

## TRANSNATIONAL INSTITUTION BUILDING AND TRANSNATIONAL IDENTITIES IN EAST ASIA

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### THE PRC'S INFRASTRUCTURE COOPERATION IN AFRICA AND ITS RELEVANCE FOR THE EU'S ENGAGEMENT IN AFRICA THE CASE OF TANZANIA

#### Objective of Research

Contemporary inter- and transnational Tanzania-China relations are under-researched. Especially publications by African and Western scholars are rare. When competing with China in Africa, knowledge about each country's specific conditions is crucial. Why did China manage to increase its influence in Tanzania whereas the EU did not?

These two different outcomes as manifestations of the dependent variable can be explained by the tools China respectively the EU chose in order to increase their influence in Tanzania. These tools, i.e. the independent variables, will be located within a framework distinguishing between soft and hard power thus showing a distinct smart power pattern.

#### Methods

The influence of China / the EU in Tanzania (dependent variable) will be measured. Operational code analysis will be applied to media reports (most popular newspapers) and speeches by Tanzanian officials. The rank of Tanzanian delegates at events organized by China / the EU is another indicator. Furthermore, the level of the EU's influence became apparent when Tanzania denied signing the EU-EAC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and when the EU ambassador had to leave Tanzania in 2018. These indicators are complemented by an analysis of political documents. Furthermore, the study comprises semi-structured interviews with researchers, policy advisors, diplomats and authority representatives / officials.

#### Hypotheses

China's aim to be perceived as a major (great) power globally has already become reality in Tanzania.

China is successful in creating the (positive) image of China as a leader in Tanzania.

The more visible the engagement (e.g. construction works), the better the perception in Tanzania (receiving country) and the higher the influence of China / the EU.

Infrastructure diplomacy: Conducting construction works (not to be confused with financing construction works) is crucial for China's influence in Tanzania.

China's respectively the EU's smart power pattern, i.e. a hybrid strategy, in its foreign relations with Tanzania led to an increased respectively decreased influence in Tanzania.

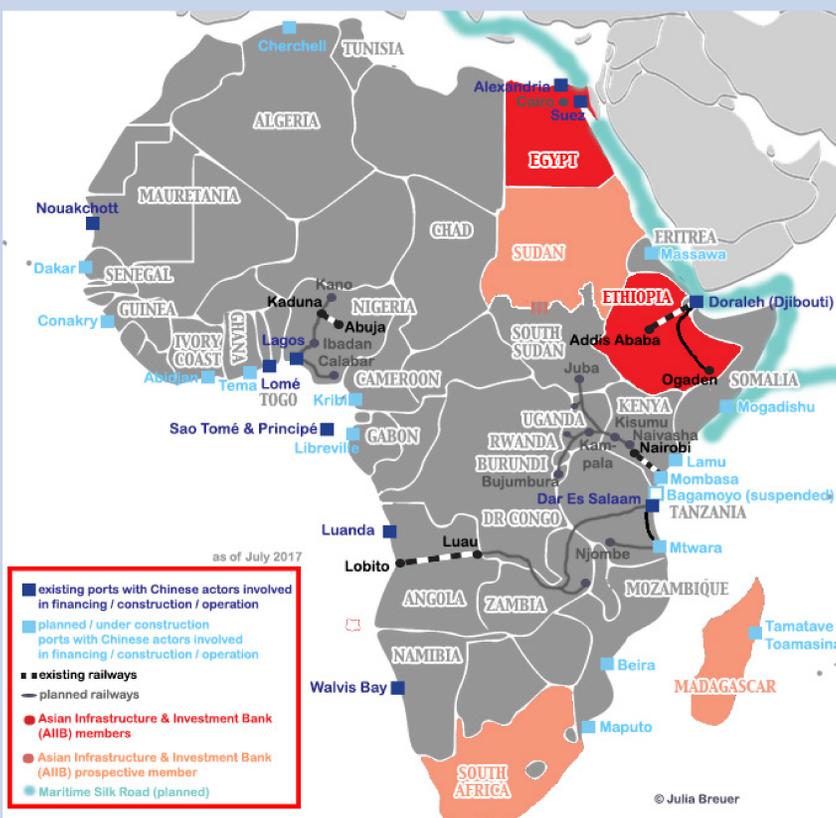
#### Aim

Both, the concept of soft power and the neglected concept of smart power need to be operationalized.

By extending Nye's soft power approach, a smart power framework was developed for this study to locate the soft and hard power tools chosen by China / the EU within this framework; thus showing a distinct smart power pattern.

The construction sector is essential as the engagement's visibility is key to a country's (or union's) influence abroad.

The smart power framework allows for depicting a phenomenon: The current port expansions in Tanzania are not Chinese-financed (≠ hard power), but Chinese-built, thus making Chinese engagement visible – for free.



New Chinese-built library at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Tanzania (own photo, 2018)



Chinese-built Confucius institute next to the new library at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Tanzania (own photo, 2018)



Chinese scanners at Tanga port, Tanzania (own photo, 2018) (tendering for port expansion has not started yet)



Container vessels waiting for cargo to be discharged near the congested port of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (own photo, 2018) (port expansion in progress)

Subtheme: Transcultural Identities and Institutions: the Universal and the Local