

ISSUE 10 Spring 2026

NEWSLETTER



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Message from the Director

Greetings all!

This is our first newsletter of the New Year, so I want to wish (belatedly) everyone a Happy Year of the Horse. I am writing this as we are now truly entering spring here in Oxford – all the photos you see of the blossoming trees around the China Centre in the newsletter were taken recently. Hilary Term has just concluded, and we had a term full of seminars, talks, and other events. Of particular note was our reception to welcome the Year of the Horse, which by all accounts was a wonderfully festive and happy occasion. I would also call your attention to the Mapping Global China event, described a few pages onward. This is an amazing project, led by one of our newer associates, Prof Maria Adele Carrai, that seeks to visualise how China is engaging in various ways with the world. You can see some of the results of their work [here](#). But this is only one of the many great projects that our fellows and associates are pursuing – for more, please do also look to the news section of our webpage. Please do look also to our webpage for more information on events and seminars, as we will updating it soon for the coming term. We look forward to seeing you in Trinity!

Sincerely,

Todd H Hall

Director, University of Oxford China Centre



An Interview with Dr Chien-Wei Pan, Subject Librarian for China and Korea



My name is Chien-Wei Pan, and I serve as the Subject Librarian for China and Korea. In this capacity, I support students and faculty by applying my specialist expertise – ranging from acquiring research materials to providing database guidance and overseeing daily library operations. More broadly, my role involves working closely with students, faculty, researchers, fellow librarians, and other University sectors to maintain and further develop Oxford's exceptional library collections.

What led you to become a librarian for this subject?

There are two ways I can answer this question. On a personal level, I have always loved books. During both my undergraduate and postgraduate years, I spent a lot of hours in libraries – they felt like a second home to me. On a more practical level, my path was shaped by career circumstances. After several unsuccessful academic job applications, I

worked as a postdoctoral researcher at a centre funded by Taiwan's Ministry of Education. Shortly afterward, I applied for and fortunately secured a position at the National Central Library (NCL) of Taiwan. There, I worked at the ISBN Centre – a unit responsible for handling newly published books, both print and electronic. This experience allowed me to develop knowledge of cataloguing and information organisation, which has been invaluable in my current role as a librarian.

Are there any particular type of books for which you have a particular affection?

As a librarian, I believe all kinds of books are essential and informative, so I don't have a strong preference for any single category. However, as a curious reader, I'm drawn to books that defy easy classification – works that are interdisciplinary and challenge the boundaries of existing knowledge. For example, in my doctoral research, I studied a poetry collection presented in the form of a recipe book. It included cooking instructions and ingredients written poetically, yet it was fundamentally a literary work. To my surprise, librarians shelved it under 'Cookery' alongside traditional recipe books. This experience reflects my fascination with unconventional books that blur genres and invite us to rethink how knowledge is organised.

Very interesting! Do we have many such works in the Bodleian?

The text I mentioned earlier is *Wan quan zhuang yang shi pu* 完全壯陽食譜 (Erotic Recipes: A Complete Menu for Male Enhancement), for anyone curious or sceptical that such a work exists. Unfortunately, it does not currently appear in SOLO, so I may need to acquire it in the near future. In the meantime, let me recommend another fascinating work: *Taiwan manyou lu* 臺灣漫遊錄 (Taiwan Travelogue). This text already has an English translation and is so well-known that it hardly needs introduction. Despite its title, the book is not a conventional travelogue; instead, it presents twelve exquisite dishes, each intricately connected to the complex history of colonial Taiwan. I also happen to know that this text will be assigned reading for an MSt module on Sinoophone literature and translation next term. I strongly encourage everyone to take the time to read this wonderfully crafted and thought-provoking work.

Do you have any further recommendations for works within the collection?

Yes. I'd like to balance my recommendations by highlighting some social science titles that may interest colleagues at the China Centre. For example, one notable book from the Taiwan Resource Centre for Chinese Studies (TRCCS) donation is *Diyuan zhengzhi fengxian guanli yu tiaozhan: liangan, nanhai yu erwu anli* 地緣政治風險管理與挑戰：兩岸、南海與俄烏案例, translated as *Geopolitical Risk Management and Challenges: Cases on Cross-Strait, South China Sea, and Russia-Ukraine Issues*. This anthology explores topics that are highly relevant to current scholarly debates. The book is not yet listed on SOLO, but the cataloguer has assured me it will be searchable soon. The TRCCS is keen to donate similar works in the future, so if these acquisitions are of interest, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you so much! For those wishing to follow up with Chien-Wei Pan, please do reach out at: chien-wei.pan@bodleian.ox.ac.uk





An Interview with Dr Junbin Tan, British Academy International Fellow

Dr Junbin Tan arrived as British Academy International Fellow with the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies in Hilary Term. His research examines vernacular attempts at navigating polarized relations at the Taiwan Strait and how research is caught in these political dynamics.

Could you tell me about yourself and your research?

I received my doctoral training in sociocultural anthropology at Princeton University, where I was also Postdoctoral Research Associate in 2025. I previously lived in Singapore, which was also where I

obtained my earlier degrees. My research centres on Kinmen, a Taiwanese island territory two miles from Fujian, China and 100 miles from Taiwan proper. Kinmen was Taiwan's (that is, the Republic of China, ROC) battlefield against China from 1949 to the 1990s, before it shapeshifted into these polities' border-crossing in the 2000s. My grandparents were born there. Having fled before the Chinese Civil War reached Kinmen in 1949, they and my family had not directly experienced war. In fact, they spoke fondly of Kinmen but never about the war. Visiting Kinmen with them in the

2010s led me to realize these silences and roused in me a desire to learn about Kinmen's history, culture, and its relations and disconnects with both Taiwan and China.

Since 2018, I have conducted ethnographic research at Kinmen and with Kinmenese in Taiwan, which led to my dissertation and book project, *Familiar Futures: An Interlocutory Ethnography with Kinmen's Late Militarization Generation*. I examine how the Kinmenese who came of age in the 1980-90s and witnessed the Taiwan Strait's transformation out of the Cold War and armed conflict experience, navigate, and cope with rising polarization and conflict today when they are also approaching later life. I address everyday politics, Daoist practices, life course and aging, and concepts of futurity in volatile times. These concerns are echoed in the project that I am starting here, *Political Afterlives: Kinmen's War Dead and the Rethinking of Battlefield History and Contemporary Taiwan Strait Relations*. I move between the Gunningtou Battle fought in 1949 that created Kinmen as the border between China and Taiwan (which neither polity recognized for decades, and which China still does not recognize) and Taiwan Strait relations today. I am interested in how

practices centered on both the nationalist and communist war dead – Buddhist rituals, museums and memorials, and new building projects on past battlefields, etc. – intervene in both people's knowledge of their wartime history and perceptions of a tension-filled future.

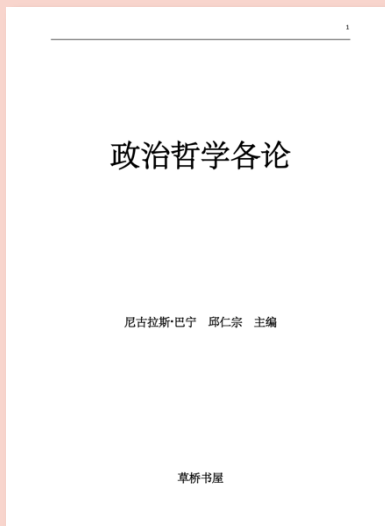
What are you most looking forward to doing while at Oxford?

I am extremely happy to be here at Oxford, especially at the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and the China Centre where scholars hail from many disciplines. While an ethnographer, I think about politics and am inspired also by historical methods and Sinophone literature, and have an interest in things and spaces that art historians and geographers may share. There is just so much I am interested in and do not know enough of! I look forward to discussing politics and power relations; the relations between social history and historical anthropology; religions in Asia; injury, care, and healing; literary methods and ethnographic (and other) writing, especially on thinking and writing about conflict while cognizant of ideological relations; and other things. I also like to take long walks when the weather is good. River Thames has proved to be lovely.

Featured Publications and Works

Nicholas Bunnin has published the following works:

Qiu Renzong and Nicholas Bunnin, eds, *Collected Papers of Four Conferences on Democracy, Rule of Law, Human Rights, Good Governance*, vols I & II (Beijing, privately published, 2025) full Chinese text.

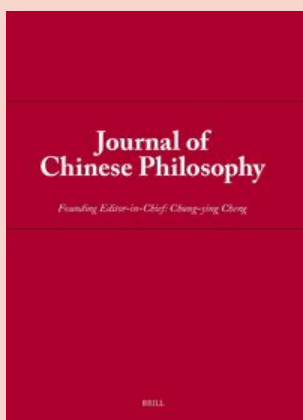


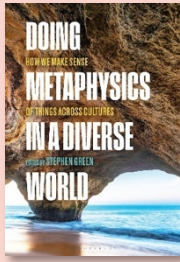
Professor Qiu *Institute of Philosophy Chinese Academy of Social Sciences* and Dr Bunnin *University of Oxford* co-organised these Philosophy Summer School in China international conferences in Beijing from 1999 to 2007 with sponsorship and financial support from the Ford Foundation. Dr Bunnin wrote the introduction, and Professor Qiu wrote the afterword, with the contents provided by over 60 eminent Chinese and Foreign contributors.

[The PDF of this book](#) is available free of charge to any students, colleagues, institutions and libraries that might benefit from using the text for research, teaching, study, review, printing paper copies or library acquisition.

Nicholas Bunnin, 'Kant and Final Causality', *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 51 (4): 222–228 (2025).

Kant and Final Causality is Nicholas Bunnin's contribution to a festschrift in memory of Chung-ying Cheng. It mainly contains a version in print of Bunnin's lecture delivered earlier on this topic in Beijing. It expounds and critically explores Kant's contrast in his Critique of the Power of Judgment between the objectivity of mechanical causality and the subjectivity of final causality that deals with organized beings, where we must consider each of their parts in relation to one another and the wholes of which they are parts as both causes and effects and having mutual relations of means and ends. The paper ends by exploring what contributed to Chung-ying's designation of his own philosophy as 'onto-hermeneutics' and the value of his method in dealing with two issues raised at the end of the lecture at the heart of Bunnin's contribution.





Nicholas Bunnin, 'Xunzi and Maimonides: Language, Metaphysics, Governance'; Nicholas Bunnin, 'Spinoza and Wang Bi: Metaphysics of Ethics'; Nicholas Bunnin & Sajjad Rizvi, 'Names, Naming, Unnamed, Unnameable'. In Stephen Green, ed., *Doing Metaphysics in a Diverse World: How We Make Sense of Things Across Cultures* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2025).

Rosemary Foot has published the following works:

Rosemary Foot and Sebastian Haug, '[Towards a UN with Chinese Characteristics? Heralding Shifts in Multilateral Order](#)'



The People's Republic of China has considerably expanded its engagement with the United Nations (UN) system, but its influence differs significantly across issue areas. Despite this unevenness, it is possible to identify patterns in China's policy and normative priorities and to suggest what a growing Beijing footprint may portend for the future of UN multilateralism. Examining this via three main measures – the logic, substance, and power dynamics associated with multilateralism – we suggest the emergence of a UN where inter-governmental control contrasts with more autonomous multilateral bureaucracies; that ensures the primacy of the state challenging liberal values the UN has long promoted; and with more space for the developing country majority with China as de facto leader. An 'America First' policy under the Trump administration further strengthens Beijing's bid to shape UN multilateralism. The paper assesses the implications of these re-ordering pathways and concludes with policy recommendations.

Convergence Amid Divergence: America, China, and the Emerging Minimalist World Order



'Convergence Amid Divergence: America, China, and the Emerging Minimalist World Order', *The Diplomat*, 27 December 2025.



‘Domestic and Global Dimensions of 1989: Was it a Transformative Event for China?’, in *The Routledge Handbook of 1989 and the Great Transformation*, edited by Rosamund Johnson, et al. (London: Routledge, 2026), chapter 6.

Rosemary Foot has also given the following presentations:

‘China–Europe–US Relations in the Trump Era’, at a joint conference organised by SAIS/Bologna and University of Bologna, October 2025.

‘China–US Relations in a Turbulent World: Comparing China Policy in the Two Trump Administrations’, at the Association of Chinese Political Studies conference, held at King’s College, University of London, November 2025.

‘Towards a UN with Chinese Characteristics’: a paper for the UK–UN Association given at UNA headquarters in London, November 2025.

Paul Napier has published the following articles:



“That Which Does Not Change”: Ontological Ambiguity, The Mandate of Heaven and the Historical Cycles of the *Chunqiu Fanlu*’s “Three Dynasties” Chapter’, *Philosophy East and West* 2025, 75(3): 606–629.



“The Lone-Transformation of God”: Intuition, Identity and Immortality in Guo Xiang and Spinoza’, *Topoi: An International Review of Philosophy* (2026).

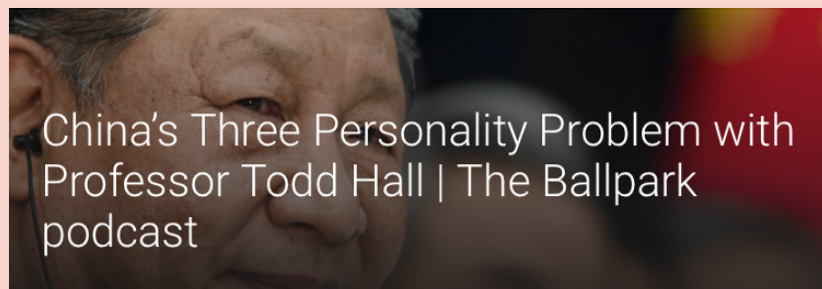
[Todd Hall](#) has published the following pieces:



An article by Hannah Bailey and Todd Hall – 'What Does China Want? Depends Which China You're Talking About' – has been published in the [The Diplomat](#).



An article by Hannah Bailey and Todd Hall – 'Beijing's Global Opposition Campaign' – has been published in the journal [Survival: Global Politics and Strategy](#) (Volume 68, 2026, Issue 1).



Todd Hall discusses both the above articles in his appearance on The Ballpark Podcast with the LSE Phelan US Centre: ['China's Three Personality Problem'](#).

The episode is also available via the following podcast platforms:
[Spotify](#) [Apple Podcasts](#) [SoundCloud](#) [LSE Player](#) [YouTube](#)



In another podcast, Todd Hall and Hannah Bailey discuss 'China's International Ambitions – A Global Opposition Party?', as part of the SOAS China Institute's *China in Context* series. The link is [here](#).

Events and Talks

Baillie Gifford Distinguished Speaker Series

23 January : Dame Caroline Wilson

On 23 January 2026, as part of the Baillie Gifford Distinguished Speaker Series, **Dame Caroline Wilson** gave a talk on 'Cooperating, Challenging, Communicating: Reflections on Five Years of Diplomacy in Beijing'.

Dame Caroline Wilson DCMG is a senior British diplomat who served for five years as the British Ambassador to China from 2020 to 2025. Her time in Beijing spanned covid, China's wolf warrior diplomacy, ructions over Hong Kong, economic security and trade, two Chinese Foreign Ministers, four British Foreign Secretaries, five UK Prime Ministers. And One Chinese President. Dame Caroline travelled the country widely and became known throughout China for her lively Mandarin language v-logs on Weibo which focused on UK-China ties including people to people, and values including diversity and openness. She will share her reflections on the practice of diplomacy in China for half a decade, whether communicating, cooperating or contesting.



A fluent Mandarin speaker, Dame Caroline studied at Beijing Normal University, served in Beijing 1996–2000 and Hong Kong in 2012–16 as HM Consul General. She has worked extensively on Europe – as Antici at the UK's Permanent Representation to the EU in the early 2000s, in the Cabinet Office European Secretariat, subsequently as Europe Director in the Foreign Office. In addition to French and German Caroline speaks Russian, and was Minister Counsellor at the British Embassy in Moscow from 2008–12. She also served as Private Secretary to the Foreign Secretary. She is a qualified Barrister (Middle Temple) having graduated in Law from the University of Cambridge (Downing College) and has a Masters in European law from the Université Libre de Bruxelles. Caroline is currently preparing for her next diplomatic appointment.



13 May : Farooq Chaudhry



On 13 March 2026, as part of the Baillie Gifford Distinguished Speaker Series, we welcomed **Farooq Chaudhry** for a talk on 'Intercultural Collaboration in the Context of China – Opportunities and Risks'.

The talk drew upon Farooq Chaudhry's lived experiences as a British dance director and producer navigating the complexities of UK–China artistic collaboration. Moving beyond policy, he shared first-hand accounts of working with celebrated Chinese artists, including Yang Liping, Shenzhen Dance Theatre, and a particular focus on the disabled contemporary poet Yu Xiuhua. The talk explored the risks, challenges, and opportunities when artistic worlds collide as they seek to express new languages forged in the liminal

space. Ultimately, this talk reveals how shared creative purpose builds bridges of understanding, uncovering the human dynamics behind international exchange.

Farooq Chaudhry OBE, a pioneering dance producer who has recently ventured into directing, has been a key figure in shaping British contemporary dance over the past three decades. Born in Pakistan and brought up in London, Chaudhry, a recipient of an Asian Achievement Award for dance, transitioned from a successful career as a professional dancer from 1986 to 1999 to further his passion for the arts by obtaining an MA in Arts Management from City University after his retirement. In the year 2000, he teamed up with choreographer Akram Khan and co-founded the Akram Khan Company. Chaudhry has also been a driving force in nurturing a new vanguard of talents like the British Cameroonian choreographer Dickson Mbi, Indian Kathak artist Aditi Mangaldas and ethnic Chinese dancer Maya Jilan Dong, guiding them to prestigious awards and nominations. In 2024, he assumed the role of International Strategy Consultant for the promising Chinese sensation Li Xing, further cementing his influence in the international arts community. Chaudhry's extensive contributions were recognized through honorary doctorates from De Montfort University in 2014 and Goldsmiths University in 2023. In 2019, he was awarded an OBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours for his services to Dance. In 2021, Farooq Chaudhry founded Fengling Productions, drawing inspiration from a profound curiosity with Chinese and East Asian artists, stories, and aesthetics. In January 2026 Chaudhry was appointed as the International Artistic Director of Shenzhen Opera and Dance Theatre (dance) and in the same month was invited by the British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer to join him alongside a delegation of top cultural and business leaders on a trade mission to China to explore a strategic partnership between the two countries.

Launching the Mapping Global China Initiative at the University of Oxford China Centre



On 6–7 March 2026, the [Mapping Global China Research Initiative](#), in collaboration with the University of Oxford China Centre, hosted a two-day workshop marking the official launch of the project, with generous support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Founded and led by [Maria Adele Carrai](#), who recently joined the University of Oxford as Associate Professor in Politics and International Relations of China, Mapping Global China aims to foster dialogue, share knowledge, and deepen understanding of China’s global impact across disciplines and regions. The initiative is developing an open platform – [mapglobalchina.com](#) – that provides accessible data, interactive maps, and multimedia resources for research, teaching, and informed decision-making. At its core, the project seeks to build a vibrant intellectual community where scholars, students, and the wider public can engage in collaborative learning and discussion on Global China.

The workshop brought together over 30 scholars from universities across Europe, North America, and Asia, and was structured around three thematic working groups: Soft Power (led by [Maria Repnikova](#)), Capital and Development (led by [Hasan H. Karrar](#)), and Security (led by [Andrea Ghiselli](#) and [Sheena Greitens](#)). Across two days of discussions, participants explored both substantive and methodological questions, with a particular focus on how mapping and visualization can capture the complexity of China’s global presence, while also reflecting on the limits and politics of data.

The programme combined plenary discussions, group-based workshops, and hands-on sessions on visualization tools, datasets, and the development of future research outputs, including interactive maps, story maps, and analytical dashboards. A central goal was to identify shared frameworks, data gaps, and collaborative pathways across the three thematic areas.

As part of the workshop, a public-facing panel was held on Friday 6 March at the China Centre’s Kin-ku Cheng Lecture Theatre. Titled ‘Reframing Global China: Mapping Power Beyond Borders’, the event invited a broader audience to reflect on how we study, visualize, and understand China’s global presence. Featuring [Rosemary Foot](#) (University of Oxford), [Rachel Hulvey](#) (Indiana University), and [Jing Qian](#) (NYU Shanghai), and moderated by Adele Carrai, the discussion emphasized that Global China is not a singular or coherent actor, but a complex and evolving set of relationships involving states, firms, financial institutions, local actors, and communities.

The workshop marked an important step in advancing interdisciplinary collaboration and in shaping new approaches to studying and representing Global China, laying the groundwork for future research outputs, public engagement, and the continued development of the Mapping Global China platform.



Welcoming the Year of the Horse



On 18 February 2026, we welcomed associates, staff, students, visitors and their families to join us in welcoming the Year of the Fire Horse in the Woodsworth Tea Room. The Oxford China Orchestra performed a selection of themed pieces played on classical Chinese instruments, and we had a full feast including a large selection of dumplings. We had a wonderful turnout (and no leftovers).



China Centre Talks

Hilary term

Week 2

Monday 26 January 2026

Dr Giulia Sciorati, LSE

'Tifa as Discursive Infrastructure: Silkroadism and the Commercialisation of Authoritarian Governance'

Week 2

Tuesday 27 January 2026

Dr Eddy S. F. Yeung, University of Oxford

'The Logic of Provocative Propaganda in the Shadow of Democratic Uprisings: Evidence from Hong Kong's Anti-Extradition Movement'

Week 3

Monday 2 February 2026

Dr Rafal Stepien, Austrian Academy of Sciences

'Chinese Buddhist Ethics of Belief: An Introduction to Sanlun Philosophy'

Week 6

Tuesday 24 February 2026

Dr Antonina Luszczkiewicz-Mendis, Jagiellonian University

'Emotions in the Politics of Water: China-India Tensions over Tibetan Rivers'

Week 8

Wednesday 11 March 2026

Professor Jean Christopher Mittelstaedt, University of Zurich

'Ideology Without Unity: The Logic of Xi Jinping Thought'

Week 8

Thursday 12 March 2026

Professor Minxin Pei, Claremont McKenna College

'How Economic Reform Revived Totalitarian Rule in China'

Week 9

Monday 16 March 2026

Dr Oriana Skylar Mastro, Stanford University

'China-Russia Relations and Allies and Subsidized Capacity Building'

China Studies Seminars Hilary

Week 1

Monday 19 January 2026

Professor Wai-ye Li, Harvard University

'History and Memory in Seventeenth Century Chinese Drama'

Week 2

Thursday 29 January 2026

Dr Miriam Driessen, University of Oxford

'Immunity on Trial: Ethiopian Courts, Chinese Corporations, and Contestations over Sovereignty'

Week 3

Thursday 5 February 2026

Dr Aoife Cantrill, University of Oxford

'This is What we Must Transform First: Translation and Imperialism in Taiwan (1935–1947)'

Week 4

Thursday 12 February 2026

**Dr Elisa Tamburo, Harvard University/
University of Oxford**

Contested Sovereignty: Planners, Residents, and Chinese-led Urban Development in Nairobi, Kenya'

Week 5

Thursday 19 February 2026

Dr Henrike Rudolph, University of Göttingen

'Politics in the Peripheries: The Spatial and Relational Dimensions of China's 'Democratic Parties and Groups'

Week 6

Monday 23 February 2026

Neal E. Robbins, Film Director

Documentary Screening: 'Taiwan Undaunted: In Search of the Nation that Cannot Call Itself a Nation'

Week 7

Thursday 5 March 2026

**Dr Vivienne Xiangwei Guo, King's College
London**

'*Ma mère* as *Journal intime* and Sheng Cheng's Journey of Self-Realization in France'

Week 8

Thursday 12 March 2026

Dr Jeremy Siow, University of Oxford

'Transnational Propaganda and Ethnic Polarization: Experimental Evidence from Malaysia'

The following **Visual Culture in Modern and Contemporary China Seminars** took place:

Week 4

Tuesday 10 February 2026

Dr Justyna Jaguscik, University of Bern

‘Performing Inter-Asian Relationality at the Archipelago of Sinophone People’s Theatre’

Week 6

Tuesday 24 February 2026

Dr Jessica Imbach, University of Freiburg

“Steel is the most romantic thing in the world”: Industrial Party Time-Travel Novels and Digital Fantasy Fiction Boom’

[TEXCOURT](#) hosted the following **Lectures on Chinese Humanities**:

Week 6

Monday 23 February 2026

Professor Huang Shizhong, Sun Yat-sen University

‘On the Trajectory and Planning of Academic Research’

Week 7

Wednesday 4 March 2026

Professor Kenneth Dean, National University of Singapore

‘Chinese Ritual Opera in Southeast Asia’

The **Mandarin Forum** recommenced in Hilary Term with the following events:

Week 2

Friday 30 January 2026

Professor Ma Weiqiang, Shanxi University

‘Field, Archives, and Society: Reconstructing Rural Transformation in Shanxi during the Era of Collectivization’

Week 4

Friday 13 February 2026

Professor Chao Gu, Peking University

‘Science and Politics in China: The Needham Puzzle and its Modern Variant’

Week 6

Friday 27 February 2026

Zhihang Wang, University of Oxford

‘Industrial Internet as a Governance Instrument: Intergovernmental Dynamics in China’s Manufacturing Digital Transformation’

International History of East Asia Seminar

Week 4 | 11 Feb, 3pm

Cold War Migration to East Asia

From Vietnam to Hong Kong: "Human Cargo" and the Logistics of Refugee Migration, 1978–1979

Wesley L. Attewell, University of Hong Kong

Ann Ngoc Tran, University of California, Los Angeles

To the Promised Land: Burmese Chinese Re-Migration to Cold War Macau

XIANG Fang, Macau University of Science and Technology

Week 5 | 18 Feb, 5pm

Transnational Japan in War and Fashion

Blurring the Line between Friendship and Duty: Members of the First French Military Mission to Japan and the Boshin Civil War, 1867–1869

Fanny Cornu, University of Edinburgh

Hairstyles across Borders: The Transnational Circulation of the Pompadour in Modern East Asia

Lian Huiqi, Korea University

Week 6 | 25 Feb, 5pm

Reading Power in Chosŏn Korea's Laws and Gardens

Legal codes and jurisprudence in Chosŏn Korea: The reflection of the ideology of female chastity in the execution of law

Wing Shan Chan (Esme), School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

Horticulture as Literati Sociability: Knowledge Production through Networked Everyday Practices in Late Chosŏn Korea

Zexing Zheng, Seoul National University

Week 8 | 11 March, 5pm

Late Qing China and the Negotiation of Global Knowledge and Order

The Missed Encounter: Yan Fu and the Glocalization of Logical Knowledge in Late Imperial China

Leo Shen, University of Cambridge

The Qing Empire's Gift to the Permanent Court of Arbitration: Transforming Gift-Giving Practices and Engaging the International Order (1907–11)

Yuxuan Zhou, University of Geneva

Pre-Modern History of East Asia Seminar

Week 1 | 20 Jan

The Strange Case of Dr. Ouyi and Mr. Zhong: A Tiantai Buddhist Response to Christian Proselytizing in Ming Dynasty China (Or: How to Stop Worrying and Love One's Enmity as Oneself)

Professor Brook Ziporyn (University of Chicago)

Week 4 | 3 Feb

Great Ming as Dynasty and Family

Craig Clunas (Oxford)

Week 5 | 17 Feb

Epidemics and Politics: Relieving the People in Post-Imjin War Korea

Dr Baihui Duan (Lancaster University)

Week 6 | 24 Feb

Divine Beasts as Translational Agents: Figurist Renderings of Dao and the Prophetic Recasting of the Yijing

Prof Sophie Ling-chia Wei (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Week 7 | 3 Mar

Songs of Life and Death: Musical Communications Between the Dead and the Living in Early China

Dr Avital Rom (University of Cambridge)





OXFORD CHINA READING GROUP (OxCRG)

Convened by

Duanran Feng Simon Lam Yang Han

Fridays 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Ho Tim Room, 1/F, Oxford China Centre

Followed weekly by an informal pub social nearby

Week	Convenor	Topic and Readings
HT1	Duanran Feng	Qigong Movements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chen, 'Healing sects and anti-cult campaigns'• Penny, 'Falun Gong in song and dance' in Ramsey et. al. (eds.) <i>Globalizing Asian religions</i>, ch. 6
HT2	Fudie Zhao (Guest convenor)	The Chinese Computer: A Global History <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mullaney, <i>The Chinese computer</i>, intro.• Idem., <i>The Chinese typewriter</i>, ch. 5
HT3	Simon Lam	Science and Technocracy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greene, <i>Building a nation at war</i>, ch. 3• Schmalzer, <i>Red revolution, green revolution</i>, ch. 2
HT4	Finn Hayes (Guest convenor)	Socialist Alternatives in the 1980s <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cai, 'The crisis of socialism and efforts to overcome it', in Cao et. al. (eds.), <i>Culture and social transformations</i>, ch. 11• Wang, <i>High culture fever</i>, ch. 1
HT5		<p>Fifth Week Social! <i>Join us at the Rose & Crown for a mid-term break!</i></p>
HT6	Michelle Chan (Guest convenor)	Industrial Restructuring and Social Change <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lee, <i>Against the law</i>, ch. 5• Chiu & Lee, 'After the Hong Kong miracle'
HT7	Yutong Li (Guest convenor)	Exhibitionary Complexes in the Mao-era <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wu, <i>Remaking Beijing</i>, ch. 3• Coderre, <i>Newborn socialist things</i>, ch. 3
MT8	Yang Han	What Does China Want: New Approaches in IR <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Han, 'Banal modernity: a logic of hierarchization in IR'• Kang, Wong & Chan, 'What does China want?'

Click here for readings: <https://tinyurl.com/k7nrvh2n> | Follow us [@oxfordcrg.bsky.social](https://twitter.com/oxfordcrg.bsky.social)

To subscribe to our mailing list, send a blank email to oxcrg-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk

Forthcoming (Trinity Term) book launch:

You are warmly invited to a discussion, followed by refreshments, to mark the publication by Cambridge University Press of two companion volumes by Professor Stephen Smith, All Souls College

SUPERNATURAL POLITICS:
Mao Zedong and the Drive to Eliminate Religion in China, 1949-76

and

COMMUNISM IN AN ENCHANTED WORLD:
Chinese Folk Religion under Mao Zedong

Old Library, All Souls College
5pm, Tuesday, 9 June 2026

Contributions from:

Vivienne Shue, *Professor Emeritus of Contemporary China Studies*
Henrietta Harrison, *Professor of Chinese History*
David Priestland, *Professor of Modern History*
Steve Smith, *Author*

Chair:
Dr Lucas Tse, *Fellow, All Souls College*



Please RSVP to
stephen.smith2@all-souls.ox.ac.uk



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