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10 YEARS | 2013 - 2023



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China Center

## NEWSLETTER N°11

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

### [Assessing the energy transition in China towards carbon neutrality with a probabilistic framework](#)

Written by Shu Zhang & Wenying Chen, published online on 10/01/2022

China's energy system must undergo a significant transformation to achieve carbon neutrality. By combining

Monte Carlo analysis with a bottom-up energy-environment-economy model, 3,000 cases were generated with different carbon peak times, technological evolution pathways and cumulative carbon budgets. The results indicate that if emissions peak in 2025, the goal of carbon neutrality requires an electrification rate of 45-62%, renewable energy to make up 47-78% of primary energy supply, 5.2-7.9 TW of solar and wind power, 1.5-2.7 PWh of energy storage usage and 64-1,649 MtCO<sub>2</sub> of negative emissions. This would also result in a reduction of approximately 80% of local air pollutants compared to current levels by 2050. The time at which emissions peak and the cumulative carbon budget have a significant impact on decarbonization pathways, technology choices and transition costs. Peaking earlier reduces welfare losses and prevents over-reliance on carbon removal technologies. To achieve carbon neutrality, technology breakthroughs, changes in production and consumption patterns and policy enhancement are urgently needed.

## **Blockchain and Firm Total Factor Productivity: Evidence from China**

Written by Qilong Cao, Jinglei Li, Hongru Zhang, Yue Liu and Xun Luo, published on online: 16/08/2022

This paper presents a creative approach to constructing blockchain development indicators using geographical characteristics to investigate the impact of blockchain development on the total factor productivity of listed companies. The findings reveal that local blockchain development can significantly improve firms' total factor productivity. To address endogeneity concerns, the paper combines exogenous policy and geographic distance to construct instrumental variables. Furthermore, the positive impact is more pronounced in non-state-owned enterprises (non-SOEs), non-excess capacity industries and samples with high initial productivity. The results remain valid after robustness testing. These results have practical implications for Chinese listed companies in planning their digital business.

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## **News from China**



### **A look at China's economy in Q1 of 2023**

Posted by The State Council of the PRC on 18/04/2023

China's economy grew by 4.5% in the first quarter of 2023, according to preliminary estimates, as the country focused on promoting high-quality development and balancing domestic and international pressures while also coordinating Covid-19 prevention and control measures with economic and social development. By industry, the primary sector saw year-on-year growth of 3.7%, while the secondary sector grew at 3.3%,

and the tertiary sector saw growth of 5.4%. The positive results were aided by a smooth transition to a new phase of Covid-19 prevention and control, stable recovery of production and demand, and stable employment and pricing.

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## Von der Leyen warns China – again – not to use force against Taiwan

Written by Nicolas Camut, Suzanne Lynch, Gregorio Sorgi and Eddy Wax, posted by Politico on 18/04/2023

Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission president, warned China on Tuesday not to use force in the Taiwan Strait, where the island faces pressure from Beijing. She reiterated her message to Chinese President Xi Jinping during a visit to Beijing earlier this month, and distinguished it from the French president Emmanuel Macron's comments that suggested Europe should be wary of getting drawn into a U.S.-China confrontation over Taiwan. The EU, von der Leyen said, is committed to the "One China policy", which recognizes Beijing as the sole legal government of China but allows informal relations with Taiwan.

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## China, masterpieces from the GNAM in Rome on display

Posted by Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione



Internazionale d'Italia on 13/04/2023

The Italian Cultural Institute of Shanghai and the Consulate General of Italy in Shanghai will host an exhibition of 48 works by 36 artists, including Monet, Van Gogh, Modigliani, Pollock, Joan Miró, de Chirico, and Duchamp, from 15 April to 2 July 2023. The exhibition, entitled “MONET VAN GOGH and the masters of modernism – Masterpieces from the National Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art in Rome,” will showcase various techniques including oil painting, sculpture, collage, photography, and installations. The works on display lead back to marvellous phases of modern art, and prominent works include Water Lilies by Claude Monet, Portrait of Madame Ginoux by Vincent van Gogh, Reclining Nude by Amedeo Modigliani, and Hector and Andromache by Giorgio de Chirico.

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## Upcoming Events

The next **RC** will feature **Martina Tullio**, PhD student in Education, Cultural Heritage and Territories.

Our [Q2 Calendar](#) will be out today. Check it out!

After two years of online activities and webinars, the international conference **China Goes Global** returns in person in Bologna in July 2023.

CGA's [website](#)

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