

CHINA CROSSROADS

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China-Africa Investment: Debunking the “Debt Trap”

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The common narrative that Chinese investment in Africa induces or is meant to result in a “debt trap” making loans impossible to repay is at most a partial truth grossly exaggerated by Western media. In this talk, our speaker will first (1) introduce the debt trap narrative, before (2) disproving that narrative, and then going to compare (3) U.S. aims in Africa which are largely political with (4) Chinese aims in Africa which are about economic integration, not crushing countries with debt.

[Eric Olander](#) is a Co-Founder and Managing Editor of the China-Africa Project, which is a non-profit, fully-independent multimedia resource dedicated to exploring every aspect of China’s engagement with Africa. He has also been concurrently employed by Prism Communications as the Managing Editor of the Ford Asia Pacific Content Factory where he works exclusively to produce automotive content for the Ford Motor Company’s nine Asia Pacific markets. Prism Communications, WPP or any of its affiliates are not connected in any way to Eric’s work for the China-Africa Project he does on nights, weekends and outside of his day-job commitments. Prior to joining Prism Communications in 2017, Eric spent five years in Vietnam where he led ELLE magazine’s digital division and served as the General Director of Financial & Business News Channel (FBNC), Vietnam’s largest financial news channel. Before that he worked as a broadcast and digital journalist for more than 25 years with many of the world’s leading news organizations including CNN, the BBC World Service and FRANCE 24 where he was the Editor in Chief of the network’s digital division. Eric is fluent in both French and Mandarin Chinese. He received his undergraduate degree in East African history from the University of California at Berkeley and received a Masters of International Public Affairs with a focus on Chinese foreign policy from the University of Hong Kong.

[China Crossroads](#) hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a “crossroads” of the world and itself at a “crossroads” in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.