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China Center

## NEWSLETTER N°23

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 Corporate Social Credit System: The Dawn of Surveillance State Capitalism?

Written by Lauren Yu-Hsin Lin and Curtis J. Milhaupt, published online on 21/06/2023

*The evolution of Chinese state capitalism seems to be heading towards a tech-enabled version known as*

*“surveillance state capitalism”. This shift is primarily propelled by China’s corporate social credit system (CSCS), a data-based initiative aimed at evaluating the “trustworthiness” of all businesses operating in the country. This study presents the first empirical examination of CSCS scores in Zhejiang province, as it is the only local government that has publicly disclosed the scores of locally registered firms. The findings reveal that despite its stated purpose of assessing legal compliance, the CSCS tends to assign higher scores to politically connected companies. This outcome is driven by a specific “social responsibility” category in the scoring system, which values government awards and contributions to causes endorsed by the Chinese Communist Party. The analysis highlights how the CSCS has the potential to influence corporate loyalty to party-state policies, and it offers an early glimpse into the extensive implications this system might have.*

## **Digitalization and sustainable development: How could digital economy development improve green innovation in China?**

Written by Shiyue Luo, Nafisa Yimamu, Yueran Li, Haitao Wu, Muhammad Irfan, Yu Hao, published online on 02/08/2022

*The research examines the relationship between the digital economy and green innovation in China’s cities from 2011 to 2019. By using principal component analysis (PCA) to assess the urban digital economy’s advancement and urban green patent applications to represent green innovation, the study explores various effects through different models. The findings indicate that the digital economy indirectly contributes to green innovation by boosting economic openness, optimizing industrial structure, and expanding market potential. However, as these factors improve, the digital economy’s impact on green innovation weakens. The study also reveals that green innovation experiences spatial spillover effects, but in more developed regions, it may hinder green innovation in less developed areas due to talent flow and industrial transfer. Moreover, a gradual difference-in-difference model based on the ‘Broadband China’ pilot policy confirms that enhancing the digital economy significantly promotes urban green innovation. Overall, the research highlights the potential role of the digital economy in fostering green innovation in the context of sustainable development.*

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## **News from China**

### **China H1 2023 Economic Roundup: GDP Grows 5.5% on Steady Path to Recovery**

Written by Liu Zuokui, posted by on 29/06/2023

China’s economic performance in the first half of 2023 points to a stable recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, with the GDP growth rate for the six-month period surpassing the annual



target. Notably, the second quarter witnessed a noteworthy rebound in sectors like services and consumption, and there was accelerated growth in industrial and manufacturing output in June compared to the previous month. Despite these positive developments, it is important to note that the monthly growth rates have been gradually slowing down in the past two months. As a result, there is once again a growing call for implementing stimulus measures to sustain the economy's momentum in the latter half of the year.

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## **China takes major step in regulating generative AI services like ChatGPT**

Written by Laura He, posted by CNN on 14/07/2023

March 20China has issued new rules for regulating generative artificial intelligence (AI), making it one of the first countries in the world to do so. The guidelines, released by the Cyberspace Administration of China, are set to take effect on August 15. Compared to the preliminary draft released in April, the published version appears to have relaxed some provisions, indicating Beijing's interest in the potential of the nascent AI industry to boost economic growth and job creation. The rules will only apply to AI services available to the general public in China, while research institutions and overseas users are exempted. The current version has also removed punitive measures, such as high fines for violations. The state encourages the innovative use of generative AI



across various industries and urges platforms to participate in the development of international rules and standards related to this technology. Among the key provisions, generative AI service providers must conduct security reviews and register their algorithms with the government if their services can influence public opinion or mobilize the public. The global popularity of generative AI, exemplified by platforms like ChatGPT, has led to a race among Chinese tech companies to release their own versions, potentially adding fuel to the existing US-China rivalry in emerging technologies.

[Translation: Measures for the Management of Generative Artificial Intelligence Services \(Draft for Comment\) – April 2023](#)

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## Chinese ways of beating the summer heat

Written and posted by CGTN on 13/07/2023

As the hottest days of summer arrive in China, it's intriguing to explore how ancient Chinese coped with the scorching heat before the advent of modern cooling technologies. They employed ingenious methods to stay cool, such as wearing thin, light fabrics like silk, using fans to create a cooling breeze, and enjoying cold treats like ice cream and iced beverages. Additionally, they designed cooling architecture, such as the Chengde Imperial Mountain Resort, to escape the heat and handle political mandates during the hot months. These traditional practices and innovative designs reflect their deep

understanding of staying comfortable in the summer weather.

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## Upcoming Events



Please be informed that the **China Center's** activities will be temporarily suspended for the summer holidays. We will resume operations at the end of the summer break and coincide with the reopening of academic activities.

Wishing everyone a rejuvenating and enjoyable summer break!

祝大家暑假愉快，充满活力，尽情享受！

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