ACRI Annual Report
2016-17
### Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>About us</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our people</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Committee</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory Board</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairman's Council</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute operating principles</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research reports</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioned research reports</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference papers</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fact sheets</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Events</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia-based events</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China-based events</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Media</strong></td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opinion pieces</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New initiatives</strong></td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ACRI Podcast</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact</strong></td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Whilst this annual report provides an overview of ACRI activities in the financial year 2016-17, all subsequent annual reports will be based on a calendar year overview.*
About us

Overview

In 2014, the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) established the Australia-China Relations Institute (ACRI) as an independent, non-partisan think tank to illuminate the Australia-China relationship. ACRI was formally launched by Australian Foreign Minister the Hon Julie Bishop.

Chinese studies centres exist in other universities. ACRI, however, is the first think tank devoted to the study of the relationship of these two countries.

The Prime Minister who opened diplomatic relations with China, Gough Whitlam, wrote in 1973: ‘We seek a relationship with China based on friendship, cooperation and mutual trust, comparable with that which we have, or seek, with other major powers.’ This spirit was captured by the 2014 commitments by both countries to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the 2015 signing of a Free Trade Agreement.

Since its establishment, ACRI has been building an energetic platform that includes:

- research papers from academics;
- a rich calendar of events;
- a flow of fact sheets and briefings;
- sponsorship of visits to Australia by overseas policymakers and experts;
- public analysis in the media from the Director, Deputy Director and other staff;
- collaboration with think tanks and universities in Australia and around the world; and
- polling of Australian and Chinese public opinion.

ACRI was ranked one of the best think tanks in Southeast Asia and the Pacific in the University of Pennsylvania’s 2016 Global Go To Think Tank Index. Amongst the 12 Australian think tanks catalogued in the category, ACRI ranked 5th out of 12. The Index also ranked ACRI one of the world’s best university-affiliated think tanks, and one of the world’s best regional studies centres (university-affiliated).
Our people

Bob Carr
Director and Professor in International Relations

James Laurenceson
Deputy Director and Professor

Xunpeng Shi
Principal Research Fellow

Janice Febbraio
Head of Strategic Partnerships

Elena Collinson
Senior Project and Research Officer

Daniel Bolger
Public Programs Manager

Ming Liang
Institute Officer

Simone van Nieuwenhuizen
Project and Research Support Officer
Management Committee

ACRI’s Management Committee monitors the Institute’s activities and performance, and approves the budget and strategic direction of ACRI’s research and other programs. The Management Committee is headed by UTS Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Advancement) Professor William Purcell and comprises Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Glenn Wightwick; Vice President, Global Partnerships and Director, UTS International Leo Mian Liu; ACRI Director Professor the Hon Bob Carr; ACRI Deputy Director Professor James Laurenceson; and UTS Law Faculty Associate Professor and Director of Courses Colin Hawes.

Advisory Board

ACRI established its Advisory Board in late 2016.

The role of the ACRI Advisory Board is to provide advice for the ACRI Management Committee’s consideration.

Members of the Advisory Board are appointed by the Director for a three-year term in the first instance with the possibility of extension. Invitations to join the Advisory Board are extended to a select group of internationally renowned academics, senior diplomats and thought leaders who have expertise and influence in their professions.

Advisory Board recruitment is still ongoing.

Current Advisory Board members are:

Chair

- The Hon Philip Ruddock, Special Envoy to the Prime Minister for Human Rights

Members

- Professor the Hon Bob Carr, Director, Australia-China Relations Institute, University of Technology Sydney
- Mr Edmund Capon AM OBE, Adjunct Professor, University of Technology Sydney
- Professor Jocelyn Chey AM, Australia-China Institute for Arts and Culture, Western Sydney University
- Mr John Denton, Managing Partner, Corrs Chambers Westgarth
- Mr Stuart Fuller, Partner, King & Wood Mallesons
- Dr Jane Golley, Deputy Director, Australian Centre on China in the World, Australian National University
- Mr Joseph Law, General Manager, Listings, Sydney Stock Exchange
- Mr Leo Mian Liu, Vice President, Global Partnerships and Director, UTS International, University of Technology Sydney
- Mr Warren Mundine AO, Chairman & Managing Director, Nyungga Black Group
• Mr Henry Ngai, Managing Director, ABC Tissue Products Pty Ltd
• Mr Ian Robertson, Managing Partner, Holding Redlich
• Mr James White, Portfolio Manager, Global Opportunities Fund, Colonial First State Global Asset Management
• Dr Jingdong Yuan, Associate Professor, Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney
Chairman’s Council

The Chairman’s Council was established by ACRI to create a network of support and engagement from industry leaders.

In addition to delivering monthly China economic updates, ACRI also hosts boardroom briefings for members of the Chairman’s Council. These meetings are designed to discuss and debate key topics of importance in the Australia-China relationship. Guest speakers include government leaders, senior corporate executives and academic scholars. Boardroom briefings have covered topics such as:

- The US-China relationship;
- One Belt One Road;
- China’s economic rebalancing; and
- Trump, China and the international climate.

Chairman’s Council members include:

- 3A Investments
- Australian Turf Club
- Bank of China
- BHP Billiton
- Bloomberg
- BlueMount Capital
- China Construction Bank
- Corrs Chambers Westgarth
- Crown Resorts
- Deloitte
- EG Funds
- Holding Redlich
- HSBC
- King & Wood Mallesons
- KPMG
- Macquarie Group
- PwC
- Star Entertainment
• Qantas
• Yuhu Group
• Zhiwei Group
Institute operating principles

ACRI is a UTS entity providing rigorous and independent scholarly research and evidence-based analysis of the highest quality to key stakeholders in the Australia-China relationship, including the Australian public.

The Institute’s day to day activities and the strategic actions of the Management Committee are bound by UTS policies and procedures relating to academic integrity, independence and transparency. Key UTS policy instruments relating to the work of the Institute include:

- Authorship Vice-Chancellor’s Directive;
- Code of Conduct;
- Expression and Practice of Religious, Political and Other Values, Beliefs and Ideas at UTS;
- External relations;
- Gifts and Benefits;
- Invitations and Dignitaries; and
- Research (Ethical and Responsible Conduct of).

These policies are available online at http://www.gsu.uts.edu.au/policies/index-a-z.html.
Funding

Note: UTS Finance reporting operates on a calendar year schedule. As such, this section refers to funding for the calendar year 2016. All other sections in the annual report refer to financial year 2016-17.

2015 rollover $92,541

Six percent of ACRI’s funding in 2016 was derived from the rollover from ACRI’s 2015 budget.

UTS contributions $416,086

Twenty-five percent of ACRI’s funding in 2016 was derived from contributions by the University of Technology Sydney. The university announced increased funding for ACRI in December 2016.

Corporate contributions $535,000

Thirty-three percent of ACRI’s funding in 2016 was derived from corporate contributions received from Australian Turf Club, BlueMount Capital, Bank of China, China Construction Bank, Corrs, Crown Resorts, Deloitte, EG Funds, Holding Redlich, HSBC, KPMG, King & Wood Mallesons, NAB and Star Entertainment.

ACRI start-up funding $588,000

Thirty-six percent of ACRI’s total funding in 2016 was derived from a philanthropic gift received from Mr Xiangmo Huang, Chairman of the Yuhu Group, to support ACRI in ACRI’s start-up phase. The $1.8 million donation from Mr Huang was announced in December 2013. Payments were made over three years from 2014 to 2016 totalling $588,000 per year. The start-up funding payments ended in 2016.

Total income $1,631,627
Research

Overview

In 2016-17 ACRI’s research output included academic articles, research reports, conference working papers and fact sheets.

ACRI researchers have also been speakers at high profile public forums in Australia and overseas. For example, in March 2017 both ACRI Director Professor Bob Carr and Deputy Director Professor James Laurenceson made presentations at the Boao Forum for Asia.

Scholars with whom ACRI collaborated include:

- Wanning Sun (Professor of Media and Communications, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Technology Sydney);
- Colin Hawes (Associate Professor and Director of Courses, Law Faculty, University of Technology Sydney); and
- Colin Brown (Associate Professor in agricultural and resource economics, School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, University of Queensland), Brooke Edwards (analyst, Sugar Research Australia), John Longworth (Emeritus Professor, School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, University of Queensland), Scott Waldron (Senior Research Fellow, School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, University of Queensland).

2016-17 also saw the introduction of ACRI’s research internship program. Four young scholars – Marilyn Pan, Cecilia Ren, Svetlana Zarkovic and Ange Ou – have now participated.

In December 2016, ACRI welcomed a new Principal Research Fellow, Dr Xunpeng Shi, an energy economist with a strong international reputation. Previously, Dr Shi was based at the National University of Singapore. Dr Shi holds a PhD from the Australian National University, and brings a specialised knowledge of East Asian gas and coal markets, both of which Australia is a major supplier.
Articles


Research reports

Commissioned research reports


Sun, W. *Chinese language media in Australia: developments, challenges and opportunities*. Australia-China Relations Institute, Sydney, September 2016.


Conference papers


Xu, Q. and Shi, X. 'The potential of energy cooperation between China and Australia under the B&R framework', presented at Australian National University - Renmin University of China Joint Conference: The Belt and Road Initiative and the Future of the Australia-China Economic Relationship, Australian National University, Canberra, April 20 2017.


Fact sheets


Bretherton, H. *Permanent Court of Arbitration Decision on the South China Sea*, July 14 2016.


van Nieuwenhuizen, S. *Premier Li Keqiang’s Australia visit*, April 5 2017.


Events

Overview

In 2016-17 ACRI held 15 events in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Beijing and Shanghai.

Highlights included an international conference on the South China Sea at UTS in February 2017, in collaboration with one of Singapore’s leading think-tanks, the Centre on Asia and Globalisation (CAG) at the National University of Singapore’s Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. In August 2016, ACRI hosted former Prime Minister Paul Keating at the Great Hall at UTS, where senior broadcaster Kerry O’Brien interviewed him in the fourth instalment of ACRI’s 'Prime Ministers Series', devoted to the China policies of former Australian Prime Ministers. In June 2017 ACRI and the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC) co-hosted the inaugural Australia-China Annual Think Tank Economic Dialogue in Beijing and Shanghai.

2016 also saw the introduction of ACRI’s events internship program. The first participant was UTS student Charlotte Lian.

Australia-based events

The Chinese concept of ‘face’: What it means for Australian business and government, August 10 2016, Holding Redlich (Melbourne)

ACRI hosted a seminar on the Chinese concept of ‘face’ with Dr Carl Hinze, partner at Holding Redlich law firm. Dr Hinze is the author of a PhD thesis on mianzi and lian (the Chinese concepts of ‘face’).

ACRI Prime Ministers Series: Keating and China, August 30 2016, UTS Great Hall (Sydney)

Paul Keating, Australia’s Prime Minister from December 1991 to March 1996, discussed his time in office dealing with China, and Australia’s relationship with China today, with eminent broadcast journalist Kerry O’Brien.

Innovation and China, October 24 2016, UTS Business School (Sydney)

Professor Bruce McKern, Visiting Professor of International Business at the China Europe International Business School and former Co-Director of the CEIBS Centre on China Innovation, gave a presentation on the development of China's innovation ecosystem and its implications for the rest of the world.

Trump and China, November 15 2016, Bloomberg Auditorium (Sydney)

ACRI hosted a panel discussion on what a Trump presidency would mean for Australia and its relationships with both the US and China. ACRI Director Professor Bob Carr moderated a discussion with Associate Professor Jingdong Yuan from the Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney; Tom Switzer, Senior
South China Sea: What next?, November 23 2016, National Library of Australia (Canberra)

In light of a new President of the Philippines, an arbitral ruling and a new US administration soon to take office, ACRI hosted a panel discussion on where stands the tension over competing claims in the South China Sea. ACRI Director Professor Bob Carr moderated a discussion with Hugh White, Professor of Strategic Studies at the School of International, Political & Strategic Studies, Australian National University; Greg Austin Professor, Australian Centre for Cyber Security, University of New South Wales Canberra; and Allan Gyngell, Visiting Fellow at the National Security College and Adjunct Professor at the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University.

Chinese media in Australia, November 24 2016, UTS Moot Court (Sydney)

In September 2016, ACRI published a commissioned a report on Chinese-language media in Australia by Professor Wanning Sun, Professor of Media and Communication Studies at UTS.

This event featured a follow-up panel discussion on this report, moderated by ACRI Director Professor Bob Carr. The panellists were Professor Wanning Sun; Professor John Fitzgerald, Director of the CSI Swinburne Program for Asia-Pacific Social Investment and Philanthropy, Swinburne University of Technology; Kelsey Munro, Senior Journalist at The Sydney Morning Herald; and Martin Ma, Editor of Sydney Today.

CAG-ACRI South China Sea Conference, February 10-11 2017, UTS Business School (Sydney)

ACRI held an international conference on the South China Sea in collaboration with the Centre on Asia and Globalisation (CAG) at the National University of Singapore’s Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. The conference focused on the position and policies of major user-states in the South China Sea. It featured scholars from the US, Russia and Europe, as well as from Australia and Asian nations.

Myth-busting Chinese corporations in Australia, March 7 2017, UTS Moot Court (Sydney)

Dr Colin Hawes, Associate Professor and Director of Courses in the Law Faculty at UTS, gave a presentation on the myths associated with major private and state-controlled Chinese corporations in Australia. Dr Hawes' presentation was based on his report on the subject for ACRI, published on March 2 2017.

China's energy sector dynamics and implications for Australia, March 14 2017, UTS ACRI (Sydney)

ACRI’s Principal Research Fellow Dr Xunpeng Shi discussed the complexities of the Chinese energy market and its implications for Australia’s growth prospects. Dr Shi provided an overview of Chinese energy production, consumption and policy reforms, and examined the emerging development of China’s energy sector, particularly the policies and initiatives in coal and natural gas.
Recent histories of the Chinese in Australia: New ideas and new directions,  
April 6 2017, UTS ACRI (Sydney)

ACRI presented a seminar on Chinese historiography in Australia in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at UTS. ACRI Director Professor Bob Carr moderated a discussion with Chinese history scholars Dr Sophie Loy-Wilson, University of Sydney; Professor Wanning Sun, UTS; Dr Michael Williams, Western Sydney University; and Professor Kam Louie, University of New South Wales.

Australia-China journalist exchange, April 24 2017, William Roberts Lawyers (Sydney)

ACRI and the Asia Pacific Journalism Centre (APJC) hosted a roundtable of senior journalists from Australia and China in Sydney. The roundtable explored current trends in media in both markets and the challenges facing new media entrants in 2017, and canvassed perspectives on Australia-China relations. The session was moderated by Jim Middleton, senior business correspondent, Sky News.

Advice to Australian business: China is still the main game, May 10 2017,  
King & Wood Mallesons (Sydney)

ACRI hosted an in-depth panel discussion to assess current economic data from China. After giving a short presentation, ACRI Deputy Director Professor James Laurenceson joined panellists Stuart Fuller, Partner at King & Wood Mallesons, and Andrew Parker, Partner and Asia Practice Leader at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to explore China's current economic prospects and what it might mean for Australia. The panel was moderated by Jim Middleton, senior business correspondent, Sky News.

ACRI/Urban Taskforce industry breakfast: Learning from Asian cities, June 29 2017, Establishment Ballroom (Sydney)

ACRI and Urban Taskforce Australia co-hosted their second annual property industry breakfast. The breakfast featured a panel discussion with Chris Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of Urban Taskforce Australia; David Chin, Managing Director of Basis Point; Guotao Hu, CEO, Country Garden Australia; and Laraine Sperling, Director of SBM. The discussion was moderated by ACRI Director Bob Carr.
China-based events

Australia-China Annual Think Tank Economic Dialogue, June 18-19 2017 (Beijing)

Senior economists, policy specialists, business representatives and diplomats from Australia and China gathered in Beijing and Shanghai for the inaugural Australia-China Annual Think Tank Economic Dialogue, co-hosted by ACRI and the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC). The aim of the Economic Dialogue was to foster dialogue and promote discussion about the current state and future development of China-Australia trade and economic relations.

Sessions included: ‘The China-Australia Free Trade Agreement and the potential upgrade of bilateral trade institutions’; ‘The foreign capital entry and negative list system, and promoting the sustainable development of investment relations between China and Australia’; and ‘The Belt and Road Initiative, Australia’s development strategies, and promoting the sustainable development of the Asia Pacific economy’.

UTS Partner Day, December 9 2016, Grand Hyatt Hotel (Beijing)

The inaugural UTS China Partner Day was held in Beijing on December 9 2016. As part of the program, ACRI hosted a plenary discussion of current trends in the Australia-China relationship. The panellists were Professor Bob Carr, Director of ACRI; Mr Andrew Robb, Former Trade Minister; Ms Jan Adams, Ambassador of Australia to the People’s Republic of China; and Ms Madam Zhao Hong, Vice President of Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation of China’s Ministry of Commerce.

Journalist study tours to China

ACRI has conducted four study tours to China for Australian journalists. The objective of these study tours is to enhance knowledge of China, and deepen the appreciation of the economic transition taking place in China and the challenges and opportunities these present for Australia.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Cities visited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 17 – 28 2016</td>
<td>Beijing, Tianjin, Chengdu, Shenzhen, Guangzhou</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 15 – 20 2016</td>
<td>Guangzhou, Shenzhen</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 26 – April 1 2017</td>
<td>Beijing, Ningxia</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16 – 28 2017</td>
<td>Beijing, Wuhan, Chongqing, Hangzhou, Shanghai</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Professor Bob Carr, Director, ACRI; Dr Colin Hawes, Associate Professor and Director of Courses, UTS Law Faculty, and Professor Lesley Hitchens, Dean, UTS Law Faculty at the launch of ‘Myth-busting Chinese corporations in Australia’, March 7 2017

Former Australian Prime Minister The Hon Paul Keating in conversation with broadcaster Kerry O’Brien, ACRI Prime Ministers Series, August 30 2016

Professor Kam Louie, University of New South Wales; Dr Sophie Loy-Wilson, University of Sydney; Professor Bob Carr, Director, ACRI; Professor Wanning Sun, UTS; and Dr Michael Williams, Western Sydney University at ‘Recent histories of the Chinese in Australia: New ideas and directions’, April 6 2017

Professor Evelyn Goh, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University; Dr Qing Liu, Asian Pacific Department, China Institute of International Studies; Dr Mira Rapp-Hooper, Centre for a New American Security; and Professor Bob Carr, Director, ACRI on the opening panel of the Centre on Asia and Globalisation-ACRI South China Sea Conference, February 10 2017

Professor Bob Carr, Director, ACRI; Kelsey Munro, senior journalist, Sydney Morning Herald; Professor John Fitzgerald, Swinburne University of Technology; Professor Wanning Sun, UTS; and Martin Ma, Editor, Sydney Today, on the panel of ‘Chinese Media in Australia’, November 24 2016

Hugh White, Professor of Strategic Studies, Australian National University; Allan Gyngell, Adjunct Professor, Australian National University; and Professor Greg Austin, University of New South Wales on the panel of ‘South China Sea: What next?’, November 23 2016

Delegates at the Australia-China Annual Think Tank Economic Dialogue, Beijing, June 18 2017

Professor Bob Carr, Director, ACRI; Madam Zhao Hong, Vice President of Chinese Academy of Trade and Economic Cooperation; HE Jan Adams, Ambassador of Australia to the People’s Republic of China; and former Australian Trade Minister Andrew Robb at the UTS Partner Day, Beijing, December 9 2016
Media

Overview

In 2016-17, ACRI researchers continued to contribute to analysis of Australia-China relations in the media. ACRI experts were asked to provide comment by a range of domestic and international media outlets.

ACRI experts were regular contributors to a range of publications, both in Australia and overseas. The list of published articles appears below.

Opinion pieces


Carr, B. ‘Australia needs a think tank that sees hope in partnership with China’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, September 11 2016.


Carr, B. ‘Just in case, Australia must have Trump’s ear’, *The Australian*, October 8 2016.


Laurenceson, J. ‘Private property developers are really driving China’s debt: new research’, *The Conversation*, October 28 2016.


Carr, B. ‘Donald Trump is finding new enemies where he should be seeing allies’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, December 7 2016.

Laurenceson, J. ‘Xi Jinping may be preaching trade, but China’s opening up has slowed’, *The Conversation*, January 18 2017.


Collinson, E. ‘Asia has opted for diplomacy on sea disputes’, *South China Morning Post*, February 7 2017.


Carr, B. ‘Canberra’s sensible South China Sea stand is contingent on continued pragmatism in Beijing’, *The Australian*, March 18 2017.


Laurenceson, J. ‘Will Australia follow the Belt and Road?’, *East Asia Forum*, May 14 2017.

Laurenceson, J. and Shi, X. ‘Why is Australia dragging its feet on China’s Belt and Road?’, *The Diplomat*, May 19 2017.

Laurenceson, J. and Collinson, E. ‘Belt and Road will go ahead with or without Australia’, *The Interpreter*, May 22 2017.

Carr, B. ‘If Australia listened to our hawks on China, we’d have been hung out to dry’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, May 23 2017.


New initiatives

The ACRI Podcast

In February 2017 ACRI developed a strategy to introduce a podcast series focusing on a range of areas pertinent to the Australia-China relationship, including economics, business, foreign policy, domestic politics, history and culture. While audio recordings of ACRI events are available online, the podcast will be a stand-alone fortnightly series available through iTunes and SoundCloud. Guests will include Australian and international academics and experts, authors, journalists and other commentators and analysts of China and Australia-China relations. ACRI aims to publish the first episode of this podcast series in mid-to late July 2017.
Contact

Australia-China Relations Institute
University of Technology Sydney
PO Box 123
Broadway NSW 2007
Australia

E: acri@uts.edu.au
P: (02) 9514 8953
W: australiachinarelations.org
Twitter: @acri_uts