In 1945, a report entitled “Science, The Endless Frontier” helped establish the National Science Foundation and laid the roadmap for scientific development in the U.S. post-WWII. 76 years later, the U.S. Senate passed the Endless Frontier Act, which authorizes generous research funding for the U.S. to succeed in “strategic competition with China.” Over the decades of geopolitical upheaval, physicists from both countries have played an important role in facilitating U.S.-China relations, while the cosmopolitan ideals of science are constantly challenged by material constraints and national interests. In a world fractured by nations, races, and governing systems, can science transcend political borders? This talk will review the history of collaboration and exchange among physicists from China and the U.S., discuss current controversies, and explore potential paths forward.

Host: Sarah Demers

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Physics Club is a weekly colloquium of general interest to the Department of Physics, Applied Physics, Astronomy, and Mathematics. The series is aimed at graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, research staff and faculty. The name dates to the late 1890s, the era of J Willard Gibbs, who influenced the intellectual life at Yale through a number of “graduate clubs.” Physics Club is sponsored by the Yale Physics Department and Yale University.