The following PhD vacancies and research topics within the School of Contemporary Chinese Studies were compiled in November 2013 and were correct at the time of publication.

For further guidance on pursuing a PhD in any of these areas, please consult the School of Contemporary Chinese Studies website or contact the relevant members of academic staff as listed below.

Shujie Yao’s areas of research supervision

Supervisor:  **Professor Shujie Yao**  (shujie.yao@nottingham.ac.uk)

China's economic transformation in the past 30 years has improved standards of living in the world's most populous country while making a huge impact on global markets. Professor Yao’s research uses the tools of econometrics to study the flip side of China's rapid development, in particular, the widening rich-poor income gap. It also examines the reform of the Chinese financial system in terms of efficiency and impact of foreign competition. Based on these studies, his research proposes strategies and policies to help China overcome existing growth barriers and ensure its continued growth.

Steve Tsang’s areas of research supervision

Supervisor:  **Professor Steve Tsang**  (steve.tsang@nottingham.ac.uk)

China is rising. The rest of the world is watching - some anxiously while others excitedly as they look for a Chinese model. How should we understand China’s rise? Is it the second superpower? What will it do when its economy surpasses that of the USA? Is it a threat to others? Does China provide a development model for super-fast growth? Is the consultative Leninist political system the only suitable system for the Chinese people? What lessons should one draw by comparing and contrasting the political, economic and social developments in Taiwan and Hong Kong with those on the Chinese Mainland? Why is Taiwan democratic whereas China is not? These are some of the questions Professor Tsang asks himself every day.

Lina Song’s areas of research supervision

Supervisor:  **Professor Lina Song**  (lina.song@nottingham.ac.uk)

Professor Song conducts economic and social research on developing countries with particular reference to China. Particular areas of research focus include social security and well-being; income distribution and poverty alleviation; unemployment and labour markets; gender and
intra-household allocation; rural-urban migration; state-ownership restructuring; rural industrialisation and urbanisation

**Cong Cao’s areas of research supervision**

**Supervisor:** Dr Cong Cao ([cong.cao@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:cong.cao@nottingham.ac.uk))

Dr. Cao’s interests revolve around science, technology, and innovation in China. His ongoing research tries to open the “black box” in the formation of science and technology policy, in biotechnology and nanotechnology particularly, by examining the roles played by various stakeholders from government, scientists, corporations, media to the public. He also studies technical talent, higher education, and the “brain drain/gain/circulation” phenomenon of overseas Chinese students from the perspective of human resources in science and technology. Lastly, he is concerned about comparison of innovation systems in China and other countries, China’s international cooperation in science and technology, and the implication of China’s rise as a scientific (super)power to the world.

**Jian Chen’s areas of research supervision**

**Supervisor:** Dr Jian Chen ([jian.chen@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:jian.chen@nottingham.ac.uk))

Dr Jian Chen’s research covers corporate finance, including capital structure, political economy of corporate finance; corporate governance, including ownership structure issues and its relation to corporate performance; financial markets.

**Andreas Fulda’s areas of research supervision**

**Supervisor:** Dr Andreas Fulda ([andreas.fulda@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:andreas.fulda@nottingham.ac.uk))

Dr Fulda’s research focuses on the various forms of interaction between political institutions and civil society in China, where an increasingly vocal population is exercising its demands and putting pressure on the ruling communist leaders. Drawing on his own experiences as a former development advisor in Beijing, his studies have implications for China-EU relations as well as for policymakers dealing with China.
Niv Horesh’s areas of research supervision

Supervisor: Dr Niv Horesh (niv.horesh@nottingham.ac.uk)

Dr Horesh’s research is wide-ranging and interdisciplinary by nature: from political economy, through history to international relations. Everyone wants to make sense of China’s rise. Many books aim to teach us how China will (or will not) change the world that we know. Dr Horesh is interested in how China has already changed paradigms in the field of World History. Everyone wants to make money, and a lot of books aim to teach us how. Dr Horesh is equally interested in how money came about in the first place, and why it assumed over three millennia different shapes and forms across the world.

Hongyi Lai’s areas of research supervision

Supervisor: Dr Hongyi Lai (hongyi.lai@nottingham.ac.uk)

China’s need to secure oil supplies to fuel its burgeoning economy - the world’s second-biggest oil consumer is driving it to form alliances with Sudan, Iran and other increasingly suspect oil exporters, raising alarm bells among the US and other western developed countries. Against this backdrop, Dr Hongyi Lai’s research attempts to assess the implication of China’s energy diplomacy for global security. Turning to domestic issues, his research examines the social and religious challenges to stability and economic growth while analysing the political ramifications of economic liberalisation on the communist-ruled state.

Chun-Yi Lee’s areas of research supervision

Supervisor: Dr Chun-Yi Lee (chun-yi.lee@nottingham.ac.uk)

Dr. Lee’s research interests cover the field of political economy and international relations. More specifically, she focuses on the government and business relationship in China and Taiwan, she is the author of Taiwanese business or Chinese Security Asset, Routledge 2011. Dr. Lee also works on the state/ society interaction in China, from the perspective of labour. Currently Chun-Yi is working on an ESRC research project, ‘Globalisation, national transformation and workers’ rights: An analysis of Chinese labour within the global economy’, with Prof. Andreas Bieler at school of Politics and International Relations, University of Nottingham.
Dan Luo’s areas of research supervision

Supervisor: Dr Dan Luo (dan.luo@nottingham.ac.uk)

The world financial crisis has led to a serious debate over the reform of the banking sector. Unlike those fragile Wall Street giants making huge losses due to the US credit crunch, Chinese banks have not only survived the crisis but also performed consistently well. How efficient are the Chinese banks? What are the key determinants of their efficiency levels and what are the implications of the current world financial crisis on the Chinese State Owned Banks? Dr Luo is keen to find out answers to these questions. Her research focuses on the reform process of the Chinese financial market, in particular the banking sector and stock market. In addition, she studies monetary policy, asset pricing and stock market volatility etc.

Jonathan Sullivan’s areas of research supervision

Supervisor: Dr Jonathan Sullivan (jonathan.sullivan@nottingham.ac.uk)

Dr Jonathan Sullivan is a China specialist and political scientist. His research focuses on the uses and effects of political communications by political elites and citizens in various Chinese contexts. His research profile and agenda currently has four major streams. First, how have the evolution of cyberspaces changed (or reinforced) the relationship between strong states and citizens? With an empirical focus on China and Russia, this research theme is the focus of published work and ongoing collaborations with scholars in the US and Asia. Second, how do political elites in Taiwan use various forms of political communications to win election and project their positions to China and internationally? Election campaigning and the quality of democratic competition was the subject of Dr Sullivan’s PhD thesis, and the political communications environment is the subject of a book-in-progress on elections, campaigns and the media. Third, methodologically speaking Dr Sullivan is a text analyst specialising in automated and mainly quantitative analysis of Chinese texts. Fourth, he is interested in analysing how the field of China Studies is developing, and has published and ongoing work on the research field, teaching, external engagement and methods and data. In addition to these themes, the major focus of his research agenda in the coming period looks at the political communication strategies of the Communist Party and officials at various levels and contexts.

Jeremy Taylor’s areas of research supervision

Supervisor: Dr Jeremy Taylor (jeremy.taylor@nottingham.ac.uk)

Dr Taylor works on the modern cultural, social and political history of the Chinese-speaking world, and his research, on topics ranging from Diasporic Chinese film history to modern Chinese personality cults, has been supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the
British Academy, the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation and other organisations. He is the author of Rethinking Transnational Chinese Cinemas: The Amoy-dialect Film Industry in Cold War Asia (Routledge 2011), as well as various articles in leading Area Studies and History journals.

Jinmin Wang’s areas of research supervision

Supervisor:  **Dr Jinmin Wang** ([jinmin.wang@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:jinmin.wang@nottingham.ac.uk))

Dr Jinmin Wang mainly undertakes research in the field of international business management and regional development in contemporary China. His current research focuses on institutional change and the development of industrial clusters, the role of commodity trading markets in the collective internationalization process of SMEs in rural China, the business model innovation of Norwegian and Spanish multinational companies entering into the Chinese market.

Zhengxu Wang’s areas of research supervision

Supervisor:  **Dr Zhengxu Wang** ([zhengxu.wang@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:zhengxu.wang@nottingham.ac.uk))

Three decades of rapid economic development have brought about tremendous social changes in China. What does this mean for China’s one-party (Communist) rule? Dr. Zhengxu Wang’s research helps bring us closer to an answer by analysing the changes in people’s values and attitudes as a result of economic growth, in particular, the effect of increasing pro-democratic attitudes among Chinese citizens on the political status quo. It also examines changes in governing institutions such as the presidency and the premiership, seeking to predict the path of political change in China.

Bin Wu’s areas of research supervision

Supervisor:  **Dr Bin Wu** ([bin.wu@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:bin.wu@nottingham.ac.uk))

Dr Bin Wu's research interests cover two broad themes: Chinese community development and integration in the context of globalisation and social justice; international student mobility, development and local engagement.
Qianlan Wu’s areas of research supervision

Supervisor:  Dr Qianlan Wu (qianlan.wu@nottingham.ac.uk)

Dr Wu's research focuses on Chinese competition law and the transition from a command economy to a market economy in China, a step on the road to establishing the rule of law. But, she argues, China's administrative bureaucratic system and its model of market economy development have evolved into a social institution. Transformation towards the rule of law requires social institutional change, and is a slow and incremental process because of the formal and informal constraints in Chinese society. Her research also examines the impact of competition law on state-owned enterprises.

Jing Zhang’s areas of research supervision

Supervisor:  Dr Jing Zhang (jing.zhang@nottingham.ac.uk)

Dr Zhang, an environmental economist, has used provincial socioeconomic and environmental data to investigate whether there exists an intra-country pollution haven effect for China whereby companies choose areas with weak environmental controls for investment in factories that pollute the environment.