

實體
演講

世界化中國 研究群

STRATEGIC AND RHETORICAL VARIATION IN THE PRC'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE: A COMPARISON OF PORT CITY PROJECTS AND THE 'FAILED' MELAKA GATEWAY

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地點

中研院民族所
第三會議室

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Port cities serve as key nodes or transit points in the People's Republic of China (PRC)'s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI); however, the motivations behind the development of these ports vary. In fact, some ports, such as Gwardar in Pakistan, pre-date the BRI while others may be more strategically or rhetorically linked to the BRI. In the following study, I first examine this variation regarding port cities' connection to the BRI. Building upon existing scholarly work on both the strategic and rhetorical qualities of the PRC's BRI, I challenge the idea that there is a single grand strategy and I show inconsistency in both motivation and narratives. As evidence, I rely on a crucial case of the cancellation of a specific port city development, the Melaka Gateway in Malaysia. The Melaka Gateway, regarded as having gone from "fabled port to muddy lagoon" (Sarkissian), offers a test case regarding Chinese strategic goals and rhetoric around the BRI.

Ivan Willis Rasmussen is the Undergraduate Coordinator of Social Sciences and Associate Professor of Practice in Political Science at NYU Shanghai. His research has appeared in the Asian Journal of Public Affairs and the Chinese Yearbook of International Law and Affairs with a co-authored book, *At the Dawn of Belt and Road: China in the Developing World* (RAND Report). Professor Rasmussen has taught and researched at a variety of institutions including Hamilton College, Tufts University, Harvard Kennedy School, Boston College, and Renmin Daxue (People's University in Beijing). He previously worked for the US Department of State, Duke University/Gates Foundation, and the RAND Corporation. More recently, Professor Rasmussen received the teaching award for NYU Shanghai and was part of the third cohort of Mansfield Luce Asia Scholars.