

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC POLICY
SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS
LAU CHINA INSTITUTE

KING'S
College
LONDON

China Week

Exploring China's digital revolution

17–21 October 2022

China's Digital Revolution

The theme of China Week 2022 is China's Digital Revolution, looking at the rapid transformation across all aspects of society and the economy driven by China's advances in technology. We are delighted to provide a forum for discussion and contribute to knowledge exchange on the opportunities and challenges these technological innovations present to China and the world.



Welcome

The Lau China Institute is pleased to welcome you to our annual China Week – a flagship, week-long series of research impact and external engagement activities, designed to help build a deeper understanding of China’s growing global influence.

The exponential economic growth China has experienced over the past few decades would not have been possible without advancements in technology. With its burgeoning middle class now reaching more than 700 million people, just over 50 per cent of the population, the Chinese economy has shifted from one that is primarily production-based to one that is increasingly consumption-based. Advancements in digital and other technology is crucial to the increasing sophistication of China’s economy, enabling access to all kinds of services and provisions that can improve people’s lives.

Beyond social and economic mobility, technology can be used for a variety of means, including monitoring and surveillance, communications, access and use of data, cyber security and many more. In 2022, one is hard pressed to discuss any issue without reference to digital technology.

This week also coincides with a noteworthy political event in China – the National Party Congress.

Held every five years, this meeting brings together China’s top government officials to decide on key leadership appointments. It is widely expected President Xi Jinping will be reappointed for a third term, but other senior leadership changes will have significant consequences on the Chinese Government’s economic and political priorities over the next few years.

During China Week this year we are delighted to host a range of experts across academia, industry and government to speak on the myriad technology-related issues facing China, the UK and the world, including areas of cooperation, competition and potential conflict.

We warmly invite you to engage in a suite of activities during the week, including panel discussions, film screenings, book launches, virtual exhibitions, and much more. You will find more details on each event within this programme.

We look forward to seeing you there.

For full details on our China Week events and speakers, please visit:

kcl.ac.uk/china-week

About the Lau China Institute

The Lau China Institute is the largest China research centre in the UK. We aim to build a greater understanding of China in the UK and across the globe through research, teaching and engagement about contemporary China.

Established in 2011, the Lau China Institute is home to a community of core academics and postgraduate students. We are based within the School of Global Affairs at King's College London and work across all nine faculties to engage in multi-disciplinary and innovative research. As such, we seek research collaborations and deeper mutual understanding with the People's Republic of China, along with partners across the globe, ensuring we sit at the heart of King's strategic approach.

The rising importance of China has had, and will continue to have, a deep impact on the wider world. Whether positively, or negatively, the appearance of a country with such immense economic influence has global significance across geopolitics, culture and globalisation. China Week, therefore, is a crucial forum for exploring the impacts China's economic and geopolitical power has on the world, to deepen an understanding of the issues across academia, government, industry and the broader community.



The Digital Divide

All week 17–21 October



Photo by: Wen Dong



Photo by: Tao Feng



Photo by: Yaping Ma

About the exhibition:

This virtual photography exhibition, featuring world class photographers and winners of the Global SinoPhoto Awards will illustrate the 'Digital Divide' and will be shown at each event throughout China Week.

The breath-taking imagery displayed in this exhibition highlights the use and impacts of technology in China and how it has transformed all sectors of society and the economy. Importantly, the images also show the inverse – illustrating elements of daily life that are completely devoid from technology or are not centred around interacting with digital devices – which typically consume so much of our social and economic interactions.

Capturing the vast and diverse communities of modern China, the photos emphasise an oft-overlooked dichotomy in that technology seems overwhelmingly ubiquitous, yet one turns a corner to notice it is miraculously absent. The exhibition underscores that while technology has had a profound impact on connecting people, plugging them in to new ideas, services and opportunities, communities can still come together to connect, discuss ideas, enjoy entertainment or achieve success without relying on tech. We hope you enjoy our virtual representation of the Digital Divide to see the dramatic advancement of technology in China, juxtaposing this with the novel joy of being 'unplugged' by zooming into snapshots of daily life in which technology does not feature.

Exhibition partner:

Global SinoPhoto Awards



China and the Digital World Order

Opening panel session

Hybrid event



1800 – 19.00 BST

Location:

Eighth Floor North, Bush House Central Block, Aldwych, London WC2B 4BG
kcl.ac.uk/visit/bush-house

Speakers:

- **Julia Voo**, Cyber Fellow, Harvard Belfer Center
- **John Lee**, Founder, East-West Futures Consulting
- **Nigel Cory**, Associate Director, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation
- **Helen Zhang**, Co-founder, Intrigue Media

Moderator:

- **Elisa Oreglia**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Digital Humanities, King's College London

This is a hybrid event:

For those unable to join us in-person, this event will be live-streamed online. Register your place at this event via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Opening Reception

Official opening event including special guests and networking drinks

In-person event



19.00 – 21.00 BST

Location:

Eighth Floor South, Bush House Central Block, Aldwych, London WC2B 4BG
kcl.ac.uk/visit/bush-house

Welcome:

- **Funmi Olonisakin**, Vice President (International, Engagement & Service), King's College London

The Digital Divide: Perspectives & Virtual Exhibition:

- **Charlotte Goodburn**, Deputy Director, Lau China Institute, King's College London

Keynote:

- **Elisa Oreglia**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Digital Humanities, King's College London

Please join us for networking over drinks and canapes to celebrate the beginning of our annual China Week.

Register your place at this event via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Key



In-person



On-line



Photographic exhibition



Film screening



Refreshments

Young China Watchers Writing Competition

Winner announced online

Online event



After a rigorous review process by our expert judging panel, The Lau China Institute in partnership with Young China Watchers is pleased to announce the winners of our 2022 writing competition, under the theme of 'China's Digital Transformation'.

The competition aims to discover and showcase the newest young writing on China in the UK, to help foster the next generation of expertise on China and provide a platform for new voices.

With thanks to our panel of judges:

- **Julia Voo**, Cyber Fellow, Harvard Belfer Center
- **Xin Sun**, Senior Lecturer, Lau China Institute, King's College London
- **Sam Colombie**, Head Editor, Young China Watchers

Event held in partnership with **Young China Watchers**.

China's EnviroTech Landscape

Panel Discussion and 'Meet the Innovators'
Session with light lunch and networking

In person event – Cambridge



10.30 – 12.30 BST

Location:

Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL), The Entopia Building, Entopia Forum, 1 Regent Street, Cambridge CB2 1GG
cisl.cam.ac.uk/about/entopia-building

Welcome:

- **Clare Shine**, CEO, CISL

Panel speakers:

- **David Ferguson**, Head of Net Zero Innovation, EDF UK
- **Li Guo**, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Lau China Institute, King's College London
- **Sam Geall**, CEO, China Dialogue
- **Suwei Jiang**, Partner, PwC

Moderator:

- **William Hurst**, Deputy Director, Centre for Geopolitics, Cambridge University

Meet the Innovators: Unilever, Infyos, Crayfish.io and TusPark Newcastle. Session moderated by **Jie Zhou**, CISL

Event held in partnership with the **Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership**

Register your place at this event via [Eventbrite](#).

Big Tech and the Platform Economy

Panel Discussion and networking drinks

Hybrid event



18.00 – 19.30 BST

Location:

The Council Room, Strand Building (2nd floor), Strand, London WC2R 2LS
kcl.ac.uk/visit/strand-campus

Speakers:

- **Xin Sun**, Senior Lecturer in Chinese and East Asian Business, Lau China Institute, King's College London
- **Lianrui Jia**, Lecturer in Digital Media & Society, Sheffield University
- **Robyn Klingler-Vidra**, Reader in Entrepreneurship and Sustainability, King's Business School, King's College London
- **Yujing Tan**, Lecturer, Institute for Area Studies, Leiden University
- **Kendra Schaefer**, Tech Partner, Trivium

Moderator:

- **Arjun Kharpal**, Senior Technology Reporter, CNBC

Hybrid event

For those unable to join us in London, this event will be live-streamed online. Register for this event via [Eventbrite](#).

We Were Smart Directed by: Li Yifan

Film screening and panel discussion

In-person event



17.30 – 20.30 BST

Location:

Prince Charles Cinema, 7 Leicester Place,
London WC2H 7BY

princecharlescinema.com

Virtual introduction:

- **Li Yifan**, Film Director

Speakers:

- **Chris Berry**, Professor of Film Studies, King's College London
- **Xiaxia Yang**, Postdoctoral Research Associate in Chinese Migration, Lau China Institute, King's College London

Moderator:

- **Giulia D'Aquila**, Event Coordinator & PhD Candidate, Lau China Institute, King's College London

Event held in partnership with the **Chinese Independent Film Archive**, Newcastle University.

In-person event

This is an in-person event only – guests must pre-purchase tickets online via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk).

The Chinese word shamate (杀马特, written in the film as SMART) is a homophonic appropriation of the English term 'smart'. This word started appearing on the Chinese internet in the 2000s, referring to fashions associated with migrant workers in large cities. These fashions soon became an online group identity recognised by migrant workers themselves. *We Were SMART* explores the lives of those associated with SMART – primarily young factory workers – through conversations with, and footage shot by, them. The film shows how the digital world created a safe space for self-expression and community bonding for this fascinating, under-explored sub-culture.

Director Li Yifan is a documentary filmmaker and artist in China. He teaches at the Sichuan Fine Arts Institute. His other works include 'Chronicle of Longwang: A Year in the Life of a Chinese Village' (乡村档案: 龙王村2006影像文件) and 'Yan Mo' (淹没).



Digital Currency and E-Payments: Lessons between Australia and the UK

Invitation only

Online event



The Lau China Institute, King's College London is pleased to convene this closed-door roundtable, bringing together academic experts, policymakers, and industry representatives to discuss shared lessons between the UK and Australia on how to navigate the opportunities and risks of China's digital currency ambitions and e-payments systems.

Who's Watching? Digital Surveillance in China

Panel Discussion and networking drinks

Hybrid event



18.00 – 19.30 BST

Location:

Eighth Floor North, Bush House Central Block, Aldwych, London WC2B 4BG
kcl.ac.uk/visit/bush-house

Speakers:

- **Darren Byler**, Assistant Professor, International Studies, Simon Fraser University
- **Adam Knight**, Co-Founder, Tong
- **Nisha Kapoor**, Associate Professor in Sociology, University of Warwick
- **Carwyn Morris**, University Lecturer (Assistant Professor) of Digital China, Leiden University

Moderator:

- **Jane Hayward**, Lecturer, Lau China Institute, King's College London

This is a hybrid event

For those unable to join us in-person, this event will be live-streamed online. Register your place at this event via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Networking drinks provided.

Xi and the Future of China's Leadership

Live podcast and book launch

In-person event



18.00 – 19.00 BST

Location:

River Room, Second Floor, Strand,
London WC2R 2LS

kcl.ac.uk/visit/strand-campus

Professor Kerry Brown, Director of the Lau China Institute, in conversation with **Andrew Peaple**, Asia Matters

Live podcast event and launch of *China Through European Eyes*.

Register your place at this event via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

Closing Reception

In-person event



19.00 – 21.00 BST

Location:

Somerset Room, Second Floor, Strand,
London WC2R 2LS

kcl.ac.uk/visit/strand-campus

Please join us for networking over drinks and canapes to celebrate the conclusion of China Week 2022.

Welcome:

- **Kerry Brown**, Director, Lau China Institute, King's College London

Virtual address on Freedom of Speech and Surveillance:

- **Ai Weiwei**

Closing keynote:

- **William Hurst**, Deputy Director, Centre for Geopolitics, Cambridge University

In-person event only

This is an in-person event. Tickets must be purchased ahead of time via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).



Ai Weiwei

Ai Weiwei leads a diverse and prolific practice that encompasses sculptural installation, filmmaking, photography, ceramics, painting, writing and social media. A conceptual artist who fuses traditional craftsmanship and his Chinese heritage, Ai Weiwei moves freely between a variety of languages to reflect on the contemporary geopolitical and sociopolitical condition. Ai Weiwei's work and life regularly interact and inform one another, often extending to his activism and advocacy for international human rights.

Born in Beijing, China in 1957, Ai Weiwei has become known as one of the world's leading artists and activists. He has exhibited extensively at institutions and biennials worldwide. His memoir *1000 Years of Joys and Sorrows* was published in 2021. Ai Weiwei lives and works in Beijing, Berlin, Cambridge and Lisbon.

In this virtual address, Ai Weiwei will be speaking about *Freedom of Speech and Surveillance in China*.

Thank you to our event partners

We would like to thank all of our supporting partners of China Week 2022



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For media and partnership inquiries

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