

ISSUE 8 January 2025

NEWSLETTER



CHINA CENTRE



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Message from the Director



Greetings all!

As I am writing this the days are slowly becoming longer although the cold temperatures still linger here in Oxford. Soon we will be celebrating the Lunar New Year and welcoming the Year of the Snake.

Ten years ago, we opened the Dickson Poon China Centre Building, and this past October we had the chance to celebrate all those who contributed to making that possible, as well as all that the China Centre has accomplished since then. You can see photos from that event in the subsequent pages, as well as my comments to the gathered donors, associates, students, and friends of the Centre. We at the China Centre are extraordinarily grateful to all those whose vision, work, and generosity made what we have today possible.

We at the China Centre remain committed to advancing research, debate, and knowledge of China – broadly understood – across all disciplines. At a time when it appears the world is entering a more tumultuous and even more politicised era, I believe this is more needed than ever.

We do hope that you will be able to join us for our upcoming events. We have quite a busy calendar this Hilary Term, and you can see our full listings in the final pages of this newsletter.

Wishing you all the best for the Year of the Snake,

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

Todd Hall
Director, University of Oxford China Centre

Tenth Anniversary of the Dickson Poon University of Oxford China Centre Building

On 25 October 2024, we feted the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Dickson Poon China Centre Building, inviting donors, supporters and friends of the China Centre to join us in marking this milestone. The festivities encompassed a full programme of events including, among other things, an afternoon tea, a discussion of the future of China Studies between the former director, Rana Mitter, and current director, Todd Hall, a champagne reception with musical accompaniment, and a formal dinner with comments from Lady Elish Angiolini. It was a lively and memorable celebration, and we thank St Hugh's College and all others who attended and made it possible.



China Centre's director's words on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Dickson Poon University of Oxford China Centre Building

We welcome you here today to celebrate a vision made real, made tangible in this building and in this community you see gathered around you.

When this building opened, it was the fruition of much work and much generous giving. I want to credit the former Principals of St Hugh's College: Sir Andrew Dilnot for having the foresight, imagination, and vision to come up with the idea of having a facility for the China Centre based at St Hugh's; and Lady Elish Angiolini who, in 2012, took over as Principal at St Hugh's College and continued to fundraise to meet the £22 million needed to complete the project.

It is one thing to have an idea – but seeing it through to fruition and all the hurdles that may involve, all the work of convincing various university and college stakeholders, all the planning and oversight that requires, all the finding and marshalling of resources. The Principals' support for and management of the project was invaluable to ensuring its fruition; and we were delighted to welcome His Royal Highness Prince William for the Grand Opening in September 2014.

Key, of course, to that accomplishment are you, the donors who shared in that vision. We are celebrating tonight your generosity, your willingness to give something that has had a crucial impact in advancing the study of China at Oxford and globally – a contribution that will last long beyond our lifetimes. You are what makes what we do possible, and we cannot do it without you.

Please allow me the indulgence of sharing with you a personal story, and apologies to those in the room who may already have heard it. Quite a few years ago I was hit from behind in a minor collision. It was not pretty, and to make things worse, the traffic lines on the road had recently been repainted as well, so I had a nice white stripe all down my back. Anyway, as the ambulance was taking me to the hospital the paramedic was asking me all types of questions to keep me awake. He asked me what I did – I am an academic. What I worked on, and I said international relations. International relations of where? I answered China. The questions stopped. He began, "Let me tell you something about China..." The rest of the ride turned into a monologue of his views on China.

It seems like everywhere one goes these days there are people with strong opinions and views on China.

When I began as Director of the China Centre four years ago, I saw our mission as three-fold. The first goal was to provide a focal point for the diverse scholars and advanced graduate students spread across the university and its various colleges, centres, and other associated units who do China related research. This might seem like a modest goal, but it is amazing how dispersed this knowledge is, because Oxford is very large and very decentralised. There are times when I would first hear about someone when they were being introduced for an interview on the radio about China. We have a real treasure trove of expertise here at the University, but without our Centre it can remain diffused in separate disciplinary or collegial silos. What you built here is a place where we can bring that knowledge together to make it more than the sum of its parts, to facilitate interaction across disciplines, to allow us to learn from one another and share.

My second goal was to make this a location for inviting in and welcoming scholars, policymakers, cultural figures and others for the purposes of interaction and exchange – and we have over the years been host to a whole variety of guests including a former Prime Minister of Australia, numerous serving and former ambassadors, the current Under-Secretary in the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office covering the Indo Pacific when she was still a Labour shadow secretary, not to mention numerous distinguished scholars, novelists, film makers, and more. And we also have a thriving visiting scholars' programme, welcoming for longer stays scholars of China from all over the world.

And my third goal was to make this a platform for sharing what we do here at the China Centre with the world. This began with setting up a modern online presence including a new webpage, also generously funded by donors who came together to support our digital outreach. We also, now, in collaboration with the Great Britain China Centre have engaged in a number of pathbreaking programmes to promote knowledge of and familiarity with China in the UK government, and its public and private sectors. We are particularly proud of the Future Leaders Programme, which is now entering its fifth year, and has provided training for UK parliamentarians, political aides, civil servants, and members of political NGO's and leading businesses.

So, in sum, my initial goals for the China Centre were to make a place that brings together within Oxford, brings from the outside in, and to promote what we do here beyond Oxford.

But let me return to the story of my friend the paramedic. The China that he knew was the China that was portrayed in news programmes and on radio talk shows. It is not the China in all its diversity that I know from what I have read, studied, and – of course – what I know from having travelled and lived in China. I believe all of us here know that China is so much more than the headlines. There is a richness of history, culture – both old and new, societal dynamics, and lived experience that in these tumultuous times risks being overshadowed by current events. Do not get me wrong, those current events are also important. But they are not the whole picture. And we also need more of the whole picture to put these events in context.

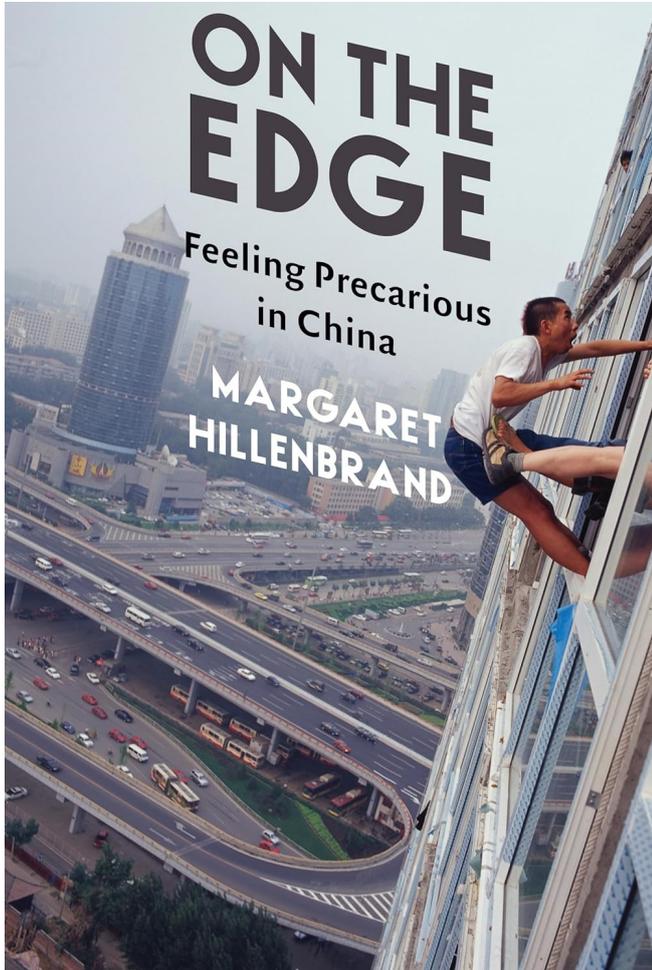
That is why I also see our additional goal here to be a "whole of China" centre. To engage China in all its dimensions, approaching a multiplicity of aspects from a panoply of different perspectives and disciplines. An approach to China that encompasses everything from poetry to politics, traditional medicine to tech policy, from *Sanguo Yanyi* to *Sanshi Er Yi*. We are a China Centre that does not limit itself, but embraces all aspects of the study of China. Thank you, everyone here, for making what we do possible.





News Highlights

MLA'S Scaglione Prize for East Asian Studies awarded to Margaret Hillenbrand for *On the Edge: Feeling Precarious in China*



On 10 December 2024, the Modern Language Association of America announced that it was awarding its second annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for East Asian Studies to Margaret Hillenbrand, for her book *On the Edge: Feeling Precarious in China*, published by Columbia University Press.

The prize is awarded annually for an outstanding scholarly work in East Asian or East Asian diaspora literary or linguistic studies. The Scaglione Prize for East Asian Studies is one of twenty-three publication awards that was presented on 10 January 2025, during the association's annual convention, held in New Orleans.

The committee's citation for Hillenbrand's book reads: "In *On the Edge: Feeling Precarious in China*, Margaret Hillenbrand offers penetrating portraits of cultural producers from the far margins of a booming China. Charting the terrain of precarity in the cultural and artistic worlds of the twenty-first century, Hillenbrand boldly takes on questions of great urgency and consequence that resonate with readers far from the creative

Making deft use of the detritus of China's creative industries and navigating a chaotic and anarchic media universe, including recent performance art, poetry, protest movements, short videos, and livestreaming apps, the book is impressive in its analysis of these often-marginalized cultural expressions as well as the social relations in which they are physically staged. Hillenbrand's brilliant study is compellingly argued, combining theoretical sophistication with penetrating clarity, and draws attention to China's creative precariat with great sensitivity and sympathy."

A conversation about the book, between Jiayi Hou, a doctoral researcher at the University of Tokyo, and Margaret Hillenbrand, has been published in *Asiascape: Digital Asia*.

News Highlights

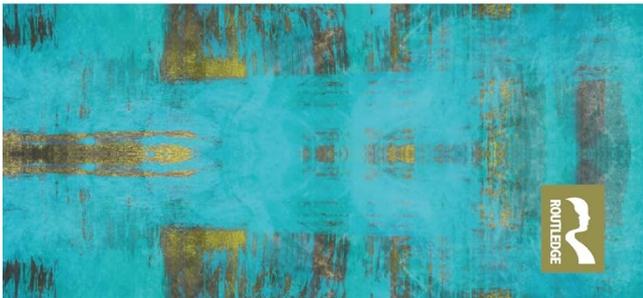
Professor Maria Jaschok publishes new book with the Routledge Contemporary China Series



INSIDE THE EXPRESSIVE CULTURE OF CHINESE WOMEN'S MOSQUES

'THIS TURMOIL OF THE SOUL'

Maria Jaschok



Professor Jaschok's new book presents a multi-voice narrative of the history and significance of current contestations over the increasing prominence of expressive piety in Hui Muslim women's mosques in central China.

By drawing on a "Song Book" of chants, collected from the tradition of women's mosques, as context it reveals just how the increasing prominence of female voices has given rise to considerable misgivings among senior religious leaders over the potential destabilization of orthodox Islamic gendered practices. Providing a historical introduction to the place and function of Islamic chants, jingge and zansheng, the book gives a conceptual framing of female silence, sound, and agency in local translations of Confucian and Islamic precepts, and women's personal accounts of the role played by traditional and modern soundscapes in transmitting and celebrating Islamic knowledge and faith.

As a study of women's soundscapes and the significance of legitimacy, ambiguities, and implications of female sound, this book will be of considerable interest to students and scholars of Chinese society and culture, gender studies, cultural anthropology, and Islam.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Professor Jaschok will be giving a keynote speech at the 8th International Conference on Future of Women 2025 (20–21 February) in Bangkok. The invitation to talk about her most recent research provides Professor Jaschok with an opportunity to introduce the publication to a wider audience, thus the title of her speech "A Chinese Women's Mosque Song Book of past and present Women's Voices – why not an ethnography about being a feminist in other places?"

News Highlights

Rosemary Foot gives papers at Fudan University



Professor Rosemary Foot spent November 2024 at Fudan University, School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Shanghai, where she gave papers on “China as a Multilateral Actor in World Politics: Patterns and Portents”; “US–China Security Relations and the Asia–Pacific Region: Trends and Future Prospects in a Bifurcated Security Environment”; “Multilateralism in Crisis and Multilateralism Revived: The Chinese Offer in the 21st Century”. She also took part in the Chinese launch of the Special Issue of the journal *Global Policy* (further details below) and gave a paper at the Shanghai University of International Business and Economics. Prof. Foot met with many of Fudan’s doctoral students and discussed their doctoral thesis proposals.

Latest publications

"China–U.S. Relations in a Changing World Order: Prospects for the Future," in Christopher V. Chivvis, (ed.) *U.S.–China Relations for the 2030s: Toward a Realistic Scenario for Coexistence*, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, October 2024.

Carnegie also produced a video where Prof. Foot outlines the main argument of this chapter, which can be found [here](#).

“Reining in a Liberal UN: China, power shifts, and the UN’s peace and security pillar”, *Global Policy*, Volume 15, Supplement 2, May 2024, which can be found [here](#).

(with Sebastian Haug and Max-Otto Baumann), "Introduction – Power Shifts in International Organisations: China at the United Nations", *Global Policy Special Issue*, Volume 15, Supplement 2, May 2024.



Featured Researcher

Dr Ning Zhang



Dr Ning Zhang is a research associate at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and the China Centre, where she is working on her exciting project, “Chinese Sent-Down youths and the Communist Movement in Burma (1968–1989).”

As part of this research, Ning recently published an article in *The Chinese Historical Review* (Volume 31, Issue 2, 2 December 2024) titled “Fighting for International Communism: Two Beijing Red Guards in Burma.” This article explores the experiences of two Beijing Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution and the motives that drove them to Burma.

The article is available [here](#).

In addition to her academic publications, she contributed a blog post to the SOAS China Institute Blog on 20 August 2024 titled “A Journey to Uncover Hidden Histories: Interviews with Chinese International Communist Volunteers in Burma.” This post reflects her ongoing fieldwork and aims to make her research accessible to a broader audience. The blog post can be accessed [here](#).

On 25 September 2024, she delivered a talk titled “口述史研究中的学术伦理与‘情感’问题” (“Research Ethics and Emotional Challenges in Oral History Studies”) at East China Normal University. The talk focused on sharing her experiences in conducting interviews, addressing both the emotional challenges and ethical concerns involved, and fostering dialogue with historians based in China who work on contemporary history.

Based on findings from her fieldwork, she presented a paper proposal titled “他们在中国长大: 东南亚国家共产党的孩子们与毛主义世界革命 (1950s–80s)” (“Growing Up in China: The Children of Southeast Asian Communists and the Maoist World Revolution”) at a hybrid workshop on PRC History hosted by Fudan University on 23 November 2024. This proposal represents a sub-topic derived from her current research, focusing on the upbringing of these children in China and their eventual return to their home countries to participate in armed struggles. It sheds light on the complex interplay between individual experiences and the broader Maoist revolutionary movement in Southeast Asia.

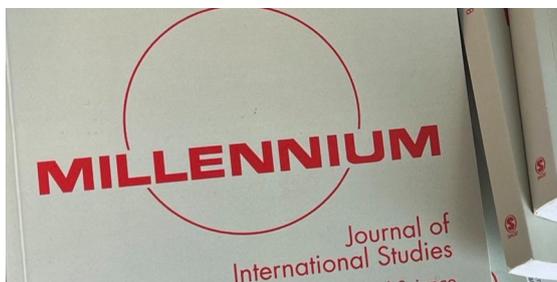
Featured Articles

Edward Schwarck publishes article in *China Brief*



Edward Schwarck (DPhil candidate, Department of Politics and International Relations) has recently published an article about Chinese intelligence in *China Brief*, volume 2, Issue 22. The article, “The Power Vertical: Centralization in the PRC’s State Security System”, can be found [here](#).

Yang Han publishes article in *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*



Yang Han (DPhil candidate in the Department of Politics and International Relations) has published an article in *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, Volume 53, Issue 1. The article, “Is Chinese IR Scholarship White? A Non-Dichotomous Critique of ‘The International as Singular, Enlightened and Sanitised’”, can be [found here](#).

Yang Han states: “This article is an attempt to formulate a framework for postcolonial critiques of non-Western IR knowledge. I explore whether ‘epistemic whiteness’ remains an adequate framework for critiquing non-Western IR knowledge production. Drawing on postcolonial and Marxist scholarship – particularly the works of Hobson, Sabaratnam, and Rosenberg – as well as research on relationality, I propose an alternative framework: ‘the international as singular, enlightened, and sanitized’. This non-dichotomous approach aims to deepen critiques of global IR knowledge production. I am deeply grateful for the support I’ve received in refining this article and hope it inspires further discussion. Currently, I am examining how modernity should be (re-)centred in critiques of the global racial hierarchy, and through them, I aim to reformulate the ontology of international hierarchies more broadly. I am also working towards a conceptual paper addressing the limitations of existing critiques of race and racism when applied to global IR knowledge.”

William Blythe publishes article in *Chinese Literature*

Chinese
Literature
Essays
Articles
Reviews

中國文學

William Blythe (DPhil candidate, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies) has recently published an article, “‘Only My Words Written Here Will Remain’: The Journey from ‘Avant-Textes’ to ‘Avant-Propos’ in Qian Zhongshu’s Collaboration with C.D. Le Gros Clark”. The article has been published in *Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews (CLEAR)*, Volume 46 (December 2024): 129–148.

Featured Past Event

China Studies Seminar/Leverhulme Visiting Professor Public Lecture given by Professor Susanne Choi

Professor Susanne Choi (The Chinese University of Hong Kong) gave the Leverhulme Visiting Professor Public Lecture, co-organised with the China Studies Seminar Series, on “Rural-to-Urban Migration, Gender and Familial Care in Post-Socialist China” in the Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre, University of Oxford China Centre, on 14 November 2024.

The continued feminization of both paid and unpaid care work has been regarded as a major obstacle to achieving gender equality. Western scholarship on gender and care has focused on the impact of policies and work arrangements on men’s evolving involvement in care, with limited attention to how migration, a major phenomenon in a globalized world, has affected men’s familial caregiving. Drawing on ethnographic research and in-depth interviews with 240 rural-to-urban migrants in South China, Professor Choi illustrated in this presentation how migration has altered the patriarchal family structure and men’s roles in familial care in post-socialist China. Official data indicate that there were 295 million rural-to-urban migrants in China in 2021, 63% of whom were male. The findings reveal that migration has substantially transformed the patriarchal Chinese family and notions of masculinity. Specifically, married migrant men with children in urban areas have significantly increased their participation in domestic and childcare responsibilities, thus redefining traditional ideals of manhood. However, this increased involvement in familial care cannot be simplistically interpreted as a sign of advancing gender equality, as their caregiving practices remain grounded in discourses of masculinity. Consequently, while migrant men make “masculine compromises” to bridge the care gap created by migration, the gender equality gains from these compromises may be temporary and could potentially revert to more traditional and conservative gender dynamics once the conditions compelling men to compromise no longer exist.



Susanne Yuk Ping Choi is Professor of Sociology/Co-Director of the Gender Research Centre at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and was a Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professor at Oxford School of Global and Area Studies. Her research interests include migration, gender, family, and sexuality. Her book *Masculine Compromise: Migration, Family and Gender in China* received the Best Book Award of the International Sociological Association’s Sociology of Migration Section (RC31). Her journal articles have been published in *American Journal of Sociology*, *British Journal of Sociology*, *Sociology*, *The Sociological Review*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *International Migration Review*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, etc.

Upcoming Events and Talks

Baillie Gifford Distinguished Speaker Series

The Baillie Gifford Distinguished Speaker Series invites renowned academics and practitioners to talk about their work in the field of China Studies. The series is supported by Baillie Gifford and the University of Oxford China Centre. Previous speakers have included Robert B. Zoellick, Christopher Marquis, John Edwards, Megan Walsh, Kerry Brown and Fuchsia Dunlop.

Our next Baillie Gifford Distinguished Speaker will be Ambassador Jorge Toledo, Delegation of the European Union to China.

The talk, “EU–China Relations in their 50th Anniversary and Future Perspectives”, will take place in the Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre at the China Centre on **Tuesday 28 January, 17:00**.



Ambassador Jorge Toledo is a career diplomat from Spain.

After taking his Degree in Law and entering the Diplomatic School in Spain, he joined the Spanish Foreign Service in 1989. Since then, except for three years in Senegal, where he was Ambassador of Spain from 2008 to 2011, his career has been devoted mostly to European Union Affairs.

Among other positions, he was Spanish European advisor and EU Sherpa for the Spanish President of the Government from 2012 to 2016 and Secretary of State for the EU and European Affairs from 2016 to 2018. In Asia, he has been posted to India and twice in Japan, the second time as Ambassador of Spain from 2018 to 2022, before arriving to China in September 2022 as the Ambassador of the European Union.

The event is open to all, and we hope that you will be able to join us!

Events and Talks

China Centre Talk Series

The China Centre Talk Series is a biweekly talk series run by the University of Oxford China Centre. Last term it included “China in the Caribbean with Implications for Western Hemisphere Geopolitics” by Dr Bhoendradatt Tewarie, The University of the West Indies and the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago; “Technology and the Rise of Great Powers” by Dr Jeffrey Ding, Georgetown University; “An Outlook for US–China–Taiwan Relations under Trump 2.0” by Professor Lu Yeh-chung, National Chengchi University (NCCU), Taipei, Taiwan (organised jointly with the Taiwan Studies Seminar Series).

In Hilary Term the China Centre Talk Series will feature talks on diverse topics.

Week 1

The Political Thought of Xi Jinping

Steve Tsang, SOAS

Tuesday 21 January, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 2

Reading Nineteen Eighty-Four in Beijing

Jeffrey Wasserstrom, UC Irvine

Monday 27 January, 10:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 2

US–China Relations in the 21st Century: Prospect and Retrospect

Andrew Scobell, United States Institute of Peace & Georgetown University

Wednesday 29 January, 12:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 4

The Art of State Persuasion: China's Strategic Use of Media in Interstate Disputes

Frances Yaping Wang, Colgate University

Tuesday 11 February, 12:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 5

Pathways to Conflict in the South China Sea

David Welch, University of Waterloo

Wednesday 19 February, 12:00

Ho Tim Seminar Room

Week 8

From Click to Boom: The Political Economy of E-commerce in China

Lizhi Liu, Georgetown University

Tuesday 11 March 12:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 8

Title tbc

David McCourt, UC Davis

Tuesday 11 March, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Events and Talks

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 “Intrepid Nobodies: Chinese Servants in the Canton Trade, 1700–1850” by Professor Song-Chuan Chen, University of Warwick; “What is the Status Quo in the Taiwan Strait?” by Dr James Lee, Academia Sinica (Taiwan); “Imagined ‘Chinatowns’ (*hancheng* 漢城) in Medieval Manchuria: A Critical Han Studies Approach to Liao Dynasty Populations and Settlements” by Lance Pursey, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; “Efficacious Writing: The Workings of Talismans in Contemporary Daoist Practice” by David Mozina, University of Cambridge; “Rural-to-Urban Migration, Gender and Familial Care in Post-Socialist China” by Susanne Choi, The Chinese University of Hong Kong; “Atomized Incorporation: Chinese Workers and the Aftermath of China’s Rise” by Sungmin Ro, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva; “Compensation and the Consolidation of Authoritarian Power: Evidence from China’s 2016 PLA Reform” by Victor Shih, UC San Diego; “Through Texts or Objects: How Classicists and Antiquarians Conceptualised the Chinese Ritual Jade *cong*” by Qin Yang, University of Nottingham; and “EU–Taiwan Relations in a New Reality: What Lies Ahead?” by Zsuzsa Anna Ferenczy, National Dong-Hwa University, Hualien, Taiwan and Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB).

Week 1

Grassroots Officials, Worker Wrongdoings, and Masculinity in the Nantong Municipal Steel Rolling Mill c. 1970

Amanda Zhang, UCL

Thursday, 23 January, 17:00

Week 2

Industrial Policy, Economic Statecraft and National Security: The US–Taiwan–China Semiconductor Triangle

Chun-yi Lee, University of Nottingham

Monday, 27 January, 12:00

Week 2

A China Reporter's Notebook - Watching a Great Power Open and Rise, then Turn Inwards

David Rennie, *The Economist*

Thursday, 30 May, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 3

A Nosedive into Medieval China: Smells, Identities, and the Writing of the Olfactory Past

Flavia Fan, Institute of Historical Research & SOAS, University of London

Thursday, 6 February, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 4

Taiwan and its Southeast Asia Challenge

Alex Tan, University of Canterbury

Thursday, 13 February, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 5

China's Evolving Approach to Economic Security

Yeling Tan, University of Oxford

Monday, 17 February 12:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 5

Diaspora Chinese and Modern China: Transnationalism and Class of the Chinese of the British West Indies, the 1880s–1970s

Setsuko Sonoda, Ritsumeikan University

Thursday, 20 February, 17:00

Week 6

The US–China Conflict and a Divided Southeast Asia: Implications for Taiwan Challenge

Thitinan Pongsudhirak, Chulalongkorn University

Thursday 27 February, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Events and Talks

China Studies Seminar Series (cont.)

Week 7

Yang sheng and Diaitētikē: Comparative Perspectives on Regimen in Early China

Arthur Harris, Needham Institute, Cambridge

Thursday, 6 March, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 8

Involuntary bachelorhood and the crises of the son-centred intergenerational contract – Insights from gender-imbalanced rural China

Lisa Eklund, Lund University

Monday 10 March 12:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

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 “Murder in the Maloo: A Tale of Old Shanghai” by Paul Bevan and “Audio(visual) Sources for Chinese Socialist Soundscapes: A Methodological Exploration” by Jie Li, Harvard University.

This term the series will consist of two talks given by Shuangyi Li, University of Bristol and by Xiaofan Amy Li, UCL.

Week 3

Transforming the Way of Water: Yvonne Owuor’s The Dragonfly Sea and Zao Wou-Ki’s Paintings

Shuangyi Li, University of Bristol

Tuesday 4 February, 17:00

Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 7

Anthropocene Urbanity and Surreal Imagery: Hong Kong in Contemporary Sinophone Fiction

Xiaofan Amy Li, UCL

Tuesday 4 March, 17:00

Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Events and Talks

International History of East Asia Seminar

Last term saw the continuation of the International History of East Asia Seminar Series, which covers the international and transnational history of East and Southeast Asia, particularly in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Last term's five seminars included: "‘Connecting the Clouds’: Port City Lianyungang and Dutch Economic Interests in China, 1899–1937" by Cao Mingran, Leiden University; "Transnational Networks of Intermediaries and Sino-French Negotiations on Tonkin Borders (1885–87)" by Zhang Gong, EHESS, and "Chinese Australians' Interracial Lobbying and the Formation of Sino-Australian Alliance against Japanese Imperialism, 1931–41" by Zhang Zhen, University of Edinburgh; "Samurai in Siam: Miyazaki Tōten's Utopian Farming Community (1895–96)" by Joel Littler, Harvard University; "Revisiting the Non-Recognition of Territorial Conquests: Manchuria, Japan, and the United States, 1899–1940" by Jiang Zhifeng, National University of Singapore, and "Transnational Networks and Sino-European Relations during the Cold War: The Case of Italy–China Friendship Association (1962–77)" by Clara Galzerano, University of Trento; "Constructing ‘Yasukuni (-Traits)’ Shrine(s) in Wartime Mainland China and Taiwan: The Projection of ‘Yasukuni Thought’ beyond Imperial Japan" by Huo Changwei, SOAS, and "All Roads Lead to Coal Mines: South Korea's Highland Road Construction and Energy Regime Change" by Ha Jaeyoung, Tsinghua University.

The seminar series will continue this term, taking place at the China Centre in the Lucina Ho Seminar Room at 17:00 in Weeks 3, 4, 6 and 8.

Week 3: Wednesday 5 February, 17:00–1830 **Week 4:** Wednesday 12 February, 17:00–1830

Week 6: Wednesday 26 February, 17:00–1830 **Week 8:** Wednesday 12 March 17:00–1830

Oxford Seminar on the Pre-Modern History of East Asia

The Oxford Seminar on the Pre-Modern History of East Asia commenced in Trinity Term 2024, and featured four talks: "Democracy in Early Modern East Asia? Japanese Chivalric ‘Solidarity’ and Chinese Imperial ‘Meritocracy’ in Contrast and Collaboration" by Kiri Paramore, University College Cork; "The Disease of Money: Coins, Traders, and Agency in Twelfth-Century East Asia" by Mikael Adolphson, University of Cambridge; "Parades and Power in Seventeenth–Eighteenth Century Japan: The Daimyo of Satsuma's Visits to a Village of Captured Korean Potters within his Domain" by Rebekah Clements, ICREA; "Still Chasing the Xiezhai: Mythology and Visual Representations of Justice in Chinese History" by Ernest Caldwell, Goldsmiths. The seminar series will continue in Hilary and Trinity Terms 2025, with three seminars this term and six seminars next term. The seminar organisers are Ross Moncrieff (All Souls College), Chui-Joe Tham (Linacre College), Julian Geissler (Queen's College) and Lewis Ebert (St Cross College).

Week 4

The Emotions of Empire: Love, Desire, and the Moral Psychology of Cosmic Resonance in the Lǔshi Chunqiu and Huainanzi

Curie Virág, University of Warwick

Tuesday 11 February, 17:00

Ho Tim Seminar Room

Week 6

Kingdom of Pines: State Forestry and the Making of Early Modern Korea, 1392–1910

John Lee, University of Durham

Tuesday 25 February, 17:00

Ho Tim Seminar Room

Week 8

Title tbc

Philip Garrett, Newcastle University

Tuesday 11 March, 17:00

Ho Tim Seminar Room

Events and Talks

Oxford China Reading Group



The Oxford China Reading Group is a student-led reading group on Chinese history, which aims to deliver interdisciplinary insights into late imperial to contemporary China. It was founded in October 2022. It meets every Friday at 2–4 pm during term time in the China Centre. The Oxford China Reading Group is supported by The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH) for the 2024/2025 academic year. More information can be found [here](#).

This term's schedule can be found below.

Period

Late Imperial to Modern

Convenors

Duanran Feng, Pak Hei Hao, Simon Lam, Alexander Yen

Time/Location

Fridays @ 1400-1600 @ Lucina Ho Room, China Centre (exc. W5)

HT1 Religion and the Public Sphere in Modern China

- Duara, 'Religion Citizenship in the Chinese Diaspora?.'
- Madsen, *The Sinicization of Chinese Religions*, introd.

HT2 Chinese Religion

- Tam, 'Communal Worship' in Palmer (ed.), *Chinese Religious Life*.
- Goosaert, *The Taoists of Peking*, introd. and optional chap. 6.

HT3 Mao-Era Chinese Intellectuals and Imaginations of Utopia

- Zhang, 'The Magic of Hope' (Chinese, optional).
- Hellbeck, *Revolution on My Mind*, chap. TBC.

HT4 Education and Success in Post-Reform China

- Bregnbæk, *Fragile Elite*, chapter 6.
- Wu, 'Toward a Different Kind of Social Distinction?.'

HT5 Curing the Fifth Week Blues: Pub Social

- Join us at the Royal Oak on Woodstock Road for a mid-term break!

HT6 English in Colonial and Post-Colonial Hong Kong

- Evans, 'The Introduction of English-Language Education'.
- Law, 'Cultural Coloniality' in *Collaborative Colonial Power*.

HT7 The Discourse of Poverty in China

- Lu, *Street Criers*, chap. 1.
- Chen, *Guilty of Indigence*, chap. 3.

HT8 The Disintegration of Postwar China, 1945-49

- Mitter, 'Relocation and Dislocation'.
- Van de Ven, *China at War*, chap. 12.

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