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SYDNEY

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China Studies Centre
悉尼大学中国研究中心

2020 Year in Review

RESEARCH FROM A YEAR OF SHARED CHALLENGES





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2020 Year in Review

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Message from the Vice-Chancellor

The University of Sydney has been at the forefront of engagement with China for over a century. Just after WWI we encouraged Chinese exchange students to spend a year in Australia, and our first such student, from Wuhan, arrived in 1923. In the 1950s and 1960s, despite the Cold War, we had researchers working in China with Chinese colleagues. And when Australia's diplomatic relations with China were restored by the Whitlam Government we were the first University to welcome Chinese academics – our 'China 9', in 1979 – to work and study with us. This is a tradition we have sustained through our China Studies Centre and many other initiatives.

It is a tradition currently under strain due to global circumstances, but that is all the more reason to explore ways in which the University can build on our foundations to lead the way in mutual understanding and collaboration with Chinese universities, academics and students. The past twelve months have been challenging for the University and the wider world. Coming to grips with the first major worldwide pandemic in a century has stretched the economic, social, political and intellectual resources of all nations and institutions, not least those of our own university.

“The University of Sydney has been at the forefront of engagement with China for over a century.”

One lesson that has come home powerfully to many is the importance of expertise. Deep understanding and painstaking research have been integral to combatting and ameliorating the impacts of the pandemic. Universities around the world, not least our own, have stepped up to make extraordinary contributions to the global efforts to manage COVID-19. Our own Eddie Holmes and his colleagues from Wuhan were the first researchers in the world to sequence the COVID genome, enabling research teams in many countries to begin the search for a vaccine. And a number of other researchers at Sydney have made breakthroughs in developing new machines, techniques and interventions to deal with the respiratory consequences of the disease.

The other key feature of the past twelve months has been the worsening political relationship between China and the US alliance. The onset of COVID has exacerbated these geopolitical tensions. But here again universities have a major role to play. As the example of Eddie Holmes and his Chinese colleagues shows, major research breakthroughs happen through collaboration. Research should know no national boundaries except in limited areas of importance to national security. And it is vital that we continue to make the case for collaboration.

As Australia attempts to craft a new relationship with China, it is essential that this be based on mutual understanding rather than rhetoric, on fact rather than myth. The University of Sydney, with its extraordinary breadth and depth of expertise in the study of China, nurtured by our China Studies Centre, has an important role to play in informing the wider public of the complexities of Chinese society, politics, economy and culture. Our researchers, through their expertise, can provide informed and critical insights into China that will hopefully inform how our nation charts a way forward for a more productive relationship with China.

Our University's own resources may be more constrained than before, but the belief that our China scholars have a vital role to play in informing Australia's evolving relationship with China remains at the heart of our China strategy.



Professor Stephen Garton AM
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

Message from the Acting Director

The Chinese tradition of setting off firecrackers to mark the new year is said to ward off a monster known as the Nian (年), a character usually meaning 'year'. Such beliefs reflect a time when Chinese society, like agrarian societies everywhere, was exposed to the ebb and flow of seasonal forces, the success of harvests or the hardships of famine often seen as reflections of good or bad rule.

In 2020, this image of the year as a marauding beast seemed almost tangible as we faced collective challenges that brought into sharp focus not only a range of health and environmental concerns relating to the COVID-19 pandemic but also its financial, political and social implications. What is clear is that we need diverse expertise to tackle the big, global issues of today, and that China is likely to remain a key part of that equation, including its solutions.

The China Studies Centre (CSC) supports a membership of 342 academics and 182 students pursuing China-related research and collaborations across more than 20 disciplines, in almost all of the University's faculties and schools. While the CSC continued to find ways to support member research, as outlined in the following pages, in the face of unprecedented challenges we focused on an online program of discussions that brought research insights to bear on public debate.

In March we co-hosted a discussion with Sydney Ideas on 'viral panic' and COVID-related racism, led by Professor Tim Soutphommasane, Director of Culture Strategy at the University, and featuring Vice-Chancellor Dr Michael Spence, CSC academics and Jenny Leong MP, the Greens Member for Newtown in the NSW Parliament. As the world moved online, we worked with the University's new head of biomedical informatics and digital health, Associate Professor Adam Dunn, CSC members and an expert guest from the University of Wuhan to share research on social media and health misinformation during the pandemic, helping to identify and dispel some common myths and misunderstandings.

Capitalising on the online format, the CSC drew on its deep networks to introduce perspectives from across the region. In June we were especially honoured to host a dialogue with renowned respiratory specialist Professor Zhong Nanshan, China's leading voice on its pandemic response, in conversation with Professor Stephen J Simpson, Director of the University's Charles Perkins Centre. Attracting an audience of more than 500, these distinguished health experts agreed on the need to work together to tackle global health, and are now leading a research collaboration on the health impacts of COVID-19.

Such a sentiment contrasts with the geopolitical trend this year. In June the CSC organised a discussion on the pandemic's effect on US-China rivalry and what it means for Australia, moderated by the ABC's Beijing correspondent Bill Birtles. The following month CSC members from the fields of law and media, joined by colleagues from Hong Kong and the US, outlined the legal implications of the controversial Hong Kong Security Law, which has led to dozens of arrests and had a chilling effect on civil society in the Special Administrative Region, with potential reaches far beyond.

“Looking forward, there are areas in which the pandemic is becoming a catalyst for positive change as individuals, industry and government reconsider approaches to energy, health, food and waste, and their relationship to a changing climate.”

The combination of COVID-19 and the headwinds in our bilateral relationship with China pose long-term challenges for industry, including research-led innovation. As part of our industry engagement series this year we explored the impacts of COVID-19 on Australia–China business relations, including a panel discussion on legal and trade issues relating to our Free Trade Agreement with China. On the other hand, in August CSC members from The University of Sydney Business School and KPMG released the compelling report *The New Chinese Australian Entrepreneurs* – subsequently discussed in a CSC event led by *South China Morning Post* journalist Su-Lin Tan – which reveals the significant economic contribution made to Australia by locally educated entrepreneurs of Chinese background.

Looking forward, there are areas in which the pandemic is becoming a catalyst for positive change as individuals, industry and government reconsider approaches to energy, health, food and waste, and their relationship to a changing climate. Recognising China’s demand for innovation in these areas, the CSC organised a special series of industry events on food, featuring experts from the University alongside academic and industry peers from Australia and China, discussing food nutrition, safety and sustainability – themes that were echoed in our second international graduate workshop on ‘Health, food and waste in the Chinese city’, in October.

Online connectivity saw many of our programs reach larger audiences, including internationally. These included the fourth annual Sydney Asian Art Series, a collaboration with the University’s Power Institute, VisAsia and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Under the apt theme ‘Art and technology’, speakers from London, New Delhi, Taipei and Edmonton shared their expertise on Asian art with an audience of hundreds. We were also able to pursue new networks of research collaboration and public engagement, signing agreements with Sydney’s new Museum of Chinese in Australia and a new China Studies consortium that connects our members to peers at the University of California, Berkeley, the University of British Columbia, Waseda University and Taiwan’s National Chengchi University.

In my role as Acting Director it has been a challenge and a privilege to support a broad community of China experts and friends amid the uncertainty of the pandemic with its far-reaching impacts on the University sector. As the centre is poised to strengthen its research focus under new leadership in 2021, I wish especially to thank the CSC team and the many members, colleagues and peers in academia, industry and beyond, who have richly contributed to our unique activity in 2020 and over the preceding years.



Dr Olivier Krischer
Acting Director, China Studies Centre



About the China Studies Centre

The University of Sydney's China Studies Centre (CSC) is a hub for sustained, multidisciplinary research, engagement and education relating to China and the breadth of Chinese experience.

Through building community, supporting research, engaging industry and community partners and fostering China-literate graduate experience, the CSC opens the study of China to all disciplines, locating the Chinese experience within a broader, global context to form part of the questions we ask ourselves about our past, present and future.

Since 2018 the CSC has focused part of its activity on the overarching research agenda of 'China in the Urban Age' to guide its work with internal and external partners.

Governance

The centre's work is facilitated by a governance team comprising the following members.

- **Professor Luigi Tomba**
Director
- **Dr Olivier Krischer**
Deputy Director (Acting Director in 2020)
- **Susan Saretzki**
Director, Business Development and Government Relations
- **Li Ozinga**
Senior Administration Officer
- **Yanping Zhang**
Events and Communications Officer
- **Wen Chen**
Special Projects Officer

“The CSC opens the study of China to all disciplines, locating the Chinese experience within a broader, global context to form part of the questions we ask ourselves about our past, present and future.”

Executive Committee

In 2019 the CSC's executive committee was renewed and expanded – including with the addition of a graduate student member – to reflect the multidisciplinary nature of its mission. In 2020 the executive committee comprised the following members.

- **Dr Hamid Arandiyan**
School of Chemistry, Faculty of Science
- **Professor Alison Betts**
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- **Dr David Brophy**
Department of History, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- **Dr Joy Dai-Keller**
School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Science
- **Professor Roland Fletcher**
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- **Professor Hans Hendrichske**
The University of Sydney Business School
- **Associate Professor Jeanne Jie Huang**
The University of Sydney Law School
- **Dr Catherine Ingram**
Sydney Conservatorium of Music
- **Dr Joyce Nip**
Department of Media and Communications, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- **Dr Josiah Poon**
School of Computer Science, Faculty of Engineering

- **Associate Professor Simon Poon**
School of Computer Science, Faculty of Engineering
- **Dr Josh Stenberg**
Department of Chinese Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- **Associate Professor Linda Tsung**
Department of Chinese Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- **Professor Anthony Welch**
School of Education and Social Work, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- **Associate Professor Li Ming Wen**
School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health
- **Dr Olaf Werder**
Health Communication and Media, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
- **Ning Niu**
PhD candidate, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Panel of Advisors

In 2020 the CSC was assisted with its external positioning by a Panel of Advisors whose members bring expertise in Australia–China business and government relations. The panel comprised the following members.

- **Doug Ferguson**
Partner in Charge, China Practice, KPMG
- **Kevin Hobgood-Brown**
Managing Director, HHK Advisory Pty Ltd; Chairman, Foundation for Australian Studies in China
- **Robert Kok**
Councillor, City of Sydney
- **Lesley Mathews**
Managing Director, Lesley Mathews Pty Ltd.; Executive Director, South Asia Forum Ltd; Director, Kleiberit Australia Pty Ltd
- **Jingmin Qian**
Company Director and Corporate Adviser, Jing Meridian Advisory
- **Dr Geoff Raby**
Chairman and CEO, Geoff Raby and Associates
- **Tim Regan**
CEO and CFO, The George Institute for Global Health

Membership

The CSC supports a community of more than 342 academic members and 182 student members from almost all faculties and schools across the University of Sydney. Members bring a diverse range of China-related research interests and collaborations that extend from mainland China to Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and overseas Chinese communities.

Academic members are supported through the centre's annual research grants scheme, which seeds new research and facilitates collaborations and international networking. Grants favour early-career researchers and multidisciplinary projects.

Research clusters

The CSC's seven thematic research clusters support academic members from a diverse range of disciplines to identify with broader research themes, and provide seed funding to foster multidisciplinary networks and collaborations across the following areas.

- Business and Economics
- Environment
- History
- Language, Literature, Culture and Education
- Politics and Law
- Science and Technology
- Wellbeing

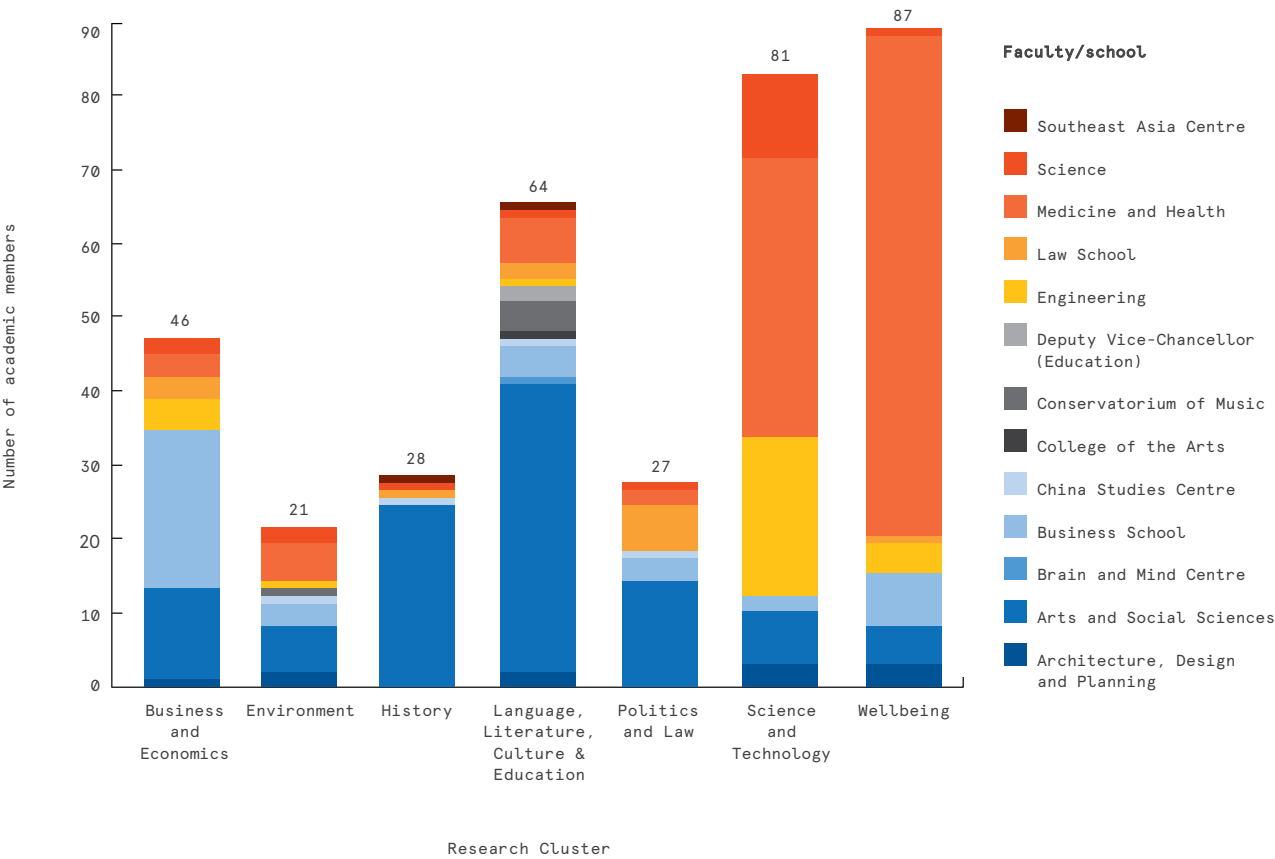
During 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic meant that much of the research usually supported by the CSC – which often includes international conference and fieldwork travel to China and elsewhere – was not possible. In late 2020 the CSC therefore offered a Rapid Funding Round to support research under the ongoing limitations of the pandemic, as well as seeding a range of new research cluster projects. Cluster projects supported in 2020 include the following.

- Environment
 - Neighbours in space: Building environments for Australia and China as spacefaring partners
 - Environment, health and economic benefits from climate change mitigations: A comparison study between Sydney and Shanghai
- Language, literature, culture and education
 - Teaching Chinese cultural awareness in Western/Australian educational systems
- History
 - Frontiers in Chinese-Australian history

Research clusters



Cluster members faculty spread



Industry engagement

By Susan Saretzki

In 2020 the China Studies Centre continued collaborating with its partners to deliver a diverse range of industry engagement events that tackled complex social, technical and business challenges of global relevance. With the goals of showcasing the University's expertise and fostering knowledge of China, the centre hosted seven webinars as part of its industry engagement program.

These events were attended by more than 1000 participants from academic circles, the corporate sector, government agencies and industry associations around the world. Their online delivery meant that these events reached larger and more international audiences and also made it possible to invite numerous expert colleagues from China and the region.

The impact of COVID-19 on Australia–China business relations

23 April

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is estimated that GDP growth in China may slow by 0.5 percent this year. As Australia's largest trade partner and a key driver of global GDP growth, the implications of this impact on the Chinese economy are significant and potentially far-reaching.

At this webinar, three leading China experts – former Australian Ambassador to China **Dr Geoff Raby AO**, The University of Sydney Business School's Head of International Business **Professor Hans Hendrichske**, and **Sara Cheng** from Australian Business Consulting and Solutions – agreed that Australia's commercial ties with China would likely remain strong after the COVID-19 pandemic has passed, although they would continue to be affected by the sometimes fraught political and diplomatic relationship.

What can we learn from China's experience of COVID-19? A conversation with Professor Zhong Nanshan

18 June

Professor Zhong Nanshan is a world-renowned respiratory disease specialist who has been at the frontline of the COVID-19 outbreak since reporting on person-to-person transmission in January 2020. Having risen to public prominence for his key role in combatting SARS in 2013, Professor Zhong is one of the most trusted voices on managing COVID-19 in China, and currently leads the team of senior medical experts advising the Chinese government on the pandemic with China's National Health Commission.

At this event, Professor Zhong shared his experiences with **Professor Stephen J Simpson**, Academic Director of the Charles Perkins Centre at the University of Sydney. These two medical experts reflected on the lessons learnt from the fight against COVID-19 and explored the wider health implications of the virus as well as the importance of international scientific collaboration.

The event attracted considerable attention from around the globe, including registrations from China, Malaysia, Singapore, the US, the UK and Germany. See the article by Professor Simpson on page 48.



A crowd of commuters wearing protective face masks walks through a busy subway station during peak hour.

China's economic recovery after COVID-19 and what it means for Australia

24 June

Speakers from The University of Sydney Business School, PayPal Australia, Tencent Holdings and Shenzhen International Investment and Promotion Association addressed questions at this event including: Which industry sectors will China reform? What role has the digital economy played during the COVID-19 pandemic and how will it influence Chinese consumer behaviour in the future? Will trade with China assist Australia's economic recovery as it did in the case of the Global Financial Crisis?

The discussion was facilitated by **Greg Earl**, former national affairs editor and Asia-Pacific editor at *The Australian Financial Review*.

“These events were attended by more than 1000 participants ... Their online delivery meant that these events reached larger and more international audiences and also made it possible to invite numerous expert colleagues from China and the region.”

Australia–China smart health industry seminar 20 August

Generously supported by Aon, this online seminar featured speakers from BGI Group, the world's largest genomics organisation, and TonWo, a Chinese smart health tech start-up, as well as **Professor Branka Vucetic**, a world-leading expert in wireless technology from the University of Sydney.

The event provided a market update on China and a number of valuable insights into the future of the digital health industry in Australia and the world, including the following.

- China's overall healthcare market is expected to reach US\$28.59 billion by 2026, a tenfold increase from 2016, and its smart health market is estimated to grow to US\$13 billion by the end of 2020.
- Seventy-six percent of all white-collar workers in major Chinese cities are categorised as sub-healthy.
- A demographic transition to an ageing society, a rise in chronic disease, soaring medical expenses per capita, lack of primary health care and risks presented by new diseases are among the challenges the Chinese healthcare system faces. ‘Smart health’ is considered one of the solutions to these issues.

Susan Saretzki is the China Studies Centre's Director of Government and Business Relations.



A busy street produce market in Hong Kong.

Smart Food Series

By Susan Saretzki

In the second half of 2020, as part of its Industry Engagement, the China Studies Centre held its Smart Food Series to address issues including nutrition, traceability, food systems and the circular economy.

The future of nutrition in Australia and China 17 September

In 2016 the Chinese Government launched its Healthy China Plan, which introduced concrete measures to reform the Chinese food industry and Chinese consumers' diets. One of the key recommendations of the subsequent 2018 Tsinghua-Lancet report on Healthy Cities in China was to promote a shift from the treatment to the prevention of non-communicable diseases. Obesity, for example, is a major health concern, with one in five children in China considered overweight or obese.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, 80 percent of Chinese consumers indicated that they would pay more attention to their dietary habits. At this event, a panel of experts, including speakers from the University of Sydney, JUCCE and Suzhou SETEK, provided insights on the future of food and nutrition in Australia and China, including the opportunities and challenges presented to industry and research in a post-pandemic world.

This event was supported by the University of Sydney's Centre in China.

"In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, 80 percent of Chinese consumers indicated that they would pay more attention to their dietary habits."

Blockchain in food in Australia and China 12 November

Speakers from the University of Sydney, Escavox and the China-based GRG Banking Blockchain briefed the audience at this event on topics including the following.

- With Australia's development of global blockchain standards, applications and innovation across a number of industry sectors, what role can Australia play in the blockchain sector in China?
- What are the opportunities for Australian rural farms to adopt blockchain for food commercialisation?
- What data should trucking companies be required to provide during transport?

Food and the circular economy in Australia and China 9 December

This webinar was presented as part of the second Australian Circular Economy Conference, organised by the Waste Transformation Research Hub and Sydney Knowledge Hub at the University of Sydney, in partnership with NSW Circular and the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU).

Facilitated by circular economy expert Associate Professor Ali Abbas from the University of Sydney, this discussion explored the role of the circular economy in transforming how we understand and respond to food challenges, including:

- current issues and benefits of 'smart food' systems
- China's response to food challenges in a changing climate, and
- how Australia and China can work together to reduce food waste.

Susan Saretzki is the China Studies Centre's Director of Government and Business Relations.

2019 Language, Literature, Culture and Education (LLCE) Cluster Funding

Virtual experiential language learning environment for Chinese language education

By Veronica Hongzhi Yang

Chinese as a foreign language (CFL) teaching and learning has boomed over the past two decades. But alongside this fast development have arisen several issues regarding teaching approach, curriculum and materials.

Firstly, it has been identified that there is a 94 percent attrition rate in Chinese language learners moving from compulsory programs into elective years of study in NSW. To address this, researchers have called for more innovative pedagogy and resources for teaching Chinese language, to provide a more stimulating experience for learners (Moloney and Xu, 2015; Orton, 2016).

The second challenge is the limited number of hours devoted to CFL learning, especially within the busy school curriculum. For example, the number of compulsory hours for foreign language learning at stage four in NSW is 100 hours, which equals just two hours per week. However, to achieve fluency in Chinese, approximately 2200 hours of class time is needed (FSI, n.d.).

This discrepancy has also resulted in a third issue – that of limited authentic language immersion, which it is not possible to increase within a context of limited budget, time and logistical constraints.

This project addresses these challenges by conducting language learning research involving a virtual experiential language learning environment (VELLE) with associated teaching resources for Chinese language learning, designed using theory and research from the cognitive and learning sciences. The VELLE provides engaging virtual reality (VR) immersive experiences for students to develop their language skills in ‘simulated authentic’ settings – including a Chinese restaurant – that are simply not possible in traditional classroom-based language instruction. It engages students by employing a game-like virtual learning environment.

With the CSC cluster grant, we have developed:

- a prototype VELLE, hosted in *Second Life* (Figures 1 and 2)
- a guidebook for using the prototype VELLE, which includes learning tasks, lesson plans and instructions for both teachers and students (Figure 3)
- a pre-survey, post-tests and a marking rubric
- an ethics application (in the final round of review)
- a presentation for delivery at the CSC 2019 Research Conference.

When the ethics application has been approved and students enrolled in first-year Chinese language units are back on campus, we plan to conduct a pilot study of Chinese language learning and student engagement with the prototype VELLE.



Figure 1: The avatar and the Chinese restaurant in the prototype VELLE (hosted in *Second Life*).



Figure 2: Internal view of the restaurant.

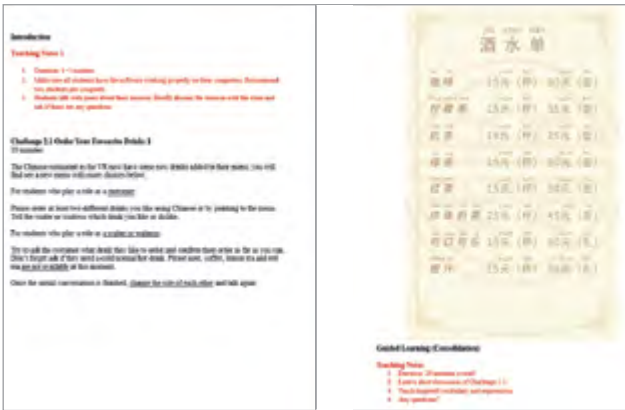


Figure 3: A guidebook for using the prototype VELLE, which includes learning tasks, lesson plans and instructions for both teachers and students.

The intended benefit of this project is to demonstrate that newly available VR technologies may be designed to enhance Chinese language learning through a ‘virtually real’ language learning experience and interactive opportunities for practice and feedback. The potential impact of this project will be to introduce innovative, cognitively based theory for designing advanced VR technologies to the study of Chinese language learning in the fields of applied linguistics and languages education.

Dr Veronica Hongzhi Yang is a lecturer in the Faculty of Education and Social Work at the University of Sydney.

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2020 Publishing Support Grant

Orchestration: China's economic statecraft across Asia and Europe

By James Reilly

National leaders have three main resources with which to exert influence abroad: money, military force and diplomacy. Yet businesspeople, unlike soldiers and diplomats, generally do not work for the government. Convincing bankers, traders and investors to act in ways likely to advance foreign policy goals is often difficult and expensive.

If any country can cut this Gordian knot, it should be China. With the Communist Party controlling the 'commanding heights' of the world's second-largest economy, China appears ideally structured to use economic resources strategically to advance its foreign policy goals – to engage in economic statecraft.

Yet, as my new book outlines, domestic complications often hinder Chinese leaders' efforts to deploy economic resources abroad for strategic purposes. *Orchestration: China's economic statecraft across Asia and Europe* (Oxford University Press, 2021) describes how China engages in economic statecraft, explains why China uses this approach and identifies when Beijing's efforts are most effective.

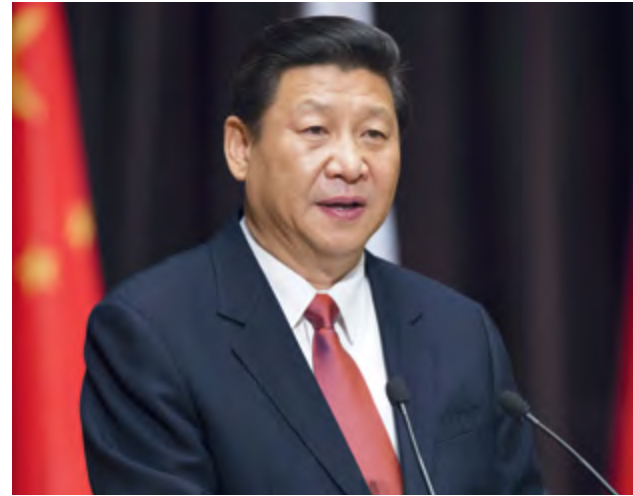
Drawing on extensive field research across Asia and Europe, *Orchestration* examines the origins, operations and effectiveness of China's economic statecraft. The first two chapters trace how China's unique historical experiences and complex political-economic structures led to Beijing's orchestration approach. These chapters show how Chinese leaders deploy incentives and innovative policies to mobilise a vast array of companies, banks and local officials, enabling China to rapidly expand trade and investment with targeted countries around the world. Beijing's economic statecraft thus requires only a light touch.

The empirical core of the book consists of four chapters comparing China's economic statecraft across Europe, and in Myanmar and North Korea. These case studies reveal Beijing's orchestration in action. Policymakers combined delegation with incentives, encouraged participation by regional authorities and enterprises, and facilitated interest alignment among implementing actors to successfully mobilise domestic actors. When problems with enterprise malfeasance, policy stretching and moral hazards emerged, central leaders adroitly reversed course.

"The policy implications for countries such as Australia, which today finds itself targeted by China's economic statecraft, are thus broadly reassuring. Economic engagement with China yields far more benefits, with fewer costs, than most popular analyses assume."



Lujiazui financial district in Pudong, with Jin Mao tower and Shanghai World Financial Center in the background (source: Wiki Commons).

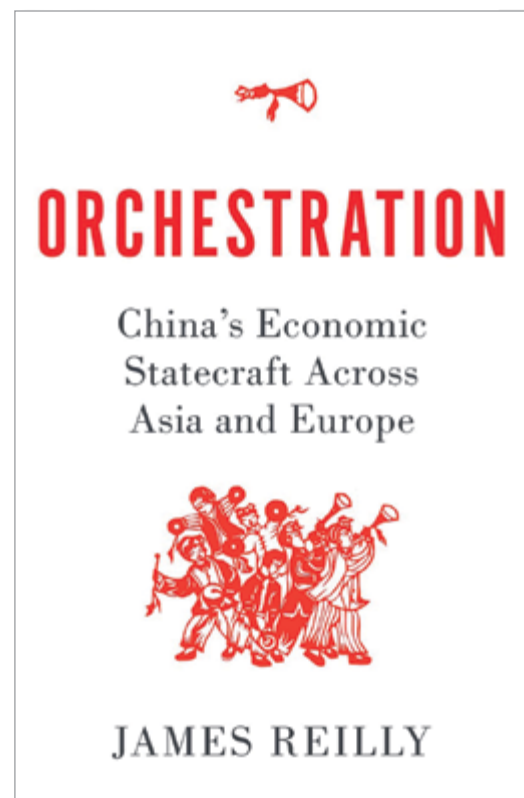


Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Despite successful implementation, Beijing's economic statecraft exacerbated populist anxieties, which undermined China's foreign policy goals. The book's case studies show that Beijing generally did not succeed in altering policy decisions, particularly in the wealthy, stable democracies of Western Europe. The policy implications for countries such as Australia, which today finds itself targeted by China's economic statecraft, are thus broadly reassuring. Economic engagement with China yields far more benefits, with fewer costs, than most popular analyses assume.

Orchestration concludes by comparing China's economic statecraft with approaches taken by Japan, Germany and the US. Distinct from all three, China's orchestration approach relies on mobilising commercial actors: deploying the vast array of resources and power vested in the Party-state to convince a broad array of commercial actors to engage in economic activities designed to advance domestic and foreign policy goals simultaneously. This crucial distinction, I argue, derives from China's unique combination of historical experience and political-economic structures: domestic ideas and institutions. Therefore, it is on these domestic foundations that future studies in comparative economic statecraft should be built.

James Reilly is an Associate Professor in Northeast Asian Politics in the Department of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney.



2020 Small Project Grant

Chinese Parental Health Literacy Questionnaire

By Mu Li

China was the first country to be affected by the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The travel restrictions imposed on the outbreak's epicentre in Wuhan on 23 January 2020, and subsequent lockdowns in other cities and towns across China, have proven to be crucial in breaking the transmission of the virus. However, they have also had major impacts on people's mental health.

Pregnancy is stressful for most women at the best of times, but the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdown of many countries has had the potential to exacerbate the anxiety of pregnant women. As the epidemic escalated, social media became the primary channel for information sharing and connecting with others.

During the peak of the epidemic in China in February, we worked with colleagues from the Department of Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health at Fudan University's School of Public Health to conduct an online survey of more than 1800 pregnant women from 22 provinces in China. The survey found that almost 90 percent of expectant mothers who responded had experienced some form of mental health problems, including stress, anxiety and/or depression. This was caused by concerns about the pandemic itself as well as about lockdowns and reduced access to their usual antenatal services.

More than 75 percent of respondents reported having accessed antenatal healthcare information on hospitals' official WeChat and Weibo social media accounts – the two most popular Chinese social media platforms. Compared with use of hospital telephone hotlines, text messaging and seeking information from family and friends, 60 percent of women reported that the official WeChat and Weibo accounts were their preferred channels for accessing information. Pregnant women who had access to antenatal care information from official social media accounts set up by their hospital also had significantly lower risks of suffering from stress, anxiety and/or depression.

The study also found that the other forms of communication considered – hospital telephone hotlines, text messaging and advice from family and friends – were not as effective in lowering levels of stress and anxiety in pregnant women. In fact, women who had obtained antenatal care information from family and friends appeared to have a higher risk of depression.

“The survey found that almost 90 percent of expectant mothers who responded had experienced some form of mental health problems, including stress, anxiety and/or depression. This was caused by concerns about the pandemic itself as well as about lockdowns and reduced access to their usual antenatal services.”

Expectant mothers are understandably concerned about their own wellbeing and that of their unborn children at this challenging time. It is therefore vitally important that we reassure and support pregnant women during this pandemic. Providing information for pregnant women through social media platforms about how to cope during this pandemic could be an effective way to mitigate mental health disorders as part of epidemic preparedness and response. Another benefit of access to antenatal care through social media is that it gives women greater flexibility and control over when they access this information.

This research is important because it demonstrates that we can reduce the levels of anxiety, stress and depression in expectant mothers if we connect with them through social media and give them a trusted source of information for their antenatal care.

Professor Mu Li is Director of International Public Health at the University of Sydney School of Public Health.



2020 Small Project Grant

Taiwan's future in an emerging Indo-Pacific

By Jingdong Yuan and Thomas Wilkins

The introduction of the Indo-Pacific concept is perhaps the most significant geopolitical development to occur in regional security discourse to date. Even as countries continue to reel from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, a new and transformational security outlook has continued to develop among the major powers in the region, including the US, Japan, Australia and India.

Taiwan, as a democracy and an advanced maritime trading nation, is strategically located. This has clearly been recognised by Washington, as enhanced US–Taiwan ties in recent years testify. In this context, the Indo-Pacific concept presents invaluable opportunities on which Taipei can capitalise to reinforce its position in this new regional construct in order to strengthen and expand its international space. This will require deft diplomacy to carve out a role for the country in the new geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific ‘mental map’, and the implementation of national policies that align with the Indo-Pacific policy initiatives of like-minded partners.

Indeed, our preliminary research suggests that the Tsai Ing-wen Government has already shown strong signals that it recognises this unique opportunity and is actively engaged in formulating and implementing policies – including the New Southbound Policy (NSP) – that strengthen its democracy, develop partnerships for security and prosperity, and diversify and improve its economy through investment, trade and infrastructure.





It has additionally sought not only to define its own strategic narrative in alignment with the Indo-Pacific concept, but also to engage in acts of identity formation by positioning itself as an Indo-Pacific nation and an integral part of the Indo-Pacific community.

Taipei is already making significant contributions to the emerging Indo-Pacific through its development assistance programs and its support of civil society, and as an exemplar of good governance in its successful handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, Taiwanese analysts are cognisant of the unique window of opportunity an Indo-Pacific focus by the US and other major regional powers would provide. Meanwhile, there is awareness of the potential challenges or even risks that Taiwan may face, especially as Sino-US strategic rivalry and military confrontation intensify.

This research project has three main objectives. Firstly, it aims to undertake a thorough exposition of 'the Indo-Pacific' from a conceptual perspective, as a precursor to its second objective of a structured appraisal of the regional security environment as emblematised by the major powers' Indo-Pacific focused policies. On these bases, and taking into consideration Taiwan's interests, priorities and capacities, it will then address its third objective of assessing the most appropriate course of action for medium-sized states such as Taiwan to co-opt the Indo-Pacific narrative both to frame nationally inspired policies and to collaborate with those of like-minded partners.

“Taipei is already making significant contributions to the emerging Indo-Pacific through its development assistance programs and its support of civil society, and as an exemplar of good governance in its successful handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Our research aims to make a significant contribution to debates surrounding the newly prominent Indo-Pacific concept, policy initiatives of key players in the region, and pathways for Taiwan's integration and empowerment. The project gives full intellectual rein to all these factors, but in a highly focused, structured and policy-relevant fashion.

Jingdong Yuan is an Associate Professor specialising in Asia-Pacific security, Chinese defence and foreign policy, and global/regional arms control and nonproliferation issues. Dr Thomas Wilkins is a senior lecturer specialising in security studies and strategic studies in the Asia-Pacific region. Both are from the Department of Government and International Relations at the University of Sydney's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

2020 Small Project Grant

China's news propaganda on social media targeting Hong Kong and Taiwan

By Joyce Nip

As China challenges the United States in reconfiguring the global balance of power, it has intensified its use of propaganda both internally and externally. Within this context, Hong Kong and Taiwan have come under increased pressure to become integrated into the PRC polity.

News propaganda targeting Hong Kong and Taiwan is tailored to their respective contexts to achieve different goals. In its Special Administrative Region Hong Kong, in addition to operating its own news media there, China produces compliance by co-opting the mainstream news media in the process of resuming sovereignty of the former British colony.

In Taiwan, China has been seeking reunification by subsidising pro-China businesses to acquire newspapers and television stations since the late 2000s, enabled by the media liberalisation that began in 1987 and a closer connection across the Taiwan Strait since 2008. These media moves have generated journalistic self-censorship and shifted editorial lines in favour of Beijing in both places.

Beijing-supportive online media have been created and active in Hong Kong since the early 2010s. Content published by China's Taiwan Affairs Office and republished on certain websites in Taiwan forms part of a larger and more covert mechanism of China's online propaganda targeting Taiwan.

The expansion of China's news propaganda towards Hong Kong and Taiwan rides on the popularity of social media as a platform of news access. The nature of social media communication extends the concerns of propaganda beyond the message to the production and dissemination of messages in what has been referred to as 'computational propaganda' or 'network propaganda'. As computer-driven accounts are created and algorithms used to post, comment and disseminate with the help of artificial intelligence and big data analysis in social media networks, the impact of propaganda is targeted, amplified and pervasive. Large numbers of social media accounts on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube associated with China were shut down in August 2019 and in May–June 2020 for manipulative operations.

My research responds to the new setting in which propaganda is conducted to investigate China's news propaganda targeting Hong Kong and Taiwan. With support from a China Studies Centre Small Project Grant, this project has grown into a collaboration involving Dr Benoit Berthelier, Lecturer in Korean Studies at the University of Sydney, and Associate Professor Yu-Hui Tai at the National Chiao Tung University in Taiwan. The project is also supported by a 2021 MOFA Taiwan Fellowship.



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Dr Joyce Nip is an Associate Professor in the Department of Media and Communications and the Department of Chinese Studies.

Top: Photo of Hong Kong by Alison Pang, Unsplash.com

Right: Examples of propaganda images on Facebook.
Source: <https://about.fb.com/news/2019/08/removing-cib-china/>



Second international graduate workshop on China in the Urban Age

By Olivier Krischer

In 2018 the China Studies Centre launched the research agenda China in the Urban Age, to gather multidisciplinary data towards a more complex narrative of China's urbanisation and its relevance to Australia and the world. Since then the centre has held two international graduate workshops to support and connect with the work of scholars in this exciting area.

The first of these workshops, on the theme 'Environmental challenges and eco-civilisation in China', was held at the University of Sydney in January 2019 and attracted speakers and participants from around the world. In 2020 the centre edited a selection of short essays invited from this workshop, which will be published as a book by the *Made in China* journal, titled *Shades of Green: Notes on China's Eco-civilisation* (Luigi Tomba & Olivier Krischer, eds, 2021).

Health, food and waste in the Chinese city

The second workshop, held in 2020, focused on the theme 'Health, food and waste in the Chinese city: Practical, utopian and systemic solutions', with the aim of addressing such challenges as waste, pollution and sustainability in key areas of urban life.

Waste, for example, happens at the points of both production and consumption, sometimes as a result of well-intentioned efforts that fail to consider their unexpected consequences, but also as a result of the dominance of short-term solutions aimed at maximising profits. More is often seen as better – more value, more efficiency, more popularity. But when does more become excess? Such values as waste, profit, excess and surplus all warrant reconsideration, in turn reframing concepts of technology, development and progress. These questions are of historical and contemporary relevance to societies everywhere: this workshop asked what China might learn from other contexts, and what others might learn from China.

Originally scheduled to be held in mid-2020 at the Centre in China, due to the pandemic this workshop was redesigned and delivered online over two weeks in October. Despite these challenges it attracted more than 100 applications, and a small cohort of graduate students and early-career researchers was selected to share readings, video presentations and online discussions from the perspectives of their diverse research areas. Speakers and participants from Australia, China, Europe and the US collaborated to overcome the challenges of connecting across time zones and between disciplines in this novel format.





Key presentations included the following.

- 'Health, food and waste in contemporary China', Professor Luigi Tomba, Professor of Chinese Politics and Director, China Studies Centre
- 'Speculative landscapes of desolation', Dr Corey Byrnes, Assistant Professor of Chinese Culture, Northwestern University
- 'Food, farming and technology in China today', Dr Sacha Cody, anthropologist and Director, Forethought
- 'Art, ecology and the Chinese city', Dr Olivier Krischer, Acting Director, China Studies Centre
- 'Looking at the rural to see the urban: The metabolic rift, social reproduction and feeding affluence in the Chinese city', Dr Mindi Schneider, Assistant Professor of Agrarian Sociology and Rural Development, Wageningen University
- 'Air pollution and health in urban China: Science, policy and public perceptions', Professor Bryan Tilt, Professor of Environmental Anthropology, Oregon State University
- 'Environment and public health in China', Associate Professor Ying Zhang, Sydney School of Public Health, University of Sydney
- 'Sustainability assessments in virtual laboratories', Dr Arunima Malik, Lecturer in Sustainability, Faculty of Science and The University of Sydney Business School.

In addition, Professor Susan Greenhalgh (John King and Wilma Cannon Fairbank Research Professor of Chinese Society, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University) shared her articles 'Governing through science: The anthropology of science and technology in contemporary China' and 'The good scientist and the good multinational: Managing the ethics of industry-funded health science' and joined the online discussions.



Top left: A scientist recording data on a digital tablet in greenhouse examining corn seedlings, China.
 Top right: Industrial chicken processing plant in China.
 Bottom right: Bok choy growing in a hydroponic farm.



Sydney Chinese Studies Postgraduate Seminars

By Josh Stenberg

In 2020 the China Studies Centre and the Department of Chinese Studies were pleased to hold the fourth and fifth Sydney Chinese Studies Postgraduate Seminars online, enabling participation in these popular events by a larger and more international cohort than usual. These half-day events, held annually in April and October, allow research students across the breadth of Chinese Studies to present their work in a relaxed yet conference-like setting.

While aimed at connecting students from the University of Sydney with their peers from universities across the Sydney region, the seminars are open to any postgraduate student working on a Chinese Studies topic, broadly defined. Paper submissions are convened into thematic panels, with each paper receiving expert feedback from relevant scholars in the field, drawn from universities throughout Sydney. These seminars allow postgraduate researchers to network with a community of peers while practising the skills necessary for confidently sharing their research at academic conferences, employment interviews and internal presentations.

This year the two seminars hosted a total of 25 presentations, on research topics ranging from water sustainability in Beijing to Sino-Ethiopian marriage, and from urban migrancy in Chinese cinema to Tibetan children's literary fiction. Participants included students in urban studies, gender and cultural studies, media and communication, health sciences, government and international relations, as well as literature and linguistics. This year, papers were presented by students from all five major public universities in Sydney, as well as by several interstate and international presenters, including research students joining online from China and Europe. The unique challenges of 2020 were thus offset by the opportunity to expand the event both nationally and internationally.

Although only in its third year, the Sydney China Studies Postgraduate Seminars have rapidly earned a place on the China Studies Centre calendar, forming part of the centre's productive collaboration with the Department of Chinese Studies. Along with other student-centred events, the seminars contribute to positioning the University as a hub for Chinese Studies graduate work in Sydney and in Australia, actively working to strengthen the broader community and the ties that bind it together.

The Sydney Chinese Studies Postgraduate Seminars are co-convened by Dr Josh Stenberg, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Chinese Studies, and Dr Olivier Krischer, Acting Director, China Studies Centre.

Participant institutions included:

Students

- University of Sydney
- Australian National University
- University of Western Australia
- University of Nottingham Ningbo China
- Monash University
- Peking University
- University of Canterbury, New Zealand
- Durham University
- University of Melbourne
- University of Hong Kong

Discussants

- University of Sydney
- University of Wollongong
- Western Sydney University
- University of Technology, Sydney
- University of New South Wales
- Australian National University
- Nanjing Normal University

2020 Way In Postgraduate Research Scholarship

In late 2019 the China Studies Centre launched the Way In Postgraduate Research Scholarship.

Funded by a donation from Way In Network – a Sydney philanthropic association established to assist migrant women in Australia – the scholarship aims to support young women scholars from China in their Australian postgraduate studies, particularly in the fields of linguistics, history, politics and social sciences.

With the assistance of the relevant heads of department, the centre was able to award four one-off scholarships to Master of Arts or PhD by research scholars this year, which was especially timely in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here the recipients share some insights into their research and their experience at the University.

Ziqing Lyu

What are you studying?

I am a PhD candidate in the Department of Chinese Studies. My research interest is in data-based reception studies of Chinese literature in foreign cultures.

Why did you choose Australia and the University of Sydney?

Because of the prestigious reputation of the University of Sydney, and my brilliant supervisor, who has similar research interests.

How would you summarise your research?

My research employs a combination of thematic and sentiment analysis through quantitative and qualitative approaches to evaluate the reception of Chinese science fiction among English[-language] readers.

What impact do you hope your research will have?

I hope this study will have implications for a new model of understanding of the role translations play in the target culture, and shed light on the introduction, local adaptation, circulation and reception of contemporary Chinese literature.

Mengdan Zhao

What are you studying?

I am a PhD student in the Department of Chinese Studies, and my major is corpus linguistics and translation studies.

Why did you choose Australia and the University of Sydney?

[Because of] the inclusive, multicultural society, the breathtaking landscapes, the delightful Aussie sun and beaches and – most importantly – the global reputation and excellent quality education of the University of Sydney.

How would you summarise your research?

My thesis focuses on digital mass media communication of dietary health risks in Australia and China, specifically the risks associated with excess salt intake. Improving the effectiveness of disseminating health-promoting materials through media is of value to enhancing comprehension and behavioural intentions among people with limited health literacy.

What impact do you hope your research will have?

Public health communication is a critically important component of health promotion, which requires continuous improvement and optimisation. I hope this research will encourage more researchers to work in the field of public health communication, and influence public health communicators and professionals to tailor their messages for effective dissemination.



Clockwise from top left: Ziqing Lyu, Mengdan Zhao, Qiuxian Cheng, Xueyang Ma.

Xueyang Ma

What are you studying?

My research topic is 'In-work poverty among precarious workers in western China'. I'm in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy.

Why did you choose Australia and the University of Sydney?

I considered the academic reputation and resources, the global rankings and the environment of the University. And ... I thought my supervisor, with her rich research experience, could provide me with great supervision and help me to improve my research ability. In addition, I felt that Sydney was a safe city and the living cost was affordable.

How would you summarise your research?

My research uses Amartya Sen's capability approach and Ulrich Beck's risk society theory to study precarious employment and the dynamics of poverty in urban China. The focus is on what kind(s) of capability deprivation precarious workers experience and why. Lived experience and feminism are used as the methodology – a participatory approach.

What impact do you hope your research will have?

Although I wish my research would bring about some positive change in policies, I know policymakers rarely read and draw lessons from the literature. Therefore, the main impact, I hope, is for researchers who are potentially interested in my field: I hope my research can provide them with more inspiration.

Qiuxian Cheng

What are you studying?

Sociology and social policy.

Why did you choose Australia and the University of Sydney?

The University of Sydney is one of the best universities in the world. An excellent university in a kangaroo-and-sunshine land is the perfect choice for me!

How would you summarise your research?

I'm doing a comparative analysis of Australian and Chinese healthcare systems, from a sociological perspective.

What impact do you hope your research will have?

I'm interested in the reasons behind the similarities and differences between health policies in Australia and China. I hope to give some practical suggestions on Chinese health policies based on this research.

2020 Student Grants

Media coverage in the context of China's rich list

By Liang Wen

The media caters to our fascination with wealth by publishing various rankings of billionaires in many countries, including the Hurun Rich List in China, the Forbes 400 in the US, the Sunday Times Rich List in the UK and the Financial Review Rich List in Australia.

These lists document and rank the wealth of billionaires on an annual basis, many of whom are corporate leaders who either founded their firms or continue to undertake leadership roles in them.

Rich lists in China, as an emerging economy, often serve as indicators of the vitality of the private sector and reflect the progress of institutional reform. Being included on these lists, which are well publicised, can make billionaire entrepreneurs into celebrities, attracting substantial media attention and evaluation.

Media attention and coverage of company leaders inevitably spills over to their associated firms. Interestingly, the media coverage of these billionaires is not always positive or consistent across different media or countries. The wealth status of billionaires is regarded in some countries as legitimate and deserved, while it is perceived as largely immoral and unmerited in others.

For instance, in the US, individuals' wealth is largely perceived as the outcome of the individual's effort, talent and entrepreneurship, while in European countries people largely attribute individuals' wealth to luck, corruption and political connections. When the rich become richer, serious resentment can arise towards them.

The media can impose pressures to influence firms' strategies and outcomes. An important effect of media coverage is its evaluation and 'approval' of a firm's legitimacy in the eyes of various stakeholders. As such, firms tend to react differently to positive and negative media coverage in their subsequent strategies and decisions.



Clockwise from top left:
Li Ka-shing, Senior Advisor and retired chairman of CK Hutchison Holdings and CK Asset Holdings.
Jack Ma (Ma Yun), co-founder and former executive chairman of Alibaba Group.
Wang Jianlin, founder of Dalian Wanda Group.
Robin Li Yanhong, co-founder of search engine Baidu.
Yang Huiyan, majority shareholder of Country Garden Holdings and the richest woman in Asia.
Zhou Qunfei, founder of the major touchscreen maker Lens Technology.
Xu Jiayin (Hui Ka Yan), chairman of Evergrande Group, a Chinese real estate developer.
Ma Huateng (Pony Ma), founder, chairman and CEO of internet and technology company Tencent, Asia's most valuable company.

Positive media coverage can be a source of prestige, since it elevates the public's perceptions of individuals and their associated firms. In contrast, negative media coverage is likely to generate stigma and harm the reputation of associated individuals and firms.

Prior research has mostly examined the effects of media coverage of firms on subsequent firm strategy and performance, but largely overlooked the potential effects of media coverage of individual firm leaders on a firm's strategy and outcomes. The composition of the rich lists and their changes over time attract substantial public interest. This study examines whether and how media coverage, both positive and negative, of billionaire entrepreneurs influences their associated firms' strategies and performance.

Liang Wen is a PhD candidate in International Business at The University of Sydney Business School. His thesis is titled *Interpreting signals and conferring status: Three essays on media coverage in the context of China's rich list*.



The role of university enrolment policies in Taiwan's democracy

By Leo Ren-Hao Xu

In Taiwan, higher education expansion occurred along with political transformation from an authoritarian to a democratic regime, between 1987 and 1996. Prior to this the political ruling party, the Kuomintang (KMT), rigorously controlled the scale of universities and limited university autonomy to secure its legitimacy.

The earliest universities in Taiwan were small and provided limited places for students. They were established for both economic and political reasons. On the one hand, they were used to meet the demands of national economic plans; on the other, they were seen as symbolic instruments for political competition with the regime of the People's Republic of China. For instance, Taiwan's National Tsinghua University paralleled Beijing's Tsinghua University. With the government's lifting of martial law in 1987, public pressure demanded it withdraw its overt control over the higher education system.

The massification of Taiwanese higher education was a part of the political reforms that occurred from the early 1990s. In 1994 the 410 Civic Education Movement flagged 'university for all' and 'university autonomy' to push the government to reform the system. In response to these appeals the government introduced a suite of reform policies in 1996.

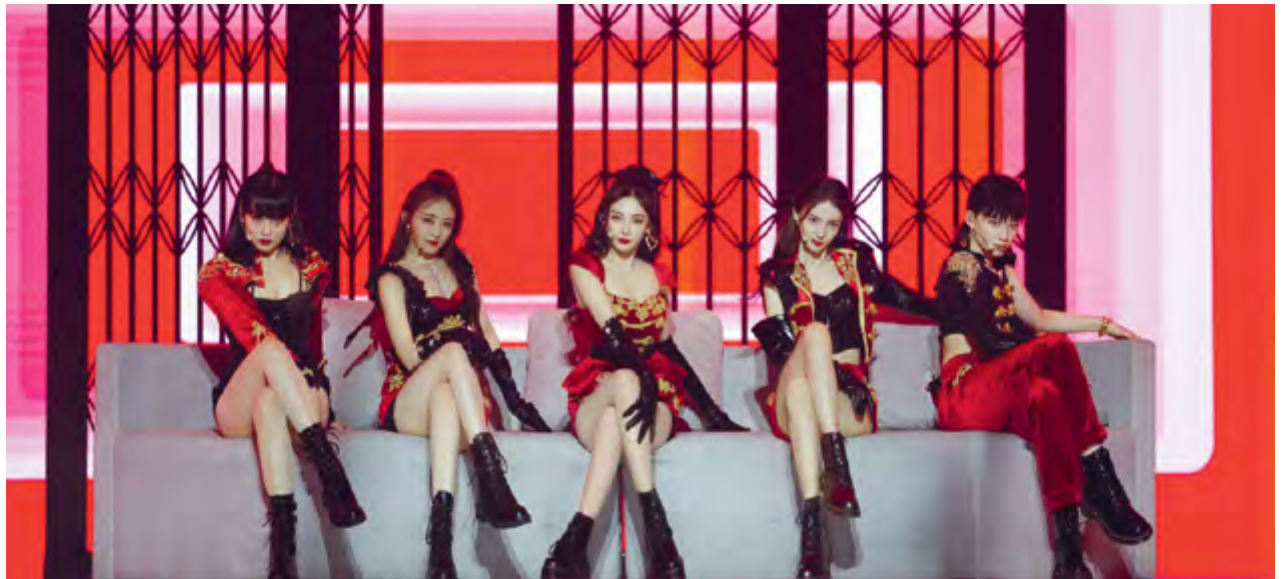
Firstly, several colleges were upgraded to become university-level institutions. Secondly, the state-centralised monopoly on higher education governance was partly removed, allowing the private sector to establish universities. Both government actions broadened the scale of university places to meet the increasing demand of student enrolments.

Finally, university autonomy was legalised through amendments to the University Act, which meant that the allocation of university places to areas of study was no longer controlled by the government. Instead, the universities themselves now had greater power in determining the internal distribution of places. This concomitantly prompted the universities to diversify their program areas.

In sum, the experience of Taiwan represents a specific case in which higher education massification has not merely been for economic reasons. Rather, political control and civil society resistance have also played crucial roles in shaping university access and the allocation of places in different areas of study.

This study also constructs a historical account for understanding Taiwan's higher education enrolment policies in the era of democratisation.

Leo Ren-Hao Xu is a PhD candidate in the School of Education and Social Work at the University of Sydney. His thesis, *Universities as civic controls: Examining university enrolment policies during the democratisation of Taiwan, 1987–1996*, explores higher education enrolment policies in Australia and Taiwan.



The ambivalence between female queer (in)visibility and popular feminist rhetoric in the Chinese reality show *Sisters Who Make Waves*

By Jia Guo and Shaojun Kong

In this study we focus on a kind of female queer fandom, namely *jiquan* (姬圈) fandom, which focuses on competitors in the popular Chinese girl group cultivation reality show *Sisters Who Make Waves* (乘风破浪的姐姐), produced by Mango TV.

Chinese televisual culture has provided a range of queer spectacles in the new millennium. However, there is no current academic work theorising *jiquan* fandom nor female queer fandom in Chinese girl group cultivation reality shows in both English and Chinese scholarship. By contextualising *jiquan* fandom in popular feminist discourses of *Sisters Who Make Waves*, our research aims to contribute to queer studies and fandom studies in the context of contemporary China. In the age of both international and local knowledge flows on gender and sexuality, it is important to examine new forms of queer spectacle in Chinese media and pop culture.

Firstly, we use the scope of female queer fandoms to theorise fans' alternative fantasies, interpretations and readings of *Sisters Who Make Waves* from *jiquan* fandom. Further, we identify some generational features of *jiquan* fandom.

Secondly, we employ popular feminism as a framework to generalise a 'woke' trope in Chinese girl group cultivation reality shows. We map this emergence of popular feminist rhetoric of Chinese TV in the wake of 'a new visibility for feminisms' in youth and consumer culture in contemporary China. Specifically, we demonstrate that female queer fandoms and popular feminisms are inevitably intertwined in Chinese girl group cultivation reality shows.

Thirdly, by providing critical readings of some specific queer subtexts of *Sisters Who Make Waves* and *jiquan* fans' corresponding discussions, we have tried to highlight two narratives to contextualise *jiquan* fandom in popular feminist rhetoric of *Sisters Who Make Waves*: the construction of a 'lesbian-ideal' idol and the (re)normalisation of a *zhongxing* (中性) idol.

Finally, we draw a conclusion on our analysis of the articulation of *jiquan* fandom and popular feminist rhetoric in *Sisters Who Make Waves*. Although not without limitations, female queer agencies voice and desire more directly and diversely within and beyond *Sisters Who Make Waves*, collaborating with a range of popular feminist rhetoric. Both challenging and compromising with heteropatriarchal norms, popular feminist rhetoric cooperates with female queer sensibilities in a hypercommercialised way but defers the politicisation of female queerness in Chinese public cultures.

Jia Guo and Shaojun Kong are PhD candidates in the Department of Gender and Cultural Studies at the University of Sydney. This research will be published as a chapter in the forthcoming anthology *Queer TV China* (Hong Kong University Press), edited by Dr Jamie J Zhao.

Contestants from *Sisters Who Make Waves*.
Source: <https://newtalk.tw/news/view/2020-09-04/460784>



Russian and French archives on CCP early history

By Shensi Yi

Because of COVID-19, the University library's interlibrary loan service was first temporarily ceased, and then restricted to a very low level. It was therefore difficult to access certain sources from other institutes worldwide, which brought significant inconvenience to my source supplementation and therefore delays to my research process.

In the final stages of my thesis, I hoped my research could be further solidified by adding some necessary Russian and French archival sources to further enlarge the empirical grounds of my study. The Centre des Archives Diplomatiques in Nantes and the Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History (RGASPI) in Moscow both serve foreign researchers by digitising some of their archival materials, which is particularly convenient during the current pandemic. The crucial support of the CSC made it possible for me to purchase some digitised archival documents from both sources.

The Centre des Archives Diplomatiques houses a considerable number of sources relating to important historical events in Republican Shanghai. Those that I purchased copies of included *Bulletin mensuel d'information des services de police* (1933), *Correspondance avec le ministère des Affaires étrangères* (1926) and *Affaires politiques* (1927). These sources contain intelligence reports about Chinese Bolshevik activities cabled from the French Consulate in Shanghai to Paris in the critical period that I am researching.

RGASPI also holds a wide array of archival materials necessary to my studies, including minutes of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) meetings and CCP personal files. Having access to these sources will play an important role in getting my articles accepted for publication and in completing my PhD thesis, as well as benefiting my future research.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the financial support of the CSC. To me, this grant not only provided substantial assistance in facilitating my archival access but also demonstrated a level of trust and investment in my work. I am honoured to be a CSC recipient.

Shensi Yi is a PhD candidate in the Department of History at the University of Sydney. His thesis is a cultural and social history of everyday life of the Shanghai communists in the international context before 1949.

The Russian State Archive of Socio-Political History (RGASPI) in Moscow.

Auspicious: CSC supports new Chau Chak Wing Museum

By Paul Donnelly and Shuxia Chen

In November 2020 the new Chau Chak Wing Museum opened at the University of Sydney, bringing together the former collections of the Nicholson Museum, Macleay Museum and University Art Gallery to create an interdisciplinary institution suited to the complexity and interconnectedness of our modern world. For the first time, the University's collections of more than 450,000 items are now exhibited under one roof.





The striking cantilevered building, designed by Johnson Pilton Walker, sits opposite the 1850s Gothic Revival sandstone Quadrangle and Great Hall. As part of its commitment to Asian art and culture, the Chau Chak Wing Museum includes a dedicated gallery for displaying Chinese cultural items. With information provided in both English and Chinese, the China Gallery is a space designed to benefit not only academics and students of China's culture but also a general audience, including the broader Chinese community that comprises the second-largest immigrant group in Australia. With such diverse communities in mind, the China Gallery will offer a range of exhibitions, publications and educational programs.

The initiative of supporting bilingual didactic exhibition texts and programs was first proposed by Dr Olivier Krischer, Acting Director of the China Studies Centre. Thanks to the centre's generous funding, the China Gallery's inaugural exhibition, *Auspicious: Motifs in Chinese Art*, is engaging a broad audience to explore the themes of fortune, prosperity and virtue that have long inspired the arts of China.

Signs of auspiciousness are ubiquitous in Chinese culture. We find them in daily life, spiritual beliefs, scholars' cultivation and spatio-temporal perceptions. Not simply an accumulation of luck or superstition, auspiciousness in Chinese culture denotes many meanings. The audience will gain from this exhibition an understanding of the scope and significance of auspicious objects in diverse aspects of Chinese life.

Drawing from three important local collections – the Chau Chak Wing Museum, the Powerhouse Museum and the Art Gallery of New South Wales – *Auspicious: Motifs in Chinese Art* presents a wide range of symbols through more than 60 carefully selected objects. As part of China's broader visual and material cultures,



these auspicious beings appear in decorative and fine works of art, architecture, furniture and books, in both sacred and vernacular objects. Themes of auspicious desires by necessity connect the works across a spectrum of media including bronze, ceramic, jade, wood, paper and glass.

Since this exhibition opened we have observed Chinese parents and grandparents taking their school-aged children to the China Gallery, showing them the diverse culture of auspiciousness in China while also teaching the younger generations the Chinese language, in front of these magnificent objects. The China Studies Centre's support has helped to make this possible.

Dr Paul Donnelly is Deputy Director of the Chau Chak Wing Museum. Dr Shuxia Chen is Curator of the Museum's China Gallery.

Top, left to right: A visitor appreciates *Guanyin standing on a wave*, Dehua, Fujian Province, China, Ming Dynasty (1368–1644), collection of Museum of Applied Art and Sciences, University of Sydney; exterior of Chau Chak Wing Museum; *The good deeds of Confucius*, Shanghai, China, 1916–26, hand-painted glass lantern slides, transferred from the Department of Asian Studies, 2003 University Art Collection, UA2010.81. Opposite page: Exterior of Chau Chak Wing Museum.



China's National Security Law of Hong Kong

By Bing Ling

China's adoption of the National Security Law (NSL) for Hong Kong was one of the major events in China and Hong Kong in 2020 and attracted global attention and criticism.

In July 2020 the China Studies Centre organised an online event titled 'National Security Law of Hong Kong: Legal and social implications'. Legal and media experts from within and outside the University discussed the origin, legality and repercussions of the NSL for rule of law and media freedom in Hong Kong. Convened and chaired by Dr Joyce Nip from the Department of Media and Communications, the panel featured Professor Vivienne Bath and myself from The University of Sydney Law School, along with former Hong Kong Journalists Association chair Yinting Mak and Associate Professor Victoria Hui from the University of Notre Dame.

Many Western governments and international rights groups have condemned the NSL for violating the autonomy of Hong Kong laid down in Hong Kong's mini-constitution, the Basic Law, and the Sino-British Joint Declaration, a binding international treaty on China. Indeed, the making of the NSL did not conform to China's own legislative standards, as the bill was rushed through the legislature without any public consultation as required under Chinese law.

The NSL also broke Beijing's promise under Article 23 of the Basic Law to leave the national security law to Hong Kong's own local legislature. It imposed punishment on four types of crimes: secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces. It established a set of enforcement institutions in Hong Kong that are allowed to act in secret and without judicial oversight. Security agents from mainland China are authorised to set up an office and operate directly in Hong Kong. Furthermore, the NSL set out some ill-defined special circumstances in which the central authorities could directly take over and try cases in Hong Kong, clearly breaching the Basic Law, which recognises Hong Kong court jurisdiction over all cases in Hong Kong.

Was the NSL a fatal blow to Hong Kong's rule of law and autonomy? National security laws tend to be overbearing in many countries. Strong checks and balances – especially oversight by an independent judiciary – are necessary to curb excesses and abuses. Under the NSL, judges in national security cases are to be appointed by Hong Kong's Chief Executive on an annual basis, a provision that has raised major concerns. However, even the Hong Kong government has recognised judicial independence as a core value of Hong Kong. Since the adoption of NSL, Hong Kong courts and senior judges have repeatedly stressed the central importance of judicial independence. One encouraging sign could be found in the High Court's opinion in the first major NSL case, *Tong Ying Kit v HKSAR*, in which the court underlined judicial independence in national security cases.

The NSL has provisions that allow it to apply to people outside Hong Kong. This has alarmed people in Australia and elsewhere, who fear they may be punished for saying or doing things in their own country. The language of the NSL is quite broad, but whether it will actually be implemented in many cases is unclear. Hong Kong courts have historically been reluctant to apply Hong Kong criminal law abroad. Even in China, there have been few cases in which foreigners have been charged for their conduct outside China. Like many aspects of the NSL, what and how much impact the NSL will have in Hong Kong and beyond are yet to be played out.

Bing Ling is a Professor of Chinese Law at The University of Sydney Law School.

Opposite page: 2019 Hong Kong anti-extradition bill protest (source: Wiki Commons).



KPMG

Marking a decade of research collaboration with KPMG

By Hans Hendrichske

In 2020 we marked the tenth year of China-related research cooperation between the University of Sydney and KPMG, under the auspices of the China Studies Centre.

It was September 2011 when we published our first joint report, 'Australia and China: Future partnerships', on China's twelfth Five-Year Plan. The report itself noted that it was "the first result of a strategic cooperation between KPMG Australia and the University of Sydney China Studies Centre to create unique business intelligence reports for engaging with China", and indeed it heralded the beginning of a decade of productive research collaboration between the two organisations.

In their introduction to that inaugural report, then-Vice-Chancellor Dr Michael Spence AC and then-KPMG Australia CEO Geoff Wilson wrote, "Our analysis yields a clear conclusion: that a new approach to engaging with China is required. China's enduring interest in securing the supply of resources offers new opportunities for the sector beyond the mere export of raw materials, such as joint ventures, jointly financed projects, joint investment in third countries and Asian commodity trading."

Two months later we launched our Demystifying Chinese Investment in Australia series with our second joint report, 'The Growing Tide: China outbound direct investment in Australia'. In the decade since then this series has become the most comprehensive and authoritative source on Chinese direct investment in Australia, and is widely quoted by both Australian and international media. It has documented the rise of Chinese investment in Australia since 2007 and its precipitous decline from 2017, with the June 2020 issue concluding that "the most recent investment boom cycle is over – in Australia and globally".

Also in 2020 we published a research report titled 'The new Chinese Australian entrepreneurs' (see page 40), and hosted a well-attended webinar that brought together discussants including Professor Zha Daojiong from Peking University to discuss lessons and opportunities from the COVID-19 crisis.

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Hans Hendrichske is Professor of Chinese Business and Management at The University of Sydney Business School.

The new Chinese-Australian entrepreneurs

By Wei Li

When I first began researching Chinese-Australian entrepreneurs in Australia, I had read numerous migrant stories of the older generation of Chinese entrepreneurs overseas. Settling into a new country was not easy. Chinese entrepreneurs had to find competitive business models in an unfamiliar environment, while maintaining aspects of their previous culture and life. As a Chinese migrant myself, I was keen to investigate how the experience of the new generation of Chinese-Australian entrepreneurs differs, in terms of background, experience and business operations.

Generation 2.0

In 2019, The University of Sydney Business School and KPMG extended their strategic research collaboration on Chinese direct investment in Australia to the new field of Chinese migrant entrepreneurs and their business operations in Australia. These Chinese-Australian entrepreneurs were born in mainland China and migrated to Australia since the beginning of China's economic reform period, which started in 1978.

Our research identified 100 of these businesses through working with the local Chinese chambers in Australia and a 'snowball' sampling process. Between November 2019 and January 2020 we conducted 100 interviews with these Chinese-Australian entrepreneurs.

Young and Australian-educated

On average, our group of 100 Chinese-born founders started their businesses at a young age, with 45 percent founding their company below 40 years of age and 26 percent in their 40s. Many of them had witnessed significant economic growth in China and learnt to seek business opportunities overseas.

In addition, our research revealed that a large number of these Chinese-Australian entrepreneurs were educated at Australian tertiary institutions. Seventy-one of the 100 Chinese-Australian entrepreneurs first came to Australia to study, and more than half (59) had previous employment experience in Australia before they started their own business. This experience with the Australian education sector played an important role in preparing them for building a high-growth business.

Fast learners

Of our cohort of 100 entrepreneurs, 45 have businesses in the services sector, including relatively high-value-added industries such as asset and wealth management, legal, accounting, high tech, health care and media. Many started in industries with relatively low barriers to entry, such as catering, building materials, supermarkets and decoration. However, these entrepreneurs tended to be fast learners and within a short period of time they were able to move their businesses into high-growth areas and high-value-added industries.

Despite being successful, many Chinese-Australian entrepreneurs emphasised that they need to continuously learn. Before COVID-19, the majority of entrepreneurs we interviewed were engaged in some form of innovation in their business. This included bringing new products and services to market, business model innovation, changes to management and operations, and technology upgrades.

Cross-border connectivity

While the older generation of Chinese-Australian entrepreneurs tended to relate more to life in China for family and cultural purposes, our research found that the new generation of Chinese-Australian entrepreneurs is more able to engage in regular cross-border business activities with China. These entrepreneurs actively engage in networking activities with Australian businesses as well as with Chinese businesses. On average, these businesses communicate with their Australian customers and suppliers a few times per month, in comparison to a few times per year with their Chinese customers and suppliers. They use their knowledge of both China and Australia to identify market opportunities.

Ethnic community ties also play an essential role in the business operations of these companies. Three-quarters (75 per cent) of respondents reported collaborating with companies with a Chinese background in Australia, and working together to gain local market access and supply of products, services and capital. One in three Chinese-Australian entrepreneurs uses ethnic business networks to access clients, markets and distribution channels, and one in four turns to ethnic business networks to source products, services and technology.

Beyond COVID-19

Undoubtedly, COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the Chinese-Australian entrepreneurs we interviewed. In late April we spoke to 56 of our original 100 interviewees, with more than half reporting that they believed it would take one to two years for economic activity to return to previous levels. However, while the impacts of COVID-19 have affected them in the short and midterm, we found that many Chinese-Australian entrepreneurs have a long-term commitment to their Australian business and to their role in the Australian community and economy. The majority of our interviewed entrepreneurs agreed that Australia is a good place to start and run a business, citing transparent rules and a level playing field as two key reasons.

Dr Wei Li is a lecturer in International Business at The University of Sydney Business School. She co-authored the report “The New Chinese Australian Entrepreneurs” with Professor Hans Hendrichske and partners at KPMG. In September 2020 the CSC organised an online panel discussion on this topic led by Su-Lin Tan (*South China Morning Post*, Hong Kong) and featuring Dr Li and Professor Hendrichske, along with Helen Zhi Dent (KPMG), Jason Yat-sen Li (Vantage Asia, YSA) and Vivian Fan (Golden Education Australia).



Sydney Asian Art Series: Art and technology

By Olivier Krischer



The Sydney Asian Art Series, now in its fourth year, gathers leading international voices on critical issues in early, modern and contemporary Asian art and society.

The series is co-presented by the China Studies Centre and the University of Sydney's Power Institute, with the generous support of VisAsia and in association with the Art Gallery of New South Wales (AGNSW).

In previous years the series' lectures and seminars have been shared between the University and AGNSW; however, due to the pandemic the 2020 series was presented online. This allowed it to reach a much larger and more diverse audience, including interstate and international peers.

Convened by the China Studies Centre's Acting Director Dr Olivier Krischer, this year's series focused on the theme 'Art and technology'. This theme recognised that if the modern period has been described as that of the 'mechanical' or reproducible image, the contemporary is marked by a visual fluidity that saturates our lives in images. As the production and conception of visual technologies has shifted to Asia throughout the 20th century, the 2020 series asked what we might learn from the genesis of visual media from artistic cultures across Asia, and how artists in this region use and shape such technologies in ways both similar to and distinct from those of their global peers.



The 2020 series' first lecture was presented in September by **Dr Lisa Claypool**, Associate Professor of the History of Art, Design and Visual Culture at the University of Alberta. In her paper 'The technological sublime: An ink painter and a coal mine in 1960s China', Dr Claypool discussed a 1960s ink painting of a coal mine by Chinese artist Fu Baoshi, highlighting what it reveals about that which lies beneath the surface and the technology that takes us there. What ecocritical lessons can we learn from the artist's reconciliation of what he called 'visual excavation' and ink painting through the technological sublime, she asked. The night before her lecture, Dr Claypool introduced an online screening of the 2015 film *Behemoth* by Zhao Liang, an artist who features in Dr Claypool's 2021 curatorial project *ecoART CHINA*.

The second lecture, 'Changing image practices in South Asia', was presented in October by **Rahaab Allana**, Curator and Publisher at Alkazi Foundation for the Arts in New Delhi, which houses one of the most significant archives of South Asian photography. Allana introduced three recent exhibitions highlighting how historical and contemporary modes of representation have evolved with new image technologies and discourses in South Asia, particularly with respect to aspects of cultural affiliation and displacement. These exhibitions were 'Look, Stranger!' (Serendipity Arts Festival, Goa, 2019–2020), 'Catalyst' (Jimei x Arles International Photo Festival, China, 2019–2020) and 'Ephemeral: New futures for passing images', (Serendipity Arts Festival, Goa, 2018). Allana asked how we can or should invoke a new image canon in a digital era, especially through the prism of local or regional developments and changes.



In early November the series' third lecture, 'Mediating tradition: Japanese copperplate printing and art reproduction in 1880s Shanghai', was presented by **Dr Lai Yu-chih**, Associate Researcher at the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, Taiwan. While the introduction of lithography to China is better known, Dr Lai traced the import of copperplate printing technology, revealing its role in a Sino-Japanese network tracing back to the Edo period. Through the example of the copperplate printing business of Rakuzendō in Shanghai, her lecture explained how images of Chinese art mediated by the technology of lithography differed from those reproduced by copperplate engraving, and how each was distinctly perceived and accepted, contributing to 'a silent mutation' in Chinese art at the end of the 19th century.

Opposite page: Detail from Fu Baoshi's *Flying waterfall at Jingbo Lake* (镜泊湖飞泉), 1962, hanging scroll, ink and pigment on paper, 117.9 × 70.1 cm, Nanjing Museum.

Above left: Detail from a Shanghai map titled *Zhongwai fangyu quan tu* (中外方輿全圖), Tokyo, Rakuzendō, late 19th century.

Above right: Detail from Sukanya Ghosh's *Isometries* series, 2018, archival photographs and mixed media, The Alkazi Collection of Photography.



Above left: 'Look, Stranger!', Serendipity Arts Festival, Goa, 2019-20.

Above right: 'Mobile M+: Moving Images', Hong Kong, 2015 (photograph by Yung Ma).

Left: Detail from Fu Baoshi's *Flying waterfall at Jingbo Lake* (镜泊湖飞泉), 1962, hanging scroll, ink and pigment on paper, 117.9 × 70.1 cm, Nanjing Museum.

The final lecture of the 2020 series was presented from London in late November by **Yung Ma**, Artistic Director of Seoul Mediacity Biennale 2021. Titled 'Reimagining and conserving the disappearance of Hong Kong through moving image', it began with Yung reflecting on the twofold project 'Mobile M+: Moving images', which took place across multiple sites in Hong Kong in 2015. The project embraced Hong Kong cinema of the 1980s and 90s, particularly Clara Law's seminal film *Floating Life* (1996), as a prelude to reimagining the migrant experience. Featuring works by a number of pioneering Hong Kong artists including Ellen Pau, Yung's experience of organising this project – and by extension his time at M+ – served as a departure point to consider the challenges of conserving moving image works of and from Hong Kong.

To conclude the 2020 series, on 26 November the China Studies Centre held a roundtable discussion titled 'Revisioning the present', curated and led by Rahaab Allana and featuring three practitioners from across South Asia: Ruhanie Perera, a performer and lecturer based in Colombo, Sri Lanka; Indu Antony, an artist from Kerala but based in Bangalore, India, who works across media including photography; and Diwas Raja KC, based in Kathmandu, who is head of research and archives at the Nepal Picture Library and has a photo-based art, archival and curatorial practice. Each of these participants shared a work of art or other artefact that for them embodied a source of knowledge about our past and future, inscribing a moment that should live on and become a source of inspiration. The discussion explored what we consider to be of critical importance in the arts as an interdisciplinary field that re-envision a sociopolitical or cultural moment, making possible alternative ways of seeing and believing.

Dr Olivier Krischer is Acting Director of the China Studies Centre and an honorary associate in the Department of Art History.

The China–Australia Free Trade Agreement: Where to next?

By Vivienne Bath

The China–Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA) came into force on 20 December 2015. At the time, the Australian Government highlighted our close trading relationship with China and emphasised the removal of tariffs on agricultural produce including barley, wine and coal.

Screening thresholds for private Chinese investors in Australia were also raised to encourage more investment. By 2019, according to Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, China accounted for 27.4 percent of our international trade and had become our sixth-largest direct investor.

In 2020 the picture does not look quite so rosy. Australian coal is held up in Chinese ports, exports of meat from a number of Australian abattoirs have been suspended, and anti-dumping duties (both permanent and interim) have been imposed by Chinese authorities on Australian barley and wine. The big success story in terms of Australian exports to China is iron ore, but even in this case it appears that Chinese authorities are encouraging imports from alternative sources. Although Chinese investment in Australia remains strong, a number of well-publicised rejections of Chinese investment proposals, a ban on the supply of 5G telecommunications services by Chinese companies Huawei and ZTE, and Australian Government initiatives designed to reduce foreign government influence in Australia have all strained relations.

It has been one of Australia's great hopes that its business with China, based as it is on concepts of mutual financial advantage, could be kept separate from politics. However, it has become clear that government (and hence politics) plays a major – and far from neutral – role in both trade and investment in China. In turn, foreign investment in Australia – where the final decision on whether to accept or reject a major acquisition is made by the Treasurer of the day on national-interest grounds – raises issues that can also be highly political.

Both business and government can potentially draw on the rules-based international trading system reflected in ChAFTA, which is, at least notionally, supported by both countries. However, although challenges to aspects of China's anti-dumping and other decisions can potentially be brought to the World Trade Organization (WTO), they involve time frames, standards of proof and complexity that place resolution far in the future. In the case of investment, ChAFTA specifically excludes Australian investment decisions from the ChAFTA dispute-settlement mechanism. In summary, neither ChAFTA nor the WTO, with its generally well regarded system for resolving trade disputes, can deal adequately with disputes that are predominantly politically based.

In short, recent events have illustrated that no free trade agreement can mitigate the major practical and political risks presented by Australia's heavy reliance on one trading partner. In the absence of a political resolution, practical steps to reduce risk – in both the short and the long term – are required. In this regard, another free trade agreement may indeed be helpful. The signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) on 15 November 2020 between Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, Korea and the 10 ASEAN countries may provide Australian businesses with opportunities for diversification in the Asian region.

Vivienne Bath is Professor of Chinese and International Business Law at The University of Sydney Law School.

Contact-tracing apps and their equity challenges: The international law approach

By Jeanne Jie Huang

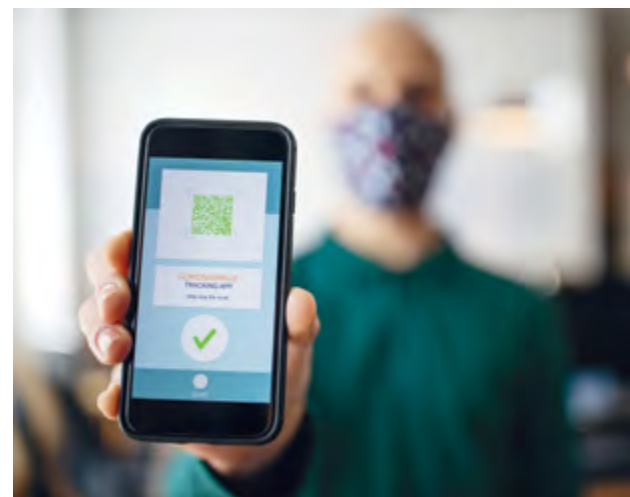
Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Australia's COVIDSafe app, Singapore's TraceTogether app, mainland China's Health Code app and Hong Kong's StayHomeSafe app were each launched by their respective governments. They are all confronted with equity challenges that international law obliges states to address.

The first challenge is intergenerational disparity. Elderly people are the social group that has the highest death rate amid the pandemic. Australia's COVIDSafe and Singapore's TraceTogether do not require daily manual input of data, so are relatively simple to use; however, China's Health Code does require manual input of both health information and travel history. This likely creates inconveniences for many elderly people as well as children, who may not be technologically equipped to use smartphones.

The second challenge is geographic imbalance. Australia and China both have extremely remote and rural regions with poor network coverage or none at all. China's Health Code app requires scanning of QR codes, rendering it mostly useless when the internet connection is bad. This creates serious problems for Chinese migrant workers who are from remote and rural parts of China but wish to work in cities or towns. Many of these workers returned to their village hometowns for the Spring Festival in 2020, before the pandemic struck. However, in order to then return to their jobs, they were required to obtain a 'green' (i.e. clear) Health Code through the app; otherwise they would not be allowed to travel to or work in cities or towns. Moreover, because the Health Code app also records the user's geographic location, it has led to geographic discrimination against healthy people who lived in COVID-affected Wuhan.

This geographic imbalance is not relieved by the Bluetooth technology used by Australia's COVIDSafe app. While the app does not rely on the internet or the cellular network to work – using Bluetooth rather than wi-fi – a user does need an internet connection to download the COVIDSafe app. Further, if a user wishes to transfer the data collected through COVIDSafe from their mobile device to the Australian National COVIDSafe Data Store, the internet is again necessary. Contact tracing in Australia is largely based on data processed by the Australia National COVIDSafe Data Store. A lack of internet connection and the uploading of data can therefore lead to poor protection from the virus.





Economic inequality is the third challenge. Children, elderly people, migrant workers and people in rural and remote areas are often the social groups economically hardest hit by lockdown and quarantine measures amid the pandemic. They may not be able to afford a smartphone or to constantly upload their data to servers through the internet. In Australia and in Singapore, this means they have fewer traceable digital contact records and so are less protected than other social groups. In China, if a person cannot get a green Health Code, it can mean they have no opportunity to secure a job or to access public transport, which further worsens their economic condition.

States have obligations under international law to address these equity challenges. The Preamble of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child provides that children are entitled to “special care and assistance”. States must protect children’s inherent right to life to the maximum extent possible. In the pandemic, special assistance should be provided to children (and their guardians) to facilitate their use of contact-tracing apps.

According to the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, states should also provide environments that are safe and adaptable to the personal preferences and changing capacities of older persons. This means states should be mindful that contact-tracing apps need to be adaptable to the digital literacy of elderly people.

Article 5(b) of the United Nations Migration for Employment Convention indicates that each member state undertakes to maintain appropriate medical services responsible for “ensuring that migrants for employment and members of their families enjoy adequate medical attention and good hygienic conditions at the time of departure, during the journey and on arrival in the territory of destination”. Adequate medical attention should include the necessary assistance to obtain and use a tracing app if it is required as a condition for a working visa.

The WHO Guidelines on Ethical Issues in Public Health Surveillance also require responsible authorities to make special efforts to ensure that individuals or groups that are particularly susceptible to disease are included in surveillance in ways that will empower them. These international laws thus provide important guidance for states to address the equity issues brought about by contact-tracing apps.

Jeanne Jie Huang is an Associate Professor at The University of Sydney Law School who focuses on digital trade and conflict of laws. She convened the panel ‘Privacy, technology and crisis response: Case studies from Australia, Singapore, mainland China and Hong Kong’, presented by the China Studies Centre, Sydney Law School and Sydney Southeast Asia Centre, in June 2020. Her co-panellists were Dr Aim Sinpeng (chair) and Professor Barbara McDonald from the University of Sydney, Dr Benjamin Wong from the National University of Singapore and Albert Yuen from Linklaters, Hong Kong.

Charles Perkins Centre and Professor Zhong Nanshan: Multidisciplinary partners tackling the world's big health challenges

By Stephen J Simpson

The Charles Perkins Centre (CPC) is a flagship multidisciplinary initiative at the University of Sydney, designed to bring academics and practitioners together across faculties and geographic locations to address a major societal challenge: namely, the burden of chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and related conditions.

CPC members are located across all faculties of the University, including at regional CPC Hubs at Nepean, Westmead and Broken Hill. CPC Nepean and CPC Westmead have developed extensive programs of activity that leverage local academic and clinical expertise and communities and are tightly interconnected with the network of CPC activities on the Camperdown/Darlington Campus.

The CPC's academic strategy is internationally distinctive, and was designed according to principles derived from complex adaptive systems to bring disciplinary experts together in collaborative networks that facilitate the emergence of novel approaches and solutions to complex health challenges.

Since its inception the CPC has had a close association with the China Studies Centre, including by regularly participating in the Sydney China Business Forum; in 2018 it contributed to the theme of 'China's healthy cities: Opportunities and challenges for Australian businesses'.

China faces the same emerging chronic disease crisis as Australia, with a sharply rising prevalence of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, an ageing population, increasing urbanisation and the transition to a highly industrialised food supply. We share these problems and we need to share solutions for changing the ways in which we live and feed ourselves, such that we might better align our health, economic success and environmental sustainability.

Exacerbating these challenges facing both our societies, this year has seen the emergence of the global COVID-19 pandemic from Wuhan. Professor Eddie Holmes, working at the CPC and with emerging infectious disease collaborators in China, was the first to publish the genetic sequence of SARS Cov-2 in January 2020, and then to publish groundbreaking work on the origins and evolution of the virus.

In June this year the CPC and the China Studies Centre worked together on a webinar attended by more than 800 participants on the topic of China's experience of COVID-19. I had the pleasure of serving as MC in a dialogue with Professor Zhong Nanshan. Professor Zhong is Director of Guangzhou Institute of Respiratory Diseases and a world-renowned respiratory disease specialist who has been at the frontline of the coronavirus outbreak since reporting on person-to-person transmission in January 2020. He rose to public prominence for his key role in combatting SARS in 2003, and is one of the most trusted voices on managing COVID-19 in China. Our conversation ranged widely and included new insights about COVID-19 transmission, treatment and public health strategies.

Further to that meeting, we are planning to establish a Collaborative Working Group between the CPC and Professor Zhong's team to study the physiological impacts of COVID-19. The greatest risk factors for suffering serious complications and death from COVID-19 are age, obesity and associated chronic



diseases. Understanding the underlying physiological processes involved is critical both for treatment and for prevention.

When it comes to prevention, the most powerful environmental determinant of health, disease and ageing is diet. At the CPC we have revolutionised the study of nutrition by seeking insights from the natural world. An example can be found in a new book I authored with colleague Professor David Raubenheimer, *Eat like the animals: What nature teaches us about the science of healthy eating* (HarperCollins, 2020). This project began with studies in insects, encompassed species including non-human primates and giant pandas in the wild, and led ultimately to a powerfully unifying understanding of the dietary causes of the global obesity pandemic.

Professor Raubenheimer is theme leader in nutrition at the CPC and Leonard P Ullmann Chair in Nutritional Ecology at the School of Life and Environmental Sciences. He has led the establishment of a Centre for Nutritional Ecology at Zhengzhou University, which provides an opportunity to collaborate with Chinese colleagues applying the unique CPC approach to problems and to study systems that are best researched in China.

An important research program based at the centre concerns the natural ecology of the rhesus macaque. Rhesus macaques are widely used in biomedical research around the world (although not at the University of Sydney), yet very little is known about the extent to which their natural nutritional ecology makes this species suitable as a model for aspects of human health linked to diet. Understanding their nutritional ecology is essential for interpreting research from other laboratories.

For example, two long-term studies in the US have suggested that moderate dietary restriction extends the lifespan of captive rhesus macaques, with important implications for humans. However, without knowing what a normal diet is in the wild, it is not possible to determine whether the diet-restricted monkeys truly were diet restricted or simply prevented from overeating.

Our studies have also shown that rhesus macaques have a very different pattern of macronutrient regulation from humans, casting doubt on their suitability as a model system.

Thanks to our partnership with the China Studies Centre, as well as the move last year of CPC Chief Operating Officer Michael Milne to take up the role of Executive Director of the University of Sydney Centre in China, and the establishment in 2017 of the Shanghai Jiao Tong–Sydney Alliance involving the CPC and the faculties of Medicine and Engineering, the future for collaborative research is bright.

It is only by working together and thinking differently that we will solve some of the major health challenges that together face Australia and China.

Professor Stephen J Simpson AC FRS FAA is Academic Director of the Charles Perkins Centre, and a Professor in the School of Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Sydney, and Executive Director of Obesity Australia.

Chinese community language and COVID-19

By Alexandra Grey

This year my research project, 'Good governance in multilingual urban Australia', was enriched by a study of COVID-19 communications in languages other than English.

In particular, I did fieldwork in Sydney suburbs where a high percentage of households do not speak English at home, including Burwood, Strathfield and Chatswood. There, I examined COVID-19 information signage from government agencies, private businesses and community organisations in English, Mandarin, Korean and Japanese.

I also examined the multilingualism of the federal and NSW governments' online COVID-19 communications.

This case study identifies the following key problems with Australia's official COVID-19 public health communications in languages other than English.

- There are barriers to the accessibility of official public health information for those in the community who are not confident or able to read the English-medium public health communications on display in their local area or available (although often buried) on government websites.
- State and federal governments have left it to local councils to provide multilingual public health communications in public areas, without any requirement for local councils to actually take up this task, and with varying outcomes even in areas with similar multilingual profiles.
- There is underuse of the Chinese and other non-English public health posters that the federal and NSW governments produced specifically in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Government health agencies' Twitter feeds did not cultivate a Chinese readership (or readerships within other communities in Australia whose main language is not English) either before or during the pandemic.

Among various possible ways of addressing these problems, I suggest focusing on further research to better understand diverse community communications needs and habits, redesigning online communications

and setting standards or guidelines relating to the quality and reliability of public health communications across government agencies.

Rather than writing an academic article about this research right away, I focused instead on writing about this study in a submission to a federal government inquiry and on free, public websites including The Conversation and Language on the Move (see below).

I will soon finish writing some academic articles about this study, before leaving the University of Sydney in March 2021. Around the same time, my book, *Language rights in a changing China: A national overview and Zhuang case study*, will come out! Many thanks to the China Studies Centre for its recent grant to fund the translation of a chapter into Mandarin.

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Dr Alexandra Grey is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Sydney Law School.

COVID-19: How many Australians might have died if we'd had an outbreak like that in England and Wales?

By Fiona Stanaway, Les Irwig, Armando Teixeira-Pinto and Katy Bell

In this research letter published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, my co-authors and I used data on all-cause mortality in England and Wales during the peak of the COVID-19 outbreak in March and April 2020 to estimate the likely number of deaths that would have occurred in Australia had we experienced an outbreak of similar nature and scale. Such an estimate enables us to understand how many deaths may have been avoided by Australia's successful response to COVID-19.

We estimated the change in risk of death over an 11-week period from early March to mid-May in England and Wales by comparing total deaths over this period in 2020 to the mean total deaths over the same period averaged over the previous five years. We estimated this risk of death separately for males and females and for different age groups. We then applied this change in risk to the five-year average number of deaths by age and sex groups over the same period in Australia. This enabled us to estimate the total deaths that could have occurred had Australia experienced a similar outbreak to that of England and Wales.

Using this approach, we found that there could have been 16,313 deaths in Australia over this period, comprising 9295 men and 7018 women. In contrast, the actual number of deaths over this period due to COVID-19 in Australia was 103.

This estimate of more than 16,000 deaths underlines the importance of Australia's response to the pandemic, which has used a combination of extensive testing and contact tracing, mandatory quarantining of people returning from overseas and early partial shutdown.

The subsequent breakdown in hotel quarantine leading to community transmission and a substantial number of deaths in Melbourne highlights that there is no room for complacency in Australia's response, and that continued efforts are needed to avoid the high mortality rates observed in many other nations.

After publication of this work, the first author received a phone call from Federal Minister for Health Greg Hunt to discuss the methods and findings. The work was then cited by Prime Minister Scott Morrison in *The Australian* newspaper the following day. The work was also picked up by a large number of online and print media outlets with an estimated reach of one million people.

Dr Fiona Stanaway, a medical doctor, is a Senior Lecturer in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Sydney School of Public Health.



2020 China Studies Centre events calendar

Type	Title	Speakers	Partners
Building community			
Industry events	China's economic recovery post-COVID-19 and what it means for Australian business	Greg Earl (MC), journalist; Stuart Davis, Non-executive Director, PayPal Australia and former CEO, HSBC Australia; Dr Wei Li,* The University of Sydney Business School; Haohao Xu, Vice-General Manager, Overseas Center, Tencent Holdings; Fang Guan (Una), Vice-Minister, Foreign Affairs Department, Shenzhen International Investment and Promotion Association	Tencent Holdings; Shenzhen International Investment and Promotion Association
	China's emerging smart health sector: What it means for Australian business	Damien Kelly (MC), Aon Health Solutions; James Baum, CEO, Aon Australia; Professor Branka Vucetic,* School of Electrical and Information Engineering; Bicheng Yang, General Manager, Oceania, BGI Group; John Zeng, President, TonWo Clinic Health Technology; Daniel Shields, CEO, RiskLogic	Aon; School of Electrical and Information Engineering;* BGI Group; TonWo Clinic Health Technology; RiskLogic
	Smart food: The future of nutrition in Australia and China	Tim Regan (MC), COO, The George Institute for Global Health; Professor Luigi Fontana,* Charles Perkins Centre; Dr Roman Bucknow, CSIRO; Peggy Liu, JUCCCE; Professor Xuebin Yin, Suzhou SETEK	The George Institute for Global Health; Faculty of Medicine and Health;* JUCCCE; Zuzhou SETEK
	Smart food: Food and the circular economy in Australia and China	Associate Professor Ali Abbas* (MC), Faculty of Engineering; Associate Professor Alana Mann,* Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; James Hutchinson, co-founder, James Tyler; Peggy Chan, chef and owner, Grassroots Pantry	Sydney Knowledge Hub;* Faculty of Engineering*
	Smart food: Blockchain in food: Challenges and opportunities in Australia and China	Professor Brent Kaiser,* School of Life and Environmental Sciences; Dr Joe Zou, GRGBanking Blockchain Express; Luke Wood, Escavox	School of Life and Environmental Sciences;* GRGBanking Blockchain Express; Escavox
	Information session: Engaging with China	Professor Kathy Belov,* Richard North,* Amanda Sayan,* Office of Global Engagement; Dr Olivier Krischer,* China Studies Centre; Michael Milne*, Centre in China	Office of Global Engagement;* Centre in China*
Supporting education			
Sydney Asian Art Series	Film screening: Zhao Liang's <i>Behemoth</i> (2015)	Dr Lisa Claypool, University of Alberta	Power Institute;* VisAsia; Art Gallery of NSW
	The technological sublime: An ink painter and a coalmine in 1960s China	Dr Lisa Claypool, University of Alberta	Power Institute;* VisAsia; Art Gallery of NSW
	Changing image practices in South Asia	Rahaab Allana, Alkazi Foundation for the Arts, New Delhi	Power Institute;* VisAsia; Art Gallery of NSW

Type	Title	Speakers	Partners
Sydney Asian Art Series	Mediating tradition: Japanese copperplate printing and art reproduction in 1880s Shanghai	Dr Yu-chih Lai, Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, Taiwan	Power Institute;* VisAsia; Art Gallery of NSW
	Reimagining and conserving the disappearance of Hong Kong through moving image	Yung Ma, Artistic Director, Seoul Mediacity Biennale 2021	Power Institute;* VisAsia; Art Gallery of NSW
	Roundtable: Revisioning the present	Rahaab Allana, Alkazi Foundation for the Arts, New Delhi; Diwas Raja KC, Nepal Picture Library; Ruhanie Perera, performer and lecturer based in Colombo, Sri Lanka; Indu Antony, Kerala artist based in Bangalore	Power Institute;* VisAsia; Art Gallery of NSW
	2020 Graduate workshop: Health, food and waste in the Chinese city	Dr Corey Byrnes, Northwestern University; Dr Sacha Cody, Forethought; Professor Susan Greenhalgh, Harvard University; Dr Mindi Schneider, Wageningen University; Professor Bryan Tilt, University of Oregon; Professor Luigi Tomba, China Studies Centre;* Associate Professor Ying Zhang,* Sydney School of Public Health; Dr Olivier Krischer,* China Studies Centre; Dr Arunima Malik,* Faculty of Science	Multiple partners
	Fourth Sydney Chinese Studies Postgraduate Seminar	Dr Josh Stenberg* (co-convenor), Department of Chinese Studies; Dr Olivier Krischer* (co-convenor), China Studies Centre; Dr Jimmy Xun Gong, University of Wollongong; Professor Yingjie Guo,* University of Sydney; Professor Jocelyn Chey,* University of Sydney and Western Sydney University; Dr Fiona Stanaway,* University of Sydney; Professor Carolyn Cartier, UTS	Department of Chinese Studies*
	Fifth Sydney Chinese Studies Postgraduate Seminar	Dr Josh Stenberg* (co-convenor), Department of Chinese Studies; Dr Olivier Krischer* (co-convenor), China Studies Centre; Professor Carolyn Cartier, UTS; Dr Lily Xiao Hong Lee,* Department of Chinese Studies; Jon von Kowallis, UNSW; Professor Meaghan Morris,* Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; Dr Thomas Cliff, ANU; Dr Jing Han, Western Sydney University; Shiyan (Helen) Xu, Nanjing Normal University	Department of Chinese Studies*

Type	Title	Speakers	Partners
	Postgraduate workshop: Getting a job in academia and beyond	Dr Olivier Krischer,* China Studies Centre; Dr Natali Pearson,* South East Asia Centre; Dr Tim Dean,* Department of Philosophy; Dr Catherine Dorey, Independent advisor; Dr Merriden Varrall, KPMG; Dr Rosemary Grey,* Sydney Law School; Associate Professor Novi Djenar,* Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; Associate Professor Sonja van Wichelen,* Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; Dr Petr Matous,* Faculty of Engineering; Dr Matthew Shores,* Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; Dr Sophie Webber,* Faculty of Science; Dr Holly High,* Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; Professor Rita Shackel,* Sydney Law School	Sydney Southeast Asia Centre*
'How to' series	How to find new China-related resources online	Dr Olivier Krischer* (MC), China Studies Centre; Xiaoli Li, Chinese Unit, Asian Collections, National Library of Australia; Anne Goodfellow,* University of Sydney Library; Nancy Li,* University of Sydney Library; Dr Minerva Inwald,* Research Affiliate, Department of History	University of Sydney Library;* Department of History;* National Library of Australia
	How to support student mental health	Dr Olivier Krischer* (MC), China Studies Centre; Sharon Chung,* Safer Communities Office; Professor Ian Hickie, Brain and Mind Centre; Hank Whan,* Sydney University Postgraduate Representative Association (SUPRA)	Brain and Mind Centre;* SUPRA*
Engaging public debate			
	Taiwan's 2020 elections in retrospect: Implications for domestic political realignment and US-China dynamics	Wen-Ti Sung, Visiting Fellow, Australian Centre on China in the World, ANU	Department of Government and International Relations*
	National Security Law of Hong Kong: Legal and social implications	Dr Joyce Nip* (chair), Department of Media and Communications and Department of Chinese Studies; Professor Bing Ling,* The University of Sydney Law School; Professor Vivienne Bath,* Sydney Law School; Yin-ting Mak, Hong Kong Journalists Association; Associate Professor Victoria Hui, Department of Political Science, University of Notre Dame, USA	Centre for Asian and Pacific Law at Sydney Law School;* Media@Sydney*
	The new Chinese-Australian entrepreneurs	Su-Lin Tan (MC), <i>South China Morning Post</i> ; Dr Wei Li,* The University of Sydney Business School; Helen Zhi Dent, KPMG Australia; Vivian Fan, Golden Education Australia; Jason Yat-sen Li, Vantage Asia and YSA; Professor Hans Hendrichske,* The University of Sydney Business School	The University of Sydney Business School;* KPMG
	Unmasking hidden enemies: US-China relations and the global illiberal turn	Jake Werner, Global Development Policy Center, Boston University	Department of Chinese Studies*

Type	Title	Speakers	Partners
Responding to COVID 19			
	Panel discussion: Social media, misinformation and COVID-19: Experiences from China and Australia	Dr Selina Lo (MC), Monash Sustainable Development Institute and <i>The Lancet</i> ; Dr Joy Zhaoli Dai-Keller,* the University of Sydney School of Pharmacy and Charles Perkins Centre; Associate Professor Adam Dunn,* School of Medical Sciences; Associate Professor Tian Xie, Wuhan University	
	Geopolitics in a post-pandemic world: US–China cooperation and rivalry, and what it means for Australia	Bill Birtles (MC), ABC; Associate Professor Jingdong Yuan,* Department of Government and International Relations; Dr David Smith,* United States Studies Centre; Dr Minglu Chen,* Department of Government and International Relations	Department of Government and International Relations;* United States Studies Centre*
	China–Australia FTA after COVID-19: Tariff to technology	Professor Vivienne Bath* (MC), Sydney Law School; Dr Brett Williams, Williams Trade Law Sydney; Professor Jiaxiang Hu, Shanghai Jiao Tong University; Associate Professor Jeanne Jie Huang,* Sydney Law School	Centre for Asian and Pacific Law at the University of Sydney Law School*
Sydney Ideas	Leadership for good: Combating viral panic, misinformation and racism	Professor Tim Soutphommasane* (MC), Culture Strategy; Jenny Leong, MP; Dr Sophie Loy-Wilson,* Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; Abbey Shi,* University of Sydney Students' Representative Council; Dr Michael Spence AC,* University of Sydney; Associate Professor Ying Zhang,* Faculty of Medicine and Health	Culture Strategy*, Sydney Ideas*
Industry events	China's experience of COVID-19: A dialogue with Professor Zhong Nanshan	Professor Stephen J Simpson* (MC), Charles Perkins Centre; Professor Zhong Nanshan, National Clinical Research Center for Respiratory Disease, China	Charles Perkins Centre*
	The impact of COVID-19 on Australia–China business relations	Angus Grigg (MC); Dr Geoff Raby AO, Geoff Raby & Associates; Professor Hans Hendrichske,* The University of Sydney Business School;* Sara Cheng, International Business, Business Australia; Professor Daojiong Zha, School of International Studies and Institute of South–South Cooperation and Development, Peking University	The University of Sydney Business School*
	Privacy, technology and crisis response: Case studies from Australia, Singapore, mainland China and Hong Kong	Dr Aim Sinpeng* (MC), Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; Professor Barbara McDonald,* Sydney Law School; Benjamin Wong YongQuan, National University of Singapore; Albert Yuen, Osborne Clarke, Hong Kong; Associate Professor Jeanne Jie Huang,* Sydney Law School	Centre for Asian and Pacific Law at the University of Sydney Law School;* Sydney Southeast Asia Centre*

* From the University of Sydney.



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