CALL FOR PAPERS

45.2 (December 2012) China

Articles which deepen understandings of governmental dynamics in diplomatic, economic, political, media and cultural exchanges with, and within China, are invited for a special issue of Communication, Politics & Culture, to be edited by Mary Griffiths and Ying Jiang (University of Adelaide) with YounMin Park (University of Korea).

China’s size, power and rapid economic growth help to define, in no small measure, the nature of its internal dynamics, and its political, social and cultural relations with other states, nations and populations. Predicted to be the largest economy and global trader by 2030, in 2010 it had already replaced Japan in second place to the US. ‘New’ China’s unprecedented rate of urbanization; development of model cities, trade expos and arts/media precincts; its new high-tech industry and knowledge parks; the greater autonomy of its media; and its citizens’ greater levels of personal wealth and consumption rates are indicative of the contemporary dynamism, drive and focus of its cities. Internally, entrepreneurial activity and government-regulated initiatives are driving innovation and change. Media coverage of successes accompanies reportage of the arrival of social trends such as stronger individualism, a greater reluctance to bow to authority, and a developing social acceptence of difference in an affluent and sometimes foreign-educated middle class. Governing China is challenging for a state in transition.

Understanding China, and governing relations with China, is equally challenging. New Chinese diplomacy reaches out on a global scale to other nations in an attempt to redefine former perceptions of political ideologies and traditional values. China has addressed human rights concerns and other criticisms by ‘explaining’ more; and by promoting a high profile as a global power and host of spectacular media events, for example, the 2008 Olympics and, in 2010, Shanghai’s Expo themed with a globally –shared aspiration: ‘Better City, Better Life.’ The establishment of educational exchange programs, Confucius Institutes at foreign universities, and government-supported scientific and academic programs promote cultural knowledge and ‘Asia literacy.’ China dispenses foreign aid liberally to developing states, and through arguably more successful techniques than those used by many western governments. How successful are these strategies? What are the risks, if any, of participating in joint ventures? On what terms can and should exchange be managed?

In a contest with ‘googlearchy,’ Hindman’s phrase for the net giant’s regime, China established its own search engine, Baidu. Although Chinese net consumers organize their social life on vibrant Facebook-like networking site QZone, consumption of foreign news is still strictly controlled by CCTV, despite CIA reports of a diversifying, more independent media sector. The Rio Tinto and Ai Wewei cases highlight what appears to be the non-negotiable about sovereignty, and exchanges of information.

Topics may include: futures and economic outlook; relational dynamics and change; the exercise of influence; domestic policy; the impact of the GFC; China’s media diversity; trade regulatory regimes; global and regional relations (especially with Australia); new diplomacy, leverage and soft power; cultural and political conflicts; population and climate change; urban developments; exchanges of scientific and industry knowledge; Kevin Rudd; IP; human rights; I ‘love’ China movements; trademarks and brands; China online; exchanges of expertise in renewal of urban design and IT hubs; tourism ventures; business councils; communications policy; freedoms/ democracy/harmony.

The maximum length of articles is 8,000 words, shorter pieces welcome.

Submissions for this issue should be directed to: mary.griffiths@adelaide.edu.au by 3 April 2012.