About MacroPolo

At MacroPolo, we are building a truly 21st century think tank. Instead of long research papers, we specialize in thoughtfully designed digital interactives as well as dynamic content and databases. Our multinational team of experts provides timely commentary, valuable insights, and best-in-class research to market participants, corporate leaders, and policymakers.

Our work spans three core areas: economics, technology, and politics.

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MacroPolo (MP)

Description:
MacroPolo is the in-house think tank of the Paulson Institute in Chicago. We decode China’s economic arrival with our incisive, market-relevant analysis and creative research products.

Stakeholder(s):
Paulson Institute
Market Participants
Corporate Leaders
Policymakers
China
MacroPolo Team

Annie Cantara:
Annie Cantara is Associate Director of the Think Tank at the Paulson Institute, where she leads the creative team on conceptualization, product design, UI and UX, web development, and content distribution efforts. In addition to leading the creative team, Annie collaborates regularly with the research team to bring their analysis and products to life, in a way that’s both intellectually engaging and highly accessible. She has trained in user research, testing, and UX principles and has expertise in prototyping, data visualization tools, and industry leading design software. She also works closely with the director on the overall creative strategy of the think tank. A graduate of the University of Chicago, Annie was the managing editor of the university’s independent student newspaper, The Chicago Maroon.

Holly He:
Holly He is a research associate in the Think Tank at the Paulson Institute, where she researches and generates various web analytics to support the product development work of the MacroPolo team. With experiences in multimedia production, she’ll also explore new areas of research and content distribution channels. Previously, she worked as a multimedia fellow for the Texas Tribune, scripted and edited documentaries for CNN International, and learned the ins and outs of film production and social media marketing with The Kindling Group in Chicago. A graduate of Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, Holly holds a degree in journalism with a minor in Psychology and a certificate in Integrated Marketing.

Young Kim:
Young Kim is a UI/Graphic Designer of the Think Tank at the Paulson Institute. Young works on a wide range of projects including the redesign and enhancement of our website as well as social media and interactive digital initiatives. She lends her expertise in designing and creating visualizations, web graphics, and layout/graphics for publications. Previously, Young worked at a graphics technology company focusing on Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality. Prior to that, she worked for a startup incubator providing digital experience consulting for early-stage startups. Young graduated from Ewha Woman’s University in Korea with a BFA of Visual Communication Design. Originally from South Korea, she currently lives in the Greater Chicago Area.

Damien Ma:
Damien Ma is Director of the Think Tank at the Paulson Institute, where he co-founded MacroPolo. He is the author or editor of the books, In Line Behind a Billion People: How Scarcity Will Define China’s Ascent in the Next Decade and The Economics of Air Pollution in China (by Ma Jun). He currently also serves as adjunct faculty at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Previously, Ma was a Senior Analyst at Eurasia Group, the political risk research and advisory firm. At EG, he mainly focused on the China and East Asia markets, covering areas that spanned energy and commodities and industrial policy to elite politics and US-China relations. He also led work on analyzing Mongolian politics and its mining sector. His advisory and analytical work served a range of clients from institutional investors and multinationals to the US, Japanese, and Singaporean governments. Prior to joining Eurasia Group, he was a manager of publications at the US-China Business Council in Washington, DC, where he was also an adjunct instructor at Johns Hopkins SAIS. Early in his career, he worked at public relations firm H-Line Ogilvy in Beijing, where he served multinational clients. In addition, Ma has published widely, including in The Atlantic, New York Times, Foreign Affairs, The New Republic, Foreign Policy, and Bloomberg, among others. He has also appeared in a range of broadcast media such as the Charlie Rose Show, BBC, NPR, and CNBC. In addition to media appearances, Ma has keynoted or spoken at various industry, investor, and academic conferences, including CLSA and Credit Suisse Latin America.

Ilaria Mazzocco:
Ilaria Mazzocco is a Senior Research Associate at the Think Tank of the Paulson Institute, where she focuses on China’s energy landscape, industrial policy, and where those intersect with environmental policy. She will also examine some of these — continued next page
Stakeholders (continued)

issues in terms of the China-EU relationship. She holds a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Her dissertation focuses on China’s electric vehicle promotion efforts and the role of local governments. Previously she was a research assistant for the China Africa Research Initiative led by Prof. Deborah Brautigam and for the China Environment Forum at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars. She also holds Master’s degrees from Johns Hopkins SAIS, Central European University, and a B.A. from Bard College.

Chris Roche:
Born in Evanston and now a resident of Chicago’s north side, Chris turned his passion for coding and creativity into a web development career he loves. With previous experience in retail management and front-end development, Chris landed his dream job with the PI/Macropolo team and loves turning the team’s research into amazing visual experiences on the web. A graduate of the University of Oregon, Chris is a Chicagoan through-and-through but also takes every chance to travel to fantastic places and spent a year teaching English while wandering around China. He’s a pretty happy guy but he’s much happier when the Bears and Cubs are winning…

Matt Sheehan:
Matt Sheehan is a Fellow at the Paulson Institute’s in-house think tank. Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, he was formerly the China correspondent for The Huffington Post. For five years, he lived and worked between the Chinese cities of Xi’an and Beijing, and the Bay Area. In addition to covering China, Matt has also worked and written about the developing ties between California and China and is completing a book manuscript on that topic.

Houze Song:
Houze Song is a Research Fellow at the Paulson Institute, where he works primarily on the Institute’s think tank activities. He previously worked as a researcher at the Columbia Global Center (East Asia). Before that, he worked as a research manager at the Unirule Institute, where he assisted the chairman Mao Yushi with research and project management. He holds an MA in quantitative methods and an MPA in international economics, both from Columbia University, and a BA in economics from Peking University.

Neil Thomas:
Neil Thomas is a Senior Research Associate in the Think Tank at the Paulson Institute, where he works on Chinese politics, US-China relations, and international political economy. His research for MacroPolo has been featured by publishers such as The Economist, The Wall Street Journal, The Los Angeles Times, Activo China, The Browser, Sky News, and the Sinocism China Newsletter. Neil previously worked for the Australian National University, both as a Morrison Scholar at the Australian Centre on China in the World and as a Research Project Officer at the Crawford School of Public Policy. He also spent time at the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center, Danwei Media, and The Texas Tribune, and has written for publications including The Washington Post, Foreign Policy, The Hill, Los Angeles Review of Books (China Channel), East Asia Forum Quarterly, and the International Journal of Public Policy. Neil holds a Master in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, where he was an IGA Student Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, and a Bachelor of Arts in economics and political science from the University of Western Australia, where he was a UWA Fogarty Scholar.

Dinny McMahon:
Affiliate — Dinny McMahon is a Nonresident Associate at the Think Tank of the Paulson Institute. He is the author of the book China’s Great Wall of Debt: Shadow Banks, Ghost Cities, Massive Loans, and the End of the Chinese Miracle. Dinny spent 10 years working as a financial journalist in China. Between 2009 and 2015, he was with the Wall Street Journal in Beijing where he wrote about China’s banking and financial sector, focusing on rising debt levels, urbanization, and the role of the state sector in the economy. Previously Dinny wrote for Dow Jones Newswires in Shanghai where he focused on reporting on the yuan and China’s foreign exchange market. He also contributed to the Far Eastern Economic Review. Prior to joining the Paulson Institute, Dinny spent two years as a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC. Dinny has a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of New South Wales in Sydney. He also attended the Johns Hopkins SAIS program in Nanjing for Chinese and American Studies.

Paul S. Triolo:
Affiliate — Paul leads the Geo-technology practice at Eurasia Group, focusing on global technology policy issues, cybersecurity, internet governance, ICT regulatory issues, and emerging areas such as 5G deployment, automation, artificial intelligence, GreenTech, and fintech/blockchain. He is building a cross-issue and cross-regional team that helps clients understand and assess the risks generated by the complex intersection of politics, technology innovation, security threats, and the changing global regulatory environment. Paul was named as a Senior Advisor on Technology for the Paulson Institute this year. In this capacity he works with the Institute’s MacroPolo team on China technology issues, focused on AI and semiconductors. Paul is also a China Digital Economy Fellow (non-resident) at New America, a regulator contributor to the DigiChina blog that tracks key issues around China’s digital economy, and is a columnist with SupChina, where he also does podcasts on cutting edge tech issues. His twitter feed @pstAsiaTech helps define the scope of geo-technology challenges companies face. Paul is quoted frequently in the media, including the New York Times, Economist, Wall Street Journal, CNBC, BBC, Wired, and other outlets on global tech issues, and US China trade and technology competition. Paul also drives thought leadership in the technology policy sector. A recent paper Paul authored, the Geopolitics of 5G, has been widely read in European Union and US policy circles. He also co-authored a white paper on China and AI with leading AI expert Kaifu Lee. Paul is frequently invited to be on panels at international conferences on technology issues, particularly those involving artificial intelligence and China, and emerging technology issues such as political concerns around 5G. Prior to joining Eurasia Group, Paul served in senior positions within the US government for more than 25 years, focusing primarily on China’s rise as a science and technology (S&T) and cyber power. He provided analytic support to the President and senior policymakers, and was the lead drafter for a number of widely acclaimed national estimates on China S&T innovation and industrial policies, as well as cyber-space issues. Paul’s

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Technical background includes a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Penn State University and work experience in Silicon Valley. This along with his extensive work on internet governance and policy issues in government, make him uniquely prepared him to tackle the substantial challenges companies will face in cyber-space. He is an avid early adopter of all sorts of green and information technologies and platforms, drives a Level 2 automated vehicle, and has been the family chief technology officer for some time.

Vision
A truly 21st century think tank

Mission
To decode China’s economic arrival

Values
  - Timeliness
  - Insights
  - Research
  - Interactivity
  - Dynamics
  - Markets
1. Economics

Explore China’s changing priorities as the centrality of GDP growth wanes.

Stakeholder(s)

China:
If China’s economy sneezes, the world economy catches a cold. Anyone with a stake in the global economy, from commodity prices to capital flows, must understand China’s trajectory and how economic decisions are made in Beijing today.

Our economics work spans critical areas, from finance to labor migration. We focus on China’s shifting macroeconomic policies and complex domestic reforms, exploring changing priorities as the centrality of GDP growth wanes. MacroPolo’s current products include a thorough examination of China’s over-leveraged financial system, one of the most comprehensive timelines on economic reforms in the market, and data-driven interactives on China’s impact as a global investor.

1.1. Financial System

Examine China’s over-leveraged financial system.

Stakeholder(s):
China

1.2. Economic Reforms

Provide a timeline on economic reforms in the market.

1.3. Global Investment

Provide data-driven interactives on China’s impact as a global investor.
2. Technology

*Provide insight into China’s technological ambitions.*

**Stakeholder(s)**

**China:**
*China is now an innovator, not simply an imitator. It has pursued technological convergence with the US, EU, and Japan for forty years but is now in a race to win the future.*

**US**

**EU**

**Japan**

Whether it succeeds will depend on a confluence of factors, including politics, financing, talent, and business environment. But China’s political leaders, CEOs, and engineers are as determined as Americans and Europeans to compete across all technological frontiers. Our technology work aims to sort fact from hype. We provide balanced and nuanced insight into China’s technological ambitions and the intensifying competition between the US and China. MacroPolo’s products in this area include rich interactives on artificial intelligence, case studies on Chinese tech companies, and deep dives into technology standards.

**2.1. AI**

*Provide interactives on artificial intelligence.*

**2.2. Case Studies**

*Provide case studies on Chinese tech companies.*

**Stakeholder(s):**

**Chinese Tech Companies**

**2.3. Technology Standards**

*Provide deep dives into technology standards.*
3. Politics

_Understand Chinese politics._

**Stakeholder(s)**

Xi Jinping:
_In a one-party state, every policy challenge is a political problem. And while Xi Jinping looks set to helm the country for another decade, actually governing China requires more than the will of a single man._

MacroPolo’s analysis aims to unwrap the complexities of Chinese politics, shedding light on elite and bureaucratic dynamics.

3.1. Dynamics & Decisions

_Help businesses and NGOs in China understand how political dynamics and decisions can affect their interests._

**Stakeholder(s):**

**Businesses:**
_In the Xi era, politics is in virtually everything, so understanding Chinese politics is not just an intellectual exercise. Every business and NGO in China operates within these political dynamics and must understand how decisions can affect their business and interests._

**NGOs**

3.2. Politicians

_Provide a database on “must know” politicians._

Our products unpack Chinese politics in an accessible way, including a unique and evolving database on “must know” politicians and analysis on how the Chinese system really works.

**Stakeholder(s):**

**Chinese Politicians**

3.3. Analyses

_Analyze how the Chinese system really works._
Administrative Information
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