

International Conference on “China – South Asia Civilization and Connectivity: History and Contemporary Issues”

**Organizers: China–South Asia Center for Sociocultural Studies (CSCSS),
North South University (NSU), Dhaka, Bangladesh &
Yunnan University, Kunming, China**

Date of Conference: 27 – 28 December 2024

*****Call for Papers*****

China – South Asia relations are multifaceted that build and thrive on historical, civilizational, cultural, socio-economic, political, media and diplomatic ties. Beijing’s relations with the South Asian countries have further deepened and widened in the contemporary context. Apart from long historical and civilizational trajectories, China’s recent rise as a global economic powerhouse has significant implications for her South Asian neighbors, with mega initiatives like the Belt and Road (BRI) offering opportunities for development for the smaller South Asian states of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka but also ringing an alarm bell in New Delhi which considers South Asia its traditional sphere of influence. The conference organizers, against this backdrop, invite scholars, policymakers, researchers, business leaders, and media experts to critically examine, interpret/reinterpret, and project China – South Asia relations from diverse perspectives – historical, civilizational, socio-cultural, economic, environmental, health, educational, political and geopolitical. This proposed international conference, in other words, offers the platform to encourage academic and policy-oriented dialogues, debate emerging issues of understandings between China and South Asia in their entirety, critically assess how the relationships are progressing and what promises/pitfalls the future holds for China – South Asia relations.

The preferred topics for conference presentations include the following, though by no means the list is exhaustive:

- Evolving historical, cultural, social and political interactions between China and South Asia
- China – South Asia economic and trade relations – evolving commercial and investment patterns, collaboration for infrastructure development and connectivity
- BRI in South Asia – narratives of BRI, India’s views, China’s interests and recipient states’ needs and responses
- Public and elite perceptions of China and China-led BRI in South Asia – domestic impacts of China’s involvements in South Asia, including cross-country comparisons
- Major Chinese groups’ (business, Communist Party elites, media community) perceptions of South Asian partners and their views on cooperation under BRI
- Environmental diplomacy, climate change, and sustainability: China – South Asia interactions
- Socio-cultural issues – language and education, health, people-to-people relations
- Media, communication and public sentiments – media’s role in shaping public opinion, regional connectivity narratives, and impact of communication technologies etc.

The organizers invite individual papers, thematic panel as well as roundtable discussion proposals. Abstracts (250 words max.) submission deadline: **20 July 2024**. Notification of acceptance by **14 August 2024**. Deadline for submission of fully developed papers: **30 November 2024**.

Please make submissions on the conference website (<https://www.cscssnsu.org/conference>)

Special note: The organizers expect to publish the conference papers in edited book(s)/volume(s). Some thematically coherent papers may be selected for publication in a special issue of the NSU journal titled *North South Journal of Peace and Global Studies*.