

ISSUE 9 Summer 2025

NEWSLETTER



CHINA CENTRE

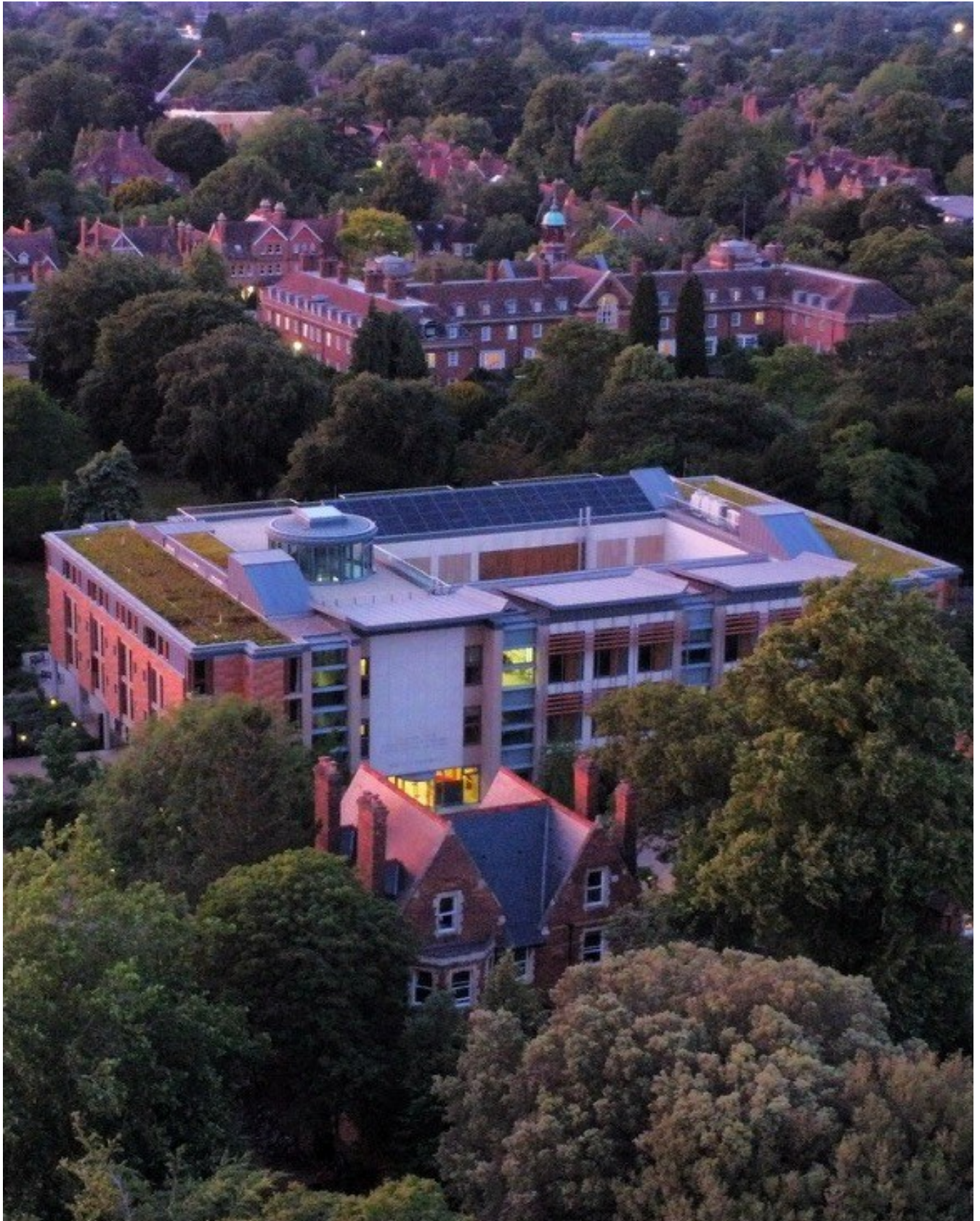


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Message from the Director



Greetings all!

At the moment I am writing this the weather in Oxford is sunny, cool, and absolutely beautiful. Over the past few weeks, however, we have had the extremes of record-breaking hot weather, torrential rain, and almost cold, windy days. Another hot spell is forecast for the coming weekend. The weather, of course, is not the only thing that is chaotic at the moment. One need only glance at the headlines of the past weeks to see a world that is undergoing profound changes. Here at the China Centre, we have sought to provide programming that both speaks to the changes we are seeing but also reflects how the study of China is not just about the news of the day. Looking through the newsletter, I think you will find we had an extraordinarily active Trinity Term, hosting numerous conferences, workshops, and speakers. Some focused on topics that are extremely timely, others on topics that are seemingly timeless. What makes all of it possible is the dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm of the faculty, students, associates, and participants. I thank you for all you have done to make our centre the space for learning, exchange, and scholarship that it is. To everyone, I hope that your summer is productive and recuperative in the ratio you desire, and I look forward to seeing you in the new academic year.

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

Todd Hall
Director, University of Oxford China Centre

News Highlights

A Casebook on Chinese Outbound Investment

A book launch for *A Casebook on Chinese Outbound Investment: Law, Policy, and Business*, edited by Matthew S. Erie ([CUP 2025](#), open access version [here](#), promotional video [here](#)) was held at the Oxford China Centre on 12 May 2025.

The hybrid event launched the *Casebook* by featuring several contributors from around the world who summarized their findings and three distinguished Oxford readers who identified how the *Casebook* can be used for teaching in their respective professional schools.

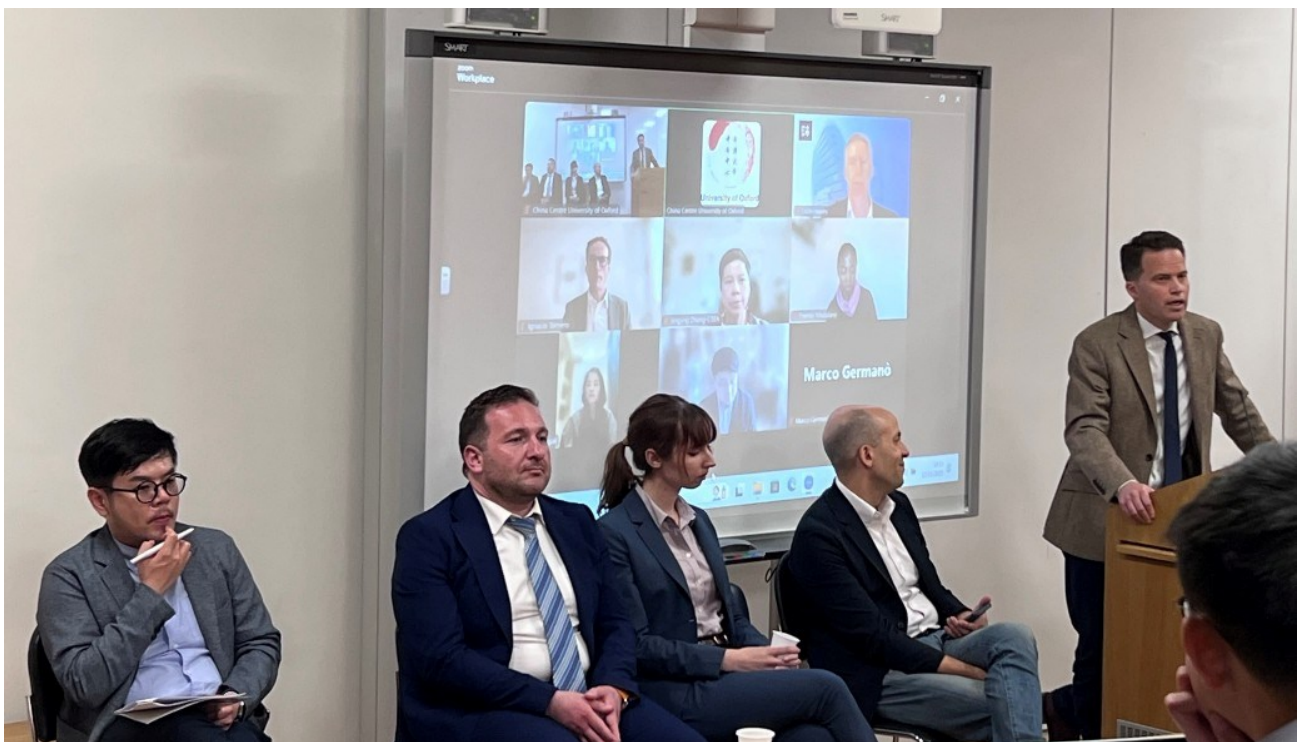
In-person contributors included:

- Aaron Halegua (Aaron Halegua, PLLC)
- Leigha Crout (Assistant Professor of Law, DePaul University College of Law)
- Otari Kakhidze (former UNESCO Great Wall Fellow, Tsinghua University School of Law)
- Kai-Shen Huang (Director of the Democratic Governance Program, Research Institute for Democracy, Society and Emerging Technology, Taiwan).

Readers included:

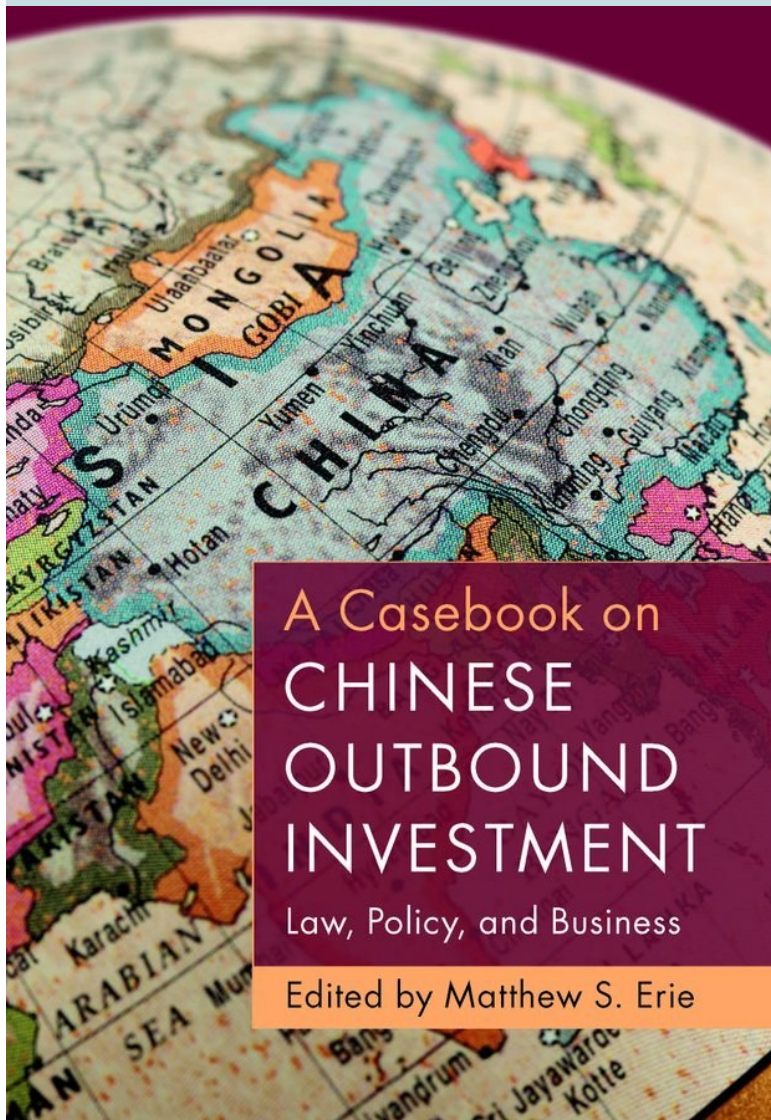
- [Freya Baetens](#) (Professor of Public International Law; Research Director, Oxford Human Rights Hub, University of Oxford Law Faculty)
- [Yeling Tan](#) (Professor of Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government)
- [Eric Thun](#) (Peter Moores Associate Professor in Chinese Business Studies at Saïd Business School).

The event was moderated by *Casebook* editor, [Matthew S. Erie](#) (Associate Professor of Modern Chinese Studies, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies).



News Highlights

A Casebook on Chinese Outbound Investment, edited by Matthew Erie, is published by Cambridge University Press



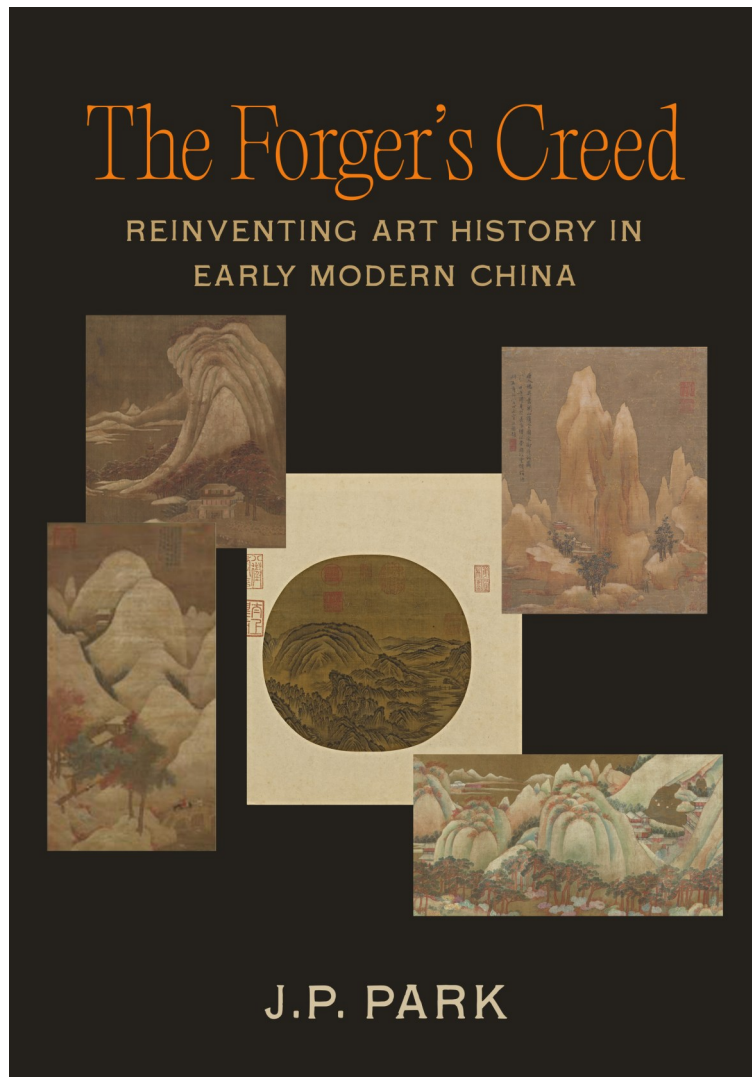
A Casebook on Chinese Outbound Investment: Law, Policy, and Business, edited by [Matthew S. Erie](#), [Cambridge University Press, 2025](#).

(Open access version [here](#), promotional video [here](#).)

China remains one of the top capital exporters in the world, yet there is a paucity of reliable sources through which to assess Chinese corporate decision-making, the implementation of Chinese-financed and managed projects, and the socio-economic effects of those projects. The Casebook fills this gap by providing fifteen case studies written by experts and researchers, many from host states and who have first-hand knowledge of the transaction or dispute in question. Case studies are written primarily based on primary source material including transactional documents, interviews with stakeholders, laws and regulations, and case decisions. Educators in professional schools, including law, policy, and business, will find in the Casebook material to supplement class discussions pertaining to Chinese overseas investment, Chinese investment strategies, and the nature of the Chinese firm.

News Highlights

J.P. Park's book, *The Forger's Creed*, is published by University of California Press



The Forger's Creed: Reinventing Art History in Early Modern China ([University of California Press, 2025](#)) by **J.P. Park** (June and Simon Li Professor in the History of Art at the University of Oxford).

In 1634, scholar-official Zhang Taijie (b. ca. 1588) published a book titled *A Record of Treasured Paintings* (C. Baohui lu), presenting an extensive catalogue of a purportedly vast painting collection he claimed to have built. However, the entire book is Zhang's meticulously crafted forgery; he even forged paintings to match the documentation, and profited from trading them. Furthermore, the book intriguingly mirrors unfounded art-historical claims of its time. Prominent figures like Dong Qichang (1555–1636) made entirely fabricated arguments to assert legitimate lineages in Chinese art, designed to create a fictionalized history shaped by preferred beliefs rather than reality.

While presenting the first comprehensive exploration of various forgery practices in early modern China – fabricated texts, forged paintings, and fictitious art history – *The Forger's Creed* examines the cultural, social, and genealogical desires, anxieties, and tensions prevalent in early modern China. Through thorough scrutiny of the historical irregularities introduced by these forgeries, J.P. Park highlights a peculiar and paradoxical phenomenon wherein forgeries transform into legitimate materials across Chinese history.

News Highlights

Ning Zhang interviews Henrietta Harrison for *Twenty-First Century*

Twenty-First Century (Hong Kong) 《二十一（香港）》 invited [Dr Ning Zhang](#) (Research Associate, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies) to interview [Henrietta Harrison](#) (Professor of Chinese History, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies). Dr Zhang conducted the interview from the perspective of an early career researcher.

In their conversation, Prof. Harrison discussed her academic journey, her new project on the 1949 Chinese Revolution, and her reflections on writing impactful historical books. Her insights will be particularly valuable for DPhil students and early career researchers.

The full interview is now available online. Here are the links:

《從微觀史到全球史：沈艾娣教授訪談（上）》

From Microhistory to Global History: An Interview with Professor Henrietta Harrison (Part I)

<https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/21c/zh/issues/c208.html>

《重返1949年中國革命：沈艾娣教授訪談（下）》

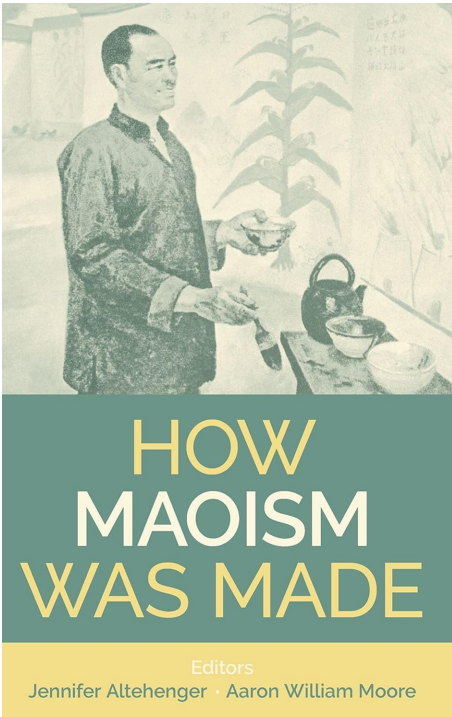
Revisiting the Chinese Revolution of 1949: An Interview with Professor Henrietta Harrison (Part II)

<https://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/21c/zh/issues/c209.html>



News Highlights

***How Maoism was Made*, edited by Jennifer Altehenger and Aaron William Moore, published in the Proceedings of the British Academy**



Jennifer Altehenger (Associate Professor of Chinese History and Jessica Rawson Fellow in Modern Asian History, Faculty of History and Merton College) and Aaron William Moore (Handa Chair of Japanese-Chinese Relations, University of Edinburgh) have co-edited *How Maoism was Made* (Proceedings of the British Academy/Oxford University Press, 2025).

Jennifer has published a chapter in the book: “How to Standardise Life in ‘New China’: the Case of Furniture” and has co-written the introduction (with Aaron Moore), which discusses “The Early People’s Republic of China between Theory and Practice”.

Jennifer has also published an article, “Room to Experiment: Housing Newlyweds during China’s Early Reform Era” in *Rethinking Socialist Space in the Twentieth Century*, ed. Paul Betts and Marcus Colla (St Antony’s Series/Palgrave Macmillan, 2024).

Duanran Feng wins Stowe Fund to support archival research

Duanran Feng (DPhil candidate in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies) has recently won the Stowe Fund at Yale Divinity School to support archival research for his DPhil project on left wing Chinese Protestant theology in the Republican period. The article can be found here - <https://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/stowe-fund>

Duanran Feng also presented at the Yale–Edinburgh conference on world Christianity (28–30 May 2025) in Sao Paulo, Brazil, at the MacKenzie Presbyterian University, which is also part of the Yale community of researchers on world Christianity.

Todd Hall and Yeling Tan interviewed on BBC Radio 4

Todd Hall (Professor of International Relations, Department of Politics and International Relations/Director of the China Centre) and **Yeling Tan** (Professor of Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government) were interviewed by Ben Ansell (Professor of Comparative Democratic Institutions) on the *BBC Radio 4 programme Rethink*. The topic of the discussion was about whether the UK should seek closer diplomatic and trade links to China. The programme was broadcast on 19 June and 23 June 2025.

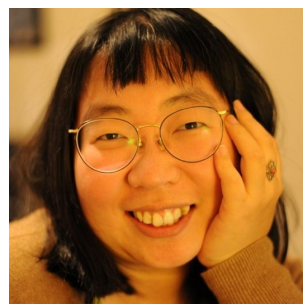
Featured Articles

Ruoxi Liu has article published in *Made in China Journal*



Ruoxi Liu, Departmental Lecturer, School of Global and Area Studies, has co-authored an article with Binghuang Xu: “Why Do We Hold ‘Family History’ Exhibitions in Today’s China?”, *Made in China Journal*, Volume 9, Issue 2, 2024. The article can be read [here](#).

Yang Han publishes article in *European Journal of International Relations*



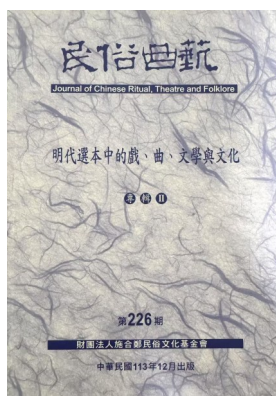
Yang Han, DPhil candidate in the Department of Politics and International Relations, has published an article on “Banal Modernity: a Logic of Hierarchization in International Relations” in the *European Journal of International Relations*. Yang Han writes:

“In this article, I raise a notion of ‘banal modernity’ and argue that actors in international relations often assign the relative positions of one’s own nation (or oneself) vis-à-vis others against a set of imaginaries of modernity in the mundane and quotidian aspects of everyday life – how clean the streets are in one society, how punctual and well-mannered the people are, and so forth. This observation informs my theory of ‘banal modernity as a logic of hierarchization’. In particular, I highlight that social discrimination practices (often based on categories of race, class, gender, ethnicity and culture) are often informed commonly by banal modernity. Banal modernity offers the vocabulary and grammar that facilitate these practices.

This article importantly offers critical IR scholars another way to make sense of the intersecting forms of hierarchization in International Relations and highlights another crucial aspect of modernity that is often overlooked – the banality.

I am currently working on other articles that theorize the postcolonial, especially what I call a contradiction between development and solidarity, as well as on the intertwinement of race and modernity in the Chinese contexts.”

Dan Yang and Yung-fang Hsu publish articles in *Journal of Chinese Ritual, Theatre and Folklore*, No. 226.



Dan Yang, DPhil candidate, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, has published the following article: Yang Dan. “‘Different’ Versions of Kunqu Singing Rules: Comparing Textual Variants in Nanci Yinzheng and Wei Liangfu’s Qulü in Late Ming Qu Anthologies”, *Journal of Chinese Ritual, Theatre and Folklore* (Min-su ch’ü-i 民俗曲藝), No. 226 (December 2024): 7-28.

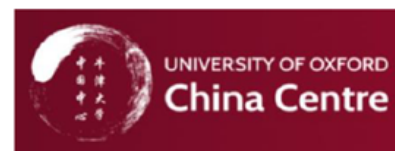
Yung-fang Hsu, DPhil candidate, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, has published the following article: Hsu Yung-fang. “Late Ming Wanderings through Space and Time: On the ‘Travel’ Volume of the Yuefu Hongshan”, *Journal of Chinese Ritual, Theatre and Folklore* (Min-su ch’ü-i 民俗曲藝), No. 226 (December 2024): 29-78.

Events and Talks

Columbia–Harvard China and the World Program annual conference



Columbia - Harvard
中国与世界研究项目
China and the World Program



China and the World Program 21st Annual Conference *University of Oxford – United Kingdom* *March 20, 2025*

On **20 March**, the China Centre and the Blavatnik School of Government co-hosted the Columbia–Harvard China and the World Program annual conference. The Columbia-Harvard China and the World Program is a longstanding initiative that offers post-doctoral fellowships to early-career scholars of the international relations of China. The conference brought together more than two decades of fellows to present the latest research on China in the world. The event took place at the Blavatnik School of Government. The programme was as follows:

9:00–9:05 am: Welcome

[Todd Hall](#) and [Yeling Tan](#), University of Oxford

9:05–9:10 am: Introductory Remarks

Ngair Woods, Dean of the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford

9:10–9:15 am: Greetings from Co-Director(s) of the China and the World Program

Alastair Iain Johnston, Harvard University
Thomas J. Christensen, Columbia University



9:15–10:45 am: Panel #1 on US–China Relations: Perceptions from the Outside

Panel discussion moderated by [Rosemary Foot](#), University of Oxford

Courtney Fung, Macquarie University

US-China Strategic Competition at the United Nations

Ja Ian Chong, National University of Singapore

Hiding in the Shadow of Major Power Competition: Southeast Asia and Buckpassing amid US–PRC Rivalry



Events and Talks

Columbia–Harvard China and the World Program annual conference (cont.)

Panel #1 (cont.)

Xiaoyu Pu, University of Nevada

Navigating the US–China Rivalry: Local Agency and Divergent Responses from Australia and Latin America

Injoo Sohn, Seoul National University

Towards Co-Resilience: What the United States and South Korea Can Do Together in an Era of US–China Rivalry

11:00–12:30 pm: Panel #2 on China’s Foreign Policy: Great Power Relations and Domestic Politics

Panel discussion moderated by **Todd Hall**, University of Oxford

Patricia Kim, Brookings Institution

China’s Strategic Approach to a Second Trump Administration

Tyler Jost, Brown University

Perception, Institutions, and Theories of Chinese Foreign Policy

Sabine Mokry, University of Hamburg

Authoritarian Alliances? China’s Deepening Security Ties with Russia, North Korea, & Iran

Yinan He, Lehigh University

The “Hostile Forces” Narrative: Internal/External Linkage, Regime Security, and China’s Foreign Relations

Andrew Chubb, Lancaster University

Chinese Nationalism, PRC Resolve, and Crisis Escalation: Views from Indo-Pacific Experts

1:30–3:00 pm: Panel #3 on China’s Global Economic Engagement: Geopolitics and Domestic Tensions

Panel discussion moderated by **Yeling Tan**, University of Oxford

Wendy Leutert, Indiana University

Domestic Challenges and Changes in China’s Economy

Zongyuan “Zoe” Liu, Council on Foreign Relations

How China is Preparing for Foreign Economic Coercion

Yu Zheng, Fudan University



Events and Talks

Columbia–Harvard China and the World Program annual conference (cont.)

Panel #3 (cont.)

Zhu Boliang, Pennsylvania State University

Geopolitical Competition and International Trade

Xiaojun Li, University of British Columbia

Chinese Manufacturers in the Global Supply Chain

3:15–4:45 pm: Panel #4 on Taiwan: Domestic Sentiments and Regional Dynamics

Panel discussion moderated by **Bo-jun Jing**, University of Oxford

Ronan Fu, Academia Sinica

Taiwanese Citizens' Willingness to Defend: What Do We Know and Don't Know?

Scott Kastner, University of Maryland

Prospects for Stability in the Taiwan Strait

Christina Lai, Academia Sinica

Power of the Weak: Taiwan Strategy in Countering China's Economic Coercion

Adam Liff, Indiana University

US Allies and the Taiwan Strait

4:45–5:00 pm: Public Conference Closing Remarks and Wrap-Up

Thomas J. Christensen, Columbia University



Events and Talks

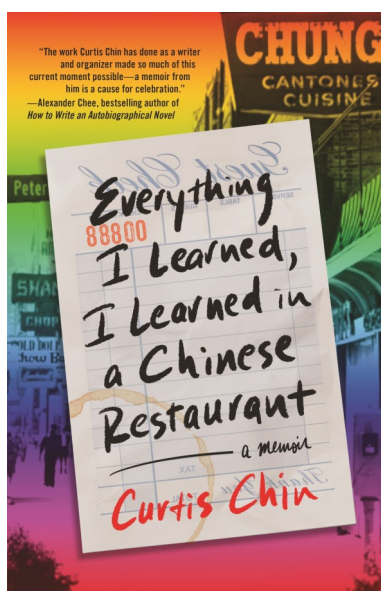
Curtis Chin discusses his memoir *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant*

On 20 May, [Anna Lora-Wainwright](#) (Professor in the Human Geography of China, School of Geography and the Environment & the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies) hosted writer, producer, director and activist, Curtis Chin, at the China Centre, to discuss his award-winning memoir, [Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant](#), about growing up gay, Asian American, and working-class in 1980s Detroit.

Chin read excerpts from his book, and shared his experience as a writer, the turning point presented by the murder of Vincent Chin, and how being a waiter in the family restaurant taught him to connect with strangers, learn from them and be a better writer. He reflected on the role of the book – in the aftermath of George Floyd's murder, and given the cuts to EDI initiatives since Trump's re-election – in raising awareness about racism and encouraging equality and inclusion.

In his initial exchange with Prof. Lora-Wainwright, Chin discussed how the framing of coming out as an individual hero's journey in the mainstream media is at odds with his own journey, in which considerations about how his family would respond played a very central role. In response to the host's observations about generational differences in the extent to which members of the British Chinese community feel entitled to demand equality, he shared some reflections on similar generational differences between Asian Americans of his generation (or younger) who are growing more confident in pushing back against racism and their predecessors, who very much abided by the dictum "work hard, obey your elders and be quiet".

The event attracted a diverse audience from across the university and included a lively Q and A ranging from the ethics of food appropriation to tips on engaging with the publishing industry.



Photograph by Curtis Chin

Events and Talks

Oxford China Policy Lab Conference at the China Centre

On **23 May**, the Oxford China Policy Lab (OCPL) hosted its annual closed-door conference, “Navigating Emerging Technologies, Geopolitics, and Risk”, at the China Centre. The event brought together over 50 participants from academia, government, and industry to examine the UK’s evolving role amid intensifying US–China competition in emerging technologies, particularly artificial intelligence.

The day featured a series of keynote remarks, expert panels, and fireside conversations exploring topics such as China’s technology and industrial strategies, AI nationalism and sovereignty, and the role of multilateral cooperation in managing global technological challenges. Participants reflected on how to manage risk without stifling innovation, and how to sustain engagement in an era of accelerating geopolitical complexity. The event underscored the importance of convening diverse perspectives to enable critical reflection and informed dialogue on complex policy challenges.



Events and Talks

Conference on Southern Encounters hosted by Margaret Hillenbrand

On 6 June, **Margaret Hillenbrand** (Professor of Modern Chinese Literature and Visual Culture, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies) hosted, at the China Centre, a conference on Southern Encounters: Nanyang and New Cultural Regionalities in Chinese Studies.

Speakers included:

Jannis Jizhou Chen, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Apocalypse from the Borderland: The Hodopoetics of Tong Mo's Southwest Imagination

Yeo Min Hui, Nanyang Technological University

An Exotic Turn: The Emergence of Nanyang-as-Other in Hong Kong Cinema

Tan Li Wen Jessica, Lingnan University

Caught between Homelands: Rethinking the Chinese Socialist Bildungsroman

Cheow Thia Chan, National University of Singapore

Enacting a Global Contemporary: Wang Anyi and Regional Intimacies in the Sinophone South



Events and Talks

Oxford Chinese Law Discussion Group Conference 2025: Seeing from Others

The Oxford Chinese Law Discussion Group (CLDG), affiliated with the Faculty of Law at the University of Oxford, hosted its 2025 conference for junior researchers on **6 and 7 June**. This year's conference provided an invaluable platform for early-career scholars to showcase their ongoing research, receive insightful feedback from peers and senior academics, and engage in meaningful academic networking.

The conference's theme this year, "Seeing from Others", highlighted the importance of perspective-taking, as law is indeed a matter of inter-subjectivity. Fundamentally, law is designed to reconcile relationships between some entities and "others", encompassing individuals, interest groups, governmental bodies, and nations, and the art of effective communication and perspective taking has always been a central theme of law. Such features seem all the more significant in the increasingly pluralistic (yet also polarised) world today. Additionally, law is not merely a self-fulfilling language system; it grows in tandem with dynamic social realities, thereby necessitating the integration of external resources for a better understanding of its operation, evolution, and effect. "Seeing from others" and positioning oneself is therefore an important requisite for resolving substantial legal questions, as well as developing rigorous methodologies for legal research.

This is the second annual conference for junior researchers organized by the CLDG since its inception. Established in 2018, the CLDG has served as a vibrant forum dedicated to exploring the intersections and comparisons among Chinese, civil, and common law traditions, as well as international law issues related to China. This year, the CLDG is co-convened by [Sharon Xiaohan Zhang](#), Yang Qiu, and Yue Cao, current DPhil students at the Law Faculty.



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. The previous speakers include Robert B. Zoellick, Christopher Marquis, John Edwards, Megan Walsh, Kerry Brown, Fuchsia Dunlop, Shaun Breslin and Jorge Toledo.

The Baillie Gifford Distinguished Speaker for Trinity Term 2025 (**9 June**) was **Sir Danny Alexander**, CEO of HSBC Infrastructure Finance (HIF) & Sustainability, Corporate and Institutional Banking, who spoke about “Lessons from Establishing the AIIB”.

Drawing on his experience in the UK government and 9 years in Beijing founding and leading the Bank, Sir Danny discussed the process of establishing the AIIB, how it has become established as an international institution and as a financier, and the lessons from this for the development of the multilateral system and for meeting current global development challenges.

Oxford University International Relations Society panel discussion



On **11 June**, Oxford University International Relations Society, the University of Oxford China Centre, and Oxford China Policy Lab hosted a panel discussion titled “Making China Policy in an Era of Great Power Competition”.

The panelists, Professor Todd Hall, Professor Kerry Brown (King’s College London), and Ruby Osman (Tony Blair Institute) discussed how the UK and the US deal with the common challenge of a rising China, as well as uncertainties in UK–US relations created by Donald Trump’s return to the White House.

Events and Talks

China Centre Talk Series

The China Centre Talk Series is a talk series run by the University of Oxford China Centre. Hilary Term 2025 included “The Political Thought of Xi Jinping” by Prof. Steve Tsang, SOAS; “Reading *Nineteen Eighty-Four* in Beijing” by Prof. Jeffrey Wasserstrom, UC Irvine; “US–China Relations in the 21st Century: Prospect and Retrospect” by Dr Andrew Scobell, United States Institute of Peace & Georgetown University; “The Art of State Persuasion: China’s Strategic Use of Media in Interstate Disputes” by Dr Frances Yaping Wang, Colgate University; “Pathways to Conflict in the South China Sea” by Prof. David A. Welch, University of Waterloo; “Land and the Origins of Contemporary Politics in Asia – Mainland China, Taiwan, Indonesia and Malaysia” by Prof. William Hurst, University of Cambridge; “From Click to Boom: The Political Economy of E-commerce in China” by Dr Lizhi Liu, Georgetown University; “The End of Engagement: America’s China Experts and US Strategy Since 1989” by Prof. David M. McCourt, UC Davis.

The following China Centre Talks took place in Trinity Term 2025:

Week 0

Governing Digital China by Daniela Stockmann and Ting Luo
Prof. Daniela (Danie) Stockmann, the Hertie School
Friday 25 April, 12:00
Lucina Ho Seminar Room

Week 2

The Unfinished Modernisation: Women’s Cinema in China’s Reform Era
Prof. Lidan Hu, Sichuan University
Wednesday 7 May, 12:00
Ho Tim Seminar Room

Week 4

Everything I learned in Life, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant
Curtis Chin
Tuesday 20 May, 15:00
The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 5

Institutional Genes: The Origins of China’s Institutions and Totalitarianism
Prof. Chenggang Xu, Stanford University
Monday 26 May, 12:00
The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 8

Constructing Chinese Plans: China’s Multi-Tiered and Diverse Approaches to Global Governance Reform
Prof. Bowen Yu, Fudan University
Friday 20 June, 12:00
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. Hilary Term 2025 seminars included “Grassroots Officials, Worker Wrongs, and Masculinity in the Nantong Municipal Steel Rolling Mill c. 1970” by Dr Amanda Zhang, UCL; “Industrial Policy, Economic Statecraft and National Security: The US–Taiwan–China Semiconductor Triangle” by Prof. Chun-yi Lee, University of Nottingham; “A China Reporter’s Notebook - Watching a Great Power Open and Rise, then Turn Inwards” by David Rennie, *The Economist*; “A Nosedive into Medieval China: Smells, Identities, and the Writing of the Olfactory Past” by Dr Flavia Fan, Institute of Historical Research & SOAS, University of London; “China’s Evolving Approach to Economic Security” by Prof. Ye-ling Tan, University of Oxford; “Diaspora Chinese and Modern China: Transnationalism and Class of the Chinese of the British West Indies, the 1880s–1970s” by Prof. Setsuko Sonoda, Ritsumeikan University; “Taiwan and its Southeast Asia Challenge” by Prof. Alex Tan, University of Canterbury & University of Oxford; “The US–China Conflict and a Divided Southeast Asia: Implications for Taiwan” by Prof. Thitinan Pongsudhirak, Chulalongkorn University; “Yang sheng and Diaitētikē: Comparative Perspectives on Regimen in Early China” by Dr Arthur Harris, Needham Institute, Cambridge; “Involuntary Bachelorhood and the Crises of the Son-centred Intergenerational Contract – Insights from Gender-imbalanced Rural China” by Prof. Lisa Elklund, Lund University. The following seminars took place in Trinity Term 2025:

Week 1

Exploration in the Bedchamber: Maidservants in Late Ming Erotic Novels

Dr Cheuk Yee Wai, University of Oxford

Thursday, 1 May, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 2

Authoritarian Teleology

Professor Iza Ding, Northwestern University

Thursday, 8 May, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 3

Public Service, Party-State: Teaching, Gender, Power and Memory in China, 1940s–1980s

Dr Joseph Lawson, Newcastle University

Thursday 15 May, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 4

Reimagining Chinese Diasporas in a Transnational World: Hypermobility, Hyperdiversity and Hyperconnectivity

Professor Shibao Guo, University of Calgary

Monday 19 May 12:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 5

How to Move the Masses on Chinese Social Media: A Narrative-Platform Approach

Professor Guobin Yang, University of Pennsylvania

Monday 26 May, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 5

A Confucian Academy in 21st Century Hebei: Rethinking “truth” in Chinese Religion

Dr Gareth Breen, LSE

Thursday 29 May 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 6 (a China Studies/Taiwan Studies Seminar)

Startup Capitalism: New Approaches to Innovation Strategies in China and Taiwan?

Dr Robyn Klingler-Vidra, King's College London

Thursday, 5 June, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 7

“Non-People” in the People’s Republic: Class Enemies in Maoist China

Dr Mark Czeller, Institute of Historical Research, University of London

Thursday 12 June 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Events and Talks

China Studies Seminar Series (cont.)

Week 8 (a China Studies/Taiwan Studies Seminar)

Is Taiwan Leading Asia in Women's Political Representation?

Professor Chang-ling Huang, National Taiwan University

Monday, 16 June, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 8 (a China Studies/Taiwan Studies Seminar)

The Taiwan Test: Assessing Societal Resilience Using COVID Governance Experience

Dr Yen Wei-ting, Academia Sinica, Taiwan

Thursday, 19 June, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 9

Burnout Market Feminism: Urban Chinese Businesswomen in the Internet Age

Dr Ling Tang, University of Melbourne

Thursday 26 June 17:00

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. Hilary Term 2025 seminars featured "Transforming the Way of Water: Yvonne Owuor's *The Dragonfly Sea* and Zao Wou-Ki's Paintings" by Shuangyi Li (University of Bristol) and "Anthropocene Urbanity and Surreal Imagery: Hong Kong in Contemporary Sinophone Fiction" by Xiaofan Amy Li (UCL).

In Trinity Term 2025, the following seminars took place:

Week 2

A Touch of Noir: The Rise of Parasitic Media in Contemporary China

Dr Shiqi Lin, Cornell University

Wednesday 7 May, 17:00

Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 6

Animation Thinks: A Story of Media Entanglements in China

Dr Panpan Yang, SOAS

'Animation Thinks: A Story of Media Entanglements in China'

Tuesday 3 June, 17:00

Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 7

The Art of Anti-Utopia: Visual and Poetic Narratives on Russia's War against Ukraine across the Taiwan Strait

Prof. Daria Berg & Qian Cui (co-author), University of St.Gallen, Switzerland

Tuesday 10 June, 17:00

Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 8

I Film, Therefore We Are: Chinese Labourers, UGC, and the New Collective Documentary

Dr Jing Wang, University of Oxford

Tuesday 17 June, 17:00

Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Events and Talks

International History of East Asia Seminar

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. Hilary Term 2025 seminars included : "Subaltern Labour in Colonial Singapore and the Western Front" by Hema Kiruppallini, National University of Singapore and Julia Godart, Université du Québec à Montréal and Université Paris Cité; "Economic Autonomy and State Control in 20th Century East Asia" by Gus Tsz-kit Chan, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg and Man-Sing Cheung (Marco), University of Oxford; "Colonial Projects and Local Realities in East Asian 'Peripheries'" by Scott Ma, University of Zurich and Surigage, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven; "Designing for Scarcity, Navigating Decline: Architecture, Industry, Global Economic Transformation in Twentieth-Century China" by Huirong Cheng, University of Edinburgh and Niall Chithelen, University of California, San Diego.

Trinity Term 2025 seminars in the series included:

Week 2

Anti-Fascist and Human Rights Movements in the 1930s and 60s

Dr Ferran de Vargas, University of Edinburgh

Wolfgang Thiele, Free University of Berlin

Wednesday 7 May, 17:00

Ho Tim Seminar Room

Week 4

Reframing Modern China: Deaf Education and the Sensory Politics of Race and Empire

Shu Wan, University at Buffalo

Gemma McLean-Carr, University of Edinburgh

Wednesday 21 May, 17:00

Online

Week 6

The Ties that Bind: Military and Revolutionary Networks Across Asia

Zachary Clark, Pennsylvania State University

Dr Ning Zhang, University of Oxford

Wednesday 4 June, 17:00

Lucina Ho Seminar Room

Week 8

Colonial Intersections and Global Connections: China, Japan and Manchuria in the Early 20th Century

Zhenyan Lu, King's College London

Dr Gloria Yu Yang, Kyushu University

Wednesday 18 June, 13:00

Hybrid: Merton College, TS Eliot theatre



Events and Talks

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. In Hilary Term 2025, three talks were given, as part of the series: “The Emotions of Empire: Love, Desire, and the Moral Psychology of Cosmic Resonance in the Lǔshi Chunqiu and Huainanzi” by Dr Curie Virág, University of Warwick; “Kingdom of Pines: State Forestry and the Making of Early Modern Korea, 1392–1910” by Dr John Lee, University of Durham; “Adachi and Amano: Local and National in the Wake of the Mongol Invasions of Japan” by Dr Philip Garrett, Newcastle University.

In Trinity Term 2025, the following seminars took place:

Week 1

The Intercultural “Morality Books” (善書) of Seventeenth Century Chinese Christian Converts

Valentina Yang, KU Leuven

Tuesday 29 April, 17:00

Lucina Ho Seminar Room

Week 3

Why Marco Polo did not go to China: Lessons for Art History

Prof. Shane McCausland, SOAS

Tuesday 13 May, 17:00

Lucina Ho Seminar Room

Week 5

The “Unmoved Heart” of Mengzi 孟子 2A2 Revisited

Prof. Jeffrey Riegel, UC Berkeley

Tuesday 27 May, 17:00

Lucina Ho Seminar Room

Week 6

Central Asian Christian Perspectives on Mongol Chaghatai Rule

Benjamin Sharkey, University of Oxford

Tuesday 3 June, 17:00

Lucina Ho Seminar Room

Week 7

The Physics of the Ki in Early Edo Japan (17-18th Centuries): Materialising Fate, Nature and Ethics

Prof. Matthias Hayek, EPHE

Tuesday 10 June, 17:00

Lucina Ho Seminar Room

Week 8

Reports of a Lesser Sign: The Intertwining of Strange Trees with Political and Religious Authority in Early Imperial China

Dr Oliver Hargrave, University of Oxford

Tuesday 17 June, 17:00

Lucina Ho 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](#).

Taiwan Reading Group

The student-led Taiwan Reading Group met biweekly at the China Centre during Trinity Term 2025.

**2024/25 TRINITY TERM
TAIWAN READING GROUP**

Week 2, 7th May
The Evolution of Hong Kong as a Professional Destination: A Study of Taiwanese Workers' Perspectives and Experiences in the New 'Post-NSI' Period'
Chiang, L.-H. N., Wong, Z. K. C., & Huang, C.-Y. 2016. *Recent (Young) Taiwanese Movers to Hong Kong: Challenges and Opportunities in a Global City*, *China Review*, 16(2), 137–164.
– Nika Janigova

Week 4, 21st May
A Political Philosophy of Island Boundary
G. K. Chesterton, "The Philosophy of Islands."
– Thomas Wang

Week 6, 4th June
Are "Foreign Forces" Driving Taiwanese Politics?
Wang, A. H., Yao-Yuan Yeh, Charles K.S. Wu, and Fang-Yu Chen. 2023. "Why Does Taiwan Identity Decline?" *Journal of Asian and African Studies*
– Nicholas Chiu

Week 8, 18th June
Willingness to Fight and its Implications
Wu, Charles K.S., Fang-Yu Chen, and Yao-Yuan Yeh. 2023. "Public Support for Self-Defence in Taiwan: The Current State of Research," *Taiwan Politics*, November.
– Hugo Tai

Biweekly 15:00-17:00
Language Laboratory 2, China Centre

Link to
Reading Material

ENQUIRIES:
CHING.PEA@SOCIOLOGY.OX.AC.UK

Ox.C.R.G.
OXFORD CHINA READING GROUP
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. W4: Ho Tim Room)

Week Topic and Readings

TT1 Identity and Conformity on the 'Chinese Frontier'
· Kinzley, *Natural Resources and the New Frontier*, chap. 1
· Tobin, *Securing China's Northwest Frontier*, chap. 6

TT2 The Problem of Nationalism
· Levenson, *Confucian China and its Modern Fate*, chaps. 7-9.
· Wang, *China from Empire to Nation-State*, chap. 4

TT3 Chinese Developmentalism in the Nanjing Decade
· Zanas, *Saving the Nation*, chap. 4
· Kirby, 'Engineering China'

TT4 Governing Shanghai: The SMC and SMP
· Jackson, 'Who Ran the Treaty Ports'
· Bickers, 'Who were the Shanghai Municipal Police'

TT5 Curing the Fifth Week Blues: Pub Social
· Join us at the Royal Oak on Woodstock Road for a mid-term break!

TT6 Intellectuals and the Public Sphere
· Veg, *Minjian: The Rise of China's Grassroots Intellectuals*, chap. 3
· Veg and Cheng, 'Alternative Publications, Spaces, and Publics'

TT7 Sustaining Continuity: Conservation Approaches to Placemaking for Chinese Voluntary Associations
· Friedmann, 'Place and Placemaking in Cities'
· Giedion, *Space, Time and Architecture*

TT8 Rethinking Hong Kong's Laissez-Faire Myth
· Chiu and Siu, *Hong Kong Society*, chap. 5
· Goodstadt, *Uneasy Partners*, chap. 6

Find us on Facebook/Twitter(X): [Oxford China Reading Group/@OxfordCRG](#)
Click Here for Readings: <https://tinyurl.com/yc47kf44>

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CONTACT US



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