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China Center

NEWSLETTER N°30

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.



Scientific Articles

The politics of STEMM collaboration between Australia and China: national security, geopolitics, and academic freedom

Written by Diarmuid Cooney-O'Donoghue, published online on 05/02/2024

Since the 1990s, there has been significant growth in collaboration between Australian and Chinese universities and academics in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM). This collaboration has led to differing views on its scientific, economic, human rights, and national security implications. Through interviews with 22 academic researchers and analysis of public commentary, a typology of perceptions on STEMM collaboration has been developed: Pragmatic, Cosmopolitan, CCP-critic, and Leftist. Pragmatic and Cosmopolitan perspectives, which favor strong engagement with China due to the economic and scientific benefits, heavily influence Australian government and university leadership

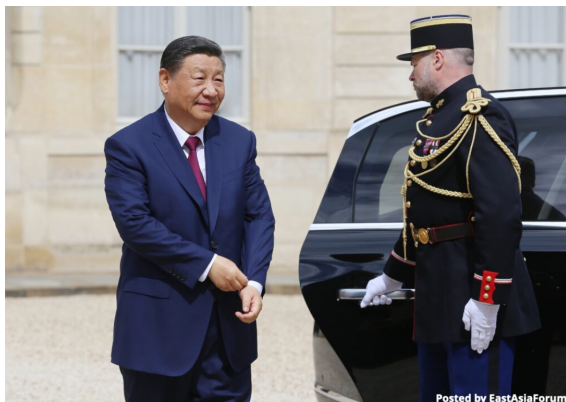
strategies. However, CCP-critics, who emphasize national security and human rights concerns, are increasingly affecting how the government and universities approach this relationship. Interviews indicate that academic freedom is defined as the ability to conduct research without external interference. Academics' views on what academic freedom should protect vary, influenced by personal experiences and assumptions about China. These differing views impact how to balance the benefits and risks of STEMM collaboration. Overall, the findings suggest that geopolitical competition and perceptions of the risks and opportunities of engagement with China are shaping STEMM collaboration and the freedom of academics.

Overview of Chinese new energy vehicle industry and policy development

Written by Jiamei Tian, Ping Wang, Daina Zhu, published online on 25/05/2024

The Chinese new energy vehicle (NEV) industry has rapidly developed, becoming one of the largest NEV markets globally. The Chinese government's pivotal support has driven significant advancements in policies, technology, infrastructure, industrial chain, and market development. This support includes numerous favorable policies, financial and tax incentives, and initiatives to promote NEV research, development, and application. Subsidy policies have encouraged consumer purchases of NEVs, enhancing their market competitiveness. Regulations mandating a certain proportion of NEV production and sales for automakers have further propelled industry growth. Despite substantial growth, the Chinese NEV industry faces challenges and opportunities. For continued development, vehicle manufacturers must prioritize technological innovation, the government should maintain supportive policies, users need to increase environmental awareness, and collaboration between academia and industry should drive research efforts. The development of China's NEV industry aligns with global trends in environmental protection, energy security, and industrial transformation, playing a crucial role in advancing the global NEV industry.

News from China



Xi's tour of Europe puts China's self-delusion on display

Written by David Camroux and Earl Wang, posted by EastAsiaForum on 22/06/2024

Chinese President Xi Jinping's European tour in May 2024 aimed to strengthen ties with the European Union and weaken transatlantic relationships. However, the tour did not achieve its goals. Following Xi's visit, the European Union announced duties on Chinese electric vehicles,

and the G7 communique took an anti-Chinese tone. Although Xi received a warm reception in Serbia and Hungary, China appears to have misjudged the substantial shift in Europe's foreign relations stance after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

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The Global Implications of EU Tariffs on Chinese EVs

Written by Shang-Jin Wei, posted by Project Syndicate on 19/06/2024

On June 12, the European Union introduced provisional tariffs on Chinese EVs, based on estimates of state support received by Chinese EV exporters. These new tariffs, following a long investigation into China's financial subsidies, will add to the existing 10% tariff. They are provisional and might be adjusted if Chinese producers can prove lower support levels. Alternatively, if the EU and China agree to reduce Chinese EV exports to Europe, the tariffs may not be applied. The EU's tariffs reflect the estimated total subsidy per vehicle from Chinese producers BYD, Geely, and SAIC, with rates of 17.4%, 20%, and 38.1%, respectively. Other compliant producers will face a 21% tariff, while non-cooperative producers will face a 38.1% tariff.

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Just Do It: Explaining the Characteristics and Rationale of Chinese Economic Sanctions

Written by Ketian Vivian Zhang, posted by TNSR on June



2024

While most economic sanctions are explicitly announced, Chinese economic sanctions are often vague and not explicitly declared. Instead of threatening sanctions, China directly executes them. This approach is explained by China's preference for plausible deniability to avoid institutional constraints. China tends to announce sanctions explicitly only when it can justify them under the national security exception in World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, such as in response to U.S. weapons sales to Taiwan. Additionally, vague sanctions can signal stronger resolve when executed. This news examines the characteristics and rationale behind China's economic sanctions over perceived threats to its national security.

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