



Please join us for CHINA Town Hall 2021, an annual nationwide event on U.S.-China relations.

Date: October 19, 2021

Time: 6pm CST Nationwide webcast with Fareed Zakaria

Local presentation immediately following with

Dr. Susan Brownell, Boycott of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics – Could one occur, and what would be its impact on China?

UMSL Global and the World Affairs Council of St. Louis will be the local hosts for CHINA Town Hall 2021, an annual nationwide event on U.S.-China relations, on October 19, 2021. CNN host and best-selling author Fareed Zakaria will be the featured speaker for CHINA Town Hall 2021, a national conversation on how the U.S.-China relationship affects our cities, towns, and communities. From supply chains to national security, new technologies to climate change, the future of both countries will be determined by their relations with one another and the global community.

Our local speaker, Dr. Susan Brownell, Professor of Anthropology and faculty member in the History Department is an internationally recognized expert on Chinese sports and the Olympic Games, and a 2015 recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research. Her talk will highlight tremendous changes since the US- and USSR-led Olympic boycotts during the Cold War, including the rise of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in global politics. The Beijing 2008 Olympics were the first to be targeted by an "NGO swarm." NGOs are currently leading calls to boycott the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, aiming to pressure the Chinese government to improve its human rights record and, in particular, end the repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang. Comparison between the boycott threats in 2008 and 2022 reveals an ever-increasing involvement by NGOs along with substantial changes in the approach to human rights in the international sports world. At the same time it raises questions about how much influence NGOs can exercise over the Chinese government, and whether real changes have occurred in the balance of power.

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