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# NEWSLETTER



CHINA CENTRE



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## Message from the Director



Greetings everyone!

Greetings!

These are certainly not easy times, but I am happy to say that at the China Centre we do have some positive news to share. First, we will be returning to in-person talks this coming Trinity Term. In particular, I am excited to announce Professor Henrietta Harrison's launch of her new book, *The Perils of Interpreting: The Extraordinary Lives of Two Translators between Qing China and the British Empire*, which will be happening in Week 2. The Contemporary China Studies Programme will also be hosting a talk by one of their distinguished alumni, the MP Mark Logan, in Week 3. Both will be held in the Lecture Theatre of the China Centre. Second, we are also providing a robust programme of online and hybrid events, including a resumption of our Oxford China Centre Conversations series with new instalments. Third, we will be restarting a number of social gatherings for associates and fellows that were curtailed by the pandemic—do please sign up for our news and events email list to remain informed. I am especially pleased that we are planning events to welcome members of our newly established DPhil Associates programme. My view has long been that vigorous community engagement and intellectual exchange are an extraordinarily important part of the academic endeavour. The ways in which interactions create networks, allow us to share and contest ideas, permit us to build upon the perspectives and knowledge of one another—all these do so much to enrich us and our work as scholars. So as the spring weather warms here in Oxford, we also look forward to welcoming you to take part all we have to offer.

Sincerely,

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

Todd Hall  
Director of the China Centre



# An Interview with Professor Denise van der Kamp

Denise van der Kamp is an Associate Professor in the Political Economy of China and a Fellow of Lady Margaret Hall. She recently spoke with us about her research interests.



## What are you working on?

I'm currently finalizing my book manuscript on China's 'blunt force' approach to environmental regulation. I look at why the Chinese government has chosen to forcibly reduce industrial output or close down entire industries to address local pollution problems. To the outside world, these measures are often taken as a sign of authoritarian efficiency; the state's coercive powers allow them to eliminate polluters quickly, and with minimal pushback from society. I argue that blunt force regulation is actually a sign of weak bureaucratic control. China's leaders are committed to reducing pollution but they struggle to get local officials to implement these policies—especially in poorer regions where there is pressure to sustain growth. Faced with such non-compliance, leaders resort to drastic, one-off measures—such as ordering the closure of an entire city's industry—because it allows them to eliminate local pollution problems in one fell swoop. However, these measures tend to be very costly and unsustainable, suggesting that China will need to develop alternate enforcement approaches if it is to achieve more lasting outcomes in pollution reduction.

## How did you get there?

This book was conceived during my fieldwork, where in multiple towns and suburbs, I stumbled across a scorched earth approach to pollution enforcement that simply did not fit scholarly or popular narratives of governance in China. Western media reports recognized the unfairness of this approach, but they would also draw comparisons with the US, where democratic politics and institutional gridlock were obstructing efforts to combat climate change. In comparison, the Chinese state appeared to be so much more efficient and effective. Yet as I continued my fieldwork, I came across factory towns where polluting industries had revived after temporary shutdowns, and entrepreneurs who moved to inland regions to take advantage of weaker pollution standards. I also met several business owners who were furious with the state's arbitrary shutdowns, especially those businesses that had made an effort to comply with pollution regulation. These on-the-ground reports showed that blunt force regulation was actually a highly fractious, negotiated process. Moreover, both central officials and local officials were publicly condemning these one-size-fits-all enforcement measures. So why do it then? And why (according to my data) was the state using these blunt force measures in almost every city in China? My book project was driven by the need to figure out the answers to this puzzle.

## What are your plans moving forward?

Lately, I have been interested in questions on regulatory uncertainty, and how actors accustomed to stable rules learn to negotiate unpredictable environments. This interest developed during the years I spent in Hong Kong (my hometown) where the city was subjected to a series of upheavals, first with political protests, then the pandemic, and finally the national security law. Hong Kong often portrays itself as an orderly society with a strong rule of law. However, amidst these upheavals, I saw businesses, bureaucrats, and ordinary citizens plunged into an environment where the rules and red lines that had once been clear suddenly became ambiguous. Unlike the polluters I studied in China (who are used to constant upheaval) these actors were less accustomed to governance uncertainty. What happens when old, established rule books get torn up and a whole business ecosystem is forced to learn new habits? What happens to those actors who don't have the choice to exit? How do they adapt? These are some questions I hope to explore as I develop a new book project.

# An Interview with Vivienne Shue, Professor Emeritus of Contemporary China Studies at St Antony's College

Professor Vivienne Shue FBA, Professor Emeritus of Contemporary China Studies, Fellow of St. Antony's College, and an Associate of the University of Oxford China Centre. She was Director of the Contemporary Chinese Studies Programme from 2002—2012. She has just published an article titled 'Regimes of Resonance: Cosmos, Empire and Changing Technologies of CCP Rule', in *Modern China*. She recently spoke with us about her most recent work.

## What have you been working on lately?



How may we best contemplate what it really means to govern China...? Actually encompassing everything that goes into governing such a country credibly and effectively? Given the extent of its territories, the cultural diversity and dynamism of its peoples, the complexity of its differing local and regional

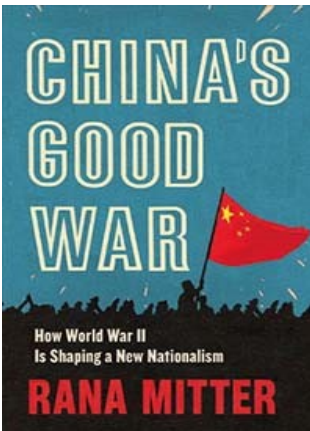
soio-economies, why and how has it even been possible to attempt to govern China as at once a people's republic and also as a unitary state -- not as a federation, but instead as a singular national entity; and all under the leadership of a single political party?

These are the BIG questions that, in one way or another, have driven my research for many years, I think. And like most political scientists, I've generally tended to approach these questions from the perspectives of political ideology on the one hand, and political organisation (or institutions), on the other hand; trying to observe and analyse how these have been developing and shifting over time. More recently however -- and especially since Xi Jinping has taken the helm -- I've begun to think it really important for us to pay closer attention also to what I would classify as the political aesthetics of governing China. If studying political ideology can be likened to examining the brain (or the cognitive functions) of a governing system, and studying political organisation can be likened to examining the muscles and sinews of a system of government, then I

think looking seriously at the political aesthetics of a governing system can be regarded as akin to studying what we might think of as the unique personal style, character, temperament -- or better perhaps, the distinctive personality -- of a governing system. I've come to confront this (for me) quite new analytical challenge, I have to admit, in a rather roundabout way. Because I'd been wanting to catch up with at least some of the newer scholarship in global history, I found myself reading a number of different (and really fascinating) works on empire -- various past imperial projects -- including, of course, past Chinese imperial projects. How the political aesthetics of rule that were associated with those past imperial formations can be found echoed and reflected in the governing styles and strategies of modern and contemporary states became a subject of deepening curiosity for me. So, just recently I've completed work on one new article exploring what I see as some of the distinctive aesthetics of imperial governance in China and consider how these can be found to have carried over into the styles of governing later practised, by the party and the state, in the PRC. That article focuses on state strategies of spatio-temporal ordering and how those have served as essential techniques for seeking to stimulate and to sustain a condition I call 'positive resonance' across the polity -- a kind of sympathetic resonance that I've argued is conceived as linking the governors with those being governed. And now that piece is done, I have started thinking about how best to extend this kind of analysis -- beyond the frame of distinctive spatio-temporal ordering techniques -- so as to explore further dimensions of the political aesthetics of party rule in China today.

## News Highlights

### Rana Mitter wins Most Accessible and Captivating Work for the Non-Specialist Reader Accolade



Professor Rana Mitter's book entitled *China's Good War: How World War II is Shaping a New Nationalism* (Harvard, 2020) was awarded the title Most Accessible and Captivating Work for the Non-Specialist Reader Accolade at the ninth edition (2021) of the ICAS (International Convention on Asia Studies) Book Prize for which nearly 1000 titles were submitted.

It is said in the ICAS website, '*China's Good War* is a highly readable reassessment of World War II and its significance in the production of historical and cultural narratives about modern China, nationalism, and public memory.'

(<https://www.ias.asia/the-newsletter/article/ibp-2021-english-language-edition-humanities>)

### Professor Xiaolan Fu named Fellow of Academy of Social Sciences



Professor Xiaolan Fu, Professor of Technology and International Development at the Oxford Department of International Development, Fellow of Green Templeton College, Founding Director of the Technology and Management Centre for Development, and China Centre Associate, was named a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. The Academy of Social Sciences is the national academy of academics, learned societies and practitioners in the social sciences. Its mission is to promote social science in the United Kingdom for public benefit. New Fellows of the Academy of Social Sciences are recognised, after an independent peer review process, for the excellence and impact of their work and the wider contributions to the social sciences for public benefit.

### China Centre Welcomes DPhil Associates

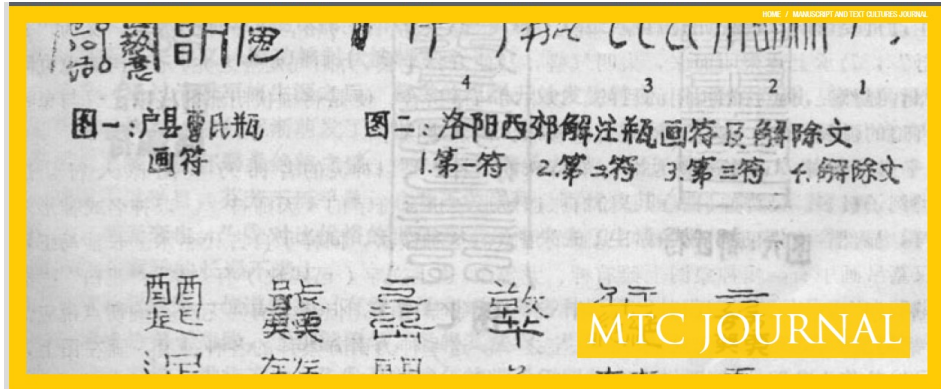
At the University of Oxford's China Centre, we have established the possibility for Oxford DPhils in any course of study whose thesis research is related to the study of China, broadly understood, to apply to become a DPhil affiliate at the China Centre. We are seeking to create a cross-disciplinary community of China-focused DPhil students for the purposes of networking, exchange, and professional development. China Centre DPhil Associates will have the chance to participate in special events and engagements at the China Centre and have their profile posted on the China Centre website.

We are planning a welcoming event in Trinity Term 2022, at which all DPhil Associates will be invited to meet other members of the China Centre community.

To apply or ask further questions, please contact [information@chinese.ox.ac.uk](mailto:information@chinese.ox.ac.uk).

## Professor Dirk Meyer Announces the Launch of Manuscript and Text Cultures Journal

On 11 May, 2022, directed by Professor Dirk Meyer, the Centre for Manuscript and Text Cultures (CMTC) will launch its official journal, *Manuscript and Text Cultures* at its CMTC festival. The journal serves as a beacon for scholars and research students with interests in knowledge production and information transmission in literate societies. It will appear in annual themed issues devoted to specific questions that are placed in cross-cultural contexts. It will be double-blind peer reviewed and published online, following Open Access policies, with no embargo. It is believed that this is the best way to reach the goal of methodologically informed research collaboration, and of establishing a shared academic language across disciplines. The journal will also be available in hard copy through print on demand.



## Dr Giulia Falato granted British Academy Small Research Grant



Dr Giulia Falato was awarded a British Academy Small Research Grant 2022. Her plan is to make use of the grant to organise a workshop on education and representations of young people in Chinese sources between tradition and modernity at Oxford in June 2023 and to collect contributions which will be published in an edited volume in English. Education as personal cultivation, alongside the significance of ritual practices and human relations for the foundation of an ideal society, have been recurring tropes within the varied traditions of Chinese pedagogy. While canonical texts and behavioural norms have played a constant and crucial role in shaping children's original characters, the development of educational theories and practices throughout Chinese history has also been deeply influenced by endogenous and exogenous doctrines such as Daoism, Buddhism, Christianity and Western thought. This study proposes to explore how young people's moral formation was shaped by encounters with external elements and changing historical contexts, while demonstrating how the scope of education in China was perceived as a pillar which guaranteed social order.

## Pete Millwood Awarded Inaugural STAND Early Career Prize



The Commission on Science, Technology and Diplomacy (STAND) is pleased to announce that Dr Pete Millwood has been awarded its inaugural Early Career Prize for his paper 'A Source of Vernacular Knowledge or a Final Frontier for Globalized Science? American and Chinese Discourses on Science in the People's Republic of China, 1971–1978'. He will be presenting his paper at a special session of STAND's Postgraduate and Early Career Virtual Seminar Series. Under the supervision of Professor Rana Mitter, Pete Millwood completed his DPhil in History at the History Faculty, University of Oxford in 2017. His dissertation is entitled *Below the summit: cultural and scholarly exchange visits in Sino-American relations, from ping-pong diplomacy to normalisation, 1971–1978*. He was a member of St Antony's College.



# Programme Showcase

## Contemporary China Studies Programme (CCSP)



Established in 2002, the Contemporary China Studies Programme (CCSP), began as a research programme funded by a generous 10 year grant from the Leverhulme Foundation, that provided for several faculty and post-doctoral posts. Professor Vivienne Shue became its first director. Its original mission was to “building and enhancing its research, teaching, and library resources on contemporary Chinese society and human geography, economics and politics, environment and international relations”. Directed by Professor Paul Irwin Crookes, the CCSP facilitates collaboration between students, post-doctoral research fellows and faculty members from across the university, as well as with other academics, researchers and policymakers from around the world

who share a passion for the study of contemporary China and a focus on producing ground-breaking interdisciplinary research. It runs a Joint Programme with the Faculty of Oriental Studies, offering the MSc in Contemporary Chinese Studies and the MPhil in Modern Chinese Studies, with each degree providing high-quality graduate research training and an interdisciplinary teaching emphasis to those who wish to deepen their understanding of modern and contemporary China.

## CCSP Upcoming Events

### ‘UK-China Relations: the Role of British MPs in Making Policy’

#### Mark Logan MP

On 12 May 2022, the CCSP will host a talk entitled ‘UK-China Relations: the Role of British MPs in Making Policy’ by Mark Logan MP, an Alumnus of the MSc in Contemporary Chinese Studies. In this talk Mark Logan questions whether it is individual MPs that are now becoming the vehicle through which the public can effect change. Mark uses the UK’s relationship with China as a case study to enable a better understanding of how foreign policy is prioritised, packaged and delivered in Britain today.

### UK-China Relations: the Role of British MPs in Making Policy

#### Mark Logan MP

Thursday 12th May 2022 at 5pm  
China Centre Lecture Theatre  
Informal drinks afterwards in the Wordsworth Tea Room

Covid-19, Huawei, Uighur Muslims, national security investment, Hong Kong, and pretty much the kitchen sink have all been thrown at the UK-China relationship in this new decade. The question is, what role do backbench MPs play in the making of China policy in the UK, and which other drivers are as, if not more, important in how one of the world’s most historic bilateral relationships progresses? Foreign policy making is often seen as the preserve of Foreign Secretaries, Prime Ministers and the Civil Service bureaucracy, such as the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). But is it? With the democratisation of decision-making evidenced by referenda for issues like Brexit and Scottish Independence, along with a growing role for social media in mobilising public interest in policy debates, is it individual MPs that are now becoming the vehicle through which the public can effect change? This talk will examine these issues using the UK’s current relationship with China as a case study to enable a better understanding of how foreign policy is prioritised, packaged and delivered in Britain today.

Image by Xinhua:  
Xi speaking to the Parliament during the state visit in 2015

Mark Logan MP, elected in 2019, is an Alumnus of the MSc in Contemporary Chinese Studies in the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies. He began his China-focused career in the 2000s and experienced first-hand the ‘Golden era’ doctrine of the Cameron-Osborne administration through his time working at the FCO in China. He is a Vice-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary China Group and has had a front seat in key political debates as the UK and China have experienced a new low in their bilateral relationship. Photo by Creative Commons.



## CCSP Annual Career Event

### Alumni Panel Discussion

#### Barclay Bram Cindy Yu Josh Toohey

This year’s careers event is to be held on Friday 6th May 2022 as an in-person event. It will have speakers from diverse backgrounds such as academia, media sector, public service and business consultancy, including Barclay Bram, Cindy Yu, and Josh Toohey. It provides an exciting networking opportunity for the MSc Contemporary Chinese students and the MPhil Modern Chinese Students.

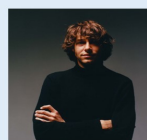


### CAREER EVENT 2022



#### Alumni Panel Discussion The MSc Contemporary Chinese Studies/The MPhil Modern Chinese Studies Panellist: Barclay Bram, Cindy Yu, Josh Toohey

5:00-6:00 pm, Friday 6 May 2022, University of Oxford China Centre Lecture Hall, Informal Drinks Followed



Barclay Bram recently completed his DPhil in Area Studies (China) at the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, following MSc in Contemporary Chinese Studies. He conducted 14 months of ethnographic fieldwork into mental health and psychological counselling in Chengde, SW China. His project was funded by the ESRC and work from his DPhil has been published in Medical Anthropology Quarterly, Ethos and Hau.



Cindy Yu is broadcast editor at The Spectator, a British current affairs and arts magazine, where she also hosts the magazine’s Chinese Whispers podcast. She was born in Nanjing, China. She read politics, philosophy, and economics at the University of Oxford, where she also read for a master of science in contemporary Chinese studies. She is a frequent commentator on China issues for the BBC, RTE News, Channel 4 and GB News.



Josh Toohey (MSc in Contemporary Chinese Studies, 2015-16) was an analyst at a global risk consultancy in the City before moving into the public sector. Josh worked most recently as a senior project manager at the FCDO’s Great Britain-China Centre before moving into the Civil Service as a senior adviser. Prior to his MSc, he completed undergraduate studies in New Zealand and worked briefly at the NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



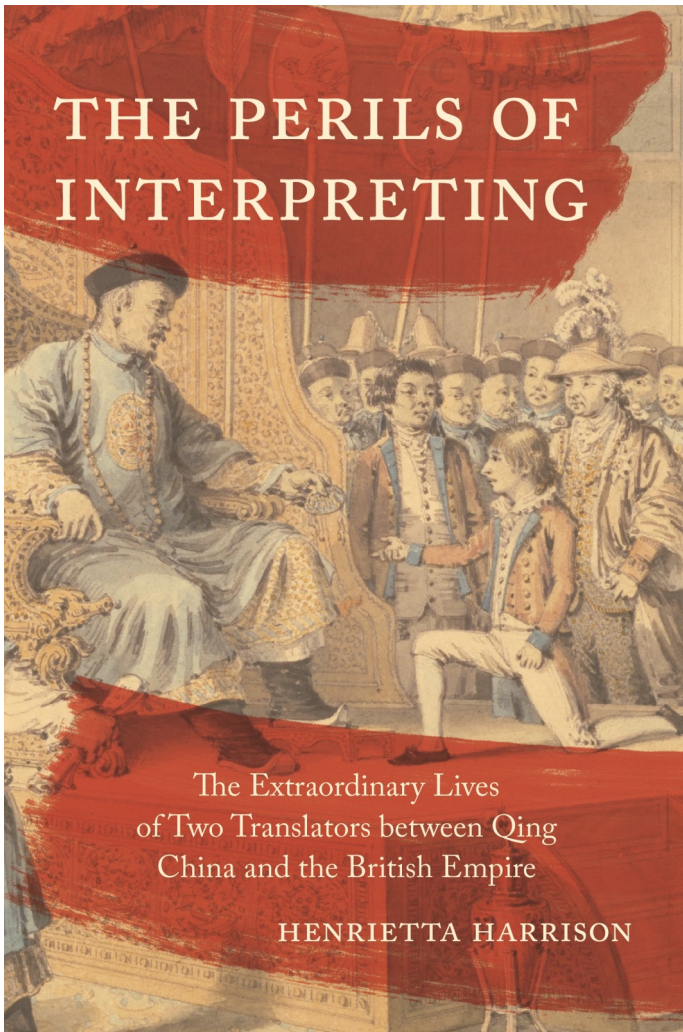
## Featured Books

*The Perils of Interpreting: The Extraordinary Lives of Two Translators between Qing China and the British Empire* **by**  
**and**  
**by**



In this book *The Perils of Interpreting: The Extraordinary Lives of Two Translators between Qing China and the British Empire* Professor Henrietta Harrison tells the story of the interpreters who took part in the first British embassy to China: Li Zibiao and George Thomas Staunton, two men whose childhood took them between Europe and China in the eighteenth century. Growing up they made friendships that crossed the world and through those friendships they gained a deep knowledge of the other's languages, society and culture. The book examines the politics behind Lord Macartney's choice of Li as interpreter for his embassy and the Qing court's acceptance of that choice, his influence as interpreter over the negotiations, the risks he and his family faced as a result, and the strategies he used to survive. In the early years of the nineteenth century Staunton became a key interpreter for the British East India Company in Canton. He made a fortune, but with the rising British naval threat his position became increasingly dangerous and two of his close Chinese friends were sent into exile in Xinjiang.

*Perils of Interpreting* argues that the pressures interpreters and those who moved between cultures were under in this context are an important reason why key decision makers in China's government were so ill informed about the West at the time of the Opium War. Overall, the book argues for the central role of foreign language learning in understanding other cultures, the importance of the work of interpreters, and the dangers of ignorance of foreign cultures in a time of rising international tension.

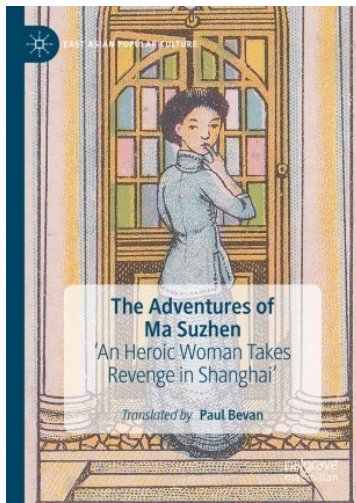


'An impressive new history of China's relations with the West—told through the lives of two language interpreters who participated in the famed Macartney embassy in 1793'.

—The Publisher



## Featured Books



Paul Bevan's translation of *The Adventures of Ma Suzhen: An Heroic Woman Takes Revenge in Shanghai* was published on 4 December 2021 by Palgrave Macmillan. Click [here](#) for more information.

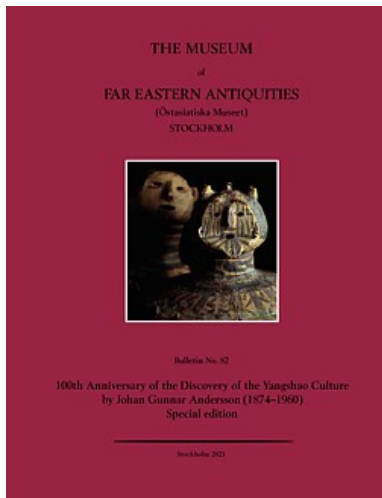
The comic novel, *The Adventures of Ma Suzhen*, attributed to Qi Fanniu and Zhu Daotong, was written during a highpoint in the popularity of xia “knight-errant” fiction. It is an action-packed tale of a young woman who takes revenge for her brother, Ma Yongzhen, a gangster and performing strongman, who has been murdered by a rival gang in China’s most cosmopolitan city, Shanghai. After publication of the book in 1923, the character of Ma Suzhen appeared on stage, and subsequently in a film made by the Mingxing Film Company. The book version as translated by Paul Bevan displays a delightful combination of the xia and popular “Mandarin Ducks and Butterflies” genres, with additional elements of Gong’an “court case” fiction. The translation is followed by an essay that explores the background to the legend of Ma Suzhen – a fictional figure, whose exhilarating escapades reflect some of the new possibilities and freedoms available to women following the founding of the Chinese Republic.



Tian Yuan Tan, *Songs of Contentment and Transgression: Discharged Officials and Literati Communities in Sixteenth-Century North China* was translated and published in China.

A Chinese translation of Professor Tian Yuan Tan’s book, *Songs of Contentment and Transgression: Discharged Officials and Literati Communities in Sixteenth-Century North China* (Harvard 2010), has been published in China under a new series of western sinological studies by Guangxi Normal University Press. The book is translated by Associate Professor Zhou Rui of Southwest University in PRC. This book series also includes translations of works by French sinologists Étienne Balazs and Otto du Sartel.

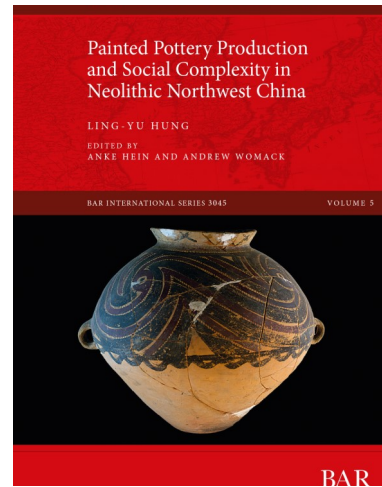
A discharged official in mid-Ming China faced significant changes in his life. This book explores three such officials in the sixteenth century—Wang Jiushi, Kang Hai, and Li Kaixian—who turned to literary endeavours when forced to retire. Instead of the formal writing expected of scholar-officials, however, they chose to engage in the stigmatized genre of qu (songs), a collective term for drama and sanqu. As their efforts reveal, a disappointing end to an official career and a physical move away from the centre led to their embrace of qu and the pursuit of a marginalized literary genre.



Myrdal, Eva and Anke Hein (eds.). 2021. *Bulletin of the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities No. 82. 100th Anniversary of the Discovery of the Yangshao Culture by Johan Gunnar Andersson (1874-1960), special edition*. Stockholm: The Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities.

2021 marks one hundred years since Johan Gunnar Andersson and his Chinese colleagues excavated a Neolithic settlement site in a small village called Yangshao in Henan Province. The excavation marks a beginning of archaeological fieldwork in China, scholarly communication over Eurasia in the field of archaeology, and the creation of a public institution for the management and display of East Asian material and visual culture in Sweden: The Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities in Stockholm, now a part of National Museums of World Culture. To commemorate the centenary of the discovery of the Yangshao culture, we are publishing an anniversary volume of the bulletin. You can download an abstract in Chinese and English [here](#).

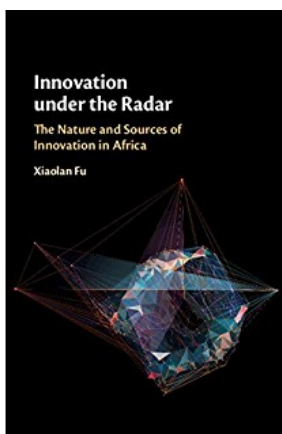
For orders outside Sweden please [email](#).



Hung, Ling-yu†. 2021. *Painted Pottery Production and Social Complexity in Neolithic Northwest China*, edited by Anke Hein and Andrew Womack. BAR International Series: Archaeology of East Asia. Oxford: BAR Publishing. Click [here](#).

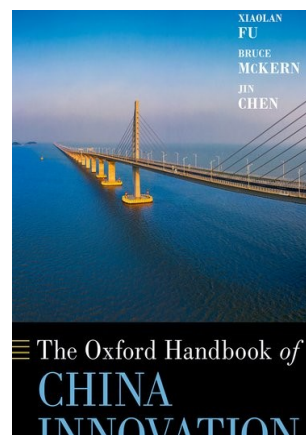
This study focuses on Neolithic period Majiayao-style painted pottery from Northwest China, which is known for its high quality and beautiful décor. It explores the long-overlooked social and economic processes behind the production of these vessels. Attribute and physicochemical analyses of hundreds of ceramic vessels and samples selected from multiple sites in Gansu, Qinghai, and Sichuan provinces are combined with settlement pattern and mortuary analyses of thousands of sites and burials. By synthesizing these data, this study illustrates a positive correlation between regional density of settlement distribution, intensification of pottery production, and degree of social inequality in each phase. Rather than showing a simple linear process of increasing social complexity, however, distinct regional variations in each phase and significant regional fluctuations over time can be seen. The results of this study demonstrate that economic and social patterns related to Majiayao ceramics were far more complex than previously thought.





**Fu, X. (2020) *Innovation under the Radar: The Nature and Sources of innovation in Africa*, Cambridge University Press.**

Investigating the nature, drivers and sources of innovation in Africa, this book examines the channels for effective diffusion of innovation in and to Africa under institutional, resource and affordability constraints. Fu draws on almost a decade of research on innovation in Africa to explore these issues and unpack the process, combining a rigorous statistical analysis of a purposely designed multi-wave, multi-country survey with in-depth studies of representative cases. Building on this research, Fu argues that African firms are innovative but unsupported. Those 'under-the-radar' innovations that widely exist in Africa as a result of the constraints are not sufficient to enable Africa to leapfrog the innovation gap in the era of the fourth Industrial Revolution. This is the first comprehensive analysis of the creation and diffusion of innovation in low income countries. It also provides the first survey-based analysis of innovation in the informal economy.



**Fu, X., Chen, J. and McKern, B. (2021) *The Oxford Handbook of China Innovation* (eds.) Oxford University Press.**

*The Oxford Handbook of China Innovation* provides a contemporary and authoritative view of the role of innovation in China's extraordinary emergence. The Handbook brings together over sixty experts from universities and research institutions worldwide to describe and analyze this phenomenon with criticism, policy discussion, and views about further development. The volume focuses on the microeconomic factors in China's growth and the way in which the steady drive for innovation has been a critical force. Chapters cover a wide scope of topics including China's development policies, the place of innovation in national priorities, the components of the national innovation system, and the resources required for their effective deployment. The issue of foreign influence is also addressed, including the evolution of policy towards inward foreign direct investment and knowledge transfer and China's goals for outward foreign direct investment.

## Featured Chapters and Articles

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

**Altehenger, J. (2022), “Modelling Modular Living: Furniture and Life Magazine and Interior Design in 1980s China,”** *Journal of Design History*. [Available here](#).



In 1981, Furniture and Life magazine commenced publication in the city of Xi'an in the People's Republic of China. This article uses the case of Furniture and Life to chart the role of modular furniture in urban interior design and the cultural imagination of the 1980s. It shows how editors, themselves often architects, furniture designers, and engineers, focused on modular, 'board-style' furniture to solve people's concrete problems of small living spaces and a growing desire for personal space. In this process, the magazine editors connected modular furniture and interiors to the CCP's vision of socialist material and spiritual civilization, thus trying to lend concrete shape to broad political concepts.

**Falato, G. (2021), “Growing up in the Inner Chambers in late Tang times: Moral Duties and Social Expectations,”** *The Journal of the European Association for Chinese Studies*. [Available here](#).



As the PRC seeks to protect its investments abroad, it is confronted with questions of law and development, yet there is little understanding of China's approach or what it means for host states, developed economies, and global governance. This article seeks to fill that gap. Drawing on three years of fieldwork and nearly 150 interviews in China and in host states, this article presents the first empirical study of Chinese law and development (CLD) to articulate an analytical theory to understand this phenomenon. The article queries whether CLD is good for developing states and identifies a research agenda for the study of the legal and regulatory dimensions of Chinese economic globalization.

**Fu, X., Fu, M. Q., Ghauri, P. and Hou, J. (2022), “International Collaboration and Innovation: from a Leading Chinese Multinational Enterprise,”** *Journal of World Business*, 57 (4). [Available here](#).



This paper investigates the impact of international collaboration and its characteristics on the quality of the innovation of multinational enterprises (MNEs) in emerging markets. Using a dataset of 1428 international and comparable domestic collaboration projects (2010–2016), it finds that while international innovation collaborations are associated with high innovation quality, cultural distance has a negative effect on collaboration outcomes. Moreover, proximity to the focal firm's overseas R&D centres and the size of expenditure budgets play significant moderating roles in overcoming cultural barriers. The characteristics of partners and intellectual property (IP) arrangements are also found to have a significant impact on the quality of innovations.

**Fu, X., Buckley, P., Sanchez-Ancochea, D. and Hasan, I. (2021), “The World has a Unique Opportunity,”** *Journal of International Business Policy*. [Available here](#).



To accelerate technology transfer and global vaccine production, this article calls for the promotion of joint ventures between global COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers and local pharmaceutical companies to create regional manufacturing hubs. These joint ventures must be supported financially by global North countries, international organisations, and host-country governments. This paper shows how the joint venture approach will have benefits for all the actors involved and generate positive impact on Sub-Saharan Africa and other regions over the long run. Following these policy proposals will present a rare window of opportunity to stimulate the life science industry in the global South, supporting sustainable economic and technological development, as well as helping protect the global community from COVID-19.

Fu, X., Ghauri, P., Ogbonna, N. and Xing, X. (2022), "Platform Technology and Entrepreneurship in the Base of the Pyramid," *Technovation*. [Available here](#).



Technological progress and the rise of short video platforms have created new possibilities for the marginalized communities. This paper explores how such platform-based business model innovation can foster entrepreneurship from the base of the pyramid (BOP) and include poor people into value creation activities by sharing their skills, experiences and their normal farming and life activities. Through an in-depth case study of a successful platform which has hundreds of millions of active users from the BOP, we developed a content-based new inclusive digital business model for grassroots entrepreneurs; and identified the mechanisms that makes such a platform fair and inclusive for the poor. The paper analysed its impact on income creation, capabilities development, and social capital development at the BOP, as well as its impact on the growth of BOP entrepreneurs, and the enabling factors that are essential for the scale-up and success of such a business model. Policy implications are also discussed.

Fu, X., Li, Y., Li, J. and Chesbrough, H. (2021), "When do Latecomer Firms Undertake International Open Innovation: Evidence from China," *Global Strategy Journal*, 12 (1), 31-56. [Available here](#).



This study examines how the characteristics of firms and their surrounding environment affect their engagement with international collaboration. Demand side factors appear to be more significant drivers of IOI in latecomer firms than the pursuit of technology leadership. Market expansion-oriented innovation strategy, international orientation, previous collaboration experiences, and technology intensity of the industry are found to be associated with a high degree of IOI; firms with stronger R&D capacity tend to be less open to international collaboration. Findings from this research are helpful for managers interested in using IOI to promote their companies' innovation performance, and to managers of MNEs or policy makers who would like to understand the international innovation strategy of Chinese firms.

Chen, J., Yin, X., Fu, X. and McKern, B. (2021), "Beyond Catch-up: Could China become the Global Innovation Powerhouse? China's Innovation Progress and Challenges from a Holistic Innovation Perspective," *Industry and Corporate Change*. [Available here](#).



This paper investigates the impact of international collaboration and its characteristics on the quality of the innovation of multinational enterprises (MNEs) in emerging markets. Using a dataset of 1428 international and comparable domestic collaboration projects (2010–2016), it finds that while international innovation collaborations are associated with high innovation quality, cultural distance has a negative effect on collaboration outcomes. Moreover, proximity to the focal firm's overseas R&D centres and the size of expenditure budgets play significant moderating roles in overcoming cultural barriers. The characteristics of partners and intellectual property (IP) arrangements are also found to have a significant impact on the quality of innovations.

Lin, Y., Fu, M.X. and Fu, X. (2021), "Varieties in State Capitalism and Corporate Innovation: Evidence from an Emerging Economy," *Journal of Corporate Finance* 67. [Available here](#).



To accelerate technology transfer and global vaccine production, this article calls for the promotion of joint ventures between global COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers and local pharmaceutical companies to create regional manufacturing hubs. These joint ventures must be supported financially by global North countries, international organisations, and host-country governments. This paper shows how the joint venture approach will have benefits for all the actors involve and generate positive impact on Sub-Saharan Africa and other regions over the long run. Following these policy proposals will present a rare window of opportunity to stimulate the life science industry in the global South, supporting sustainable economic and technological development, as well as helping protect the global community from COVID-19.



Fu, X., Emes, D. and Hou, J. (2021), "Multinational Enterprises and Structural Change in Developing Countries: A Survey of Literature," *International Business Review* 30 (2).



This paper presents a review of the literature concerning the relationship between multinational enterprises (MNEs) and structural transformation in emerging and developing countries based on journal publications over the 2000 to 2020 period. Both outward and inward foreign direct investment by multinationals were found to have strong potential implications for structural change, in the form of knowledge transfer and capabilities upgrading, productivity growth, export promotion, industrial diversification and service sector growth. With rapid development and diffusion of digital technologies, MNEs in the service sector and the digital economy may also open windows of opportunity for developing countries to catch-up in the service sector. The strength and sign of these effects, however, depend most prominently on (1) the characteristics of the MNEs and the host countries and (2) the compatibility of the MNEs and the host country. Policy and managerial implications are discussed. A set of areas for future research are also identified.

Fu, M.X., Bao, Q., Xie, H.J. and Fu, X.L. (2021), "Diffusion of Industrial Robots and Inclusive Growth: Labour Market Evidence from Cross-Country Data," *Journal of Business Research*. [Available here.](#)



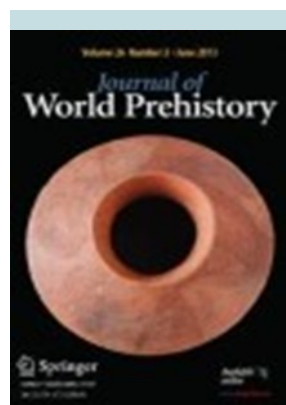
This paper investigates the impact of industrial robot adoption on inclusive growth based on labour market evidence from a cross-country panel dataset of 74 economies between 2004 and 2016. It finds that the adoption of industrial robots is associated with significant gains in labour productivity and total employment in developed economies, while such effects are insignificant in developing countries. Increased robot adoption is related to a significantly lower labour share of GDP in developing economies but not in developed countries. Overall, in both developed and developing economies, increased robot adoption is linked with significantly higher income inequality, although there is no evidence of technological unemployment. Furthermore, the employment of both male and female workers is positively associated with the adoption of industrial robots in developed economies. Yet in developing countries, only those with middle/advanced levels of education benefit from it.

Fu, X., Avenyo E. and Ghauri, P. (2021), "Digital Platforms and Development: A Survey of the Literature," *Innovation and Development*. [Available here.](#)



The digital economy has led to significant socio-economic transformations in all aspects of our society and livelihoods. While there is a growing literature on the effect of digital platforms on development, none consolidates the available evidence from a development perspective. In this systematic literature review, we grouped the available literature into three main themes and critically synthesize and analyse the role of digital technology and digital platforms on the development of the modern economy. To enable the inclusion of a wide array of published papers, we allowed for relevant quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods studies globally. This approach allows us to reflect on the role of digital platforms for development more broadly as well as discuss opportunities for future research.

Jaffe, Y., Hein, A., Womack, A., Brunson, K., D'Alpoim Guedes, J., Guo, R., Zhou, J., Ko, J., Wu, X., Wang, H., Li, S. and Flad, R. (2022), "Complex Pathways Towards Emergent Pastoral Settlements – New Research on the Bronze Age Xindian Culture of Northwest China," *Journal of World Prehistory* 34 (4), 595-647. [Available here.](#)



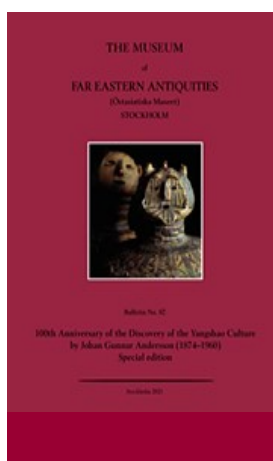
The Xindian culture has been seen as a prototypical example of a transition toward pastoralism, resulting in part from environmental changes that started around 4000 years ago. The Tao River Archaeology Project is a collaborative effort aimed at gathering archaeological information to solidify our baseline understanding of economic, technological, and social practices in the third through early first millennia BC. We present data from two Xindian culture residential sites, and propose that the Xindian culture reflects a prolonged period of complex transition in cultural traditions and subsistence practices. Communities maintained elements of earlier cultivation and animal-foddering systems, selectively incorporating new plants and animals into their repertoire. These locally-specific strategies were employed to negotiate ever-changing environmental and social conditions in the region of developing 'proto-Silk Road' interregional interactions.

Li, Z., Doherty, C. and Hein, A. (2021), "Rediscovering the Largest Kiln Site in the Middle Yangtze River Valley: Insights into Qingbai and Grey-greenish Ware Production at Husi Kiln Site Based on Bulk Chemical Analysis," *Archaeological and Anthropological Sciences* 13 (12), 218. [Available here.](#)



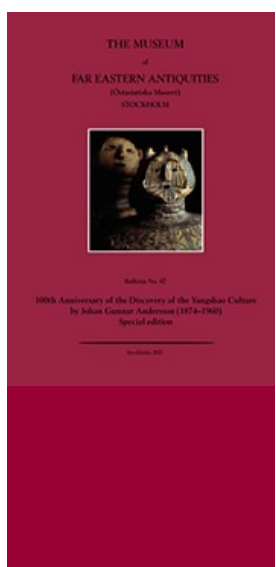
This paper presents new data from the Husi kiln site, Hubei Province, China, where the unusual size calls into question the primacy of Jingdezhen in porcelain production in medieval China. With its over 180 kilns, the site rivals Jingdezhen in size, yet it has found no mention in textual accounts. The wares produced at Husi include Qingbai and grey-greenish ware of the Tang and the Song periods (seventh to thirteenth century AD). This paper presents compositional data obtained using LA-ICP-MS on samples from five kilns at Husi, comparing them with published data from other kilns. The data set Husi apart, thus allowing for fingerprinting its wares. Based on bulk chemical analysis, the paper furthermore explores the idea that Husi combined elements of southern and northern technologies, thus connecting these two ceramic traditions that previously had been seen as being entirely separate. Some key elements of the early Qingbai ware glaze from Husi resemble wares from Jingdezhen, suggesting a connection between the two sites; however, the glaze recipes for later wares found at Husi differ, indicating that its customer base and marketing strategy changed over time. Furthermore, the iron content of the grey-greenish ware from Husi is extraordinarily

Keute, J., Isaksson, S., Devières, T. and Hein, A. (2021), "Insights into Ceramic Use in Prehistoric Northwest China Obtained from Residue Analysis: A Pilot Study on the Andersson Collection at the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm," *Bulletin of the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities* 82.



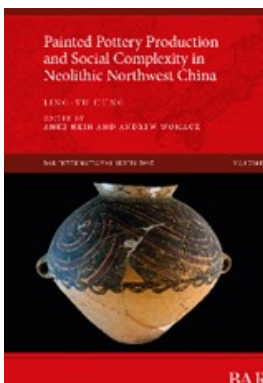
A group of pots found at Majiayao-period Neolithic sites in Gansu and Qinghai Provinces is unique because they are made of two parts – one coarse ware with a rusticated surface and one fine ware with a burnished, painted surface – we named the phenomenon Double-Wares. In this study, sherds from 15 different vessels of this type have been analysed by thin-section analysis. The results show different combinations of clays and tempers as well as different ways of uniting the two wares devised to reduce the risk of cracks along the joint. It suggests that different potters made both fine and coarse ware as well as Double-Wares. All known examples of Double-Wares are settlement finds and most are fragments of large vessels from spouted basins to two-handled shouldered jars. Double-ware demonstrate a close connection between fabric and design and that the joining of fine and coarse ware despite the practical problems must have been meaningful. Future research should aim at exploring the meaning behind this unusual phenomenon.

Hein, A., Womack, A., Stilborg, O. and Dammer, E. (2021), "Investigating Prehistoric Pottery from Northwest China: from Andersson's First Excavations to Contemporary Research. *Bulletin of the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities* 82.



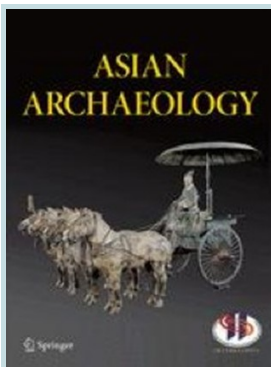
Over the past 100 years since J.G. Andersson first brought the prehistoric pottery of Gansu and Qinghai Provinces, China, to the world stage, significant advances have been made in our understanding of Neolithic and Bronze age pottery from that region. From the first typologies produced by by Andersson and colleagues to the refinement of chronologies in the 1940s–1990s to the application of modern analytical techniques in the last 20 years, our understanding of both the pottery itself and the people who produced it has been radically transformed. However, up to this point, the history of this research has been scattered across dozens of publications in multiple languages. Here, for the first time, we present a concise history of this work, paired with recent findings from research on newly excavated materials as well as older collections from the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities (MFEA) and various institutions in China. We hope that this will allow scholars to better understand the trajectory of ceramic research in this field, while also illuminating areas of interest for future search projects.

Hein, A., Flad, R. and Womack, A. (2021), "Introduction: Ceramics Research in China and Beyond," in *Painted Pottery Production and Social Complexity in Neolithic Northwest China*, by Hung Ling-yu†, edited by Anke Hein and Andrew Womack. BAR International Series: Archaeology of East Asia (Oxford: BAR Publishing), pp. XXV-XXIX.



This chapter argues that Hung Ling-yu's influence on the field has been considerable, starting a broad discussion on potential long-distance exchange of painted pottery and transmission of ceramic technologies over time and space. She had even greater plans for the future, research projects that nobody will be able to conduct quite the way she would have done, yet, her ideas and projects live on and the authors and other scholars in the field are doing their best to carry on her legacy by publishing her work and continuing her projects. In this endeavour, her sister Hung Hsiao-chun, a great archaeologist and influential scholar in her own right, is our greatest ally, generously agreeing to undertake the painful task of going through her sister's files and notes to share them with the world. We are all in her debt.

Womack, A., Flad, R., Jing, Z., Brunson, K., Hein, A., Toro, F., Xin, S., D'Alpoim Guedes, J., Guiyun, J., Xiaohong, W. and Hui, W. (2021), "The Majiayao to Qijia Transition: Exploring the Intersection of Technological and Social Continuity and Change," *Asian Archaeology* 4, 95-120. [Available here.](#)



The transition between the Majiayao (5300–4000 BP) and Qijia (4200–3500 BP) "cultures" in what is now northwestern China's Gansu Province has typically been defined by major technological changes in pottery forms, subsistence practices, and site locations. These changes are thought to have been driven by a combination of climate change induced cooling and drying as well as human migration into the region from areas further east. Based on our review of literature on the topic, as well as recent fieldwork in the northern Tao River Valley, we suggest that the picture is significantly more complex, with some new technologies slowly being experimented with, adopted, or rejected, while many other aspects of production and social organization persisted over hundreds of years. We hypothesize that these changes reflect the active agency of the inhabitants of southern Gansu during the fifth and fourth millennia BP balancing long-standing cultural traditions with influxes of new technologies. Unlike some societies in other regions at this time, however, increasing technological specialization does not appear to have resulted in growing social inequality, but the archaeological material instead

Hillenbrand, M. (2020), "The Cliffhangers: Suicide Shows and the Aesthetics of Protest in China," *Cultural Politics* 16 (2), 147-170. [Available here.](#)



Over the last couple of decades, workers in China's vast and poorly regulated construction industry have increasingly turned to suicidal performance as a radical means of securing wage arrears. These so-called suicide shows have drawn attention as expressions of escalating labor unrest in China, and thus have mostly been read through a political science prism. But these displays, precisely in their dramatic dimension, also open themselves up to a culturalist, even aesthetic analysis: they braid together mixed threads, from the Chinese tradition of suicide as righteous remonstrance to present-day forms of creatively embodied protest in the era of Occupy. At the same time, though, these workers have also fashioned an aesthetic intervention that is very much of their own devising. This article draws on an empirical base of two dozen suicide shows posted on video-sharing sites to argue that these performances force a visual rupture in the narcotically identikit Chinese cityscape, as the nation's new poor, so often invisible to their social others on the street, climb to the highest urban summits and command extreme attention. Once there, they turn the rooftop into a site of performance that acts out the excruciating distinction between those who belong within the polis and the dispossessed: those who are cast out from the circle of humanity and are thus excluded from all avenues to legal and economic redress when they are wronged. As such, "cliffhanging" in China exemplifies what I call the fractious form, in which a tense encounter between different class actors under the regime of precarity becomes the genesis for a volatile cultural practice.



Lora-Wainwright, A., Wainwright, L. and Loong, S. (2022), "British Chinese or British ESEA? Articulating Creativity and Care across Scales and Disciplines," *British Journal of Chinese Studies* 12 (1), 138-142. [Available here.](#)



This position paper advocates for more scholarship on British Chinese and ESEA communities in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. It briefly outlines our vision for future research in relation to visual arts and other forms of creativity but also presents some thoughts that could inspire new research directions for scholars with other disciplinary backgrounds and interests.

Murphy, Rachel (2022), "Education and Repertoires of Care in Migrant Families in Rural China", *Comparative Education Review*, 66 (1). It is available online ahead-of-print [here.](#)



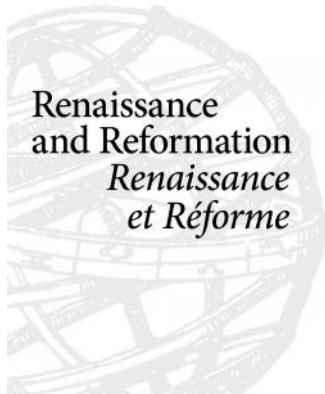
This article explores the repertoires of care practiced by adults in two rural counties in China as they raised children in support of their families' education-oriented migration projects. Rural parents and grandparent-caregivers practiced the repertoires of "revalorized domesticity" and the "entrustment" of children's education to schools. Importantly, though, families' enactments of these repertoires varied by the adults' social locations as well as by the characteristics of the local schools, including whether schools provided accommodation and meals and whether there was a buoyant private school sector. Certainly, schools significantly supplemented rural families' child-raising, albeit differently across different families and localities, with rural teachers commonly perceiving that parental migration worsened rural adults' lack of involvement in their children's education, exacerbating their own professional burdens. However, contrary to the teachers' and the wider society's perceptions, rural adults were deeply committed to their children's education, with this commitment underlaying their repertoires of care.

Murphy, Rachel (2022), "What Does 'Left Behind' Mean to Children Living in Migratory Regions in Rural China?" *Geoforum*, Volume 129, February 2022, Pages 181-190. It is available open access online ahead-of-print [here.](#)



This article explores how in China in the early to mid-2010s non-migrant children in households with and without migrants interpreted the situation of children being left behind because of parental migration. These children lived in rural regions in China's eastern interior where parental migration had become a 'new normal' and where a good future was one that involved escaping rurality and progressing to a stable urban job through education. Based on my interviews with forty-four left behind children of two migrant parents and twenty-nine children who lived with both their parents, this article demonstrates that the children's deep feelings about their own family's circumstances impacted on their perceptions about the situation of children being 'left behind'. The children's views reveal implications of parental migration that are more complex than neat delineations of trade-offs between costs (reduced parental care) and benefits (increased income) suggest. The discussion further contributes to bridging conceptual dichotomies between migrants and non-migrants and between left-behinds and other stayers.

Nie, Hongping Annie, . 2022. "Selden Map of China. MS.Selden supra 105." *Renaissance and Reformation / Renaissance et Réforme*, vol. 44, no. 2, 2021, pp. 210-214. [Available here](#).



Digital Humanities has become an important field of studies in the past several decades. This article discusses the features of the digital form of the Selden Map of China, a historical document, nautical chart, and piece of art, which has tremendous significance for research and is an important reference for scholars of the early modern period. The map was digitalised and made publicly accessible by the Chinese Collections Digitization Project of Digital Bodleian, University of Oxford. The open access to the digitalised map largely encourages international research in difficult fields of studies and in turn contribute to a better understanding of the map itself, the time and space it depicts and the connections to today's world.

Shue, V. (2022), "Regimes of Resonance: Cosmos, Empire and Changing Technologies of CCP Rule," *Modern China*. Available [here](#).



This analysis aims to place certain key elements of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) rule observed under Xi Jinping today into longer and fuller historical perspective. It highlights trademark CCP practices of ordering space, marking time, potent political messaging, and vigorous propaganda diffusion as these have evolved over many years up to the present, reconsidering these in light of early Chinese cosmological thought and later symbolic practices of empire.



## Events and Talks

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

### China Studies Seminar Series

In Trinity Term, China Studies Seminar Series will continue to be a mixture of online and in-person events. Please see our website for details.

#### Week 1

*Understanding 'Left-behind Children' in Rural China: An Ethnographic Approach*

Eric Zhou, Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Lucina Ho Seminar Room

Tuesday, 26 April, 13:00 (in-person only)

#### Week 1

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

Professor Jefferey Wasserstrom, UC Irvine

Mr Ian Johnson, The Council on Foreign Relations

Professor Diana Fu, University of Toronto

Chaired by Professor Todd Hall, University of Oxford

Tuesday 26 April, 17:00 (online only)

#### Week 2

Book Launch: *The Perils of Interpreting: The Extraordinary Lives of Two Translators between Qing China and the British Empire*

Professor Henrietta Harrison, University of Oxford

China Centre Lecture Theatre

Thursday, 5 May 17:00 (in-person only)

#### Week 4

*Conversation II: Authenticity and Sincerity in Premodern China*

Professor Xiaofei Tian, Harvard University

Professor Antje Richter, University of Colorado Boulder

Dr Christopher J Foster, SOAS

Chaired by Professor Robert Chard, University of Oxford

Thursday 19 May, 17:00 (hybrid: online and in-person)

#### Week 5

*Chinese Legal Thought on the Global Stage*

Professor Samuli Seppänen, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Chaired by Professor Matthew Erie, University of Oxford

Wednesday, 25 May 12:00 (online only)

#### Week 5

*Conversation III: Translation*

Professor Nicholas Williams, Arizona State University

Dr Paul Bevan, University of Oxford

Dr Ewan Macdonald, University of Oxford

Chaired by Dr Giulia Falato, University of Oxford

Thursday, 26 May, TBC (hybrid: online and in-person)

#### Week 6

Raphaël Van Daele, Université Libre de Bruxelles

*Fathoming the Changes Between Heaven and Earth. Reconsidering the Status of the Book of Changes in Wang Bi's Philosophy*

Thursday, 2 June, TBC (hybrid: online and in-person)

#### Week 7

*Beyond Heteronormativity? Intimacy and Intersectionality of Lesbians and Gay Men in Post-Reform China*

Professor Susanne Choi, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Monday, 6 June, 13:00 (hybrid: online and in-person)



## International Relations of China Seminar

In Hilary Term we continued our online series that explores contemporary international relations between China and the rest of the world. In Hilary Term we hosted a variety of speakers from across the globe, including Professor Alastair Iain Johnston of Harvard University, who discussed how different translations can lead to different inferences about intentions, which in turn can affect policy analysis; Professor Kai He of Griffith University, who looked at the question of what is the relationship between Chinese International Relations (IR) scholars and China's foreign policy; Professor Jinghan Zeng of Lancaster University, who talked about the politics of Artificial Intelligence in China; and Dr Yuka Kobayashi of SOAS, who examined the theory and practice in China's Belt and Road Initiative, bringing together findings from fieldwork in Southeast Asia and Europe. We are also happy to announce an exciting line up for the coming term of online events (to register, please visit our website):

### Week 2

Joel Wuthnow, U.S. National Defense University

*The future of PLA strategy and operations concerning Taiwan*

Friday, 6 May, 14:00

### Week 4

Michael Masterson, *Missouri State University*

*Emotional Contagion and Foreign Policy Preferences: The case of National Humiliation on Chinese Social Media*

Friday, 20 May, 14:00

### Week 5

Audrye Wong, University of Southern California

*Title TBA*

Friday, 27 May, 14:00 (special time)

### Week 7

Andrew Small, German Marshall Fund

*The Rupture: China and the Race for the Global Future*

Wednesday, 8 June, Time TBA (special time)

## Mandarin Forum

In Hilary Term we had a diverse and fascinating set of talks in our Mandarin Forum series, which is a platform that provides a Chinese-speaking environment for academic exchange for scholars in Oxford and beyond. Professor Xiaoling Zhang from City University of Hong Kong gave a talk entitled Urbanisation and Income Divide in China; Professor Congying Wang from Nankai University gave a talk entitled 'The Impact of Covid-19 on Public Health: An Reflection from China'; Dr Shuwen Zhou from University of Oxford gave a talk entitled 'Developing "Street Brains": Actors and Smart City Governance at Neighbourhood Level in Beijing'; and Dr Hengyu Gu from Chinese University of Hong Kong gave a talk entitled 'Do you feel accepted? Perceived acceptance and its spatially varying determinants of migrant workers among Chinese cities'. This coming term will feature a full schedule, with online presentations planned for every other Friday. For those who are interested in attending this online forum, please register on our website.

### Week 1

Ming-sho Ho, National Taiwan University

*"Today Hong Kong, Tomorrow Taiwan: History, Geopolitics, and Transboundary Civil Society between China's Two Peripheral Societies"*

Friday, 29 April, 13:00

### Week 3

Peng Wang, University of Hong Kong

*Gang evolution, crime-state relations, and state infrastructural power in rural China*

Friday, 13 May, 13:00

### Week 5

Chelsea Chou, National Taiwan University

*The Online 'Informing' System: Popularized Internet Regulation in Mainland China*

Friday, 27 May, 13:00

### Week 7

Xin Xu, University of Oxford

*A Systematic Investigation of Internationalisation of Chinese Higher Education*

Friday, 10 June, 13:00

## International History of East Asia Seminar Series

Hilary Term saw the continuation of the International History of East Asia Seminar Series, a weekly series that covers the international and transnational history of East and Southeast Asia, particularly in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This term the seminars addressed a wide variety of topics: “The Competition between Civil Servants and Military Officers in Foreign Affairs: Indonesia-Taiwan Relationship Establishment in the Late 1960s” by Dong-Yu (Donny) Lin, National Taiwan Normal University; “Missionaries, ‘Returning Overseas Chinese’, and National Reform – Xiamen’s Entangled History during the Era of Colonialism in China (1842-1945) with a Focus on Southeast Asian Connections” by Sebestyén Hompot, University of Vienna; “From Hygienic Modernity to Green Modernity: Two Modes of Modern Living in Hong Kong Since the 1970s” by Loretta Lou, University of Macau; “Bitter Herb to Newborn Babies and New Nations: Tackling the Toxicity of Huang-Lian (Rhizoma Coptidis) in Singapore and Taiwan after World War II” by Po-Hsun Chen, University of Manchester; “Between Westernization, Japanization and Self (Re-) Presentation: The Assessment of Art during the Era of Park Chung-hee, 1961–1979” by Maria Sobotka, Freie Universität zu Berlin; “Beyond the Nation-Building Narrative: Spatializing the Exhibitionary Complex in Republican Shanghai” by Yiwen Liu, Cleveland Museum of Art. This coming term will also feature a full schedule, with presentations planned for every other Wednesday in person at the Lucina Ho Seminar Room at the University of Oxford China Centre. (see website for details).

### Week 2

#### Internal Mindsets of Change and Progress in Revolutionary and Rural Revolutionary China

Yaowen Dong, University of Wisconsin-Madison

*Ilya Ehrenburg in China: “Internal Readings” and Competing Visions of Soviet Revisionism during the Chinese Cultural Revolution*

Ying Tong, University of Oxford

*Shen Xia’s Radical View of Progress under the Rectification Discourse in Yan’an during the Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945)*

Wednesday, 4 May, 17:00

### Week 4

#### Modernity and Marginalisation

Aylin Yilmaz Şaşmaz & Çile Maden Kalkan, Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University

*Early Language Reform Policies in China and Turkey During Modernisation*

Tak Wai Hung, University of Hong Kong

*Marginalization of Religious Identity on the Frontier: Muslims under the Qing Empire during and after the Khoja Wars, Late 18th -Early 19th Century*

Wednesday, 18 May, 17:00

### Week 6

#### Pacifists and POWs

Bingyi Gong, Osaka University

*From ‘Imperialists’ to ‘Pacifists’: American Quakers and U.S.-China Relations in the Cold War*

Gundė Daukšytė, Heidelberg University

*Transcultural Dynamics in Memory Literature of Japanese- and Lithuanian-speaking Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners in the Soviet Union*

Wednesday, 1 June, 17:00

### Week 8

#### Nationalistic Discourses Beyond National Borders

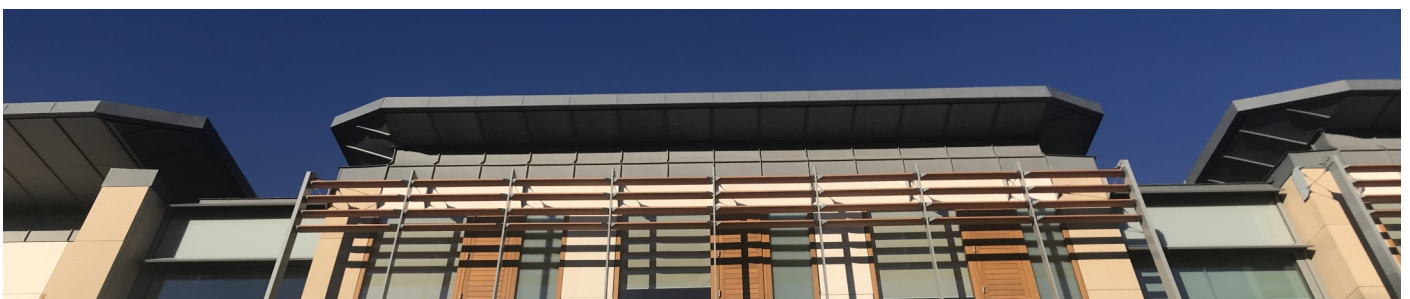
Tycho van der Hoog, Leiden University

*Rewriting the Past: A Comparison of North Korean History Museums in Namibia and Cambodia*

Duy Tan La, Vietnam National University and Academy of Korea Studies

*Building “Sojunghwa (Little China)” Nation by Vietnam’s Nguyen Dynasty and Korea’s Joseon Dynasty from the Late 18th - Early 19th Century*

Wednesday, 15 June, 17:00



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

Oxford Seminar Series on Visual Culture in Modern and Contemporary China is organised by Professor Margaret Hillenbrand and is open to the public. Professor Ying Zhu from City University of New York and Hong Kong Baptist University gave a talk entitled 'The Battle of Images: The Sino-Hollywood Negotiation' on 23 November, 2021. Dr Keru Cai from Magdalen College, Oxford of Oxford also gave a talk entitled 'Poverty and Squalor in Modern Chinese Realism' on 8 March, 2022. In Trinity Term, it will host two more speakers from the UK. If you are interested in attending these events, please register on our website.

### Week 2

Carwyn Morris, University of Manchester

*The Vibrant Material and Digital Geographies of Contentious Politics in China'*

Tuesday, 3 May, 17:00

### Week 3

Po-hsi Chen, Cambridge University

*The Kangaroo Man in the Paddock: Reproductive Technologies and Body Politics in Lily Hsueh's Writings of Family History*

Tuesday, 10 May, 17:00

## Seminar Series on Restless China: Mobility in Literature, Art and Film

This seminar series brings together scholars who deal with the theme of mobility in China and Sinophone regions over the past four decades. With a broad geographic range and covering literature, theatre, film and art, they consider mobility in terms of physical travel, imagined movement, and the circulation of ideas, information and objects; but also the glaring absence of movement, be it in terms of social immobility or recent regional lockdowns. Together, the series explores how movement, restlessness and stasis have shaped contemporary cultural production. The convenor of this seminar series is Dr Pamela Hunt who can be reached at [pamela.hunt@orinst.ox.ac.uk](mailto:pamela.hunt@orinst.ox.ac.uk).

### Week 1

Kyle Shernuk, QMUL

*Sinophone Mobilities: Syaman Rapongan, Dadelavan Ibau, and the Politics of Indigeneity*

Wednesday, 27 April, 17:00

### Week 3

Rossella Ferrari, University of Vienna

*Sinophone Performances in Journey Form in Times of (Im) Mobility*

11 May, 17:00 BST (Online Email Pamela Hunt to register)

### Week 4

Ros Holmes, University of St Andrews

*Not Moving: Performing Sleep in Contemporary China*

Wednesday, 18 May, 17:00

### Week 5

Hongwei Bao, University of Nottingham

*Performing Transnational Chinese Masculinity: Whiskey Chow's Performance Art*

Wednesday, 25 May, 17:00

### Week 6

Margaret Hillenbrand, University of Oxford

*The Logic of Expulsion in Contemporary China*

Wednesday, 1 June, 17:00

### Week 7

Mingwei Song, Wellesley College

*New Wonders of a Nonbinary Universe: The Rise of the She-Sci-Fi in China*

Wednesday, 8 June, 17:00

### Week 7

Annabella Mei Massey, University of Oxford

*Frontier Aesthetics and Psychological Healing in Guo Xiaolu's Village of Stone*

Friday, 10 June, 17:00

### Week 8

Yomi Braester, University of Washington

*Walking the City 2.0: Urban Space as Digital Noise*

Wednesday, 15 June, 17:00



# New Online Content

## Robert B. Zoellick in Conversation with Rana Mitter



Baillie Gifford Distinguished Speaker Series

America and China in the World:  
How did we get here, and where should diplomacy go next?

Robert B. Zoellick in Conversation

Online at 1700 GMT (1200 EST)  
Wednesday 16 February 2022  
[Please register here to attend.](#)

Relations between the US and China are at the tensest point for half a century. Can we look to history to understand why we have reached this point? In the next decade, global prosperity and peace will depend on this bilateral relationship being managed well. How likely are the prospects of that? In conversation with historian of China Rana Mitter, Robert B. Zoellick will draw on his long experience of public service relating to China and his new book on US diplomacy to discuss these urgent issues.

Robert B. Zoellick has served as President of the World Bank (2007-12), Deputy US Secretary of State (2005-9) and US Trade Representative (2001-5). He delivered the keynote speech in 2009 that called on China to act as a 'responsible stakeholder' in the global community. He is author of *America in the World: A History of US Diplomacy and Foreign Policy* (2020), which was recently published in paperback.

Robert B. Zoellick With Chinese former Prime Minister Wen Jiabao © World Bank/Wu Zhiyi

Supported by Baillie Gifford and the University of Oxford China Centre

'America and China in the World: How did we get here, and where should diplomacy go next?' A recording of the Baillie Gifford Distinguished Speaker talk, given by Robert B. Zoellick on 16 February 2022, is [available here](#). Robert B. Zoellick was President of the World Bank, Deputy US Secretary of State and US Trade Representative.

## Oxford China Centre Conversation



'What are we speaking about when we speak of China?'

A conversation with  
Biao Xiang,  
Yangyang Cheng &  
Rachel Leow

University of Oxford  
CHINA CENTRE

A new Oxford China Centre Conversation is now available to view. The online conversation, 'What are we speaking about when we speak of China?', took place on 26 January 2022, and can be [viewed here](#). Biao Xiang (Max Planck Institute) hosted the conversation with Yangyang Cheng (Yale Law School) and Rachel Leow (University of Cambridge).

## BBC Archive on 4 'The Great Wall' by Rana Mitter

[Available here.](#)



50 years on from US President Nixon's historic visit to China, historian Rana Mitter rediscovers how the relationship blossomed - and withered. Rana mines the archives to recover the importance of what happened next - like Deng Xiaoping's visit to America in 1979, culminating in a trip to a rodeo in Texas and the establishment of diplomatic ties.

## 'Dispute Inflation: Making Sense of Conflict Dynamics in Maritime East Asia' by Todd Hall

The talk was given at the Columbia-Harvard China and the World Program (C&WP). The upshot is that even a minor dispute can theoretically grow into a conflict due to swelling stakes, especially when dispute inflation spirals. To illustrate these dynamics at work, this talk looks to recent developments in the dispute between the People's Republic of China and Japan over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands.

## 'Like Spring Drizzle Falling without a Sound: Xi Jinping and the Political Aesthetics of Empire' by Vivienne Shue

Vivienne Shue gave a lecture on 12 February, 2022 as part of a University of British Columbia Symposium titled 'Seeing Like an Empire: Chinese Political Thought and Practice in Changing Times'. Vivienne Shue's lecture entitled '*Like Spring Drizzle Falling without a Sound*': Xi Jinping and the Political Aesthetics of Empire, along with comments in response to it from Professor Yin Shoufu of UBC can be accessed [here](#).

# News from the Library

## Bodleian Library Backhouse Rolls

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



Image: A section of Bodleian Library Backhouse Rolls b.26 秋嶺齋雲圖（清）董邦達 乾隆己未（1739）

The Backhouse collection of Chinese printed books, manuscripts, scrolls, paintings, and other miscellaneous objects of interest is among the finest and most generous gifts in the library's history, greatly enriching the Bodleian's Chinese collections. The collection was put together in Beijing by Sir Edmund Backhouse in the early 20th century as the Qing Dynasty gave way to the Republic and was donated to the Bodleian Library between 1913 and 1922. It contains many fine Chinese editions, including fifty palace editions (内府刊本), eleven volumes of Yongle Encyclopaedia (永樂大典) as well as other unique printed books, manuscripts and paintings. While material in conventional formats in the collection, such as books, are easier to describe and making them available in library reading rooms or online, the calligraphic scrolls and artistic paintings posed challenges due to their format, size, fragility and in some cases their questionable authorship and authenticity. Now, thanks to a collaborative digitisation project with the National Central Library (R.O.C.)(Taiwan), we are able to digitise the scrolls and paintings from the Backhouse collection and make them freely available online worldwide. The imaging of these items is now well underway and we plan to create a fully accessible metadata to accompany the images which will be made available at the [Digital Bodleian](#).

## Reading Rooms

As the Trinity Term is upon us, we have now lifted all the COVID-19 related restrictions in our library reading rooms, including KB Chen China Centre Library, Weston Library and Sackler Library. The KB Chen China Centre Library has returned to the pre-pandemic seating capacity and opening hours. The delivery services from the Book Storage Facility and interlibrary loan have resumed normal services. However, we are well aware that the corona virus is still with us and for the safety of our staff and readers we continue to recommend our readers to take preventive action to stop the virus spreading by continuing to wear face coverings in the reading room and we are keeping the reading room ventilated by keeping the external facing windows open.

## Staff Update

We had some staff changes in KB Chen China Centre Library since the beginning of the academic year. We have recruited a new member of staff, Xiyuan Meng, who started with us in November 2021. Xiyuan studies classics (i.e. ancient Greek and Latin) and his work in the Library is to assist readers and provide reader facing services. Our Reader Services Librarian, Cui Cui, has started working half time in KB Chen Library. She is devoting the other half of her time on an exciting web archiving project in Archives and Special Collections until March 2023. We are in the process of recruiting temporary cover for Cui's absence.



## Alumni Spotlight

### Mark Logan has been elected the Member of Parliament (MP) for Bolton North East since 2019

Mark Logan completed the MSc Contemporary Chinese Studies in 2017. Before joining Oxford, Mark was Head of Communications and Chief Spokesman at the British Consulate-General Shanghai. During that time Mark led on various strands of UK-China relations including the GREAT campaign and steered many high profile ministerial visits from the UK to China. He also served as the 2008 Olympic Attaché at the Beijing Embassy. Mark then was engaged in a private sector for large multi-national company headquartered in China, and laterally for a leading US management consultancy.

Mark spent much of his adult life living and working in East Asia and is a fluent Mandarin speaker. He first started learning Mandarin when he was doing his first degree at Queen's University Belfast. He also studied at London School of Economics, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Peking University, and the School of Oriental and African Studies University in London. .

Mark was elected as Member of Parliament for the constituency of Bolton North East for the Conservative Party in the UK's 2019 General Election. He joined the All-Party Parliamentary Group on China in 2020, and he is currently serving as a vice-chair of this group which was formed after the handover of Hong Kong to widen the parliamentary contribution to the UK-China bilateral relationship. In March 2022 he was promoted to Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister of State, NIO, and has served on the Science and Technology Select Committee since 2020.

On 12 May, 2022, Mark is scheduled to give a talk entitled *UK-China Relations: the Role of British MPs in Making Policy*. Mark said, "My year at Oxford's China Centre allowed me to better understand international affairs from a regional perspective and has been a great help to me when working in Parliament."



Portrait by Creative Commons; photo by Xinhua News.



## CONTACT US



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