

Annual Report for 2018



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.

2018 was the ninth 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.

2018 in Review

2018 has been a busy year for the Centre. We have delivered one international conference, two symposiums and a high level workshop on issues ranging from Chinese outbound tourism and regional development policy to discussions of Chinese influence and the decisions of the 19th Party Congress. The Centre delivered two publications on Chinese industrial and development policy and initiated an academic dialogue with a leading Chinese international relations institution. We delivered five masterclasses and ten knowledge transfer events with the China Capable Public Sector programme as well as seven global China seminars and a number of roundtables and visits. 2019 is set to see heightened New Zealand interest in China and Chinese activities in the region.

2018 Activities

New Zealand International Conference on Contemporary China

China's New Tourists: New Zealand and the Year of Chinese Tourism

4 December 2018. Oceania Room, Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, organised by the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre in partnership with the China—New Zealand Tourism Research Unit at Waikato University.

This year's International Conference on Contemporary China brought over 130 scholars, policy makers, industry-insiders and students together to discuss Chinese outbound tourism and the Year of Tourism policy. Keynote speakers included Duncan Small of MBIE, Professor Haiyan Song from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, David F Goldstein, CEO of Destination Canada and Professor Rui Song from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The Centre partnered with the China-New Zealand Tourism Research Unit at Waikato University and included speakers and chairs from Auckland University of Technology, Waikato University, Otago University and Victoria University of Wellington as well as speakers from industry and industry bodies like Tourism Industry Aotearoa, Christchurch International Airport and Destination Queenstown.

The conference provided one of the first opportunities to publically explore the idea of a China Year of Tourism for New Zealand before the 2019 China New Zealand Year of Tourism. Panels covered 'China's Outbound Tourism', 'China's New Tourists', 'Lessons from other Markets' and 'Takeaways for New Zealand'. Participant feedback and media coverage of the event demonstrated the role the Centre has bringing academia, policymakers and industry together and in promoting intelligent and knowledgeable discussion and debate on China issues of relevance to New Zealand.

More information can be found [here](#).

Symposiums

The 19th Party Congress: A 'New Era' for China?

21 March 2018, Hunter Council Chamber, Victoria University of Wellington, organised by the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre in partnership with the Wellington Branch of the Institute of International Affairs.

The well-attended half-day symposium featured leading scholars from New Zealand, Canada China and the UK. Topics covered included an analysis of China's 'new era' and what it could mean for China's economic and domestic policy, the direction of China's new leadership line-up and investigations into the role of new 'internal contradictions'. The audience included representatives from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, New Zealand Defence Force, MFAT, numerous Embassies, as well as students and members of the Wellington Community. The feedback received from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. For further details please refer to the following [link](#).

New Zealand, China and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road

08 August 2018, Hunter Council Chamber, Victoria University of Wellington, jointly organised by the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Experts from New Zealand and China discussed how the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has evolved since its inception and debated the impact of BRI on the region as well as areas of potential NZ-China cooperation. The forum provided a unique opportunity for reflection on the BRI and to seek clarity from Chinese speakers about the strategic goals of BRI. The symposium coincided with a BRI [report](#) released by the Centre.

Further details [here](#).

Workshops

China's United Front Work Department

11 May 2018, Hunter Council Chamber, Victoria University of Wellington, organised by the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre.

This invitation only, half-day workshop brought experts from around the world and New Zealand to discuss the activities of the United Front Work Department (UFWD). The focus was an examination of the history of United Front work as well as the role it plays in China's foreign and domestic policy today. Speakers included leading academics from New Zealand, Canada and Australia. The wide-ranging discussions explored the aims and activities of the UFWD, distinguished between foreign influence and interference and sought to provide an opportunity for policymakers and academics to share their assessment of the Chinese influence debate.

Research Papers

The Centre published two research papers:

[*'Made in China 2025— China's Industrial Vision and its Impact on New Zealand'* by Paul Dupont.](#)

In this report Paul Dupont investigates the drivers for and implications of China's 'Made in China 2025' strategy. After investigating China's efforts to become a world leader in innovation and automation the report discusses potential outcomes for China, New Zealand and the Region.

[*'The Belt and Road Initiative— A New Zealand Appraisal'* by Jason Young and Jake Lin.](#)

This report describes China's BRI policy, Chinese academic commentary on it and international government and academic reactions to the initiative. It overviews New Zealand participation and commentary, as well as BRI activity in the Pacific, and provides a series of policy recommendations.

Roundtables

1. The Centre hosted a roundtable with China Institute of International Studies on the 18th of June 2018 in collaboration with the Centre for Strategic Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. The China Centre invited the participants, hosted the delegation led by Ambassador Qi Zhenhong and led broad ranging discussions on the New Zealand—China relationship.
2. The Centre hosted a roundtable with the National Development and Reform Commission on the 17th of September at Victoria University of Wellington. The delegation, led by Deputy Director General Zhang Ming, held in-depth discussions on the Belt and Road Initiative
3. The Centre hosted a roundtable with the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences on the 3rd of December at Victoria University of Wellington. Professor Zuo Xuejin, Former Vice President of SASS, and Professor Shen Kaiyan, Director of the Institute of Economics at SASS, led the Chinese delegation. Discussions investigated recent economic trends in China and approaches to the regional economy.

Visiting Research Fellows

1. Han Meng (PhD candidate at University of International Business and Economics in Beijing) was a visiting fellow from September 2017 to September 2018. He conducted a project on Chinese Enterprises "Going Out Policy" and integration into global value chains in the "New Normal" economy.
2. Travis Gidado, (studying Law at Chicago Law School, previously at the Yenching Academy of Peking University, Yale and Cambridge) was a visiting fellow from the 22nd of January to the 26th of February 2018. During his time in New Zealand Travis conducted research on 'Perceptions of Chinese Influence in New Zealand and the future of the international order.' On the completion of his fellowship, Travis presented his findings at a well-attended Global China Seminar Series.

Global China Seminar Series

The Global China Seminar series is a monthly seminar on an aspect of China Studies relevant to a New Zealand audience. This year we have had good turnout at all seminars with crowds ranging from 20 to 60 academics, policymakers and interested public.

- I. Travis Gidado (Visiting Fellow, New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre, Yenching Scholar, Peking University), *'Examining Perceptions of Chinese Influence in New Zealand and the Future of the International Order'*, Victoria University of Wellington (22 February 2018).
- II. Gerry Groot (Senior Lecturer, Chinese Studies, Department of Asian Studies, University of Adelaide), *'"Chinese Influence" as a "Wicked Problem": Lessons from History and Elsewhere'*, Victoria University of Wellington (11 May 2018).
- III. Greg Clydesdale (Senior Lecturer, Department of Agribusiness and Commerce, Lincoln University), *'The Art of Business: A history of Chinese commerce'*, Victoria University of Wellington (5 June 2018).
- IV. Shaohua Hu (Professor, Department of Government and Politics, Wagner College), *'Taiwan's Diplomatic Allies in Oceania '*, Victoria University of Wellington (29 June 2018).
- V. Nick Gouth (Visitor, Department of Pacific Affairs, Coral Bell School at Australian National University) *'New Zealand Trade with China in the Late Nineteenth Century: A Multi-lateral (re)view'*, Victoria University of Wellington (26 June 2018).
- VI. Han Meng (Visiting Fellow, New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre, University of International Business and Economics, Beijing) *'The Analysis of the Development and Potential of China's Direct Investment in New Zealand under the Background of the Belt and Road'*, Victoria University of Wellington (10 Aug 2018).
- VII. Hugh Stephens (Distinguished Fellow, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada.) *The new NAFTA Confronts China: The 'non-market' clause in USMCA and the future of Canada-China economic relations'*, Victoria University of Wellington (24 October 2018).

China Capable Public Sector

The Centre has continued the successful partnership with the China Capable Public Sector Programme, managed and funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade for officials from across the public sector.

Knowledge Transfer Events

The second part of the CCPS in which the Centre plays a role has been the Knowledge Transfer Events (KTE's), for which the Centre has organised a regular series of speakers. Attendees at the talks have come from across the public sector.

There were ten KTE talks in 2018

- i. Hamish McCardle (Detective Superintendent, New Zealand Police, Counsellor for Police in Beijing, China), *'New Zealand's interaction with the Chinese legal system'* (12 February 2018).
- ii. Richard Rigby (Professor, School of Culture, History and Language, Australian National University), *'The Belt and Road Initiative: What's in it for China?'* (6 March 2018).
- iii. Mary Boyd (Director of The Economist Corporate Network in Shanghai), *'Redefining 'China Inc.': The Chinese economy under Xi Jinping'*, Wellington Club (20 March 2018).
- iv. Keith Woodford (Senior Fellow of NZCCRC; former Professor of Farm Management at Lincoln University, Principal Consultant at Agri Food Systems Ltd.), *'Strategic shifts for capturing China's changing dairy market'*, St Andrew's (31 May 2018).
- v. David Shambaugh (Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, Director of the China Policy Program at the Elliot School of International Affairs, George Washington University, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution), *'Where is China headed after Xi Jinping's power sweep?'* Victoria University of Wellington (17 July 2018).
- vi. David Mahon (Executive Chairman, Mahon China), *'A new challenging era in New Zealand China relations'*, Victoria University of Wellington (1 August 2018).
- vii. Ford Hart (Former U.S Consul-General to Hong Kong and Macau) *'Hong Kong: Where is it headed?'*, Victoria University of Wellington (12 September 2018).
- viii. Shivshankar Menon (Distinguished fellow, Brookings Institution, Former Foreign Secretary of India) *'Engaging with China: A diplomat's insights'*, Victoria University of Wellington (9 October 2018).
- ix. Professor Paul Spoonley (Distinguished Professor and Pro-Vice Chancellor, Massey University) *'Chinese migration: Are we ready?'*, Victoria University of Wellington (20 November 2018).
- x. Alan Young (former Consul-General in Guangzhou, Trade Commissioner in Beijing and member of the NZTE Beachheads Board) *'Business success in China'*, Victoria University of Wellington (13 December 2018).

Masterclass

The Centre has continued the successful Masterclass programme with CCPS. The Masterclass is an intensive five-day course on China designed and implemented by the China Centre. It is exclusively for public sector employees and is delivered through a series of speeches, roundtables and scenario-based activities. It seeks to increase public sector capability for those in China facing roles while fostering interdepartmental cooperation. This year the Centre has put on the following Masterclass events.

1. 12 February to 16 February, co-facilitated by Alastair Bisley, Paul Clark (University of Auckland) and a selection of over 20 China experts from business, academia and the public sector.
2. 16 May to 20 May, co-facilitated by Alastair Bisley, Paul Clark (University of Auckland) and a selection of China experts from business, academia and the public sector.
3. 11 June to 15 June, was co-facilitated by Alastair Bisley, Jason Young (Victoria University of Wellington) and a selection of China experts from business, academia and the public sector.
4. 20 to 24 August, was co-facilitated by Brian Moloughney (University of Otago) and Alastair Bisley and a selection of China experts from business, academia and the public sector.
5. 19 to 23 November, co-facilitated by Brian Moloughney (University of Otago) and Peter Kennedy. They were joined by a selection of China experts from business, academia and the public sector.

External engagement

The NZCCRC has actively participated in Chinese workshops, conferences and ‘think tank’ events in China. During these events, the Centre has developed deeper relations with China studies institutes in China and around the world as well as with the New Zealand Embassy and Consulate staff in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

The Centre participated in the annual regional dialogue hosted by the Shanghai Institute of International Studies to discuss regional security issues in late July.

The Centre led a group of New Zealand academics to participate in an academic dialogue with China Institutes of the Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) in Beijing. This was the inaugural dialogue based on a reciprocal visiting agreement signed last year to promote dialogue on regional security and economy, the Pacific and New Zealand-China relations. This year’s dialogue was held in Beijing on the 27th of August and brought together academics from the University of Auckland, Victoria University of Wellington, Canterbury University, as well as staff and fellows at the China Centre.

The Centre participated in a track II dialogue with the Asia New Zealand Foundation in Beijing and Shanghai on China and global trade in the first week of September.

The NZCCRC participates in symposiums and conferences in New Zealand, such as those Track II events organised by the Asia New Zealand Foundation, New Zealand China Council forums, MFAT discussions, New Zealand Defence Force workshops etc., as well as attending other functions hosted by the New Zealand China Council, the Asia New Zealand Foundation, NZIIA, the Chinese Embassy in Wellington, the United States Embassy and the Australian High Commission.

Final Remarks

The Centre has established itself over the last ten years as a trusted convener of a broad range of quality events and scholarly information on China and as a trusted provider of courses and advice to the public, business and government. Our focus is on maintaining those activities whilst strengthening the Centre's role as a creator of New Zealand relevant knowledge on China.

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