

CFRED's Fifteenth International Economic Law Seminar:

BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS? THE POLITICS OF CHINESE DIRECT INVESTMENT IN EUROPE

by

Dr. Sophie Meunier
Princeton University

Chaired by: **Prof. Julien Chaisse**, *Faculty of Law, CUHK*

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Room 508, 5/F Lee Shau Kee Building, Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T.

Virtually non-existent a decade ago, Chinese foreign direct investment into Europe has surged spectacularly in recent years. While the stock of Chinese FDI in Europe is still small, the flows show the rapidly growing interest of Chinese companies in being present in Europe, both through greenfield investment and through mergers and acquisitions. This surge of Chinese FDI occurred concomitantly to the explosion of the sovereign debt crisis in Europe and the general economic downturn in many countries of the European Union (EU). This talk asks how the European crisis contributed to the surge of Chinese FDI in Europe. The main argument is that the crisis has provided Chinese investors with two types of bargains: economic bargains due to depressed prices and a greater number of assets for sale, but especially political bargains due to the lessened political resistance to deals that may have been objectionable in flusher times.

About the Speaker:

Sophie Meunier is Research Scholar in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and Co-Director of the EU Program at Princeton. She is the author of *Trading Voices: The European Union in International Commercial Negotiations* (Princeton University Press, 2005) and *The French Challenge: Adapting to Globalization* (Brookings Institution Press, 2001), winner of the 2002 France-Americas book award. She is also co-editor of several books on Europe and globalization, most recently *The Politics of Interest Representation in the Global Age* (Cambridge University Press, 2014) and *Speaking with a Single Voice: The EU as an Effective Actor in Global Governance?* (Routledge, 2015). Her current work deals with the politics of Foreign Direct Investment in Europe, notably Chinese investment in Europe. She was made Chevalier des Palmes Academiques by the French Government.

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