

Silk Road Empirical Trade Conference

Agenda

August 28-29, 2026
Nazarbayev University
Graduate School of Business,
Astana, Kazakhstan

Venue:
53 Kabanabay Batyr Ave
Block C3, Room 3015 (3rd floor)

<https://freit.org/SRET/sret.html>

Organizers:

[David DeRemer](#), Nazarbayev University
[Joep Konings](#), Nazarbayev University, KU Leuven, CEPR
[Yao Amber Li](#), Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
[Tibor Besedeš](#), Georgia Tech and FREIT

Sponsors:

Nazarbayev University
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology



NAZARBAYEV
UNIVERSITY



GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF
BUSINESS



Friday, August 28, 2026

9:00 – 9:20 a.m.

Registration

9:20 – 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

[Joep Konings](#), [David Cook](#), and [Tibor Besedeš](#)

Session 1

Chair: [David Cook](#), Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. [Data Sovereignty: Firms, Accountability, and the Challenge of International Governance](#)

➤ [Martina Ferracane](#), European University Institute / LUMSA

Discussant: [Andrey Tkachenko](#), Nazarbayev University

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. *Break – snacks and beverages provided (Block C3, Room 3014)*

10:45 – 11:45 a.m. [The Extraterritoriality of Smart Sanctions](#)

➤ [Clément Montes](#), CREST, Institut Polytechnique de Paris

Discussant: [Tibor Besedeš](#), Georgia Tech and FREIT

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. *Break – snacks and beverages provided (Block C3, Room 3014)*

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. [Speaking the Aggressor's Language: Identity and Sanctions Evasion](#)

➤ [Andrey Tkachenko](#), Nazarbayev University

Discussant: [Farid Toubal](#), CREST, Institut Polytechnique de Paris

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch (Block C3, Room 3017)

Session 2

Chair: [Joep Konings](#), Nazarbayev University

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. [Tracing Sanctions through the Value Chain: Evidence from the US Cotton Ban](#)

➤ [Jo Van Biesebroek](#), KU Leuven

Discussant: [Pavel Chakraborty](#), University of Bath

3:00 – 3:15 p.m. *Break – snacks and beverages provided (Block C3, Room 3014)*

3:15 – 4:15 p.m. [The Mechanics of Growing and Maintaining a Supplier Base: Evidence from Chinese Firms](#)

➤ [Tengyu Zhao](#), Fudan University

Discussant: [Edouard Schaal](#), CREI

4:15 – 4:30 p.m. *Break – beverages provided (Block C3, Room 3014)*

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. [Chinese Industrial Policy and International Spillovers: Evidence from 70,000 Policy Documents](#)

➤ [Paul-Emile Bernard](#), University Paris Dauphine

Discussant: [Jo Van Biesebroek](#), KU Leuven

Saturday, August 29, 2026

Session 3

Chair: [Valerie Smeets](#), Aarhus University

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. [From foreign demand to domestic production: A multi-country framework](#)

➤ [Dorothee Hillrichs](#), ifo Institute & LMU Munich

Discussant: [Paul-Emile Bernard](#), University Paris Dauphine

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. *Break – snacks and beverages provided (Block C3, Room 3014)*

10:45 – 11:45 a.m. [More Trade, Less Diffusion: Technology Transfers and the Dynamic Effects of Import Liberalization](#)

➤ [Gustavo de Souza](#), Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Discussant: [Tengyu Zhao](#), Fudan University

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. *Break – snacks and beverages provided (Block C3, Room 3014)*

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. **Keynote:** [Wolfgang Keller](#), HKUST and University of Colorado

The Economic Consequences of the Opium War

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch (Block C3, Room 3017)

Session 4

Chair: [David DeRemer](#), Nazarbayev University

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. [Strategic Trade Infrastructure: Understanding China's Belt and Road Initiative](#)

➤ [Edouard Schaal](#), CREI

Discussant: [Gustavo de Souza](#), Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

3:00 – 3:15 p.m. *Break – snacks and beverages provided (Block C3, Room 3014)*

3:15 – 4:15 p.m. [When a Protectionist Trade Policy turns into an Industrial Policy: Evidence from India](#)

➤ [Pavel Chakraborty](#), University of Bath

Discussant: [Martina Ferracane](#), European University Institute / LUMSA

4:15 – 4:30 p.m. *Break – beverages provided (Block C3, Room 3014)*

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. [The Price We Pay: The Short-Run Welfare Cost of Trade Disruptions](#)

➤ [Tibor Besedeš](#), Georgia Tech and FREIT

Discussant: [Aigerim Yergabulova](#), Nazarbayev University

Silk Road Empirical Trade Conference Participants:

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- Tibor Besedeš (Georgia Tech and FREIT)
- Pavel Chakraborty (University of Bath)
- David Cook (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)
- Gustavo de Souza (Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago)
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