

ISSUE 5 June 2023

NEWSLETTER



CHINA CENTRE



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Message from the Director



Greetings!

Spring is once more upon us, and we at the China Centre have remained as busy as ever. As you will see in the pages to follow, we have played host to a robust schedule of events whose topics span across disciplines from the distant past to the immediate present, showcasing the rich diversity China Studies and the study of China – broadly understood – has to offer. We have welcomed renowned scholars, award winning authors, and significant political figures. And we have also shared stories, thoughts, and observations over cups of coffee during the weekly coffee hours in the Director’s Room.

This term, however, we are also saying farewell to Prof Rana Mitter, who will be leaving Oxford to take up a position at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. Rana did an amazing job of running the China Centre from 2013–2020, overseeing the opening of our new building and cementing its position as a global hub for rigorous China-focused and China-related scholarship. We would not be where we are today without his tireless work and dedication, not to mention his ability to deal with all variety of challenges with extraordinarily good humour. While we wish to congratulate him on his new position, we also will sorely miss him and want him to know we will always consider him a cherished part of our community. We will be holding a farewell event on the 16th of June at 17:00 in the Woodsworth Tea Room at the China Centre. Please do join us to celebrate the time he has spent at Oxford and send him off as he begins a new chapter.

Sincerely,

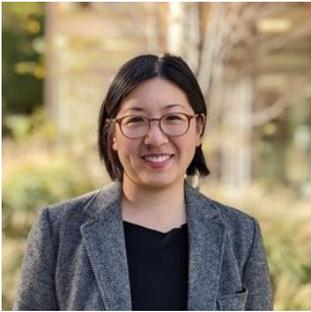
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Todd Hall'.

Todd Hall
Director of the China Centre

An Interview with Dr Evelyn Chan, Departmental Lecturer, Oxford School of Global and Area Studies

Dr Evelyn Chan recently became a Departmental Lecturer at the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies. She spoke with us about her research interests and current projects.

Could you tell us a little bit about what you are working on right now?



I am currently working on two projects. I am transforming a chapter of my dissertation for a stand-alone article. In it, I examine the emergence of unregistered (fei zhuce 非注册) or underground (dixia 地下) student organizations (xuesheng shetuan 学生社团). I predominantly followed student groups that were interested in gender and LGBTQ issues. Many of these groups were unable to register as an official student organization at their university, and as such operated unofficially or “underground”. In the piece, I trace their emergence and how they developed given the restrictive environment on campus. My study of these groups is indicative of how non-compliance is an important feature of the study of contentious politics.

I am also working on a text analysis project, in which I examine online templates for party membership applications (rudang shenqing shu 入党申请书). Applying to be a party member has been sometimes described as a perfunctory and formalistic process, in which candidates often go online and copy texts for their application. I scrape a sample of these templates from the Xi period and from the Hu period to discern if there is a change in what people are

What sparked your interest in these questions?

The topic of political engagement among Chinese youth has always interested me. Much of the literature at the time focused on how, in the post-Tiananmen period, young people were politically apathetic, and the regime has successfully co-opted this subpopulation. My dissertation project was originally motivated by the question of student party membership, specifically if young people are motivated by instrumental goals to join the party, how can the regime ensure they can attract and produce loyal party members? I sought to study the different institutions and mechanisms within the Chinese university system that are responsible for political education, including the party membership recruitment process. In the process of this research, I met students who were part of various unofficial student clubs. A pivotal event occurred when I was sitting in on a required political education course (“sixiang daode xiuyang falu jichu 思想道德修养与法律基础”). A student noticed that I was jumping the Great Fire Wall, where I had been on Facebook and Google. He approached me afterwards and talked to me about an unregistered group that he was a part of. It dawned on me that a photo, in which I had passed by many times as part of a photo exhibition, featured the exact group he was referring to. In the photo, students held a rainbow flag, and their faces were covered with face masks. I began to wonder about the strategies that these student groups undertake. What kind of challenges do they face? What other types of student organizations operate unofficially? How can an unofficial student group for instance manage to get their photo in a school exhibition? This led me down a

That sounds very serendipitous! And so your focus is on non-compliance?

Short of overt protests, the existence of these student organizations and the strategies they adopted suggested rule-breaking and non-compliance might be more prevalent. Contrary to the ideas in the literature that students in the post-Tiananmen period are apathetic and disengaged, here are students willing to challenge university rules to form these clubs. For instance, if student groups wanted to hold events and promote their activities, they need to submit applications and obtain approval from different university departments. Because these groups are unregistered and it would be difficult to do that, some groups talked about how they would ask official student clubs to book classroom facilities on their behalf. One student group mentioned they would put up posters in spaces where it is unlikely for faculty/staff to see them, such as shower rooms. Held each semester, student clubs also participate in the university wide event called baituan dazhan 百团大战, in which clubs have their own booths and tables to promote their group and recruit members. Unregistered groups are unable to participate in this type of event. One group talked about how since they could not recruit members this way, they instead went to dorm rooms to pass on information. Although this rule-breaking behaviour is small in scale compared to a protest, it illustrates the ways in which political control is tested within a university campus.

An Interview with Dr Ssu-Han Yu, Senior Research Fellow in Taiwan Studies Programme, OSGA

Dr Ssu-Han Yu has recently joined us as the Senior Research Fellow in Taiwan Studies, Oxford School of Global and Area Studies. She spoke with us about her research interests and current projects.

Could you tell us a little bit about what you are working on right now?



I am revising one of my PhD thesis chapters and turning it into a journal article. This article concerns the role of LINE, the most popular instant messaging application in Taiwanese society, in shaping intergenerational relationships in the family sphere. The two generations of my research focus are the generation of Democratic Consolidation, which consists of young people born in the 1980s and coming of age around the first party change in the ruling government in 2000, and the generation of Soft Authoritarianism, namely my young informants' parents who experienced authoritarian rule first-hand as they lived through the Chiang Kai-shek or Chiang Ching-kuo regimes. It is shown that the Democratic Consolidation and the Soft Authoritarianism generations co-constructed a harmonious and depoliticised family by practising 'jia chang' (家常) in LINE Family Groups. For the Soft Authoritarianism generation, sharing 'elderly pictures' (長輩圖, zhang bei tu) is key to maintaining parents' presence in the family and establishing a caring but

In response the Democratic Consolidation generation often resorts to silence or turns to peer groups. I argue that LINE Family Groups do not enhance the role of parents in the political socialisation of their grown children but reproduce an instructive style of parenting and consequently increase the distance between the two generations. I also discuss some rare occasions when the two generations engage in political talk and different dynamics of political talk in the KMT and DPP family.

So what led you to this topic?

My research interest in generational politics and political communications in the family context originates from my experience of participating in the 2014 Sunflower Movement during which I came to know how much my political views diverged from my parents' and how difficult it was to deal with differences and disagreements especially with close family members. I also came to notice the opportunities and risks presented by the media in relation to political communications and participation. On Facebook I wrote a few posts about my observation of the Movement. My cousin, who I had added as Friend on Facebook, mentioned this to her father. My uncle then called my father, who had no Facebook account. My father was so upset with me that he declined my calls and refused to talk to me face to face. My mother became the mediator who helped pass the word and read my messages to my father – one of the messages was an email titled "For my parents", in which I explained why I participated in the Movement and ensured that I would take care of myself on the movement scene. While this email and the rest of my messages didn't earn me a chance to talk to my father, I exchanged views with not only friends but also strangers in Movement-related online communities. Even though my father started to talk to me again after the Movement ended, the puzzles have stayed with me: Why do my parents and I have different political views? How can we talk about politics? In what ways do the media empower or hinder political communications?

So, this topic is one deeply interrelated with your own experiences. What then is occurring in those rare situations where political dialogue is happening?

Political dialogue could take place when young people and their parents share similar political views. The meaning of talking about politics under such circumstance is more about ascertaining the consistency of opinion than about building a deeper understanding of each other's views. Political talk could also happen on a more mundane occasion when family members are physically together at the dining table or in the living room at mealtimes – as they usually have the TV news on when eating their meals. The TV news channels are normally selected by parents, and

Interview with Ssu-Han Yu (Continued)

they are criticised by both generations as partisan, hence they are useful in creating talking points but not in generating fruitful conversations. These conversations are often characterised by rhetorical questions. Since my 6-month fieldwork overlapped with the 2018 municipal elections and referendums, there were some political discussions between young people and their parents on certain political candidates, and the referendums on legalising same-sex marriage and on replacing “Chinese Taipei” with “Taiwan” when participating in international sports competitions. Han Kuo-yu was most likely to be mentioned in family political talk which was usually initiated by parents, especially those identifying with the KMT, and also because he could be seen everywhere in the media, as many of my younger and older research informants pointed out.

Conversation about same-sex marriage was more likely to take place between young people and their mothers, and it featured a specific way of storytelling, “heart-warming attacks” (溫情攻勢, wen qing gong shi). According to my young informants, this discursive strategy was used to evoke the sympathy of listeners. In the families where parents identify with the DPP, political talk about the subject of national identity was more likely to happen, but regardless of party identification and of generation, I observed that many informants narrated a news story in which athletes were victims because their rights to compete in the Tokyo Olympics could be denied if Taiwanese society voted in favour of the referendum on using “Taiwan” in international sports competitions.

This is all fascinating. Is there anywhere our readers could look to find your works?

I published a book chapter titled “Exploring the ‘the authentic’ in Taiwanese politics: An intergenerational analysis” in *Cultures of Authenticity* (Emerald Publishing, 2023). It discusses the similarities and differences in the way that the Soft Authoritarianism and Democratic Consolidation generations engage with unconventional politicians and perceive their authenticity. I’m happy to know that our university library offers online access to the book.

Additionally, my PhD thesis can be found in LSE Theses Online. Finally, people who might be interested in exchanging ideas with me are welcome to join me for my public talks – I usually update relevant information on the Oxford Taiwan Studies Programme [website](#).

In June I am going to present my research work at the 20th European Association of Taiwan Studies (EATS) Annual Conference. I would be more than happy to see and talk to your readers there.



Oxford Taiwan Studies Programme

Oxford School of Global and Area Studies



News Highlights

Professor Rana Mitter Moves to Harvard



From autumn 2023, I'll be taking up the ST Lee Chair in US-Asia relations at the Harvard Kennedy School. I'll be spending a lot of time thinking and teaching about China's changing role in the world, and in particular, bringing a historical perspective to understanding contemporary China. Most of the students I'll teach will be doing Master's degrees in Public Policy, and will need to think about China's relationship with the US in aspects of life from foreign relations to investment to social enterprises. I'll also explore the tensions in the relationship between China and the west.

This is a very crucial time in the relationship between China and the wider world and we need to understand it in its full range. There is no doubt that the security relationship between the two sides is tense, and students (from China, the west and the wider world) will need to understand the reasons why. But also, we need to understand China's role in the world as a norm-maker and shaper of economies, as well as its responsibilities when it comes to climate change. I'll want to talk to students about all of these. In all cases, I want to emphasize that understanding Chinese history has to be part of the context for interpreting contemporary China. The Chinese revolutions of the 20th century, the impact of war, and massive social change in countryside and city all play a role in shaping the China of today.

I've had over two decades with wonderful colleagues and students here in Oxford, and I'm hugely grateful for all I've learned from them. I'll still have official affiliations at Oxford – and I would want students and colleagues here to feel that they've got a point of contact in Cambridge MA. And if you're passing through – let me know!

Professor Xiaolan Fu spoke at UN STI Forum 2023



The 8th Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum) was held on 2 May at the UN Headquarters in New York. Professor Xiaolan Fu, the Director of the Oxford Technology and Management Centre for Development (TMCD) and Principal Investigator of the Inclusive Digital Model (IDMODEL) project, along with Professor Pervez Ghauri, the IDMODEL Co-Investigator from the University of Birmingham Business School, participated in the "Creating Resilience and Sustainable Innovations through Emerging Technologies" side event. Prof. Fu delivered the opening and concluding remarks and participated with Prof. Ghauri in the panel discussion.

Click [here](#).

News Highlights

Professor Rosemary Foot Podcast for the “Then and Now” Series



Professor Rosemary Foot took part in the “Then and Now” series organized by the Luskin Center for History and Policy, University of California, Los Angeles.

In the first episode of this new occasional series looking at the past, present, and future of the US-led international order, the host Ben Zdenkanovic was joined by the scholar of international relations Rosemary Foot. The two discussed the recent history of China-US relations, why China sees the Indo-Pacific bloc as the new NATO, and how the country seeks to reshape the norms dictating diplomacy and development.

More detail [here](#).

George Magnus Publishes on Chinese Economic Development



George Magnus wrote “Is China Turning Japanese?” on the LSE China Dialogues website.

China’s economic development model resembles that of Japan over 30 years ago with high savings and high investment, but with restrained consumption and rigid institutions weighing increasingly on macroeconomic success. China’s chronic over-investment and misallocation of capital, particularly in the property sector, pose a potentially bigger economic problem than Japan’s banking crisis in the 1990s. China has some advantages over Japan, such as a state-owned financial system that can prevent significant banks from failing and a closed capital account that can protect the country’s banking system and the economy from the risk of significant capital flight. This however might not prevent China from taking the same economic trajectory Japan has.

George Magnus is Research Associate at the University of Oxford China Centre. More detail [here](#).

Rosemary Foot’s Article Chosen for Special Panel by the Political Science Association



Rosemary Foot’s article (co-authored with Amy King) “China’s World View in the Xi Jinping Era: where do Japan, Russia, and the USA Fit?”, published in the *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, 2021, vol 23 (issue 2), pp. 210–227, has been chosen as one of the top five articles for the same journal and was discussed at a special panel – with other finalists – of the Political Science Association conference in Liverpool on 5 April 2023.

News Highlights

Professor Rosemary Foot spoke to the Guardian



Professor Rosemary Foot took spoke to the @guardian about China's diplomatic visit to Russia.

“China would have to take more of the brunt of western criticisms and actions were Russia not to exist in its present form.”

Click [here](#).

Professor Rana Mitter interviewed by CGTN



In an interview with CGTN anchor Xu Qinduo, Rana Mitter, former Director of the University of Oxford China Centre and Fellow of St Cross College, says that compared to the United States and the United Kingdom, China has risen rapidly in the international community, which is an unfinished story. Although there may be difficult conversations, he looks forward to seeing more countries join in the effort to develop this particular narrative.

Click [here](#).



Project Showcase

The TEXTCOURT Project

Conference: Late Imperial Chinese Court Drama and Digitisation of Ancient Texts in Cross-Cultural Perspectives 19-20 May 2023, Oxford

TEXTCOURT: Linking the Textual Worlds of Chinese Court Theatre, ca. 1600–1800, a five-year research project whose aim is to develop a digital archive of court drama texts to connect and link them with their local and global contexts is going to hold a conference in Trinity Term. Jointly organised by the International Institute of Chinese Studies of Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), Centre of Vietnamese Studies at School of Asian Studies of Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) and the TEXTCOURT team from the University of Oxford, the two-day conference, "Late Imperial Chinese Court Drama and Digitisation of Ancient Texts in Cross-Cultural Perspectives", explores the development and interconnection of both the studies on Ming-Qing court theatre and manuscript digitisation.



The conference was held concurrently in Beijing and in Oxford, with respective in-person gathering points in both venues.

May 19 (Friday), 08:30–11:30, Ho Tim Room, University of Oxford China Centre

May 20 (Saturday), 08:30–11:30, Lucina Ho Room, University of Oxford China Centre

Participants in Oxford were able to interact virtually with participants in China. The conference was open to AMES staff and students, and conducted in Chinese.

Click [here](#) for details.

Public Lecture: The Transmission of Ming vernacular fiction in Joseon and Japan: using *The Romance of Three Kingdoms*, *The Water Margins*, *Journey to the West* as examples

Prof. Kin Bunkyō, 22 May 2023



As is known, vernacular fiction is the representative literary genre of Ming China (1368–1644). Ming vernacular fiction was swiftly transmitted to neighbouring nations such as Vietnam, Joseon and Japan, gaining widespread popularity and thus became highly influential. At present, both Japan and Korea have preserved a large amount of fiction in Ming editions, many of those being rare copies long lost in China. It is no exaggeration to say that studying Ming fiction is impossible without resources from Japan and Korea.

Professor Kin Bunkyō introduced the main editions of representational Ming works such as *The Romance of Three Kingdoms*, *The Water Margin*, and *Journey to the West* collected in Japan and Korea, as well as the challenges faced by relevant academic institutions at present. Professor Kin Bunkyō is Professor emeritus of Kyoto University. He has taught in Keiō University, Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University, and Tsurumi University. Professor Kin is an expert in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean literary traditions, with his decades of research covering a range of themes from Chinese fiction and drama to Literary Sinitic.

Conference Showcase

Oxford–Freiburg Workshop on "Visual Cultures and Cultures of Reading in the PRC" 18–19 May 2023

The Oxford-Freiburg Workshop, co-organised by ERC-READCHINA (Freiburg) and China Centre Fellow Professor Margaret Hillenbrand, was held at the Oxford University China Centre, Lucina Ho Seminar Room, 18–19 May 2023. The workshop was a venue for sharing ongoing research with peers and colleagues, as well as for exchanging comments, insights and ideas with new and old friends.

18 May 2023, Lucina Seminar Room, China Centre

Introduction and Coffee 10:00–10:30

Panel 1 10:30–12:00

Panellists:

Emily Graf: Incommensurable Worlds of Health in CanXue's *Barefoot Doctor* (2019)

Annabella Massey, Enzymes of the Soul: Sickness Narratives and the Wounded Healer in Bi Gan's *Kaili Blues*

Lunch 1:00–13:30

Panel 2 13:00–15:00

Panellists:

Eve Y Lin: Consumer Culture as Visual Culture in Contemporary Chinese Bookstores

William Blythe: The Dangers of Knowing Too Much: Self-censorship and Encyclopaedism in Qian Zhongshu's Private Notebooks

Coffee 15:00–17:30

Panel 3 15:30–17:00

Panellists:

Lara Y. Yang: Virtual Dust: Digitalised Images as Research Materials in Confucius dotcom Era China

Ziru Chen: The Unsettled Directorship of Meishi

19 May 2023, Lucina Seminar Room, China Centre

Introduction and Coffee 10:00–10:30

Panel 1 09.30–11:00

Panellists:

Aoife Cantrill: A Perfect Child: Writing and Rewriting Model Girlhood in Wartime Taiwan

Jiaqi Kang, Disabled Lesbian Erotics and the Concept of Conceptual Art in Xu Tan's *Allegory of Love II* (1993)

Coffee 11:00–11.30

Panel 2 11:30–13:00

Panellists:

Coraline Jortay: Translating Racism in 1930s China: Chen Xuezhao, Roy de Coverley, and Sino-Black Solidarities in Translation

Nick Stember: The Walking Dead: Influencer Urbanism as Historical Horror in the Count of E's Chongqing Maze — Lost in the Mist

Lunch 13:00–14:30

Panel 3 14:30–16:00

Panellists:

Xiaochu Wu: It Follows: Camera Movement and the Affect of Despair in An Elephant Sitting Still

Contact and Enrollment:
Margaret Hillenbrand, margaret.hillenbrand@chinese.ox.ac.uk

Organizers:
ERC-READCHINA (Freiburg)
China Centre (Oxford)

**VISUAL CULTURES AND
CULTURES OF READING
IN THE PRC**

Conference on Chinese Art and Literature in the Republican Era and Beyond

To thank Dr Paul Bevan for his teaching at Oxford over the past few years and to celebrate his research, exhibitions, translations, and publications focussing on Chinese art and literature of the Republican era, a one-day conference in his honour took place in the Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre, University of Oxford China Centre on Wednesday 14 June 2023.

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Keynote : Paul Bevan 9:30–10:30

Behold the Man: George Grosz – the Reception of his Work in China and Japan, 1923–1937

Coffee 10:30–11:00

Panel 1 10:30–12:00

Panellists:

Craig Clunas: The Influence of the Republican Era on Ming Art

Xuelei Huang: The Perfumed and the Libidinal: An Ol-factory Revolution of the Body in Republican China

Lunch 12:30–14:00

Panel 2 14:00–15:30

Panellists:

Anne Witchard: Si-Lan Chen’s Red Shoes

Jeremy Taylor: Imagining “Central China” under Occupation: The Wang Jingwei Regime and the Visualisation of the Lower Yangtze Landscape in Wartime

Coffee 15:00–17:00

Panel 3 15:30–17:00

Panellists:

Annabella Massey: Enzymes of the Soul: Sickness Narratives and the Wounded Healer in Bi Gan’s Kaili Blues

Margaret Hillenbrand: Read My Mind: Facial Recognition Technology and Contemporary Chinese Portraiture Street

Drinks Reception 17:30–18:30

Keynote Abstract

Paul Bevan

During the Chinese Republican Era the work of German artist George Grosz (1893–1959) became popular in both China and Japan. It was first introduced to Japan by the cultural figure Murayama Tomoyoshi (1901–1977), and to China largely due to the efforts of Lu Xun (1881–1936), who had learned of its importance for left-wing artists in Japan through the publications of the artist, Yanase Masamu (1900–1945). By the mid-1930s, many Chinese artists were using Grosz’s drawings as models for their own art. Some produced close imitations of the German artist’s work, while others used what became known as the “Groszstyle” to develop their own individual approaches to Chinese modern art. The primary medium in which Grosz’s work (and the Chinese examples that were inspired by it) appeared, was the pictorial magazine (huabao), as published by various factions of the Chinese literary and art worlds at the time. This talk will explore the impact of Grosz’s work on both Japan and China through an examination of books and

Conference on Chinese art and literature in the Republican era



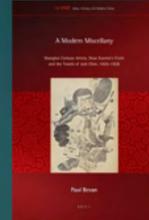
To thank Dr Paul Bevan for his teaching at Oxford over the past few years and to celebrate his research, exhibitions, translations, and publications focussing on Chinese art and literature of the Republican era, a one-day conference in his honour will take place at the China Centre, University of Oxford, on Wednesday 14 June 2023.

Keynote by Paul Bevan
Speakers to include Craig Clunas, Jeremy Taylor, Ann Witchard and Huang Xuelei on the Republican era, and Annabella Massey and Margaret Hillenbrand on contemporary visual culture.

For further details and to register, please contact Margaret.Hillenbrand@chinese.ox.ac.uk



University of Oxford China Centre
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Oxford OX2 0JY
www.chinese.ox.ac.uk



Other Relevant Conference

The Oxford University China-Africa Network Annual Conference, 6 June 2023

The Oxford University China-Africa Network (OUCAN) brings together scholars, policy makers, and graduate students to facilitate research on critical political, cultural, and socio-economic trends in the dynamic phenomenon of China–Africa relations. The rapid deepening and broadening of ties between the African continent and China is one of the most important geopolitical trends of the 21st century for Africa, and China’s economic miracle cannot be understood without analyzing its multifarious partnerships with African countries. The focus is not just on governments and state-owned enterprises, but also on cultural bodies, NGOs, small and medium-sized businesses, minorities and everyday citizens. The 2023 OUCAN Annual Conference was organised by the Department of Politics and International Relations and the University of Oxford China Centre, and was held at the Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre, China Centre.

Arrival and Introduction 10:00–10:30

Panel 1 - The Future of Chinese Investment in Africa 10:30–12:00

Chair: Stefan Dercon, University of Oxford

Panelists: Linda Calabrese, King’s College London and Overseas Development Institute; Aleyamehu Geda, Addis Ababa University; Tin Hinane El Kari, London School of Economics; Tianyi Wu, University of Oxford

Panel 2 - The Political Economy of Debt Restructuring 13:00–14:30

Chair: Folishadé Soulé-Kohndou, University of Oxford

Panelists:Théo Maret, Global Sovereign Advisory; Oscar M. Otole, University of Nairobi; Sishuwa Sishuwa, Stellenbosch University; Marina Zucker Marques, SOAS, University of London

Keynote Speech 15:00–15:50

China's Rise and the Future of International Finance

Avinash Persaud, Government of Barbados

Panel 3 - Climate Action in Africa: The Role of Chinese Capital and technology 15:50–17:20

Chair: Harry Verhoeven, Columbia University

Panelists: Lakshmi Bhamidpati, UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre; Sam Geall, China Dialogue; Wangari Muchiri, Global Wind Energy Council; Yixian Sun, University of Bath

Closing Remarks 17:20–17:30



The Oxford University Silk Road Society Panel: Student Movement in Asia

26 May 2023

The Oxford University Silk Road Society Panel: Student Movement in Asia was held at Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre, China Centre on Friday 26 May 2023.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the last couple of years have witnessed a wave of student-led unrest across Asia. This event centred on online dissent in China, India, and Iran over the last two years and specifically focused on protest cultures and the pattern of online surveillance and media censorship in these respective countries. As the world's two most populous countries, it is crucial to understand the spaces of dissent in India and China from an academic perspective given the differences in political motivations and consequent reactions from the authorities. Recently, women and Gen Z have been dubbed as spearheading the protests in Iran, particularly in online circles, in response to escalating government crackdowns. OSRS invited four excellent academics to talk about their respective areas of specialism to contribute toward the discussion on the intersection of student politics, online dissent, and states' roles in curbing political movements.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SILK ROAD SOCIETY RELAUNCH

KIN-KU CHENG
LECTURE THEATRE,
CHINA CENTER
BUILDING, OXFORD



OXFORD UNIVERSITY
SILK ROAD
SOCIETY

FRIDAY 26th MAY
3:00 PM

PRESENTS

STUDENT MOVEMENTS IN ASIA

MODERATED BY
Professor Ralph
Schroeder, Oxford
Internet Institute



Mahsa Alimardani
Dphil Candidate,
Oxford Internet
Institute



Evelyn Chan
Lecturer,
University of
Oxford

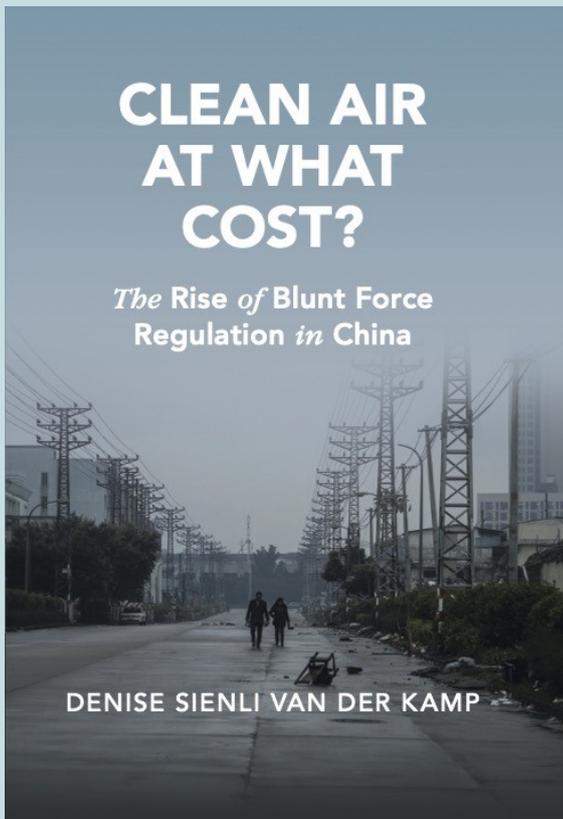


Megha Mishra
Graduate, Oxford
Internet Institute



Featured Books

Denise Sienli van der Kamp (2023), *Clean Air at What Cost: The Rise of Blunt Force Regulation in China*, Cambridge University Press. Click [here](#).



China's green transition is often perceived as a lesson in authoritarian efficiency. In just a few years, the state managed to improve air quality, contain dissent, and restructure local industry. Much of this was achieved through top-down, "blunt force" solutions, such as forcibly shuttering or destroying polluting factories. This book argues that China's blunt force regulation is actually a sign of weak state capacity and ineffective bureaucratic control.

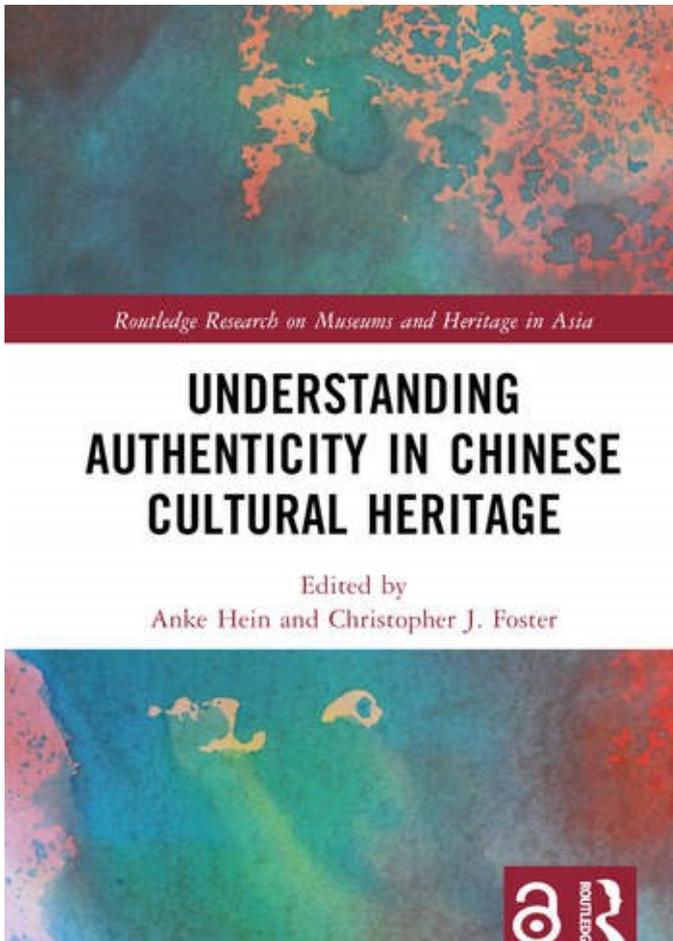
Integrating case studies with quantitative evidence, it shows how widespread industry shutdowns are used, not to scare polluters into respecting pollution standards, but to scare bureaucrats into respecting central orders. These measures have improved air quality in almost all Chinese cities, but at immense social and economic cost. This book delves into the negotiations, trade-offs, and day-to-day battles of local pollution enforcement to explain why governments employ such costly measures, and what this reveals about a state's powers to govern society.

Denise van der Kamp is an Associate Professor at Oxford University's School of Global and Area Studies. Her research explores issues in developmental politics and environmental governance, with a focus on China. In particular, she examines strategies for implementing policies in contexts where both rule of law and civil society are weak. Denise received her PhD in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley, and was previously an Assistant Professor at City University of Hong Kong.



Featured Books

Hein, Anke, and Christopher J. Foster, eds. 2023. *Understanding Authenticity in Chinese Cultural Heritage*. London: Routledge. Click [here](#) for more information.



Understanding Authenticity in Chinese Cultural Heritage explores the construction of "authenticity" and its consequences in relation to Chinese cultural heritage – those objects, texts, and intangible practices concerned with China's past.

Including contributions from scholars around the world reflecting on a range of different materials and time periods, *Understanding Authenticity* emphasizes the situatedness and fluidity of authenticity concepts. Attitudes toward authenticity change over time and place, and vary between communities and object types, among stakeholders in China as they do elsewhere. The book examines how "authenticity" relates to four major aspects of cultural heritage in China – art and material culture; cultural heritage management and preservation; living and intangible heritage; and texts and manuscripts – with individual contributions engaging in a critical and interdisciplinary conversation that weaves together heritage management, art history, archaeology, architecture, tourism, law, history, and literature. Moving beyond conceptual issues, the book also considers the practical ramifications for work in cultural heritage.

Understanding Authenticity in Chinese Cultural Heritage provides an opportunity for reflection on the contingencies of authenticity debates – not only in relation to China, but also anywhere around the world. The book will be of interest to scholars and students in a variety of fields, including heritage studies, Asian studies, art history, museum studies, history, and archaeology.

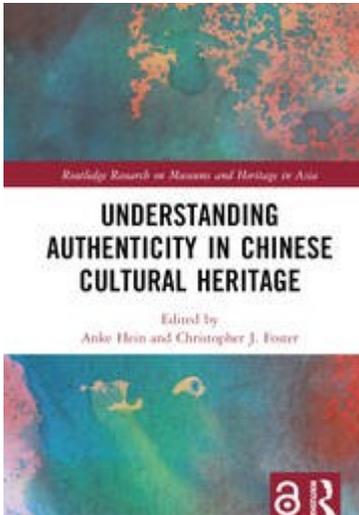
Dr Anke Hein is an anthropological archaeologist focusing on pre-historic and early historic China. Her main research interest lies with questions of inter-cultural contact (especially in terms of technology) and human-environment interaction. Geographically she focuses on the so-called border regions of China (esp. the eastern rim of the Tibetan Plateau), which have been zones of interactions since early pre-historic times. She is also an expert in ceramic analysis focusing on low-fired wares using scientific and ethnographic methods of research. Besides archaeological research, Dr Hein is also very interested in the history and practice of archaeology itself, working on issues such as 'who owns the past' and the connection between archaeologists, cultural heritage specialists, museum curators, local populations, and the general public.



Featured Chapters and Articles

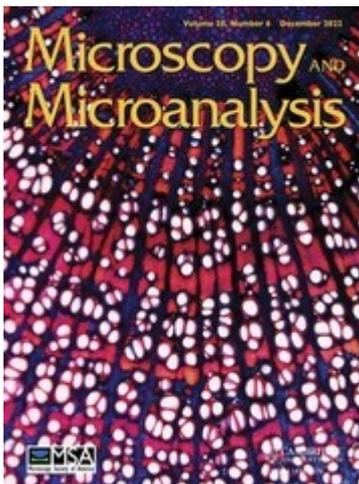
We are happy to announce a plethora of articles and book chapters from associates.

Gao Xuyang, and Anke Hein. 2023. "The authenticity problem in contemporary techniques of zisha teapot-making". In *Understanding Authenticity in Chinese Cultural Heritage*, edited by A. Hein and C. J. Foster. London: Routledge. Available [here](#).



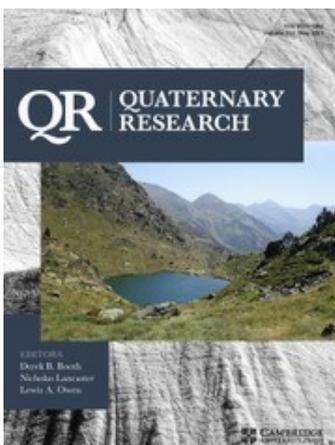
Yixing 宜興 *zisha* 紫砂 teapots are unglazed teapots in a variety of colours (mostly red, brown, yellow, green) made with *zisha* clay from the Yixing region, Jiangsu Province, traditionally formed by slab-building and paddle-shaping (Kerr and Wood 2004). This production tradition, which has its origins in the Ming Dynasty (Xu and Shan 1998), is among the first cases of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) from China to be officially recognized by the national level intangible culture heritage program (China 2006; Zhou 2006). However, there are many other potters who make such tea wares both in Yixing and other places. Furthermore, there is a substantial range of mass-produced *zisha-style* teapots for sale in China and beyond, raising the question of authenticity in the case of production and usage. This chapter studies Yixing pottery manufacture through the lenses of both national-level ICH and local practice with authenticity concept as the focus point, and by reflecting on authenticity in crafting in contemporary China in the context of ICH protection.

Li, Zihan, Feng Yuan, Jianwen Cao, and Anke Hein. 2022. "Insights into the Residue Trapped in Glaze Cracks of Archaeological Ceramics Using Microchemical Analysis". *Microscopy and Microanalysis* 28 (6): 1–12 Available



Searching for residue in the glaze of porcelain or stoneware is a difficult task because these glazes are high-fired, well vitrified, and nonporous. This paper analyzes the chemical composition of residue observed in glaze cracks of porcelain via SEM-EDS to determine how the crackle effect was produced, in particular, if it was intentionally created during production or the result of post-depositional processes. This study offers insights to a specific type of ancient Chinese porcelain called "Ge-type ware", which has two different types of cracks, and whose origin has been debated for nearly 60 years because it has never been found at any kiln site. This paper analyzes the chemical composition of the two crack types, first using elemental mapping to ascertain the different mechanisms that produced these two crack types of the Heirloom Ge ware, and second using residue analysis and chemical fingerprinting to determine the provenance of this puzzling type of porcelain. This paper demonstrates how the residue in the glaze of porcelain can be observed and analysed via microchemical approaches and hopes to inspire more research using this technique in future.

Schmidt, Amanda H., Brian D. Collins, Amanda Keen-Zebert, Jade d'Alpoim Guedes, Anke Hein, Andrew Womack, Casey McGuire, James Feathers, Lyman Persico, Dominic Fiallo, Tang Ya, and Bruce Simonson. 2022. "Implications of the loess record for Holocene climate and human settlement in Heye Catchment, Jiuzhaigou, Eastern Tibetan Plateau, Sichuan, China". *Quaternary Research*: 1–15. Available [here](#).



This article examines the Holocene loess record in the Heye Catchment on the margins of the Tibetan Plateau (TP) and China Loess Plateau (CLP) to determine: the region to which the Heye Catchment climate is more similar; temporal change in wind strength; and modification of the loess record by mass wasting and human activity. The 8.6–5.1 ka depositional hiatus, which coincides with the Mid-Holocene Climatic Optimum, is more similar to the loess deposition cessation in the TP than to the loess deposition deceleration in the CLP. Grain-size analysis suggests the Heye loess is a mixture of at least three different grain-size distributions and that it may derive from multiple sources. A greater proportion of coarse sediments in the older loess may indicate stronger winds compared with the more recent depositional period. Gravel incorporated into younger loess most likely comes from bedrock exposed in slump scarps. Human occupation of the catchment, for which the earliest evidence is 3.4 ka, postdates the onset of slumping; thus the slumps may have created a livable environment for humans.

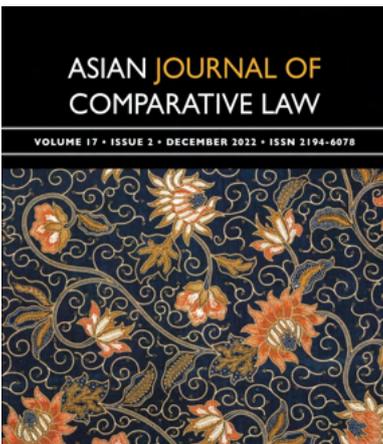
Featured Chapters and Articles

Bryant, Kristy (2023). “Against a Monolithic ‘Chinese Perspective’ on Ukraine: Revisiting Responses from Within China”, *British Journal of Chinese Studies*, vol 13, no 1 (2023). Available [here](#).

英華學刊 | British Journal
of Chinese Studies

This essay raises concern with the trend of essentialist takes on particularly sensitive issues and contexts, like the war in Ukraine, and argues for more reflexivity, meticulous scrutiny of sources, and nuanced analysis so as to account for greater nuance in academic interpretations and beyond. Highlighting the issue of unified and variable official statements and mainstream media and the rising popularity of alternative sources, particularly social media influencers, this piece argues for more consideration regarding the diversity of voices within China. Kristy Bryant is a DPhil Associate of the University of Oxford China Centre.

Erie, Matthew. “Civilisation on Pause – Introduction to special issue ‘China’s Global Capital and the Coronavirus: Views from Comparative Law and Regulation’ – CORRIGENDUM”, *Asian Journal of Comparative Law*, May 2023. Available [here](#).



This special issue explores the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on Chinese overseas direct investment and the concomitant forms of capital (symbolic, social, and political). It features collaborative research and writing by early career experts from throughout the world, as part of the “China, Law and Development” project, based at the University of Oxford. It examines how China, its trade partners, and transnational orders have responded to the pandemic through law and regulation across an array of fields: dispute resolution, legal services, vaccine approval processes, immigration law and policy, digital surveillance, global health governance, and democratic fragility.

Hall, Todd and Xiaoyu Pu. “Dare to Fight or Dare to Struggle? Translation of a Chinese Political Concept”, *Interpret: China, Centre for Strategic and International Studies*, 8 May 2023. Available [here](#).



The term 敢于斗争 (gǎnyú dòuzhēng) has become increasingly prevalent in Chinese official discourse. While recently translated as “dare to fight” among multiple high-profile authors and outlets outside of China, two scholars argue that “dare to struggle” better reflects the ideological, political, and multidimensional nature of the concept in historical Chinese discourse. Despite the popularity of translating 敢于斗争 (gǎnyú dòuzhēng) as “dare to fight,” we would argue that translating 敢于斗争 (gǎnyú dòuzhēng) as “dare to struggle” better reflects the ideological, political, and multidimensional nature of the concept in Chinese official discourse. Precisely, the term 斗争 (dòuzhēng) has a long and complex history within the PRC and translating it as “struggle” better speaks to this nuance. In contrast, rendering the phrase as “dare to fight” risks leaving English-speaking readers with a poten-

New Online Content

A recording of “A World Safe for Autocracy? The Domestic Politics of China's Foreign Policy” by Professor Jessica Chen Weiss, Cornell University. Click [here](#).



Weiss discusses her new book project, which theorizes and illustrates the domestic-international linkages in Beijing’s approach to issues ranging from sovereignty and homeland disputes to climate change and COVID-19.

A recording of “Recent Developments in the South China Sea” by Bill Hayton. Click [here](#).



In the past few months there have been clashes between Chinese vessels and those of Vietnam and Malaysia over rights to offshore gas fields. In all three countries, China’s actions pose a threat to energy security and government budgets. What can European states do to deter conflict and ensure adherence to international rules?

A recording of “Clean Air at What Cost?” by Professor Denise van der Kamp, University of Oxford. Click [here](#).



A talk describes the rise of “blunt force” regulation in the environmental sphere in China – its causes, its effects, and what it tells us about the ability of the Chinese government to regulate pollution.

A recording of “Mao and Markets” by Professor Christopher Marquis, University of Cambridge. Click [here](#).



Professor Marquis introduces his latest book, co-written with Kunyuan Qiao, in which he looks at the various ways in which Mao-era legacies continue to shape Chinese economic practices today.

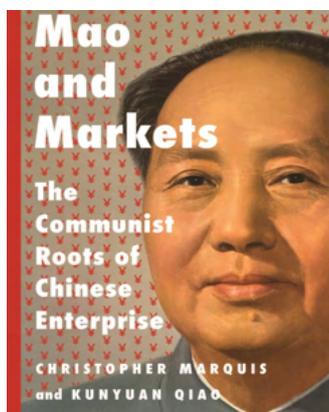
Past Events

“China and the UK in 2023, is there a Progressive Way Forward?” by Catherine West MP, 27 January 2023

On 27 January, the China Centre hosted Catherine West MP. Catherine West MP is shadow foreign minister for Asia and the Pacific. Born and raised in Australia, she moved to the UK in 1998. She holds a master’s degree in Chinese Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. She has represented Hornsey and Wood Green in parliament since 2015. In her talk, she spoke about Labour’s view for the future of UK-China relations, what she termed “a progressive way forward for the UK’s engagement with China and the challenges it poses, all with an emphasis on security, values and trade”.



Baillie Gifford Distinguished Speaker Series: “Mao and Markets: The Communist Roots of Chinese Enterprise” by Professor Christopher Marquis, 31 January, 2023



At the 20th Party Congress in Beijing in October 2022, Xi Jinping was appointed to a third five-year term as China’s supreme leader, and many have commented on his renewed embrace of Maoist principles. What does this mean for the future of the Chinese economy and relations with the West? What are the implications of China returning to some of the ideological principles spearheaded by Mao Zedong? And how much of China’s decades of economic success can be credited to Mao and Maoism? *Mao and Markets* (Yale University Press, 2023) examines these questions and charts how Mao’s ideological principles, mass campaigns and socialist institutions have enduringly influenced Chinese entrepreneurs, listed companies and provincial and city politicians.



Christopher Marquis is the Sinyi Professor of Chinese Management at the University of Cambridge Judge Business School. He is the author of the award-winning books *Better Business: How the B Corp Movement is Remaking Capitalism* and *Mao and Markets: The Communist Roots of Chinese Enterprise*. He is the author of more than 20 peer-reviewed academic articles and more than 50 Harvard business cases on topics related to sustainable business, and has earned awards for scholarly achievement from the Academy of Management and the American Sociological Association. Before his academic career, he worked for six years in the financial services industry, most recently as vice president and technology manager for a business unit of J.P. Morgan Chase.

Past Event

Book Talk on *Cocoon* by Yueran Zhang, 17 May 2023

Yueran Zhang, author of *Cocoon*, and the translator of the book, Jeremy Tiang, spoke at the China Centre. Yueran Zhang is one of China's most influential young writers. Her novel *Cocoon* has sold more than 150,000 copies in China and has been translated into several languages. In France it was nominated for the Best Foreign Book Prize 2019 and won the Best Asian Novel of the Prix Transfuge 2019. Zhang has been chief editor of *New Writing* since 2008 and teaches literature and creative writing at Renmin University in China. She was chosen by Asymptote as one of twenty Sinophone writers under forty to look out for.



China Centre DPhil Associate Seminar, 10 March 2023

We held the first China Centre DPhil Associate Seminar on 10 March 2023. Two China Centre DPhil Associates presented their work, after which faculty and peers provided comments and feedback.

“Love and Disgust in Post-socialist Chinese Avant-garde Art “ by Jiaqi Kang, DPhil Associate

Jiaqi Kang (DPhil candidate in History of Art, History of Art department) presented their work on love and disgust as political phenomena that became loci for avant-garde experimentation in post-socialist China. Jiaqi discussed Avant-garde artist Xu Tan's planning application for a brothel, *The Alterations and Extensions of 14 Sanyu Road, Guangzhou (1994)* as artworks that turn emotions upside down. Love is diluted into disaffection, and pleasure is instead shown to exist in things that should normally be reviled. Jiaqi suggests that feelings of love and disgust cannot be divorced from highly politicised discourses of “healthy art” in this period.



“Temporal Toleration of Protests in China: Absence of Immediate Repression in Authoritarian States” by Yuhan Hu, DPhil Associate

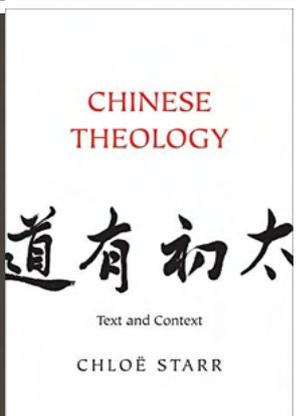
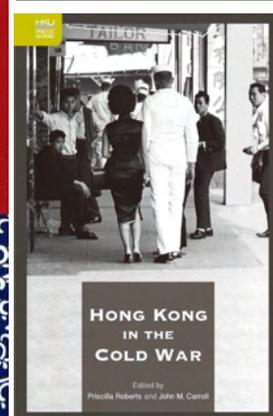
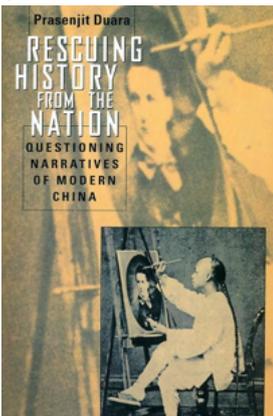
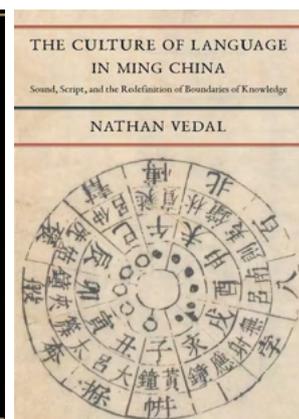
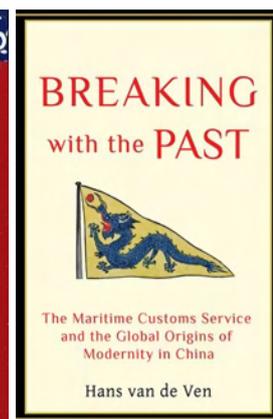
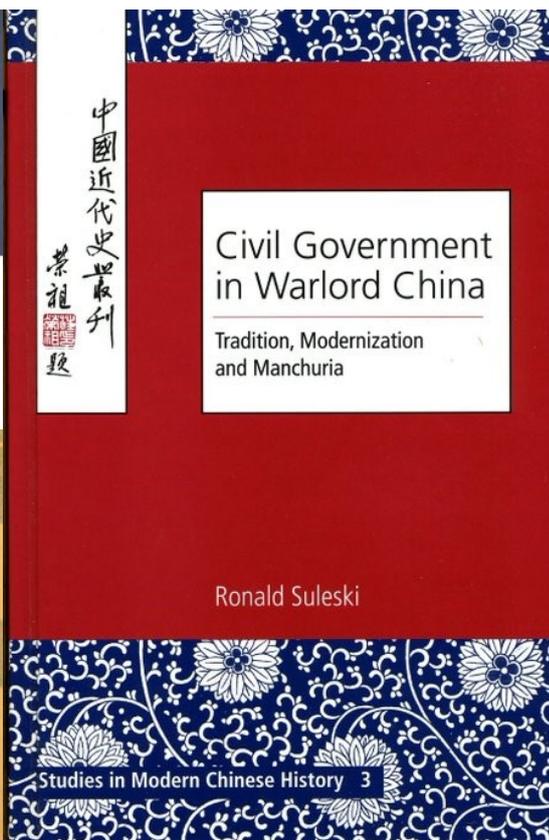
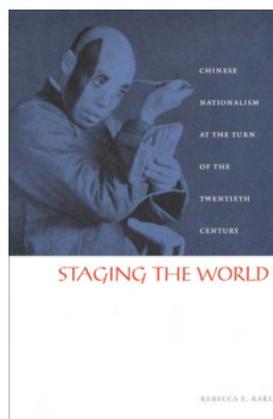
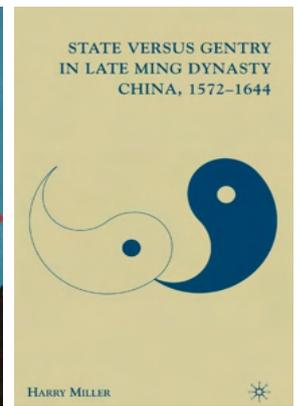
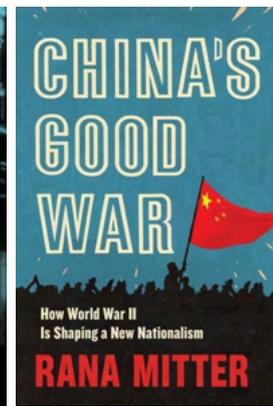
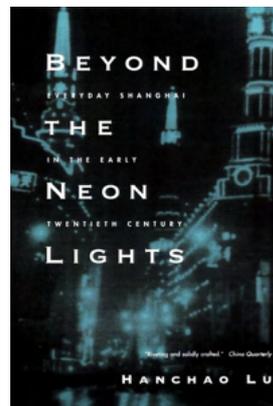
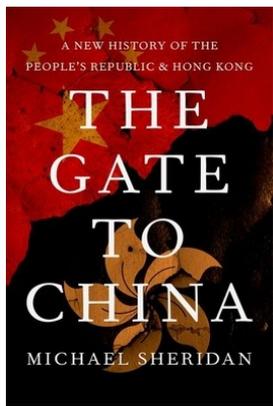
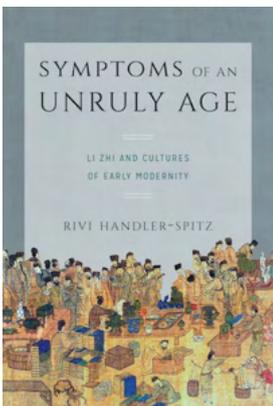
Yuhan Hu (DPhil candidate in Politics, Department of Politics and International Relations) presented her work on the Chinese authorities' responses to collective action. She argues that authoritarian states are more tolerant of protests that are directly linked to people's livelihood than other protests. Instead of imposing sudden overt repression, which not only would ruin regimes' legitimacy but also increase the risk of protest escalation, authoritarian states often tolerate the protests with livelihood grievances at first and seek alternative means of resolution before finally resorting to overt repression.

Oxford China Reading Group



Click [here](#) for details.

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. Some of the books read are listed below.



Talks and Events

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 “Reader, Author, Icon, Superhero? Lu Xun and his Literature in Chinese Comics” by Lena Henningsen, University of Freiburg, “The Rise and the Fall of the EAST: Examination, Autocracy, Stability and Technology in Chinese History and Today” by Yasheng Huang, MIT Sloan School of Management, “Divergent Trajectories of China’s Email-Order Brides” by Monica Liu, University of St. Thomas, “Self-Fashioning in Tang China: From the ‘Casual Gaffer’ to the ‘Master of Extreme Torment’” by Xiaojing Miao, University of Oxford, “Imperial Gateway: Colonial Taiwan and Japan’s Expansion in South China and Southeast Asia, 1895–1945” by Seiji Shirane, The City College of New York (CUNY), “The Qing Empire and Its Offshore Islands During the Long Eighteenth Century” by Ronald C. Po, London School of Economics and Political Science, “Attitudes to Chinese Economic Investment in the Middle East and North Africa” by Neil Ketchley, University of Oxford, “Dreaming Together: Communes before Communism, 1919–1921” by Shakhar Rahav, University of Haifa & University of Oxford, “One China, Many Taiwans: The Geopolitics of Cross-Strait Tourism” by Ian Rowen, National Taiwan Normal University, and “Clean Air at What Cost? The Rise of Blunt Force Regulation in China” by Denise van der Kamp, University of Oxford.

Week 1

Negotiated Sovereignty: The Fisherfolks and the State in the Northern Gulf of Tonkin, 1954–1964

Qingfei Yin, (LSE)

Thursday 27 April 2023, 17:00

Week 4

Rival Partners: How Taiwanese Entrepreneurs and Guangdong Officials Forged the Development Model (online)

Dr Jieh-min Wu (Academia Sinica)

15 May 2023, 13:00 (Monday)

Week 5

Rejuvenating Communism: Youth Organizations and Elite Renewal in Post-Mao China

Dr Jérôme Doyon (Sciences Po)

Monday 22, May 2023, 17:00

Ho Tim Seminar Room

From Public Sympathy to Collective Anger: Media, Emotions, and Politics in 1930s-China

Dr. Xin Fan (University of Cambridge)

Thursday 25 May 2023

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 6

Framed by the Archive: Maoist Revolution and the Case of Merchant Zha, 1949–1952

Professor Brian DeMare (Tulane University)

Thursday 1 June 2023, 16:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 7

An Introduction to and Revisionist Critique of the Case (案) as Historical Source and Administrative Artefact in Local Jurisdictions of the Late Empire

Dr Maura Dykstra (Yale University)

Monday 5 June 2023, 16:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

Week 7

Sino-US Relations: A Historical Perspective from the Pearl River Delta

Professor John D. Wong (The University of Hong Kong)

Thursday 8 June 2023, 17:00

The Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre

China Centre Talk Series

The China Centre Seminar Series is a new series of talks on varied topics by scholars from all over the world, run by China Centre throughout the terms. Last term the seminars included “Chinese Companies Going Global: Findings from the Cornell EMI report 2022” by Lourdes Casanova, Cornell University, “China’s Ambitions to Explore the Moon and the Prospects for Lunar Governance” by Martin Elvis, Centre for Astrophysics & Harvard and Smithsonian and Alanna Krolikowski, Missouri University of Science and Technology, “The Risk of Conflict in the Taiwan Strait: Technology, Strategy and Deterrence” by James Lee, Academia Sinica (Taiwan), “Christian Yijing: James Legge’s Moral and Religious Interpretation of The Book of Changes” by John T. P. Lai, Chinese University of Hong Kong, “Situating Hong Kong in International Politics through Documentary Filmmaking: the Questions of Agency and Representation” by Malte Philipp Kaeding, University of Surrey and Heidi Wang-Kaeding, Keele University, and “The View from Beijing: Reflections on Recent Developments in the PRC”, Katherine Morton, Schwarzman College & University of Oxford

Week 1

Why Do Chinese Filmmakers Love Melons? And Other Questions from a New Digital Archive of Early Cinema

Christopher Rea (University of British Columbia)

Monday 24 April, 5pm

Week 1

The US–Japan Alliance and Taiwan

Adam Liff (Indiana University Bloomington)

Wednesday 26 April, 12:00 BST

Week 2

Guarding Dictatorship: China’s Surveillance State

Professor Minxin Pei (Claremont McKenna College)

Monday 1 May 2023, 17:00

China’s Path to Global Influence

Prof. Richard Carney (China Europe International Business School (CEIBS), Shanghai)

Wednesday 3 May 2023, 12:00

Ruling the Sichuan’s Stage: Reading China’s Sociocultural Transformation from the 18th to the 20th Century through the Perspective of Opera

Dr Igor Iwo Chabrowski (University of Warsaw)

Wednesday 3 May 2023, 17:00

Week 4

Decoupling in the Digital Age: China and the Challenge of Massive Modularity

Prof. Eric Thun (University of Oxford)

Wednesday 17 May 2023, 12:00

Week 6

The Myth and Facts of China’s Public Surveillance System: Evidence from the Government Procurement Contracts

Professor Pinghan Liang (Sun Yat-sen University)

Wednesday 31 May 2023, 13:00

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 “Obsessed with Reading: Bovaryism as a Phenomenon in the Reception of Translated Love Stories in Early Twentieth-Century China” by Jane Qian Liu, University of Warwick.

Week 5

Vessels and Cargos: Spaces of Inclusion and Exclusion in Johnnie To’s Drug War and Lee Hae-young’s Korean Remake Believer

Jinhee Choi, King’s College London
23 May 2023, 17:00
Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre



China Centre Conversation series

Week 2

Remembering and Forgetting Pivotal Moments in Modern Chinese History

Professor Jeff Wasserstrom (University of California, Irvine), Professor Patricia Thornton (University of Oxford), Professor Margaret Hillenbrand (University of Oxford)

Tuesday 2 May 2023, 17:00

Mandarin Forum

Our Mandarin Forum series is a platform that provides a Chinese-speaking environment for academic exchange for scholars in Oxford and beyond. “Fighting for International Communism? Chinese Youth in Burma during the Mao Era” by Dr Ning Zhang, University of Oxford, “Prayers, Votes and Money: The Impact of Religions on Rural Political Participation in China” by Professor Pinghan Liang, Sun Yat-sen University, and “Evolution of Regime Complex in Global Governance: A Chinese Perspective on Human Genetic Information” by Professor Hanzhi Yu, Zhejiang University.

We have a full schedule this term, featuring a diverse and fascinating set of online presentations planned for every other Friday.

Week 1

Values Conflict and Identification in China’s Generation Y

BAO Leiping, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences
Friday 28 April, 13:00

Week 3

Network Games: Strategic Reasoning in International Relations (with Applications in Chinese Foreign Policy)

LI Yuke, University of Oxford
Friday 12 May, 13:00

Week 5

China’s Asymmetric Statecraft: Alignments, Competitors, and Regional Diplomacy

HUANG Yuxing, Tsinghua University
Friday 26 May, 13:00

Week 7

Alterity of Original: The Text Construction and Classics Interpretation in the Translation of the Daodejing by James Legge

LEI Ayong, Minjiang University
Friday 9 June, 13:00

International History of East Asia Seminar Series

The International History of East Asia Seminar Series is a weekly series that 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.

Week 4

Sino-Western Trade during the Early Cold War

Crossing the Bamboo Curtain: China’s Foreign Trade, British Merchants, and the End of the CHINCOM 1953-1957

Yi Liu, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Shadow Economy and Underground Networks in Hong Kong during Early Cold War

Ka-shing So, Binghamton University, SUN

Wednesday 17 May, 17:00

Week 6

Exhibiting China and de-Colonialism: Archaeology and Museology across East Asia and the World

Displaying Diplomacy: Cultural Diplomacy, Politics, and Ideology of The Exhibition of Archaeological Finds of the People’s Republic of China (1974)

Shing-Kwang Chan, Princeton University

Redefining Colonial Museums: The Asian Visitors in British East and Southeast Asia in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries Reynold K. W. Tsang, University of Oxford

Wednesday 31 May, 17:00

Week 7

Personal Experiences and Connections within the Japanese Empire

Whose History? Delving into Personal Experiences and Intersections at the Base of the Japanese Empire

Agnese Dionisio, Waseda University

Love in the Age of Fascism: What the Letters of a Heartbroken Woman Reveal About Global Connections and Disconnections in the Summer of 1936

Merle Kartscher, Harvard University

Wednesday 7 June, 14:00 (online)

Week 8

Borderlands and Soviets: PRC Nationalities Policy and Nuclear Deterrence

The No.1 Order: A Potential Outbreak of Nuclear War between the Soviet Union and China

Duanyi Yi, University of Glasgow

From Mediating to Dominating: Tumed Mongols and the Rise of the Chinese Communist Party in Inner Mongolia

Chendong Pi, University of California, Davis

Wednesday 14 June, 17:00

China Centre DPhil Associates Seminar Series

In this term's China Centre DPhil Associates Seminar series, three China Centre DPhil Associates will present their work in-progress and receive feedback from faculty staff and their peers following their presentation.

Week 8

10:00—12:00, 16 June, 2023

Lucina Ho Seminar Room

The Role of Government in Digital Economy: Policy Approaches to the Digital Transformation in China



Zhixiang Wan

DPhil candidate
Area Studies (Japan)
St Antony's College

This doctoral research focuses on the government's role in digital transformation, exploring Chinese policies that facilitate and regulate the development and application of digital technologies specifically within the manufacturing sector. It employs an eclectic theoretical framework that combines Compressed Development theory as an overarching framework with national innovation systems theory based on a Neo-Schumpeterian perspective and Neo-Polanyian theories to explain state-market dynamics. Earlier this year, Zhihang returned from fieldwork and conducted interviews with policy makers and business practitioners in three provinces in China, each representing different regions and economic development stages. The provinces include Guangdong, Anhui, and Sichuan.

Understanding the Role of E-planners in "People-centred" Neighbourhoods in China



Shuwan Zhou

DPhil candidate
Sustainable Urban
Development Programme
Linacre College

Globally, the making of smart cities has become increasingly institutionalized in recent years. For its emphasis on public participation in the development of a smart neighbourhood, UN-Habitat named Shuangjing neighbourhood of Beijing a Sustainable Community Pilot in 2019. Using Lefebvres' work as a theoretical lens and Actor-Network Theory as an analytical tool, this study examines the role and material effects of e-planners and their expertise in the development of smart city infrastructure. It argues that e-planners have the potential to transform power relations for communities in making smart cities, acting as an intermediary between objectivity and subjectivity, rationality and emotion, and the top and bottom of society. This study is contextualized within the context of Chinese urban planning. It is intended to contribute to the general planning theory and global debates on smart cities.

The Political Economy of Regional Transitions: A Case Study of Shenzhen



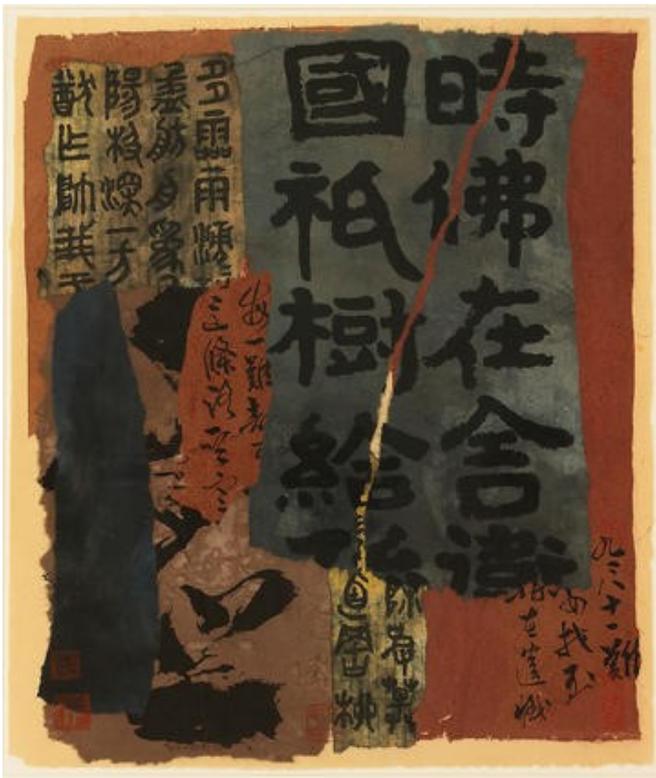
Guanlin Wu

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Arguably as "the fastest-growing city the world has ever seen, Shenzhen has not received the scholarly attention it deserves". While some studies have been devoted to the identification of key factors enabling Shenzhen's phenomenal transformation, few have seriously delved into the actual process of such transformation, especially from a perspective of sectoral transition. Primarily adopting the method of processing tracing and synthesizing the literature on broadly defined state-market, central-local, and domestic-foreign relations, this project attempts to carefully unfold the highly challenging yet recurring cycle of Shenzhen's sectoral transition and to understand the fairly unusual yet persistent ability of Shenzhen to reinvent its growth models across different critical junctures of development. In turn, this project hopes to use the experience of Shenzhen to shed light on the political economy of regional development and sectoral transition in China and beyond.

“Art in China: 1949–1999”, Ashmolean Museum Exhibition

The “Art in China: 1949-1999” exhibition is open until 24 September 2023 at the Ashmolean Museum. This exhibition presents works of art from the Museum’s collection that were produced between 1949 and 1999 in mainland China. Chairman Mao declared the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949 and until his death in 1976, art was subject to strict political controls. Oil painting replaced the centuries-old tradition of ink landscape painting, and the Socialist Realist style adopted from the Soviet Union remained influential until the late 1970s. Pictorial woodblock printing developed from a folk craft to an increasingly creative medium used for both propaganda purposes and more subtle landscapes. During the Cultural Revolution (1966–76) political images and messages were also produced in the historic media of woven or embroidered silks and papercuts. From 1978, the Reform Era ushered in new possibilities as China re-engaged with the world, and artists encountered ideas and cultural practices from elsewhere. Brush and ink, however, had never ceased to be used, and the scrolls and albums exhibited include works by some of modern China’s most distinguished painters.



To see details of the exhibition and the images above, please click [here](#).

A ASHMOLEAN
MUSEUM
OXFORD



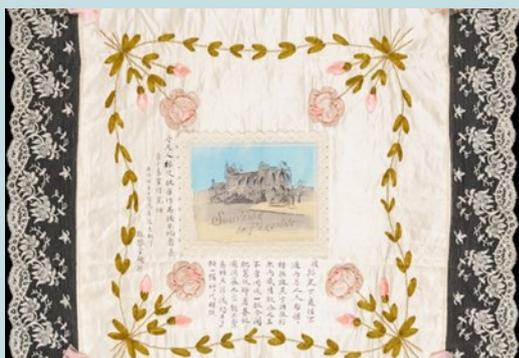
News from the Library

“China to Oxford: 400 years of cultural exchange” online exhibition and public engagement Programme

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

Hilary Term 2023 got off to an exciting start with the addition of two donations of particular interest to the Bodleian Library's Chinese rare book and manuscript collection. The donations were the subject of discussions led by two scholars, Dr Coraline Jortay and Dr Weimin He, at a popular rare book and manuscript event held at the Weston Library on 17 February. A video recording of the event is available to watch (courtesy of Professor Henrike Lähnemann). Available [here](#).

The first is a beautiful lace edged silk cushion cover, delicately embroidered with floral patterns and measuring 61 cm long and 62.5 cm wide. The piece features a calligraphed dedication in Chinese and, at its centre, a watercolour painting reading “Memories from Péronne” in French. The cushion cover was gifted by Zhang Jiantang, a Chinese interpreter and medical dresser enrolled in the Chinese Labour Corps, to Frederick Jones (1890-1975), Serjeant Shoemaker serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) in France during World War One. It is a rare testimony to the friendship that developed between two men in the middle of the war despite them having known each other for a mere two months, and despite the “far-reaching racial and linguistic differences” which should have separated them. The amount of care, work, and language skills that went into the creation of such a gift in wartime remind us of the importance of looking beyond Eurocentric administrative archives for writing deeply textured, human sized histories of the First World War (Jortay, 2023). The silk cushion cover has now safely stored among the Bodleian Library's Chinese manuscript collection (shelfmark: MS.Chin.a.25) and it is digitally available at Digital.Bodleian. Available [here](#).



The second item of interest is a limited-edition handmade wood block print portfolio which was produced in 2022 by Heilongjiang Art Museum. The forty-six illustrated folios in Old Song block print style (老宋体) depicts the story of the well-known novel ‘Tale of Hulan River’ by Heilongjiang born female writer Xiao Hong that was originally published in 1938 in Hong Kong. The novel was illustrated by Hou Guoliang and the wood block prints were made over three years by Tai Liping who was recognised in China as a National Transmitter of Intangible Cultural Heritage. Tai Liping follows the traditional Chinese wood block print making method and the portfolio is the result of integration of literature, book illustration and wood block nianhua (年画) making techniques.

In March we released the anticipated six short films about Bodleian Library's Chinese collections (available [here](#)). The films are the result of a ground breaking collaborative initiative by the local Chinese community, the Bodleian Library and the China Centre to present and interpret some of Bodleian Library's Chinese treasures from community, academic and library perspectives.

In April, we were shocked to hear, at short notice, about the temporary suspension of some essential Chinese electronic resources, including China Statistical Yearbooks full-text database, China Masters and Doctoral “Theses and Dissertations” full-text database, by the Cybersecurity Administration of China (CAC) pending a national security investigation. We still await to hear when that investigation can be completed and are uncertain about what content might be deemed sensitive to China's national security thus will be withheld, and the impact of such a move on academic research on China in the short and long term.

Looking ahead, we continue working on opening up the long obscured Chinese manuscript collections in Bodleian Library, in particular the calligraphy and art scrolls. Most of those scrolls have now been photographed and we are recruiting a temporary staff member specialising in manuscript cataloguing to help create item level description. The object images are expected to be made available along with their descriptions from Digital.Bodleian in the course of next year.

Alumni Spotlight

Merethe Borge MacLeod, BHons, 1999
Executive Director of the Great Britain-China Centre (GBCC)



Merethe Borge MacLeod studied Chinese at Oxford and has enjoyed using the fruits of her studies ever since. She graduated from the BHons course in Chinese Studies in 1999, then spent a year in Beijing as an exchange student at Renmin University, before completing a Masters in International Development at the LSE. Her career to date has combined her China knowledge with international development and project management. She worked for NGOs early in her career, then did a couple of postings with the United Nations Development Programme, first in Sudan and then Beijing. Electing to stay in China, she moved to head up the China office of the Swedish Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law for many years, working closely with human rights academics across China and the region on university-level human rights education and research.

About her time at Oxford, Merethe says: *"My degree in Chinese Studies gave me the best possible grounding for pursuing a career both in and with China. I especially loved the fact that the degree was so broad and included classical Chinese, which always surprises people in China".*

Merethe is currently Executive Director of the Great Britain–China Centre (GBCC), a non-departmental public body under the FCDO. GBCC was established in 1974 to support and strengthen the bilateral relationship. The ways in which the Centre has done that have changed a lot over the years, but the central mission remains to engage with partners and interlocutors in the UK, China and internationally.

Over the past few years, GBCC has been working closely with the Oxford China Centre on initiatives and programmes that aim to improve the UK's China Capabilities. *"It's been such a pleasure to return to the China Centre, re-connecting with several of my former tutors and getting to know new members of the faculty. Oxford always stands for quality and that is exactly what my experience is, second time around as well!"*



Great Britain–China Centre

The Great Britain–China Centre is an executive non-departmental public body of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office established to support UK–China relations.

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