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# The Lau China Institute

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*A summary report for Dr Ming-Wai Lau*





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# INTRODUCTION

*Professor Kerry Brown, Director,  
Lau China Institute*



On behalf of all my team at the Lau China Institute and King's College London, I am delighted to present the final report on the Lau China Institute.

We would like to thank Dr Lau for establishing the Institute at King's. We are so proud of what we have achieved together during our seven-year partnership; from world-class research and academic excellence to building links with Chinese organisations in education, business and government.

We are truly living through fast-moving times. Political uncertainty in the US, Europe and the UK means that demand for analysis and understanding of how China fits into this larger picture has become increasingly important. Issues such as the trade war between America and the People's Republic; how the UK exits the European Union and continuing unrest in Hong Kong are all sending ripples across the world.

The Lau China Institute, because it is placed at the centre of London, is close to the heart of many of the business, political and cultural decision-making bodies not

just for Britain, or Europe, but globally. Throughout the last year, we have worked with Transparency International, the World Bank, BHP Billiton and the G20 in Japan. We have also been involved in events in Israel, Saudi Arabia, Europe, China, Japan, Russia and Turkey. This testifies to the global nature of the subjects we cover and their intrinsically international nature.

At the centre of all this is the world-class educational experience we offer at the Lau China Institute. Our PhD and master's programmes produce top quality graduates and this creates a multi-disciplinary group of scholars who are now coming to maturity and are contributing research in areas from economics to politics, development and environment.

In this report you will read about our high quality, high impact outreach events with partners from the Young China Watchers to the Royal Society of Asian Affairs. You will also hear about the exceptional research undertaken by our globally renowned experts and our innovative teaching which is producing the change-makers of tomorrow.

Thank you for believing in our vision for the Lau China Institute. With your support we have established the Institute as a central source of advice and strategic direction. Through working with key stakeholders in the UK, Europe and China, we are significantly impacting on the shape and direction of policy and overall public discourse about China. None of this would be possible without your support.

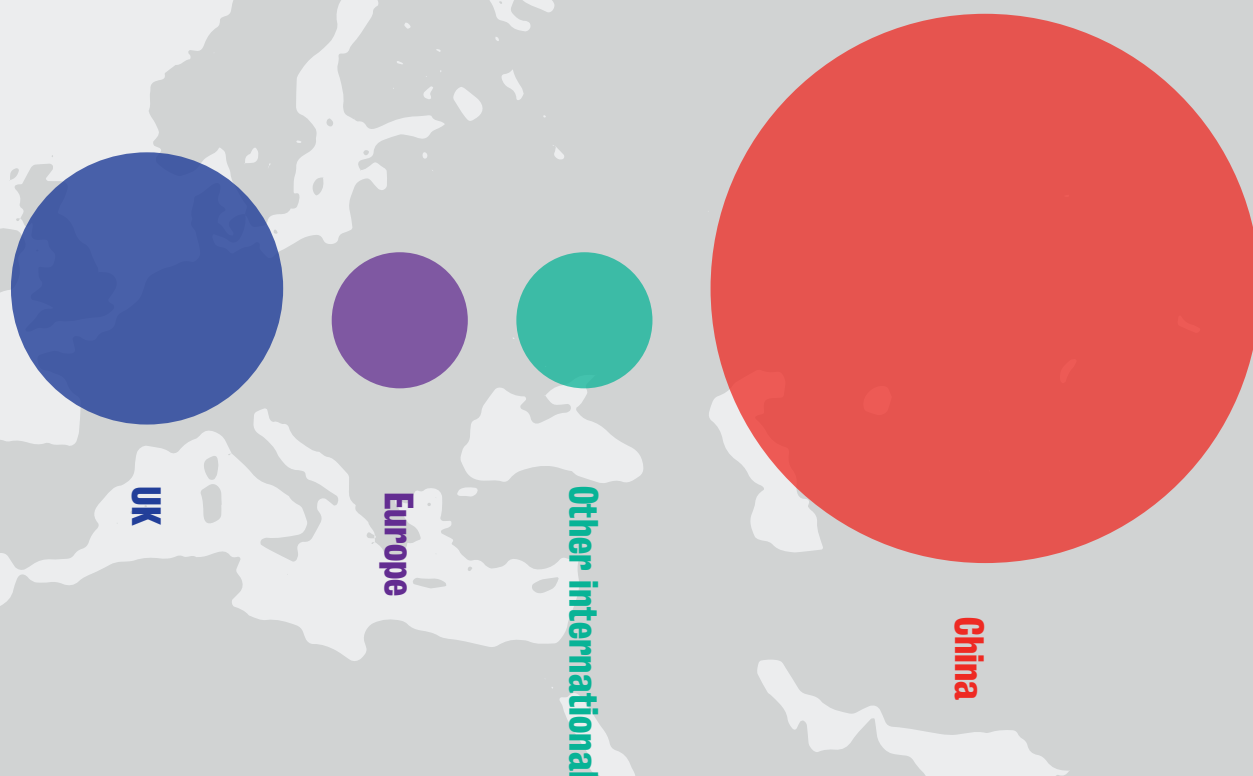




# Lau China Institute

## Students' country of domicile 2013–19

The Lau China Institute has an international community including students from over 25 countries worldwide.



Domicile	PGT	PGR	Total	%
China	95	67	162	50
United Kingdom	61	22	83	26
Europe	21	16	37	12
Other international	23	17	40	12
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>100</b>





## Lau China Institute

### Testimonials from our students

'I chose this MSc because it was the only master's programme in the UK which allowed me to study China's economy and politics as well as its international relations. The modules relating to business and entrepreneurship turned out to be very engaging and useful.'

- [REDACTED] *China and Globalisation MSc*

I did my postgraduate dissertation at King's and I did four weeks of field work in Tianjin. My research fascinated my supervisor and she encouraged me to carry out more work in the field. I never thought I would do a post-doc, but after the postgraduate at King's, that truly encouraged me to pursue a further career in academia. My PhD research focuses on the urbanisation process in China and how it affects the livelihood of the resettled farmers. I've done a year of field work and interviewed more than 200 farmers in China and I feel very passionate about doing fieldwork.

- [REDACTED], *Chinese Studies Research PhD*

'Western cultures will need people with a firm understanding of China's history, culture and language to assist in the interactions of industry and diplomacy, and I chose to study at King's for a variety of reasons. The benefit of studying at the Lau China Institute is the number of fellow students who are Chinese citizens; their first-hand perspective enhances discussions of the subject matter, and London is filled with opportunities to complement your education.'

- [REDACTED] *China and Globalisation MSc*



# OUR RESEARCH

*Research conducted in the Lau China Institute provides a critical analysis of China's social and economic trends and the effects they have on global issues such as the environment and arms control.*

Since 2012, members of the Lau China Institute have had their work widely published. The Institute's scholarship has been acknowledged by book publishers and by peer reviewed journals on China. In 2018 Professor Brown's major work on UK-China relations was dedicated to Dr Lau.

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## **Jan Knoerich, *Cross-Taiwan Strait Relations in an era of technological change: social, economic and cultural dimensions***

Co-edited with Dr Paul Irwin Crookes (University of Oxford), this book is an interdisciplinary work exploring how technological change is influencing the dynamics of relations between mainland China and Taiwan.

'Cross-strait relations are clearly a multi-dimensional phenomenon, but prior to this book, rarely did one volume address the political, economic and cultural aspects of cross-strait relations adequately, let alone with the depth found across the chapters of Cross-Taiwan Strait Relations in an Era of Technological Change.'

- Douglas B. Fuller, Professor, School of Management, Zhejiang University, China

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## **Kerry Brown, *CEO China: The Rise of Xi Jinping***

This work was chosen by Gideon Rachman of the *Financial Times* as one of his recommendations of the year, and by The Economist as one of their books of the year.

'Xi Jinping, president of China, is now undoubtedly one of the most powerful men in the world. This is the first biography of Xi in English and provides a lucid and readable account of his background, rise to power and political background.'

- Gideon Rachman, Financial Times

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## **Kerry Brown, *The Future of UK-China Relations***

To showcase the breadth and depth of the Lau China Institute expertise, we issued a book with World Scientific in October 2018 looking at the various outcomes of the 19th Party Congress held in China the previous year. This had contributions on the anti-corruption struggle, Chinese outward investment, the Belt and Road, and Chinese politics.

The book was dedicated to Dr Lau in recognition of the support he has given the Institute.

'This book is a much needed wake-up call. Post-Brexit, Britain will need to reset its relations with China. Kerry Brown has performed an important service by providing some clear thinking on the foundations necessary for the UK to devise a new range of policies for its relations with China in a much changed world.'

- Charles Parton, Royal United Services Institute







**Over £2.3 million in  
research funding  
has been awarded to  
the Institute**



**Books published from  
researchers within  
the Institute**



**Research outputs  
since 2013**



**84% of King's research  
is world-leading  
or excellent**  
*REF 2014*



**Student satisfaction for  
teaching and learning**

*Postgraduate Taught  
Experience Survey 2018*

# OUR GLOBAL REACH

*We are committed to research that has a global perspective, and to disseminating new ideas and discussions focusing on contemporary China and its impact on world affairs.*

Thanks to the continuing support of Dr Lau, the Lau China Institute continues to make a global impact through our world-leading research. We partner with a wide range of international institutions and have established an international community of researchers and students. Here are a few highlights of our global reach and events since 2013.



## 2013 Chinese Visual Festival

In June 2013, King's, in collaboration with the Lau China Institute and King's Cultural Institute hosted the Chinese Visual Festival, a leading cultural event showcasing Chinese-language creativity through films, contemporary art, music and more.

The Chinese Visual Festival presents Chinese realities to overseas audiences through imaginative conversations between moving images and art and has become an annual feature in the King's calendar. The most recent festival presented more than 16 films, almost all of which UK film premieres, Q&As and roundtable events.

## 2014 Conference: 'History and current affairs: China and East Asian maritime security'

On 4 August 2014, the Research Centre for Chinese Governance Innovation, based within the Lau China Institute jointly hosted a one-day conference with the Peking University Centre

for International Security and Peace Studies. The conference was entitled 'History and current affairs: China and East Asian maritime security'. Participants included King's academics from the Lau China Institute as well as Defence Studies and also academics and experts from a variety of UK and overseas institutions.





## 2015

### Establishment of the Joint Institute for Medical Research

An agreement was signed in July 2015 between King's and Peking University Health Science Center to establish a Joint Institute for Medical Research. This exciting and innovative partnership aimed to unlock research opportunities in cancer, cardiovascular care, dentistry and mental health, leverage the unique strengths of each university and facilitate translational research.

## 2016

### Essay competition: 'How China Will Change the World?'

Young China Watchers (YCW) is an international body which helps under-35s network and communicate better about their China interests.

In 2016, YCW and the Lau China Institute created the Lau-YCW Essay Competition. Working jointly on a 3,000 word essay amongst members, it aims to discover the newest young writers on China in the UK. The inaugural theme was focused on the future challenges of China and how these might be treated.

This competition offers a major way by which to promote the importance of study and engagement with China to a core audience.

## 2017

### Inaugural YCW and King's China Conference

In November 2017, the Institute hosted the first YCW London conference. The conference, titled 'China in 2050: The World Through Beijing's Eyes' focused on China in 2050, and was broadcast live to Asia and the US.

The half-day conference brought together leading China experts and emerging YCW on a single platform, to analyse China's medium to long-term impact on the world. The ultimate aim of the conference was to create a new platform for the next generation of China watchers, and to help foster the conversation in London about Beijing's thinking.



*Left: Yu Jie discusses China's policy-making bureaucracy*



*Below: Panel session on the economic and financial landscape of China*

## 2018

### British Association for China Studies Conference

The British Association for Chinese Studies is a non-political organisation which aims to encourage and promote Chinese studies in the UK. In September 2018, the Institute hosted the organisation's annual conference, the UK's foremost academic gathering in the field of Chinese studies. The conference was attended by over 200 scholars working across a wide variety of discipline areas, and an international group of speakers.

The three day conference consisted of over 30 separate panels, covering issues from film studies, to international relations, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Republican era, classical literature, cadre management, and colonial Hong Kong history.

Carrie Gracie, former BBC China Editor, and Jie Yang, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Simon Fraser University, gave keynote speeches.

*Below: Carrie Gracie*



## 2019

### Conference: 'China's Belt and Road Initiative: Strategic and Economic Consequences'

On 7 January 2019, the Lau China Institute hosted a conference of the Royal Society for Asian Affairs and the Wilson Center on 'China's Belt and Road Initiative: Strategic and Economic Consequences'.

The Belt and Road Initiative has major strategic implications for international relations. Recognised authorities from leading institutions in the UK, USA and China came together at this international conference to debate the significance of China's proposals, for her Asian neighbours and the wider world.

## Future plans

Throughout 2018 and 2019, the Institute was involved in events at the Royal College of Defense Studies, George Washington University and NATO. We have worked with stakeholders ranging from HSBC to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence. Our members have given talks at international events in China, North America, and Europe, covering almost 20 countries in four continents.

In 2019 and 2020 we will continue our key work in promoting to as wide an audience in the UK the importance of understanding China, and of seeking to engage more deeply with China in the coming years across all discipline areas – a task that has grown considerably in urgency because of the political uncertainties referred to as the start of this report.







# OUR EXPERTS

*The Institute's distinguished record of attracting world-leading experts to our academic community remains undiminished.*

## Professor Kerry Brown

Kerry Brown is a Professor of Chinese Studies and Director of the Lau China Institute. He is currently working on a study of the Communist Party of China as a cultural movement.

He is the author of over ten books on modern Chinese politics, history and language, including: *The New Emperors: Power and the Princelings in China* (2014); *What's Wrong with Diplomacy: The Case of the UK and China* (2015); *Berkshire Dictionary of Chinese Biography* (in Four Volumes, 2014-2015); *China's CEO: Xi Jinping* (2016); *China's World: What Does China Want* (2017).

In May 2019, Professor Brown gave a TEDx talk to the Thessaloniki TEDx event. This was on the three key aspects of China that everyone now needs to consider – its power, naval capacity, and unique set of values. Since being uploaded to YouTube, the talk has had over 180,000 views.

In June 2019, Professor Brown attended G20 in Osaka for a public outreach event for China Daily, where he addressed the issue of the profound implications of China's impact on the wider world in the 21st century.



## Dr Benjamin Barratt

Dr Ben Barratt is a Senior Lecturer in Chinese Environment. He holds a cross-faculty position within the Lau China Institute in collaboration with the Environmental Research Group in the Faculty of Life Sciences & Medicine.

Much of his research output is in collaboration with international multidisciplinary teams ranging from social science to policy development. He recently led a three-year study of vertical air pollution gradients in Hong Kong and is part of a major collaborative atmosphere and health cohort study in urban and peri-urban Beijing.

Dr Barratt's research into improving air quality exposure to traffic pollution has been published extensively in high impact journals. He has also contributed to a study protocol manuscript and will be appearing in a public engagement campaign relating to the study in Beijing in September 2019. This will highlight the role of new technology in assessing personal exposure to air pollution in China.

Dr Barratt's work supports important training of early career researchers from China, extending skills and experience gained as PhD students to fully fledged independent academic researchers. His research team currently includes four Chinese post-doctoral researchers funded through UK grants and fellowships.

Dr Barratt presented his work at several international meetings during 2018-19, including to the World Health Organization in Geneva as part of an expert consultation on risk communication.



## Dr Charlotte Goodburn

Dr Charlotte Goodburn has continued to work on comparing Chinese and Indian development, especially through a focus on urbanisation and rural-urban migration. In May 2019, she published an article in the highly-rated *Migration Studies*, comparing processes of decision-making about children's education in migrant families in Shenzhen and Mumbai, showing how significant shifts take place in family dynamics as a result of moving to the city. In July 2019, another article on the long-term implications of migration on education labour-market entry was accepted for publication in *The China Journal*, one of the globally top-ranked publications on contemporary China.

In December 2018, together with Dr Jan Knoerich, Dr Goodburn conducted field research in a Chinese-inspired Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in southern India, examining the implications of India's attempted replication of the Chinese model of SEZs for migration and development within India. This work was supported by a grant from the King's Together fund and kicked off with a project workshop at King's in the summer of 2018.

In June 2019, Dr Goodburn was invited to discuss findings from the project at the LSE, and in July she presented further findings at the International Labour Organisation's 'Regulating for Decent Work' conference in Geneva. In September 2019, she will take part in the prestigious Research Committee 21 (RC21)'s conference on Sociology of Urban and Regional Development in Delhi, as part of a session examining China's global influences on urban development. She has also recently submitted a grant application to the British Academy to extend this project by conducting field research in a further three Indian SEZs that have significant Chinese involvement.

Dr Goodburn's ongoing research comparing identity registration systems and their impacts on migrants in Beijing and Delhi, funded by the British Academy, has continued with further longitudinal fieldwork in the two capital cities. A workshop to share the results of this project with other scholars of migration and registration systems in Asia is planned to take place at King's in June 2020.

## Dr Jane Hayward

In August 2018, Dr Hayward published an op-ed in the online journal *Made in China* regarding the public controversy concerning the well-known professor at Tsinghua University Hu Angang, which was widely circulated online by experts and journalists. She published a second piece with the same journal in January 2019, concerning Chinese land reform and the question of urban-rural integration. Her article, 'The Rise of Chinese Think Tanks and the Internationalization of the State', published in the journal *Pacific Affairs* (2018), was shortlisted for the Holland Prize for most outstanding article in the journal for that year. Dr Hayward began working as a teaching fellow at the Lau China Institute in September 2018, teaching the 20-week module China and East Asia in Global Politics.

In May 2019, Dr Hayward attended a workshop at Duke-Kunshan University on Chinese urban villages, where she presented a paper entitled 'Who Makes the City? Beijing's Urban Villages as Sites of Ideological Contestation.' The workshop was in preparation for a special issue on urban villages in China, which is currently under review with the journal *Positions*. She also completed and submitted a second article on Beijing's urban villages, 'Enclosing Citizens: The Sealed Management of Beijing's Urban Villages', currently under review at the journal *Modern China*. In June 2019, her chapter 'Primitive Accumulation' was published in the edited volume *Afterlives of Chinese Communism*, published both in print (with Verso) and available to download open access online (with ANU Press).



## **Dr Jan Knoerich**

Dr Jan Knoerich lectures and conducts research on the Chinese economy, Chinese outward foreign direct investment and China's financial internationalisation. He is an expert on the Chinese economy, on foreign direct investment and international investment law and policy.

Over the past year, Dr Knoerich has published three journal articles on Renminbi Internationalisation; Chinese investments in Europe; and Chinese and emerging multinationals and international business theory and has a forthcoming article on the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.



Dr Knoerich presented and delivered papers at the International Labour Organisation in Geneva, the University of York, the Political Studies Association annual conference, the British Association of Chinese Studies annual conference and the Chinese Economic Association (Europe) Annual Conference. He also spoke on BBC World News about the Belt and Road Initiative.

Dr Knoerich taught two courses to our master's students, in Economic Policies and Development in Contemporary China and in Chinese International Investments, and chaired the Lau China Institute's PhD student seminars. Three of his PhD students passed their viva this past year.

## **Dr Konstantinos Tsimonis**

Dr Konstantinos Tsimonis is a lecturer in Chinese Studies. His research concentrates on the transformation and (partial) adaptation of Chinese political institutions since the 1980s, focusing on the Communist Party's mass organisations and anti-corruption policies. He has also collaborated on consultancy projects with civil society organisations and the private sector.

Working with Dr Igor Rogelja, Dr Tsimonis has developed a research project examining Chinese investments in Southeast Europe, funded by the British Academy and the King's Together Fund. As part of this project, they organised two workshops in Athens and Belgrade during summer 2018, to investigate the experience of civil society organisations and local communities on the impact of Chinese investment in environmental protection and industrial relations. The workshops brought together participants representing more than 20 ENGOs, unions and local communities in the region. Igor and Konstantinos also conducted fieldwork in five Balkan countries (Greece, Serbia, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Slovenia), visiting sites of Chinese invested projects, and interviewing local stakeholders.

Dr Rogelja and Dr Tsimonis also authored two articles, which are currently under review, and presented their work at the Political Studies Association Annual Conference. They have signed a contract with Agenda Publishing for a book on China's Belt and Road Initiative and have also submitted major funding applications to develop this project further.

Dr Tsimonis' ongoing research also includes two other projects. The first, is a manuscript on China's Communist Youth League that is currently under review by Amsterdam University Press. Over the last year, Konstantinos presented his work on the Communist Youth League in three conferences in Copenhagen, Glasgow and Bruxelles. The second project is an assessment of corruption risks and anticorruption measures in China's Defence establishment for Transparency International Defence Corruption Index. Dr Tsimonis also co-organised a conference at King's on Anticorruption in the BRICS countries (October 18–20, 2018) with colleagues from the Russia and Brazil Institutes.





# THANK YOU

*On behalf of everyone at King's, we would like to sincerely thank Dr Ming-Wai Lau for his exceptional generosity in establishing the Lau China Institute.*

The Institute has accomplished a remarkable amount over the past seven years. It has established itself as a vibrant centre for global engagement with contemporary China and continues to play an increasingly influential role in addressing some of the most pressing global challenges for leaders and policy makers. We foster important links between the UK and China in the fields of academia, government, science, business and the arts and will continue to do so in the years to come.

Thank you once again for the generosity and continued commitment you have shown towards King's College London.









## Contact

If you have any questions, please contact:

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