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China Center

NEWSLETTER N°25

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

Industrial policy and the creation of the electric vehicles market in China: demand structure, sectoral complementarities and policy coordination

Written by Alexandre De Podestá Gomes, Robert Pauls and Tobias ten Brink, published online on 23/11/2022

Since the late 2000s, the Chinese government has actively implemented industrial policies aimed at establishing an electric vehicle market. While this effort has been lauded both domestically and internationally, a closer examination reveals a more nuanced situation, with market growth primarily concentrated in select cities. Drawing from heterodox industrial policy literature, Chinese policy documents, and interviews, the authors have developed a framework for empirically analyzing the deployment of electric vehicles at the city level. Their goal is to evaluate the successes and challenges of implementing industrial policies in this sector. This paper emphasizes the interconnectedness of policies that influence the demand structure of the electric vehicle market and its crucial complementary component, the charging infrastructure. These policies must be harmonized across the increasingly intricate segments within the electric vehicle market. By using this industry as a case study, this paper aims to contribute to the broader discussion about the factors that influence the effectiveness of industrial policies.

Governing the Digital Economy: An Exploration of Blockchains with Chinese Characteristics

Written by Gary Sigley & Warwick Powell, published online on 01/08/2022

In October 2019, President Xi Jinping endorsed the prioritization of blockchain technology for China's future development. China has been actively experimenting with blockchain across various sectors, including legal records, financial markets, and food supply chains. The rise of blockchain as a government-backed tool prompts several critical questions: 1) What drove China's interest in blockchain technology? 2) What distinguishes Chinese blockchains? 3) How will this impact the post-pandemic world, where technology becomes a central point of contention? This paper aims to address these inquiries, establishing a research framework to understand the influence of "blockchains with Chinese characteristics" on China's social and economic evolution and its global interactions. It considers scenarios of "decoupling" and "deglobalization." Focusing on the implementation of Healthy China 2030, with a specific emphasis on food supply chains, the paper also explores emerging legal and institutional structures supporting blockchain technology applications.

News from China



Opening Salvo: The EU's Electric Vehicle Probe and What Comes Next

Written by Camille Boullenois, Agatha Kratz, and Reva Goujon, posted by Rhodium Group on 23/10/2023

On October 4, 2023, the European Commission initiated an anti-subsidy investigation targeting

Chinese-made passenger battery electric vehicles (BEVs). This investigation reflects growing concerns within the EU regarding the potential impact of subsidized, inexpensive Chinese BEVs on Europe's emerging industry. While BEVs are currently in the spotlight, the EU is also contemplating protective measures against Chinese wind turbines and steel. Furthermore, numerous other sectors benefit from China's industrial policies and may become targets for EU policymakers in the future. This article emphasizes the EU's apprehensions about China's BEV industry, discusses the strengths and weaknesses of the Commission's case, and explores the possibility of extending trade measures to address a broader range of subsidized industries in China. It highlights the significance of this investigation as it pertains to European industry and its potential to set a precedent for future actions against China's industrial policies.

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Biden signs executive order in race with China and EU to govern AI

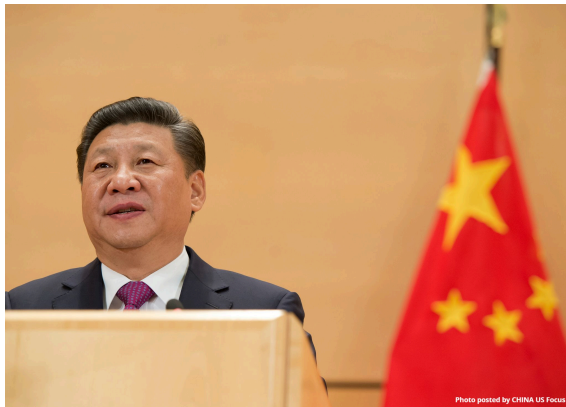
Written by Yifan Yu, posted by NIKKEI Asia on 31/10/2023

President Joe Biden signed an executive order on artificial intelligence (AI) to regulate the rapidly advancing technology, bringing the U.S. in line with other governments' efforts. The order mandates companies to share safety test reports of their AI models with the federal government, particularly for AI systems posing risks to national security, economic security, or public



health and safety. The Department of Commerce will play a central role in establishing AI safety standards and overseeing companies' compliance. Biden called this the most significant global action on AI safety and security. The U.S. has been lagging in AI governance, and this move comes as China and the European Union have made significant advancements in regulating AI.

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Thinking About Xi Jinping Thought on Culture

Written by Arran Hope, posted by China Brief on 20/10/2023

On October 7-8, 2023, the Chinese Communist Party held the National Conference on Propaganda, Ideology, and Cultural Work, marking a significant development in the Party's cultural policy. During this conference, the Party introduced "Xi Jinping Thought on Culture" (XJPTOC), emphasizing the political dimensions of culture to bolster Xi's legitimacy and promote nationalism. This move is part of a larger effort to expand China's cultural soft power, reflecting the Party's desire to control information both domestically and abroad. The Party's definition of culture is closely tied to its propaganda and ideology and is strictly defined by the Party itself. Xi's emphasis on culture is deeply entwined with his vision of a culturally rooted, powerful China. The "Global Civilization Initiative" is a key component of this strategy, aimed at enhancing China's cultural influence globally. While these efforts may strengthen pro-China messaging in

countries with close ties to China, they are also likely to face resistance and backlash, both from those within the culture industry and from an increasingly critical international community. In essence, the political underpinnings of Xi's cultural agenda, which link culture to the Party's authority, may result in a superficial cultural narrative that alienates foreign audiences and stifles independent cultural expression. As China's cultural outreach expands, it faces the paradox of prioritizing political control over cultural authenticity.

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