UC RIVERSIDE

POLITICAL SCIENCE

PRACTICE JOB TALKS



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U.S.- CHINA ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND U.S. SECURITY COMMITMENTS

Trade can become an important factor in how security providers weigh the costs of their commitments. This study investigates how a great power's economic dependence on a rival state affects its security alliances with third parties. For example, if economic interdependence makes the United States less likely to go to war with China, as capitalist peace theory argues, does that mean it will also be less likely to support its allies? A statistical analysis, which tests all U.S. official security alliances from 1962 to 2021, finds that U.S. economic dependence on China undermines its third-party security alliances, especially those with allies geographically distant from China. The results also suggest that the recently rising Chinese threat does not significantly improve U.S. alliances. In addition, the U.S.–Japan alliance case reveals that a gap in threat perceptions between asymmetric allies may undermine their alliance by prompting the weaker side to question the stronger side's resolve. This study offers new insights into academic discourse and policymaking by analyzing the effects of economic integration on security from the perspective of third parties.

TIME

Monday, Nov 16, 2026
12:00PM-12:50PM

LOCATION

WINSTON CHUNG HALL 142