

Annual Report for 2017



ANNUAL REPORT

The New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre

This report is prepared for the Advisory Board in my position as Acting Director of the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre. The report covers the activities of the Centre for the year 2017 and plans for 2018.

Jason Young (Acting Director)

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.

2017 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.

2017 in Review

The Centre had an active year. We hosted two major events, continued our partnership with the CCPS project, reinstated the Global China seminar series and improved our engagement with media and stakeholders. We increased the number of visits from reputable Chinese institutions, the number of applications for visiting fellows and the number of invitations to attend conferences and forums in China as well as updating the website and hosting the China Studies in New Zealand page. We expanded staffing at the Centre through the hire of a full time coordinator in July.

We have built on existing activities, rationalised some and expanded others with the goal of building momentum for 2018. Our key areas of activity continue to be conferences, symposiums, talks and seminars, research and publications, short courses and facilitating engagement between New Zealand China studies scholars, government, business and researchers and institutions in China. We are looking for ways to better utilise the full spectrum of China expertise in New Zealand and to strengthen the research output of the Centre.

2017 was a significant year for China studies in New Zealand. In October the 19th Party Congress proclaimed a 'new era' for China. This signalled a shift in China's growth model, a new focus on China's social and economic 'contradictions' and a major expansion of China's global engagement through President Xi's signature foreign policy, the Belt and Road Initiative. New Zealand announced negotiations to upgrade the free trade agreement, elected a new government and expanded public discussions of our relationship with China.

Our plans for 2018 reflect these changes. We are planning four major events, short courses with the CCPS programme, publications and increased engagement with Chinese academia. We seek to further develop collaborative research activities with scholars across the country and to continue to promote the growth of China studies in New Zealand.

2017 Activities

1. New Zealand International Conference on Contemporary China

Financial liberalisation and the Renminbi: Implications for New Zealand

25 October 2017, Fale Pasifika, the University of Auckland

This year's annual conference focussed on China's efforts to internationalise the Renminbi (RMB) and deepen financial liberalisation and on what those efforts mean for New Zealand traders and investors. We discussed why the uptake of the RMB as a global currency has been limited, what efforts are being made to remedy this and what barriers remain. The conference identified a major debate in the financial sector between those who argued China's controlled liberalisation of the financial sector was on target and those who argued China's financial controls and intervention are increasing and cannot be removed for fear of a major market correction.

We had an excellent line-up of speakers from the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, the University of Technology Sydney, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Institute of World

Economics and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Science, the Industrial Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) New Zealand, the ANZ Bank, the Reserve Bank of Australia and Wigram Capital Advisors Ltd. Chairs and hosts came from Victoria University of Wellington, the University of Auckland, Waikato University and the Auckland University of Technology. Sponsorship came from ANZ, the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, ICBC, the North Asia CAPE and the Asia Pacific Trading Nation Theme at Victoria University of Wellington. The conference committee was made up of representatives from the China Centre, the School of Government (VUW), Treasury, the Reserve Bank and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The conference attracted media from Fairfax, Skykiwi and World TV.

Some lessons were learnt:

- *Hosting an event in Auckland gave the NZCCRC better national exposure but future conferences outside Wellington should be in partnership with a local university.* Academics at the University of Auckland were incredibly helpful in mobilising Auckland academics and postgrad students to attend the event and in supporting arrangements at the Fale Pasifika. Compared to similar conferences held in Wellington, however, the number of attendees (80 to 100) was lower than normal (100-150). In future, when holding an event outside of Wellington, we feel it is best to partner with a University Member to achieve better local coverage.
- *Conference planning should begin far earlier in order to secure keynote speakers.* This would also allow for earlier promotion of the event and the opportunity to present a more complete package to potential sponsors.

The Centre is planning a short publication of the findings of the conference to be published on the Centre's website as a discussion paper. Further details about the event can be found [here](#).

Symposiums

Trump, China and the Region: Where to from here?

4 May 2017, Hunter Council Chamber, Victoria University of Wellington, co-organised by the China Research Centre and the Centre for Strategic Studies at Victoria University of Wellington.

The symposium was held in a packed Council Chamber (over 180 participants) and included a keynote by Singapore's ambassador-at-large, nine leading scholars from around the Asia-Pacific region, and some excellent local academics. Topics covered included the future of US-China relations, how the Trump administration might deal with North Korea, the connections many states in the region are drawing between their economic and security interests, Chinese and US views on the emerging economic and security order in the region and the implications for Australia and New Zealand. It was especially pleasing to see a large number of officials from MFAT, Defence, NZDF and the Department of PM and Cabinet attending, as well as VUW students and members of the wider Wellington community. The feedback we have received from those who attended has been extremely positive. For details please refer to the following [link](#).

As part of the symposium, the Centre arranged for Associate Professor WANG Dong (Peking University) to give public lectures at Canterbury University and the University of Auckland.

Collaborative public talks

1. Alistair Crozier (New Zealand Consul-General in Chengdu), 'Catching up with Western China: New Zealand's Newest Diplomatic Challenge' Victoria University of Wellington (Thursday 15 June 2017) jointly hosted by the New Zealand China Friendship Society and the New Zealand China Trade Association in association with the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre and the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs (Wellington Branch).

Public Lectures

1. Professor SHI Yinong (Professor of International Relations, Chairman of Academic Committee of the School of International Studies, and Director of the Center on American Studies at Renmin University of China in Beijing), 'China's strategic approach toward the United States', Victoria University of Wellington (14 February 2017).
2. Bonnie S. Glaser (Senior Adviser for Asia; Director, China Power Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies), 'US-China Relations', (6 December 2017).

Roundtables

1. NZCCRC hosted a roundtable with China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) on the 24th of April 2017 in collaboration with the Centre for Strategic Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. The China Centre invited the participants, hosted the 4-person delegation of scholars working on Oceania, Southeast Asia, security and economic issues (including Vice-President FU Mengzi) and arranged for their visit to MFAT and Auckland University.
2. NZCCRC hosted a delegation from Shandong Academy of Social Sciences on the 24th of April, including their President, exchanging ideas about rural development and agriculture.
3. NZCCRC hosted a roundtable with the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) in collaboration with the Centre for Strategic Studies at Victoria University of Wellington on the 19th of July. Topics discussed with President Su Ge and his delegation included the security outlook for the Asia Pacific, the Belt and Road Initiative, the regional economy and New Zealand-China relations.
4. NZCCRC hosted a roundtable with the Institute of World Economics and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) at Victoria University of Wellington on the 7th of September. Topics discussed with Director Zhang Yuyan and colleagues included the Belt and Road Initiative, the role of China and New Zealand in the South Pacific and the development of New Zealand-China relations.
5. NZCCRC hosted a roundtable with former Chinese Ambassador to Australia, Mr Zhang Junsai, in collaboration with the Centre for Strategic Studies at Victoria University of Wellington on the 16th of October. Topics covered with Ambassador Zhang and colleagues from the Guangdong Institute of International Studies, CASS and Department of North American and Oceanian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs included the security outlook for the Asia Pacific, the Korean Peninsula, the Pacific and New Zealand-China relations.

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. The series highlights the research of China studies scholars around the country and provides them the opportunity to present their research to a Wellington audience. This year we have had good turnout at all seminars with numbers ranging from 20 to 60 academics, policymakers and interested public.

1. Marc Lanteigne (Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Defence and Security Studies (CDSS) in Auckland, Massey University), 'China and Europe along the Belt and Road: What needs the bridge much broader than the flood?' Victoria University of Wellington (30 March 2017).
2. Denghua Zhang (PhD Candidate at the Australian National University), 'A Signal of Policy Change? Exploring China's Foreign Aid and Triangular Aid Cooperation in Asia-Pacific', Victoria University of Wellington (5 April 2017).
3. YANG Liqiang (Associate Professor at the Institute of International Economy (IIE), University of International Business and Economics (UIBE) in Beijing, Director in charge of the Research Department of China Foreign Trade and Economics, Research Fellow of China's FTA Strategies Institute, UIBE), 'China and TPP: Rule Making and Trade Gains', Victoria University of Wellington (18 May 2017).
4. Xavier Marquez (Senior Lecturer, Political Science and International Relations at Victoria University of Wellington), 'Leader Cults: Propaganda or Ritual?', Victoria University of Wellington (15 June 2017).
5. Hongzhi Gao (Senior Lecturer in the School of Market and International Business at Victoria University), 'Toward A Yin-Yang Perspective of Relational (Guanxi) Gatekeeping in China', Victoria University of Wellington (27 July).
6. Gerald Chan (Professor of Politics and International Relations at the University of Auckland), 'Geo-developmentalism': Theorising China's 'One Belt, One Road' Initiative', Victoria University of Wellington (scheduled 17 August, cancelled due to Airport closure).
7. Ruiping Ye (Teaching Fellow at Victoria University of Wellington Law School), 'New Zealand – China FTA: Definition Matters', Victoria University of Wellington (28 September).
8. Catherine Churchman (Lecturer in the Asian Studies Programme in the School of Languages and Cultures at Victoria University of Wellington), 'The Bronze Drum culture of the Li and Lao and ethnic relations in early South China (200-750 CE)', Victoria University of Wellington (18 October).
9. Stephen Noakes (Lecturer of Chinese Politics at the University of Auckland, jointly appointed to Politics and International Relations and Asian Studies), 'Activist Networks in China', Victoria University of Wellington (9 November).

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.

Practitioners' Masterclass

The Masterclass is an intensive five-day course on China designed and taught by the China Centre. It is exclusively for public sector workers and is delivered through a series of introductory talks and roundtables, followed by scenario-based activities. This year the Centre has put on two Masterclass events with excellent feedback. More information is available [here](#).

1. 27 February to 3 March, co-facilitated by Crawford Falconer (Lincoln University), Paul Clark (University of Auckland) and Brian Moloughney (University of Otago) and a selection of China experts from business, academia and the public sector.
2. 8 May to 12 May, co-facilitated by Crawford Falconer (Lincoln University), Paul Clark (University of Auckland) and Brian Moloughney (University of Otago) and a selection of China experts from business, academia and the public sector.
3. 10th to the 14th of July, co-facilitated by Crawford Falconer (Lincoln University) and Jason Young (Victoria University of Wellington) and a selection of China experts from business, academia and the public sector.

The next Masterclass is scheduled for 12-16 February 2018. The NZCCRC is pleased to continue this strategic partnership with the China Capable Public Sector.

Knowledge Transfer Events

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

The Centre has organised nine such talks in 2017, with a tenth by Mary Boyd (Director, Economist Corporate Network Shanghai, The Economist Group), on 'Xi's Second term: What to expect?' being cancelled because of the death of her mother in the week in which she was to have come to New Zealand.

For more details see [here](#). The Speakers were

1. John O'Loughlen (Director of Business Development for Alibaba Group in Australia and New Zealand Former co-founder of GungHo! Pizza in Beijing), 'The Parallel Universe of China's E-Commerce Landscape' (2 March 2017).
2. Rt Hon Dame Jenny Shipley DNZM (Former Prime Minister of New Zealand, Former member of China Construction Bank's Global Board of Directors, Chairman of China Construction Bank NZ Ltd; Chairman of Oravida NZ and Oravida Water), 'Globalisation, Free Trade and Banking - What it takes to achieve mutual success in the New Zealand - China context', (4 April 2017).
3. Jamil Anderlini (Financial Times' Asia Editor and Journalist of the Year 2010), 'China under Xi Jinping: How China's political rivalries might affect New Zealand', (3 May 2017).

4. John McKinnon (New Zealand's Ambassador to China, Former Executive Director of the Asia New Zealand Foundation 2012-2014, Former New Zealand Secretary of Defence, Deputy Secretary at NZ Foreign Affairs and Trade), 'Scaling up New Zealand's China footprint: The art and science of cross-agency coordination', (7 June 2017).
5. Luke Minford (Chief Executive of Rouse International, an intellectual property (IP) firm based in Beijing), 'Innovation in China, and the changing role of government and enterprise', (30 June 2017).
6. Kerry Brown (Professor of Chinese Studies and Director of the Lau China Institute at King's College, London), 'Xi Jinping: Exercising power in contemporary China', (29 August 2017).
7. John Mathews (Professor of Strategy at Macquarie Graduate School of Management), 'Global green shift: Renewable China', (22 September 2017).
8. Con Williams (Agri Economist with Australia and New Zealand Banking Group, ANZ) (24 Nov 2017).
9. Bonnie S. Glaser (Senior Adviser for Asia; Director, China Power Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies), 'Chinese Foreign Relations under Xi', (5 December 2017).

Publications

1. YANG Liqiang, 'China and TPP: Rule Making and Trade Gains', *China Research Paper*, No.1 (2017).
2. 'China's Belt and Road Initiative: Implications for New Zealand' *China Discussion Paper* (forthcoming).
3. *The Rise of Chinese Agriculture*, Victoria University Press. This edited volume derives from the contributions to last year's conference on Chinese agriculture (forthcoming).
4. 'Financial liberalisation and the Renminbi: Implications for New Zealand', *China Discussion Paper* (forthcoming).

Visiting Research Fellows

1. Han Meng (PhD candidate at University of International Business and Economics in Beijing) is a visiting fellow from September 2017 to September 2018. He is conducting a project on *Chinese Enterprises "Going Out Policy" and integration into global value chains in the "New Normal" economy*.
2. Travis Gidado, (studying an MA at Yenching Academy of Peking University, previously Yale and Cambridge) will be a visiting fellow from the 22nd of January to the 26th of February 2018. He is conducting research on *Triangular relations between the United States, China and New Zealand*.
3. Dr Limin Zhou (Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, School of Public Administration, Guangzhou University) will be a visiting fellow from September 2018 to September 2019. He is conducting a project on *Disaster governance of resilient cities: A comparative study between China and New Zealand*.

Website Project

We completed the shift of the Centre's website to a new platform and rationalised the content and presentation. The first phase of the project involved re-writing each page including a re-write of the purpose and position of the Centre. The second phase involved establishing a social media platform (currently Twitter) to cover news and events from China and New Zealand relevant to New Zealand. We then developed the China Studies in New Zealand section. We are working towards developing a 'research projects' section.

China Studies in New Zealand

The Centre has completed a project to map and profile the expertise on China in New Zealand. We have engaged academics across the country and profiled their research and their home institution on the website. This project helped us identify the expertise in New Zealand for media requests, for planning conferences and talks, for highlighting the research work on China in New Zealand and for identifying potential collaborations between New Zealand and China. You can view the list of expertise [here](#).

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.

- Attended a workshop on China and the South Pacific organised by the Oceanian Centre at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou (7-8 April).
- Attended the East Asia Track II Seminar on Regional Security Architecture organized by Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) held in Shanghai (July 17-18, 2017).
- Attended Track II Dialogues in Beijing, Harbin, Hangzhou and Shanghai (23-30 August) organised by the Asia New Zealand Foundation.
- Attended the Silk Road Think Tank Forum organised by the Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in Guangzhou (22 September).
- Attended the International Symposium on China's Development in the Context of a Changing World hosted by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing (17-18 November).
- Attending the 7th World Forum on China Studies (China Towards 2050: New Era, New Thought, New Journey) hosted by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences in Shanghai (10-11 December).

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.

The Centre's Executive Chair has continued in his role as a member of the Executive Board of the New Zealand China Council. He has also been appointed to the International Steering Committee of the Silk Road NGO Cooperation Network

Planned activities for 2018

We plan to maintain the momentum of activities in 2017 and to increase our engagement with China studies in New Zealand, China and around the world.

International Conference on Contemporary China

Three ideas have been put forward for our annual international conference for October 2018.

1. A comparative study of Chinese Outbound Tourism: lessons for NZ
2. China's Innovation Rise
3. The Belt and Road Initiative: Oceania and beyond

Symposiums

We are planning to host three half day or full day symposiums.

1. The 19th Party Congress and beyond (February)
2. The work of the United Front Work Department (May)
3. The Belt and Road Initiative: Oceania and beyond (July) in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Research

The Centre is redeveloping a section of the website to highlight research projects. At present this is limited. It is a goal of the Centre to develop opportunities for collaborative research projects on China studies topics in New Zealand. In 2018, the Centre will be exploring relevant funding agencies and opportunities to strengthen this aspect of the Centre's work.

Final Remarks

As always, the Acting Director and the team at the China Centre welcome and are open to input from members of the Advisory Board, including our Associate Directors at the Member Universities. In particular, we seek a mechanism for greater participation of academics affiliated with the Centre in our activities in China and New Zealand. We also seek to develop our research activities through the development of key research projects supported by research funding.

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