



# U.S. – China Relations: Why Education Matters?

**Professor Mary Bullock**  
**President Emerita of Agnes Scott College**

**Abstract:**

The talk will discuss issues raised by a new article in foreign affairs entitled “The Failure of American Universities in China”. This and other such critiques are provoked by the emergence of a new paradigm in U.S. – China educational relations: the relationship is no longer asymmetric. China’s rise as a world-power with potential world-class institutions, its funding for American scholars and institutions, and direct Chinese participation in American higher education suggest that the U.S. educational role is becoming less dominant. The advent of a more ideological China further clouds the picture. Yet there is no question but that educational relations, especially higher education, will continue to be a key strand in the DNA of U.S. – China relations. Today’s deep and extensive ties have been made possible by historic and cultural traditions, high-level political support, and the globalization of both American and Chinese universities. Longstanding American desire to participate in China’s modernization coupled with China’s quest to learn from the west provided the original explanation for this educational phenomena. These non-governmental relations have helped to stabilize and deepen the overall bilateral relationship. They have also positioned the United States as China’s primary educational and scientific collaborator, as its most influential educational model, thus guaranteeing an even more central role in the future.

**September 7, 2016 (Wednesday)**

**12:45 – 14:00**

**Room 205 Runme Shaw Building, HKU**

**(Chair: Professor Gerard Postiglione)**

**About the speaker:**



Mary Brown Bullock is an educator and scholar of U.S.-China relations. From 2012 to 2015 she served as the inaugural executive vice chancellor of Duke Kunshan University in Kunshan, China. Earlier she served as distinguished visiting professor of Chinese studies at Emory University, director of the Asia program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and director of The Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People’s Republic of China at the National Academy of Sciences. From 1995 to 2006 she was president of Agnes Scott College.

A 1966 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Agnes Scott, she earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Chinese history from Stanford University. Her most recent publications are *The Oil Prince’s Legacy: Rockefeller Philanthropy in China* (2011) and co-editor, *Medical Transitions in 20th Century China* (2014).

Dr. Bullock serves as vice-chair of The Asia Foundation (San Francisco), as a director of The Henry Luce Foundation (New York), and Genuine Parts Company (Atlanta). She is a member of the Schwarzman Academic Advisory Committee and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations (New York). From 2004 to 2014 she chaired the China Medical Board. Among her honors is the 2016 Agnes Scott Distinguished Career Alumnae Award.

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