

China and the media - Who decides the stories?

Monday 19 September to Wednesday 21 September 2022

Stories about China often get top billing in international television news bulletins. Reports usually highlight political or social problems, or tension between China and its rivals. By contrast, Chinese state media seeks to present a positive slant on the news and influence the debate.

This intensive three-day course equips delegates with the critical skills they require to navigate between extremes of interpretation and gain a nuanced appreciation of the processes which shape China's image.

Day 1: Monday 19 September 2022

Time	Overview	Presenter
09:40 – 09:50	Welcome & administrative notices	Steve Tsang Director, SOAS China Institute
09:50 – 11:00	What drives media interest in China?	Jeremy Goldkorn SupChina
11:00 – 11:20	Tea/coffee break	
11:20 – 12:30	The quest for press freedom and independence in Hong Kong and mainland China	Verna Vu
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break	
13:30 – 14:40	Screening: "China and the New World Order" BBC Documentary	
14:40 – 15:00	Tea/coffee break	
15:00 – 16:30	Interview with BBC documentary director and Panorama maker, Richard Cookson	Richard Cookson BBC documentary director and Panorama maker

Day 2: Tuesday 20 September 2022

Time	Overview	Presenter
09.30 – 11.00	New technology, same old message?	Janet Miu TV commentator, Brewin Dolphin & Poppy Sebag-Montefiore Tortoise Media
11.00 – 11.20	Tea/ coffee break	
11.30 – 12.30	How do broadcasters select their stories?	Mickey Bristow BBC World Service In conversation with George Magnus Research Associate, SOAS China Institute
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch break	
13.30 – 15.00	Keynote address: Covering China in challenging times	John Sudworth BBC
15.00 – 15.20	Tea/ coffee break	
15.20 – 16.30	Political implications of media reports	Sam Hogg Beijing to Britain & Professor Hugo de Burgh Kensington Wade

Day 3: Wednesday 21 September 2022

Time	Overview	Presenter
09.30 – 11.00	Gauging the mood on social media	Cindy Yu Presenter, Chinese Whispers
11.00 – 11.20	Tea/ coffee break	
11.20 – 12.30	How does the Communist Party seek to gain legitimacy in the international press?	Howard Zhang BBC World Service China Moderators: James Kyngé Financial Times & Steve Tsang SOAS China Institute
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch break	
13.30 – 15.00	Banned from Beijing - Journalists' accounts	Stu Wu Wall Street Journal & Megha Rajagopalan New York Times
15.00 – 15.20	Tea/ coffee break	
15.20 – 16.30	Censorship since 2012	Ian Williams Kings College and Former Channel 4 reporter
16.30 – 17.00	Conference summing up and takeaways	