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# NEWSLETTER



CHINA CENTRE



UNIVERSITY OF  
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## Message from the Director



Greetings everyone!

As I write this, we are preparing to begin another Michaelmas Term here in Oxford, and students both new and returning are starting to again populate the university. While academic life at Oxford continues to preserve some of its rhythms, the world beyond remains a constantly changing place. In particular, some form of China-related news has been in the headlines on an almost daily basis, and correspondingly attention to and interest in China-focused research only appears to be growing.

At the China Centre, we remain committed to fostering a diverse community of research, with a dedication to academic freedom at its core. In this, the second edition of our newsletter, I am happy to announce that our community is continuing to grow and thrive—despite the pandemic—and has remained active and productive. We hope you will join us in welcoming Dr Xiaojing Miao, who is coming to the university as the new Stanley Ho Junior Research Fellow in Chinese Studies at Pembroke College (and is interviewed in the pages that follow), and Prof Denise van der Kamp, who is joining the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies as an associate professor and will also be a fellow at Lady Margaret Hall. Prof van der Kamp works on developmental politics and environmental governance with a focus on China.

As in the Chinese saying, 摸着石头过河 (crossing the river while feeling for the stones), we continue to cautiously feel our way forward in a time of ongoing uncertainty. But we have nevertheless managed to maintain a robust schedule of events and activities. For the time being, the pandemic has meant that many of our events have gone online, and while we were sad to forgo the in-person engagement, we were pleasantly surprised by the significant audiences we were able to attract to our virtual events across the globe. For the coming term we will continue to host a number of our events online, including the China Studies Seminar and the International Relations of China Seminar among others. Going forward, our aspiration is to offer hybrid formats that allow both in-person and virtual participation. To keep informed of our event schedule, do please sign up for our announcements by contacting [information@chinese.ox.ac.uk](mailto:information@chinese.ox.ac.uk). For those who have missed our events, we are also building up a library of online content, including a YouTube series titled “One Big Thing in China Research,” a student-run podcast that interviews alumni about their experiences, and videos of past events (for details, please see page 17).

I hope that you find much within the following pages of interest, and we would always welcome further feedback on additional items to include. We would especially love to hear from alumni of Oxford who studied China or who have found their work and lives engaging with any and all things China-related. I thank you for reading and wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Hall'.

Todd Hall  
Director of the China Centre

# An Interview with Dr Xiaojing Miao, the Incoming Stanley Ho Junior Research Fellow in Chinese Studies at Pembroke College

Dr Xiaojing Miao is the incoming Stanley Ho Junior Research Fellow in Chinese Studies at Pembroke College, a prestigious three-year appointment. She recently spoke with Prof Todd Hall about her research interests.

## Tell us a little about yourself.



I graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2019, with Professor Paul W. Kroll as my advisor and worked there as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Chinese for two years. My primary research focus is medieval Chinese literature and culture (roughly 100 to 900 CE), with secondary focuses on rhetoric, historiography, and humour studies. Currently, I'm working on my first book project, tentatively titled *Mirrors and Masks: Showing Selves in Tang Literature (618-766)*, which explores Tang literati's self-representation. I'm excited about becoming part of the Oxford community and look forward to having conversations and collaborations with scholars working on different literary traditions and disciplines.

## So, what got you interested in this area of study?

I didn't become really interested in Premodern Chinese literature until my sophomore year, when I started to read the complete work of Li Bai 李白 (701-762?), often referred to as the "Banished Immortal" 謫仙. I was hooked by his personality, the imaginary world he created, and his poems that speak to my heart. The rest is a matter of course. I worked both my B.A. and M.A. Theses on Li Bai. Interestingly, after I was introduced to the poetry of Byron at CU Boulder, I find so many similarities between him and Li Bai.

## Tell us more about Li Bai. What makes him and his poetry so fascinating?

Li Bai was fascinating in many ways. As one of the most famous poets of the Tang, he was born in central Asia and was partially hu, barbarian (not to be understood negatively). He was fond of swordsmanship, once summoned to the imperial court as an academician in attendance, twice married into his wives' families, formally registered as a Daoist, etc. In his poetry, Li Bai adopts a tone of brazen (one might almost say Byronic) impertinence, often uses the first-person pronoun, and displays his daring individuality. For example, in a poem responding to a local official who inquired about his identity, Li Bai wrote: "The Layman of the Blue Lotus, one who is a banished transcendent! Stashed his name for thirty years in the wine shops. The administrator equestrian of Huzhou, why you even ask? Golden Millet Tathāgata is my next incarnation!" The last two lines are particularly interesting. He plays on that local official's surname Jiaye (skt. Kāśyapa), which is also the name of one of the Buddha's principal disciples. According to the Vimalakīrti-nirdeśa sūtra, Kāśyapa once encountered with Layman Vimalakīrti, the incarnation of Golden Millet Tathāgata. During their meeting, Vimalakīrti outsmarted Kāśyapa in both doctrinal understanding and debate. Li Bai's self-display was both brazen and clever. That's what attracted me to his poetry in the first place. Of course, after more exploration of Tang Literature, I realize those similar features already appear in the works of the so-called "The Four Elites of the Early Tang" (namely, Lu Zhaolin 盧照鄰 [ca. 632–ca. 685], Luo Binwang 駱賓王 [ca. 619–687], Wang Bo 王勃 (649–676), and Yang Jiong 楊炯 [ca. 650–695?]), but Li Bai did magnify them in his poetry. Moreover, Li Bai was one of the very few Chinese poets widely and immediately recognized as a genius by his contemporaries. This must have something to do with Li Bai's tendency to play with the language thoroughly as music, and no one can compare with him in this aspect (Two articles have discussed this: "On Li Po" by Elling Eide and "Heyue yinglingji and the Attributes of High Tang Poetry" by Paul W. Kroll).

## So any recommendations?

Although the translation of Li Bai's poetry is still in progress, The Poetry of Du Fu and The Poetry of Meng Haoran are already available. If you are interested in Tang poetry, they might be a good starting point.

**Thank you so much for speaking with us, and we look forward to welcoming you here at Oxford.**

# News Highlights

## Rana Mitter Chosen to Deliver the Prestigious Reischauer Lecture

Rana Mitter (OBE FBA), Professor of the History and Politics of Modern China, Former Director of the China Centre, a Fellow and Vice-Master of St Cross College, was chosen to deliver the prestigious Harvard University Annual Reischauer Lecture Series, established in 1986 by John King Fairbank in memory of Edwin O. Reischauer and co-sponsored by the Fairbank Centre for Chinese Studies, Korea Institute, Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, and Harvard University Asia Centre.

Under the title of “New Eras, Old stories: From May Fourth and Meiji to the Twenty-first Century ‘New Era’: Defining East Asia in the Age of Novelty, Emotion and Purpose,” Rana Mitter offered three lectures addressing the following topics, all of which are now available via the Harvard University Fairbank Centre for China Studies YouTube Channel [here](#).

Part I: How New is the New Era? (<https://youtu.be/c3bi9N2NY6E>)

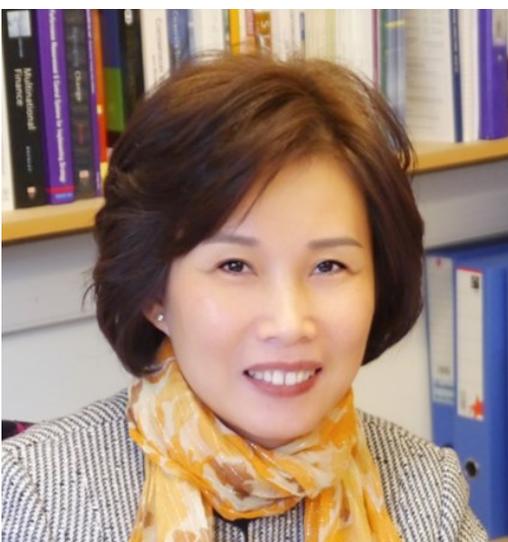
Part II: An Era of Emotion? (<https://youtu.be/L4X4wUM-oe>)

Part III: A Sense of Purpose? (<https://youtu.be/NsS3JeQaEHQ>)



## Xiaolan Fu Chosen as Winner of Falling Walls Science Breakthroughs of the Year 2021

We are pleased to congratulate Professor Xiaolan Fu, Professor of Technology and International Development at the Oxford Department of International Development, Fellow of Green Templeton College, Founding Director of the Technology and Management Centre for Development, and China Centre Associate, on being selected as a finalist in the category of Science and Innovation Management for the title of Falling Walls Science Breakthroughs of the Year 2021.



Professor Fu was recognized for her work on the Valuation of Early Stage Technology (VEST) project. The project developed a model to estimate the value of new technologies in the information and communication industry based on large firm-level data; it has recently been spun out into a social enterprise, OxValue.AI. The international Falling Walls Jury was impressed by “the outstanding quality and relevance of [Professor Fu's] research”, according to the announcement.

Academics and academic institutions, universities, research organisations, companies, private and public research centres, academies, research funders, foundations, and individuals were invited to nominate ‘the latest breakthroughs, outstanding science projects, and bright minds behind them’ in 10 categories. Finalists were selected out of a pool of over 1,000 nominations from 115 different countries.

## Project Showcase

### China, Law and Development Project (CLD)

Prof Matthew Erie, Associate Professor of Modern Chinese Studies, Fellow at St. Cross College, is the principal investigator of the '[China, Law and Development](#)' project, a 5-year, interdisciplinary and multi-sited research project funded by the European Research Council. As part of this project, a virtual symposium titled "China and the International Legal Order", a first-ever collaboration between the *Harvard International Law Journal*, the *Yale Journal of International Law*, and the China, Law and Development project at the University of Oxford was held on 15 October 2020. He recently spoke with Prof Todd Hall about his work.

#### So, tell us about the China, Law and Development project.

Thanks for the question, Todd. The project tries to be the nature of order undergirding Chinese globalization. We're a multi-disciplinary and international research team that is interested in a set of questions revolving around how China may be nudging international law and the legal and regulatory frameworks of host states that receive Chinese capital – through trade, investment, and aid – toward its own interests. Capital-exporting countries have an incentive to do this, so China is far from unique. At the same time, China is integrating into an international law regime that does not necessarily reflect China's values. Moreover, the 2008 financial crisis and more recently the Covid-19 pandemic have further destabilized some of the conventional knowledge that was deployed to build the international system and the roles of the major powers that designed that system. China, of course, is not emerging unscathed from the pandemic. The foregoing factors in their historical, political, legal, and economic complexity paint an enormously complicated picture to parse. We're enjoying the process.

#### You say the international law regime does not necessarily reflect China's values. Where do you see divergences?

International law is, of course, a vast field. The scholarship has shown that for those areas that are more or less settled, particularly areas of public international law, China is unlikely to diverge from established practice; however, for emergent fields like data governance or where the law is contentious, such as human rights, those are the domains where China feels more leeway to establish and promote its own values and practices. In the CLD project, we're focused on the concept of development, another area of international law where China diverges from notions established by Euro-American states since the post-WWII period. The Chinese government has propelled 800 million into a living standard above the poverty line – that is an incredible feat. This approach to development, which is both state-led but also experimental, and focused on exports, manufacturing, and low-paid labor, is an approach that China wants to share with other developing countries. And there is an audience. The question we are asking is: what is the role of law in this developmental approach, and what does it mean for human betterment in all its shapes, including not only economic modernization (e.g., contract enforcement and secure property rights) but also dignity, freedom, and access to justice?



In other words, we see Chinese economic engagement and development promotion abroad also potentially shaping international legal regimes concerning data and human rights. First, as I mention in my recent article "Chinese Law and Development" (*Harvard International Law Journal*, 2021) in Chinese political lexicon, "development" (fazhan) is precondition to not just poverty alleviation, but also security, human rights, data integrity (i.e., "digital development"), public health and so on. In contemporary China, there is a kind of longing—a national desire—for development. One could go so far as to call it a secular religion. It is this common longing to which states and publics in developing economies respond across the world. Second, and in terms of Chinese notions of development crossing borders, as you know, these interactions can be bilateral or multilateral. We see evidence of China embracing both approaches to promoting its interests and values, although the approach may vary according to specific legal domain. For example, in an article I've co-written with Thomas Streinz (NYU) called "The Beijing Effect: China's 'Digital Silk Road' as Transnational Data Governance" (*NYU Journal of International Law & Politics*, forthcoming), we see the Chinese government using less the traditional means of international economic law to

promote its version of "cyber sovereignty" and, more recently, "data sovereignty," for example, in trade agreements, and, instead, both participating in established Internet governance institutions (e.g., the ITU) as well as creating its own parallel platforms for international cooperation (e.g., the Wuzhen Summit). Much of this work is also done through bilateral MOUs. In addition to the question of digital development, on the side of socio-economic development, the Chinese government has worked tirelessly in recent years to introduce its notion of development as a human right into resolutions that have been passed by the UN Human Rights Council. This would be an example of uploading its values into an established multilateral institution of international law.

**This is all quite fascinating. Thank you for sharing this with us. For those interested in further information on the project, please see: <https://cld.web.ox.ac.uk/home#/>.**

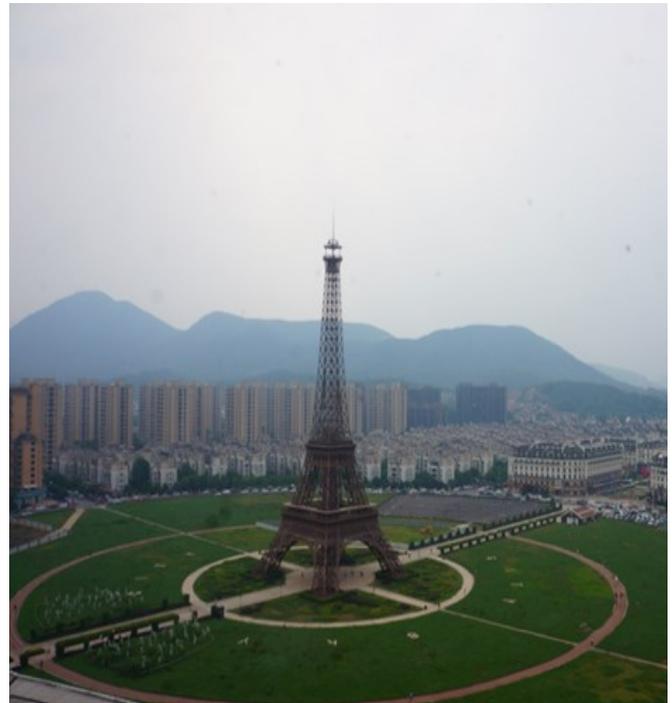
## Conference Showcase

### Understanding Authenticity in China's Cultural Heritage, University of Oxford, 16–20 March 2021

What do we call “fake”? What is “authentic”? These might seem like they are simple questions on the surface, but in the more one delves into them, the more complex the answers become. Indeed, what we deem to be genuine or fake is not an objective determination, but something that we agree upon as communities. Debates about authenticity, moreover, are often intimately bound to the question of who owns the past and its representations.

These were the questions and issues explored— in relation to China's cultural heritage in particular—during the online conference, “Understanding Authenticity in China's Cultural Heritage”, held online in March 2021. It was the first official conference held in connection with the project of the same name (<https://authenticitychina.web.ox.ac.uk/>), spearheaded by Dr Anke Hein (University of Oxford) and Dr Christopher Foster, (SOAS, University of London).

The conference was a great success, with the call for papers leading to the submission of over 100 paper proposals on a broad range of interesting aspects of authenticity. In the end, 24 papers were accepted and over 1,000 people from all over the world registering for the conference.



*Eiffel Tower replica in China. Bird-eye View, 3 June 2018, by MNXANL, creative commons, available at [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:201806\\_](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:201806_)*



Anke Hein, Peter Moores Associate Professor in Chinese Archaeology, School of Archaeology, University of Oxford

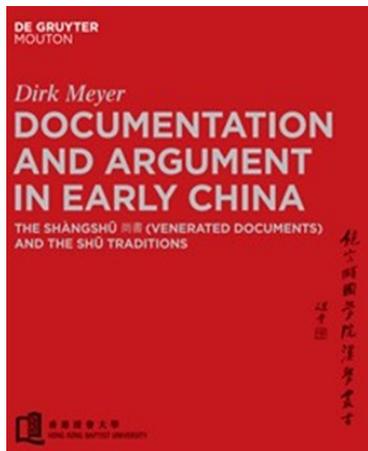


Dr Christopher J. Foster, SOAS University of London, British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow

Professor Lothar von Falkenhausen (UCLA) commenced the conference with a keynote lecture on the complexities and ethical issues involved in authenticating unprovenanced bronzes in private collections. Over the course of the conference, participants addressed a wide variety of topics including the techniques used in authentication of Chinese paintings and calligraphy, the interplay of nature, identity, tourism, and commerce, and the historical relationship between virtue and sincerity in evaluations of authentic artistic production.

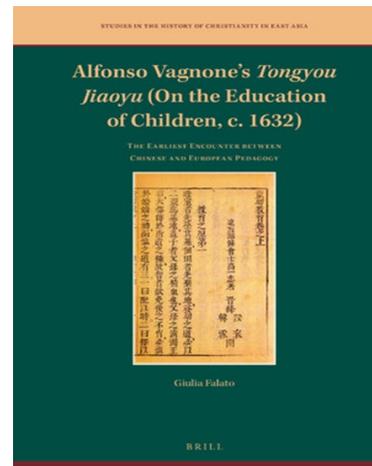
If you are interested in learning more, including details on the presentations, please visit project website at <https://authenticitychina.web.ox.ac.uk/march-2021-conference>. A follow-up workshop, “Understanding Authenticity in Cultural Heritage: China and Beyond,” is planned to take place on 22-24 June, 2022, hopefully in person at St Hugh's College.

## Featured Books



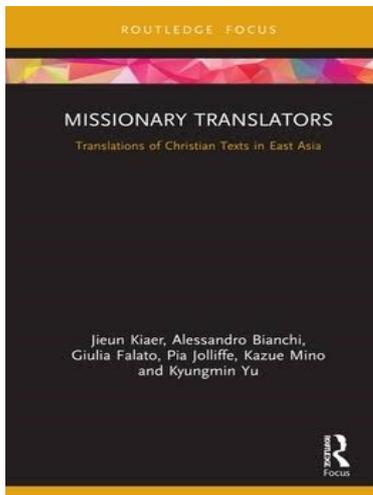
Dirk Meyer's book, *Documentation and Argument in Early China: The Shàngshū 尚書 (Venerated Documents) and the Shū Traditions*, has been published by De Gruyter Mouton (2021). The book is accessible both in print and as open access. Click [here](#).

This study uncovers the traditions behind the formative Classic Shangshu (Venerated Documents). It is the first to establish these traditions – Shu (Documents) – as a historically evolving practice of thought-production. By focusing on the literary form of the argument, it interprets the Shu as fluid text material that embodies the ever-changing cultural capital of projected conceptual communities. By showing how these communities actualised the Shu according to their changing visions of history and evolving group interests, the study establishes that by the Warring States period (ca. 453-221 BC) the Shu had become a literary genre employed by diverse groups to legitimize their own arguments. Through forms of textual performance, the Shu gave even peripheral communities the means to participate in political discourse by conferring their ideas with ancient authority. Analysing such dynamic environment of socio-political and philosophical change, this study speaks not only to the Early China field, but also to those who are interested in meaning production and foundational text formation more widely.



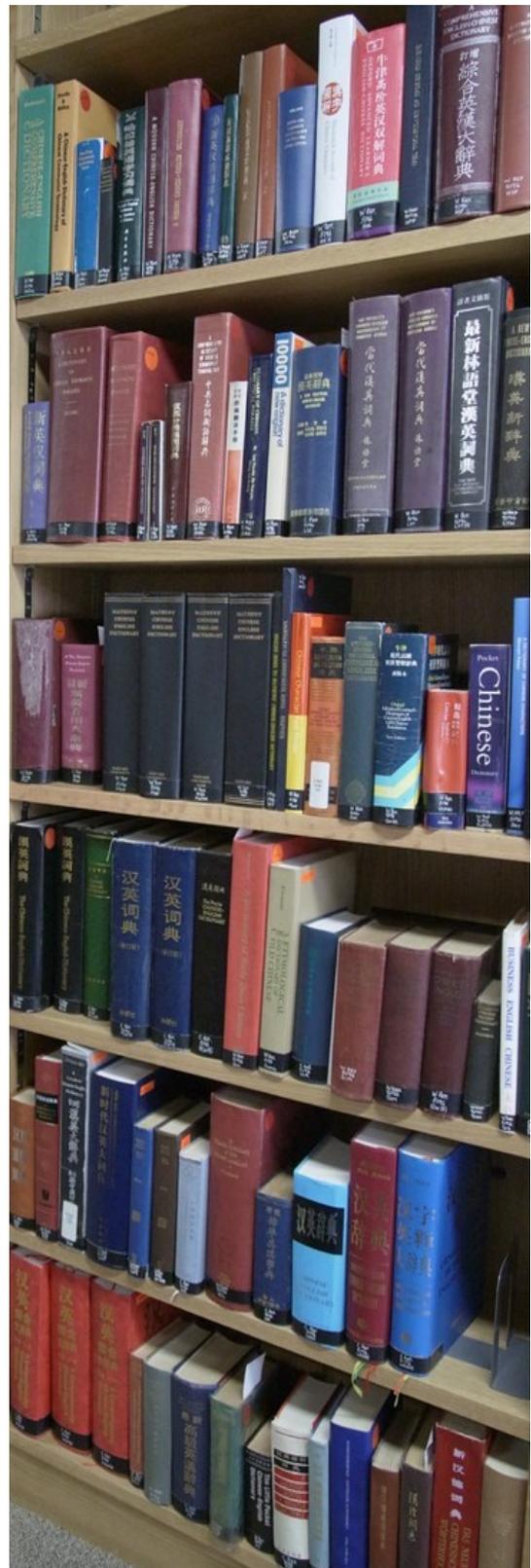
Giulia Falato has published a book entitled *Alfonso Vagnone's Tongyou jiaoyu 童幼教育 (On the Education of Children, c.1632): The earliest encounter between Chinese and European pedagogy* as part of the Brill series "Studies in the History of Christianity in East Asia", June 2020, ISBN 978-90-04-43050-1.

Alfonso Vagnone's *Tongyou jiaoyu 童幼教育 (On the Education of Children)*, published around 1632 is considered the earliest text introducing European precepts on pedagogy and moral philosophy to late Ming readership. It is a product of the Jesuits' "apostolate through books", aimed at spreading Christianity among the late Ming and early Qing literati. In this study, which is based on her doctoral dissertation, Dr Falato unravels *Tongyou jiaoyu's* value as "cultural bridge" between the Chinese and European traditions and provides the first annotated translation in the English language. After examining the two main cultural environments that influenced Vagnone's formation, Renaissance Europe and Ming China, Dr Falato moves on to reconstruct the making and sources of *Tongyou jiaoyu*, to provide insights into the Jesuits' publication process and translation strategies. Finally, the study offers an original examination of a selection of philosophical terms: by looking at how certain terms were created, adapted or deployed in a corpus of Jesuit texts, it strives to enhance our understanding of the Western influences into the formation of the modern Chinese lexicon.



**Giulia Falato has co-edited a book entitled *Missionary Translators: Translations of Christian Texts in East Asia* with Jieun Kiaer, Alessandro Bianchi, Pia Jolliffe, and Kazue Mino, published by Routledge (2021).**

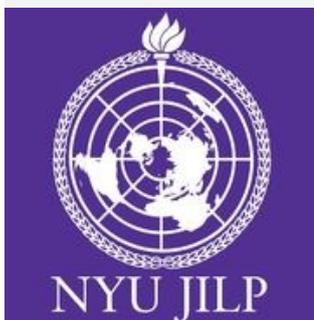
This book aims to explore the history of missionary translation of Christian texts in East Asia from a comparative perspective. These texts include, but are not limited to the Bible and other Christian theological works. Their Source Language was originally either a Western European language like English or a Biblical language such as Hebrew. However, there were considerable cultural and linguistic differences between these Source Languages and Asian Target Languages, which posed a particular challenge to translators. Drawing upon the existing similarities between Chinese, Japanese and Korean, this book provides a comparative overview of how Christian texts have been translated and transmitted in East Asia. In addition to this historical overview, each country presents a case study, illustrating how missionary translators addressed specific challenges in practice. Through such an approach, the authors provide a discussion applicable to both East Asian comparative history and translation studies.



## Featured Chapters and Articles

We are happy to announce a plethora of articles and book chapters from associates, on topics ranging from ancient Chinese history to the Digital Silk Road.

**Matthew S. Erie & Thomas Streinz, “The Beijing Effect: China’s ‘Digital Silk Road’ as Transnational Data Governance”, *NYU Journal of International Law and Politics* (forthcoming) . Available on SSRN [here](#).**



This s article theorizes a ‘Beijing “Beijing effect,’ a combination of “push” and “pull” factors that explains China’s growing influence in data governance beyond its borders. Based on a study of normative documents and empirical fieldwork conducted in a key host state over

a four-year period, we explain how the Beijing Effect works in practice and assess its impact on developing countries. We argue that “data sovereignty” is illusory as the Chinese party-state retains varying degrees of control over Chinese enterprises that supply digital infrastructure and urge development of legal infrastructures commensurate with digital development strategies.

**Matthew S. Erie, “China and Comparative International Law: Between Social Science and Critique,” *Chicago Journal of International Law* 22 (1): 2021. Available [here](#).**



Taking the case of scholarship on international law in China, this study examines why or why not particular methodological and theoretical perspectives on international law may gain traction in certain jurisdictions’ legal academies. While the Chinese scholar-

ship that uses social science to understand international law is still nascent, critical approaches to international law in the Chinese literature are ascendant. This essay explains these divergent trends through a sociology of knowledge lens and offers provisional thoughts about future trajectories for the study of international law in a period during which China’s influence on the international system will most likely grow.

**Matthew S. Erie, “Chinese Law and Development”, *Harvard International Law Journal* 62 (1): 2021. Available [here](#).**



As the PRC seeks to protect its investments abroad, it is confronted with questions of law and development, yet there is little understanding of China’s approach or what it means for host states, developed economies, and global governance. This article seeks to fill that gap. Drawing on three years

of fieldwork and nearly 150 interviews in China and in host states, this article presents the first empirical study of Chinese law and development (CLD) to articulate an analytical theory to understand this phenomenon. The article queries whether CLD is good for developing states and identifies a research agenda for the study of the legal and regulatory dimensions of Chinese economic globalization.

**Matthew S. Erie & Ha Hai Do, “Law and Development Minus Legal Transplants: The Example of China in Vietnam”, *Asian Journal of Law and Society* (2021). Available [here](#).**



Legal transplants are broadly recognized as one of the main mechanisms by which donor states influence the legal development of recipient states. The experience of China, however, challenges convention. While, in recent years, China has been one of the largest capital-

exporting countries in the world and has mobilized law to protect its investment in high-risk recipient states, legal transplants have, to date, not played a major role in China’s approach to law and development. This article examines this puzzle through the case of China’s participation in formulating Vietnam’s 2018 SEZ Bill. In doing so, this article sets forth a number of hypotheses as to why Chinese law has thus far not assumed the form of legal transplant.

Matthew S. Erie et al., eds., *Yale Journal of International Law and Harvard International Law Journal Joint Symposium issues on “China and the International Legal Order”* available [here](#) (Yale) and [here](#) (Harvard).



On 15 October 2020, scholars from a number of countries, including China, the United States, and other jurisdictions convened a virtual symposium entitled “China and the International Legal Order.” The symposium was the result of a first-ever collaboration between the

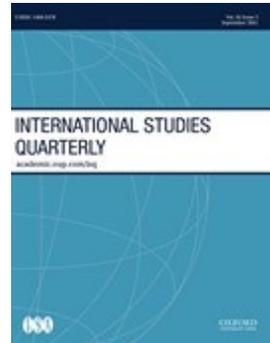
*Harvard International Law Journal*, *Yale Journal of International Law*, and the University of Oxford, specifically, the CLD project and the Commercial Law Centre. Whereas the U.S.-China relationship remains central to international politics and law, the symposium invited scholars from Brazil, Singapore, Hong Kong, and the United Kingdom, who are outside of this relationship. Not only established scholars but also mid-career and junior scholars including current legal students from different jurisdictional, disciplinary, cultural, and even ideological backgrounds contributed to the symposium.

Giulia Falato, “Annotated translations (in Italian) of six texts by Xu Guangqi (題《萬國二圖圖序》, 題《測量法義》, 《勾股義》序, 造物主垂象略說, 修改曆法請訪用湯若望羅雅谷疏, 聖教規誡箴讚)” *Xu Guangqi e gli studi celesti (Xu Guangqi and Heavenly learning)*, edited by E. Giunipero, Edizioni A., Guerini & Associati, 2020.



This chapter discusses the role of Chinese language and thought in shaping the Jesuits’ approach to translation, along with the main elements that contributed to the systematisation of their language acquisition process and composition of works in Chinese. It also illustrates some of the challenges the translators had to face, particularly the rendering of key religious and philosophical terms deeply entangled with the interpretation of the Chinese canonical texts and specifically with the missionaries’ search for the roots of a Chinese monotheistic religion. Through the examination of a corpus of religious texts, particularly dictionaries and essential catechisms, this chapter highlights how different factors, such as the linguistic competence of the individual authors and their attitude towards the so-called accommodation policy, influenced the linguistic and doctrinal negotiation of key terms.

Karl Gustafsson, Todd H. Hall, “The Politics of Emotions in International Relations: Who Gets to Feel What, Whose Emotions Matter, and the ‘History Problem’ in Sino-Japanese Relations,” *International Studies Quarterly* (early view), 2021. Available [here](#).



Harold Laswell’s characterization of politics as “who gets what, when, how” is applicable not only to divisions of material rewards, positions of power, or status goods, but also to emotions and feelings. This paper explores how the “history problem” between Japan and China has been shaped by contests over who is obligated to feel what, who is entitled to feel what, and whose feelings

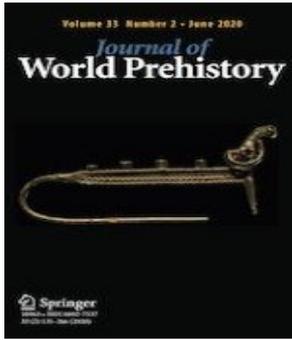
matter more. While not denying the importance of nationalism and historical memory, it offers a new take on how political struggles over the history problem have been structured, highlighting the various ways actors party to the disputes have invoked political claims to or about emotions.

Todd H. Hall “Dispute inflation,” *European Journal of International Relations* (early view), 2021. Available [here](#).



This paper examines the phenomenon of dispute inflation – wherein a contest over an object or issue assumes ever greater stakes and significance for its protagonists – and identifies three different mechanisms that can generate increasing non-material stakes. The upshot is that theoretically

even a minor dispute can grow into a major conflict due to swelling stakes, especially when dispute inflation spirals. To illustrate these dynamics at work, this paper looks to recent developments in the dispute between the People’s Republic of China and Japan over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands.



**Rawson, J., Chugunov, K. V., Grebnev, Y. and Huan, L.,** “Chariotry and Prone Burials: Reassessing Late Shang China’s Relationship with Its Northern Neighbours,” *Journal of World Prehistory*, 33(2): 2020. Available [here](#).

The introduction of the chariot and horses from the steppe to the Shang in the Yellow River Basin (c. 1250 BC) has always been recognised as an important change in warfare and relations with the pastoralists. The paper demonstrates that the chariot drivers as well as the horses and vehicles had steppe contacts or even origins. Further, the hot wet climate of the river basins made it very difficult to breed strong horses to fend off the northerners. From this moment down to the Qing dynasty, even, horses continued to be a major problem; the rulers of central China were forced to find strategies to gain horses from the north, even as they fought the intruders from the north.



**Rawson, J., Chugunov, K. V., Grebnev, Y. and Huan Limin,** “宦立旻. 从殷墟葬式再看商文化与欧亚草原的联系 (“Shang Culture and its Contacts with Mongolia: a Perspective from Burial Patterns at Yinxu”), 北京大学出土文献研究所: 青铜器与金文 (第四辑) (*Bronzes and Bronze Inscriptions, Shanghai: Shanghai Guji Chubanshe 上海古籍出版社, 2020*).

This is the Chinese version of “Chariotry and Prone Burials: Reassessing Late Shang China’s Relationship with its Northern Neighbours.” The paper was discussed in detail with Professor Zhu Fenghan. The exchange of emails is appended at the end of the paper in Chinese and incorporates Zhu’s suggestions.

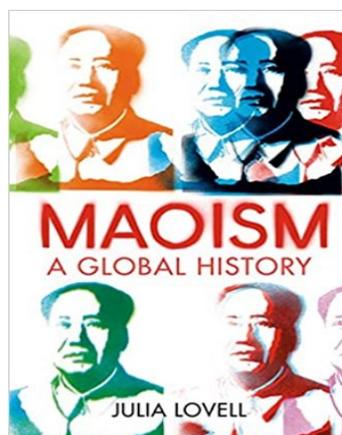


## Events and Talks

The China Centre runs several seminar series on diverse topics related to China during term time open to members of the University and the broader public. If you are interested in receiving information on upcoming events, please sign up for our newsletter at [information@chinese.ox.ac.uk](mailto:information@chinese.ox.ac.uk)

### Baillie Gifford Distinguished Speakers Series

With support from Baillie Gifford & Co, the China Centre regularly invites distinguished speakers from around the world to give lectures to our student body, the China studies community in Oxford, and the wider public. In Trinity Term we were thrilled to host Professor Julia Lovell, Professor of Modern Chinese History and Literature in Birkbeck's Department of History, Classics and Archaeology. She spoke to us on her multiple award-winning book, *Maoism: A Global History*, and in her fascinating lecture traced the history, development, influence, and legacies of Maoism both within the People's Republic of China and across the globe, in places as diverse as India, Peru, Nepal, and Germany.



Details of the next Baillie Gifford speaker are to be announced soon, so please keep a look out for updates.

### China Studies Seminar Series

“What are historians’ biggest frustrations with popular conceptions of China in the United Kingdom?”

“How Communist Is the People’s Republic of China?”

“Is the meaning of family in China changing, and if so, how?”

“What does it mean to be ‘Chinese’ outside of China today?”

These were the questions asked as part of the new spring series, **The Oxford China Conversations**, in which scholars at the University of Oxford and beyond were invited to engage in discussions of key questions within the study of Chinese politics, history, and contemporary society. Attracting online audiences that numbered in the hundreds, the series sought to foster conversation and debate of interest to specialists while remaining accessible to a broad public audience. The Oxford China Conversations were an initiative of the Oxford China Centre Seminar Series, co-run by the Faculty of Oriental Studies and the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies and hosted by the University of Oxford China Centre.

If you missed these events and would like to watch videos of the conversations, they are available through the China Centre YouTube channel and can be accessed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjef5m-rUddMxjjXzR6tVwyfhogqEvsM3>

For this coming Michaelmas Term we will be returning to the standard China Studies Seminar Series format, although events will remain online. We are pleased to announce an impressive roster of speakers.

**Week 1**

Michael Gibbs Hill, College of William and Mary  
*An Archive of Comparison: Between Adab, Wenxue, and Literature*  
Thursday, 14 October, 17:00

**Week 2**

Meg Rithmire, Harvard University  
*The Politics of Financial Control in China: Mutual Endangerment in State-Business Relations*  
Thursday, 21 October, 17:00

**Week 3**

Rogier Creemers, University of Leiden  
*Cybersecurity and Informatization: Restructuring Chinese Governance Through Technology*  
Thursday, 28 October, 17:00

**Week 4**

Michael Nylan, University of California, Berkeley  
*Classical Learning in Han: How our "common wisdom" has Failed us*  
Thursday, 4 November, 17:00

**Week 5**

Kristin Looney, Georgetown  
*Rural Development in China and East Asia*  
Thursday, 11 November, 17:00

**Week 6**

Lisa Richaud, Université Libre de Bruxelles  
*Dog Days and Salted Fish: Malaise of Indolence among Young Migrant Café Workers in Shanghai*  
Thursday, 18 November, 17:00

**Week 7**

Bao Hongwei, University of Nottingham  
*Sharing Food, Vulnerability, and Intimacy in a Global Pandemic: The Digital Art of the Chinese Diaspora in Europe*  
Monday, 22 November (precise time to be announced)

**Week 8**

Ted Min Hui, University Oxford  
*Reimagining the World Order: Chinese Literary Conventions the Representation of International Relations in the Mongol Yuan Dynasty*  
Monday, 29 November 12:30



## International Relations of China Seminar

In Trinity Term we continued our online series that explores contemporary international relations between China and the rest of the world. In Trinity Term we hosted a variety of speakers from across the globe, including Professor James Reilly, the University of Sydney who presented on his new book, *Orchestration: China's Economic Statecraft Across Asia and Europe*; Professor Xiaoyu Pu of the University of Nevada, Reno, who spoke about mixed signals in Chinese foreign policy; Professor Ja Ian Chong of the National University of Singapore, who discussed how international actors respond to Beijing's displays of economic coercion, and Dr Andrew Chubb of Lancaster University who talked about the ways in which international law may actually drive confrontation in the South China Sea. We are also happy to announce an exciting line up for the coming term of online events:

### Week 2

Enze Han, University of Hong Kong

*Influences, Unintended Consequences, and Ripple Effects: Conceptualizing the Presence of China in Southeast Asia*

Friday, 22 October, 14:00

### Week 4

Yeling Tan, University of Oregon

*Disaggregating China, Inc: State Strategies in the Liberal Economic Order*

Friday, 5 November, 14:00

### Week 6

Sarah Eaton, Humboldt University

*The Role of Practice Diffusion in China's Engagement in Global Standardization*

Friday, 19 November, 14:00

### Week 8

Nicola Leveringhaus, Kings College London

*The Politics of Nuclear Commemoration in Asia: The China Case*

Thursday, 2 December, time to be announced

## Mandarin Forum

In Trinity Term we had a diverse and fascinating set of talks in our Mandarin Forum series, which is a platform that provides a Chinese-speaking environment for academic exchange for scholars in Oxford and beyond. Professor Lili Nie from Tokyo Woman's Christian University gave a talk on the changing thought of Chinese intellectuals in the early years after the establishment of the People's Republic of China and Professor Yingchun Jiang from Wuhan Textile University gave a talk on the wartime pension system in the Republic of China (1937–1945). This coming term will feature a full schedule, with online presentations planned for every other Friday. We are excited to have four speakers from different parts of the world, including Japan, Canada, Hong Kong and China. For those who are interested in attending this online forum, please register with Dr Annie Hongping Nie via [email](#).

### Week 1

Guirong Mao, Meijigakuin University

*The Construction of the Civil Service in China: Issues and Suggestions*

Friday, 15 October, 13:00

### Week 3

Xiaogang Lai, Queen's University

*"The devil is in the details": Mao Zedong Before and After the Luochuan Conference, August 1937*

Friday, 29 October, 13:00

### Week 5

John Lai, Chinese University of Hong Kong

*Missionary Yijing in the Qing period: Dialogue between the Yijing and the Bible*

Friday, 26 November, 13:00

### Week 7

Yan Xu, China University of Political Science and Law

*The Reform of the Legal System of Taxation in China in the Last Two Decades and Future Prospects*

Friday, 12 November, 13:00

## International History of East Asia Seminar

Trinity Term saw the continuation of the International History of East Asia Seminar Series, a weekly series that covers the international and transnational history of East and Southeast Asia, particularly in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This term the seminars addressed a wide variety of topics: “Mexican Japanese: Experiences of Mestizaje, Ethno-Racial Exclusion and Strategies to Attain Equality” by Jessica A. Fernández de Lara Harada, University of Cambridge; “One Empire, One Nation: Imperial Reconfiguration Projects in Britain and China (1880-1920)” by Asier Aguirresarobe, University of the Basque Country; “Multiple Jeju(s): Representation of the U.S. Occupation on Jeju Island during Jeju 4.3” by Youjoung (Yuna) Kim, Johns Hopkins University; “From Harbin to Paris: A Transnational History of Russian Refugees during the Great Famine in China 1958-1962” by Yuqing Qiu, Centre d’histoire de Sciences Po; “W.A.P. Martin, Naturalism and the Translation of International Law in Late Qing China” by Jingjian Wu, Yale Law School; “Evolution of a Hybrid Typology: Christian Churches Built in Hué, Vietnam in the 20th Century by Phi Nguyen”, École Polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne; “Reinscribing Diplomatic Protocol: The Case of Chile During Korean Détente, 1970-1973” by Eilin Rafael Perez, University of Chicago; and “Debating Chinese Cruelty: Legal Orientalism, Summary Execution, and Extraterritoriality” by Yuan Tian, University of Chicago. This coming term will also feature a full schedule, with presentations planned for every Wednesday (time varies, see website for details).

### Week 1

Wolfgang G. Thiele, Free University of Berlin

*Decolonization and Human Rights Discourse within the Taiwan Independence Movement in Japan, 1960-2000*

Wednesday, 13 October

### Week 2

Aaron Glasserman, Harvard University

*“A Jinnah for Chinese Islam”: Muslim Politics between South Asia and China, 1940-1949*

Wednesday, 20 October

### Week 3

Tiasangla Longkumer, Jawaharlal Nehru University

*Rockefeller Bolshevik: John Black Grant and the Conception of Modern Public Health in China and India*

Wednesday, 27 October

### Week 4

Clara Momoko Geber, Free University of Berlin

*Between Escapism and Propaganda: Cultural Activities in Soviet POW Camps After World War II*

Wednesday, 3 November

### Week 5

Leung Ho-chiu, University of California, San Diego

*The Anti-Hong Kong Dollar Campaign and the Making of China’s Exchange Rate Regime, 1949-1951*

Wednesday 10 November

### Week 6

Derek J. Kramer, University of Wisconsin-Madison

*Seeing the World Through the Atom: Readings of Fallout in Postcolonial North and South Korea*

Wednesday 17 November

### Week 7

Tarik Merida, Free University of Berlin

*Recontextualising Japanese Views of African Americans from the Arrival of Commodore Perry (1853) to the Paris Peace Conference (1919)*

Wednesday, 24 November

### Week 8

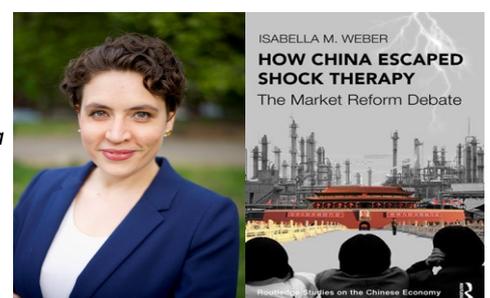
Noël Seulgi Um-Lo, Columbia University

*Legacies of minjok and neo-Confucianism in the construction of early DPRK political apparatus*

Wednesday, 1 December

## Book Talk

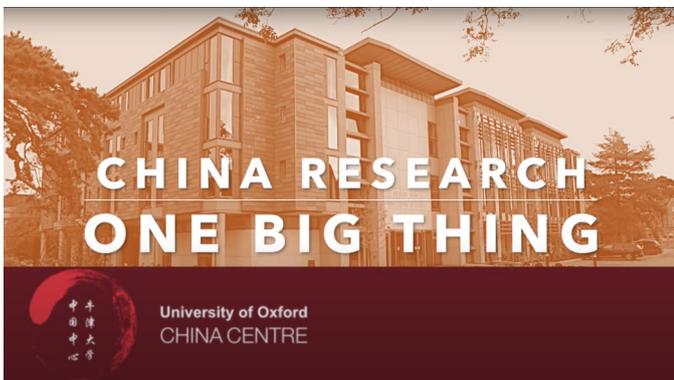
Apart from its regularly scheduled series, the China Centre also welcomes scholars of China to present their books in special sessions. In Trinity Term we were proud to host Professor Isabella Weber, assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, who spoke about her recently published monograph, *How China Escaped Shock Therapy: The Market Reform Debate*, on 15 June 2021. In it, Prof Weber uncovers the fierce contest about economic reforms that shaped China’s path.



# New Online Content

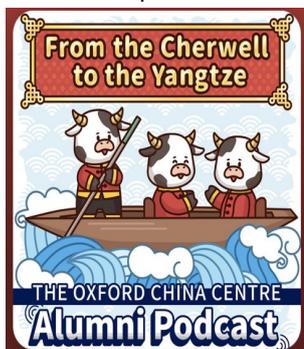
## One Big Thing in China Research

The China Centre is pleased to announce the first season of *One Big Thing in China Research* is now available on YouTube. *One Big Thing in China Research* is a video series in which scholars whose work engages China – broadly understood – are asked to present “one big thing” from their work, be it an argument, a finding, or an observation. The videos are designed to provide brief introductions to the latest work on China. The first season focuses on issues involving the international relations of China, and address topics ranging from the behaviour of the People’s Republic of China in its maritime periphery to how to study Beijing’s foreign policy. To access the videos see the playlist [here](#).



## From the Cherwell to the Yangtze: The Oxford China Centre Alumni Podcast

*From the Cherwell to the Yangtze: The Oxford China Centre Alumni Podcast* is a podcast where current Oxford Chinese studies undergraduates interview alumni of the China Centre to learn about where their relationship with Oxford and China has taken them since graduation. It is a great look into where the study of China can take you. As the students responsible for the podcast write, “We hope our



podcasts will bring inspiration to prospective students thinking of applying for Chinese at Oxford one day, former alumni reminiscing about their days in Oxford and others interested in what opportunities studying Chinese in Oxford might bring.” Please do have a listen here on [Spotify](#).

## Other China Centre Scholar Podcast Appearances

*Scholars from the China Centre have been featured in a variety of podcasts speaking about their work. Here are a few for listening:*

“**Popularizing Law in China,**” Professor Jennifer Altehenger spoke to the Harvard on China Podcast about how the People’s Republic popularized legal knowledge after 1949. Listen [here](#).

“**China in Slogans**” – Vivienne Shue and Jennifer Altehenger comment on how the Chinese government decides upon new policies and how it communicates them to the public on BBC’s The Documentary, available [here](#).

“**Punditry Pitfalls**” – Todd Hall talks to Chinese Business Brief about the most common punditry pitfalls afflicting those in the business of analysing China’s current affairs. Available [here](#).

“**Between confrontation and cooperation**” – Prof Rana Mitter talks to Agora Radio about how Britain’s diverse goals of maximising cooperation while resisting an authoritarian power and standing up for its values can be achieved. Available [here](#).

“**What the West Misses About China**” – Speaking on the Good Fight Podcast, Prof Rana Mitter discusses how to understand contemporary China; attempts by the Chinese government to change popular views of the country’s history; and how younger Chinese citizens are likely to shape the country. Listen [here](#).

“**How China is changing – and being changed – by the UN**”. The Asia Matters Podcast interviewed Rosemary Foot about her recent book. Available [here](#).



# News from the Library

## Sharing Chinese Treasures from the Bodleian Library

Mamtimyn Sunuodula, Bodleian Curator of Chinese Collections

Three manuscript albums, generally known as the “Miao albums”, were part of the subject matter of a recent study by Zhu Jing, first as a PhD thesis at the University of Edinburgh and then published as *Visualising Ethnicity in the Southwest Borderlands* as a monograph by Brill. Created from mid to late Qing period as the Qing Empire projected its power deep into non-Han populated areas of Yunnan, Guizhou and surrounding regions, the albums were the early visual representations of non-Han peoples of southwest China. They epitomise the intimate correlation between imperial power and visibility and between power and ethnographic imagination. The albums have continuously attracted scholarly interest from scholars and students and can also be an ideal visual material for teaching Chinese imperial history, critical and colonial studies and resonate with the current race and decolonisation debate from a different perspective.

The albums were among the thousands of works in Chinese digitised by the Bodleian Library in the ten years from 2011 to 2021. The digitisation programme has been supported by HD Chung Foundation and enabled the Bodleian Library to digitise one hundred thousand images from the Bodleian Library’s pre-modern Chinese collections and made them freely available worldwide to anyone who has an interest. It is the modern-day manifestation of the Bodleian Library’s founding principles of sharing knowledge which was established 420 years ago and staying true to the intention of its founder Sir Thomas Bodley who founded the library in 1602 and bought its first Chinese book simultaneously.

Highlights of the digitised collections are: Bodleian Library’s hundred or so earliest Chinese acquisitions, deciphered in 1687 by Shen Fuzong, who was the first recorded Chinese person to visit England; a unique collection of Daoist Yao manuscripts; works published by protestant mission press as well as some treasures from the Bodleian Chinese collection, including the famous Selden Map, 19 volumes of Yongle Encyclopedia and a handlist of the Bodleian’s Chinese books catalogued by Professor James Legge, who was the first Professor of Chinese in Oxford.

The digitised Chinese material can be browsed and downloaded for personal research from the Digital Bodleian website (<https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/collections/chinese-digitization-project/>) and can be searched using SOLO ([solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk)), the online catalogue of libraries in the University of Oxford.



Image 1: Representation of Red “Miao” from 蠻獠圖說 (Illustrated album of Barbarians) (82 album leaves), undated (acquired in 1892), Bodleian Library, University of Oxford.



Image 2: Representation of Tibetan Buddhists in an album of Yunan Sanyi Baiman Tu Quanbu 雲南三迤百蠻圖全部 (Complete Illustration of all Barbarians of Yunnan’s Three Frontiers), undated (before 1937), Bodleian library, Oxford.

## Alumni Spotlight

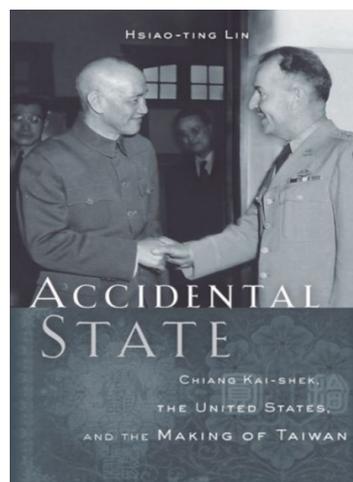
### Hsiao-ting Lin (DPhil 2003) Awarded the Title of 2017 Most Influential Book of the Year in Taiwan

Hsiao-ting Lin received his DPhil in Oriental Studies in 2003 from the University of Oxford. He is currently a Research Fellow and Curator of the Modern China Collection at the Hoover Institute, for which he collects material on China and Taiwan, as well as China-related materials in other East Asian countries. Lin's academic interests include ethnopoli-tics and minority issues in greater China, border strategies and defences in modern China, political institutions and the bureaucratic system of the Chinese Nationalist Party (Kuomintang), and US-Taiwan military and political relations during the Cold War. Dr Lin was awarded the Kiri-yama Distinguished Fellowship by the Centre for the Pacific Rim, University of San Francisco in 2004 and made a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland for his contributions to the studies of modern China's history in April 2008.

He has published extensively on modern Chinese and Taiwanese politics, history, and ethnic minorities, including *Accidental State: Chiang Kai-shek, the United States, and the Making of Taiwan* (Harvard University Press, 2016); *Modern China's Ethnic Frontiers: A Journey to the West* (Routledge, 2011); *Breaking with the Past: The Kuomintang Central Reform Committee on Taiwan, 1950–52* (Hoover Press, 2007); *Tibet and Nationalist China's Frontier: Intrigues and Ethno-politics, 1928–49* (UBC Press, 2006), nominated as the best study in the humanities at the 2007 International Convention of Asia Scholars; and over a hundred journal articles, book chapters, edited volumes, reviews, opinion pieces, and translations.

The Chinese version of his book *Accidental State: Chiang Kai-shek, the United States, and the Making of Taiwan* (Harvard University Press, 2016) was awarded the title of the 2017 Most Influential Book of the Year in Taiwan. He is currently at work on a manuscript that re-evaluates Taiwan's relations with China and the United States from the presidency of Harry Truman to that of Jimmy Carter.

Lin shares with us that he considers the years he studied at Oxford the most memorable moments of his life. 'I am very grateful to my mentors at the Chinese Institute for giving me intellectual inspiration and allowing me the greatest patience to cultivate my views on the history of modern China,' says Lin.



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