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10 YEARS | 2013 - 2023



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China Center

NEWSLETTER N°20

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

Chinese Firms' Acquisition of Innovation Capability from Overseas: Approaches by State- versus Private- Owned Firms

Written by Majid Ghorbani, Zhenzhen Xie, Jun Jin and Fengbin Wang, published online on 08/12/2023

Through a meticulous examination of two comprehensive case studies, this research undertakes a

comparative analysis of the distinct approaches employed by a state-owned enterprise (SOE), Beijing Automotive Industries Holding Co., and a privately owned enterprise (POE), Geely, in their pursuit of acquiring and assimilating advanced technological knowledge to bolster their innovation capabilities. Notably, both companies effectively obtained valuable expertise from renowned troubled Swedish automakers, subsequently enhancing the technological prowess of their respective products. Drawing primarily from an array of secondary sources, this study elucidates significant disparities in approaches and actions taken by each entity at every stage of the acquisition process, with these disparities deeply rooted in the contrasting nature of ownership. By juxtaposing these differences with insights derived from scholarly literature on knowledge acquisition and firm ownership, this research illuminates compelling findings. Specifically, it reveals that the POE strategically strives for synergistic integration of technology to foster superior innovation and achieve enhanced economic performance. In contrast, the SOE is primarily driven by national objectives, exhibiting comparatively less concern for market success. The SOE pursues an independent path towards knowledge absorption and development throughout the acquisition process, prioritizing self-reliance, while the POE places a strong emphasis on collaboration in the development of innovation capacity. By shedding light on Chinese firms' positioning in terms of innovation development on the global stage, providing insights into comparative capitalism, and offering a nuanced examination of the unique case of state capitalism in China, this study enriches our understanding of these pivotal subjects.

Reunifying Taiwan with China through Cross-Strait Lawfare

Written by Michael J. West and Aurelio Insisa, published online on 30/05/2023

Frames such as political warfare, sharp power, and weaponized interdependence do not merely capture, but rather fail to fully encapsulate the comprehensive range and depth of China's relentless "reunification" operations specifically aimed at Taiwan. This assessment particularly emphasizes the paramount significance of the fundamental legal domain. By meticulously scrutinizing primary materials and conducting exclusive interviews with influential figures, this paper delves into Beijing's employment of lawfare against Taiwan, intricately interwoven with an extensive matrix of military threats, covert infiltration, and calculated endeavors to sway Taiwanese public opinion. It posits that China's multi-faceted Taiwan strategy should be comprehended as an intricate form of hybrid influencing. At its core, this strategy hinges upon Chinese lawfare, distilled into three indispensable axiomatic principles: firstly, to skillfully reframe the nature of the Beijing-Taipei relationship as an internal dispute; secondly, to systematically restrict Taiwan's international standing and influence; and thirdly, to unyieldingly suppress any notion of self-determination for Taiwan. In contrast to conventional Anglophone conceptions, Chinese lawfare fundamentally aims to exploit the inherent uncertainty surrounding Taiwan's legal status under international law, deftly leveraging it to secure strategic gains with the ultimate objective of "winning without fighting" to the maximum extent possible.

News from China

China and the US are talking again - so, where does the relationship go from here?

Written by David S G Goodman, posted by The
Conversation on 20/06/2023

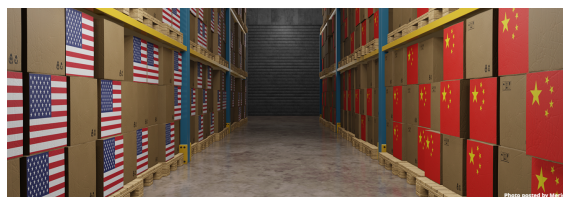
The meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Beijing is potentially significant and reflects the uncertainties in the US-China relationship. While Blinken's visit was initially scheduled to meet with his Chinese counterpart, Foreign Minister Qin Gang, the meeting with Xi was uncertain until shortly before it happened. During the meeting, the leaders focused on mutual respect and the need to avoid conflict. Xi emphasized that rivalry between great powers cannot solve problems in the US or the world, and both sides highlighted the importance of open communication to reduce the risk of miscalculation. There are areas of potential cooperation, such as climate change and transnational crime, but challenges exist due to domestic constituencies and American electoral politics. China may expect a commitment from the US to not interfere in its domestic interests in Taiwan, which could be difficult for Biden and Blinken to deliver. While future interactions between the two governments are agreed upon in foreign affairs, finance, and economic development, talks between military leaders have not resumed. Biden and Xi are expected to meet face to face later in the year, possibly at international summits. However, Biden is unlikely to visit China in the near future due to the divisive US presidential election campaign.



How China imposes sanctions. A guide to the evolution of Beijing's new policy tool

Written by Francesca Ghiretti, posted by MERICS on
06/06/2023

China has been strengthening its unilateral sanctions in response to geopolitical changes, particularly in its conflicts with the US and the sanctions imposed by the EU, UK, and US. The analysis of 39 cases of sanctions imposed by China between 2012 and 2023 reveals a clear trend of increasing unilateral sanctions, mostly targeting individuals, groups, or companies in the US. The most commonly used measures are asset freezes, visa bans, and bans on cooperation with Chinese entities. China's ability to develop financial sanctions remains limited, but there is an interest in developing a legal basis for them. China's sanctions often combine official and unofficial measures, creating an unpredictable environment. The trade conflict with the US in 2018 was a turning point that led China to adopt more frequent unilateral sanctions. Taiwan has become a major trigger for China's sanctions, and the country prefers to target single companies and individuals. China's main tools for imposing sanctions are the Unreliable Entity List (UEL) and the Anti-Foreign Sanctions Law (AFSL). The UEL allows China to impose measures on foreign entities, while the AFSL provides a legal framework for sanctions. Overall, China's approach to sanctions is expected to continue along the same path in the



future.

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Dragon Boat Festival and its traditions

Written and posted by People's Daily Online on
21/06/2023

The Dragon Boat Festival is a traditional Chinese festival celebrated on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month. It is recognized as one of the Four Traditional Chinese Festivals, along with the Spring Festival, Tomb Sweeping Day, and Mid-Autumn Festival. The festival has gained global popularity, and it is also celebrated in countries and regions outside of China. Since 2008, it has been designated as a national holiday. In September 2009, the Dragon Boat Festival became the first Chinese festival to be included in the representative list of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. Originally, the Dragon Boat Festival was a festival where ancestors were honored through dragon boat racing. It has its roots in ancient astrology culture and humanistic philosophy. According to legend, during the Warring States period, Qu Yuan, a patriotic poet from the state of Chu, tragically died by jumping into a river on this day. Consequently, the festival also serves as a commemoration of Qu. The Dragon Boat Festival is known for its rich traditional customs, earning a remarkable reputation both domestically and internationally.

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Upcoming Events





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Research Colloquium
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UNIVERSITÀ DI MACERATA
l'umanesimo che innova

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

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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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