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China Center

NEWSLETTER N°19

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

China's Investment Law Reform: Revolution or Evolution?

Written by Lapteva Anna & Skvortsov Oleg, published online on 01/03/2021

This research paper examines and assesses the recently implemented foreign investment legislation (referred to as the Law) in China. Initially, the document discusses the rationale behind the enactment of this

Law, with a particular focus on the impact of the trade war between the United States and China, which played a significant role in its adoption. The political factors that influenced the implementation of the legislation are also explored. Additionally, the paper evaluates the legal strategies employed by Chinese lawmakers within the Law, such as the utilization of a categorized investment sector list, which classifies industries into specific regimes. These regimes encompass four categories: (1) encouraged, (2) permitted, (3) restricted, and (4) prohibited. Ultimately, the study highlights that the changes brought about by the Law are not revolutionary but rather signify a gradual evolution in how foreign investors engage with the Chinese economy. Furthermore, an analysis of the consequences stemming from the adoption of the law is provided.

China's domestic production networks

Written by Quanrun Chen, Yuning Gao, Jiansuo Pei, Gaaitzen de Vries, Fei Wang, published online on 24/02/2022

This study explores the internal production networks within China by utilizing VAT invoices to construct inter-provincial input-output tables for the years 2002 and 2012. These tables are then combined with population censuses to determine the geographical distribution of workers involved in the production process. The findings of this research are as follows: (1) there has been a noticeable increase in the exchange of intermediate inputs among provinces; (2) the fragmentation of production across provinces varies depending on the specific product being considered; (3) there is a trend of substituting domestic intermediates for foreign ones, resulting in an augmented domestic value added in export activities; (4) analysis of worker occupations reveals that wealthier coastal regions such as Beijing, Tianjin, and Shanghai tend to specialize in R&D as well as marketing activities; (5) in contrast, inland provinces tend to focus more on production activities.

News from China

China's urgent need to safeguard lives and investments along BRI

Written by Alessandro Arduino, posted by ThinkChina on 14/06/2023

Chinese private security firms, responsible for safeguarding Chinese companies' investments overseas, particularly within the Belt and Road Initiative, face significant challenges in fulfilling this role. They lack the necessary resources and capabilities to effectively address the increasing



threats faced by Chinese enterprises abroad. The rise in violence targeting Chinese interests in foreign countries has become even more concerning due to recent civil unrest and conflicts spanning from Central Asia to the Middle East. In light of these circumstances, it raises the question of whether additional measures can be taken to enhance the current situation.

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Breaking down China's manufacturing

Written by Andrew Batson, posted by The Tangled Woof on 13 /06/2023

The article delves into the substantial share of global manufacturing held by China. Motivated by curiosity, the author undertakes statistical analysis to establish essential insights. He discovers that China's manufacturing sector contributes a higher proportion to its GDP compared to other manufacturing powerhouses such as South Korea, Germany, and Japan. This is attributed to both domestic demand and an export-oriented production approach. Utilizing the OECD Trade in Value Added (TiVA) database, the article reveals that approximately 40-45% of China's manufacturing output results from exports, while 55-60% is driven by domestic demand. The reliance on external demand has grown, especially due to the export boom resulting from the pandemic. However, the manufacturing share of China's GDP has gradually declined since 2010, primarily due to a slowdown in domestic demand, particularly in



investment. The pandemic-induced surge in exports temporarily reversed this trend. The article also examines China's share of global manufacturing, which has steadily increased, primarily propelled by export growth during the 2000-2008 period and subsequent growth in domestic value-added. The sustainability of China's export gains and its ability to maintain high levels of investment are critical factors that will impact China's future manufacturing share. The article suggests that the waning post-financial crisis investment boom may lead to a decline in China's manufacturing share. In a technical note, the article highlights the utilization of the OECD TiVA database for calculations and notes the discrepancy between TiVA and China Customs data on manufacturing exports.

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China concerns prompt US move to rejoin UNESCO

Written by UNESCO Associated Press in Paris, posted by
The Guardian on 12/06/2023

The article discusses the United States' intention to rejoin UNESCO due to growing concerns over China's influence within the organization. It highlights China's increasing assertiveness in shaping global institutions and the influence it holds within UNESCO. The United States' decision to reengage with UNESCO is seen as a strategic move to counterbalance China's influence and protect its interests in the realm of international education, science, and culture. The article emphasizes the broader geopolitical implications and competition between the United States and

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Upcoming Events





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Research Colloquium
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**26th
June
2023**

11 am - 1 pm
Villa Lauri,
Viale dell'Indipendenza 99
Macerata, 62100

Innovation Intermediaries Bridging the Gap in China

Abstract

In China, bridging the innovation gap is critical for the country's economic growth and competitiveness. Innovation intermediaries, including government agencies, research institutions, and private consulting firms, play a crucial role in helping firms navigate the complexities of the country's fast-growing technological environment. The Research Colloquium will discuss who are the main innovation intermediaries in China and what are their functions based on a review of the literature. A research agenda will be proposed.

In relation to this topic, a call for chapter "Bridging the gap: Innovation Brokerage in China" will be presented. The book will be published with the World Scientific Asia-Pacific Business Series and distributed worldwide in printed and digital format through all major sales channels.



**Dominique
Lepore**
Postdoctoral researcher in *Applied Economics*
Department of Law, University of Macerata

Register here
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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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