the country and scholars studying it firsthand.

China's Economic Progress and Challenges: A Conversation with Leading Chinese Economist Yao Yang

November 25, 2025

[Listen Here](#)

On this episode of China Field Notes, host **Scott Kennedy** talks with **Yao Yang**, one of China's most thoughtful and influential economists. Yao, who spent most of his career at Peking University and recently moved to the Dishuihu Advanced Finance Institute at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, discusses his entry into the economics profession, the sources of China's growth, why Xiaomi is currently his favorite Chinese company, the challenge of tackling involution, the state of U.S.-China relations, and his own ongoing research.

The Enduring Value of Studying in China: A Conversation with the HNC's Adam Webb

November 12, 2025

[Listen Here](#)

In this episode of China Field Notes, **Scott Kennedy** talks with **Adam Webb**, Co-Director of the Hopkins-Nanjing Center. Drawing on Kennedy's own experience as an HNC student and Webb's long tenure on the faculty, they discuss what makes the Center unique in the landscape of international higher education institutions and how this dual-language, dual-university model fosters exchange and mutual understanding. Webb also reflects on how the Center has navigated political shifts, the pandemic, and growing skepticism towards engagement, while preserving academic freedom and open dialogue. The conversation concludes with a discussion of shifting national identities in the United States and China, how these dynamics are felt on campus and in the classroom, and the importance of broadening debates beyond the two countries.

In The News

China has a glut of EVs. What now?

Marketplace, November 17, 2025

In this feature, **Iaria Mazzocco** speaks with Sabri Ben-Achour from Marketplace about China's rapidly-expanding EV industry and the problem of oversupply. [Read here.](#)

Xi Joins Trump in Skipping G-20 Summit in Blow to S. Africa

Bloomberg, November 13, 2025

Scott Kennedy, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said Xi's absence doesn't indicate a downgrade in the importance of the event to Beijing. "I don't see any drop off in their view that those global governance institutions are important avenues for China to communicate its message," he said. [Read here.](#)

China-US trade war seen growing more volatile despite truce, as both court third countries

South China Morning Post, November 13, 2025

"We're going to see cycles of ups and downs. They're going to test each other," said **Scott Kennedy**, senior adviser at the US think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies, at a forum in Beijing on Thursday. [Read here.](#)

Caixin Summit: U.S.-China Competition Needs More 'Carrots,' Expert Says

Caixin Global, November 13, 2025

The U.S. and China should compete using more "carrots" and fewer "sticks," as the core of their rivalry lies in who can offer better value to the world, an American expert said Thursday. Ultimately, the two sides need to find a viable way to coexist, **Scott Kennedy**, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said at the 16th Caixin Summit. [Read here.](#)

What China's clean energy push means for the developing world

The Financial Times, November 7, 2025

In this feature, **Ilaria Mazzocco** is interviewed by FT's Edward White and discusses the findings of her latest report on the rise of Chinese EV exports to emerging markets. [Read here.](#)

Chinese E.V.s Deliver a Message at the Global Climate Summit

The New York Times, November 6, 2025

"The world is moving on, even without U.S. political and technological leadership," said **Scott Kennedy**, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington research organization. "With these cars, Brazil is signaling that it has other options." [Read here.](#)

How Chinese EV makers are winning in Brazil

CNBC, November 5, 2025

"Chinese EV makers are facing a lot of pressure within China," said **Ilaria Mazzocco**, deputy director at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "They've been going abroad in a very big way." [Read here.](#)

Automobile : comment la Chine est devenue le poids lourd de la voiture électrique en dix ans ?

La Croix, November 4, 2025

“La politique chinoise visait à créer un marché national de toutes pièces à la différence de l’industrie solaire, d’abord orientée vers l’export,” note **Ilaria Mazzocco**, chercheuse à la chaire d’économie et de commerce chinois chez CSIS. Pour ce faire, le régime a aussi joué sur la réglementation. Dans certaines des villes les plus polluées, il faut ainsi déboursier plusieurs milliers d’euros et attendre des années pour obtenir une plaque d’immatriculation de voiture thermique. “Plusieurs villes ont introduit des assouplissements pour les voitures électriques qui sont donc devenues plus avantageuses », poursuit cette experte” [Read here](#).

What Trade War? China’s Export Juggernaut Marches On

The New York Times, November 3, 2025

“The margins may not be as high,” said **Ilaria Mazzocco**, a deputy director at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. “But for those markets, it’s entirely transformational to have access to this technology at affordable prices.” [Read here](#).

Can China Lead on Climate? UC San Diego Professor Explains

UC San Diego Today, November 3, 2025

China has just unveiled a new set of climate targets that will shape the pace of global decarbonization for years to come. As the United States steps back from climate leadership, the world’s attention has turned to China—the largest emitter of greenhouse gases and a growing powerhouse in clean energy technology. To help make sense of what’s at stake, UC San Diego’s **Michael Davidson**, an associate professor at the School of Global Policy and Strategy and the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the Jacobs School of Engineering, explains what these new goals mean for China, the global climate, and the path forward. [Read here](#).

Solar in China has become too big to fail

The Economist, November 3, 2025

There may be a hard road ahead. But a significant long-term dip in solar production seems very unlikely. As **Ilaria Mazzocco** of CSIS says, the sector has become “too big to fail”. And the other two of the “new three” go from strength to strength. BloombergNEF thinks China’s EV firms will be making a third of the world’s cars by 2030. Demand for batteries will stay strong inside and outside China because they make both new and already-installed solar capacity more lucrative. [Read here](#).

Trustee Chair in Chinese Business & Economics

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Ryan Featherston, *Associate Fellow*

Isabella McCallum, *Program Manager*

Andy Yang, *Intern*

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