

# 2022 NOTABLE DEVELOPMENTS

## POWER OF CONVENING

We relaunched the [China Forum](#) by hosting our 2022 gathering in person for the first time since the pandemic. As part of the forum, we were excited to honor our center's founding chair with Kevin Rudd delivering the inaugural Susan Shirk Lecture. The forum brought together over 60 leading policymakers, academics and practitioners to think through how everything from COVID-Zero to Russia's invasion of Ukraine has affected the U.S.-China relationship.



Susan Shirk, Dean Caroline Freund and The Honourable Kevin Rudd AC at the 2022 China Forum.

In service of our center's goal to bring academic research and practitioners together, we also co-sponsored four policy conferences: on Taiwan, with the Taiwan Studies Center; digital currencies in China and the Asia-Pacific, with The Atlantic Council; industrial policy in China, with the University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC); and U.S.-China relations, with the Harvard Fairbank Center. These conferences brought us together with other research and policy centers to discuss key issues changing the world today, from studying Taiwan in international affairs to the ways states across the Asia-Pacific have regulated and experimented with the emerging technology of digital currencies.

## POLICY REPORTS: CHINA'S DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT AND U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS



As a university-based think-tank, we produce authoritative policy analysis to inform policymakers. This year, we published [four policy reports](#) on Ukraine, Taiwan, mobilization of law and the 20th Party Congress, reaching over 6,000 readers. These policy reports go in depth on complex

issues and help provide an academic level of detail that forms the foundation for evidence-based policy. Our 20th Party Congress report brought together 14 authors with expertise on China to help lay predictions ahead of China's critical political meeting.



## REACHING STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY

Over the course of the year, we also worked hard at disseminating the center's research to the public. As part of this public outreach, we've published eight [data](#)

[visualization blogs](#) by the China Data Lab and four from the center's [summer projects](#) by students. These blogs have covered everything from [how the U.S. Congress tweets about China](#) to the [\(un\)popularity of COVID-Zero policies in China](#). We've spread the word about these blogs and more via 14 issues of [China 360](#), the best way to keep in touch with the center's activities.



We've also made it a priority to engage students this year. As part of this effort to reach both them and the broader community, we organized 26 [public lectures](#), including three [named lectures](#), that reached thousands of attendees and tens of thousands in online viewership. In order to broaden our cultural programming, we held the inaugural Chou Wen-Chung Distinguished Lecture on Chinese Culture in 2022.

In pursuit of our center's goal to help educate the next generation of China scholars and involve students in our activities, we organized 13 summer student research projects and funded 15 research assistants. We also awarded the 21st Century China Center fellowship, Dougan and Lin fellowships, and the Ichimore Research Award to students, and we supported graduate students recruitment efforts by other departments.



## RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

At the 21st Century China Center, we support high-caliber research that has the potential to make a difference. From climate change to the U.S.-China relationship, from



scientific collaboration to Chinese elite politics, scholars are studying critical issues that matter.

One of the ways we support research that makes a difference is through the [China from the Ground Up](#) (CFGU) surveys conducted by the China Data Lab.

These repeated surveys

enable our researchers to see how Chinese popular opinion is evolving on a variety of issues and help them remain on the cutting edge of China studies. This year, we carried out three waves of CFGU and studied topics from inequality to COVID-Zero.

Faculty are also engaged in critical research on subjects that affect the entire planet, especially U.S.-China relations. Michael Davidson published two articles in [Nature](#) and [Science](#) this year studying the globalized supply chain for solar panels and the risks of decoupling from China on low-carbon technologies. Margaret Roberts and Ruixue Jia completed work on [how U.S.-China tensions have affected scientific collaboration and innovation](#).

## A BUMPER CROP OF BOOK PUBLISHING

Four faculty published eagerly-awaited books this year. Susan Shirk released her book ["Overreach: How China Derailed its Peaceful Rise"](#) in October. In it, she chronicles the last decade and a half of U.S.-China relations and pulls back the curtain to explain how Chinese elite politics influenced the downward trajectory relations have taken. Victor Shih's timely book [explores China's elite politics with historical depth](#), looking at how leaders from Mao to Xi have deployed the tactic of "coalitions of the weak" to preserve their own power at the expense of governing capacity. Tai Ming Cheung published his book on [the evolution of China's techno-security state](#), offering his insight on whether China will overtake the U.S. to become the dominant global techno-security power. Finally, Molly Roberts published a coauthored book ["Text as Data"](#) that provides a new framework that is highly applicable for applying machine learning to social science research on China.