

# From *Iron Man* to TikTok and AI Supply Chains: The Global Impacts of Media and Technology Investments by Chinese Firms

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Room 711, 7th Floor, Building 19 (Nishi-Waseda Bldg.)  
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(Directions: <https://www.waseda.jp/fire/gsaps/en/access>)

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Lecture in English  
Open to Public / No Registration Required

China's global imprint on the media and technology industries has grown dramatically since the start of the millennium from Chinese capital in Hollywood to Huawei's digital infrastructure to data-gathering on TikTok. At the same time, investments through the Belt and Road Initiative have ensured China's central role in port and supply chain management for AI. In this talk I argue that China's growth as a global player in the media and technology industries has been both through efforts by the Chinese government to support the development of domestic firms as they expand globally and by the way democratic countries around the world respond to financial incentives from Chinese partners. Using cases from Hollywood studios, global apps and device markets, and global ports, I argue that the first step in attending to China's global growth is robust reforms in technology governance in domestic governance and international organizations outside of China.



Aynne Kokas is the C.K. Yen Professor at the Miller Center and a professor of media studies at the University of Virginia. Kokas' research examines Sino-U.S. media and technology relations.

Her award-winning book *Trafficking Data: How China is Winning the Battle for Digital Sovereignty* (Oxford University Press, October 2022) (Japanese translation: アン・コカス著／中嶋聖雄監訳・岡野寿彦訳, 2024, 『トラフィッキング・データ：デジタル主権をめぐる米中の攻防』日本経済新聞出版) argues that exploitative Silicon Valley data governance practices help China build infrastructures for global control. Her award-winning first book *Hollywood Made in China* (University of California Press, 2017) argues that Chinese investment and

regulations have transformed the U.S. commercial media industry, most prominently in the case of media conglomerates' leverage of global commercial brands.

Kokas is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a fellow in the National Committee on United States-China Relations' Public Intellectuals Program. She has received fellowships from the Library of Congress, National Endowment for the Humanities, Mellon Foundation, Social Science Research Council, Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, Japan's Abe Fellowship, and other international organizations. Her writing and commentary have appeared globally in more than 50 countries and 15 languages. In the United States, her research and writing appear regularly in media outlets including CNBC, NPR's *Marketplace*, *The Washington Post*, and *Wired*. She has testified before the Senate Finance Committee, House Foreign Affairs Committee, and the U.S. International Trade Commission.

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