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China Center

NEWSLETTER N°22

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

"Digital Silk Road" as a Slogan Instead of a Grand Strategy

Written by Jing Cheng & Jinghan Zeng, published online on 15/10/2023

The emergence of the Digital Silk Road has brought about a significant change in China's Belt and Road Initiative, shifting its focus. This alteration has led to extensive analysis from political and academic

perspectives, as it is considered to be Beijing's comprehensive and influential geopolitical strategy. However, this article challenges this viewpoint by employing a slogan politics approach, asserting that the Digital Silk Road can be better interpreted as a vague political slogan. Contrary to being a meticulously planned high-level strategy, the rise of the Digital Silk Road is a consequence of economic and political conflicts among domestic stakeholders and the evolving socio-political environment. The article also demonstrates that Chinese domestic stakeholders have consciously or unconsciously interpreted the Digital Silk Road slogan according to their own preferences to further their own objectives. Despite the widespread support to echo the slogan throughout the country, there is no unified understanding or coordinated national effort to pursue a singular geopolitical goal, if there is one at all. Consequently, the development of the Digital Silk Road is predominantly influenced by the interests and agendas of individual companies, rather than being directed by a top-down geopolitical masterplan.

American and Chinese Public Opinion in an Era of Great Power Competition: Ingroup Bias and Threat Perceptions

Written by Daniel Irwin, David R. Mandel & Brooke A. MacLeod, published online on 11/05/2022

As the competition between the United States and China as major global powers becomes more intense, the analysis of public opinion polls can provide insights into the internal factors influencing foreign policy decision-making. By utilizing data from the Pew Research Center, the authors conducted a study to examine how American and Chinese respondents perceived their own countries as well as each other's countries from 2008 to 2016. They also explored how American attitudes towards China varied based on political affiliation from 2008 to 2019. Both American and Chinese respondents exhibited a tendency to favor their own country (referred to as ingroup bias) and viewed China as a challenger to the United States' dominance. However, while the Chinese respondents generally displayed higher levels of ingroup bias, there was no indication of increasing bias over the study period. On the other hand, American respondents demonstrated an increasing ingroup bias, primarily driven by their increasingly negative evaluations of China. This trend was most pronounced among Republicans.

News from China

The Law on Foreign Relations of the People's Republic of China

Posted by Xinhua on 28/06/2023

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China's New Foreign Relations Law: Clarifications & Analysis

Posted by China Briefing on 29/06/2023

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China has recently enacted a new foreign relations law aimed at bolstering its legal framework for implementing “countermeasures” against potential economic security threats. The legislation intends to address concerns regarding Western sanctions, drawing parallels with Russia. The National People’s Congress officially approved this law on June 28 th, and it is scheduled to come into effect on July 1st, 2023.



China to impose export controls on key materials for chipmaking as West's 'chip war' escalates

Written and posted by Global Times on 03/07/2023

China has announced that it will impose export controls on gallium and germanium, essential materials for semiconductors and electronic components, starting from next month. The Ministry of Commerce and the General Administration of Customs stated that these measures are necessary to protect national security and interests. The export controls require exporters to obtain approval from the Ministry of Commerce before exporting the specified items, and failure to comply may result in fines and criminal charges. Gallium and germanium are crucial for semiconductor manufacturing, with gallium being used in chipsets for electronic devices and germanium being utilized in fiber optics and semiconductors. China is a major global producer of gallium and a significant supplier of germanium. The move comes amid increasing pressure from the US and its allies, who are intensifying crackdowns



on China's technological development, particularly in the semiconductor industry. China's decision is seen as a proactive measure to safeguard its technological development, national security, and interests in the face of the ongoing chip war and technological tensions with the US and its allies.

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Chinese 24 Solar Terms: The Chinese wisdom of dividing time

Written by Ai Yan, posted by CGTN on 28/10/2018

In ancient China, the annual movement of the sun was divided into 24 segments known as "Solar Terms". These Solar Terms originated in the Yellow River region and were developed based on observations of seasonal changes, astronomy, and other natural phenomena. Over time, this system spread throughout the country and became widely adopted. The Solar Terms follow a cyclical pattern, starting with the Beginning of Spring and ending with the Greater Cold. Passed down from generation to generation, they have traditionally served as a framework for organizing agricultural practices and daily routines, particularly for farmers. Today, the Solar Terms have been incorporated into the Gregorian calendar and are widely used and shared among various ethnic groups in China.

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Upcoming Events

The **Summer School on Western Culture and Civilization** has started. We invite you to stay updated on all the activities by following our official channels [More details](#)

Dear Participants to the China Goes Global 2023,

The **China Goes Global 2023** in Bologna is approaching next week.

[Here](#) you can find the official conference programme.

We wish you a great conference and look forward to meeting each one of you individually in Bologna.

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