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The Fudan-UC Dispatch is a periodic publication by the Fudan-UC Center on Contemporary China, based at the University of California (UC) San Diego's School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS). It features current research publications on China in digest form as well as noteworthy commentaries on current affairs related to China by UC and Fudan University scholars. Its purpose is to enhance publicity for UC and Fudan scholars publishing in the China area and to familiarize these scholars with each other's research interests so as to identify future collaborative opportunities. The Fudan-UC Dispatch sources its information in English only. It also includes a brief section on the Fudan-UC Center activities.

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About the Fudan-UC Center:

The Fudan-UC Center on Contemporary China creates opportunities for cooperation between Fudan University and all UC campuses on research, policy and educational initiatives, including academic conferences and community events. It is the first overseas research center established by a Chinese university at a North American university. Based at GPS, the center also works closely with the School's 21st Century China Center. Learn more at fudan-uc.ucsd.edu.

Editor-in-chief: Xian Xu, Managing Associate Director, Fudan-UC Center

FUDAN AND UC SCHOLARS' RESEARCH ON CHINA

Christopher Connery

UC Santa Cruz

Field: Literature

Source: American
Quarterly, Volume 69,
Number 3, September
2017, pp. 541-549

Détourning the chimera: toward a global critical practice

In this article, the author offers a critical dissection of Chinese nationalism, supplemented by personal perspectives on the institutional and ideological character of contemporary Chinese academia. Examples include how the professoriat is assessed based on quantitative evaluation, and a shift in intellectual trajectory away from communism that he has seen in some young people, who shared little of the older generation's attachment to the Chinese Communist Party. He argues that, while his views are not shared by all on the left, a global critical intellectual practice must proceed from the terrain on which we find ourselves, adding that "the nature of the contemporary Chinese state, and the critical intellectual's relationship to it, is a question from which US-based critics cannot excuse themselves, and if they want to avoid occupying common ground with China-bashing jingoists, they will need to be in dialogue, critically and comradely, with the Left as it actually exists in China."

More information:

<https://doi.org/10.1353/aq.2017.0048>



Lowell Dittmer

UC Berkeley

Field: Political Science

Source: Asian Perspective:
October-December 2017,
Vol. 41, No. 4, pp. 673-
700

Trump on China

Ever since Nixon's ice-breaking 1972 visit to China, the China issue has been a salient part of American presidential elections. Typically, this takes the form of the challenger's bashing the incumbent for being taken in – for “coddling” the “butchers of Beijing,” as Bill Clinton put it in 1992. Donald Trump's rhetoric rang true to form. But the November 2016 Trump election was a shock to the political system for other reasons as well. The commentary explains why by taking a deep dive into Obama administration's foreign policy and Trump's presidential campaign platform. In addition, Dittmer tries to decode Trump's “playbook” on China.

More information:

<http://journals.rienner.com/doi/abs/10.5555/0258-9184.41.4.673?code=lrpi-site>

Lowell Dittmer

UC Berkeley

Field: Political Science

Source: Chapter from the
book: Dittmer, L. 2017.
Taiwan and China: Fitful
Embrace

Taiwan and the waning dream of reunification

China and Taiwan constitute one of the four nations divided by the Cold War. This division was intended to be only temporary, but became frozen into the bipolar Cold War structure. Yet reunification has been implanted into the vision of national self-realization in post-Liberation China and to some extent in Taiwan as well. Since the end of the Cold War mutual interest revived on both sides, but as the PRC overtook the island economically and militarily, the dream of reunification has begun to fade. This concluding chapter focuses on the question why.

More information:

<https://doi.org/10.1525/luminos.38.o>



Ching Kwan Lee

UC Los Angeles

Field: Sociology

Source: University of

Chicago Press

The specter of global China: politics, labor, and foreign investment in Africa

China has recently emerged as one of Africa's top business partners, aggressively pursuing its raw materials and establishing a mighty presence in the continent's booming construction market. Among major foreign investors in Africa, China has stirred the most fear, hope, and controversy. For many, the specter of a Chinese neocolonial scramble is looming, while for others China is Africa's best chance at economic renewal. Yet, global debates about China in Africa have been based more on rhetoric than on empirical evidence. This book provides an update on the author's comparative ethnographic study in 2014. It is rooted in six years of extensive fieldwork in copper mines and construction sites in Zambia, Africa's copper giant. Lee shadowed Chinese, Indian, and South African managers in underground mines, interviewed Zambian miners and construction workers, and worked with Zambian officials. Distinguishing carefully between Chinese state capital and global private capital in terms of their business objectives, labor practices, managerial ethos, and political engagement with the Zambian state and society, she concludes that Chinese state investment presents unique potential and perils for African development.

More information:

<http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/S/bo22657847.html>



Barry Naughton

UC San Diego

Field: Chinese Economy

Source: Hoover Institution

The general secretary's extended reach: Xi Jinping combines economics and politics

Quiet economic conditions continue to prevail in the run-up to the 19th Party Congress. However, dynamic economic policy-making has begun to have obvious and significant effects that extend far beyond the economic arenas to which they are initially targeted. A number of recent policy actions show Xi Jinping exercising an extraordinary degree of initiative. This reinforces the consensus view that the 19th Party Congress is likely to conclude with Xi Jinping's power even greater than before. As economic policy, these actions are likely to display mixed outcomes. They serve to display Xi's commitment to certain policy objectives, which in some cases makes implementation more effective. However, they also serve as an alternative to institutionalization, which is the only way to ensure the long-term effectiveness of such policies.

More information:

<https://www.hoover.org/sites/default/files/research/docs/clm54bn.pdf>

Sarah Schneewind

UC San Diego

Field: History

Source: Ming Studies Vol. 2017, Iss. 76

"Banditry and subversion" in a classroom game

In the context of a course on Ming working lives, a classroom game requiring no fancy equipment enables students to think through the complex relations of the imperial house and palace eunuchs, commanders and soldiers, bandits and merchants, Mongols and Han folk, as portrayed in David Robinson's work on the capital area and other Ming scholarship.

More information:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0147037X.2017.1345893>



Victor Shih
UC San Diego
Field: Political Economy

Source: Mercator Institute
for China Studies

Financial instability in China: possible pathways and their likelihood

Total non-financial credit in China has reached record highs. It stood around 254 trillion RMB as of May 2017, equivalent to 328% of 2016 nominal GDP. Despite the enormous debt load, a domestically triggered crisis is not likely in the next five years. In this memo, Shih lays out four crisis scenarios: sharp household deleveraging, panic in shadow-banking sector, capital flight, and withdrawal of credit by international lenders. The author believes that trouble is more likely to come from some combination of capital flight and sudden withdrawal of external credit.

More information:

https://www.merics.org/sites/default/files/2017-10/191017_merics_ChinaMonitor_42.pdf

Wing Thye Woo
UC Davis
Field: Economics

Source: China Economic
Review, 2017

China's soft budget constraint on the demand-side undermines its supply-side structural reforms

China's growth rate has been declining every year since 2010, from 10.6% to 6.7% in 2016, and the IMF expects it to drop further, to 5.8% in 2021. Expert opinion on what to do has ranged widely. The optimists view cyclical factors to be the cause of the downturn, and suggest macro-stimulus as the cure. The pessimists identify supply-side distortions to be the cause, and recommends comprehensive structural reform. We argue that the existence of the soft-budget constraint guarantees the creation of excess capacity and zombie firms, and that the correct demand-side supplement to supply-side structural reform should be the termination of the soft-budget constraint and not the implementation of macro-stimulus. Correction of the distortion in the composition and size of investment will render the composition of output to match the composition of consumer demand, and put the economy on a sustainable growth path that is more consumption-oriented.

More information:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chieco.2017.09.010>



Xuechen Xiong, Jiechun Gao, Binyun Zhang, Jun Lu, Li Luo

Fudan University
Field: Public Health

Source: Journal of Hospital Management and Health Policy

Introduction of Chinese hospital ranking method from the aspect of theoretical framework, practical choice and social effect

The Chinese hospital ranking list collated by Hospital Management Institute, Fudan University has had increasing credibility with the people and hospitals in China. It helps patients choose a hospital most suited for them to meet with their medical demands, and helps set a benchmark for the development of hospitals. This paper will detail the Chinese hospital ranking method from the aspects of theoretical framework, practical choice and practical effect.

More information:

<http://jhmhp.amegroups.com/article/view/3939/4713>

Yunxiang Yan

UC Los Angeles
Field: Anthropology

Source: Cambridge Journal of Anthropology, Vol 35, No 2 Autumn 2017: 1-17

Doing personhood in Chinese culture: the desiring individual, moralist self and relational person

This article starts with a brief ethnography of the social actions in which Chinese personhood is constructed and then proposes a tripartite approach to help make sense of personhood as both a state of being and the action of doing. In the process of doing personhood, the reflective and ethical self is consistently mobilized and employed to fight against embodied, individuated desires for the purpose of making a proper relational person who is both social and agentive. This interactive cycle among the individual, self and person in the construction of Chinese personhood manifests itself repeatedly in a lifelong process of becoming, marked by earned recognitions, instead of a clearly defined structure of being that is endorsed by a set of natural rights. Chinese personhood, therefore, is inherently dynamic.

More information:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.3167/cja.2017.350202>



FUDAN AND UC SCHOLARS IN THE NEWS

Zhimin Chen

Fudan University

Field: International

Relations

Source: Sixth Tone Date:
Nov 11, 2017

How the Belt and Road project fills a global governance vacuum

With global governance in crisis and China hoping to offer its own vision for the future, none of the nation's proposals have received more attention than the "One Belt, One Road" (OBOR) initiative. At last month's 19th Party Congress, OBOR was written into the party's constitution. Not long after, on Nov. 6, Shanghai's Fudan University announced the establishment of the Fudan Institute of Belt and Road & Global Governance. Chen, vice president of the Fudan University, answers five questions about OBOR, explaining China's role to play in the current system of global governance, as well as doubts towards Chinese expansionism, and the sudden proliferation of research institutes dedicated to OBOR in China.

More information:

<http://www.sixthtone.com/news/1001159/how-the-belt-and-road-project-fills-a-global-governance-vacuum>



Li'an Lu

Fudan University
Field: Foreign Languages
and Literature

Source: The Diplomat Date:
Oct 6, 2017

Can a Taiwanese be the delegate of China's 19th Party Congress?

Taiwanese media uncovered on October 4 that Lu Li'an, a Taiwanese academic born in Kaohsiung (a port city in southern Taiwan) has been elected as one delegate in Shanghai to attend the upcoming 19th Party Congress. While there are precedents for the Chinese government to have delegates represent the "Taiwan Province" in various important national meetings, what is different this time is that Lu, currently holds the position of deputy dean of Fudan University's College of Foreign Languages and Literature, was originally born in Taiwan. In the past, most "Taiwanese delegates" were born in the mainland. The expose triggered controversy. Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council announced that it has launched an investigation on Lu to see if she has violated the Act Governing Relations Between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area, issued in 1992. The Act prohibits the Taiwanese from establishing a residence or holding a Chinese passport; nor can Taiwanese assumes positions in the CCP, the People's Liberation Army, or the Chinese civil service, under the Act.

More information:

<https://thediplomat.com/2017/10/can-a-taiwanese-be-the-delegate-of-chinas-19th-party-congress/>



Xiongwen Lu
Fudan University
Field: Business

Source: Financial Times
Date: Sept 27, 2017

China's business schools face new challenges as they mature

It is less than 25 years since the first manager graduated from a Chinese university with an MBA, but in just a quarter of a century, Chinese business schools have been rapidly catching up with their American and European counterparts. Now, as they expand domestically and overseas, these business schools are facing new challenges – changing expectations of the domestic students, as well as increasing government intervention in programme structure and content. China is also professionalising the sector, developing a business school accreditation system, called Camea (Chinese advanced management education accreditation). Twenty business schools have been accredited so far, with 30 to 40 on the way, says Xiongwen Lu, dean of the business school at Fudan University, which has overseen the project.

More information:

<https://www.ft.com/content/1451d662-5da7-11e7-b553-e2df1b0c3220>



Barry Naughton

UC San Diego

Field: Chinese Economy

Source: Wall Street Journal

Date: Oct 13, 2017

China takes on its new tycoons

On the eve of his anointment by the Chinese Communist Party for a second five-year term as China's leader, Xi Jinping seems to be the master of all he surveys. He has centralized economic and national-security policy in his office. The military and the police are firmly under control. Legions of corrupt officials – some of them political rivals, others caught brazenly on the take – are in jail. Dissidents and activists have been sidelined or locked up. But Mr. Xi's most consequential political battle today has received little attention. As he has tightened his grip on the party and the military, he now faces only one potential set of genuine rivals: China's new class of wealthy entrepreneurs. China's communist leaders have long been known to dread a Soviet-style collapse, but Mr. Xi and his senior colleagues are equally worried about replicating what came in its aftermath: the rise of the Russian oligarchs, who snatched control of state assets and turned themselves into billionaires and pushy political players. Mr. Xi is determined not to let that happen in China. "The private companies were presented with a very clear choice: You can make money, but you must acknowledge the communist party's ascendancy," said Naughton.

More information:

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-takes-on-its-new-tycoons-1507916358>



Yi Shen

Fudan University
Field: International
Relations

Source: Council on Foreign
Relations
Date: Sept 27, 2017

What will the U.S.-China cyber Relationship look like in the Trump era? A view from China

Last week, Chinese officials travelled to Washington, DC for the first U.S.-China Law Enforcement and Cybersecurity Dialogue. The talks are a new iteration of the Obama administration's U.S.-China High-Level Joint Dialogue on Cybercrime and Related Issues. If last week's discussions are any indication, both sides are keen to continue the progress achieved during the Obama administration, and want to make cyber issues an area of stability in the overall relationship. The [outcome document](#) checked-off a laundry list of existing initiatives and areas of progress, including strengthening information sharing, reaffirming a ban on cyber commercial espionage, and identifying and promoting cyber norms. However, at least one Chinese academic sees an undercurrent of change in the U.S.-China cyber relationship. Shen Yi, director of the Cyberspace Governance Research Center at Fudan University, said that Chinese negotiators should prepare to manage a relationship in flux. In an op-ed that Shen wrote, the academic expresses significant frustration with U.S. officials, who he believes make U.S.-China cyber relations more difficult by driving what he deems unnecessarily hard bargains: "Chinese regard goodwill as signifying friendship, whereas the United States interprets goodwill as room to bargain." He says U.S. officials are mainly concerned with extracting concessions and using stratagem to obtain short-term gains, which he chalks up in part to a difference in strategic cultures and the fact that U.S. officials "do not apprehend the Chinese understanding of things like the overall situation." In addition, Shen sees a shift in the distribution of power between the U.S. and China in cyberspace towards China. He argues that China needs to be more assertive in its demands, and drive a harder bargain with the United States over cyber issues.

More information:

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/what-will-us-china-cyber-relationship-look-trump-era-view-china>



Xiaoling Shu

UC Davis

Field: Sociology

Source: World Policy

Date: Oct 16, 2017

China: education and family bonds

For thousands of years, the major pillars of China's traditional family system have been filial piety, interdependence, marriage and childbirth, an emphasis on education, and the importance of patrilineal descent. Yet many of these values and practices have been eroded by modernization. Despite many sweeping societal transformations, some traditional Chinese family values are being upheld. Shu argues that an emphasis on education and family interdependence persists despite the modernization of Chinese society.

More information:

<http://www.worldpolicy.org/blog/2017/10/16/china-education-and-family-bonds>

Rachel Stern

UC Berkeley

Field: Law

Source: Hong Kong Free Press

Date: Nov 19, 2017

'Every case of pollution is a case of corruption': farmer turned eco-warrior takes on China's largest chemical firm

Wang Enlin, an elderly farmer who left school when he was 10 years old and taught himself law armed with a single textbook and dictionary, makes for an unlikely eco-warrior. The 64-year-old is determined to reap justice as he readies for a fresh battle in his war with a subsidiary of China's largest chemical firm, which he accuses of polluting and destroying his farmland. The number of new legal cases related to natural resources has increased tenfold over the past decade, according to Stern. The Supreme People's Court heard 133,000 such cases last year.

More information:

<https://www.hongkongfp.com/2017/11/19/every-case-pollution-case-corruption-farmer-turned-eco-warrior-takes-chinas-largest-chemical-firm/>



Feng Wang

UC Irvine

Field: Sociology

Source: Science

Date: Oct 18, 2017

Analysis of China's one-child policy sparks uproar

A new study of China's one-child policy is roiling demography, sparking calls for the field's leading journal to withdraw the paper. The controversy has ignited a debate over scholarly values in a discipline that some say often prioritizes reducing population growth above all else. Chinese officials have long claimed that the one-child policy – in place from 1980 to 2016 – averted some 400 million births, which they say aided global environmental efforts. Scholars, in turn, have contested that number as flawed. But in a paper published in the journal *Demography* in August, Daniel Goodkind – an analyst at the U.S. Census Bureau in Suitland, Maryland, who published as an independent researcher – argues that the figure may, in fact, have merit. Three demographers – Wang Feng of the University of California, Irvine; Cai Yong of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill; and Gu Baochang of Renmin University of China in Beijing – set out to challenge this figure.

More information:

<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/10/analysis-china-s-one-child-policy-sparks-uproar>

Peng Wang

Fudan University

Field: International Relations

Source: Strait Times

Date: Oct 1, 2017

Thinking the unthinkable in China: abandoning North Korea

North Korea's nuclear antics have rattled its alliance with China to the point that Beijing is allowing the previously unthinkable to be discussed: Is it time to prepare for the renegade regime's collapse? There were signs of a genuine shift in perceptions over how China should handle North Korea. But Wang says: "if the international community can unite and pretend there's going to be a real war, there is a chance that North Korea will freeze its nuclear tests."

More information:

<http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/thinking-the-unthinkable-in-china-abandoning-north-korea>



Xiaozu Wang

Fudan University

Field: Business

Source: Financial Times

Date: Sept 27, 2017

China's EMBA programmes: under government scrutiny

After a decade of stellar growth, China's executive MBA programmes are under pressure. Recent government regulations target the courses which many in authority have dismissed as networking clubs offering little in the way of education. The move, which the ministry said was aimed at raising standards, was accompanied by stricter monitoring of class attendance and performance, as well as the introduction of interviews to assess "political awareness" – a Communist party euphemism for supporting government policy. The regulations have drastically reduced student enrolment at the lower-level schools. Wang Xiaozu, a professor at Fudan who teaches on both the English language and Chinese language EMBA courses, agrees that Chinese EMBA courses are less demanding academically. When asked about the declining numbers from state-owned enterprises, he says: "We still have SOE people, they can still come if they pay for themselves, but they are a lot fewer."

More information:

<https://www.ft.com/content/2fed43c8-5da9-11e7-b553-e2df1b0c3220>

Wing Thye Woo

UC Davis

Field: Economics

Source: East Asia Forum

Date: Oct 30, 2017

China's struggle with the 'new domestic normal' and the 'new international normal'

Amid an ailing international order and a substantially lower domestic growth rate, many are sceptical about China's capacity to commit to 'growing an open global economy' as President Xi Jinping has commanded. Woo thinks Xi's objective is achievable – but only if Beijing pursues significant domestic policy realignments as well as an ambitious collaboration with foreign countries to revamp international governance arrangements. He explains why in this commentary.

More information:

<http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2017/10/30/chinas-struggle-with-the-new-domestic-normal-and-the-new-international-normal/>



Yunxiang Yan
UC Los Angeles
Field: Anthropology

Source: South China
Morning Post
Date: Nov 5, 2017

Are the Chinese falling out of love with McDonald's?

Once an exotic taste of foreign climes and symbol of rapid modernisation, the American fast-food giant is no longer flavour of the month. When the news broke last week that the American fast-food giant had changed its business name in China, ditching the previous Maidanglao – a transliteration of the company's English name – in favour of Jingongmen, which roughly translates as "Golden Arches," Chinese social media gorged itself with amusement. When Yan studied the company's operations in China in the 1990s, it was a very different time. McDonald's was so popular some parents thought the Big Mac contained a hidden ingredient luring their children to this exotic food.

More information:

<http://www.scmp.com/week-asia/society/article/2118343/are-chinese-falling-out-love-mcdonalds>



FUDAN-UC CENTER EVENTS

eNews and Event Subscription Registration

Keep up-to-date with the latest news and upcoming events at the Fudan-UC Center and the School by checking out the links below!

China Research Workshop

The Fudan-UC Center sponsors this regular interdisciplinary workshop on China, featuring cutting-edge research by Chinese and American scholars and advanced graduate students at the dissertation-writing stage. For more information about the workshop series, visit fudan-uc.ucsd.edu/workshop.

Resources

Check periodically for Calls for Papers and various opportunities for studying abroad in China, attending conferences, and applying for workshop funding.
<http://fudan-uc.ucsd.edu/resources>.

Public Lectures

Distinguished researchers, practitioners and policy experts offer fresh and informative talks on issues of great importance about China and U.S.-China relations, shaping public views on China and the globe. For past and upcoming public talks with such friends of the center, visit fudan-uc.ucsd.edu/events.

News Outlet

Missed an event? Check out our media center page at fudan-uc.ucsd.edu/media-center.

Also, to follow special interviews, articles, and podcasts of Fudan-UC and 21st Century China Center events, visit UCSD's School of Global Policy and Strategy graduate student-led blog China Focus at chinafocus.us.

