

CHINA CROSSROADS

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Unpacking Chinese Attitudes to the West: Diverging Views of Europe and America in Public Opinion

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Recent public opinion polls conducted in Europe and the United States show increasingly negative views of China. Does the Chinese public hold similar views of “the West”? Conducting a two-wave survey in China, our speaker found great divergence and asymmetries in Chinese public perceptions. Chinese views of European countries and the United States diverge sharply, despite these countries being typically grouped together as “the West” in mainstream English and Chinese discourses; the Chinese viewed the US much more negatively than Europe. Second, whereas the Chinese reciprocated American antipathy, there was an asymmetry in public perceptions between China and Europe, with the Chinese expressing much greater favorability towards European countries than the other way around, though the degree of favorability still varied by country. Analyses of respondent attributes also yielded insights that both confirm and challenge some of the conventional wisdom regarding age, education, and party membership in Chinese public opinion polling.

[Li Xiaojun](#) is Associate Professor of Political Science at NYU Shanghai and Affiliated Professor of Politics in the Wilf Family Department of Politics at NYU. He has held visiting positions at Harvard University’s Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, the East-West Center in Honolulu, and the ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore. His recent books include [How China Sees the World: Insights from China’s International Relations Scholars](#) (2019), [Fragmenting Globalization: The Politics of Preferential Trade Liberalization in China and the United States](#) (2021), and [Token Forces: How Tiny Troop Deployments became Ubiquitous in UN Peacekeeping](#) (2022). Professor Li has published numerous articles in general Political Science journals such as the Journal of Politics and Political Science Research and Methods, International Relations journals such as the Chinese Journal of International Politics, International Affairs, and International Studies Quarterly, Area Studies journals such as Asian Survey, China Quarterly, and Pacific Affairs, as well as more Interdisciplinary Journals such as Business and Politics, Regulation and Governance, and Studies in Comparative International Development. He holds a PhD in Political Science from Stanford University and is a former fellow in the Princeton-Harvard China and the World Program.

[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.