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China Center

## NEWSLETTER N°31

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 culturalisation of politics in contemporary Chinese citizenship education](#)

Written by Sicong Chen, published online on 10/05/2023

*Traditional culture, once marginalized in modern Chinese politics, has been revived in recent years by the Chinese Communist regime. Most existing research focuses on how culture, particularly Confucianism, is used to legitimize the regime's control over schools and society. However, this paper highlights a related but distinct trend: the culturalization of politics. It explores how politics is framed in cultural terms, particularly in the official textbooks on Xi Jinping Thought, which have been mandatory in schools since 2021. The article situates this phenomenon within the broader context of the "cultural turn" in postmodern politics and*

examines its impact on citizenship education under China's authoritarian regime.

## **Financialization and an emerging "green investor state": Examining China's use of state-backed funds for green transition**

Written by Kasper Ingeman Beck & Mathias Larsen, published online on 21/08/2024

*China is advancing a state-led financialization of governance while prioritizing environmental goals. This has led to the growth of state-backed green funds, now exceeding US\$70 billion. Using interviews, policies, and financial data, the study analyzes these funds through policy documents, statistics, and case studies. China's "market-driven, government-guided" financialization strengthens its green investment capacity, contrasting with other countries where financialization weakens state capacity. The concept of a "green investor state" is introduced to describe China's unique approach, which is challenging to replicate outside of state-capitalist systems. However, the global return of industrial policies could make similar green funds viable elsewhere.*

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## **News from China**



### **China raises retirement age for first time since 1950s**

Written by Kelly Ng, posted by BBC News on 13/09/2024

China will "gradually raise" its retirement age for the first time since the 1950s to address an aging population and a strained pension budget. Starting January 2025, the retirement age for women in blue-collar jobs will increase from 50 to 55, while for white-collar women, it will rise from 55 to 58. Men's retirement age will move from 60 to 63. This incremental change will occur every few months over the next 15 years. By 2030, employees will need to contribute more to the social security system to qualify for pensions, requiring 20 years of contributions by 2039. The decision, based on factors such as life expectancy and workforce supply, has sparked mixed reactions online, with some expressing frustration over raised retirement ages and pay

cuts, while others view it as an inevitable trend similar to Western countries.

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## China's Climate Balancing Act

Written by Zongyuan Zoe Liu, posted by Project

Syndicate on 09/09/2024

China is facing a challenging task of balancing decarbonization, maintaining socioeconomic stability, and pursuing its global ambitions. However, the government sees climate security as not only a challenge but also an opportunity. The "dual carbon goal" (peak carbon emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060) is central to this effort, reflecting China's broader vision of an "ecological civilization" and its national security strategy. Climate action is crucial for addressing domestic issues such as food, water, and energy security, and the government has integrated these concerns into policies like the 2013 National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and the 2035 update, which expanded the focus to include supply chain and financial risks. On the global stage, China aims to shape the international agenda on climate change, positioning itself as a leader in reforming global governance and promoting a "community of common destiny".

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## Investing in China's Emerging and High-Tech Industries – Opportunities for Foreign Companies



Written by Arendse Huld, posted by China Briefing on  
16/09/2024

China's push to develop new and emerging technologies is creating opportunities for foreign investors and companies. This effort is tied to its shift toward innovation-led growth, focusing on new quality productive forces (NQPFs), new-type industrialization, and "future industries". NQPFs prioritize technologies like AI, robotics, biotechnology, and new energy, while new-type industrialization promotes advanced manufacturing and technological self-sufficiency. "Future industries" target emerging fields such as quantum computing and 6G networks. These strategies aim to boost China's global competitiveness through innovation.

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**The calendar of activities for the Centre in 2024 has been released. Click [here](#)**

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