

***The Bank of China and U.S. Banking Diplomacy in the 1970s: From Wall Street to Chinatown***

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Panel 31: *Financial Frontiers: U.S. Banking Diplomacy, 1890s-1970s*

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**Abstract:**

This paper explores the developing relationships between the Bank of China and U.S. banks in the 1970s. It examines how these ties intersected with, and were constrained by, diplomatic rapprochement. Wall Street bankers faced a number of limitations in their financial transactions but the new paths for banking ties also opened opportunities for Chinese Americans and their families in China. This paper considers the relationship between banking ties and diplomacy to suggest 1) the U.S. “financial missionaries” to China operated in very different ways to those in the early twentieth century and 2) these new missionaries extended from Wall Street to Chinatown. I would be delighted to talk more about these ideas with anyone who is interested.