Australia’s Geoeconomic Experiences

Anthea Roberts
Australian National University
Today’s Focus

1. Canary in the Coal Mine
2. 5G and Huawei
3. Eco Coercion and Future
1. Canary in the Coal Mine
Shifting Centre of Gravity
From the Atlantic to Pacific
China’s view of the World
Australia’s China Strategy

Separate & Synergistic

Trade and security are separate
◦ We don’t need to choose between our top trading partner and our top security partner

Trade and security are synergistic
◦ Free trade increases peace and prosperity
◦ What is good for companies is good for the country

Entangled & Trade Offs

Trade and security are entangled
◦ We are having to make difficult choices between our interests and our partners

Trade and security are synergistic:
◦ Peace may be a prerequisite for trade
◦ Some things that are in the interests of companies are not in the national interest
Defining the National Interest

Roberts (2023, forthcoming)
Interconnected Issues

Roberts (2023, forthcoming)

Example: Companies leaving Russia
Taiwan scenario

Example: Investment screening – Huawei
Export controls - semiconductors

Example: Nationality screening

National Interest = Integration of all three elements
2. 5G and Huawei
5G Debates
Identifying Threats

- **CAPABILITY**
  - Impending
  - Potential

- **VULNERABILITY**
  - Insubstantial

- **INTENT**
  - Threat
Australian Approach

“The fundamental issue is one of trust between nations in cyberspace,” and the CCP “destroyed that trust through its scaled and indiscriminate hacking of foreign networks and its determination to direct and control Chinese tech companies.”

Allowing Huawei to build the country’s 5G network would be like “paying a fox to babysit your chickens.”

Simeon Gilding (former ASD):
Heading to a Phase Change
3. Economic Coercion and Future
Declining Relationship

Australia-China leader-level in-person meetings, 1972-2022* (*so far)
Industries that adjusted best tended to be characterised by:

1) High product homogeneity
2) Tight global supply
3) China was not the dominant importer globally

Globally competitive industries and open global markets founded Australia’s economic resilience.
The combined monthly value of Australia’s nine exports targeted by China’s trade restrictions (to China, the rest of the world, and total, May 2020 to November 2021)
Resilience and Diversification

Coal vs. Wine

DFAT/Herscovitch calculations
Growth in Scientific Collaboration

Figure 1. Number of publications with collaborating country by proportion of Australian total (percent)

Source: Scopus (2020)

Laurenceson and Zhou, 2020
Limits on Scientific Collaboration

**NOSEDIVE: AUSTRALIA-CHINA RESEARCH COLLABORATION IN ARC’S DISCOVERY PROJECTS PROGRAMME**

- Collaborations with China in approved grants
- China’s rank as international research partner in approved grants

**Graph Details:**
- **Collaborations with China**
  - 2017: 488
  - 2018: 473
  - 2019: 555
  - 2020: 523
  - 2021: 503
  - 2022: 461

- **China’s rank**
  - 2017: 2nd
  - 2018: 4th
  - 2019: 6th
  - 2020: 8th
  - 2021: 10th
  - 2022: 12th

**Source:** Australian Research Council
Thank you

Anthea Roberts
Anthea.Roberts@anu.edu.au