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China Center

NEWSLETTER N°17

Articles, news and events on China.

The China Center is an interdepartmental and multidisciplinary Research Centre of the University of Macerata, founded in 2012 within the initiatives of the Department of Law.



"2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the China Centre, which we are very proud of. 10 years of research projects, cooperation initiatives, training and public engagement across Europe and China.

We have grown thanks to the passion and dedication of many colleagues, entrepreneurs and experts.

We are happy to launch this newsletter as well as a rich calendar of activities for our community."

- Francesca Spigarelli, Director China Center

Scientific Articles

[The Limits of Judicial Reforms: How and Why China Failed to Centralize its Court System](#)

Written by Ye Meng, published online on 23/04/2023

This article examines the impact of China's recent court system reforms, focusing on the centralization

efforts and their overall failure. By conducting in-depth interviews with judicial personnel in four localities, the study reveals that despite attempts to centralize the budgetary and personnel management of the judicial system, local courts remain structurally dependent on same-level party-states. In some cases, this dependence is even intensified. The research challenges the prevailing view that implementation failure is primarily due to regional resource disparities. Instead, it argues that the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) reliance on horizontal power concentration and hierarchy, inherent to its one-party rule, hinders both judicial autonomy and centralization. The article challenges two common assumptions regarding China's political-legal developments: first, that the CCP regime has achieved significant vertical centralization of the judiciary, and second, that judicial autonomy can thrive and contribute to deepening one-party authoritarianism.

New energy vehicle R&D strategy with supplier capital constraints under China's dual credit policy

Written by Weidong Meng, Miaomiao Ma, Yuyu Li, Bo Huang, published online on 24/06/2022

This article discusses the importance of developing new energy vehicles (NEVs) as a means to address the energy crisis and environmental pollution. It highlights the Chinese government's implementation of the "dual credit policy" to promote NEVs, which involves managing the average fuel consumption of passenger vehicle enterprises and providing credits for NEVs. However, the study recognizes that the NEV supply chain faces challenges due to capital constraints in making research and development (R&D) optimization decisions. To address this issue, the study proposes an R&D decision model that considers suppliers' capital constraints, aiming to find the optimal strategy for promoting NEV development. The findings suggest that while the dual credit policy promotes the NEV industry, the impact of the policy is weakened by capital constraints. The article presents two potential solutions to alleviate financial constraints: obtaining bank loans and sharing costs with manufacturers. The study also outlines the conditions for selecting the optimal solution. Specifically, when the loan interest rate, credit price, and technology improvement credit coefficients increase, suppliers should choose the cost-sharing solution. Otherwise, the loan strategy becomes more viable.

News from China

Xi Jinping tells China's national security chiefs to prepare for 'worst case' scenarios

Written by Nectar Gan, posted by CNN on 01/06/2023

Chinese leader Xi Jinping has urged top national security officials to prepare for "worst-case" scenarios and be ready to face challenges, both



internal and external. Xi's remarks were made during a meeting of the Communist Party's National Security Commission, where he emphasized the increasing complexity and difficulty of national security issues. With China facing economic struggles and a perceived hostile international environment, Xi called for the modernization of the national security system and capabilities to be more effective in real-world situations. He also highlighted the need to construct a national security risk monitoring and early warning system, enhance national security education, and improve data and artificial intelligence security management. Xi has made national security a central aspect of China's governance, extending its scope to politics, economy, defense, culture, ecology, cyberspace, and more. China has introduced various laws and regulations to safeguard against perceived threats, including counter-terrorism, counter-espionage, cybersecurity, and data security laws. The broadening of counter-espionage legislation and the imposition of a national security law in Hong Kong exemplify the growing focus on security over economic concerns. Recent raids on foreign companies and detentions of individuals suspected of espionage have raised concerns among international businesses. Xi stressed the importance of shaping a secure external environment to protect China's "opening up" and promote the integration of development and security.

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From Elon Musk to Jamie

Dimon, CEOs flock to China as risks to trade and investment rise

Written by Michelle Toh, posted by CNN on 31/05/2023

Top CEOs from American companies, including Elon Musk of Tesla, Laxman Narasimhan of Starbucks, and Jamie Dimon of JPMorgan, are visiting China to assess the country's market after the easing of pandemic restrictions. Their visits highlight the significance of China as a key market for many blue-chip firms. However, they are encountering a more complex business environment characterized by a crackdown on international consulting firms, geopolitical tensions, and an uncertain investment outlook. The Chinese government has urged foreign companies to invest more in the country, promising an open and level playing field. While executives have the opportunity to reconnect with employees and engage with government officials, they are also facing challenges such as reduced trade between China and the United States and a need to diversify supply chains. The recent crackdown on international consulting firms and increased regulatory oversight has created uncertainty for foreign businesses operating in China. Some companies are adopting a cautious approach and waiting for more clarity on China's economic policies and its relationship with the United States. However, some firms, like Tesla and Volkswagen, are expanding their investments in China, recognizing its continued importance as a market. The situation reflects the complexity of policy objectives and the challenges of navigating the business landscape in China.





The Citi exhibition: China's hidden century

Written and posted by The British Museum

The new exhibition offers a unique perspective on 19th-century China, revealing the resilience and innovation that emerged during a period of significant political, cultural, and technological change. Despite enduring civil uprisings and foreign wars, China witnessed remarkable creativity and progress. Supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the exhibition is a result of a four-year research project led by the British Museum and London University, in collaboration with over 100 scholars from 14 countries. It brings together a collection of exquisite objects, many of which are displayed for the first time. These include cloisonné vases gifted by the Last Emperor's court to King George and Queen Mary for their 1911 coronation, as well as a silk robe commissioned by the Empress Dowager Cixi. The exhibition goes beyond showcasing objects and delves into the stories of individuals who lived during this period and covers a wide range of aspects, including art, fashion, newspapers, furniture, and even soup ingredients. It captures the thriving nature of the era, with the emergence of new art forms like photography and lithographic printing. Additionally, advancements in technology and transportation, such as the telegraph, electricity, and railways, had a transformative impact on society.

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Upcoming Events

The **CC4U** event featuring **Prof. Emeritus Filippo Mignini** on the topic “**Dispute postume: attualità politica di un testo cinese-europeo del primo Seicento 辨学遗牒**” has been postponed to October.

The **Summer School on Western Culture and Civilization** will be held from July 3rd to July 16th, 2023 and the application deadline is 20th June 2023. [More details](#)

On July the 5th the **China Center** will celebrate its **10 years Anniversary**. Stay tuned!

After two years of online activities and webinars, the international conference **China Goes Global** returns in person in Bologna in July 2023.

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