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China Center

NEWSLETTER N°14

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

How China's Online Nationalists Constrain Policymaking – the Case of Foreigners' Permanent Residency Reform

Written by Tabitha Speelman, published online on 23/11/2022

This article explores the influence of popular nationalism on Chinese policymaking, focusing on the public

consultation process for proposed regulations on foreigners' permanent residency in February 2020. The draft regulations faced a significant backlash of anti-immigrant sentiment from the online public, leading the government to shelve the proposal. By utilizing textual analysis, expert interviews, and survey data, the article examines the interactions between elites and the public during and after the controversy. It aims to understand the factors behind the misjudgment of public sentiment and the role of public opinion in Chinese policymaking. The article argues that popular nationalists have the ability to mobilize public sentiment and influence policy discussions on previously marginalized issues like immigration. This bottom-up politicization can surprise and constrain the state, limiting both public and elite policy debates. As a result, the state's ability to gather information and comprehend public sentiment is compromised. The tensions between the state's desire to control and understand public sentiment are further exacerbated. The article highlights the significance of public opinion in China's non-democratic policymaking processes, particularly in immigration policy. It suggests that China's immigration policy is gradually becoming more politicized, similar to other early-stage contexts of immigrant reception.

Care Scales: Dibao Allowances, State and Family in China

Written by Christof Lammer, published online on 15/03/2023

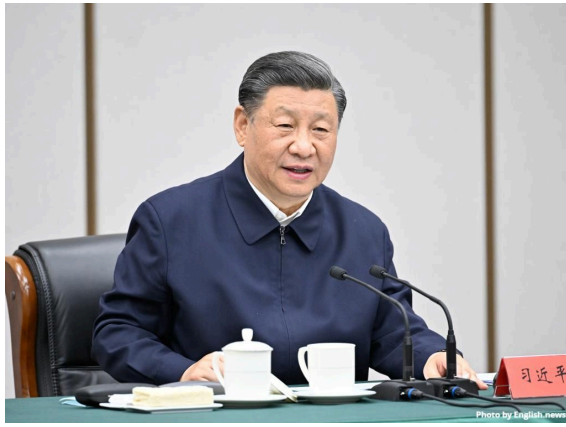
By examining the expansive cash-based social policy considered the largest in the world, we can gain insights into the concept of care and its role in shaping different scales. The standardization of the minimum livelihood guarantee, known as dibao, in rural Sichuan, involves the participation of officials, applicants, and researchers who reference both excessive and insufficient care within the family unit when recommending or rejecting state assistance. The various levels of organization do not possess fixed sizes or qualities, and they either facilitate or impede care provision. The assessment of dibao-related practices revolves around whether they demonstrate appropriate ("filial piety"), inadequate ("individualism"), or excessive ("corruption") levels of familial care. Care thus becomes a gauge for measuring kinship and a marker for defining state boundaries. Consequently, scale, in its dual sense, is established in China, as in other contexts, through negotiations regarding needs and responsibilities, as well as evaluations of care practices and their outcomes. In this manner, care functions as a determining factor in scales.

News from China

Xi Focus: Xi inspects Xiong'an New Area, urges new progress for "city of future"

Posted by Xinhua on 10/05/2023

President Xi Jinping emphasized the importance of confidence and determination in achieving



new progress in the development of the Xiong'an New Area. During his visit to the area on 10 May, he inspected key infrastructure projects and stressed the need to improve connectivity, develop high-end industries, and ensure the well-being of relocated residents. He also called for the implementation of strategic plans, the transfer of headquarters of state-owned enterprises, and the strengthening of market mechanisms. The meeting concluded with senior leaders expressing the need to accelerate infrastructure construction and prioritize scientific and technological innovation in the development of the Xiong'an New Area.

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China outpaces Europe in regulating generative AI – on CCP terms

Posted by MERICS on 02/05/2023

The article discusses China's recent draft provisions for governing generative artificial intelligence (AI) and its desire to stay ahead of the growing trend of generative AI. The Chinese government is motivated to maintain social and political stability by keeping its internet censorship mechanisms intact, but it also has a forward-thinking approach to regulating the input and output of large language models (LLMs), which may provide interesting angles for European policymakers when developing their own regulatory framework. Generative AI has explosive growth potential, but it also raises massive governance challenges, including privacy, security, ethical, and socioeconomic



concerns. While ChatGPT was promptly banned by government censors in China, generative AI has already seen widespread adoption for commercial use in the country.

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China's trade grows 8.9% in April, beating market expectations

Written by GT staff reporters, posted by Global Times on 09/05/2023

China's total trade increased by 8.9 percent year-on-year in April, surpassing market expectations and indicating a resilient production sector. Exports grew by 16.8 percent, highlighting the popularity of Chinese products overseas, while imports declined by 0.8 percent, reflecting ongoing recovery in domestic demand. Despite a slight slowdown in export growth compared to March, the rate remained significantly higher than the first two months of the year. Overall, total trade for the first four months grew by 5.8 percent year-on-year. Analysts predict that trade will continue to recover in the coming months, supported by expos and the expected end of the US rate hike cycle, which will boost market demand.

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Upcoming Events

Our [Q2 Calendar](#) is out. 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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