

ISSUE 4 October 2022

# NEWSLETTER



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## Message from the Director



Greetings!

It is very much my pleasure to present to you our fourth newsletter, marking the start of the 2022-2023 academic year! Here in Oxford the leaves are slowly changing colour while university life switches from the quietness of September to the buzz of activity of Michaelmas term.

We have a robust schedule of events this coming year, and apart from our standard series of seminars, we will also be hosting a number of special events. These include a lecture on Hong Kong from our chancellor and the former governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten; a lecture on innovation in China from our pro-vice chancellor, David Gann; a lecture by the eminent scholar of the PRC's foreign relations, David Shambaugh, on the evolution of China studies; and a Baillie Gifford lecture by the author Megan Walsh on the topic of what China reads.

This term we also look forward to launching our new website, which will provide a user-friendly location for learning about our fellows and their research, the work of the China Centre, and our past and upcoming events and recordings.

I want to additionally take this opportunity to invite you to our opening reception on the 12th of October at 17:30 in the Woodsworth Tea Room of the China Centre. It will be great opportunity see familiar faces and meet new ones! It really is good to be able to see everyone again in person, and we are also welcoming a significant cohort of visiting fellows from all over the globe.

I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Todd Hall  
Director of the China Centre

## An Interview with Paul Irwin Crookes, Associate Professor and Director of the Contemporary China Studies Programme

Paul Irwin Crookes is part of the teaching team in the Contemporary China Studies Programme at the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA), where he leads courses on China's foreign policy and international relations. He has written several books, including *The Politics of EU-China Economic Relations: An Uneasy Partnership* (with Farnell, J. ), *Cross-Taiwan Strait Relations in an Era of Technological Change: Security, Economic and Cultural Dimensions* (with Knoerich, J. ) and *Intellectual Property Regime Evolution in China and India*. He recently shared with us his views on current trends in EU-China Relations.



### What do you see as the general trend in EU-China relations at the moment?

The relationship between the European Union (EU) and China has always been a complex one, as there are relations with the EU's supranational institutions, such as the European Commission and Parliament, simultaneously evolving with bilateral relationships with one or more member states. In general terms, over the last few years, the EU-China relationship has become more fraught with areas of tension becoming more visible, disagreements becoming clearer over both economic and political issues, and a mood of pessimism about the future that has replaced the optimism of the past.

So, examining trends in relations means assessing both those with the EU as an international actor in its own right along with those with individual member states. Therefore, one overarching question that scholars and practitioners alike have asked themselves for some time is whether the EU can actually speak with one voice about and to China? The answer is, generally, "no", albeit with some exceptions that in the end actually help to prove this rule. To try and keep this answer concise, the following will prioritise discussing factors

impacting the EU's central institutions themselves. But, at times, member states inevitably become a part of the question/puzzle/answer.

The relationship between the EU itself and China has often been framed as one driven largely by economics, underpinning the view that whilst trade and investment is buoyant all other factors of lesser importance can be handled through bilateral dialogue, or just ignored. Yet, this view fails to capture the complexities of how the EU as an international actor has evolved over time and how it now interacts with China beyond just economics. Nor does it explain why the relationship has deteriorated in recent years so sharply despite year-on-year (goods) trade growth.

In answer to this overarching question about the relationship, there appears to be emerging evidence that the values gap between each side - that has existed for years in a number of areas - seems to be inexorably moving from positive discussion in Brussels over how to bridge the gap(s) to negative assessments of the extent to which there is now a trust deficit in the relationship. This trend seems to be prevalent in the three key issue areas that dominate EU-China relations: global governance, politics and society, as well as trade and investment.

In global governance, the EU has a fundamental belief in what it terms "effective multilateralism" that defines multi-lateral institutions as the key fora for solving global problems. China on the other hand, takes a more functional view of any institutional role in the global system and will prioritise sovereign rights over institutional constraints. For example, whilst both sides agree that the WTO needs reform to better reflect current realities, the extent of that reform, its inclusiveness over state policy prerogatives, and the formulation of an effective enforcement system for rule violations, continue to be areas of disagreement, although at least the two sides agree on the need to continue talking about solutions.

Further tensions exist over conflicting interpretations of key facets of international law and the extent to which such rules should constrain sovereign states. Most recently, the EU has been visibly and openly critical of China's stance over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with Beijing's continuing political support for Russia drawing some of the sharpest

critical comments from the EU leadership in Brussels since diplomatic relations were established with China in 1975.

Indeed, it can be argued that through China's robust responses to these concerns, the Chinese leadership appears not to recognise just how badly this has impacted bilateral relations with Europeans, both with Brussels itself and with leading member states such as Germany, France and Poland.

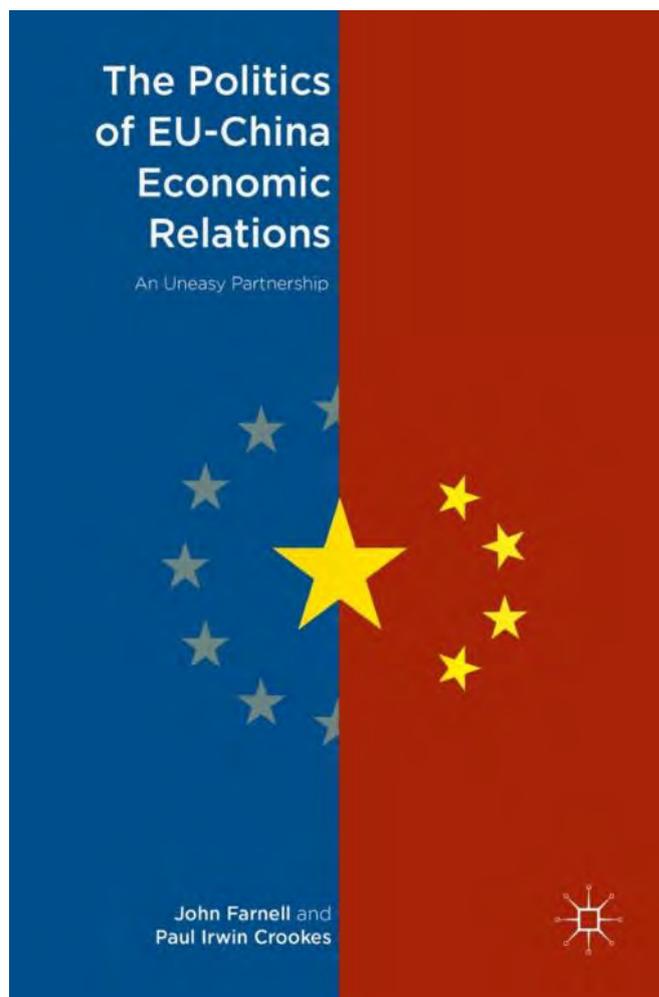
In social and political areas, the EU's clear prioritisation of individual rights and a belief in pluralist politics has long been sharply at variance with the role of the Chinese Communist Party in China's own state structures and the politics of the country's society. However, whilst endeavours have taken place through multiple dialogues over many years to bridge these differences, China's recent behaviour towards Uyghurs in Xinjiang and its clampdown on the political system in Hong Kong have sharpened these differences and provoked strong reactions by the EU's leadership.

This has fed into economic areas too as retaliatory sanctions imposed by China on EU parliamentarians and European academics directly led to the suspension of the ratification process for an important bilateral investment treaty that had been years in the making. Indeed, perhaps the most interesting aspect of the tensions in recent years between both sides is how much they now reflect spillovers between a collision of different values systems rather than just the traditional areas of economic specificities, such as anti-dumping rules and non-tariff trade barriers.

But even in the economic realm of bilateral relations, tensions now exist that are anchored on far more than just disagreement over reciprocal levels of investment or the persistence of alleged operational distortions in key Chinese sectors. Whilst these inhibitors are still important, especially to leading member states and lobby groups such as the EU Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC), the most striking development on the economic front between the EU and China in recent years is the way that the very nature and direction of China's reform journey has come under close scrutiny from the EU, and found to be moving in a direction about which Brussels has profound concerns.

The growing, rather than diminishing, role of the party-state apparatus in China's economic system, the persistent visibility of multiple subsidies in many sectors for favoured firms, and the leadership role in the economy that national champions of state-owned and state-preferred enterprises hold in many of the sectors seen as important by EU businesses points to a systemic disagreement over maintaining a broadly neoliberal economic system.

Despite obvious overlapping interests in issue areas such as agreeing solutions to the climate change crisis, policy



disagreements that currently exist between both sides are profound and help to explain the EU's emphasis on China currently being both an economic competitor and a systemic rival. This language is very different to that used by the EU a few years ago, when there was still some optimism that the economic reform journey begun by Deng Xiaoping in 1978 had perhaps just stalled rather than been derailed. Right now, the EU-China comprehensive strategic partnership initiated in 2003 is under serious strain and its very future is open to question.

So, the general trend in EU-China relations is not currently a positive one and seems to be getting worse. The reasons are multiple and complex, and the answers not yet clear-cut. However, this is of course what makes the relationship such a fascinating one to study and try to understand as an academic!

# An Interview with Elisabeth Hsu, Professor of Anthropology at the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography

Elisabeth Hsu is Professor of Anthropology at the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford and Fellow of Green Templeton College. She has published widely on medical anthropology, the history of science, technology and medicine in China and other fields. She recently spoke with us about her newly published book: *Chinese Medicine in East Africa: An Intimacy with Strangers - Epistemologies of Healing*, Berghahn Books, 2022.

## So, tell us a little bit more about the topic of your new book?

It's about how new forms of sociality are created through medical treatment and healing. Getting ill and being healed is part of a social process of making and remaking social groups. I ask which interventions are in which ways involved in producing new forms of living. Medical interventions strongly affect relationships between people. My research highlighted that the social relations during the medical encounter not only comprise the patient, with carers, and the practitioner, but also a third player, say, the medication. This "thing" I referred to as a "pot", a medicine pot so to say. Accordingly, healing, and medical treatment that "works", is a way of putting people indirectly in relation to each other and physically affirming the place in which this happens. In this particular case we have Chinese practitioners who have come from very far away and are very mobile. Some were itinerating in a starfish-like fashion back-and-forth between China and different parts of Africa, others went also to other continents, spreading themselves out in a web-like fashion. Their clientele was also very mobile. Ever since AIDS, people remarked, they were always on the move because they had so many funerals to go to, oscillating back and forth between the city and the rural hinterland.

## Who are these Chinese doctors? And how did they end up in Africa?

That's exactly the question that everyone asked me. There's not one answer to it. It was a heterogeneous group of people that I studied. Half of those I interviewed had studied medicine, Chinese or Western medicine. Others had working experience as lab assistants or had otherwise worked in a western medical context. Several had prepared themselves for their emigration by acquiring skills that underlined their exoticness. So, they learned Chinese cooking or Chinese medicine in evening classes.

## So, what you're saying is that some of these people learn Chinese medicine for the first time in order to prepare themselves to go to Africa? But why were they going to Africa?

They knew they would not get visas to go to the US or Canada. They said they chose Africa for lack of anywhere better. This Chinese influx of business people mostly from Northeast China (in Tanzania, especially) is a recent phenomenon,

Epistemologies of Healing - Volume 20

## CHINESE MEDICINE IN EAST AFRICA

An Intimacy with Strangers



Elisabeth **HSU**

I studied it in yearly fieldwork spells of one month between 2001-08. It had very much to do with the Deng-ist reforms. Suddenly the borders opened in China, and people could get visas to get out, and many made their livelihood with trading. Medical practitioners considered themselves more educated, with their university or vocational training, and many said they had emigrated for reasons of education. In China high school education is known to be very stressful for all children. Two interviewees were mother to their one and only child while their spouse had stayed in China to make money. One of them had their child attend an American school in Nairobi in order to make them competitive to apply to an American University.

**That is to say, you have Chinese immigrants going to Africa to send their children to an American school with the goal to send them to American universities, and they then practised Chinese medicine so they had something to do?**

This was the situation for one out of the twenty practitioners I interviewed in Nairobi but many more spoke of higher education for their offspring. I talked to the Chinese practitioners in Chinese. Sometimes, they hadn't spoken to anyone about their lives in China and abroad for a very long time, and it was very emotional. One burst out in tears, another got angry, and there also were funny moments which made us smile. People's trajectories out of China had been so varied. The Chinese medical teams of socialist times had been staffed by Western medical practitioners, and their show-piece for traditional medicine was the one acupuncturist on a team. But the business people I interviewed traded with the newly developed, traditional Chinese medical formula medicines. Some said they'd come to make money, following a Deng-ist ethos.

The young male practitioners in Zanzibar belonged to the third generation of Chinese traders there. Between the world wars, fishermen sailing through the South China sea - all the way to Zanzibar - came for shark fins and sea cucumbers; by overfishing these Chinese delicacies, they effected their extinction. After WW II the Chinese influx continued in the 1950s, and some mixed with the second-generation Chinese on Zanzibar who imported machinery, and with it semi-industrialised capitalist regimes of labour, to meet short-term high demand, after they had invented a sweet Chinese noodle dish that the Zanzibari relished during Ramadan. In the 1960s, and later, socialist China built the football stadium and the runway for airplanes, and also a large hospital on the island of Pemba, staffed by bi-annually rotating medical teams.

Locals said the Chinese were segregated and secretive, but also remembered them doing good. Medical practitioners, regardless of whether they worked for the 'freedom railway', Tazara, or in hospitals, were well remembered. As a result, the entrepreneurial medical practitioners lived off the good reputation of their socialist predecessors

### **Who are the customers?**

In different clinics it's different people. Just like Chinese restaurant owners, medical practitioners catered to all levels of society. Their migration pattern, as Jörgen Carling and Heidi Østbø Haugen noted, was to spread themselves thinly; 一个中国人一条龙 三个中国人一群虫. In the supermarkets there were middle-aged men, some on business trip, but not all, and they would go straight to the counter and get their medication. In other neighbourhoods there were more women patients, and they often had STDs.

So, I started wondering. it's really interesting that it is in the domain of reproduction that so many Chinese practitioners started to get a following. Reproduction is a domain of medicine where Western medicine cannot really assert its superiority with a claim to efficaciousness demonstrated in randomised controlled trials. Reproduction can be quite complex and even difficult, and the Chinese medications, combined with the practitioner's secretive and distant persona, had effects that were ...

### **Magical?**



Yes, almost magical. "The Chinese work so hard." And they work at night; the construction workers, for instance. That's what witches do, work at night. And then, when I raised my voice and said - very decisively, "no, don't be silly, they're not ...", that was exactly a sign that they were so. Magic tends to be suspected when everything goes very fast. Since "the Chinese antimalarial" was so super effective, to the point that you could have a high fever in the morning and in the afternoon go partying, there was something mysterious about these Chinese medical pots.

The 'secretive' and the 'distant' are also about the other gender; something you feel you never quite can understand. Chinese medical learning in late Imperial China put lots of emphasis on regulating the monthly flows in order to enhance reproduction, as both Francesca Bray and Charlotte Furth have noted. Evidently, reproduction has long preoccupied both Chinese and African medical practitioners. I was intrigued by their logic of healing: in both traditions the medical encounter involved the transaction of a substance that is then incorporated by the client. The modern method of shuizhen emphasizes this too: it consists of injecting a medicinal fluid with a syringe into an acupuncture point, rather than manipulating invisible qi with a very fine needle. Kate Fayers-Kerr points to the physicality of the procedure: putting coloured mud on one's face is not primarily about body painting and beautifying oneself, but much more about making the body and the earth one on which the body walks and rests. It is about participating and belonging in a physically indexed, imaginative way, to the earth of one's lineage. After all, it is the earth that bears fruit. Wenzel Geissler and Ruth Prince had earlier made the same point. The plant material used by Luo in herbal baths for toddlers, or in Morogoro, the baby food, the shirala that Maya Green describes, just like the mud on the face among the Mursi, makes the connection to the patriline's ancestral lands.

### **There is a physicality to it?**

Yes, indeed. It was difficult to ascertain to which degree the Chinese medicines in question had become part of local fecundity procedures. So, one wonders which facets of their efficaciousness made them interesting to their clientele. We know that their efficacy tends to be reduced to the "placebo effect" as they become subsumed under the enhancement medicines that cater to a neoliberal, commercialised leisure industry, but this surely cannot be the whole story?

**This is such a complex and multi-faceted topic! And what a rich treasure-trove of empirical data you have amassed. It has implications for how we think about many different issues—relationships, medicine, Sino-African relations and much more. Thank you for sharing this with us. I do encourage our readers to pick up a copy of your book!**

## An Interview with Hannah Bailey, China Centre DPhil Associate

Hannah Bailey has recently become a China Centre DPhil Associate. She is a doctoral candidate at the Oxford Internet Institute and a researcher at the Computational Propaganda Project. Her research focuses on China's use of state-sponsored digital disinformation.



### So, tell us how you become interested in your current topic.

Sometimes I ask myself this same question - I certainly didn't begin my academic journey with the intention of studying China's use of international online influence operations! My interest in the field began when I took a Mandarin language class as an undergraduate. After studying the language for a while, I went to study at Fudan University in Shanghai, and I was fascinated by how differently people interacted with social media and digital technology in China. Gone were my favourite social media platforms and search engines, and I had to learn to navigate WeChat and Baidu. And WeChat wasn't just a social media platform – it was used for everything from ordering food at a restaurant to paying for items at a convenience store. In 2017, this was mind boggling to me!

I also found Chinese social media platforms, and in particular the power that the government held over the content people were able to consume, fascinating. I was particularly interested in how this different internet environment affected online discussions and interactions, and how my own beliefs had in turn been shaped by my media environment. And so began my interest in the area of China's information operations!

My current research builds on this initial interest – in my DPhil research I use machine learning tools to investigate how and why China seeks to influence international online audiences. To do this, I gather large quantities of text and image data to learn how China strategically uses sentiment to frame its online messaging. I also investigate how China uses inauthentic social media accounts (often referred to as 'bots') to amplify narratives, and I measure how effective these techniques are at influencing online audiences.

### What is the most interesting finding you have so far?

Most of my research so far has examined how China's international-facing state-backed media use sentiment to frame online discourse. Interestingly, and contrary to what many commentators report, these state-backed media outlets have not become more 'negative' over time. In fact, I find the opposite, with discourse from these outlets have becoming slightly more positive over the last ten years. But, at the same time, these outlets are concentrating their negative discourse on criticising the actions of 'Western' states. There is an interesting flip-flopping effect between negative narratives that seem to be designed to appeal to a domestic audience, and positive narratives toward international audiences projecting an image of a peaceful and diplomatic China. These two narratives are often times strangely at odds with each other, and seem to represent an uncertainty by China's outlets on who to target and which narratives to project. I'm excited to investigate why this flip-flopping occurs, and how effective it is at influencing online audiences, as my DPhil progresses.

### So, what do you enjoy most about the your programme?

My programme is formally titled "DPhil in Social Data Science". Coming from a social science background, the idea of studying such a quantitative subject as a DPhil student was incredibly daunting. Prior to my DPhil I had some coding and statistics experience from my MSc, but I have had to learn a lot as I go along. Despite this, it has been such an enjoyable experience. It's very satisfying to solve a complicated coding problem or to successfully analyse millions of Facebook posts, and it's exciting to be able to apply computer science methods to the social science problems that intrigue me. Data science as a field seems very intimidating from the outside looking in, but I would strongly encourage anyone who is interested in the area to have a go. Aside from the quantitative aspect of my DPhil, I have also had the pleasure of being invited to speak to politicians, diplomats and other researchers about my work. It is wonderful to have received such interest in my research, and I hope I have been able to educate and help policy makers to formulate informed decisions.

### What are your career goals?

I still have a year or two left to finish my DPhil, so at the moment I am focussed on that. After I finish, I hope to continue in academia, but I am also open to working in industry. Over the past few years I have been fortunate to work both with academics and those in industry, and both career paths seem interesting and fulfilling for different reasons. Either way, I hope to be able to continue using interesting quantitative methods and investigating how China uses information operations.

## News Highlights

### Emeritus Professor Jessica Rawson Wins the Prestigious Tang Prize in Sinology



In recognition of a lifetime of research into China, the Oxford Emeritus Professor of Chinese Art and Archaeology and former Warden of Merton College was singled out for ‘her tireless efforts to develop and promote exchange in the field of Sinology as well as to help the public better understand Chinese civilisation’. According to the Tang prize citation, Professor Rawson has given ‘voice to the ancient world of objects...[and] taught generations how to see when they look at things’.

Deeply honoured to have received the award, Professor Rawson said, ‘My research has generally turned on noting small things, small inconsistencies, which have prompted me to explore why they are there – leading to some big picture discoveries.’ See award film [here](#).

### Professor Henrietta Harrison Awarded the Kenshur Prize for Best Book in Eighteenth-Century Studies



Professor Henrietta Harrison’s book, *The Perils of Interpreting: The Extraordinary Lives of Two Translators between Qing China and the British Empire* (Princeton University Press) has been awarded the Kenshur Prize for best books in Eighteenth-Century Studies by the Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies at Indiana University. The Kenshur Symposium/Ceremony will take place, via Zoom, on Friday, November 11, 2022. More detail [here](#).

*‘An impressive new history of China’s relations with the West—told through the lives of two language interpreters who participated in the famed Macartney embassy in 1793’* — The Princeton University Press

Click [here](#) to purchase the book .

### Professor Matthew Erie selected as a 2022-23 Wilson Fellow



Professor Matthew Erie has been selected as a 2022-23 Wilson Fellow. He is one of 15 individuals selected for the prestigious 2022-23 Wilson China Fellowship class, a China-focused non-residential fellowship supporting the next generation of American scholarship on China.

Professor Erie's project will focus on “Chinese Law and Development: Implications for US Rule of Law Programs”.

The Wilson Center press release is available [here](#).

## Professor Rosemary Foot's Work Selected by the *International Affairs* 100 Year Edition

### International Affairs journal: Celebrating 100 years

To celebrate the centennial of the journal of *International Affairs*, one of Professor Foot's articles, published in January 2019, entitled: 'Remembering the Past to Secure the Present: Versailles Legacies in a Resurgent China,' was chosen for republication.

More [here](#).



## Professor Rana Mitter Joins Discussion on INews

### "Fears UK Mandarin teaching is too dependent on China's 'very dangerous' Confucius Institutes"

*"In the UK, Confucius Institutes seem mostly to have provided Chinese language training in institutions where it did not previously exist. At this moment, we in the UK need to do much more to fund language training from our own resources – not just Chinese, but European and global languages are losing funding and losing students at university level. Urgent attention to that issue, and securing funding, should be a top priority for Government."*

More details [here](#).

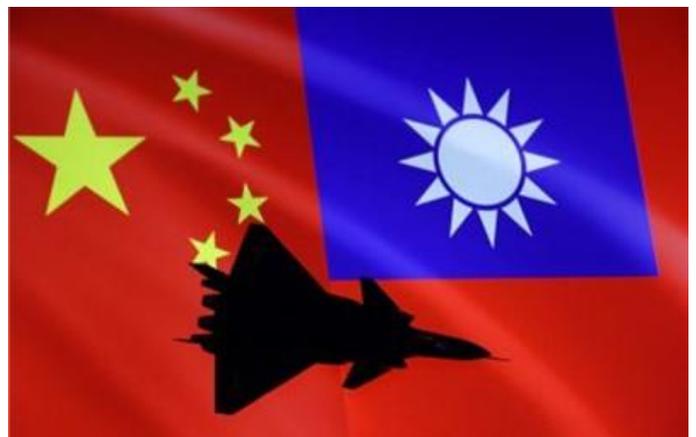


## Professor Paul Irwin Crookes Publishes in the East Asian Forum

### "Beijing papers over the cracks in cross-Strait relations"

Professor Paul Irwin Crookes published an article in the East Asian Forum on September 14, 2022. He suggested that *"The latest White Paper on Taiwan published by China's Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council in August 2022 exposes the intractable issue at the heart of mainland China's troubled relationship with Taiwan — the diverging identities of people across the Strait."*

[Read more here](#).



## Professor Rana Mitter Publishes in *The Guardian*

**“China has avoided the grim US Covid toll. But at what cost?”**

*“It has come at a price; there is no clear policy for how China can reopen its borders to live with a virus that scientists expect to become endemic, or how to deal with it, other than with repeated lockdowns that harm the fragile economy and have led to increased panic as whole households are taken to quarantine because one case has been detected in an apartment block.”*

More details [here](#).

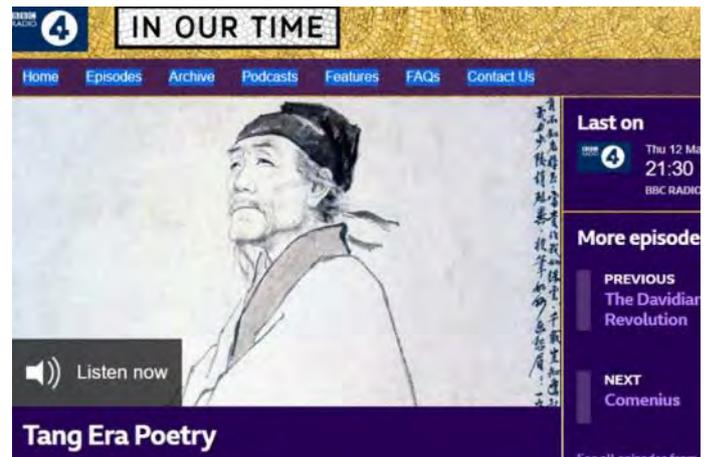


## Professor Tian Yuan Tan is a guest on BBC Radio 4’s “In Our Time”

**“Tang Era Poetry”**

Professor Tian Yuan Tan was on BBC Radio 4’s “In Our Time” on 12 May 2022, discussing the most celebrated poets of eighth-century China, Li Bai and Du Fu, and their influence from the Tang era to the present day.

More details [here](#).



## Professor Todd Hall Publishes in *The Conversation*

**“Taiwan: Beijing reacts to Pelosi’s visit with live-fire exercises prompting fears of escalation”**

Professor Todd Hall published a piece in *The Conversation*, titled, “Taiwan: Beijing reacts to Pelosi’s visit with live-fire exercises prompting fears of escalation” on August 4, 2022.

More details [here](#).



## Professor Todd Hall Appears in STAIR Conversation

### “British-China Relations and China’s position in the World”

Professor Todd Hall discussed China and Sino-British relations with representatives of the British Parliament and the Chinese Embassy on March 3, 2022

The event was organised by St Antony's International Review (STAIR), the University of Oxford's only peer-reviewed journal of international affairs.

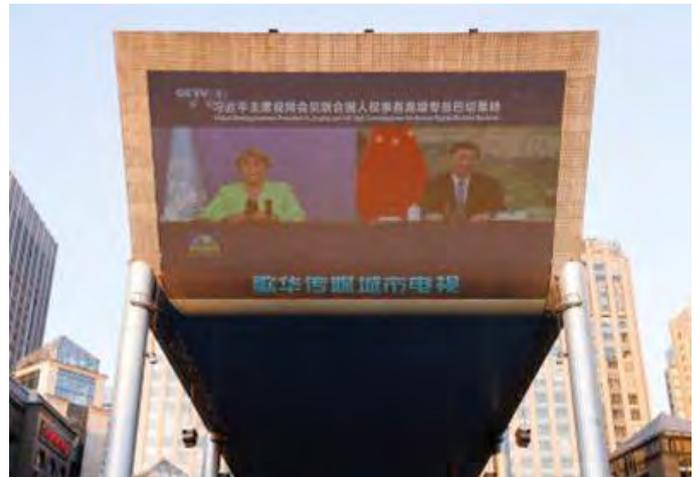
More details [here](#).



## Professor Rosemary Foot Publishes a Piece in the East Asia Forum

### “The UN High Commissioner’s contentious visit to China”

Rosemary Foot has published a piece in East Asia Forum on July 8, 2022. *“The first visit to China in 17 years by a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has angered many, perplexed some and pleased Beijing. Dismay derives from several factors — expectations generated in the past by the High Commissioner herself, the visit’s agreed terms of reference, the outcomes produced and the tenor of her remarks during the final press conference.”* More [here](#).



## Professor Rana Mitter Publishes in The Spectator

### “Baby bust: China’s looming demographic disaster”

Professor Rana Mitter published an article in *The Spectator* on 6 August 2022, discussing China’s declining birth rate and what this could do to the economy.

*“The baby bust is real and, as the CCP has found out, while you can force families not to have more than one child, you can’t force them to have more than one.”*

More details [here](#).



## Professor Rana Mitter Appears on BBC Radio 4

### “What Really Happened in the Nineties? “

The Hong Kong Handover of 1997 is discussed in this BBC Radio 4 programme, featuring the Chancellor of the University of Oxford and Rana Mitter. Robert Carlyle returns to the Hong Kong Handover in 1997 to see how an opportunity was lost.

More details [here](#).



## Professor Todd Hall Publishes in *The Diplomat*

### “How Things Could Have Gone Wrong – and Still Can – in the Taiwan Strait”

Professor Todd Hall has published a piece in *The Diplomat* on East Asia Forum on August 12, 2022. “China’s People’s Liberation Army (PLA) announced on August 10 that its joint military operations around Taiwan are now completed. This appears to mark a close to a significant display of force in the waters around the island that eclipsed — in terms of both proximity to Taiwan and the number of ballistic missiles fired — the measures Beijing took during the last Taiwan Strait Crisis in 1995-96.” More [here](#).



## Research Highlights

### CHINA, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT (CLD) PROJECT PUBLISHES LATEST RESEARCH BRIEFS



## China, Law and Development

An interdisciplinary study of the role of law in China's global development

The CLD Research Briefs summarise the latest research from our early-career Research Associates around the world. Over 40 Research Briefs are now available and cover a very wide range of CLD-related topics.

The latest five are listed below:

- ◇ **Current Developments in the Area of Recognition and Enforcement of Court Judgements in Civil and Commercial Matters between China and Other States, Monika Prusinowska, University of Barcelona.**
- ◇ **Linglong and the Case of 750 Workers from Vietnam in Serbia, Aleksandar Matković, Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade.**
- ◇ **China-Nigeria Oil-for-Infrastructure Deal: Addressing Opacity and Exclusion in the Award of Oil Drilling Rights, Ngozi S. Nwoko, University of Victoria, Canada.**
- ◇ **National Champions as 'Learning Institutions': Corporate Social Responsibility norm acquisition by Chinese state-owned enterprises during the Belt and Road Initiative, Yuan Wang, Columbia University.**
- ◇ **The Diplomatic and Legal Arrangements under which China Cooperates with European Trade Partners on BRI Deals and Financing, Joseph Cash, China-Britain Business Council (guest contributor).**

More details [here](#).



## Conference Showcase

The 2022 Conference of the British Association of Chinese Studies was held at St Antony's College, University of Oxford, 31 August-1 September 2022



The British Association for Chinese Studies held its annual conference at St Antony's College, University of Oxford, on 31 August-1 September 2022. The conference was co-hosted by the Asian Studies Centre at St Antony's College, Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA), and the Oxford China Centre. The keynote lectures were "China After Mao" by Professor Frank Dikotter, (Hong Kong University) and "Family Life in Urban China: A Three-Generation Portrait" by Professor Jieyu Liu (SOAS). Over 120 scholars gathered at Oxford from all over the world and present their work in thirty-five panels, covering a wide range of topics including:

The Cultural Revolution Inside and Outside Mainland China

The Late Qing in Museum, Material Culture and Archives

Representations of Love and Sex in Late Imperial China

Tibet: Perspectives from Ethnographic Fieldwork and Film

Chinese Women in Contemporary Literature and Consumer Culture

Legal Regulation of China's Economy

Gender, Ethnicity and Modernity in China's Republican Era Literature

Photography and Video Art in China Past and Present

Migrants and Livelihoods

UK/Europe -China Intercultural Interactions

Queer and Trans Figurations in Chinese Literature and Culture

Pandemic Lockdowns and China's Social Media

Gender, Family and Care in Contemporary China

China's Nationalism and Self-Perception: Propaganda, Film and the Virtual World

BRI and China's International Critical Infrastructure Investment Chair:

Scholars, Literati and Musicians in Imperial China

China's International Relations in WW2 and the Cold War Periods

Memory, Heritage and Tourism

Children in Contemporary China

Smart Courts and Digital Justice in China

Religion and the Sacred in Imperial China

Sites of Interactions: New Perspectives on the History of China and the World

Art, Artisans and Identity in China's Past and Present

The Xinjiang Crisis Through a Gendered Lens

China's Regional and Urban Planning

Women, the Chinese Party – State and Feminist Activism

China in the World: Identity, Ideology, and Investment

Discovering the Other and Negotiating Identities: The Experiences of Chinese language Interpreters and Translators between the 17th and 20th centuries

Migration, Documentation and Digitization: New Barriers and New Opportunities for China's Internal Migrants

Global and Local: Perspectives on Chinese Masculinities, 1900 -2020

Women's Experiences of War in Chinese History

The Non-Human on Human Terms: Writing "Things" (wu 物) in Pre-Modern China



## Conceptualizing Court Literature with New Methodologies Conference, TEXTCOURT 2–4 December 2021

Professor Tian Yuan Tan, the Principal Investigator of the TEXTCOURT project, co-organised, with Ted Hui, a virtual international conference on "Conceptualizing Court Literature with New Methodologies" on 2-4 December 2021. Through this international forum, the TEXTCOURT project sought to contribute to the understanding of the court literature in China. The conference included the following presentations:

- Jack W. Chen (University of Virginia), "The Court Imaginary, or the Literary Composition of the Court"
- Olivia Milburn (Seoul National University), "Capturing the Shadows of Lovely Ladies: Empresses and Imperial Consorts in History and Fiction"
- Tian Yuan Tan (University of Oxford), "Texts and Traditions: Tracing the Literary Worlds of Chinese Court Drama"
- Lu Kou (Bard College), "The Poetics and Politics of Space: Writing Royal Estates in Early Tang Court Poetry"
- Huijun Mai (UCLA), "God's Earthly Abode: Reconsidering the Construction of Genyue at Emperor Huizong's (r. 1100-1125) Court"
- 葉擘 (浙江大學), "宮牆內外：地方書寫傳統中的《北京八景》及其禁苑景觀"
- 顏子楠 (北京師範大學), "酬對袞袞：乾隆朝地方志中的宮廷唱和"
- 蔡欣欣 (國立政治大學), "清宮廷演劇《獅吼記》研究"
- Liana Chen (George Washington University), "Managing Failures in the Qing Court Theatre"
- Ewan MacDonald (University of Oxford), "Analogue Texts, Digital Methods: Building a TEI Schema for Chinese (Court) Drama"
- Nicholas Williams (Arizona State University), "Elm Trees Planted in Heaven: On the Evolution of Fu Poetry from Court Spectacle to Regulated Genre"
- Xiaofei Tian (Harvard University), "Emotion, Centripetalism, Readership: Writing of Empress Wu's Court"
- Ming Tak Ted Hui (University of Oxford), "The Illusion of a Unified Style: Poetry Composed by the Kuizhang Academicians in the Early 14th Century"
- Mei Yi Lau (University of Oxford), "From Single-tiered to Three-tiered: The Stage Performance of The Precious Raft of Ascending Peace"
- Yuanyuan Su (University of Oxford), "Pride and Guilt: The Individual Voice and Multiple Roles of a Qing Imperial Clansman"
- 康琳悅 (北京師範大學), "從政典到文章：《左傳》在康熙宮廷語境中的再闡釋"



## The Conference on the History and Practice of Archaeology in the Chinese Cultural Sphere, St Hugh's College, University of Oxford, 22-25 August 2022



The Oxford China Centre supported a bilingual hybrid conference held on 22-25 August 2022 at St Hugh's College, organized by Dr Anke Hein (Oxford) and Prof. Julia Lovell (Birkbeck, University of London).

As proclaimed recently in *The Washington Post*, this is a golden age for Chinese archaeology. Major discoveries such as the new object pits at Sanxingdui receive extensive press coverage in China and to a lesser extent abroad, and articles reporting archaeological research in China are becoming increasingly common in scholarly journals around the world. Yet, these English-language articles represent only a tiny proportion of the archaeological work that is done in China and much of the archaeological process behind it is unknown to foreigners. Few outside specialist circles are aware that China recently celebrated 100 years of Chinese archaeology, with a pomp and investment of time, money, and media coverage that archaeologists in other countries can only dream of. It is thus clear that archaeology is of great importance in China, promoted by the government and followed eagerly by the public; this phenomenon needs to be better understood outside China.

International interest in Chinese archaeology and cultural heritage management is growing, with more universities in the UK and the US in particular offering options in that field. While there is now an increasing number of textbooks on Chinese Archaeology to choose from, these largely focus on the presentation of prehistoric and early historic cultural developments; the history and practice of archaeology in China is discussed at most in passing. There are a few overview papers on the history of Chinese archaeology, but these are largely from the 1990s and there is a definite need for new analyses. There is only one major book publication on this topic, in Chinese and covering only the period up to 1949. There is a flood of recent papers in Chinese, all published in connection with the 100-year anniversary of Chinese archaeology, but little in English. In sum, western archaeologists (be they established scholars or students) seem often unaware that China has its own particular approaches to archaeological research, both in terms of cultural heritage administration and interpretation. This lack of awareness and understanding on the part of non-specialists can lead to misjudgments of articles written by Chinese scholars, which are dismissed as too material-focused or unaware of archaeological method and theory.



Joining forces, archaeologist Anke Hein and historian Julia Lovell with the support of a steering committee consisting of leading China-archaeologists from China, the UK, and the US (Chen Xingcan, Lothar von Falkenhausen, Rowan Flad, Mei Jianjun, and YeWa) organized a three-day conference aimed at promoting a better understanding of the way archaeology is practised in the Chinese cultural sphere, and of the history of the discipline. It brought together scholars from the Chinese cultural sphere and China specialists from around the world to create a community of scholars interested and knowledgeable in the history and practice of archaeology in relation to and by people in the Chinese cultural sphere in Chinese and other languages. Participants presented and discussed in a mixture of English and Chinese, some presenting in person in the Maplethorpe Building at St Hugh's, others remotely via Teams from all around the world.

In spite of the distance across space and time zones, discussions were lively and fluent. Topics covered included antiquarianism, texts and archaeology, beginnings of Chinese archaeology, historical archaeology, Chinese archaeology abroad, public archaeology, museums, media and archaeology, present politics, theories in archaeology, science in archaeology, publication practices and trends, and regional archaeologies. Everyone agreed that it was a very fruitful and enjoyable event, and the steering committee is now developing the results into an edited volume on the topic, the first of its kind.

## Understanding Authenticity in Cultural Heritage: China and Beyond Workshop 22–24 June, 2022, St Hugh’s College, University of Oxford

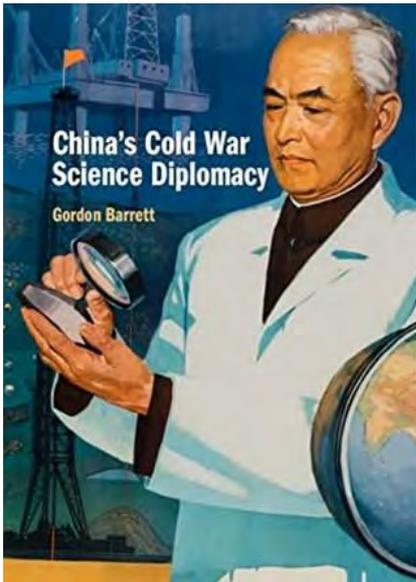


One of the aspects that gives specific objects, places, actions, and experiences significance is their perceived “authenticity”. Yet “authenticity” is a malleable concept, treated differently in each community, past and present. It can relate to the age of heritage, to specific origins, how a location is imbued with meaning, the conduct of established practice, an aesthetic experience, and, above all, is closely wed to claims of authority. But who decides what is authoritative? Who owns the past and present narratives of object, places, people, and practices? How do assessments on authenticity change over time and vary across space and between contexts? These are the questions that prompted Dr Christopher Foster (SOAS) and Dr Anke Hein (Oxford) in 2018 to initiate a project on Understanding Authenticity in Chinese Cultural Heritage.

As both are China scholars – one a textual scholar, the other an archaeologist – the focus was first on China, gathering academics and other stakeholders in Chinese cultural heritage for a series of talks and a hybrid conference (2021) on the topic. The discussions at these events revealed that some aspects of authenticity debates were specific to China, but that many recurring themes would benefit from a comparative perspective with cases and materials from other parts of the world. Hence, Foster and Hein hosted a workshop on Understanding Authenticity in Cultural Heritage: China and Beyond. Scholars from the China field were paired with scholars working on other parts of the world to discuss how ‘authenticity’ related to shared areas of expertise (e.g., intangible heritage, material culture, textual classics, etc.). The workshop, which was generously supported by Oxford University Knowledge Exchange Seed Fund, the TORCH Heritage Seed Fund, The British Academy, The Leverhulme Trust, the Oxford China Centre, and St Hugh’s College, extended over two days and consisted of eight pairings. On the first day, there were sessions on material culture (Anke Hein, Oxford; and Michael Rowlands, UCL), heritage curation (Plácido González Martínez, Tongji University, and Oliver Cox, Oxford), and intangible cultural heritage (Philipp Demgenski, Zhejiang University; and Chiara Bortolotto, CY Cergy Paris Université - CY Advanced Studies). The second day saw presentations and discussions on built heritage (Want Yiwen, Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University; and John Pendlebury and Merve Gokcu, Newcastle University), textual classics (Christopher Foster, SOAS; and Alfred Hiatt, Queen Mary University of London), and youth movements (Andrew Law, Newcastle University; and Fabrizio Fenghi, Brown University).

Lively debates ensued, both online and offline. Because of the fruitful exchange of ideas, it was decided by participants that we should pursue an edited volume elaborating on our findings. The volume will continue and further expand on the innovative format adopted by the workshop, with each pair of authors writing a co-authored introduction on their specific topic, and also inviting comments from other stakeholders, such as heritage practitioners, members of youth movements, and artists in the countries on which their studies focus. This ambitious undertaking is currently under way, with an eye to completion in summer of 2023.

## Featured Books

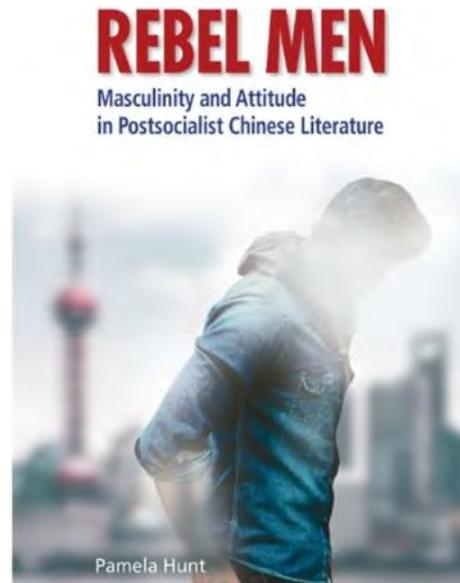


Barrett, Gordon (2022), *China's Cold War Science Diplomacy*, Cambridge University Press. Click [here](#) for more information.

During the early decades of the Cold War, the People's Republic of China remained outside much of mainstream international science. Nevertheless, Chinese scientists found alternative channels through which to communicate and interact with counterparts across the world, beyond simple East/West divides. By examining the international activities of elite Chinese scientists, Gordon Barrett demonstrates that these activities were deeply embedded in the Chinese Communist Party's wider efforts to win hearts and minds from the 1940s to the 1970s. Using a wide range of archival material, including declassified documents from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Archive, Barrett provides fresh insights into the relationship between science and foreign relations in the People's Republic of China.

*'This sophisticated and lucid study is a major addition to scholarship on Mao-era China. It illuminates how - decades before the People's Republic of China emerged as a science and technology superpower - the country created an international position for itself through scientific engagement. Gordon Barrett's new book is the go-to work on this essential topic.'*

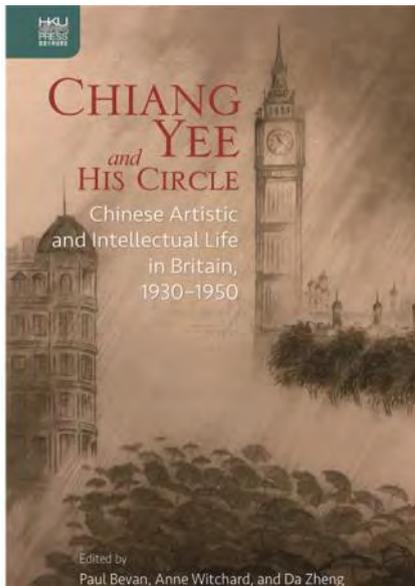
Julia Lovell - Birkbeck University of London



Hunt, Pamela (2022), *Rebel Men : Masculinity and Attitude in Postsocialist Chinese Literature*, University of Hong Kong Press. Click [here](#) for more information.

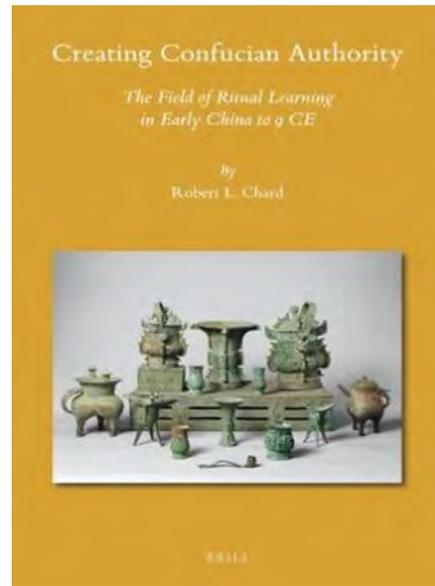
Masculinity, fast-changing and regularly declared to be in the throes of crisis, is attracting more popular and scholarly debate in China than ever before. At the same time, Chinese literature since 1989 has been characterized as brimming with countercultural 'attitude'. This book probes the link between literary rebellion and manhood in China, showing how, as male writers critique the outcomes of decades of market reform, they also ask the same question: how best to be a man in the new postsocialist order?

This first full-length discussion of masculinity in post-1989 Chinese literature offers a detailed analysis of four contemporary authors: Zhu Wen, Feng Tang, Xu Zechen, and Han Han. In a series of insightful readings, the author explores how all four writers show the same preoccupation with the figure of the man on the edges of society. Drawing on longstanding Chinese and global models of maverick, as well as marginal masculinity, and responding to a desire to retain a measure of masculine authority, their characters all engage in forms of transgression that still rely heavily on heteronormative and patriarchal values. *Rebel Men* argues that masculinity, so often overlooked in literary analysis of contemporary China, continues to be renegotiated, debated, and agonized over, and is ultimately reconstructed as more powerful than before. This book also attempts to sketch the largely unknown literary landscape of mid-Ming north China. After their retirements, these three writers became cultural leaders in their native regions. Wang, Kang, and Li are studied here not as solitary writers but as central figures in the "qu communities" that formed around them. This book shows how sanqu and drama were produced, transmitted, and "used" among these writers, things less evident when we focus on the individual.



A new book edited by Paul Bevan, Anne Witchard, and Da Zheng was published by Hong Kong University Press in April 2022. Paul Bevan has contributed two essays to the volume, “Chiang Yee’s Hampstead,” and “Shih-I Hsiung and Anglo-Chinese Films: An Interesting Experiment”. [More details here.](#)

This book, *Chiang Yee and His Circle: Chinese Artistic and Intellectual Life in Britain, 1930–1950*, celebrates the life and work of Chiang Yee (1903–1977), a Chinese writer, poet, and painter who made his home in London, England during the 1930s and 1940s. It examines Chiang’s relationship with his circle of friends and colleagues in the English capital, and assesses the work he produced during his sojourn there. This edited volume, with contributions from eleven distinguished scholars, tells a story of a Chinese intellectual community in London that up to now has been largely overlooked. It portrays a dynamic picture of the London-based émigré life during the years that led up to the war and during the conflict that was the catalyst for many of them moving on. In addition, the book broadens our understanding of cultural interactions between China and the West in Hampstead, one of the most vibrant artistic communities in London.



Professor Robert Chard’s new book entitled *Creating Confucian Authority: The Field of Ritual Learning in Early China to 9 CE* was published by Brill in June 2021.

[More details here.](#)

Ritual Learning is a key driver in the cultural dominance of Confucianism. In early China, Confucian officials derived political influence from the sub-discipline of ritual. Imperial regimes established legitimacy through their state religion, headed by sacrifices to ancestors and to deities of Heaven and Earth. Ritual Learning allows Confucian-educated officials to assert control over these cults, and reshape dynastic legitimacy according to their own design, claimed to derive from the sage kings of antiquity. Confucianism is not just a philosophical and intellectual tradition. Through its ritual expertise, it has cultural and political power, like that of a religion, allowing it to perpetuate itself successfully over time, even in contemporary China. This book presents extensive primary sources to reveal how Confucians in Early China parlay their knowledge of ritual into political power, from the ancient aristocratic culture of the Spring and Autumn era to the state religion of the Han empire.

## Featured Chapters and Articles

We are happy to announce a plethora of articles and book chapters from associates.

**Bevan, Paul (2022).** “Not on your Tintype’: The Emperor of Japan as depicted by William Gropper”. In *The International Journal of Comic Art, IJOCA 24:1* (Spring/Summer 2022).



Vanity Fair, 1935

A tightening of censorship by the Japanese Government, following the Tokyo coup d’etat of February 1936, was the culmination of a series of efforts to control the press. By this time, several Chinese left-wing magazines had been outlawed in Japan. In the August 1935 issue of *Vanity Fair*, a cartoon by William Gropper had been published that depicted the Emperor Hirohito in a manner thought by the Japanese government to be demeaning to the Emperor and the Japanese people. This sparked off a diplomatic incident that saw the magazine banned in both Japan and China. The cartoon’s ban prompted left-wing artists worldwide to produce more unfavourable caricatures of the emperor, notably in the American magazine *China Today* which was in-turn outlawed in Japan. Largely as a result of the *Vanity Fair* caricature, Gropper’s cartoons became very popular in China during the war (1937–45) and appeared in the left-wing press alongside the work of other foreign political artists.

**Bevan, Paul (2022).** “Fighting for Victory through Word and Image: National Salvation Daily – a Chinese War-time Newspaper in Guangzhou”. In *The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong 62* (2022) pp.141-158.



National Salvation Daily was first published in Shanghai in August 1937, at a time when the war with Japan had been underway for just a matter of weeks. Eighty-five issues of the newspaper were issued before the publishers were forced to relocate to Guangzhou and subsequently to inland cities as war pursued them. This newspaper, originally the official organ of the Shanghai Cultural Community National Salvation Committee, was unusual in that, at least superficially, it was published with the backing of both sides of the political divide, Nationalist and Communist. The newspaper National Salvation Daily is of central importance to the history of journalism and newspaper production during China’s war with Japan in the 1930s. It tells us much about the left-wing approach to reporting and to the production of propaganda art in China. This essay explores the propaganda content of the Guangzhou edition of the newspaper, through an examination of the people who contributed to it, with a particular emphasis on its editor Xia Yan, and art editor Yu Feng. Yu Feng, who is notable for being one of just a handful of women involved in the promotion of art as propaganda during the war.

**Hall, T. and Krolkowski, A. (2022),** “Making Sense of China's Belt and Road Initiative: A Review Essay.” In *International Studies Review, Volume 24, Issue 3, September 2022*



This essay showcases how three recent monographs make sense of the BRI: *One Belt One Road: Chinese Power Meets the World*, by Eyck Freymann; *The Belt Road and Beyond: State-Mobilized Globalization in China: 1998–2018*, by Min Ye; and *Orchestration: China's Economic Statecraft across Asia and Europe*, by James Reilly. Surveying the arguments and findings of these works together, it draws out insights and implications for how we should understand the BRI, highlighting the political significance of the BRI's close association with PRC leader Xi Jinping, the ways in which the BRI follows long-standing patterns of campaign-style mobilization within the PRC, the crucial role of local partners, and the BRI's potential consequences for the larger international system in light of the broader literature in international relations. It concludes by discussing the need to now also consider unintended outcomes. [Available here.](#)

**Knight, John and Ramani Gunatilaka (2022). “Income inequality and happiness: which inequalities matter in China?” In *China Economic Review*, 72, 101765: 1-17.**



The effect of inequality on happiness should intrigue social scientists. Of the many dimensions of income inequality, we explore four, analysing a rich data set for China. Does actual or perceived inequality have a greater effect on happiness? We find that perceptions of inequality are the more important. How broad is the reference group with which people compare themselves? They report that it is narrow; and indeed narrowly defined inequality has the greater effect on happiness. Do perceptions of the degree of fairness of inequality matter? They do, as they ameliorate the adverse effect of inequality on happiness, especially for the poorest. Is it self-centred or community-based inequality which affects happiness? Both measures have significant effects, but in opposite directions. The research and policy implications are discussed. [Available Here.](#)

**Knight, John ; Shi, Li and Haiyuan, Wan . 2022. “Why has China’s Inequality of Household Wealth Risen Rapidly in the Twenty-First Century?” In *The Review of Income and Wealth*, 2022, Vol.68 (1): 109-138.**



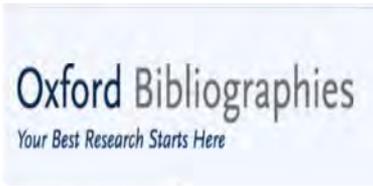
The inequality of wealth in China has increased rapidly in recent years. China presents a fascinating case study of how inequality of household wealth increases as economic reform takes place. Wealth inequality and its growth are measured and decomposed using data from two national sample surveys of the China Household Income Project (CHIP) relating to 2002 and 2013. The changing relationships between income and wealth are explored. An original attempt is made to explain the rising wealth inequality in terms of differential saving, differential house price inflation, income from wealth, and a growing urban-rural wealth disparity. Income from wealth as conventionally measured makes a negligible contribution but becomes central when it is reformulated to include real capital gain as part of income. A series of counterfactual experiments are conducted in order to measure the contributions of the various factors to the rise in inequality. Wealth and wealth inequality increase most rapidly for those in the top wealth decile. [Available here.](#)

**Knight, John, Bianjing Ma, and Ramani Gunatilaka (2022). “The puzzle of falling happiness despite rising income in rural China: eleven hypotheses”. In *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 70, 3, April: 109-38.**



Why has happiness fallen in rural China whereas rural income has risen rapidly? One approach is to examine the variables that are found to be important in happiness functions and to consider their contributions to the fall in the mean happiness score of rural people. Four variables stand out and together can explain three times over the fall in happiness: reduced sensitivity of happiness to income, increased sensitivity of happiness to relative income position in the village, a sharper U shape of happiness in response to aging, and relative changes in the returns to education. Another approach is to analyse the effect on rural happiness of the vast rural-urban migration that took place over this period, in particular, the effect of temporary migration on information flows to the village, thus broadening reference groups and changing attitudes, and its effect on the lives of those left behind in unbalanced households. This is followed by tests of the role that changing attitudes—toward sense of community, degree of materialism, and aspirations for income—might have played. The analysis is illuminating both substantively and methodologically, but a puzzle remains. [Available here.](#)

Tian, Yuan Tan, and Ming Tak Ted Hui (2022), "Yuan Dynasty Poetry". In *Oxford Bibliographies in Chinese Studies*. Ed. Tim Wright. New York: Oxford University Press. [Available here](#).



Chinese Studies

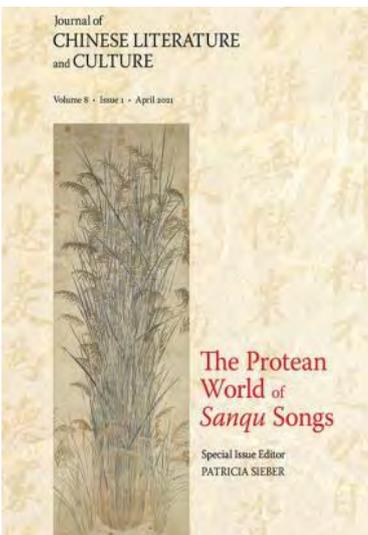
Since the early 20th century, due to an emphasis on the evolutionary nature of Chinese literature, a dynastic succession of literary genres has often been assumed, and the Yuan dynasty (1271–1368) was often associated with the poetry genre *sanqu*. While it is important to acknowledge that *sanqu* was a new poetic genre that emerged during the end of the Jin dynasty and the beginning of the Yuan dynasty, it is equally important to recognize the significance of other genres of poetry. For instance, the development of *fu* in the Yuan dynasty was linked to the changes in civil examination, and *shi* poetry was often used to forge literary communities. This article is organized according to the poetic genres listed above to provide a thorough overview of Yuan-dynasty poetry.

Tan, Tian Yuan (2022), "Ming Qing gongting yanju de wenben shijie" 明清宫廷演劇的文本世界 (Textual Worlds of Court Theater in Late Imperial China), *Bulletin of the Department of Chinese Literature, National Chengchi University* 《政大中文學報》, No. 37 (2022): 5-52.



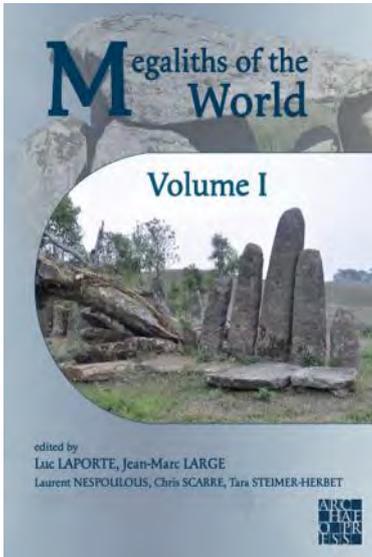
How do we read these court plays and how can they be integrated with mainstream Chinese drama studies and literary history? The lacuna is especially glaring given the quantity and richness of the extant texts: intertextual relations between Ming and Qing dynasty scripts, and between these plays and other literary and historical texts; external links to individuals, occasions, and artefacts, and wider aspects of material and visual culture are preserved alongside dramatic content. Furthermore, contrary to the misconception that Chinese court plays represent a closed performance space restricted to the palace compounds and the imperial family, they were often also performed in the presence of foreign ambassadors and delegations and hence the site of potential cross-cultural flows. This article proposes a new textual approach towards studying late imperial Chinese court drama, combining the application of traditional bibliographical scholarship and digital humanities tools, and the use of both Chinese court dramatic texts and related foreign records.

Tan, Tian Yuan (2021), "In Praise of This Prosperous and Harmonious Empire: *Sanqu*, Ming Anthologies, and the Imperial court". In *Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture*, Volume 8, Issue 1 (April 2021): 139-162.



This article explores the textual world and functionalities of *sanqu* songs in relation to the court milieu. The imperial court is not usually considered a natural habitat for the *sanqu* genre, best known for its portrayal of "disengagement" and "retirement" from official life, yet one cannot ignore the presence of a substantial number of *sanqu* songs that addressed and engaged with various court contexts and imperial occasions. I call this type of songs "courtly *sanqu* songs," written in a style suitable for presentation to the imperial court or for courtly occasions. By identifying a number of Ming dynasty *qu* anthologies that prominently feature courtly *sanqu* songs, this article examines how these anthologies, through their organizational structure, draw the reader's attention to courtly *sanqu* songs. Ming anthologies also act as the major source for tracing the textual lineage of courtly *sanqu* and the spectrum of songs contained within this textual world. Using one song suite ("Nation Blessed") as a case study, the article traces its variations and different "positions" over time, across anthologies, and across different editions of the same anthology, thereby uncovering the status and place of such songs in the court milieu and beyond.

Hein, Anke, 2022. *Monuments in the mountains: the megalithic graves of western China*. In *Megaliths of the World*. Les Mégalithes dans le Monde, edited by J.-M. Large and L. Laporte, pp. 619-640. Oxford: Archaeopress.



This paper draws attention to the largely overlooked above-ground grave structures made of large stones that can be found chiefly in Southwest China. The Southwestern megalithic graves are peculiar in many ways, both within East Asia and in comparison to megalithic structures found world-wide. Other parts of East Asia (mostly Northeast China, Korea, Japan, and parts of the southeastern Chinese coast) are characterized by dolmens, but dolmens do not appear in Southwest China. Here, structures that could be described as passage graves, barrows, and structures similar to the Celtic cistvaens can be found. Cistvaen-like structures appear in various places on and along the eastern rim of the Tibetan Plateau, but the larger structures seem to be limited in distribution to the Anning River Valley and the surrounding mountains of southern Sichuan and northern Yunnan. The present paper will highlight the distribution of the graves in relation to their natural environment and to each other both spatially and in terms of usage patterns, thus suggesting possible connections as well as differences between them.



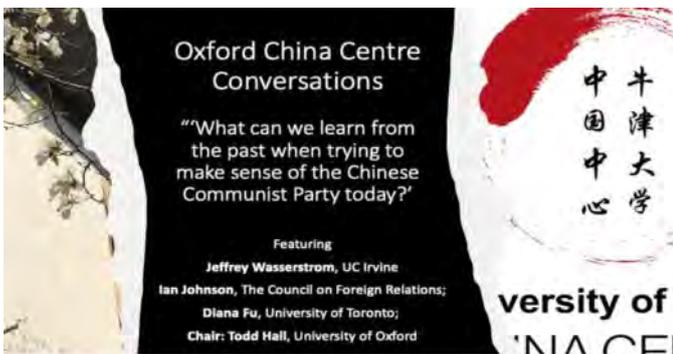
## New Online Content

### China Centre Conversation: Authenticity and Sincerity in Premodern China



A new Oxford China Centre Conversation is now available to view: Authenticity and sincerity are complex questions with many ramifications depending on the matter in question, be that literary representation, intellectual history, manuscript culture and so on. In this latest episode we engage in a conversation with three scholars of premodern Chinese literature and culture – Xiaofei Tian, Antje Richter and Christopher Foster – to explore how to gauge authenticity and sincerity in premodern Chinese traditions, and how this can contribute to our understanding of those two critical concepts. [Available here.](#)

### China Centre Conversation: What can learn from the past when trying to make sense of the Chinese Communist Party today?"



‘What can learn from the past when trying to make sense of the Chinese Communist Party today?’ Much has been made of the Xi Jinping era as one that has ushered in significant changes to how the Chinese Communist Party rules and is ruled. At a time of significant apparent changes, what can observe in terms of ongoing continuities? Are we truly seeing a major break with the past or does the past still have much to teach us about what is happening and what is to come? We engage in conversation with three expert commentators on the Chinese Communist Party— Diana Fu, Ian Jonson, and Jeff Wasserstrom--exploring what yesterday may or may not have to tell us about tomorrow.

[Available here.](#)

### Professor Paul Crookes' talk on the Developing Landscape of EU-China Relations on MCI channel

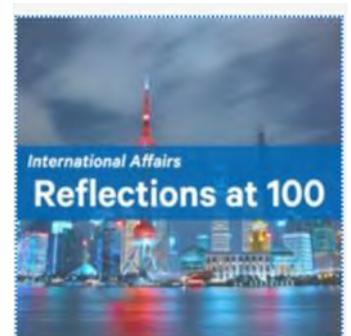


This Seminar analyses the current relationship between the European Union and China to assess the key characteristics and issues of tension in major policy areas, presenting evidence of ongoing opportunities for cooperation on the one hand but also of serious inhibitors to progress and areas of overt conflict on the other. In so doing, the presentation will examine how the EU’s engagement with China as a distinctly normative power within the international system is evolving and will outline how the complex political and institutional structures in Europe continue to impact EU-China relations. Available [here](#).

### Reflections at 100: China in international politics: A podcast interview with Professor Foot (and others)

This episode of Reflections at 100, marking the centenary of International Affairs, the journal of Chatham House, looks at China’s role in the world over the past century. Rosemary Foot was interviewed about the impact of history on current affairs in China.

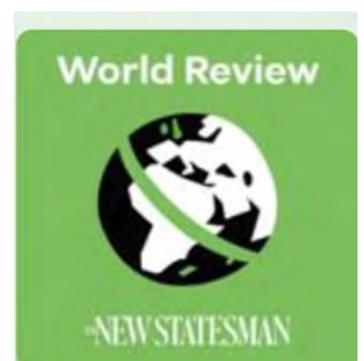
Available [here](#).



### World Review from the New Statesman: How bad could China-US relations get? With Rana Mitter

This week marks the 50th anniversary of President Nixon’s visit to China. In 2022 there are warnings the US and the China are entering a new Cold War while the latter’s relationship with Russia is strengthening.

[Available here.](#)



## Past Events



“Sinology in Wartime” — an online conversation with Yevheniia Hobova, Olga Lomová and Rana Mitter was organised by the British Association of Chinese Studies, with support from the Ukrainian Association of Sinologists, hosted by Oxford University China Centre on 24 May, 2022.



“Online Research in China in a Time of No Access”, with Rachel Murphy, Angela Xiao Wu, Samantha Hoffmann and Christian Goebel — a seminar jointly organised by the Oxford-Berlin Partnership, the Oxford University China Centre, and the Berlin Contemporary China Network on 3 June, 2022.



‘difficult modes of survival’ - Queer' Asia Film Festival 2022 . Oxford screenings took place at the University of Oxford China Centre on 17 June, 2022.



“Why should you not trust official bilateral trade statistics: new model to understand trade relationships between China and the European countries” was given by Professor Michele Geraci, on 16 June, 2022.



‘Looking for balanced growth in China amid lockdowns, regulatory headwinds, and an ambitious climate agenda: Insights from the latest IMF China Staff Report’ was given by Helge Berger and Wenjie Chen on 7 March, 2022.

## Events and Talks

### The China Centre Director's Distinguished Lecture Series

#### The Evolution of Contemporary China Studies: Coming Full Circle?

**Prof David Shambaugh**

28 October, 5:00, The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre



How has Western social science scholarship of contemporary China (1949–) evolved over the past 7+ decades? Professor David Shambaugh will reflect on the evolution and state of the field throughout the People's Republic of China. During the 1950s–1960s, when they could not go to mainland China, Western scholars had to watch China from the periphery or afar. Beginning in the late-1970s direct access to China opened, which offered first-hand research opportunities, dramatically broadening and deepening the field, but also with some less positive consequences. Under Xi Jinping's rule, however, China is once again becoming physically closed to foreign scholars, many research topics are circumscribed, and history is being rewritten by the regime. As a result, scholars and other analysts are once again being forced to study the country from afar – with different research tools and uncertain consequences for the field.

An internationally recognized authority and award-winning author on contemporary China and the international relations of Asia, Professor Shambaugh joined the George Washington faculty after serving as Lecturer, Senior Lecturer, and Reader in Chinese Politics at the University of London's SOAS (1988–96), and as Editor of *The China Quarterly* (1991–96).

As an author, Professor Shambaugh has been selected for numerous awards and grants, and has held visiting appointments in Australia, Brazil, China, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, Singapore and Taiwan. Professor Shambaugh has published 35 books, including most recently *International Relations of Asia* (3rd ed., 2022), *China's Leaders: From Mao to Now* (2021), *Where Great Powers Meet: America & China in Southeast Asia* (2021) and *China & the World* (2020).

#### Hong Kong — China's Canary Down the Mine?

**The Rt Hon., the Lord Patten of Barnes, CH PC Chancellor, University of Oxford**

15 November, 5:00, The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre



In June 1992 Chris Patten went to Hong Kong as the last British governor, to try to prepare it not (as other British colonies over the decades) for independence, but for handing back in 1997 to the Chinese, from whom most of its territory had been leased 99 years previously. Over the next five years he kept this diary, which describes in detail how Hong Kong was run as a British colony and what happened as the handover approached. The book gives unprecedented insights into negotiating with the Chinese, about how the institutions of democracy in Hong Kong were (belatedly) strengthened and how Patten sought to ensure that a strong degree of self-government would continue after 1997. Unexpectedly, his opponents included not only the Chinese themselves, but some British businessmen and civil service mandarins upset by Patten's efforts, for whom political freedom and the rule of law in Hong Kong seemed less important than keeping on the right side of Beijing. The book concludes with an account of what has happened in Hong Kong since the handover, a powerful assessment of recent events and Patten's reflections on how to deal with China - then and now.

Chris Patten is Chancellor of Oxford University. When MP for Bath (1979-92) he served as Minister for Overseas Development, Secretary of State for the Environment and Chairman of the Conservative Party. He was Governor of Hong Kong from 1992 until 1997, Chairman for the Independent Commission on Policing after the Good Friday.

## China Centre Distinguished Lecture

### Demystifying China's Innovation and Entrepreneurial System

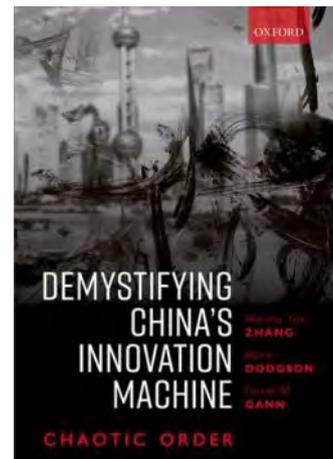
Prof. David Gann, CBE

10 October, 17:00, The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Professor David Gann will be giving a talk on “Demystifying China’s Innovation and Entrepreneurial System”, providing an overview of the key ideas from his new book of this name (OUP 2022), co-authored with Professor Mark Dodgson and Professor Marina Zhang.

China’s extraordinary economic development is explained in large part by the way it innovates. In this talk and discussion, Professor David Gann will provide an overview of the key ideas published in his new book on China’s innovation system. Contrary to widely held views, China’s innovation machine has not been created and controlled by an all-powerful government. Instead, it is a complex, interdependent system composed of many elements involving bottom-up innovation driven by entrepreneurs and highly pragmatic and adaptive top-down policy. China’s entrepreneurial capabilities have been supported by capital injections from the private, foreign and government sources. But the long-term development of these capabilities suffers from a lack of basic research and an over-reliance on particular technologies and industrial sectors. This talk will raise questions about China’s future technological development and the prospect for continued economic progress in the context of international competition.

Prof. David Gann, CBE is the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research and External Affairs & Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Saïd Business School, University of Oxford.



## Baillie Gifford Distinguished Speaker Series

### The Subplot: What China Is Reading And Why It Matters

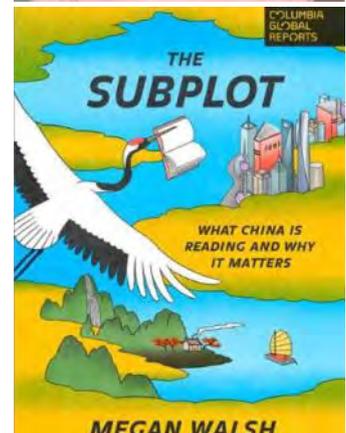
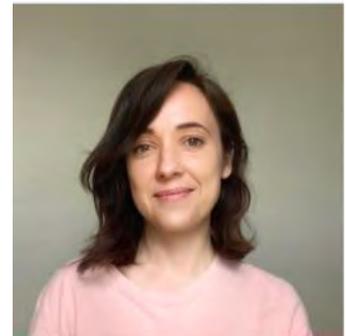
Megan Walsh

29 November, 1:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Chinese online fiction is now the largest publishing platform in the world. What does contemporary China's diverse and exciting fiction tell us about its culture, and the relationship between art and politics?

Megan Walsh, Writer and Arts Journalist, author of *The Subplot: what China is Reading and Why it Matters* will talk about how writers write neither what their government nor foreign readers want or expect, and how they work on a different wavelength to keep alive ideas and events that are either overlooked or off limits. She argues that literature offers an alternative—perhaps truer—understanding of the contradictions that make up China itself.



## China Studies Seminar Series

The China Centre Seminar Series is a weekly seminar series, run jointly by members of the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies. Last term the seminars included “Understanding ‘Left-behind Children’ in Rural China: An Ethnographic Approach” by Eric Zhou, Hong Kong Polytechnic University; “China Centre Conversation I: What can we learn from the past when trying to make sense of the Chinese Communist Party today?” by Professor Jefferey Wasserstrom, UC Irvine, Mr Ian Johnson, the Council on Foreign Relations and Professor Diana Fu, University of Toronto; “Book Launch: The Perils of Interpreting: The Extraordinary Lives of Two Translators between Qing China and the British Empire” by Professor Henrietta Harrison, University of Oxford; “Conversation II: Authenticity and Sincerity in Premodern China” by Professor Xiaofei Tian, Harvard University, Professor Antje Richter, University of Colorado Boulder and Dr Christopher J Foster, SOAS; “Chinese Legal Thought on the Global Stage” by Professor Samuli Seppänen, Chinese University of Hong Kong; “Conversation III: Translation” by Professor Nicholas Williams, Arizona State University, Dr Paul Bevan, University of Oxford and Dr Ewan Macdonald, University of Oxford; “Fathoming the Changes Between Heaven and Earth. Reconsidering the Status of the Book of Changes in Wang Bi’s Philosophy” by Raphaël Van Daele, Université Libre de Bruxelles; and “Beyond Heteronormativity? Intimacy and Intersectionality of Lesbians and Gay Men in Post-Reform China” by Professor Susanne Choi, Chinese University of Hong Kong.

In Michaelmas Term, China Studies Seminar Series will continue to be a mixture of online and in-person events.

### Week 1

*The Chinese Latrine: a Pigstory*

Roel Stercks, University of Cambridge

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Tuesday, 13 October, 17:00

(in-person only)

### Week 2

*From Wild Lilies to Sunflowers: Taiwan’s Youth Movement and the Making of Democracy*

Ming-sho Ho, National Taiwan University

Tuesday, 22 October, 13:00

(online only)

### Week 3

*Fighting Imperialism – Forging Solidarity: Africa in PRC Visual Propaganda, 1950s to 1980s*

Thoralf Klein, Loughborough University

Tuesday, 27 October, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

(in-person only)

### Week 4

*Necessary Fictions: The State, Stock Market and Growth in East Asia*

John Yasuda, John Hopkins University

Thursday, 3 November, 16:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

### Week 5

*Modernity on the Periphery: Urbanization and Informality after the Chongqing Model*

Asa Roast, University of Leeds

Thursday, 10 November, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

(in-person only)

### Week 6

*Party Politics in Taiwan*

Dafydd Fell, SOAS

Thursday, 17 December, 13:00

(online only)

### Week 7

*The Poet Du Fu (712-770) and his troubled search for Identity*

David McMullen, University of Cambridge

Thursday 24 November, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

(in-person only)

### Week 8

*Carbon Technocracy Energy Regimes in Modern East Asia*

Victor Seow, Harvard University

Thursday, 1 December, 16:00

## International History of East Asia Seminar Series

The International History of East Asia Seminar Series covers the international and transnational history of East and Southeast Asia, particularly in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Last term the seminars addressed a wide variety of topics: “Ilya Ehrenburg in China: ‘Internal Readings’ and Competing Visions of Soviet Revisionism during the Chinese Cultural Revolution” by Yaowen Dong, University of Wisconsin-Madison; “Shen Xia’s Radical View of Progress under the Rectification Discourse in Yan’an during the Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945)” by Ying Tong, University of Oxford; “Early Language Reform Policies in China and Turkey During Modernisation” by Aylin Yilmaz Şaşmaz & Çile Maden Kalkan, Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University; “Marginalization of Religious Identity on the Frontier: Muslims under the Qing Empire during and after the Khoja Wars, Late 18th -Early 19th Century” by Tak Wai Hung, University of Hong Kong; “From ‘Imperialists’ to ‘Pacifists’: American Quakers and U.S.-China Relations in the Cold War” by Bingyi Gong, Osaka University; Transcultural Dynamics in Memory Literature of Japanese- and Lithuanian-speaking Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners in the Soviet Union” by Gundė Daukšytė, Heidelberg University; “Rewriting the Past: A Comparison of North Korean History Museums in Namibia and Cambodia” by Tycho van der Hoog, Leiden University; and “Building ‘Sojunghwa (Little China)’ Nation by Vietnam’s Nguyen Dynasty and Korea’s Joseon Dynasty from the Late 18th -Early 19th Century” by Duy Tan La, Vietnam National University and Academy of Korea Studies.

This coming term will feature presentations every other Wednesday. Details to be announced soon. Please see our website.

## Oxford Seminar Series on Visual Culture in Modern and Contemporary China

The Oxford Seminar Series on Visual Culture in Modern and Contemporary China is organised by Professor Margaret Hillenbrand and is open to the public. Last term the seminars featured “The Vibrant Material and Digital Geographies of Contentious Politics in China” by Carwyn Morris, University of Manchester and “The Kangaroo Man in the Paddock: Reproductive Technologies and Body Politics in Lily Hsueh’s Writings of Family History” by Po-hsi Chen, Cambridge University.

Details of the talks in Michaelmas Term will be announced soon. If you are interested in attending these events, please see our website.

## Mandarin Forum

Our Mandarin Forum series is a platform that provides a Chinese-speaking environment for academic exchange for scholars in Oxford and beyond. Last term the seminars included “Today Hong Kong, Tomorrow Taiwan: History, Geopolitics, and Transboundary Civil Society between China’s Two Peripheral Societies” by Ming-sho Ho, National Taiwan University; “Gang evolution, crime–state relations, and state infrastructural power in rural China” by Peng Wang, University of Hong Kong; “The Online ‘Informing’ System: Popularized Internet Regulation in Mainland China” by Chelsea Chou, National Taiwan University; and “A Systematic Investigation of Internationalisation of Chinese Higher Education” by Xin Xu, University of Oxford.

We have a full schedule this term, featuring a diverse and fascinating set of online presentations planned for every other Friday. For those who are interested in attending this online forum, please register on our website.

### Week 1

*Women and Heroin Addiction in China’s Reform Era*

GAO Huan, California State University, Stanislaus

Friday, 14 October, 13:00

Online via Zoom

### Week 3

*Decoding the Illegal Online Market: The Governance Mechanisms of Internet Gambling*

Lin Wanlin, University of Hong Kong

Friday, 28 October, 13:00

Online via Zoom

### Week 5

*Life in Lhasa during the Republic Era: Dairy by Dai Xinsan*

WANG Chuan, Sichuan Normal University

Friday, 11 November, 13:00

Online via Zoom

### Week 7

*The Resistance War in in Huang Tirun’s Diary (1933-1939)*

XIANG Haonan, Minzu University of China

Friday, 25 November, 13:00

Online via Zoom

## Other Related Events

### Understanding Authenticity in China's Cultural Heritage Online Seminar Series

The Understanding Authenticity in China's Cultural Heritage Online Seminar Series is jointly organized by Oxford University and SOAS. To receive the Zoom links for the online events, please register by sending an email to Drs Chris Foster and Anke Hein at: [understandingauthenticity@gmail.com](mailto:understandingauthenticity@gmail.com).

#### Week 1

*Panel Discussion: Who Owns the Past?*

Prof. Stephen Acabado, Prof. Shadreck Chirikure, Prof. Dan Hicks, Dr Alexander Geurds, Prof. Heather Viles, Dr Anke Hein, Dr Christopher J. Foster

Wednesday, 12 October, 14-16:00, 1 South Parks Road (In person). Email [anke.hein@arch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:anke.hein@arch.ox.ac.uk) to sign up.

#### Week 2

*Authentication by Anthology*

Dr Olivia Milburn, University of Hong Kong

Wednesday, 19 October, 11:00 (online via Zoom)

#### Week 6

*Rebranding New China Through Replicas: A Comparative Study of Two Mubanshuiyin-Hua and Their Role in Cultural Diplomacy in China after 1949*

Dr Qian Yitao, SOAS

Wednesday, 9 November, 14:00 (online via Zoom)

#### Week 7

*Authentic: Truth and Perception in Chinese Art*

Dr Hiromi Kinoshita, Philadelphia Museum of Art

Wednesday, 16 October, 14:00 (online via Zoom)

### Eurasian Archaeology Seminar Series

The Eurasian Archaeology Seminar Series is organized by the Oxford Centre for Asian Archaeology, Art, and Culture. For any questions, please contact Michael Leadbetter ([michael.leadbetter@arch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:michael.leadbetter@arch.ox.ac.uk)) or Dr Anke Hein ([anke.hein@arch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:anke.hein@arch.ox.ac.uk)).

#### Week 1

*Workshop: Decolonizing History: Community stories and archaeological interpretations*

Prof. Stephen Acabado, UCLA

Monday, 10 October, 14-16:00, 1 South Parks Road

Email [anke.hein@arch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:anke.hein@arch.ox.ac.uk) to sign up.

#### Week 1

*Lunch Lecture: Colonialism without Colonization: Diverse Responses to Spanish Colonialism in the Philippines*

Prof. Steven Acabado, UCLA

Tuesday, 11 October, 12:30-14:00, Pitt Rivers Museum Lecture Theatre

Bring your own lunch if wish. [More details.](#)

#### Week 2

TBD

Prof. James C. Scott, Yale

Monday, 17 October, 2021, 16:00-17:00, (online via MS Teams)

#### Week 7

*Analysis of Royal Sacrificial Sites Based on Landscape Archaeology: A Case Study of the Circular Mound of Onggon Dabaga (Inner Mongolia) of the Northern Wei Dynasty*

Zhao Yi, Tianjin University, University of Oxford

Monday, 24 October, 14-16:00, (online via MS Teams)

[More details.](#)

## News from the Library

### Community Engagement with the Chinese Special Collections in the Bodleian Library

Mamtimyn Sunuodula, Head of East Asia Section at the Bodleian Libraries



#### 'China to Oxford: 400 years of cultural exchange' online exhibition and public engagement programme

A celebratory event to mark the Dragon Boat Festival was held on Tuesday 31 May 2022 in Weston Library. The event was one of a series of community engagement activities organised by the Bodleian Library as part of the 'China to Oxford: 400 years of cultural exchange' online exhibition and public engagement programme. It attracted over 200 visitors to listen to performances of classical Chinese poetry and songs by local children and take part in papercraft and calligraphy activities. A new replica of the Selden Map of China was also on display in Blackwell Hall, donated by the art firm Factum Artè. The highlight for many visitors was an afternoon of 'show and tells' displaying early Chinese printed books and manuscripts, including the 17th century edition of 'Journey to the West', a Ming Dynasty herbal medicine manual and acupuncture chart, a painting of peonies by the well-known 17th century Chinese artist Yun Shouping and the first Chinese book acquired by the Bodleian Library, a partial copy of 四書, in 1604. “震撼”, or “truly astonished”, is the most often heard reaction from the community members on seeing the collection items on display and it was great to see so many happy faces and positive feedback during the show and tell. Most people have never seen collection items like that before and they were really impressed, and some were emotionally moved.

#### The Drawing Workshop

Another event in the series was a live drawing workshop themed and inspired by one of Bodleian's Chinese collection items, 'Journey to the West' (aka Monkey King), which is a unique Ming Dynasty edition of the great Chinese novel. The book has been in Bodleian since mid-17th century when it was donated by George Lord Berkeley, the Earl of Gloucestershire. The forty-chapter abbreviated illustrated wood block print edition were written in colloquial Chinese language for popular consumption and the only known copy to have survived anywhere in the world, including in China.

The drawing workshop was led by local University of Oxford artist Dr Weimin He who is an expert in Chinese woodblock print art and also an artist practitioner. He skilfully combined the story and character of the Monkey, Sun Wukong, with the Bodleian's unique edition. The vivid and impressive drawings by the participants demonstrated that they learnt about the story, the Chinese collection and the story behind the Bodleian Library's long-standing interest in collecting and making accessible Chinese books and manuscripts.

Building connections with local community and co-creation of events is an important and emerging activity in Bodleian. The community engagement with Chinese collections has already led to plans for school visits and possibilities for future partnerships. For parents, the events provided valuable opportunities for them and their children to learn, engage and appreciate important Chinese cultural artefacts and cultural heritage locally and foster a feeling of belonging and inclusion. Following are some of the feedback left by the community members.

"It was so amazing to hear a type of song from an ancient Chinese period. It was so thrilled that I saw all the ancient collections about acupuncture, herbs, educational books. They are treasure and so important."

"My child enjoyed the drawing workshop the most - Dr He was fantastic with children. The badge making was fun too. I was thrilled to view the old Chinese publications. The Curator's detailed explanation made the session more enjoyable and memorable."



## Alumni Spotlight

**Amy King, MPhil 2009, DPhil 2013, Associate Professor in the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, Australian National University**



I spent five very happy years within Oxford's Chinese Studies community, completing both the MPhil in Modern Chinese Studies and DPhil in International Relations between 2007 and 2013. I was fortunate to work under the extraordinary supervision of Rosemary Foot and Rana Mitter, undertaking my doctoral research on the post-WWII Sino-Japanese relationship. The MPhil in Modern Chinese Studies was a remarkable program because it gave me both the language- and subject-matter skills to be able to pursue this research. The MPhil also paved the way for my initial foray into China's Foreign Ministry Archives, which I began visiting in the summer following our immersive language program at Peking University. These, and my subsequent visits to the archives over the next few years, turned out to be quite fortuitous because they took place during what we now know was a brief window of relative archival openness in China. Having access to the Foreign Ministry Archives allowed me to observe directly how CCP officials conceived of Japan in the wake of the Second World War, and why they were so determined to re-build extensive economic ties with Japan, despite an ongoing adversarial relationship.

After completing my DPhil, I returned home to Australia, and took up a post at the Australian National University, teaching in International Security and Chinese foreign and security policy. Following the publication of my first book,

*China-Japan Relations after World War Two: Empire, Industry and War, 1949-1971* (Cambridge UP, 2016), I began putting together the pieces of my next major research project on China and the international economic order. Some of those pieces were put in place during two wonderful visits to the University of Oxford China Centre in 2016 and 2017, where I was able to spend precious thinking time in the KB Chen Library and St Hugh's gardens, and to get feedback on early ideas from colleagues old and new.

Over the last five years I have led a research team, funded by the Australian Research Council and Westpac Scholars Trust, investigating China's role in shaping historical and contemporary international economic orders. Between COVID-19, an increasingly difficult research environment in China, and the reality of a rapidly changing international (economic) order, it has certainly been an interesting time to undertake this research! My team has been scattered around the world at various times, with PhD students, post-doctoral fellows and research assistants stuck in lockdowns in Wuhan, Singapore, Canberra and Tokyo. Thanks to the wonders of Zoom and other technologies, we've managed to stay in touch and continue to our work, albeit under fairly unusual circumstances.

For those interested in learning more, some of our recent publications include my article on China, the United States and the creation of the Bretton Woods order in the *European Journal of International Relations*; a chapter on China's external economic relations during the Mao-era in the *Cambridge Economic History of China*; and a book by Xiaoyu Lu (another Oxford China Centre alumni), *Norms, Storytelling and International Institutions in China*, which was published by the St Antony's Series at Palgrave in 2021.

My time at Oxford was absolutely formative in shaping not only my interest in China, but also the approach I continue to take in my work. Contemporary Sino-Japanese relations, Chinese foreign policy, and the future shape of our current international order transition, cannot be explained without a deep understanding of their historical origins and incremental evolution. I am privileged to have had the opportunity to learn from teachers, supervisors and mentors at the Oxford China Centre and I hope that with the opening of international travel, it will be possible to visit again before too long.

### China-Japan Relations after World War Two

Empire, Industry and War,  
1949-1971

Amy King



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