



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF
WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA

New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre

KŌMARU KURA



2019 Annual Report

About the Centre

The New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre is a national centre to promote knowledge and understanding of contemporary China through support for research, lectures, seminars, conferences, visitor exchanges and information sharing. It provides a forum for research on contemporary China and facilitates a network of China specialists and academics. The Centre strengthens ties between scholars and researchers in leading institutions in New Zealand and China. The China Centre is based at Victoria University of Wellington. In addition to Victoria University of Wellington it has seven University Members. These are: The University of Auckland, Auckland University of Technology, the University of Canterbury, the University of Otago, the University of Waikato, Lincoln University and Massey University. 2019 was the tenth anniversary year for the China Research Centre. The Centre hosted a number of annual events and introduced Masterclass and Knowledge Transfer events for Public Sector employees in partnership with the China Capable Public Sector Project led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

2019 in review

The Centre has had a busy year. A major focus of 2019 has been improving the quality of the seminar series and media commentary. The China Capable Public Sector (CCPS) programme continues to be a key focus of the Centre involving extensive work preparing and running masterclasses, knowledge transfer events, alumni events and implementing a range of new offerings. The annual international conference was held last week on the topic of China and Climate Change, and in June we marked the Centre's 10th anniversary with a public lecture by Professor Elizabeth Economy (Council of Foreign Relations). A visiting scholar has joined the Centre for a term of one year and we have had a number of international engagements.

Updates at the Centre

The NZCCRC administrator, Lai Ching Tan, has left the Centre after six years dedicated service. Ms Tan was instrumental in the administrative organisation of the Centre's conferences, symposia and other engagements and worked tirelessly to ensure events such as the conference in Apia ran smoothly. The loss of Ms Tan's professionalism and knowledge has been keenly felt at the Centre and we wish her every success at her new role with the Southeast Asia CAPE.

Activities of the Centre

10 Year Anniversary Public Lecture

[*'Xi Jinping's Third Revolution and the Future of U.S.-China Relations'*](#)

19 June 2019, Hunter Council Chamber, Victoria University of Wellington

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre held a public lecture by leading academic and acclaimed author Dr Elizabeth Economy. Dr Economy is the C.V. Starr senior fellow and director for Asia studies at the Council on Foreign Relations and a distinguished visiting fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution. Dr Economy spoke to her latest publication on economic policymaking under Xi Jinping and discussed the state of US-China relations. The talk had an excellent turnout with a record 330 attendees from across the policy making, academic, government and wider community. Dr Economy gave several interviews that and these were published in various media publications.

International Conference on Contemporary China

'China and Climate Change: Responding to a global challenge'

13th November 2019, Hunter Council Chamber, Victoria University of Wellington

This conference brought experts from China, New Zealand and Australia to assess China's domestic and international approach to climate change and to ask what this means for New Zealand, the region and for global efforts at climate change mitigation and adaptation. Key questions included: What is China's climate change policy and approach? What is China doing to promote renewable energy, a low carbon economy, green finance and sustainable agriculture and industry? What is China's position on international efforts to combat climate change? What climate change activities is China promoting in the region? Panels covered China's Approach to Climate Change; Green Economics in China; and China, New Zealand and the Region.

Symposiums

New Engagements: China, India and the South Pacific

17 May 2019, Alan MacDiarmid Building, Victoria University of Wellington

Organised by the India Research Institute in partnership with the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre. The Centre worked closely with Victoria University of Wellington's India Research Institute to support a symposium on China, India and the Pacific. The one-day event was held at Victoria University of Wellington and was attended by academics, policymakers, students and the wider public. Speakers on China included Denghua Zhang from ANU (speaking on Chinese foreign policy in the Pacific), Ashalya Noa from Canterbury University (speaking on China's development aid in the Pacific) and Jason Young (speaking on China, Climate Change and the Pacific). Other speakers included Professor T. V. Paul from McGill University (Canada), Rahul Sen from AUT, Anna Powles from Massey, and Iati Iati from Victoria.

Symposiums with NZCCRC support

'Translation and Transformation' Dragon Tails, 6th Australasian conference on China diaspora history & heritage, Victoria University of Wellington 20-23 November 2019

The Centre has provided institutional support to the conference that aims to promote research into the histories and heritage of Chinese people, their descendants and their associates in New Zealand and Australia. This year's event is the first held in New Zealand and the conference convenors have partnered with the Wai-te-ata Press at Victoria University of Wellington for what promises to be an eventful conference. Race Relations Commissioner Meng Foon will open proceedings and academics from the region will present papers.

NZASIA conference

The NZASIA 23rd Biennial International 2019 Conference, Victoria University of Wellington from Sunday, Nov. 24, to Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019

The biennial conference is multidisciplinary and aims to bring together scholars from across New Zealand working in the broader, open, and contested site of Asian Studies. The keynote speakers this year will be Professor Timothy Oakes, Professor Anthony Reid, and Professor Mrinalini Sinha. The Centre has offered support in promoting the event and providing funding for keynote speaker Professor Timothy Oakes to travel to the conference from America.

Global China Seminar Series

The Global China Seminar series is a regular academic seminar on an aspect of China Studies. This year we have had a series of high-quality speakers and good turnout at all seminars with audiences ranging from 30 to 60 academics, policymakers, media and interested public.

1. Dr Gudrun Wacker (Senior Fellow, Asia Division, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Germany) *'Europe's changing debate on China'* (5 March 2019).
2. Richard McGregor (Senior Fellow, Lowy Institute, Australia) *'Fighting with China'*, Victoria University of Wellington (13 March 2019).
3. Associate Professor Jane Golley (Director, Australian Centre on China in the World, Australia National University) and Dr Lili Song (Lecturer in Law, University of Otago) *'China's Rise: Prosperity, Power, Pushback'*, Victoria University of Wellington (27 March 2019).
4. Emeritus Professor Geremie R. Barmé (Founding Director of the Australian Centre on China in the World at ANU, co-founder of the Wairarapa Academy for New Sinology) *'The Gate of Heavenly Peace 30 Years On'* (screening and commentary) Victoria University of Wellington (15-16 May 2019).
5. Professor Sarah Biddulph (Assistant Deputy Vice Chancellor International – China, Professor of Law at the University of Melbourne) *'Balancing Justice and Speed: Dilemmas in reforms to prosecution of minor crime in China'*, Victoria University of Wellington (30 May 2019).
6. Professor Wendy Larson (Professor Emerita, University of Oregon) *'Chinese Revolutionary Culture: Optimism under Socialism and Capitalism'*, Victoria University of Wellington (19 August 2019).

7. Dr David Brophy (Senior Lecturer, Modern Chinese History, University of Sydney) '*Uyghur Activism in the Interwar middle East*', Victoria University of Wellington (21 August 2019).
8. Dr Anna High (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Otago) '*Caring for "lonely children": A socio-legal analysis of orphan welfare in China*', Victoria University of Wellington (11 September 2019).
9. Dr Amy King (Senior Lecturer, Australian National University) '*Power, shared Ideas, and Order Transition: china, the United States and the creation of the Bretton Woods order*', Victoria University of Wellington (10 October 2019).
10. Professor Anne-Marie Brady [Co-sponsored] '*Canaries and Coalmines: Foreign Interference, Political Resilience*', Victoria University of Wellington (23 October 2019)

Roundtables

1. The Centre co-hosted a roundtable with the Centre for Strategic Studies for talks with Charles Parton, Senior Associate Fellow at The Royal United Services Institute on China-UK relations (11 March 2019).
2. The Centre co-hosted a roundtable with the Centre for Strategic Studies for talks on Chinese foreign policy with Ren Xiao from Fudan University (12 March 2019).
3. The Centre co-hosted a roundtable with the Centre for Strategic Studies for talks on New Zealand-China relations and regional security with Ambassador Zhang Junsai (18 June 2019).
4. The Centre welcomed a delegation led by Wang Weiguang from the New Zealand Centre at Xiamen University (12 August 2019)
5. The Centre hosted Xu Xiujun and other delegates from the Institute for World Economic and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences for a roundtable on China's role in the Pacific (Oct 3 2019)
6. The Centre hosted the National Institute of International Strategy from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences for a roundtable on the BRI (16 Nov 2019)

International Roundtable and Workshop Participation

1. The Director took part in a weeklong visit to Los Angeles and Washington D.C. to discuss New Zealand and US-China relations with academics and policymakers. The visit was organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
2. The Director attended an MFAT organised delegation to Europe to meet with academics, policy makers and related experts to discuss the China European relationship. The visit, spread over two weeks, included meetings in Moscow, Berlin and Dublin.

China Capable Public Sector (CCPS)

The Centre has continued to work closely with the CCPS programme. We have completed four 5-day masterclasses, 10 knowledge transfer events and two cross-agency forums as well as designing two new courses for senior leaders and Heads of Missions in the Pacific. The Centre will continue to deliver courses and lectures for CCPS for the remainder of 2019 and into 2020.

Media Engagement

New Zealand and international media - print, TV and radio and social media – have increasingly turned to the Centre for comment on issues concerning China and the NZ-China relationship, particularly at the time of the Prime Minister's visit. In addition, the Director has written a number of Op Ed pieces and provided media commentary on matters pertaining to China and the NZ-China relationship.

Visiting Research Fellows

1. Associate Professor Zhai Junliang (Associate Professor, School of Public Management and Policy, China University of Mining and Technology). Visiting fellow from September 2019 to September 2020. Associate Professor Zhai is conducting a research project on 'Emerging perspectives in Public Management and their implementation in China.'

Academic Dialogues

1. In October, the Centre hosted the second academic dialogue with the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR).
2. The Centre led a delegation to Beijing in August for a conference on environmental policymaking with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Academics from Waikato, Lincoln and VUW took part in the talks.
3. The Centre participated in a seminar on the *Relationship between China and Indo-Pacific Countries* in September. Held in Jakarta, the seminar is co-organised by the Shanghai Institute of International Studies and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies of Indonesia.

A View to the Future

The New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre was established 10 years ago to promote research and knowledge-sharing on China in New Zealand. Since then, the bulk of the work of the Centre has been on conferences, seminars, government courses and engagement through roundtables and visits. In an effort to develop further the field of China studies in New Zealand, the Centre is refocusing on the promotion of targeted New Zealand research and expertise on China.



New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre

KŌMARU KURA

Victoria University of Wellington

18 Kelburn Parade

PO Box 600

Wellington, 6140

NEW ZEALAND

+64-4-463 5760

chinacentre@vuw.ac.nz

www.wgtn.ac.nz/chinaresearchcentre