

SOAS China Institute 2018-19 Annual Report:

Key Developments

- Aki Elborzi was recruited as the SCI Events and Communications Assistant on a 0.4fte contract.
- The MSc Contemporary China Studies and MA Advanced Chinese Studies programmes were transferred to the Department of Politics and International Studies and Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures respectively in September 2018. Employment costs for the Senior Teaching Fellow are covered by the SCI's ERC grant.
- The SCI Corporate Membership scheme earned an annual income of £51,625 in 2018-19.
 - All existing corporate members renewed their corporate membership.
 - 5 new corporate members signed up in the course of the year.
- 2 new corporates have signed up for the next academic year.

Other revenue

- Funding agreement between Worldwide Support for Development (WSD) and SOAS, University of London. WSD agrees to provide £50,000 for the WSD Handa Distinguished Lecture Series over 5 years.
- ERC funded, 'Doing Intimacy' 3-year research project – approx. €1.5 million. Dr Jieyu Liu is in the final year of her research project.
- Visiting Scholars revenue
- Consultancy work revenue
- The Silk Road Economic Development Research Center of Hong Kong provided funding of £25,821.58 to support The Belt & Road Initiative: International Responses International Conference.

Events

The SCI hosted 50 research and/ or outreach events with the total attendance reaching 3,759 people.

In addition to the ten regular seminars (Monday Forums), nine additional special seminars were organised in the year.

The China Debate *Will China's rise be peaceful?* took place on 7 May with a spirited, engaging and well-mannered debate from panellists Prof. David (Mike) Lampton (Johns Hopkins University), Prof. Katherine Morton (Sheffield University) and Prof. Zhu Feng (Nanjing University). This was the first year a registration fee was charged to the public and students. Despite the registration fee, this event was fully booked out.

The SCI Corporate Roundtables, convened by Prof. Robert Ash, took place on nine occasions, and regularly attracted on average 18 participants, including government officials and senior executives from the corporate sector. This is a key part of the SCI corporate membership programme. The speakers were Samantha Hoffman (MERICS), Thomas J. Christensen (Columbia University), Ho-Fung Hung (The Johns Hopkins University), Prof. Gao Haihong (CASS), Bhavna Dave (SOAS), Yuka Kobayashi (SOAS), Sharon Yuan (The Asia Group, Washington DC), Prof. Shelley Rigger (Davidson

College, USA), Prof. Evan S. Medeiros (Georgetown University) and Prof. Reza Hasmath (University of Alberta).

Other SCI events include:

- WSD Handa Distinguished Lecture 2018: *China's Rise and the Security of East Asia* with Thomas J. Christensen (Princeton)
- George Magnus (SCI Research Associate) Book Launch on *Red Flags: Why Xi Jinping's China is in Jeopardy* with Carrie Gracie (Ex-BBC China correspondent) and Jonathan Fenby (SCI Research Associate) as commentators
- 3 Book talks: *Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank* with Natalie Lichenstein (Inaugural General Counsel of AIIB), *Why the West's economic engagement with China has failed* with Stewart Paterson (Co-founder of Riley Paterson Investment Management), *Maoism: A Global History* with Prof. Julia Lovell (Birkbeck)
- Film screening of *Li Manshan: Portrait of a folk Daoist* (Stephen Jones, Research Associate, SOAS Department of Music)
- 2-day International Conference - *The Belt & Road Initiative: International Responses*
- Lecture on *Rule of Law* with China Central Party School
- Panel Debate on *BRI: Bringing the East and the West Together?* with Mr Charles Parton (SOAS and Adviser, British Embassy Beijing); Dr Thomas Chan (Chu Hai College of Higher Education) and Mr Joseph Chan (Silk Road Economic Development Research Center, Hong Kong)
- Panel Debate on *The Meaning and Implications of Tiananmen 1989* with Dr Rowena He (Associate at the Fairbank Centre at Harvard University); Kate Adie CBE (Journalist); Dr Jiang Shao (Uni. Of Westminster)
- Young China Watchers mentorship scheme launch

The SCI also provided support to enable the following colleagues at SOAS to organise several academic events:

- Tim Pringle – Panel Debate: *Rising Authoritarianism? Evaluating political and economic development in Hong Kong* with Mr. Nathan Law (Former Legislative Council Member of Hong Kong and Founding Chairman of Demosisto in Hong Kong); Mr. Martin Lee SC, JP (Former Legislative Council Member of Hong Kong and Founding Chairman of the Democratic Party in Hong Kong); Professor Joseph Yi-zheng Lian (International College of Liberal Arts, Yamanashi Gakuin University) and Professor Benny Tai (Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong)
- Bernhard Fuehrer – AC Graham Memorial Lectures with Prof Chen Zhi (Hong Kong Baptist University): *Hidden Binomes in Chinese Canonical Texts: Both Transmitted and Excavated, Tetrasyllabic Poetry on Bronze Inscriptions and the Zhou Hymns* master seminar: *Reading the 皇門 chapter of the Yi Zhou shu and Excerpts from the Xunzi 荀子: Textual Analysis and Philosophical Concern.*
- Xiaoning Lu – 2018 Chinese Art Film Festival London Showcase; Modernization and the Persistence of Traditional Values in China: *Angels Wear White 嘉年华* (dir. Vivian Qu 文晏), *Girls Always Happy 柔情史* (dir. Yang Mingming 杨明明), *This Is Life 生门* (dir. Chen Weijun 陈为军).
- Rossella Ferrari – Performances: *Nanjing* (Co-organised with China Arts Now, written and performed by Jude Christian, directed by Elayce Ismail) and *It Won't Be Long Now* (Artistic Director Bill Aitchison Company / Nanjing University)

The SCI Advisory board meeting took place on three occasions - 22 October 2018, 18 January 2019 and 4 June 2019.

Brand Awareness

The number of SCI Facebook Likes increased by 23.5% and the number of SCI Twitter followers increased by 24.5% compared with September 2018.

The SCI had over 300 media appearances in both leading domestic and international outlets including ABC News, Bloomberg, South China Morning Post, Financial Times, Newsweek, Telegraph, Independent, BBC and The Wall Street Journal.

SCI academics and research associates in the media include Dafydd Fell in the Financial Times; Rachel Harris in The Globe Post; Hong Bo on the BBC; George Magnus in Bloomberg and Jonathan Fenby on Monocle 24 Radio.

Visiting Scholars (2018-19)

- Prof. Sizhong Zhou from Tsinghua University, 15 September 2018 – 15 March 2019

Research Associates

- Dr Lauren A. Johnston was appointed as a Research Associate at SCI in July 2019. Her research focusses on China economy and economic demography; China-Africa economic relations.

Scholarships & grants administered

Yenching Academy at Beijing University – the SCI nominates one graduating student per year for a fully funded PGT scholarship at Yenching. Gregor Bauer was awarded the Yenching scholarship to start at Yenching in the autumn of 2019.

In addition to the Yenching Academy postgraduate scholarship, the SCI manages an annual block grant of £15,000 from the Sino-British Fellowship Trust Fund (SBFT). 12 grants were allocated to the following colleagues and SOAS PhD students to support their projects:

- Ms Mariana Zegianini - To present a paper entitled 'The Real and the Imagined Dong Qichang' at the International Symposium: 'Jiangnan Junctions: Global Perspectives on the Arts, Exchanges and Reflections South of the Yangtze, 1100 – 1900', 26th November 2018, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou
- Ms Emily Dawes - Protestant missionary perceptions of Chinese Muslims during the late Qing, 20 January 2019
- Dr Rossella Ferrari - Presentation and discussion of performance 'It Won't Be Long Now 明日陽光燦爛' at SOAS, 14 February 2019
- Dr Lianyi Song – to participate in Language Plus (part 2) project - another institute for SOAS (and UK) students of Chinese to practise Chinese and learn Chinese culture, March 2019
- Prof. Bernhard Fuehrer – to bring Prof. Chen Zhi from Hong Kong Baptist University to present at the SOAS AC Graham Memorial Lectures, April 2019
- Dr Rossella Ferrari - to present a paper which is part of a forthcoming monograph on intercultural performance collaboration and historical memory in the Sinophone region at the IFTR annual conference, July 2019

- Dr Nicholas Sims-Williams - fieldwork to study a Sogdian inscription on a silver vessel in Suixi Prefectural Museum in Zhanjiang, 14-17 June 2019
- Mr Kwok-Fai Law – to attend and present at a study camp about Republican Chinese history: modern China's regional development and its political and cultural transformation
- Lianyi Song – to work on the production of a series of textbooks under the title *of Readings in Taoist culture* in Suzhou, June 2019
- Lars Laamann - to participate at the Manchu Studies colloquium & Scholarly Exchange in Changchun
- Tat Yan Kong – to present on 'East Asian Capitalism and the High-Income Trap: South Korea and Hong Kong' in collaboration with Dr Yin-Wah CHU (朱燕華), Hong Kong Baptist University, November 2019
- Jakob Klein – to carry out research on 'Transforming potatoes into Heritage Foods in Inner Mongolia and Yunnan', July 2019

Engagement with alumni and student recruitment

- Steve Tsang engaged with alumni in Singapore to explain the work of the SCI and enlist their support.
- The SCI works with the SOAS Alumni Association in Beijing to arrange for SOAS academics visiting Beijing to sustain contact and where possible to speak there.
- The SCI has also secured a promise from Ballie Gifford to set up a paid internship for SOAS students in the final year.
- The SCI supports the Young China Watchers (YCW) Mentorships programme which aims to link SOAS students enrolled in a China-related degree programme with an interest in entering a China-related career with experienced professionals.

Academic Publications

- Jieyu Liu, 'Ageing and intergenerational care in rural China: a qualitative study of policy development', *Contemporary Social Science*, (published online first, forthcoming 2019).
- George Magnus (SCI Research Associate), *Red Flags: Why Xi's China Is in Jeopardy* (Yale University Press, 2018)
- Steve Tsang, 'Party-state Realism: A Framework for Understanding China's Approach to Foreign Policy', *Journal of Contemporary China* (published online first, forthcoming 2019).

Planned activities for 2019-20

The key targets for the coming year are:

- To hold a one-day China Masterclass in September 2019 *on How China engages the world: One day masterclass*. This is designed to be a fee-paying event to reach out for potential Corporate Members and expand the Corporate Membership scheme.
- To hold joint SOAS China Institute – Centre of Korean Studies and SOAS China Institute – Japan Research Centre panel discussions.

- To host the China- Africa Forum on 11 February 2020 with funding from the KT Wong Foundation.
- To raise support for the ASEAN scholarship scheme for the new MSc in Chinese Diplomacy.