

PREFACE

Charting the Course of Brazil-China Relations in the Macau Journal of Brazilian Studies

Alexandre Ramos Coelho* (Guest Editor)

I am honored to be the guest editor for the special edition of the Macau Journal of Brazilian Studies dedicated to the Brazil-China relationship. I thank Professor Dan Wei, the Chief Editor for making this scholarly exchange possible. Together, we have curated a selection of articles that delve into the evolving partnership between these two nations, offering perspectives on international security, economic engagement, foreign relations, and policy development.

Our exploration begins with an analysis of the Belt and Road Initiative's role in Goiás, Brazil, where Professor Aline Regina Alves Martins, Kaillany Azevedo Batista, and Letícia Miyashiro Cazorla Barbosa investigate the potential for agricultural advancement and infrastructural enhancement with far-reaching economic implications.

The theme of growth and collaboration is echoed in Professor Douglas de Castro's scrutiny of Chinese investment in Latin America's energy sector, reflecting its significance for sustainable development. His article critically examines the economic, social, and environmental implications, contributing to understanding the region's sustainable development goals.

In "US-China Dispute: Implications for Brazil in Security and Defense," Professor Paulo Roberto da Silva Gomes Filho analyzes the strategic rivalry between the United States and China. This paper provides insights into Brazil's positioning and necessary adaptations in security and defense amid global power shifts.

In "RMB Internationalization: The Brazilian Perspective" by Professor Luiza Peruffo, André Moreira Cunha, and Julimar da Silva Bichara, they examine Brazil's role in the internationalization of the Chinese Renminbi. This article connects Brazil's economic dependence on China with strategic monetary policies, reflecting broader shifts in the international financial system.

Natural resources and geopolitics intersect in Professor Carlos Renato Ungaretti's examination of the Lithium Triangle, where Brazil's position is intricately linked with China's investment strategy, shaping a narrative of cooperation and competition. In sum, this article analyzes the geopolitical and economic implications of these investments, highlighting the global expansion strategies of Chinese companies.

* Ph.D. in International Relations from University of São Paulo (USP). Secretary - Research Committee of Asian Studies at the International Political Science Association (IPSA). Non-Resident Fellow at the Think Tank *China Observer* – Brazil. Masters in Law and Economic Development – Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV-SP); Specialist in Geopolitics - Geneva Institute of Geopolitics-Geneva/Switzerland; Specialist in Politics and International Relations - São Paulo School of Sociology and Politics (FESPSP). Certificates and extensions in politics, economics, and International Relations from Hunan University, Tsinghua University, Harvard, and Sciences Po. Former Researcher at Global Trade and Investment Studies (CCGI – FGV-SP) and Global Law and Development Center (NDGD – FGV SP). Former Legal Advisor of the Bank of China in Brazil and the São Paulo Stock Exchange.

Urban development and sustainability are at the forefront as Professor Vivian Daniele Rocha Gabriel and Gabriela Ritondaro Galvão compare policies that govern the electrification of transport, distilling insights from China's approach that could illuminate Brazil's path forward. It draws valuable lessons for Brazilian policymakers from China's regulatory experience.

Concluding the edition, I present an overview of the diplomatic evolution between Brazil and China, tracing the contours of a relationship defined by its resilience and capacity to adapt over nearly three decades.

Each article in this edition provides unique insights into the multidimensional Brazil-China relationship. They are valuable for Brazilian and Chinese readers and anyone interested in international relations, trade, and geopolitics.

This edition of the Macau Journal of Brazilian Studies promises to enrich our understanding and stimulate further dialogue on these critical global issues.

At the beginning of 2024, commemorating the 50 years of diplomatic relations between Brazil and China, let us reflect on the connections that bind us across continents and cultures.

Warm regards and best wishes for the Dragon Year,

Alexandre Ramos Coelho
Ph.D. in International Relations