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China Center

## NEWSLETTER N°15

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 foreign policy rhetoric between orchestration and cacophony

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

*Xi Jinping has positioned himself as the exclusive spokesperson for China's foreign policy. As a result, many analysts rely solely on his statements to gauge the Chinese government's intentions. However,*

*China's foreign policy rhetoric is influenced by multiple individuals within the government. This article investigates the variations in China's foreign policy rhetoric by examining how the country's national interest is defined and whether it has become more consistent during Xi Jinping's tenure. The study employs quantitative and qualitative content analyses and reveals significant differences in emphasis across different levels of policy-making and among key figures such as the General Secretary/State President, Premier, State Council Information Office, and Foreign Minister. Consequently, to comprehend China's foreign policy intentions, researchers should not only focus on statements made by the General Secretary but also pay attention to statements from other actors and recognize disparities among them.*

## **Developmental Sustainability through Heritage Preservation: Two Chinese Case Studies**

Written by Xiao Song, Kee-Cheok Cheong, Qianyi Wang and Yurui Li, published online on 03/05/2020

*Preserving cultural heritage while promoting economic development poses a significant challenge for societies. China, with its vast array of cultural assets, faces unique obstacles in its pursuit of economic growth. This paper explores the tensions between cultural preservation and economic development, focusing on the context of rural rejuvenation in China. By analyzing two case studies - Lijiang in Yunnan province and Rizhao in Shandong province - the paper examines contrasting approaches taken by Chinese policymakers at both the central and local levels to harness local intangible cultural assets. The comparison highlights the advantages and challenges associated with each strategy. A successful approach aims to maximize the benefits of cultural tourism while minimizing its drawbacks.*

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## **News from China**



### **China woos Central Asia as Ukraine war weakens Russian influence**

Written by Simone McCarthy, posted by CNN on 18/05/2023

Chinese leader Xi Jinping is hosting a summit with Central Asian nations on May 18 and 19 in Xi'an, signaling China's efforts to expand its influence in a region traditionally dominated by Russia. The summit, attended by the leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, is the first in-person meeting since the establishment of diplomatic relations

with China. It comes as the region faces economic repercussions from Russia's war in Ukraine. China aims to strengthen its ties with Central Asian states, which are seen as potential allies and strategic partners for infrastructure projects and as a buffer against security threats. The summit is also an opportunity for China to present economic cooperation proposals, especially as the region seeks alternative markets due to disruptions caused by the war. China's focus on security cooperation is driven by concerns about potential unrest in Central Asia leading to instability in its northwestern Xinjiang region. The summit takes place amid China's bid to position itself as a promoter of regional stability and as a potential mediator in the conflict in Ukraine. However, Central Asian leaders are likely to tread carefully and avoid endorsing China's specific proposals regarding the Ukraine conflict, as they seek to maintain leverage with the West as a counterbalance to China and Russia.

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## China's emerging decarbonization toolkit

Written by Barbara Pongratz, posted by MERICS on 16/05/2023

China is responding to the EU's green trade tools by exploring its own decarbonization strategies. It is considering a full life-cycle carbon footprint tracking system that goes beyond the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). China's national emissions trading system (ETS) is its primary tool to meet CBAM obligations, but



its expansion has been delayed. The proposed life-cycle assessment (LCA) system would measure carbon emissions throughout a product's entire life cycle, going beyond CBAM's focus on production. China aims to establish a comprehensive carbon accounting system, but challenges remain. China's response to CBAM is unique, and it is developing policies suitable for its decarbonization path. The EU and China have different approaches to carbon accounting and pricing, but aligning their standards is crucial for global decarbonization.

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## Splendid world heritage sites in Shaanxi

Video provided by Shaanxi Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, posted by China Daily on 16/05/2023

Shaanxi province in Northwest China holds significant importance as one of the primary birthplaces of ancient Chinese civilization. Over the course of Chinese history, 15 dynasties and states, dating back to the 11th century BC, established their capitals within this province. Its historical prominence is further emphasized by its role as a vital gateway to China, with trade routes connecting the East and West established as early as the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC-AD 24). Shaanxi province boasts a diverse cultural heritage, housing numerous cultural sites and preserving millions of relics in its museums. Currently, as the China-Central Asia Summit approaches, it is worth exploring the nine UNESCO World Cultural Heritage sites located in Shaanxi province.

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## Upcoming Events

The next **CC4U** will feature **Professor Filippo Mignini** (6 June 2023). The flyer will be out soon.

On July the 5th the **China Center** will celebrate its **10 years Anniversary**. Stay tuned!

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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