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## PACIFIC IMAGINARIES: REBUILDING CHINESE STUDIES IN CANADA<sup>1</sup>

by Kimberley Ens Manning



### About The Author

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**With Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s visit to China, it might behoove the Prime Minister to reflect upon the role that higher institutions of learning in both of our countries could play in deepening dialogue on the values that matter most to us. More profoundly, the Prime Minister should ask how we can better equip our next generation of students with critical knowledge on China to help them understand and facilitate a durable and broad-based relationship with that country.**

It has been over fifteen years since Graham E. Johnson, now Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of British Columbia published “The True North Strong: Contemporary Chinese Studies in Canada,” in the international flagship journal of Chinese studies, *The China Quarterly*.<sup>2</sup> At that time Prof. Johnson noted the great strides that had been made in Canada with respect to the teaching of Chinese language and with regard to the expansion of Chinese studies programs in a range of academic disciplines. Unfortunately, while some notable universities, including the University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto, have subsequently built up impressive programs of scholarship related to the study of contemporary China, others have failed to fulfill their potential. Just as importantly, we are no further in establishing national or regional networks of scholarship than we were 15 years ago. Indeed, while there are now more academics focused on China and Canadian-Chinese studies than has ever been the case previously, we tend to work disconnected from one another, from the public, and even from the many exchange programs that our individual universities have signed with Chinese institutions in recent years.

In this essay I discuss the reasons for the atomization of Chinese studies in Canada, why this constitutes a problem, and how we might build deeper programs of Chinese studies throughout the country. Insofar as this discussion builds out of a June 2011 workshop on the study of Chinese politics in Canada, greater weight and attention is given to political science than is given to other fields, though I have endeavored to cite what I see as important examples of emerging scholarship from a broad range of disciplinary backgrounds. Rather than developing an exhaustive overview, my goal is to begin to develop a blueprint for manifesting a greater

sense of community among scholars either working in Canada or with ties to Canada who are interested in China as a subject of scholarship and teaching.

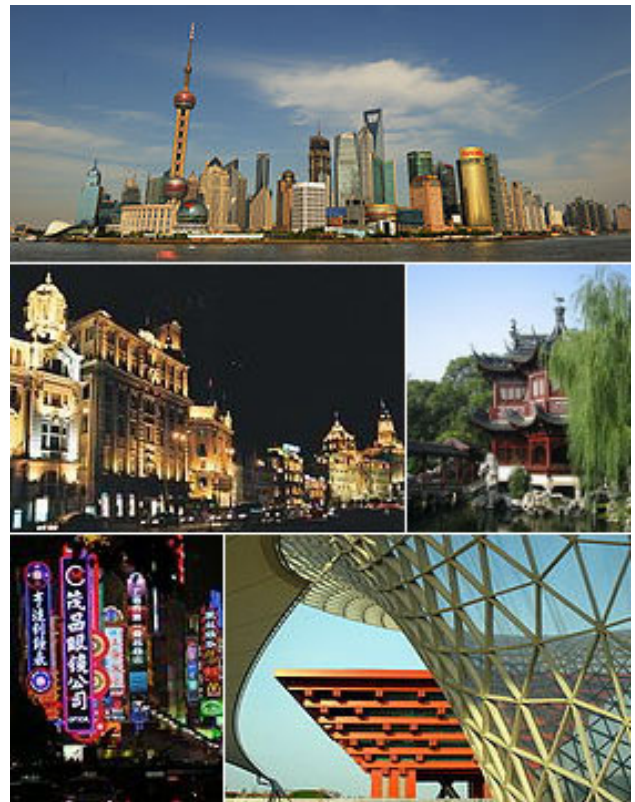


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As both teachers and scholars, academics have important contributions to make to the formulation of public discourse about “China.” Some of this work may take the shape of direct policy formation. As I will argue, however, most of this work should take shape in the form of shared critical inquiry in classrooms, conferences, public meetings, disciplinary journals, national newspapers, and online. Indeed, forging opportunities for shared critical inquiry is particularly important given the social and political shifts

currently transpiring in Canada, the People's Republic of China, and in the Chinese diaspora throughout the Asia Pacific. On the one hand, Canada is undergoing important changes: there is a growing recognition of the ways that Canada has been shaped by its Pacific heritage; a recognition that, in important ways, to be Canadian is also to be Chinese, and to be "Canadian" can often mean studying, working, and raising families outside of Canada itself. The study of "China" is also blurring boundaries: increasing numbers of Canadian scholars with little or no "area studies" training in Chinese studies are finding themselves cultivating projects related to China and/or the Chinese diaspora. On the other hand, within the academy in the People's Republic there are increasing calls to move beyond the view of higher education as primarily technocratic

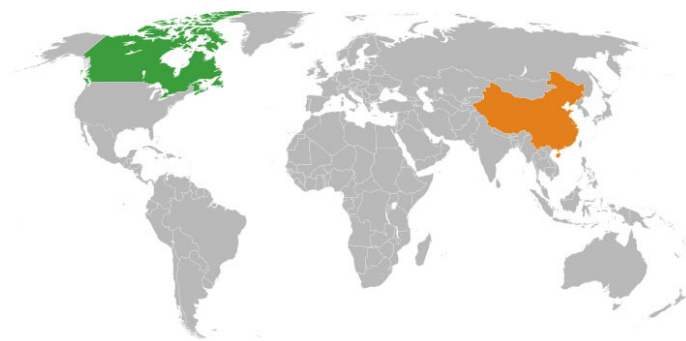


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professional training, to one in which deeper questions about history, culture, society and politics can be asked and addressed in creative ways. While seemingly unrelated, these shifts offer new opportunities for the kind of self-questioning that should be at the heart of all of our institutions of higher learning. When it comes to understanding "China," we need to build deeply networked conversations within and across disciplines, with a Pacific imaginary as our shared point of departure. It is through these conversations that we can move beyond the borders impeding new thinking, and develop, perhaps, a whole new set of questions that were previously unimaginable.

### The Atomization of Chinese Studies in Canada

There is little question that the China business is booming in the Canadian academy. Over the last twenty years, Canadian universities have individually signed onto multiple agreements with sister institutions in the People's Republic of China. More recently, some twelve Canadian universities and colleges have established Confucius Institutes, where the Chinese government works with a local Canadian institution to support Chinese language and cultural programming.<sup>3</sup> For many universities, the joint agreements with Chinese counterparts facilitate student language training in China and the recruitment of undergraduate Chinese students to their university programs. While some programs have developed beyond language exchange and involved faculty and students in innovative ways; most do not naturally enable the development of research agendas outside of the professional disciplines.<sup>4</sup> Indeed, many are "paper tigers" with little, if any, collaborative research or teaching components.<sup>5</sup>

The increasing emphasis that individual universities have placed on developing bilateral agreements with Chinese institutions has overlapped with decreasing levels of federal educational aid to China. As Zha notes, between the 1970s and 1990s, educational cooperation was largely unilateral, and involved the infusion of Canadian funds to Chinese institutions and individuals through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).<sup>6</sup> While funding was coordinated through pairing universities, it was done so with the aim of achieving overall strategic objectives, including retraining staff, offering graduate education to Chinese students in Canada, and building capacity in particular professional disciplines.<sup>7</sup> Because of the coordination that took place under the mantle of achieving certain strategic objectives, Canadian scholars, both inside and outside

of “China Studies,” were often brought in to participate in these programs. At the same time, the research agendas of some Canadian scholars benefitted from federal involvement insofar as they were permitted greater access to Chinese institutions than might have been the case otherwise.<sup>8</sup>

Since the research heyday of the 1980s and 1990s, however, the federal government and Crown Corporations such as the IDRC, have increasingly shifted away from the view that China is a “developing country.”<sup>9</sup> Indeed, so much of the early programming that was supportive of Canadian research in China - educational, civic, agricultural, health, etc. - rested upon the idea that China’s many development challenges could benefit from Canadian aid, loans, and expertise. In recent years, this view has been replaced by a kaleidoscope of contradictory perspectives about China in which it is variously constructed as a site of business opportunities for Canadian companies, a growing regional power in the Asia Pacific, and, more recently, as a threat to Canadian values and interests.<sup>10</sup> With the Conservative government somewhat adrift or ambivalent about Canada’s relationship to the People’s Republic, and universities themselves driven by their own fiscal agendas, collaborative Canadian research about China or research developed with colleagues in the PRC, has fallen off the table as a federal priority.

Decreasing federal support for research on China has been exacerbated by another recent development: the decline of two of the only national organizations which have served to link scholars in the past. CANCAPS, or the Canadian Consortium on Asia Pacific Security, for example, a not-for-profit association aimed at the promotion of research, publication, and public awareness activities on Asia Pacific security issues, met its demise in 2006. This organization, which had been producing working papers since 1994, offered one of the only locations for Asian studies scholars and government practitioners to gather on a regular basis.<sup>11</sup>

China Studies encountered a second challenge with the 2008 disbanding of the Canadian Council of Area Studies Learned Societies (CCASLS). For many years, CCASLS had functioned as an umbrella organization for a number of area studies associations, including Canadian Asian Studies Association (CASA), which was founded in 1968. CASA holds a conference every two years for scholars who work on different regions of Asia, including South Asia, South East Asia, and East Asia. During alternate years, the East Asia Council offers a conference for scholars focused on the East Asia regions of China, Japan, and Korea. Following the dissolution of CCASLS, which led to the closing of the Association’s secretariat, IDRC reduced funding to the member associations, including CASA. CASA is thus now seeking new ways to renew itself during this period of transition.

Since the demise of CANCAPS, and as CASA has struggled to regain its footing, national conversations about China have continued, especially with respect to Canada’s foreign policy and business relationship with the People’s Republic. The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary, serves as Canada’s think-tank on Asia related policy issues and as such publishes research reports by

Canadian academics and practitioners as part of its work. The Centre for International Governance, an independent, non-partisan think tank on international governance serves as a forum for policy deliberation, in which some focus on China takes place. With the exception of *Pacific Affairs*, a UBC Press peer-reviewed

## Pacific Affairs

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An International Review of Asia and the Pacific

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publication that addresses Asia as a whole, there is no Canadian journal which systematically covers China-related issues. This is in contrast to Australia (*The China Journal*); Hong Kong (*The China Review*); and the United Kingdom (*The China Quarterly*). At the same time, peer-reviewed articles on China-related subjects have not had a great deal of visibility in Canadian disciplinary journals. For example, the *Canadian Journal of Political Science* has not published a single research article on China since 1995.<sup>12</sup> Canadian foreign policy journals have paid more attention to China, including the *International Journal and Canadian Foreign Policy*, but these seem to be the only academic journals with any sustained interest in the subject.<sup>13</sup> As many have recently argued, it is still the case that when it comes to foreign policy development, China is not on “the map” in Canada, and when it does turn up practitioners often turn to American analyses to guide their thinking.<sup>14</sup>

One might speculate that the lack of visibility of China scholars in peer-reviewed journals and the decline of our national associations is not only a consequence of a change in federal funding priorities but also, perhaps, the result of a dearth of China-related research activity in this country. But in fact, the opposite is true. Canada was already home to many outstanding China scholars when Canadian universities began to hire large numbers of new faculty, including China scholars, about a decade ago and those scholars are actively doing research. Between 1998-2010 SSHRC funded at least 310 projects on China-related subjects. Of those awards, 41% supported fellowships, scholarships, and prizes, and 44% supported investigator-framed research.<sup>15</sup> Although a wide range of disciplinary fields were supported, the disciplines of history (25%) and political science (12%) were the most successful in acquiring research support from SSHRC on China-related subjects be it conference funding, support for a Canada Research Chair, or investigator-framed research.<sup>16</sup>

It is somewhat puzzling then, and more than a little ironic, that the increasing atomization of Chinese studies has

occurred just at a time when China itself has become increasingly central to Canadian life. As Paul Evans has remarked, “we don’t need to leave home to be part of global China.”<sup>17</sup> Indeed, with Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin) being the third most common language spoken in this country, and with increasing numbers of Canadians residing within the People’s Republic itself (some 300,000 at the present moment), we are facing a moment in which China scholars need to generate far more discussion with each other and the public about “China” to understand what it means to be Canadian. The question is how to do this without limiting our frames of reference to analyses emerging from PRC or American policy institutes, two sites of knowledge about China that have become increasingly dominant in the media and in the academy in recent years. The 2011 Munk Debate on China held in Toronto is but one example of the problems inherent in relegating public discourse to individuals with intellectual and political commitments that may reinforce rather than unravel narratives that currently constrain thinking about China’s relationship to Canada in the contemporary context.

### **The Munk Moment: Will the 21st Century Belong to China?**

The Munk Debates are designed to “enliven and elevate public discussion of the political, social and cultural issues shaping the course of world events and Canada’s future”<sup>18</sup> and usually receive wide media coverage within the country. An initiative of the Aurea Foundation, which itself seeks to support Canadian institutions in the study and development of public policy, there is little question that the China debate generated a certain kind of “knowledge” about China among the great many Canadians who listened to the program. We must nonetheless ask: what kind of knowledge? And to what end?

The China debate focused on the question: do you believe the 21st century will belong to China? On the one side Niall Ferguson and David Li argued that China is essentially a peaceful nation restoring its rightful



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place as a world civilization. This is a perspective that has been advanced by both the Chinese government and by a number of academics, including political scientists, working within China itself. David Li, a prominent American-trained economist now Director of the Center for China in the World Economy at Tsinghua University, described China's re-emergence on the world stage as similar to the revival of the Tang Dynasty which, in his words, was a "peaceful, self-confident, open minded civilization."

On the other side, Henry Kissinger and Fareed Zakaria raised questions about both the inevitability of China's rise as well as the inherent peacefulness of its role on the world stage. Kissinger, a former American Secretary of State who is well-known for his role in the real-politik of the Cold War, argued especially vehemently that China should adhere to international standards of cooperation and good governance. In his remarks, Henry Kissinger stressed that international problems can only be resolved through the application of a "universal conception" (though this term was never clearly defined).

The primary difficulty with the debate as structured is that it privileges two nationalist epistemologies about "China." The debate struggles over the terms of who gets to lay claim to what it means to be "peaceful" in the context of past American dominance and its current decline, and deeply felt insecurities vis-à-vis a rapidly growing power. As a consequence, the two opposing views erased the very different histories of the Cold War as they played out between our three

countries. Not mentioned, for example, is the history of Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau seeking to re-establish diplomatic relations with the PRC in the late 1960s as part of a move to assert a foreign policy independent of the United States,<sup>19</sup> a move that came well-before Kissinger himself began to negotiate in secret with Zhou Enlai.

And what about the future? Although there was much speculation about the role of China and the United States in the 21st century, almost nothing was said about Canada whatsoever.<sup>20</sup> In one of the first high-profile national discussions about the rise of China to be held in this country, "Canada" was not even at the table, let alone a part of the discussion.

### Linking Public Policy, Deepening Academic Study

What to do? Huhua Cao and Vivienne Poy, the editors of *The China Challenge: Sino-Canadian Relations in the 21st Century* believe that the current lack of interaction between academics and policy makers is no longer sustainable. In their path-breaking edited volume they include reflections of current and former practitioners and policy makers alongside the research of Canadian-based scholars, as one example of how new conversations might develop within and beyond policy communities. The fact that *Embassy*, Canada's Foreign Policy Newspaper, has listed *The China Challenge* as one of its top twenty foreign policy books of 2011 suggests that it is already having some of its intended impact.<sup>21</sup>

Similarly, Pitman Potter and Thomas Adams, editors of the recently published Canadian International Council volume: *Issues in Canada-China Relations*, argue for the need for a non-partisan consensus to further "the development of healthy long-term relations between Canada and China."<sup>22</sup> *Issues in Canada-China Relations* is also already receiving positive attention for its innovative and timely approach to forging Canadian public policy perspectives on relations with China. In the words of Earl Drake, former Canadian Ambassador to China, the forward-looking volume marks a

“significant breakthrough in Canadian thinking about China.”<sup>23</sup>

Another response might be to rebuild CANCAPS, or to found an organization like it, that is tasked with the challenge of re-thinking Canada’s relationship to Asia by drawing on the primary research of academic scholars. As both *The China Challenge* and *Issues in Canada-China Relations* makes amply clear, there are now a growing number of scholars working in Canada developing sophisticated analyses of the Canada-Asia, Canada-China relationship.<sup>24</sup> There is little question that they, and the graduate students who are following in their shoes, need to be provided with more forums



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for interacting with policy makers, and for providing potential alternatives to the foreign policy analyses currently being developed in policy institutes in the United States.<sup>25</sup> This is especially the case given the diversity of views expressed on a range of issues regarding the China-Canada relationship, most importantly, perhaps, on how to handle questions pertaining to human rights.<sup>26</sup>

At the same time, however, we need to rebuild Chinese Studies as an academic project as well. In an insightful contribution to *The China Challenge*, Jeremy Paltiel proposes that Canadians ought to replace our “North Atlantic imaginary” with a “Pacific imaginary,” a project that requires new understandings about

the Canadian past.<sup>27</sup> According to Paltiel, “we remain hostage to mainstream historiography on both sides of the Pacific, to a vision of Canada forged in the trenches of Flanders, and a vision of China that “stood up” by facing down the missionaries, the adventurers and imperialist exploiters.”<sup>28</sup> How does one’s perspective of Canada’s nation-building project shift, for example, if one follows the tracks laid by Chinese indentured laborers instead of the poppies in Flanders fields? How does one’s perspective of the Chinese nation-building project shift with the knowledge that some of the most ardent communists were former evangelicals and still-practicing Christians in 1949, including the PRC’s first Minister of Health?<sup>29</sup> These, and many other less-told stories about the past, do not rest easily in a narrative of liberal and enlightened national progress. An insistence on telling richly nuanced, complex, and often uncomfortable stories about the past and present on both sides of the Pacific is a necessary part of the work that academics must do as part of our work as scholars and educators.<sup>30</sup>

In my mind, reinventing new political imaginaries requires more than proposing new strategic thinking, an activity that most China scholars are not prepared to undertake or undertake well.<sup>31</sup> Indeed, I would argue that we should try to avoid harnessing the majority of China scholars too closely to the policy process as has been done recently in China.<sup>32</sup> Instead, we need to commit to the idea of curiosity-driven education and research as one of the basic pillars of our civic project.<sup>33</sup> As Gayatri Spivak suggests we need a “formal training of the imagination in the classroom.”<sup>34</sup> To do so, we not only require knowledge of different histories, but the skills of a wide-variety of scholars...many of whom are focusing on China/the Chinese diaspora without the deep area studies training of the traditional “sinologist.”<sup>35</sup> Training the imagination to see “China” and “Canada” from new and different vantage points requires a massive intellectual investment that will be impossible to achieve if our enterprise remains shackled to Cold War sinology or even to some of the developmentalist assumptions inherent in the Canada-China relationship of the 1980s and 1990s.

Looking forward it is clear that we need to build a conception of Chinese studies that is far more inclusive, multi-disciplinary, and critically thinking than it has been in the past. As China scholars, our primary role should be to convene thoughtful and thought provoking conferences, to train critically minded graduate students (some of whom will serve in government themselves), and to draw upon our research to develop nuanced critiques – some of which may appear in our national newspapers or in government reports. We also need to rebuild our organizational capacities as a newly defined and expanded area studies community so we can collectively, as well as individually, enhance our creative and critical projects and have greater capacity to contribute to public discourse.

In Canada, of course, it is extremely difficult to obtain a federal commitment to building Chinese studies because most of the money is distributed at the provincial level. While there is some indication that private funding may be more forthcoming than it has been in the past, short-term mobilization will require making better use of existing funding, especially the monies available through SSHRC. With its new organizational structure, SSHRC now offers a number of different avenues for scholars to: develop new projects (Insight Development Grants); build upon pre-existing research agendas (Insight Grants); and organize national and international workshops and conferences (Aid to Research Workshops and Conferences). This funding, while highly competitive, can be harnessed to develop much larger team projects, which will, in turn, facilitate both scholarship and community building.

At the same time, we need to think about developing our resources on a provincial/regional basis as well. Some provinces have been very proactive in supporting Chinese studies in the past, and, if approached with a good vision and a well-developed plan, may be willing to financially assist in the development of centre(s) of Chinese studies either by expanding existing programs or building new programs from scratch.<sup>36</sup> To the extent that we can establish funded, localized networks of scholarship (or “hubs”) we will be able to enhance

our capacity to provide greater resources to our students and the public.<sup>37</sup> As I will discuss shortly, this is especially needed in Quebec where French language resources require greater support and possibilities for dissemination.

We also need to think about our projects in relationship to recent academic developments in greater China and the PRC, as well. The Chiang Ching Kuo Foundation has long supported Chinese studies in Canada, largely through the provision of scholarships and aid to publication grants for graduate students and new scholars. Moreover, opportunities for language study and research continue to abound in Taiwan and Hong Kong. Maintaining and cultivating ties with colleagues working in these settings is of primary importance for many of us and to the students we are training.<sup>38</sup> The question is how to establish stronger linkages with our own programming here in Canada in order to destabilize the atomization of “Taiwan” scholarship and “PRC” scholarship. One way is to develop SSHRC-funded team projects in which scholars specializing in the two regions can collaborate on particular questions together.<sup>39</sup>

Finally, and related, it is crucial that we link up with the rapid developments taking place in the Chinese academy in the PRC. While the PRC has contributed to the China-Canada Scholars Award Program by providing



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<http://www.expo2010canada.gc.ca/photos/jun/060401-eng.cfm>

support for Canadian graduate students and faculty to conduct research in the PRC since the 1980s, it is only recently that it has become much more invested in supporting the development of Chinese Studies both at home and overseas. In China, the central government has invested a great deal of money in the building of new academic programs, and universities are keen to hire scholars who have completed PhDs both at home and abroad. As a number of scholars have recently argued, much (albeit not all) of the scholarship being forged in the discipline of political science/public policy is especially service oriented and not focused on developing new critical perspectives in relation to the field itself.<sup>40</sup> That being said, there are a number of scholars working in other disciplines, such as history, philosophy, women's studies, anthropology, sociology, and literature, who are producing highly insightful, critical scholarship.<sup>41</sup> Moreover, some of these scholars are drawing on new government funding to develop innovative interdisciplinary humanities programs that will likely have far reaching implications for the development of the Chinese academy itself.<sup>42</sup> These new programs, I would argue, offer significant opportunities for collaborative research and graduate student training, and as such we should find ways to weave them into our pre-existing university commitments and incorporate them into newly emerging regional and national projects as well.

In the final part of this essay I suggest five initiatives to develop Chinese studies as a broad-based *academic* project in which scholars and students from multiple disciplinary backgrounds and training can participate and exchange. This project must necessarily take into account the challenges and opportunities that currently face Chinese studies in both Canada and in the PRC today. Rebuilding Chinese studies as an academic project will also require a number of champions in many different settings. But this may not be a disadvantage. As I see it, the point of reinvigorating Chinese studies in Canada is not to assert a decidedly "Canadian" point of view, but rather to develop contingent, nuanced, and complex pictures of new Pacific imaginaries in the context of teaching and research that is both located in

Canadian communities and networked nationally and internationally.

### ***Re-invigorate Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinarity: Greater China in Canada***

First, we need to revive CASA. Despite the recent financial woes of CASA, there has been a concerted call from different parts of the country to rebuild the organization. When many of us seek to network with other Asian studies specialists, we often travel to the American-based Association for Asian Studies (AAS). Although the AAS offers a viable venue for meeting and working with a number of scholars from around the world, however, it is difficult to develop localized ties and build new research agendas in meetings which are often held far from our institutional homes. Given the vastness of Canadian geography, it is true that one may have to travel further to a CASA meeting than to the AAS. Nonetheless, the fact that the funding regimes of Canadian-based scholars differ dramatically from our American and European counterparts means that it can actually make great sense to expand our Canadian networks as a means of realizing core aspects of our research work. Indeed, interdisciplinary research teams are lauded by SSHRC. But in order to work together, we have to get to know one another, first.

One way to address CASA's current lack of funding might be to develop a workshop model that would seek the support of SSHRC for the EAC meetings held once every two years. Each "workshop" could focus on a different theme and would encourage both multi-disciplinarity and inter-disciplinarity as well as the broad participation of senior and junior scholars, including the contributions of senior graduate students. The funding would not only be sufficient to support the workshop activities (including financing the participation of keynotes working on path-breaking projects), but also an edited book or journal issue. If we were to strike out a "five year plan" we could envision a series of three roving workshops, each held in a different regional location, that would produce two capstone publications.

While a range of workshop themes can be entertained, CASA should also build upon the example of some of its recent conferences to develop lines of inquiry outside of the usual frames of reference. With respect to Chinese studies, for example, we should continue to deepen dialogue between scholars trained to work in and on questions related to the People's Republic with scholars seeking to understand historical trends in the development of Chinese-Canadian communities in different parts of the Asia-Pacific. Indeed, one of the greatest contributions of *The China Challenge* is that it makes the Chinese diaspora living within and outside of Canada, such a central part of its focus. It is on this front, in fact, that many graduate students and new PhD's are leading the charge. New scholarship is currently being written on migratory patterns that displace "the nation" as the focus of the journey.<sup>43</sup> What kinds of "workshops" might be imagined that emerge out of this work?



*China-Canada Talent Flows and Development Cooperation Conference in Beijing*

We also must develop active and interactive on-line forums to network Chinese studies scholarship in this country. In the United States, C-POL, a listserv run out of the University of California Los Angeles by Richard Baum, serves as an indispensable resource for China scholars, journalists, and commentators. The United States is also home to Asia Network, a consortium of Liberal Arts Colleges to Promote Asian Studies.<sup>44</sup> ChinaNet, a website recently established to provide information to China scholars in the Ottawa region and beyond, is one example of the kind of

forums Canadian scholars require.<sup>45</sup> In order to make the site as accessible, interactive, and useful as C-POL or ChinaNet, however, someone needs to have the time to actively maintain it. In this case, a small pot of annual funding to hire a graduate student to develop and maintain the site would make it a sustainable and generative means of facilitating our scholarship, teaching, and community building.

Finally, we should consider founding a multi-disciplinary academic journal focused on Greater China. This journal could offer a unique perspective on Chinese studies by publishing English, French, and (translated) Chinese scholarship that covers a wide terrain of themes and issue areas. For example, it could cover themes ranging from contemporary non-state diplomacy to Republican-era linkages to contemporary transnational/local tensions in gender studies.<sup>46</sup> It could also serve as a venue for discussing the work of particular scholars, Canadian-based or Canadian-linked, who have shifted thinking about a particular field or subject of inquiry.<sup>47</sup> And, like CASA itself, the journal could serve as a venue highlighting scholarship produced by "traditional" area study specialists alongside those who produce scholarship on China or the Chinese diaspora but in no way consider themselves "sinologists." Regardless, at the journal's heart would be a commitment to forging a vision of Chinese studies that can generate questions, dialogue, and debate among those interested in Pacific Canada.

### **Deepen Disciplinary Knowledge**

At the same time that we need to deepen interdisciplinary scholarship among scholars concerned with the development of Chinese studies, we also need to increase interaction between scholars of China and the disciplines in which many of us have been formally trained. A number of reasons have been given as to why it is that the study of Chinese Politics, for example, is rarely integrated into the canon of comparative politics.<sup>48</sup> It is clear that the status quo is no longer sustainable, and we need to come up with creative ways to insert "China" into the

discussions of our home disciplines. One means of doing so is to lead workshops and events within our Association's annual meetings. Indeed, the decision to hold a workshop on the study of Chinese Politics in Canada at the Canadian Political Science Association meetings in 2011 was made in the hopes of spurring greater disciplinary discussion. In 2012, the CPSA will be holding a workshop on the Post-Western World, in which China's rapidly growing influence in parts of the world such as Africa, will play a feature role in the discussion. Both of these events came about because China scholars sat on the organizing committee of the CPSA meetings and spearheaded workshops in which China features.

Another means of bringing knowledge, analysis, and method into direct conversation is to publish a special issue of a leading disciplinary journal on questions related to China. Far more than edited books, special issues reach a larger audience of individuals working outside the field of Chinese studies. Moreover, rather than publishing "examples" of work by leading China scholars, I would suggest compiling a volume of work that exemplifies cooperative research and theoretical innovation among scholars who see themselves as working both "inside" and "outside" of the field of China studies.<sup>49</sup> Joint papers may be an especially productive means of challenging the preconceptions of authors and of the readers who pick up the volume.

We can also think of our teaching as another location in which to bring recent debates about the study of China and Chinese politics into conversation with disciplinary debates. Some of the very heated exchanges that have raged about the many dilemmas and challenges facing the development of Chinese Politics within the PRC, for example, offer important perspectives on the role that academic knowledge can play in policy formation, authoritarian rule, and postcolonial inquiry.<sup>50</sup> By engaging with these debates directly, students can be challenged to develop a more sophisticated understanding of political science and its "real life" role in the world.

### ***Enhance Francophone Scholarship and Training on China***

One of the untapped resources with respect to the development of Chinese studies in Canada is the not insignificant number of scholars who have the capacity to both teach and publish research in French.<sup>51</sup> This is true in Quebec as well as across Canada as a whole. Moreover, many of the scholars who have French language facility have access to European networks that produce lines of inquiry running in different directions from mainstream Anglophone scholarship being produced in the UK and North America today. This was much in evidence, for example, at a forward-looking conference organized by Andre Laliberte and Marc Lanteigne in Montreal in 2004.<sup>52</sup>



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And yet, despite these remarkable resources, there are no institutional means for developing and linking francophone scholarship across Canada or with colleagues in Europe. Le Centre de l'Asie de l'Est (CETASE), which is located at the University of Montreal and dedicated to training francophone specialists in East Asia, for example, does not offer a graduate program. And while the University of Montreal, UQAM, Sherbrooke and other francophone universities in Quebec graduate masters and PhD students with sinological training, they do so through disciplinary training with very little or no interaction with other francophone and Anglophone China programs in Quebec or elsewhere.<sup>53</sup>

One possible site to build a centre of francophone inquiry is Montreal. With four major universities, a vibrant community of China scholars, and its relative proximity to Europe, Montreal could serve as a hub of French language teaching, research, and programming in relation to China. In 2007, the University of Montreal and Concordia University supported the initiative of a group of Montreal-based China scholars to launch this type of centre, however, the Fonds de recherche sur la société et la culture decided not to provide matching funds at that time. This is a project, however, that should be championed again. Relatively modest start-up funds by the Quebec government could result in a rapid increase of French language scholarship and teaching on China, and a much-needed pluralization of perspectives in the development of Chinese studies.

### ***Forge Flexible Networks and Border Crossings***

There is little question that the Chinese academy is changing rapidly. It has become much more flexible and open to long-term institution building with partners at home and abroad, and open to the cultivation of new kinds of partnerships as well. It is also increasingly open to including foreign-born and foreign-trained academics among its faculty ranks.<sup>54</sup> We need to find ways to build upon these trends to facilitate new modes of cooperation, whether between our institutions or in the context of international associational development. Longer-term goals might include finding ways for Canadian and Mainland-based academics to work jointly on problems, such as demographic ageing, or on historical questions that have been overshadowed or neglected in the past. But achieving these goals still requires face-to-face relationship building, a process that can be facilitated through joint participation at international meetings.<sup>55</sup>

We also need to find ways to develop shared classrooms. Because both the Confucius Institutes and the more long-standing language exchange programs have focused on “language and culture” as their primary academic subjects, a somewhat problematic

bifurcation of Chinese studies has occurred in many programs in which language/culture is taught separately from history/politics. The problem with this approach is that it can leave assumptions about what is “culture” un-interrogated. One way of addressing the segregation of language and culture from history and politics might be for several scholars to team-teach courses on various subjects in China and in Canada. Although the logistical challenges would likely be many (financial, linguistic, and otherwise), nonetheless, the experience could be transformative for both student and faculty. Imagine, for example, a course on the Chinese Revolution in which a small group of China-based and Canada-based students had the opportunity to travel to significant revolutionary sites (such as Yan’an) while reading primary and secondary sources together. Or imagine another course on China’s political economy that enabled students to visit factories on coastal China and in the hinterlands, the offices of Canadian petroleum exporters, and the Canada-China Business Council. By pairing these experiences with diverse readings, students would be able to ask practitioners questions and cultivate their own perspectives that they likely would not get were they sitting in a classroom in Regina or Beijing.

### **Think Regionally, Connect Locally**

Finally, we need to think creatively about how to develop opportunities to expand the reach of our scholarship and teaching. This is not because our scholarship should necessarily be focused on “deliverables,” one of the recent imperatives attached to funding programs in this country. This is because not to do so is to resign our public discourse to grand debates that may obscure the often contradictory and always complex nature of intellectual inquiry.

An alternative is to create local forums that are open and accessible to public participation. One outstanding example is currently unfolding in Vancouver. Henry Yu, Principal of St. Johns College and Associate professor of History at UBC, is actively collaborating

with community partners to reimagine the history of Vancouver and of British Columbia through the concept of 'Pacific Canada.' Through the establishment of collaborative community-based projects, Yu is involved in reinterpreting Canadian history through the lens of Chinese Canadians as well as examining the history of interactions between Asian and European migrants and First Nations peoples. To name but one example of his community-based work, Yu is sitting as co-chair, along with Susan Toatoosh of the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Center and Councillor Wade Grant of the Musqueam Nation, of the City of Vancouver's "Dialogue Between First Nations, Urban Aboriginal, and Immigrant Communities in Vancouver."<sup>56</sup>

Ultimately, the project to rebuild Chinese Studies in Canada will require a creative willingness to "border cross" in multiple ways: geographically, institutionally, linguistically, financially, and academically. It will also take work from many different quarters. But the opportunities are present. We should take advantage of this particular moment to move our institutions and our thinking in new directions. As Kevin O'Brien notes, if scholars do not address the need for informed, broad-gauged, country-based analysis, "others will step into the breach."<sup>57</sup>

<sup>1</sup>This essay benefitted greatly from the comments and contributions of a number of colleagues including: Charles Burton, Huhua Cao, Timothy Cheek, Paul Evans, Ruth Hayhoe, Alice Ming Wai Jim, Brian Job, Andre Laliberte, David Ownby, Leander Schneider, Scott Simon, Yuen Pau Woo and Qiang Zha. Any inaccurate statements made are the author's responsibility alone.

<sup>2</sup>Graham E. Johnson, "The True North Strong: Contemporary Chinese Studies in Canada," *The China Quarterly*, Sept. 1995, No. 143: 851-866.

<sup>3</sup>Zhang Junsai, "Room to Grow China-Canada Cooperation," *Embassy*, October 19, 2011.

<sup>4</sup>The University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, University of Victoria, and University of Regina are important exceptions in this regard.

<sup>5</sup>See Qiang Zha, "Canadian and Chinese Collaboration on Education: From Unilateral to Bilateral Exchanges," in (eds) Huhua Cao and Vivienne Poy, *The China Challenge: Sino-Canadian Relations in the 21st Century*, Ottawa: Ottawa University Press, 2011: 102-103. There are, of course, important exceptions. Professor Mendes of the University of Ottawa led a 16-year (1993-2009) CIDA funded project on human rights in China in partnership with Beijing University. The project produced three co-edited volumes (in both English and Mandarin) on human rights that included contributions from leading Chinese and Canadian intellectuals and practitioners: *Human Rights, Chinese and Canadian Perspectives* (1993); *Bridging the Global Divide on Human Rights, A China-Canada Dialogue* (2004) and *Confronting Discrimination and Inequality in China, Chinese and Canadian Perspectives* (2009.)

See: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/errol-p-mendes> (accessed: December 16, 2011).

<sup>6</sup>Ibid, 100.

<sup>7</sup>One of the most successful programs was The Canada-China Management Education Project. Ruth Hayhoe, Julia Pan, and Qiang Zha have recently been awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) grant to study three large-scale CIDA projects involving collaboration between Canadian and Chinese universities between 1983 and 2001: The Canada-China Management Education Project (1983-1996); The Canada-China University Linkage Project (1988-1995); and the Special University Linkage Consolidation Project (1996-2001). In particular, the grant proposes to understand the impact of Canadian expertise on China's educational transition, new synergies that are currently emerging as a consequence of past participation in particular projects, and to identify new ideas for future collaboration. See, Ruth Hayhoe, Julia Pan, and Qiang Zha, "A Historical Reflection on Canada-China University Linkages," presented at the University of Regina, Conference on Canada-China Relations: Past, Present and Future, October 7-8, 2011.

<sup>8</sup>One important program that began in 1973 and that continues to facilitate the research of Canadian graduate students and scholars is the China-Canada Scholars Exchange Program.

<sup>9</sup> In 2009 CIDA removed China from its priority list. Despite this, funding does continue to flow to China albeit on a reduced basis. Ellen Judd, one of Canada's foremost anthropologists and sinologists, for example, is participating in a 1.7 million dollar CIDA project to build capacity to respond to HIV/AIDS in China: <http://myprofile.cos.com/judde14>. For a broader discussion of changes to CIDA's budget see, Gregory Chin, "Shifting Purpose: Asia's Rise and Canada's Foreign Aid," *International Journal*, Vol. 64, No. 4, 2009: 989-1009.

<sup>10</sup> As I will note shortly, the past five years has seen the emergence of a large and growing Canadian academic literature on the subject of Chinese human rights. Debates about Chinese human rights and, more recently, concerns about Chinese espionage, have also featured in the Canadian media. It is thus perhaps not surprising that a 2011 Angus Reid Public Opinion Poll found that Canadians view China less warmly than they do Australia, Great Britain, the United States, France, Japan, South Korea, India, and South East Asia. Indeed, 29% of Canadians view China "coolly." See, "2011 National Opinion Poll: Canadian Views on Asia," <http://www.asiapacific.ca/surveys/national-opinion-polls/2011-national-opinion-poll-canadian-views-asia>, accessed: December 2, 2011.

<sup>11</sup> See Paul Evans for a discussion of Canada's role in track-two diplomacy, in which CANCAPS played an important role, "Canada and Asia Pacific's Track-two Diplomacy" *International Journal*, Autumn 2009, 1027-1038.

<sup>12</sup> The track record of the *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* has fared much better. By my count, it has published ten articles on China-related and Chinese-Canadian related subjects since 1995.

<sup>13</sup> The most substantive discussion on China in a Canadian journal to date took place in a special issue of the *International Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 61 (2006). Over the past five years alone the *International Journal* has published at least 29 articles on China or articles related to Canadian-Chinese issues.

<sup>14</sup> For example, over half of the invited speakers who presented at a 2009 conference held by the IDRC and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service on "China and its New Place in the World" came from US-based research and policy institutions. See also Jeremy Paltiel, "Reimagining Canada's Present and Future in the Shadow of the Rise of China," in Huhua Cao and Vivienne Poy (eds), *The China Challenge: Sino-Canadian Relations in the 21st Century*, Ottawa: Ottawa University Press, 2011: 272.

<sup>15</sup> To name just a few of the many currently-funded SSHRC projects: Josephine Smart (anthropology, University of Calgary) is comparing farming policies in China and Canada; Diana Lary (history, emeritus, University of British Columbia) is working on China's civil war; Steffanie Scott (geography, University of Waterloo) is studying organic and ecological agricultural and the developmental state in China; Anna Ghiglione (philosophy, University of Montreal) is studying representations of work in classical Chinese thought; Robin Yates (Department of East Asian Studies, McGill University) is studying women and the law in society in the early Chinese empires; and Henry Yu (history, University of British Columbia) is examining the rise and fall and rise again of Pacific Canada, 1858-2008.

<sup>16</sup> See the Awards Search Engine at: <http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/results-resultats/index-eng.aspx>. Unfortunately, less easy to discern is how China-related research fares versus other area studies; one is not able to search, for example, "Latin America" but must widen the search to "America." Similarly, a search on "India" will bring up a number of studies related to First Nations peoples. Other sources of funding include The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC); Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR); and international foundations including the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and the Chiang Ching Kuo Foundation.

<sup>17</sup> Paul Evans, "Canada, Meet Global China," *International Journal* 61: 2, 297.

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.munkdebates.com/about>

<sup>19</sup> See Charles Burton, "The Canadian Policy Context of Canada's China Policy since 1970," in Huhua Cao and Vivienne Poy (eds), *The China Challenge: Sino-Canadian Relations in the 21st Century*, Ottawa: Ottawa University Press, 2011: 34-35 and Paul Evans and B. Michael Frolic, (eds) *Reluctant Adversaries: Canada and the People's Republic of China, 1949-1970*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1991.

<sup>20</sup> Canada was mentioned a total of 4 or 5 times, but only in passing.

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/downloads/press/201110Embassy-Canada.pdf>, retrieved November 10, 2011.

<sup>22</sup> Pitman B. Potter with Thomas Adams (eds), *Issues in Canada-China Relations*, Canadian International Council, 2011.

<sup>23</sup> Retrieved from the website for the Canadian International Council Book Launch – Issues in Canada-China Relations, <http://www.opencanada.org/features/cic-book-launch-issues-in-canada-china-relations/>, November 16, 2011.

<sup>24</sup> Charles Burton (Brock University), Greg Chin (York University), Paul Evans (University of British Columbia), and Wenran Jiang (University of Alberta); Jeremy Paltiel (Carleton University); and Pitman Potter (University of British Columbia) are but six examples of Canadian scholars who frequently straddle academic and public policy domains. See, for example, Charles Burton (next note); Greg Chin, "Book Workshop on the B(R)ICS: Emerging Powers as Emerging Donors, Financial Technical Report," IDRC, Toronto: York Centre for Asian Research (2010); Paul Evans, "Canada and Global China: Engagement Recalibrated," in (eds) Andrew F. Cooper and Dane Rowlands, *Canada Among Nations, 2005: Split Images, Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press*, 150-168; Paul Evans, "Canada, Meet Global China," *International Journal*, (2006) Vol. 2, No. 6: 283-297; Paul Evans, "Responding to Global China; Getting the Balance Right," *Canadian Foreign Policy*, (2008) Vol. 2, No. 14: 131-139; Wenran Jiang, "Meeting the China Challenge: Developing a China Strategy," *Canada Among Nations, 2006: Minorities and Priorities*, Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press,

2006: 251-268; Wenran Jiang, "Seeking a Strategic Vision for Canada-China Relations," *International Journal* (2009) Vol. 64, No. 6: 891-909; Wenran Jiang, "The Dragon Returns: Canada in China's Quest for Energy Security," Canadian International Council and the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, China Papers No. 19, October 2010; Jeremy Paltiel (next note as well as his contributions to *The China Challenge and Issues in Canada-China Relations*); and Pitman Potter (ed with Thomas Adams), *Issues in Canada-China Relations*, Canadian International Council, 2011.

<sup>25</sup> Some China scholars might also consider serving as an elected member of parliament as well. Canada has yet to elect its own Kevin Rudd.

<sup>26</sup> There is a growing body of scholarship by Canadian academics on Chinese human rights and how it should be approached as part of Canada's foreign policy mission. In addition to *Bridging the Divide on Global Human Rights*, (eds) Errol P. Mendes and Annik Lalonde-Roussey, Burlington, VT: Ashgate (2004), see, for example: Charles Burton, "Assessment of the Canada-China Bilateral Human Rights Dialogue," Report to the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ottawa, April 19, 2006; Charles Burton, "A Reassessment of Canada's Interests in China and Options for Renewal of Canada's China Policy," Canadian International Council, No. 4, February 2009; B. Michael Frolic, "Re-engaging China: Striking a Balance Between Trade and Human Rights, In (eds) Fen Osler Hampson, Maureen Appel Molot, and Martin Rudner, *Canada Among Nations 1997: Asia Pacific Face-off*, Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1997; Bruce Gilley, "Reawakening Canada's China Policy," *Canadian Foreign Policy*, (2008) 14 (2), 121-130; Andrew Lui, "Sleeping with the Dragon: The Harper Government, China and How Not to Do Human Rights," in Claire Turenne-Sjolander and Heather A. Smith (eds), *Canada in the World: Perspectives on Canadian Foreign Policy*. Toronto: Oxford University Press (forthcoming 2012); Errol P. Mendes, "Asian Values and Human Rights: Helping the Tigers to Set Themselves Free," In (eds) Fen Osler Hampson, Maureen Appel Molot, and Martin Rudner, *Canada Among Nations 1997: Asia Pacific Face-Off*. Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1997; Errol P. Mendes and A-M Traeholt, *Human Rights: Chinese and Canadian Perspectives*, Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1997; Jeremy Paltiel, "Canada and China: An Agenda for the Twenty-First Century: a Rejoinder to Charles Burton," *Canadian Foreign Policy*, (2009) 15(2), 109-117; Jeremy Paltiel, "Does a Half-full Glass Justify a Leap of Faith? Incremental Change and Human Rights in China," *International Journal*, (Spring 2006: 371-387; Jeremy Paltiel, "Negotiating Human Rights with China," in (eds) Maxwell Cameron and Maureen Appel Molot, *Canada Among Nations 1995: Democracy and Foreign Policy*, Ottawa: Carleton University Press, (1995) 165-186; Pitman Potter, "Selective Adaptation and Institutional Capacity: Perspectives on Human Rights in China," *International Journal* (2006) Spring: 389-407; David Webster, "Canada and Bilateral Human Rights Dialogues," *Canadian Foreign Policy*, (2010) Vol. 16, No. 3; Yuchao Zhu, "Making Sense of Human Rights Policy on China," *Canadian Foreign Policy*, (2001) 8(2), 103-123.

<sup>27</sup> See also Henry Yu's important contributions to thinking about Pacific Canada, for example: "Global Migrants and the New Pacific Canada," *International Journal*, Autumn 2009: 1011-1026.

<sup>28</sup> Jeremy Paltiel, "Conclusion: Re-imagining Canada's Present and Future in the Shadow of the Rise of China," in Huhua Cao and Vivienne Poy (eds), *The China Challenge: Sino-Canadian Relations in the 21st Century*, Ottawa: Ottawa University Press, 2011: 272.

<sup>29</sup> Li Dequan, former President of the Chinese Women's Christian Temperance Union and widow of the so-called "Christian Warlord," served as Minister of Health from 1949-1964. On a trip to Toronto in 1952 she publicly declared that she was still a Christian, Kimberley Ens Manning, *States of Activism: The Politics of Maternalist Reform in a Maoist Countryside* (unpublished manuscript). See also Alwyn Austin's magisterial account of the China Inland Mission. Although his story leaves off long before Li's begins, Austin offers the most comprehensive discussion of the extensive role that Canadian missionaries played in China. *China's Millions: The China Inland Mission and Late Qing Society, 1832-1905*, Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2007.

<sup>30</sup> See, for example, Jeremy Brown and Paul G. Pickowicz's (eds), *Dilemmas of Victory: The Early Years of the People's Republic of China*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007; Kimberley Ens Manning and Felix Wemheuer's (eds), *Eating Bitterness: New Perspectives on China's Great Leap Forward and Famine*, Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011; John Price's *Orienting Canada: Race, Empire, and the Transpacific*, Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011; and John Meehan's *Chasing the Dragon: Shanghai and Canada's Early Relations with China, 1858-1952*, Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2011.

<sup>31</sup> See Charles Burton's extensive discussion of some of the obstacles to non-policy oriented Canadian academics producing policy work on China, "Please Let Us Know Next Time You Are in Ottawa/Beijing: Comparing the Relationship Between Academic Research and the Forging of Government Policy in China and Canada," Presented at the Canadian Political Science Association meetings, May 2011.

<sup>32</sup> There is now an extensive discussion underway about the roles that academics, and especially political scientists, are expected to play in the forging of PRC public policy. See, for example, Guoguang Wu, "Politics Against Science: Reflections on the Study of Chinese Politics in Contemporary China," *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, Vol. 16, Sept. 2011: 279-297. See the entire September 2011 issue of the *Journal of Chinese Political Science* for the most recent round of debates on this issue.

<sup>33</sup> See Tim Cheek's discussion of the role that area studies can play in the development of core academic competencies, "Revenge of the Fruit Fly: China, Area Studies, and the Disciplines" presented at "Producing Knowledge about China" Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, May 2010.

<sup>34</sup> Gayatri Spivak, *Death of a Discipline*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2003.

<sup>35</sup> UBC is currently undertaking a multi-year “Asia Census” to determine current faculty interest in different Asian countries. Of the 157 UBC Faculty or staff members with professional interests in China who completed the 2011 survey, the vast majority identified themselves as working outside of area studies. See, <http://www.iar.ubc.ca/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Q8QeBrPKTCQ%3d&tabid=196> for this and the results of future surveys. Accessed December 21, 2011. At my own institution, Concordia University, anecdotal evidence suggests a similar trend line. John Zackarias (Geography, Planning and Environment), for example, has worked extensively in China conducting research on issues related to the urban environment and has led multiple cohorts of graduate students on field trips to the PRC. Similarly, Alice Ming Wai Jim (Art History) has funding from the FQRSC to complete a book manuscript on how Hong Kong has been represented in urban-themed international art exhibitions from 1997-2007 and support from SSHRC to examine the recent history of contemporary Chinese art exhibitions in relation to transnational urbanism, participatory media and issues of cultural representation. Neither scholar speaks Mandarin or Cantonese.

<sup>36</sup> The government of British Columbia was especially proactive in providing scholarships to young people to undertake language training in Asia. Indeed, my own career in Chinese studies (and the study of politics) was launched as a consequence of having spent the pivotal year 1988-89 in Beijing on a Pacific Rim Scholarship.

<sup>37</sup> The SSHRC partnership development grants is one program that might enable a group of China scholars located in a common geographical area to launch just this kind of initiative. One possible model to build off of is the BC China Scholar’s Symposium, an annual meeting that gathers BC China scholars together to discuss and debate research.

<sup>38</sup> For example, Scott Simon (anthropology, University of Ottawa) is author of *Tanners of Taiwan: Life Strategies and National Culture*, Boulder: Westview Press, 2005 and Joseph Wong (political science, University of Toronto) has published extensively on Taiwan as well, including his most recent book: *Betting on Biotech: Innovation and the Limits of Asia’s Development State*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011.

<sup>39</sup> For example, David Ownby (University of Montreal) and Andre Laliberte (University of Ottawa) already conduct research in both Taiwan and the People’s Republic on a regular basis.

<sup>40</sup> Charles Burton’s view on this issue is over-stated but succinct: “Professors in Chinese universities are essentially civil servants with cadre rank whose ultimate function within the Party-State is to support the purposes of the current regime in China.” Quoted from, “Please Let Us Know the Next Time You are in Ottawa,” Presented at the Canadian Political Science Association meetings, May 2011, 1.

<sup>41</sup> See, for example, Feng Xu’s (political science, University of Victoria) discussion of the evolution of women’s studies in China: “Chinese Feminisms Encounter International Feminisms: Identity, Power and Knowledge Production.” *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 11: 2, 2009, pp. 196-215. See also Tim Cheek’s (history, University of British Columbia) “Xu Jilin and the Thought Work of China’s Public Intellectuals,” *The China Quarterly*, No. 186 (Jun. 2006), 401-20.

<sup>42</sup> The Si-mian Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities at East China Normal University is one example.

<sup>43</sup> See, for example, Jean Michel Montsion (political science, University of Winnipeg) “Re-locating Politics at the Gateway: Everyday Life in Singapore’s Global Schoolhouse”, *Pacific Affairs* 82(4), 2009: 637-656. See also the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada’s publications on transnationalism: <http://www.asiapacific.ca/publications/canada-china-human-capital-dialogue> (Accessed November 16, 2011). For a recently-published examination of the construction of “domestic overseas Chinese” who studied in the People’s Republic after 1945, see Glen Peterson (history, UBC), *China and the Overseas Chinese*, New York: Routledge, 2011.

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.asianetwork.org/>

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.chinaeam.uottawa.ca/chinanet/home.html>

<sup>46</sup> On March 15, 2012, the York Centre for Asian Research will host a workshop entitled, “The Making of Canada-Asia Relations: the Role of “Other Diplomacies” in which discussion will focus on diverse exchanges outside the purview of state foreign and economic policy institutions and processes. Indigenous peoples’ diplomacy will be among the kind non-state relations to be considered.

<sup>47</sup> For example, Daniel L. Overmyer, Professor Emeritus at UBC, has been a leading figure in the study of Chinese religion for several decades.

<sup>48</sup> See Marie-Eve Reny (SSHRC postdoctoral fellow, University of Chicago), “Review Essay: What Happened to the Study of China in Comparative Politics?” *Journal of East Asian Studies* 11 (2011), 105-135.

<sup>49</sup> For example, Susan Henders (political science, York) recently published comparative study, *Territoriality, Asymmetry, and Autonomy: Catalonia, Corsica, Hong Kong and Tibet*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010 and William Hurst (political science, University of Toronto) is completing a comparative study of PRC and Indonesian grassroots legal institutions.

<sup>50</sup> In my view, an excellent piece that could be used for this purpose is: Stephen Noakes (SSHRC postdoctoral fellow, University of Toronto), “Intellectuals and Authoritarian Resilience: The Development of Political Science in China” Presented at the Canadian Political Science Association Meetings 2011.

<sup>51</sup> For example, Yves Tiberghien’s (political science, University of British Columbia) forthcoming work: *L’Asie, le G20, et le future du Monde*. Paris: Presses de Science Po. Collection Nouveaux Debats. (Publication expected in Fall 2011); H  l  ne Piquet (law and political science, the University of Quebec at Montreal), *La Chine au carrefour des traditions juridiques*, Bruxelles: Bruylant, 2005; and Fr  d  ric

Lasserre (geography, University of Laval) (éd) *L'éveil du Dragon : Les défis du développement de la Chine au XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle*. Ste-Foy: Presses de l'Université du Québec, 2006.

<sup>52</sup> The conference also resulted in the publication of an edited book featuring the work of a number of Canadian China scholars: Andre Laliberté and Marc Lanteigne (eds), *The Chinese Party-State in the 21st Century: Adaptation and the reinvention of legitimacy*, London: Routledge Curzon, 2008.

<sup>53</sup> One outstanding recent exception was the academic workshop, "Canada-China Relations: Past, Present, Future" held at the University of Regina on October 7 and 8, 2011. The workshop included a wide variety of Canadian-based scholars, including papers by Quebec-based scholars Serge Granger (Science Politique, Université de Sherbrooke); Eric Lefrancois (Science Politique, Université de Montréal); and Frédéric Mayer (École Nationale d'Administration Publique-Montréal).

<sup>54</sup> Montreal-born Daniel Bell, for example, has a permanent appointment teaching political philosophy at Tsing-hua University. David Zweig, a Canadian who taught for a period at the University of Waterloo and Queen's University, has served as Professor and in the senior ranks of the administration of the School of Humanities and Social Science at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Perhaps the earliest Canadian ex-patriot to locate her teaching and scholarship within the People's Republic was Isabel Crook, now retired from Beijing Foreign Studies University. Now, of course, many PRC-born, Canadian-trained PhDs are relocating to Greater China to teach and do research as well. These scholars should all have ready means of incorporating themselves into "Pacific Canada" networks as well.

<sup>55</sup> One immediate short-term goal, for example, should be to ensure that a large contingent of Chinese Political Scientists will attend the International Political Science Association meetings to be held in Montreal in 2014. It is meetings such as these that can enable scholars to "spark" new cross-border collaborative projects.

<sup>56</sup> <http://www.history.ubc.ca/people/henry-yu>, accessed November 21, 2011. Another example of a community-based event was the SSHRC-funded McCord Museum/Concordia Colloquium: "Golden Mountain, Canada and China Interconnected held" in Fall 2007. At the two-day colloquium scholars, graduate students, artists, journalists and community groups gave presentations and engaged in discussions. As a consequence of this meeting, new connections were made across a range of "borders," challenging preconceptions and forging new ways of seeing "China" as very much part of the Canadian experience.

<sup>57</sup> Kevin O'Brien, "Studying Chinese Politics in an Age of Specialization," *Journal of Contemporary China* (2011) 20 (71), September, 535-541.

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