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CSIS 中国商务
CHINESE BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

Newsletter

August 2026

This month, Trustee Chair Scott Kennedy and Senior Associate (non-resident) Claire Reade coauthored a **commentary** outlining how USTR's new Section 301 tariffs face legal hurdles, have not achieved their intended economic results, and are making it more difficult for the United States and allies to align in tackling China's non-market practices. This commentary built on last month's **roundtable discussion** on China and the ongoing Section 301 investigations into how forced labor and overcapacity could be harming U.S. trade interests. Moderated by Scott Kennedy, this roundtable analyzed the investigations from legal, economic, and diplomatic perspectives, featuring insights from Wendy Cutler (Asia Society Policy Institute), Mary Lovely (Peterson Institute for International Economics), Claire Reade (Arnold & Porter), and Wei Liang (Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey).

On September 28th, the Trustee Chair will host an **in-person event** to discuss Senior Associate (non-resident) Logan Wright's new book, ***Broken China: How the Economic Miracle Shattered and What It Means for the World***. The event will feature commentators Dinny McMahon (Trivium China), Tianlei Huang (PIIE), and Zoe Liu (CFR), followed by an audience Q&A and a reception. Please stay tuned for a registration link and more details in the following weeks.

The Trustee Chair team is excited to welcome Nina Gohel as the program's inaugural Schwarzman Fellow in September. Prior to joining CSIS, Nina served as a Staff Assistant in the East Wing of the Biden-Harris White House and held positions at the Department of State, Department of the Interior, and the Environmental Protection Agency. She received an MA in Global Affairs from

Schwarzman College at Tsinghua University

Events

Is China's Economy Broken?

CSIS Event, September 28, 2026

Link Coming Soon

On September 28th, the Trustee Chair will host an in-person event to discuss Senior Associate (non-resident) **Logan Wright**'s new book, *Broken China: How the Economic Miracle Shattered and What It Means for the World*. The event will feature commentators **Dinny McMahon** (Trivium China), **Tianlei Huang** (PIIE), and **Zoe Liu** (CFR), followed by an audience Q&A and a reception. Please stay tuned for a registration link and more details in the following weeks.

Economic Security in an Era of Global Technology Competition

CSIS Event, October 14-15, 2026

Register Here

Explore economic security and technology leadership in an era of rising geostrategic competition in this two-day course organized by the Economic Security and Technology Department in partnership with CSIS Executive Education. The course will feature top CSIS scholars on economics and technology, including **Scott Kennedy**. Participants will break down the implications of accelerating U.S.-China technology competition, the weaponization of trade and investment, energy security amid the AI revolution and wars, and technology revolutions such as artificial intelligence and quantum technologies. Through dynamic, interactive seminars and a capstone exercise, participants will examine the various challenges facing U.S. economic security for the foreseeable future. Registration deadline October 5th.

Big Data China

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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**.

Featured Analysis

Section 301 Tariffs and China: A Risky Gambit

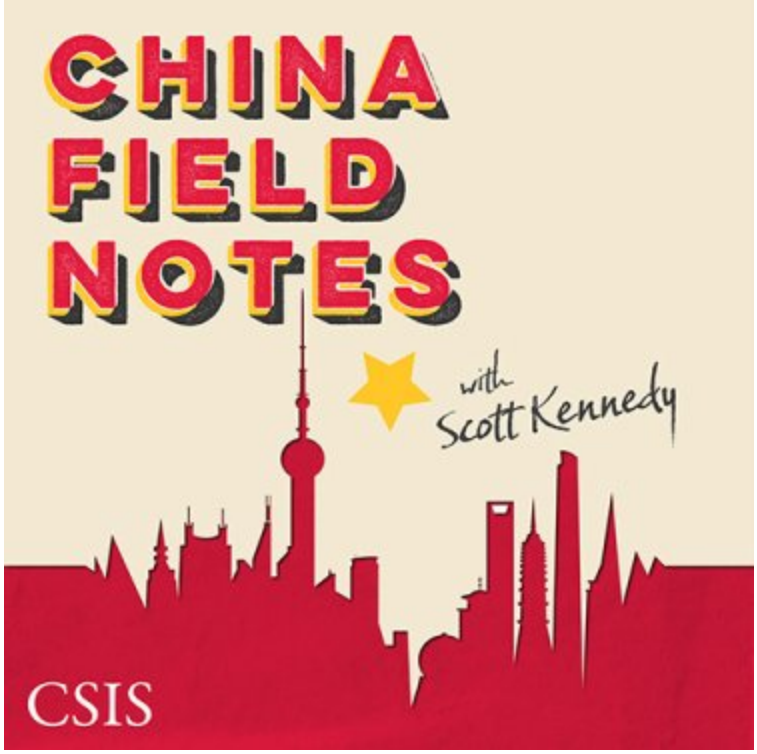
Commentary, August 10, 2026

Read Here



Scott Kennedy and **Claire Reade** outline how USTR's new Section 301 tariffs face legal hurdles, have not achieved their intended economic results, and are making it more difficult for the United States and allies to align in tackling China's non-market practices.

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.

In The News

America's Chinese EV Reckoning Is Coming
Domino Theory, August 21, 2026
"Japan, Korea, Europe — they all allow Chinese cars in their market," said **Scott Kennedy**, senior adviser and trustee chair in Chinese Business and Economics at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "Even Israel, which has the world's tightest cybersecurity protection regime, has Chinese cars in their market." **Read here**.

Singapore and South Korea eye science opportunities as last main US-China link shatters
South China Morning Post, August 13, 2026
"When I served in the Foreign Service, we always described our environment, health and science cooperation as the ballast of the relationship," said **Deborah Seligsohn**, a former diplomat who worked on such collaboration with

China... Seligsohn said the field embodied "mutual benefit", one of the founding principles of the two countries' formal diplomatic ties. **Read here**.

The US and China are driven by their own insecurities

Semafor, August 11, 2026

Logan Wright, the author of *Broken China,* guesses that growth is now running at no more than 1% — and may even be zero. In fact, Logan told Semafor that the economy is exhibiting all the signs of having crashed: Deflationary pressures, an impaired financial system, and falling currency — all accompanied by chaotic scenes of angry real estate investors demanding their money back from failing developers. “You’ve had bank runs,” he said. “They just weren’t at banks.” **Read here**.

US tariffs on forced labour face legal risk as Chinese firms see impact easing: reports

South China Morning Post, August 11, 2026

"The forced-labour Section 301 investigation has some unique features that make it potentially vulnerable to a court challenge on different grounds," said the report written by trade experts **Scott Kennedy** and **Claire Reade**.

"Our analysis suggests the Trump administration's move to reimpose high tariffs faces some serious risks, especially if care is not taken to meet the relevant statute's requirements." **Read here**.

Passanger jet billed as China's answer to Boeing and Airbus prepares to make first international flight

The Guardian, August 11, 2026

Wednesday's Air China flight to Ulaanbaatar will be the first time that the narrow-body jet is used on a commercial international route.

"This is essentially a public relations move," said **Scott Kennedy**, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "Ulaanbaatar was likely chosen because of how close it is to Beijing. It doesn't change the fact that the plan was years overdue, is composed of western components, and is less efficient than its Boeing and Airbus cousins." **Read 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 Featherston, *Associate Fellow*

Isabella McCallum, *Program Manager*

Nina Gohel, *Schwarzman Fellow*

Eleanor Randolph, *Intern*

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

Michael Davidson, *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)*

Logan Wright, *Senior Associate (Non-resident)*

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