

<p>Institution: The University of Nottingham</p> <p>Unit of Assessment: UoA27B, School of Contemporary Chinese Studies</p>
<p>a. Context</p> <p><i>Overview:</i> The School of Contemporary Chinese Studies' research activities are intended to challenge simplistic and stereotypical perceptions of China at a time when the country's post-reform rise demands an ever more nuanced understanding of an emerging global superpower. As such, these activities have impact at their core – particularly when supported by the School's unprecedented commitment to outreach, which has ensured that a broad range of research has benefited a suitably wide variety of end-users.</p> <p>The School undertakes thematic research on (i) China's economic transformation and its global impact, (ii) the impact of China's rise on international relations, (iii) Chinese politics and civil society, (iv) the development of Chinese enterprises, (v) sustainable development, (vi) Chinese migration, (vii) law and (viii) the impact of ICT on Chinese politics, society and culture. The sheer diversity of these studies inevitably generates clusters of research activity, as is reflected in the School's pioneering interdisciplinary Taiwan Studies Programme and the establishing of four multidisciplinary research centres focused on contemporary politics, applied economics, banking/finance and migration.</p> <p>As the School's dedicated research arm, the China Policy Institute (CPI) ensures that research findings and analyses from across the School are shared and utilised beyond academia at local, national and international levels. The extent to which the CPI seeks to support end-users, including governments, international agencies, NGOs, the media and businesses in Europe, China and North America, in better engaging with China and Chinese communities is unparalleled among Chinese studies departments in British and EU universities.</p> <p><i>Examples of impact:</i> The impacts achieved during the census period illustrate the depth of commitment to engaging with a range of end-users to deliver significant and long-lasting benefits. Tsang has helped inform policymakers and influenced and facilitated the strategic activities of global dignitaries, including groups such as The Elders (case study 1, research themes ii and iii). Wu's research on Chinese migration and Sheehan's expert advice to British courts have benefited the work of international organisations, governments, local councils and civil society groups and, most significantly, the lives of Chinese community members (case study 2, research themes vi and vii). By shedding light on major concerns such as the labour and housing markets, best practices in statistics, the banking system and future "growth engines", Yao and Song's research has influenced policy in a number of Chinese ministries, the country's National Bureau of Statistics and the People's Bank of China (case study 3, research themes i, iv and v).</p>
<p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p><i>Overview:</i> The School has an inclusive approach to impact. It encourages knowledge exchange and engagement with stakeholders both within and beyond the University. Our framework for identifying, supporting, generating and maximising opportunities for impact is now well established yet constantly evolving. It includes the following key elements.</p> <p><i>Identifying and supporting impact:</i> Impact is a key consideration at all career stages. During the census period we have recruited staff specialising in research with significant potential for impact. Appointments such as Tsang, Song and Morgan have reflected our determination both to strengthen existing areas of specialism and to further expand our research portfolio. All researchers, from ECRs to senior academics, are able to take advantage of regular research reviews, seminars and meetings to maximize opportunities for collaboration and inculcate a clear understanding of pathways to impact. Grant applications are mentored through a tiered multiple mentoring process that maximizes the scope for impact. Increasingly, impact is also taken into account in annual personal development and performance reviews. All of these mechanisms help to ensure a vibrant research community in which excellent work and the generation of impact are concomitant and synergistic concerns.</p> <p><i>Promoting interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research:</i> Our approach reflects both the innately interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary nature of our studies and end-users' needs for practical and holistic findings and insights. The School has developed four dedicated research clusters: Contemporary Chinese Politics and International Relations; Applied Economics; Chinese Migration; and Finance and Banking in China. The CPI transforms this rigorous interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research into useful analysis and advice (see, for example, case study 1).</p> <p><i>Identifying and engaging key research users:</i> Establishing and maintaining long-term strategic</p>

partnerships is crucial to informing our research activities and ensuring they deliver maximum benefit and impact. During the census period end-users have included government departments and agencies, among them the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Ministry of Defence, the Home Office, the UK Border Agency, the Human Trafficking Centre and local councils. The CPI has provided insights and advice to the FCO and regularly held workshops on China-related matters with officials (case study 1). In Nottingham we have advised local authorities on integrating the Chinese immigrant population (case study 2). We have forged partnerships outside the UK, including with agencies advising the Chinese government (case study 3) and, via a project led by Tsang, the Central Party School. The on-going EU-China Civil Society Dialogue series, conceived and directed by Fulda, has facilitated breakthrough exchanges between EU and China NGOs.

Maximizing knowledge-exchange funding: Since 2008 the School has secured considerable funding from both internal and external knowledge-transfer schemes. It continues to work with University-wide departments, including the Centre for Advanced Studies (which supports the development of research funding applications) and Research and Graduate Services (which helps facilitate impact), and has collaborated particularly closely with the University's Integrating Global Society (IGS) priority group. Members of School staff have regularly secured IGS funding to organize outreach programmes and to co-host policy workshops.

Facilitating knowledge exchange: We consider the dissemination of our research beyond academia essential. This is promoted through the CPI's production and distribution of policy papers, along with regular emails to announce the publication of findings. The census period saw distribution to more than 1,700 individuals and organizations, including eight government departments in the UK and four in Europe and Asia, as well as 12 news organizations. All policy papers focus on a subject related to China and provide insights for officials and journalists.

Making expertise as accessible as possible: In addition to the above, it is vital that end-users are fully aware of CPI's analytical and advisory capabilities. Consequently, we reach out to a broad array of stakeholders, including government officials, policymakers and think-tanks in the UK, the EU, the USA, China and Taiwan. This is achieved through briefings, meetings, private and public seminars and conferences. CPI academics serve on business advisory boards, work as consultants and act as expert witnesses. Tsang has served on the Jardine Lloyd Thompson's World Risk Review Advisory Board and testified at parliamentary committees; Sheehan has acted as an expert witness in over 100 asylum and criminal cases involving Chinese nationals; Yao and Song have provided expertise for the Europe China Research and Advice Network; and Tsang provided the original plan for the Tang Prizes (<http://www.tang-prize.org/eng/>).

Engaging with wider audiences: Beyond the policymaking community and other stakeholder groups, the CPI supports staff to ensure research is communicated globally through the media. Research insights have been disseminated across Europe (e.g. via the BBC), North America (e.g. the New York Times), the Middle East (e.g. Al Jazeera), Australia (e.g. the Australian) and Asia (e.g. the South China Morning Post). The CPI has established and maintained strong relationships with a range of leading media institutions, including providing monthly commentary for China Daily's European edition and arranging seminars and individual briefings for BBC journalists on issues such as China's leadership succession. Blogs produced by the CPI and Yao have earned millions of hits and are among the University's most successful. These major outreach efforts guarantee a high media profile and, in turn, greater awareness of our research among the general public.

Enabling/empowering researchers: The CPI encourages and facilitates networking activities to enable the School's academics to liaise with government officials and the media. During the census period a number of early career researchers (e.g. Luo) were introduced to government contacts through briefing meetings in Whitehall. Less experienced staff receive media interview advice from senior academics, and media contacts are encouraged to interview a range of CPI Fellows. The School makes provision to enable staff to take part in outreach work and endorses a flexible approach in managing university commitments by reducing teaching loads to support engagement activities (e.g. Fulda for managing the EU-China Civil Society Dialogues). The School also provides necessary administrative support and travel costs.

Maximizing synergies with the University's internationalization strategy: The School has been and remains central to the University's internationalization strategy, and vice versa. Founded as a key element of the University's unprecedented internationalization efforts – Nottingham was the first UK university to open a campus in China – the School continues to work closely with the University of Nottingham, Ningbo, where two senior members of staff are currently based. These links are

frequently vital to both the School's and the wider University's networking activities.

c. Strategy and plans

Overview: The School's research strategy will continue to employ the mechanisms that have delivered success to date while further building on the CPI's existing strengths in generating impact. The pursuit of research excellence and continued alignment with stakeholders' strategic priorities will remain to the fore.

In planning for the next five years we will embrace the University's Knowledge Exchange (KE) Framework (2013-2018), which recognizes KE as a core activity underpinning research and teaching. The University's mission is to maximize KE activities to "generate benefits for the economy and society; enhance its reputation for world-changing research and teaching excellence in the UK and globally; and drive up its market share of income from the private, public and third sectors". In keeping with these objectives, the School's strategic aims are as follows.

Impact strategy:

1. **Enabling:** Creating and embedding a culture within the School that encourages KE, ensuring a cohesive approach across the University's campuses in the UK and overseas. This includes:
 - Doubling the CPI's financial provision (£20,000p.a. at present) within 12 months to strengthen its capacity to ensure KE is considered throughout the research cycle on a strategic and operational level, from developing research grant proposals to ensuring research findings are widely distributed and taken up by end-users where possible;
 - Establishing fit-for-purpose tools to record and monitor knowledge-transfer activities; and
 - Building a strong network with colleagues at the Ningbo Campus to increase capacity to inform government, NGOs and businesses in China.

On-going objectives include:

- To review workloads to ensure impact work is both fully supported and suitably recognized and rewarded in terms of career progression;
 - To utilize annual School away days to refresh staff awareness and understanding of impact;
 - To hold more staff workshops on how to ensure research is relevant beyond academia; and
 - To raise staff awareness of the wider facilities provided by the University for impact.
2. **Engaging:** Deepening and expanding the School's engagement with businesses, governments, the media, other organisations and key stakeholder groups, including alumni, to ensure our KE offering and credentials are communicated effectively to external audiences.
On-going objective: To continue and build on our successful approach and expand engagement with end-users to ensure research findings and insights inform their understanding and/or core operational and business activities.
 3. **Delivering:** Ensuring that KE effectively supports the delivery of the University's Strategic Plan by maximizing impact and value from engagement with external parties.
On-going objective: To continue and build on our successful approach in developing and translating research, providing external consultancy and establishing activities that enhance and broaden the student experience.
 4. **Reaching globally:** Exploiting international opportunities for KE, particularly in Asia and at the University's campus in Kuala Lumpur.

On-going objective: To continue exploiting international opportunities with end-users.

d. Relationship to case studies

The case studies have been chosen to demonstrate the School's approach to achieving impact at local, national and international levels. Each exemplifies several aspects of our strategy.

Successful collaboration, interdisciplinary research and partnerships with key research users are evident in all three case studies. Case study 1 (Challenging Conventional Wisdom) and case study 2 (China's Economic Development) benefited from the School's support in *facilitating knowledge exchange* and *making access to expertise readily available to end-users*. The outreach work in the media evidenced in case studies 1 and 2 utilized and reinforced our commitment to *engaging with wider audiences*. Case study 3 (Chinese Migrants) used *knowledge-exchange funding to engage and inform* local authorities and Chinese migrant communities in the East Midlands. All submitted *researchers were enabled and empowered* to inform and influence end-users by having teaching workloads reduced and facilities put at their disposal to attend government meetings, as well as benefiting from encouragement and support in *engaging with wider audiences*.