



21ST CENTURY CHINA CENTER

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

UC San Diego





RESEARCH, ENGAGEMENT, IMPACT

In 2018, the 21st Century China Center continued to forge ahead at the vanguard of rigorous research on China. The center's Social Science Research Network (SSRN) channel now features 42 research papers by our faculty and we distribute new papers through quarterly issues. After one year of preparation, we were excited to launch the China Data Lab (CDL), a new platform to integrate different types of data, including big data, to support innovative research by our faculty and affiliated researchers. The CDL will help advance the study of China in the digital age through creative and dynamic ways of analyzing and presenting integrative data from different sources. You can interact with the data analysis on the site chinadatalab.ucsd.edu.

On the policy front, the demand for the insights of the center's faculty grew as the tensions between the U.S. and China sharpened in the past year. In February, we brought our scholars together with industry experts and government regulators from the U.S., Canada, European Union and Japan to comprehensively review the new proposed regulations of China's outbound direct investment in high-tech areas. Over the year, the center co-organized deliberations by the Task Force on U.S. Policy Toward China on its second report to be released in February 2019. We continue to work with the Fudan-UC Center on Contemporary China to foster research collaborations and hold policy dialogue on innovation and U.S.-China relations. Looking ahead to the first half of 2019, the center will hold policy conferences on China's financial opening and its industrial policies.

In the past year, we convened the China Leadership Board meetings twice and received very valuable strategic advice from our board members. One of the most exciting new initiatives proposed by the board is to convene an Aspen-style, high-level forum on U.S.-China relations in La Jolla in August 2019.

The UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS) is celebrating the 30th Anniversary of its founding with a renewed vision for studying technological innovation, global affairs and public policy in the context of a dynamic Pacific region. The center will utilize its considerable expertise and resources on China and U.S.-China relations to contribute to the School's preeminence in international affairs research and global policy analysis.

Our accomplishments would not have been possible without your partnership and support. On behalf of the faculty and staff from the center, we send you a heartfelt thank you!



Susan F. Shirk

— Susan Shirk, 21st Century China Center Chair

NOTEWORTHY DEVELOPMENTS

China Data Lab

CDL launched its website in 2019 (chinadatalab.ucsd.edu). It is a platform that aggregates data sources, houses our faculty's research projects and publishes a dynamic data-visualization blog. Led by political science professors Margaret Roberts and Yiqing Xu, CDL conducts workshops for researchers and is planning a series of data analytics trainings starting in 2019.



UC San Diego Forum on U.S.-China Relations

Under the direction of the board, we are planning to host a first-of-its-kind, high-level forum that will focus exclusively on U.S.-China Relations in August 2019. The four-day strategic discussion will become an annual gathering in La Jolla of thought leaders from government, business, journalism, the military, academia and think tanks to foster a whole-of-society approach to managing U.S.-China relations. The Forum is led by Stephen J. Hadley (former National Security Advisor under President George W. Bush), Kurt M. Campbell (former Assistant Secretary of State under President Barack Obama) and Susan L. Shirk (former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State under President Bill Clinton).



China Policy Task Force

Following the launch of its influential report on U.S. Policy Towards China, the bipartisan task force, which Susan Shirk co-chairs with Orville Schell of the Asia Society, continues its examination of key and evolving policy areas in U.S.-China relations and will issue its second report in February 2019.

U.S.-China Technology Competition

In partnership with the Berlin-based think tank The Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS), the center convened a workshop of regulators, researchers and industry experts from several countries to examine the regulatory regimes for China's high tech investment in February 2018. The center continues policy research and informal discussions with U.S. technology investors, entrepreneurs and regulators on how best to manage the technology competition between the two countries.

China Leadership Board

27 leaders with a wide range of experiences and expertise on China serve on the China Leadership Board to provide strategic advice to the center to aid in its formation as a world-class leader of policy-relevant research and public dialogue. The board met twice this year, plus a special gathering in China for many of our China-based members.



SPOTLIGHT ON 21ST CENTURY CHINA CENTER SCHOLARS



Tai Ming Cheung

Professor, GPS; Director, UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC)

In this new era of U.S.-China rivalry in the realm of technology, trade and geopolitics, Professor Tai Ming Cheung is leading the way in explicating these critical dynamics.

“Our work focuses on addressing global challenges to peace and prosperity through academically rigorous, policy-relevant research with lasting, real-world impacts,” said GPS Professor Tai Ming Cheung, who leads IGCC, a UC-wide and internationally respected source of knowledge on a broad range of global security issues.

2018 was a monumental year as IGCC won more competitive social science research funds from the U.S. Department of Defense’s Minerva initiative than any research entity – more than \$20 million – as well as an annual \$1 million in funding from the State of California to launch a new initiative examining global catastrophic risk.

In his role at a pivotal time of global transformation, Cheung has become an indispensable and sought-after voice on China’s modernizing military, innovation policy and technological investments. Cheung notes that China’s aspiration to become a world leader in science, technology and innovation within the next 10–20 years may portend a seismic shift in the global balance of power.

In addition to IGCC’s ongoing leadership in the Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue (NEACD), Cheung also launched the “Great Power Competition in the 21st Century” project, which looks at the strategic competition between the U.S., Russia and China. The multi-faceted research project will evaluate highly complicated, constantly evolving issues and explore questions such as how will technological developments in artificial intelligence reshape the strategic interactions between the U. S. and China.

His latest book, published in 2018, is entitled “The Gathering Pacific Storm: Emerging US-China Strategic Competition in Defense Technological and Industrial Development”



Micah Muscolino

Professor, UC San Diego Department of History

Micah Muscolino joined the UC San Diego Department of History as the Paul G. Pickowicz Endowed Chair in Modern Chinese History this year. Muscolino is a leading expert on the environmental history of modern China. He has written books on the environmental history of China’s fishing industry and the ecological impact of World War II in China. In addition, he has published numerous articles on maritime connections between mainland China and Taiwan, territorial disputes in the South China Sea and the history of water and soil conservation in Northwest China’s Loess Plateau region.

To deepen our understanding of the historical roots of China’s current environmental challenges, Muscolino’s approach employs ecological perspectives to generate new insights into social, economic and military developments in modern China.

As organizer and editor of the “Historical Perspectives on China’s Environment” series for chinadialogue.net, he seeks to deepen our understanding of the historical roots of China and the world’s current environmental challenges by making cutting-edge academic research accessible to journalists, NGOs and policymakers.

Muscolino earned his B.A. from UC Berkeley and Ph.D. from Harvard University, and taught at St. Mary’s College of California, Georgetown University and the University of Oxford.



“Since our founding, we have sought to bring scholars and practitioners together to engage in critical policy discussions and real-world research on China and U.S.-China relations.”

– Susan Shirk

To learn about the research interests of our scholars, visit china.ucsd.edu/people

PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING ON CHINA

Building lasting collaborative relationships with scholars and practitioners in China and around the globe is of vital importance to the center's core mission. In the past year, we have hosted more than 100 experts and practitioners for a series of academic conferences, policy dialogues and research workshops.

Visitors

In 2018, the center hosted talks by scholars and experts who shared their expertise and insights:

Erin Baggott Carter, Assistant Professor of International Relations, University of Southern California

Caitlyn Chen, Vice President, Tencent

Shuisheng Chen, Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Fudan University

Lenora Chu, author of "Little Soldiers: An American Boy, A Chinese School and the Global Race to Achieve"

Songying Fang, Professor of Political Science, Rice University

Jocelyn Ford, former China bureau chief, Marketplace

Francis Fukuyama, Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University

Julian Gewirtz, Fellow in History and Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Thilo Hanemann, Director, Rhodium Group

Yu Hao, Assistant Professor of Economics, Peking University

Reza Hasmath, Professor in Political Science, University of Alberta

Peter Humphrey, Founder, ChinaWhys

Mikko Huotari, Deputy Director, MERICS

Ian Johnson, author of "The Souls of China"

Scott Kastner, Professor, University of Maryland, College Park

Franziska Barbara Keller, Assistant Professor, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Pei-Chia Lan, Distinguished Professor of Sociology, National Taiwan University

Fabio Lanza, Associate Professor of History, University of Arizona

Philippe Le Corre, Senior Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School

Xiaojun Li, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of British Columbia

Steven Liao, Assistant Professor of Political Science, UC Riverside

Tong Liu, Ph.D. Candidate, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Peter Lorentzen, Professor of Economics, University of San Francisco

Barbara Mittler, Chair in Chinese Studies, University of Heidelberg

Mareike Ohlberg, Research Associate, MERICS

William Overholt, Senior Fellow, Harvard University

John Pomfret, author of "The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom"

Morris Rossabi, Professor of History of China, Central and Inner Asia, Columbia University

Matt Sheehan, former China correspondent, The Huffington Post

Kristin Shi-Kupfer, Director, Research Area on Public Policy and Society, MERICS

Albert Park, Chair Professor of Social Science, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Yingyi Qian, Professor of Economics and Former Dean, Tsinghua University

Daniel Rosen, Founding Partner, Rhodium Group

Peidong Sun, Associate Professor of History, Fudan University

Rory Truex, Assistant Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University

Samantha Addie Vortherms, Assistant Professor of Political Science, UC Irvine

Miaojie Yu, Professor of Economics, Peking University

Ye Qi, Director, Brookings-Tsinghua Center for Public Policy

Yang Xie, Assistant Professor of Economics, UC Riverside

Jianren Xu, Assistant Professor of Business, University of North Texas

Melanie Meng Xue, Postdoctoral Fellow, Northwestern University

Congcong Zheng, Associate Professor of Management, San Diego State University

Conferences

New Approaches to Reviewing and Regulating Chinese High Tech Investment: Prospects for Coordination?

Feb. 8-9, 2018 | Washington, D.C.

Sinicization of Religion in China: From Above and Below

March 21, 2018 | San Diego, Calif.

Fourth Annual Young Scholars Conference

May 24-25, 2018 | Shanghai, China

Fourth Annual Modern PRC History Joint-Graduate Student Conference

June 18-19, 2018 | Palo Alto, Calif.

Institutions and Economic Performance of China

June 24-26, 2018 | Beijing, China

Culture Meets Geopolitics: Transpacific Dynamics Projected on Taiwan Screens

Aug. 21-25, 2018 | San Diego, Calif.

California-Shanghai Innovation Dialogue: From Fintech to Insurtech

Sept. 28-29, 2018 | Irvine, Calif.



"By fostering creativity and academic exchange, the center has become a source of innovative research on China and a catalyst for educational exchange between the U.S. and China."

—Lei Guang, 21st Century China Center Director

OUTREACH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

The 21st Century China Center connects local and national communities through public lectures, salons, special programs and educational events.



Ian Johnson, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, keynoted the sixth annual Robert F. Ellsworth Memorial Lecture on **March 21, 2018** exploring the explosion of religion after Mao, what it means to be Chinese and how to live an ethical life in a country that is searching for new guideposts.



Francis Fukuyama, renowned political scientist, delivered the third Sowkanlok Distinguished Lecture on **Jan. 29, 2018**, discussing China's model of state-led development and industrial policies by focusing on its infrastructure investments domestically and abroad.



Henrik Christensen, director of the UC San Diego Institute of Contextual Robotics, explained on **April 18, 2018** how China is investing in next frontier technologies such as A.I. and robotics in the Made in China 2025.



Thilo Hanemann, director at Rhodium Group, chart the trends and evolution of China's high-tech investments in the U.S. at the CHINA Town Hall on **Oct. 9, 2018**.



UC San Diego political science professor **Margaret Roberts** presents her new book "Censored: Distraction and Diversion Inside China's Great Firewall" on **Nov. 1, 2018**. The book has been chosen as a Foreign Affairs Best Book of 2018.

Matt Sheehan argues that the Silicon Valley-China relationship has arrived at a counter-intuitive new equilibrium, one in which the flows of talent, money and ideas between the two ecosystems are at an all-time high on **Feb. 22, 2018**.

Drawing on personal memoirs, government documents and news reports, **John Pomfret** reconstructs the surprising ways Americans and Chinese have engaged with one another through the centuries on **March 8, 2018**.



Lenora Chu presented on **Oct. 24, 2018** an on-the-ground story on China's public education system through her personal journey as an American mother and journalist raising a family in Shanghai.

The center partnered with GPS's Global Leadership Institute for the third summer program for future leaders in U.S.-China relations, convening students from the U.S. and China to simulate bilateral negotiations on real-world collaborations on climate policy, clean energy and artificial intelligence in **July 2018**.



SUPPORT FOR THE CENTER

Funding for the 21st Century China Center comes from GPS, foundations, corporate supporters and individual donors. We are especially proud to receive the support from our founders who have since our creation shared a common vision about the importance of deepening public knowledge and understanding of China.

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JOIN THE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Beginning in 2016, a new group of members formed to sustain the mission of the center and launch new initiatives. Members of the Leadership Circle pledge financial support to the center and are committed to promoting a constructive relationship between the U.S. and China.

For information on making a gift to the 21st Century China Center, please contact GPS Senior Director of Development Jean Korinke at jkorinke@ucsd.edu or (858) 822-7617.

china.ucsd.edu

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Also, explore all the ways to connect with members of the 21st Century China Center's global community via social media, and keep up to date with the latest events and news.



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OUR PEOPLE

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Iva Kostova, Events Manager
Amy Robinson, Communications Manager

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