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About us

Overview

Established by the University of Technology Sydney in 2014, ACRI is an independent, non-partisan think tank tasked to illuminate the Australia-China relationship.

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.

For over three years, 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.
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 Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Charles Rice; 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 2016.

The role of the Advisory Board is to provide strategic 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.

Advisory Board members are:

Chair
- The Hon Philip Ruddock, Chair of the Expert Panel to examine Religious Freedom in Australia

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 comprises Chief Executives, Chairmen or senior executives of industry. Membership is by invitation only.

On at least four occasions a year its members are invited for privileged boardroom briefings from senior business leaders, diplomats and political leaders and academics on aspects of the Australia-China relationship. Members of the Chairman’s Council also receive monthly economic updates.

The Chairman’s Council does not provide strategic direction and does not shape or supervise ACRI’s academic activities and academic pursuits.

Chairman’s Council members include:

- 3A Investments
- Bank of China
- Bloomberg
- BlueMount Capital
- China Construction Bank
- Corrs Chambers Westgarth
- Crown Resorts
- Deloitte
- EG Funds
- Holding Redlich
- HSBC
- King & Wood Mallesons
- Macquarie Group
- PwC
- Star Entertainment
- Qantas
- Yancoal
Institute’s 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 and Members 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

UTS contributions $1,305,000

Seventy-one percent of ACRI's funding in 2017 was derived from contributions by the University of Technology Sydney.

Corporate donations $537,500

Twenty-nine percent of ACRI’s funding in 2017 was derived from corporate donations received from Qantas, Star Entertainment, Macquarie Group, King & Wood Mallesons, Bank of China, Deloitte, China Construction Bank, Crown Resorts, Guantao Law Firm, Holding Redlich, HSBC, PwC, Sydney Stock Exchange, Yancoal, Mr Andy Wong and EG Funds.

Total income $1,842,500
Research

Overview

ACRI research aims to make an academic contribution as well as inform public policy and raise awareness and understanding of Australia-China relations amongst the general public. Traditional academic output such as scholarly journal articles have been complemented by a flow of research reports that explore unfolding developments, such as Australia’s options for engaging with China’s Belt and Road Initiative, and fact sheets that have covered Australia and the South China Sea, the NSW-China economic relationship, Chinese investment in Australian agriculture, the behaviour of Chinese students enrolled at Australian universities, and Australian students in China, among other issues.

Articles


**Research reports**


**Commissioned research reports**

Conference papers


Laurenceson, J., Burke, P. and Wei, E. ‘Does the Australian media influence public opinion towards Chinese investment?’, presented at 29th Annual Conference of the Chinese Economics Society of Australia, University of Western Australia, Perth, July 12-14 2017.


Fact sheets


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


Events

Overview

In 2017, ACRI held 21 events in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Beijing and Shanghai.

ACRI welcomed a range of speakers including Xie Tao, Professor of Political Science at the School of English and International Studies, Beijing Foreign Studies University; Jayne Persian, Lecturer in History at the University of Southern Queensland; James Reilly, Associate Professor in Northeast Asian Politics, Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney; Pulitzer Prize-winning author Mei Fong; Colin Mackerras, Professor Emeritus, Griffith University; and Professor Gordon Houlden, Director of the China Institute at the University of Alberta, Canada.

Other events included an international conference on the South China Sea held at UTS 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 (February) and the inaugural Australia-China Annual Think Tank Economic Dialogue in Beijing and Shanghai, co-hosted with the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation (CAITEC) in July.

Australia-based events

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 in-depth 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 of Country Garden Australia; and Laraine Sperling, Director of SBM. The discussion was moderated by ACRI Director Bob Carr.

China’s economic clout and economic diplomacy, July 18 2017, UTS Business School (Sydney)

James Reilly, Associate Professor in Northeast Asian Politics, Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney gave a speech on the complexities and challenges of China’s current policy settings. His presentation was based on his forthcoming book China’s Economic Statecraft in Asia and Europe.

The future of Australia’s gas and LNG export market: An East Asian perspective, July 26 2017, UTS ACRI (Sydney)

ACRI presented an in-depth panel discussion on the future of our LNG trade in East Asia. ACRI Principal Research Fellow Xunpeng Shi was joined by Peter Hartley, George and Cynthia Mitchell Professor of Economics, Rice University, and Ms Fiona Poynter VP LNG, Asia-Pacific, Argus Media to discuss changes to the structure of Australia’s LNG markets and the implications for both Australian exporters following the
In conversation: Mei Fong, One Child, August 1 2017, Powerhouse Museum (Sydney)

ACRI welcomed Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Mei Fong to give an overview of her book, One Child (Bloomsbury, 2017). Ms Fong spoke of the history, enforcement and lasting effects of the one child policy, including its contribution to China’s gender imbalance and ageing population. The discussion was facilitated by former chief political correspondent for SBS Television Catherine McGrath.

Political trends in China, August 16 2017, UTS Business School (Sydney)

Dr Xie Tao, Professor of Political Science at the School of English and International Studies, Beijing Foreign Studies University, gave a presentation on current political trends in China and how they may shape the Australia-China relationship. He also discussed the US-China relationship.

Recent developments in China’s economy, August 18 2017, UTS ACRI (Sydney)

ACRI hosted a roundtable on recent developments in China’s economy, with visiting scholars presenting papers on their current research topics including the quality of China’s product exports, the soon to be released nation-wide carbon emissions trading scheme and recent overseas direct investment regulations in China. ACRI Principal Research Fellow Xunpeng Shi was joined by Dr Liu Yan, Associate Professor and Vice Dean of the Department of International Economics and Trade, School of International Business, Dalian Minzu University; Dr Wang Ke, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Engineering Management, School of Management and Economics, Beijing Institute of Technology; and Diane Hu, Assistant Professor at the School of English and International Studies, Beijing Foreign Studies University.

ACRI Chinese History Series: The Chinese and the White Australia policy, September 13 2017, UTS ACRI (Sydney)

ACRI presented a seminar on the Chinese and the White Australia policy. Dr Jayne Persian from the University of Southern Queensland joined Professor Heather Goodall from UTS and Daphne Lowe Kelley from the Chinese Australian Historical Society to discuss the White Australia policy in Australian politics, and in particular her research on Arthur Calwell. The discussion was moderated by ACRI Director Bob Carr.

ACRI emerging leaders networking evening, September 20 2017, NSW Parliament House (Sydney)

ACRI held its inaugural emerging leaders networking evening at NSW Parliament House. Young professionals interested in the Australia-China space were able to meet their peers and learn from their insights. ACRI Director Professor Bob Carr gave a presentation on the work of ACRI and the latest developments in Australia-China relations.
Robert Macklin – *Dragon and Kangaroo*, October 11 2017, Holding Redlich (Sydney)


**Australia-China relations in 2017 – Colin Mackerras in conversation, October 19 2017, UTS Business School (Sydney)**

ACRI welcomed Professor Colin Mackerras to speak on contemporary developments in Australia-China relations. Mr Mackerras, Emeritus Professor, Griffith University and Distinguished Visiting Fellow in the Department of Chinese Studies at the University of Sydney, provided an overview of his book *Western Perspectives on the People’s Republic of China* (World Scientific, 2015) and offered insights into the contemporary state of Australia-China relations, including the challenges the bilateral relationship is facing. Following his presentation, Professor Mackerras was interviewed by ACRI Director Professor Bob Carr.

**Australia-China Dialogue: Intellectual Property (IP) Protection and Border Enforcement, October 31 2017, Moot Court, UTS (Sydney)**

ACRI and the China Law Research Group in the University of Technology Sydney Faculty of Law co-hosted the second annual Chinese-Australian Dialogue on Intellectual Property (IP) Protection and Border Enforcement. A leading group of Chinese and Australian IP legal experts discussed a range of issues and potential policy solutions relating to cross-border enforcement of IP rights between China and Australia.

**China relations: How Canada does it, November 13, 2017, UTS Business School (Sydney)**

Canadian scholar Professor Gordon Houlden, Director of the China Institute at the University of Alberta, gave a speech on the how Canada is managing its relationship with China in light of the potential deterioration in the US-China relationship, and what lessons are there for liberal democracies such as Australia. Following his presentation, Professor Houlden was interviewed by ACRI Director Professor Bob Carr.

**Innovation and environmental sustainability in China, November 21 2017, UTS Business School (Sydney)**

ACRI welcomed John Mathews, leading scholar on the greening of capitalism and Professor of Strategy at Macquarie Graduate School of Management, Macquarie University, to speak on the role China and East Asia are playing in the global transition to renewables. Professor Mathews referred extensively to his new book *Global Green Shift* (Anthem Press 2017). He was interviewed after his presentation by Adjunct Professor Bruce McKern from the UTS Business School.
Robert Macklin – *Dragon & Kangaroo*, November 28 2017, Holding Redlich (Melbourne)

Following a successful launch in Sydney, ACRI hosted Robert Macklin in Melbourne to discuss his book, *Dragon & Kangaroo* (Hachette, 2017). Mr Macklin outlined the overall themes of the book, tracing Australia and China’s shared history back to before the arrival of Captain Cook, right through to the present day. The discussion was moderated by ACRI Director Professor 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 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.

**Journalist study tours to China**

ACRI conducted three study tours to China for Australian journalists in 2017. The objective of these study tours is to enhance the 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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<td>March 26 – April 1 2017</td>
<td>Beijing, Ningxia</td>
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<td>May 16 – 28 2017</td>
<td>Beijing, Wuhan, Chongqing, Hangzhou, Shanghai</td>
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<td>July 31 – August 5 2017</td>
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Professor Kam Louie, University of New South Wales; Dr Sophie Loy-Wilson, University of Sydney; Professor Bob Carr, ACRI, Professor Wanning Sun, UTS; and Dr Michael Williams, Western Sydney University at ‘Recent histories of the Chinese in Australia: New ideas and new directions’, April 6 2017

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

Professor John Mathews, Macquarie Graduate School of Management; and Professor Bruce McKern, Adjunct Professor, UTS Business School at ‘Innovation and environmental sustainability in China’, November 21 2017

Mei Fong, journalist and author; and Catherine McGrath, former chief political correspondent for SBS Television, ‘In conversation: Mei Fong, ‘One Child’, August 1 2017

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

Dr James Reilly, University of Sydney at ‘China’s economic clout and economic diplomacy’, July 18 2017

Dr Jayne Persian, University of Southern Queensland; Professor Heather Goodall, UTS; and Daphne Lowe Kelley, Chinese Australian Historical Society at the ‘ACRI Chinese History Series: The Chinese and the White Australia policy’, September 13 2017

Colin Mackerras, Emeritus Professor, Griffith University at ‘Colin Mackerras in conversation’, October 19 2017
Media

Overview

In 2017, 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 scholars were regular contributors to a wide range of publications, both in Australia and overseas.

The list of published articles appears below.

Opinion pieces

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

Laurenceson, J., 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.


Laurenceson, J. ‘Who is Australia’s most important economic partner?: The case for China’, United States Studies Centre, *Debate Papers: Who is Australia’s most important economic partner?*, August 29 2017.


Carr, B. ‘Why has Australia declared rhetorical war on China?’ *South China Morning Post*, September 22 2017.


Laurenceson, J. ‘The risk we take when we panic about China’s rise’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, November 8 2017.


Laurenceson, J. ‘Foreign policy: rising China as rule-taker or rule maker?’, *Australian Outlook*, November 29 2017.

van Nieuwenhuizen, S. ‘Students of Mandarin: Dare to take the plunge’, *China Matters Young Professional Stance*, December 1 2017.

Carr, B. ‘Seven steps to tame fears over China’, The Australian, December 12 2017.
The ACRI Podcast

Overview

Since July 2017 ACRI has produced 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. The podcast is a stand-alone fortnightly series available through SoundCloud, iTunes and on the ACRI website. Guests have included Mei Fong, Pulitzer prize-winning author of _One Child_ (Bloomsbury, 2017); Jane Golley, Deputy Director, Australian Centre on China in the World, Australian National University; Xie Tao, Professor of Political Science, School of English and International Studies, Beijing Foreign Studies University; and Colin Mackerras, Emeritus Professor, Griffith University.

Episodes

- **Australia’s LNG export outlook**, with Xunpeng Shi, Principal Research Fellow, Australia-China Relations Institute (ACRI), University of Technology Sydney Australian, July 21 2017.

- **China’s one child policy** with Mei Fong, journalist and author, _One Child_ (Bloomsbury, 2017), August 2 2017.

- **China’s Belt and Road Initiative, Geoconomics and Australia-China relations** with Jane Golley, Deputy Director, Australian Centre on China in the World, Australian National University, August 10 2017.

- **US-China relations and East Asian politics** with Xie Tao, Professor of Political Science, School of English and International Studies, Beijing Foreign Studies University, August 18 2017.

- **Australian business in China: A view from the trenches** with Udo Doring, Chief Executive Officer, AustCham Shanghai, September 1 2017.

- **China’s new Maoists** with Simone van Nieuwenhuizen, Project and Research Officer, Australia-China Relations Institute (ACRI), University of Technology Sydney, September 8 2017.

- **Chinese students in Australia** with Wanning Sun, Professor of Media and Communication Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Technology Sydney, September 14 2017.

- **The White Australia policy, Arthur Calwell and immigration via the China route** with Jayne Persian, Lecturer in History, University of Southern Queensland, September 21 2017.

- **Chinese investment in Australia** with Li Wei, Lecturer in International Business, University of Sydney Business School, September 28 2017.

The future of Australia-China relations with Colin Mackerras, Emeritus Professor, Griffith University, October 30 2017.

China policy in Canada and Australia with Gordon Houldest, Professor of Political Science and Director of the China Institute, University of Alberta, Canada, November 16 2017.

China's role in the global green shift with John Mathews, Professor of Strategy, Macquarie Graduate School of Management, November 30 2017.

Developments in China’s legal system with Colin Hawes, Associate Professor and Director of Courses, Law Faculty, University of Technology Sydney, December 14 2017.

The episodes are available on the ACRI website: [http://www.australiachinarelations.org/podcast](http://www.australiachinarelations.org/podcast)
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