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China Center

NEWSLETTER N°18

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

Shaping AI's Future? China in Global AI Governance

Written by Jing Cheng & Jinghan Zeng, Published online on 09/08/2022

As the challenges posed by the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) continue to grow, numerous global initiatives have been implemented to establish norms and standards for AI governance. Given China's

ambitious goal of becoming an AI superpower by 2030, the country is eager to assume a leadership role in emerging global AI governance frameworks. This article argues that China's pursuit of AI leadership is driven not only by domestic regulatory requirements but also by its aspiration to have influence in shaping norms and setting agendas. China's leadership ambition in global AI governance stems from its broader objective of transitioning from a recipient of norms to a proactive influencer, if not a creator. However, despite substantial efforts made thus far, the article highlights significant challenges that China faces in achieving its leadership aspirations. The current geopolitical dynamics limit China's capacity to showcase its leadership position in nascent global AI governance frameworks. The future evolution of China's role in the development of global AI governance architecture remains to be observed.

Sustainability Condition of Open Innovation: Dynamic Growth of Alibaba from SME to Large Enterprise

Written by Jinhyo Joseph Yun, Xiaofei Zhao, KyungBae Park and Lei Shi, published online on 27/05/2020

The research focused on the question of how Alibaba achieved its rapid success as a top e-commerce company in China. It explored the impact of open innovation and the open business model, which can lead to increased complexity and transaction costs. The research employed deep interviews, participatory observation, and meta-analysis as research methods. The findings revealed that Alibaba successfully applied global and creative e-commerce business models through open innovation within a short period. It overcame the complexity and cost associated with open innovation by fostering an open innovation-friendly culture, characterized by "Jack-Ma style consumer confidence and new Guanxi culture." Additionally, Alibaba expanded its open business model feedback loop platform. The study emphasized the significance of the expanded feedback loop platform, the reinforced open-innovation-friendly culture, and the management of complexity through an open-innovation-friendly culture and open business model feed back loop.

News from China

Xi highlights key national security tasks

Written by Mo Jingxi, posted by People's Daily Online on 31/05/2023

President Xi Jinping, during the first meeting of the National Security Commission under the 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, emphasized the need to accelerate the modernization of China's national security system and capacity. This move aims to



safeguard the country's development in the face of complex and challenging circumstances. The meeting acknowledged that China is currently confronted with increasingly difficult national security issues. To address these challenges, the statement released after the meeting highlighted the importance of understanding China's advantages, preparing for worst-case scenarios, and being ready to face dangerous situations. The National Security Commission, established in 2013, aims to improve the national security system and strategies to protect China's national security. Participants in the meeting affirmed the commission's commitment to upholding national sovereignty, security, and development interests while emphasizing the need to modernize China's national security system by integrating various aspects. The meeting also stressed the creation of a favorable external security environment, the integration of development and security, and the application of technology to advance national security reforms. Enhancing real-time monitoring and early warning systems, improving security governance in areas such as internet data and artificial intelligence, and strengthening national security education were also discussed. The meeting reviewed and adopted various documents, including a guideline for expediting the construction of a national security risk monitoring and early warning system.

Several high-ranking officials, including Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, and Cai Qi, who are members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and deputy heads of the commission, attended the meeting.

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Xi calls for more efforts to shoulder new cultural mission in congratulatory letter to forum on building up nation's cultural strength

Written by GT staff reporters, posted by Global Times on 07/06/2023

The first Forum on Building up China's Cultural Strength opened in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, on June 7, 2023. Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasized the importance of cultural mission and providing intellectual strength for national rejuvenation in his congratulatory letter. The forum aims to consolidate cultural confidence, promote exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. Concurrently, the 19th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industrial Fair (ICIF) began, attracting thousands of participants and showcasing cultural and creative industry products. China is focused on building a strong cultural power through openness and inclusiveness, inspiring other civilizations through cultural exchanges.

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Amended anti-espionage law aims to curate China's own narrative

Written by Vincent Brussee and Kai von Carnap, posted by MERICS on 25/05/2023

The recent amendments to China's anti-espionage law, set to take effect in July, aim to give Beijing greater control over its global image.

The revised law expands the definition of espionage and encompasses a wider range of perceived threats to national security. It includes vague terms such as “seeking to align with an espionage organization”, which can be interpreted broadly to target any organization deemed unfriendly to China. Espionage is not limited to obtaining state secrets but also includes documents related to “national security”, which has been expanded under President Xi Jinping. As a result, activities such as university research, multinational business dealings, and social media interactions could potentially fall under the purview of the law, carrying severe penalties. The amendments codify the control of information and narratives by the Communist Party, limiting the ability of foreign observers to develop alternative perspectives on China. The government is sharing less information with the public, and access to non-governmental databases is being restricted for foreign users. While extreme measures that completely cut off foreign access are unlikely, the broad scope of the law will have a deterrent effect, making individuals and entities cautious about exchanging information. This may create legal conflicts between jurisdictions and impact trust in studying China outside official narratives.

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Upcoming Events

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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