

**THE  
UNIVERSITIES'  
CHINA COMMITTEE  
IN  
LONDON**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2023/2024**

**Registered Charity No 314133**



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UNIVERSITIES'  
CHINA COMMITTEE  
IN  
LONDON  
ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24**

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# **THE UNIVERSITIES' CHINA COMMITTEE IN LONDON**

**Representative of The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs**

O'Neill, Ms G

**Representative of Sino-British Fellowship Trust**

Ely, Mr Peter

**Elected Members as at 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

Altehenger, Dr J	Hammond, Dr D	Murphy, Professor R
Ash, Professor R F	Harrison, Professor H	Pattinson, Dr D
Barrett, Professor T H	Hillenbrand, Dr M	Pringle, Dr T
Bickers, Professor R	Hird, Dr D	Standen, Professor N
Boecking, Dr F	Hook, Professor B G	Starr, Mr D F
Bramall, Professor C	Huang, Dr X	Sterckx, Professor R
Brazelton, Dr M	Hubbard, Professor R	Sturrock, Mrs M
Chau, Dr A	Johnson, Dr T R	Sunuodula, Dr M
Collins, Mr C	Kan, Mr S Y	Taylor, Professor J
Dauncey, Professor S	Leow, Dr R	Topgyal, Dr T
Dian, Ms H	Li, Dr R	Tsang, Professor S
Dryburgh, Professor M	Lincoln, Dr T	van de Ven, Professor H
Ferlanti, Dr F	Liu, Professor J	Wang, Dr Y
Fielder, Dr C	Mitter, Professor R	Wielander, Professor G
Gentz, Professor J	Moffett, Mr J	Zhang, Dr Z
Gentz, Professor N	Moore, Dr A	Zheng, Professor B
Gerritsen, Professor A	Morton, Professor K	Zheng, Professor Y
Goodburn, Dr C	Munro, Dr N	

**Representing Great Britain China Centre**

Borge MacLeod, Ms M

**Nominated Members**

**by the Association of Commonwealth Universities**

Riordan CBE, Professor C

**by The British Library**

Chiesura, Ms S and Doumy, Ms M

Harrison, Mrs E and Hsieh, Ms H-L

## EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

### as at 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024

<b>University</b>	<b>Vice-Chancellor or Principal</b>	<b>Representative</b>
Aberdeen	Professor S Bhattacharya	Dr H Battu
Aston	Professor A Subic	Mr M Dean
Bath	Professor I White	
Belfast	Professor I Greer	Mr G Brown
Birmingham	Professor Adam Tickell	Professor J Frampton
Bristol	Professor E Welch	
Brunel	Professor A Jones	
Cambridge		Professor H Zhao
City	Dr S Robinson	Professor R Sterckx*
Durham	Professor K O'Brien	Dr D Tawakkul
East Anglia	Professor D Maguire	Mr D F Stari*
Edinburgh	Professor P Mathieson	Professor T Davies
Essex	Professor M Fasli	Professor N Gentz*
Exeter	Professor L Roberts	Ms R Jones
Glasgow	Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli	Professor W Cushley
Heriot-Watt	Professor R Williams	Mr J Philippi
Hull	Professor D Petley	
Keele	Professor A Raghubsanie	
Kent at Canterbury	Professor G Randsley de Moura	Dr A Manning
Lancaster	Professor S Guy	
Leeds	Professor H-S Yu	
Leicester	Professor N Canagarajah	Ms T Li
Liverpool	Professor A Hollander	
London	Professor W Thomson	
Loughborough	Professor N Jennings	
Manchester	Professor D Ivison	Mr R Cotton
Newcastle	Professor C Day	Dr J Smith Finley
Nottingham	Professor S West	Dr J Taylor*
Open	Professor T Blackman	Professor G Mohan
Oxford	Professor I Tracey	Professor R Mitter*
Reading	Dr C Baylon	
Regent's University London	Professor G Smith	Dr Y Yu
Sheffield	Professor K Lamberts	Dr M Dryburgh*
Southampton	Professor M Smith	Professor S Padmadas
St Andrews	Professor Dame Sally Mapstone	Dr F Huang
Stirling		Dr L Zhuang
Strathclyde	Professor Sir James McDonald	
Surrey	Professor M Lu	Mr P Degg
Sussex	Professor S Roseneil	
Ulster	Professor P Bartholomew	
Wales, Trinity Saint David	Professor E Evans	Dr T Jansen
Warwick		Professor A Gerritsen*
Westminster	Professor D Anand	Professor G Wielander*
York	Professor C Jeffery	Mr L Cook

\* also an elected member

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**as at 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

Professor Gerda Wielander	November 2021	In the Chair (2022)
Dr David Pattinson	November 2021	Vice Chair/Convenor of Experts' Committee (2023)

Mr Charles Collins	Hon Treasurer
Professor Naomi Standen	November 2021
Dr Derek Hird	November 2022
Dr Xuelei Huang	November 2022
Dr Tsering Topgyal	November 2022
Dr Zhong Zhang	November 2022
Professor Marjorie Dryburgh	November 2023

**Representatives to the Executive Council**

Mr Peter Ely, Sino-British Fellowship Trust  
Ms Merethe Borge MacLeod, Great Britain-China Educational Trust  
Ms Gemma O'Neill, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

**Experts' Committee**

Dr David Pattinson (Convenor)  
Dr Derek Hird  
Dr Zhong Zhang

**Finance Committee**

Professor Gerda Wielander (In the Chair)  
Mr Charles Collins (Hon Treasurer)

**UCCL Representative on the GBCET Committee**

Mr John Moffett

**Executive Director**

Ms Lindsay Jones  
Swire House, 59 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AJ

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2023/24**

It has been another busy year for the UCCL in which we have seen a steady rise in applications for our travel grants which have now returned to pre-pandemic level. Our PhD bursaries have also received a higher number of excellent applications, and we were pleased to have been able to award close to the annual maximum we set aside for this scheme. There continues to be uncertainty around accessibility to Chinese online databases which we support through a significant annual grant to The Library Group, and we are keenly awaiting a further update on this.

As part of the travel grant applications, we increasingly see applications from PhD students working on China (often Chinese nationals) whose supervisory team in the UK does not have any China related expertise, let alone Chinese language expertise. This is sometimes evident in the design of the projects and the associated fieldwork plans which may display a lack of awareness of the sensitivity or otherwise practical difficulties the student may encounter. We are sufficiently concerned about this development to now require one of the two references to be from an academic supervisor with a long-standing record and experience in conducting research in China and the Chinese language.

2025 will see UCCL's centenary. I think it is fair to say that there is barely an academic in Chinese studies in the UK whose work hasn't been impacted by the UCCL, be it through a travel grant in the early stages of their careers, by enjoying the UCCL funded key note speakers at the annual conference of the British Association for Chinese Studies, or by being able to direct their PhD students towards our travel grants to enable essential fieldwork. We are keen to hear members' testimonials as we are approaching this landmark and thinking about how to most appropriately mark it. Look out for more communications on this!

I would also like to issue a reminder of our dedicated UCCL website [www.universitiesccl.org.uk](http://www.universitiesccl.org.uk) where all updated application forms can be found. They should always be downloaded from here rather than any previous websites kind enough to host us. We also draw attention to our updated requirements in relation to ethics clearance and risk assessments, as well as references (as mentioned earlier).

Enormous thanks, as always, to the members of the Executive Council who give so much of their time to support the work of the UCCL and without whom we

couldn't be able to function. Many thanks to Marjorie Dryburgh for taking over the stewardship of the PhD bursaries and to David Pattinson for chairing the experts' committee this year. Charles Collins hit the ground running as our excellent new treasurer, reassuring us of our financial health and that our finances are in the most solid hands with him.

I also want to express our gratitude to the Sino-British Fellowship Trust for their continued support of the UCCL. Most enormously, however, I would like to thank Anne Ely for her incredible work as chairman of the SBFT for the last sixteen years and her unfailing support of the UCCL during this time. Her dedication to supporting academic exchanges between the UK and China has been unfailing and exemplary; she has made such a difference to so many people. We wish Anne all the very best for her much-deserved retirement and look forward to continuing our strong relationship with the SBFT under its new chairman Peter Ely.

October 2024

Gerda Wielander, Chair

## GRANTS MADE UNDER CHARTER PURPOSES DURING 2023/24

Notes: *Those starred were funded by the UCCL thanks to the generosity of the Sino-British Fellowship Trust.*

### Charter Purpose

(i)	<b>Grants to enable the interchange of lecturers and academic visitors between the UK and China</b>	0
(ii)	<b>Hospitality to Chinese Students and Scholars in the UK</b>	0
(iii)	<b>Orientation for Chinese Studies in this country</b>	0
(iv)	<b>Teaching of Chinese Language and Literature in this country</b>	
	<b>*British Chinese Language Teaching Society</b> The UCCL provided support for the BCLTS Annual Conference.	£5,000
		£5,000
(v)	<b>Intellectual and Cultural Relations with China</b>	
(a)	<b>Grants for Libraries and Museums</b>	
	<b>The China Library Group</b>	£24,000
		£24,000
(b)	<b>Publication Grants</b>	0
(c)	<b>Travel Grants</b>	
	<b>Dr Thomas Burnham, University of Exeter</b> 'Ghostly Occurrences That Deserve Attention': Comparing Soviet and Chinese Perspectives on Coups in Africa During the First Decade of Decolonisation.	£1,948
	<b>*Man-Sing Cheung, University of Oxford</b> Economic Stabilization in China, 1945-1949.	£875

- \*Timothy Cheung, University of Manchester**  
A Living Remnant: the history of Hong Kong's Coin-supplying System. £1,600
- \*Luna Fu, University of Leeds**  
“Men in the system”: Exploring Chinese Hegemonic Masculinities, Gender, and Bureaucracy. £1,900
- \*Professor Hong Han, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China**  
Collection, research and digitization of Tibetan newspapers published in the Himalayan region in the first half of the 20th century. £2,000
- \*Xiaohuang He, King’s College London**  
Focus group on transition stress in British and Chinese emerging adults. £2,000
- \*Dr Tingting Hu, Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University**  
Understanding transmedia engagement of English-speaking boys’ love (BL)/danmei (耽美) fandom. £2,000
- \*Matthew Hurst, University of York**  
Secret Activists and the Transfer of Hong Kong: How Informal Diplomats and Civil Society Shaped Hong Kong’s Decolonisation, 1979-97. £2,000
- \*Tersa Irigoyen-Lopez, University of Oxford**  
Where Are Chinese Labourers 润(run)ning? A Multi-sited Ethnography of Domestic and International Return Migration between Zhejiang Province and Europe. £2,000
- \*Xinyue Li, University of Manchester**  
The transformation of meteorological knowledge in China, 1840 – 1937. £1,886
- \*Ruoxi Liu, University of Cambridge**  
Craft- Production and Creation in Transition: Self-Realisation and Alternative-seeking in Post-socialist Rural China. £1,666
- \*Juncheng Lyu, King’s College London**  
Investigating the implementation and effectiveness of the East-West partnership program in county-level poverty reduction in China. £1,895

<b>*Dr Manuela Madeddu, University of Liverpool</b> Feng Shui in Hong Kong: authenticity and the value of Chinese geomancy in urban planning.	£1,460
<b>*Dr Mark McLeister, University of Edinburgh</b> 'Audio Bibles' in Christian Worship Experience in China.	£475
<b>*Yuxi Pan, SOAS</b> Picturing a Social Aesthetics in the Mongol World: Horses in the Art and Visual Culture of the Yuan Dynasty (c.1206- 1368).	£2,000
<b>*Ji Shi, King's College London</b> Rural-urban Educational Social (In)justice: A case study of the intra-system educational migration, and its impact on rural-urban disparity in Guizhou Province in China.	£2,000
<b>Yi Hang Shum, University of Oxford</b> Vowels in Canton-Zhanmi: System and Diachronic Change.	£1,758
<b>*Tongming Wang, University of Southampton</b> The impact of urban-rural migration on employment absorption patterns in rural tourism in China.	£2,000
<b>*Yuwei Wang, University of Birmingham</b> NGO Accountability: Selected Chinese Case Studies	£1,940
<b>Yashi Yuan, Institute of Education</b> An exploration of young Chinese adults' understanding of modern Chinese history (1840-1949): National narratives, international influences and transnational epistemologies.	£2,000
<b>*Dr Mariana Zegianini, SOAS</b> The Lives of the Wanli Emperor Portraits: Embodied Memory and Living Power.	£1,990
<b>*Dr Chi Zhang, University of St Andrews</b> Understanding Terrorism through Historical Artifacts.	£2,000
<b>*Mr Congwei Zheng, University of Glasgow</b> Surrogacy research among gay men in China.	£2,000
	<hr/> £41,393

**(d) Miscellaneous**

**British Association of Chinese Studies**

For the survey of Chinese Studies in the UK of HEIs £1,400

**Grants to the Great Britain-China Educational Trust**

For support in 2024 of Chinese students and scholars undertaking PhD courses in the UK. £14,000.00

**UCCL Completion Bursaries in Chinese Studies 2024**

**William Beswick, University of Oxford**

Intra-national Becoming: The Relational Construction of Ethnic and National Identity in Taiwan and Tibet. £2,500

**Lucy Fox, University of Nottingham**

Experiences of women working in STEM academia in the UK and China. £10,000

**Yingbai Fu, SOAS**

Dressing up the Manchu Way: Visual Representations of Women's Hair and Dress in China and Beyond, 1850s-1940s. £5,000

£32,900

**Total of Grants made**

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**£103,293**

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2023/24

UCCL has investments with three fund managers: M&G, Blackrock and CCLA. The combined capital value of these three investments has increased during the last year by 6% or £94,774.

This is particularly favourable for UCCL as the investments which give an income do not cover our costs and during the year we had to realise £50,000 to make up the shortfall, more than recouped by the increase in value.

Our endowment (non-income bearing) funds with CCLA grew substantially (11%) because of their exposure to international markets.

Expenditure on charitable activities decreased slightly when compared with 2023, from £105,000 to £103,000. We increased 4<sup>th</sup> year bursary payments but there was a drop in the number of travel grants offered during the year. The overall picture comparing the two years is a stable and consistent level of activity for the charity. We are adapting to the changing climate of access to in-person study in China.

We continue to support the China online library database, our largest single expenditure, though the full effect of changes in levels of access is not yet known. It is noteworthy that our Bursary grant for the doctoral write-up 4<sup>th</sup> year is successful and will continue.

Administration and support costs have risen from £18,316 to £19,994. The charity is fortunate to be administered and managed by Lindsay Jones and Fiona Duong.

The Sino-British Fellowship Trust continued their generous support during 2024. We are very grateful for their support and continued interest in our charity.

This is my first year as honorary treasurer. It has been enlightening to learn about the work of this wonderful organisation, and to start to get to know all the excellent individuals who offer so much to UCCL. I look forward to continuing as your honorary treasurer into the future.

October 2024

Charles Collins  
Hon. Treasurer

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Income Fund £	Endowment Fund £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>				
Donation – Sino-British Fellowship Trust	35,000	-	35,000	35,000
Investment income and deposit interest	42,220	-	42,220	41,655
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<u>77,220</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>77,220</u>	<u>76,655</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>				
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Grants made during the year under Charter headings				
(i) Interchange of lecturers	-	-	-	4,285
(ii) Hospitality to Chinese students and scholars in the U.K.	-	-	-	-
(iii) Orientation for Chinese studies in the U.K.	-	-	-	-
(iv) Teaching of Chinese language and literature in this country	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
(v) Intellectual and cultural relations with China				
(a) Library and museum grants	24,000	-	24,000	24,000
(b) Publication grants	-	-	-	-
(c) Travel grants	41,360	-	41,360	43,175
(d) Miscellaneous	32,900	-	32,900	29,000
<b>Support Costs</b>				
Secretarial and other administration costs	19,865	-	19,865	18,316
Members' travel	1,260	-	1,260	951
Bank charges	90	-	90	70
Audit fees	1,590	-	1,590	1,530
Printing and stationary	165	-	165	-
IT costs	237	-	237	-
Telephone and internet	15	-	15	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>126,482</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>126,482</u>	<u>126,347</u>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	(49,262)	-	(49,262)	(49,692)
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
<b>OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS/(LOSSES)</b>				
Gains/(losses) on investments	85,345	59,399	144,744	37,391
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	86,083	9,399	95,482	(12,301)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>				
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	783,689	879,905	1,663,594	1,675,895
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u>869,772</u>	<u>889,304</u>	<u>1,759,076</u>	<u>1,663,594</u>

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2024**

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Investments		1,736,245		1,641,501
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors – Donations receivable	-		-	
Cash at hand and in bank	82,819		70,968	
<b>Total current assets</b>	<u>82,819</u>		<u>70,968</u>	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		<u>59,988</u>		<u>48,875</u>
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>		22,831		22,093
<b>Net assets/(liabilities)</b>		<u>1,759,076</u>		<u>1,663,594</u>
 <b>THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>				
Endowment		889,304		879,905
Income		869,772		783,689
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u>1,759,076</u>		<u>1,663,594</u>

**C Collins**  
**Trustee and Treasurer**  
**November 2024**

## **A SELECTION ON POST-PROJECT REPORTS**

*(Notes: The reports from individuals are reproduced verbatim.)*

### **British Chinese Language Teaching Society (BCLTS)**

UCCL Grant Value: £5,000 awarded in April 2023

Purpose of grant: To support attendance of UK based BCLTS members at Annual International Conference in July 2023. This was held at Edinburgh University from 29<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July.

Dates of project: 29<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023

The funding from the UCCL was used for the purpose for which we applied, i.e. to subsidise the accommodation, food and travel costs of BCLTS full members (all local UK Chinese teachers) participating in the academic activities of the conference. This conference is the biggest annual academic event for BCLTS members and all British Mandarin Chinese teachers. It serves as a platform for BCLTS members to exchange ideas with national and international figures in the Chinese language teaching field. It has enabled many BCLTS members to develop from being hourly paid or part-time Chinese teachers into full time permanent teachers, scholars and academic leaders.

The 2023 BCLTS Annual Conference was a great success as our first large-scale in person international event since COVID-19. In collaboration with the Confucius Institute for Scotland, the conference invited 6 prestigious scholars to give 5 keynotes:

- Professor Lijun WANG, Beijing Normal University
- Professor Shijuan LIU, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Professor George ZHANG, Richmond American University London
- Associate Professor Thomas BAK, the University of Edinburgh
- Retired Assistant Professor Yang LU, the University of Nottingham

and 1 special lecture:

- Emeritus Professor Boping YUAN, the University of Cambridge

The conference's Call for Papers received 106 responses from 17 different countries and regions, including the UK, Ireland, China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Japan, America, Australia, Canada, Croatia, Slovakia, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, and Uzbekistan. 140 individuals registered to attend, with 50 oral presentations, 12 poster presentations, 8 workshops and 1 exhibition talk. 74 BCLTS

UK members in total (67%) attended the event either in person or online. 31 members in total (28%) contributed to the conference. The feedback of the conference was outstanding, with 49% 'extremely satisfied' and 52% 'very satisfied'. 84% of the participants state that they would like to recommend the event to a friend or colleague.

In addition to the annual conference, BCLTS arranged a workshop at Southampton University on 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> April to coincide with the European Association of Chinese Teaching conference. BCLTS members contributed to the EACT symposium with 15 in-person attendance (and more online attendance), 9 oral presentations and 10 chairing of sessions. There were an estimated 40 participants on site and 25 participants online (including non-members from other countries and regions) for the BCLTS teacher training workshop which concluded the EACT symposium on 22 April 2023.

The BCLTS is continuing to play a vital role in promoting the teaching of Chinese at UK universities through such national and international academic activities. The continued generous support of the UCCL is a very important resource for us in carrying out this work, and on behalf of BCLTS I should like to express our great gratitude for your continued support.

## **Hannah BENNETT, SOAS**

**Hannah Bennett was awarded a 4th Year PhD Completion Bursary of £10,000 in January 2023.**

My sincerest thanks to the UCCL for a bursary that was very much life changing. My PhD in anthropology explored caddies working at golf courses in China, to analyse political history, gendered labour, and vocational education. The PhD included several innovative theoretical contributions, including the concept of affective labour being actively trained. It also debunked the perceived incompatibility between feminization and professionalization, consequently coining the term 'affective professionalism'. The PhD was examined by Professor Jieyu Liu and Professor John Osburg, who described the work as such: "The data and analysis illuminate recent transformations in the broader dynamics of gender, labour, education, and class in China offering the reader a new portrait of the migrant worker in China, who is increasingly male and likely to be the product of a vocational school." With the support of the bursary, I was able to attend the Association for Asian Studies conference, where I was approached by an Editor interested in turning my work into a book. I am currently in talks regarding this and hope to publish the book in the next year and a half. I have given multiple invited guest lectures on my topic, and have consequently sparked an interest in studying China amongst many students. The bursary also enabled me to reduce my teaching load in the final year of my PhD and focus on job applications. I am happy to report, that I am now a Lecturer in Social Anthropology, and the Anthropology BA Programme Convenor at SOAS.

## **Man-Sing CHEUNG, University of Oxford**

**Man-Sing Cheung was awarded a grant of £875 in June 2024. The topic of his research was “Economic Stabilization in China, 1945-1949.”**

I am very grateful to UCCL for generously supporting this research trip. The visit to Guangzhou has tremendously assisted my project. During the visit, I visited Guangdong Provincial Archives and Sun-Yat Sen Library of Guangdong Province to collect archival material and consult rare manuscripts related to the Kuomintang government’s post-war economic stabilization efforts between 1945 and 1949. The materials collected ranged from central government directives, proposals and correspondence of regional and local governments, as well as papers of state-owned enterprises, particularly the Central Trust of China and the Kwangtung Industrial Corporation. The materials and data collected are very important in revealing the complex economic controls and rationing activities operated by state enterprises, a hitherto under-studied aspect of China’s post-war economic crisis. Papers which recorded the subtle power struggle between state enterprises and commercial guilds over the exercise of the central government’s emergency economic regulations, and reports of physical assaults on economic police also reveal the dynamics of the government policy in action, beyond the well-studied example of Shanghai in 1948.

I have also met with the research group led by Professor Xiao Zili (South China Normal University), specializing in the economic history of Guangdong during WWII, to discuss my project and ask for comments and advice on conducting archival work in China. Their feedback has been very helpful in navigating the bureaucratic maze of Chinese state archives, and in clarifying the concept of Fuyuan “復員”, that is demobilization, restoration and (re-)construction in post-war China.

## **Dr Anton HARDER, LSE**

**Dr Harder was awarded a grant of £1,465 in February 2020. The title of his research was “Defining Independence in Cold War Asia: Sino-Indian relations 1949-62”.**

In April 2021 I modified the original plan due to Covid. However, after finding a researcher to work in HK for me I then lost them as they decided they felt uncomfortable with the political atmosphere in the territory. The end result was that I focused on two archives in Taiwan: the National Archives and the Academia Sinica Archives. And hired a researcher to do that for me. This person also helped me locate some out-of-print books in Taiwan. There was rather more work for them in the end than initially thought because during their period of work the archives in Taiwan closed/reopened for Covid a number of times, and they found themselves doing more trips back and forth than expected. However, this has led to a very large amount of material being gathered from these archives.

This material has three main benefits: First, mainly I've gained a broader understanding of the international dimension of the Khampa/Tibetan rebellion(s) in the 1950s due to the monitoring of these events and also GMD communications with persons involved. This has expanded my sense of the way in which instability in Tibet created difficulties in Sino-Indian relations during my period of research [i.e. 1949-1962]. Second, this material has given me more detail about responses to the Air India Kashmir Princess disaster of 1955, particularly what Taipei thought of Beijing's accusation that the GMD was involved. Finally, this material has given me more detail on various transnational actors in the Himalayan region in this period. I am writing up all this in a book now, with Oxford University Press having approved my proposal and in fact scheduled to receive two complete chapters at the end of this week.

## Matthew HURST, University of York

**Matthew Hurst was awarded a grant of £2,000 in November 2023. The title of his research was “Secret Activists and the Transfer of Hong Kong: How Informal Diplomats and Civil Society Shaped Hong Kong’s Decolonisation, 1979-97”.**

This UCCL grant was essential in supporting my fieldtrip to Hong Kong (HK). My PhD asks how HK people influenced the handover from Britain and Beijing. The seven HK archives I visited were the Legislative Council (LegCo) Archives, HK Heritage Project oral history collection, HK Baptist University Elsie Tu collection, Polytechnic University Library, Public Records Office, Chinese University of HK Hilton Cheong-leen collection and HK University oral history collection; the last two were additional to my original plans.

Reviewing some 500 files, I drew the following significant conclusions (plus myriad incremental advances). Firstly, the colonial government possessed the infrastructure to survey public opinion and claimed to welcome HK opinion about the handover but chose not to use this due to political sensitivity. Secondly, contra perceptions of the Urban Council (UrbCo) and LegCo as ineffectual (e.g. Lo, ‘Last Stand of Colonialism?’), archives evidence correspondence and consultation with Westminster officials and the Governor. Thirdly, archives reflect the colonial government’s repression of HK activism, a topic that has only recently begun to be covered (e.g. Mok, *Covert Colonialism*; Ng, *Political Censorship in British HK*). This includes reports of social/political activists and protests, and copies of reports by the Standing Committee on Pressure Groups – a secret group established to subvert activists whose papers were believed destroyed.

I am grateful to UCCL for supporting this fruitful research trip. I have digitised several hundred archive items that will inform my PhD, which will be published open access via White Rose Research Online around January 2024.

## **Anqi LI, University of Hong Kong**

**Anqi Li was awarded a grant of £2,000 in June 2023. Her research looked at "The Rise and Fall of Shanghai's West Bund".**

This fruitful trip centred around my presentation on "The Rise and Fall of Shanghai's West Bund" at the 16th Annual Conference at the Center of Chinese Visual Arts, Birmingham City University, held on November 23 and 24, 2023. I had the privilege of connecting with esteemed scholars such as Dr. J. Jiang, Dr. J. Xiao, Dr. H. Bao, H. Shi, as well as fellow doctoral students and researchers including Dr. E. Emrich-Rougé and Dr. E. Larson. The reception for my paper was positive, leading to an invitation to submit a full paper for peer review and publication in the upcoming issue 11.2&3 of the Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art.

In addition, I stayed in London to engage in a series of meetings with key stakeholders and conduct field research. I had the privilege of meeting and interviewing journalist G. Adam and V. Chow, curator J. Chao, W. Bao, N. Yu, and E. Li, gallerist S. Liu, researcher Y. Zhang and S. Guo, artist A. Li, and arts administrator K. Huen. Additionally, I established connections with arts professionals from London-based organizations and museums, including M. Landolt and L. Nittve. I also visited institutions such as the Barbican Centre, Tate Britain, Tate Modern, the South Bank district and the Southbank Centre, Serpentine Gallery, Victoria and Albert Museum, Royal Academy of Arts, and Cromwell Place.

In summary, this UK trip has provided me with valuable connections and resources for my doctoral research on museum policies and enriched my understanding of the London arts scene. I am sincerely grateful to UCCL for your trust and unwavering support throughout this journey.

## **Tobias ROSS, University of Nottingham**

**Tobias Ross was awarded a grant of £1,825 in June 2020. The title of his research was “State-business relationships in contemporary China: Insights into China’s recent ‘*Football Dream*’ policy”.**

Through the grant of UCCL I was able to travel to Beijing and Shanghai in April 2023 to conduct fieldwork for a tentative journal article and academic book chapter publication. During my fieldwork I have conducted 16 interviews with experts from the wider Chinese football industry, including club representatives, investors, sport governing bodies, former players, and journalists. The research can be situated in the academic fields of China’s political economy, sport, and business. The trip was particularly useful since my overarching research interest – Chinese football – has been undergoing substantial developments since my last visit to the country in 2019. After numerous online interviews for my PhD research and other academic publications during Covid-19, the in-person interviews substantially helped me gain a more nuanced and updated view of my general research interests. Furthermore, the grant allowed me to follow-up on previous (online) interviews and meet interview participants in their work environment, thereby further contributing to a better understanding of the current situation in Chinese football.

## **Mengyuan TIAN, University of Cambridge**

### **Mengyuan Tian was awarded a grant of £2,000 in November 2022.**

During my fieldwork trip, I accomplished several key objectives. I meticulously reviewed primary sources, enhancing my understanding of the subject matter. Additionally, I refined my interview questions, ensuring they were well-structured for future interactions. I also organized and cataloged video recordings and participant observation notes, streamlining my research materials. My fieldwork spanned three provinces over several months. In March, I conducted the fourth round of fieldwork in Henan Province, followed by the initial round in Shaanxi Province in April, and the debut round in Zhejiang Province in May. I actively participated in the official Huangdi worship ceremonies, attended the international symposium on Huangdi culture, and engaged in various related events. I also ventured into the field to visit and interview self-organizing religious groups of Huangdi followers, religious personnel, and conducted research in Huangdi-related tourism attractions, including Huangdi Hometown, Juci Mountain, and Huangdi Theme Park.

Throughout my fieldwork, I conducted in-depth interviews with a diverse array of individuals, including government officials, scholars, entrepreneurs, temple managers, and media professionals. I also engaged with religious practitioners, local residents, and visitors. Importantly, I cultivated strong relationships with many of these informants, fostering trust and facilitating productive conversations.

In summary, my fieldwork was comprehensive and multi-faceted, covering a wide range of interviewees and research areas. It enabled me to gather valuable insights into the subject matter and establish enduring connections with key individuals. The support from UCCL significantly contributed to the success of this fieldwork, enhancing the depth and breadth of my research.

## Dr Mariana ZEGIANINI, SOAS

**Dr Zegianini was awarded grant of £1,990 in February 2024. The title of her research was “The Lives of the Wanli Emperor Portraits: Embodied Memory and Living Power”.**

I arrived in Beijing on 23 May 2024 and went directly to the National Museum of China, as I had a timed entry on that day to visit their exhibition on the portraiture of Li Wenzhong and his clan, one of the founding members of the Ming dynasty. I also saw two other exhibitions that were important to my research: an exhibition on fashion and dressing across China’s dynastic time and an exhibition about bronze mirrors. The next day, I had an appointment with Palace Museum curator Xu Wangling who had kindly extended an invitation to visit the Museum. She took me to see several exhibitions within the precincts of the Forbidden City. She also directed me to the Nanxun Hall, the space designated by the Qianlong emperor to store the imperial portraits created during the Song to the Ming dynasties. It was a very productive visit, and we ended the day by having dinner together. Further on, I also visited the National Art Museum of China where they had an exhibition of landscape painting by the Xin’an school. Other places of interest were the Yuanming yuan and the Ming tombs, where I spent time conducting research on the Dingling Mausoleum, the tomb of the Wanli emperor and his two empresses. I was also invited to the graduate show at the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA), where I was invited to present my research by Prof. Wang Hao. I was also invited by a member of the Peking University to visit the University Library and the campus.

From Beijing I travelled to Taipei via Japan. There I met with the National Palace Museum Curator Dr Chiu Shih Hwa who had curated an exhibition about imperial portraiture and the Nanxun Hall a few years ago. We examined some paintings together in the reserve collections of the National Palace Museum, and she also invited me to attend the MA Art History student presentations at National Taiwan Normal University. In Taipei, I also scheduled a visit to the National Central Library where I examined some woodblock printed books stored in their Rare Books Department. My final visit was to the newly opened National History Museum where I saw many paintings, including portraiture by 20th century artists.

This research trip greatly contributed to my understanding of how portraiture is curated and researched in both mainland China and Taiwan. It also allowed me to gain knowledge on the topic of imperial portraiture and to discuss my ideas with museum curators and scholars from the region.

## **Dr Chi ZHANG, University of St Andrews**

**Dr Zhang was awarded a grant of £2,000 in February 2024. Her research was titled “Understanding Terrorism through Historical Artifacts”.**

During my fieldwork in Shanghai, I visited several key museums, including the Exhibition Hall of CPC Shanghai Underground Organization Struggle History, the Shanghai History Museum, and the Shanghai Museum of Public Security. These visits were integral to my research on how heroes are commemorated and how such commemoration contributes to the construction of the Chinese Communist Party's legitimacy. My research focuses on the ways historical narratives have shaped the conceptualization of resistance and martyrdom, legitimizing certain forms of resistance while de-legitimizing others.

This trip provided valuable insights into the concept of martyrdom, particularly in the context of the communist revolution. A notable example is Qiu Jin, whose heroic legacy has been appropriated by various ideologies to legitimize their causes across different historical periods, including the late Qing, Republican, and PRC eras. The grant from the UCCL greatly enhanced my understanding of these themes, offering a deeper perspective on the intersection of history, ideology, and legitimacy in China. I also utilized the UCCL grant to visit Qiu Jin's grave in Hangzhou. The reconstruction, preservation, destruction, and surrounding discourses of the grave offered valuable primary sources that enriched my understanding of martyrdom within the Chinese context.

## **The China Library Group**

Since 2013, at the request of the China Library Group (CLG), the UCCL has redirected its support for the purchase of Chinese books for academic research and teaching at a group of universities to support for a consortial subscription to essential Chinese language e-journal databases. These databases are provided by the Chinese digital giant CNKI and purchased through a Canadian company Eastview. The resources included in this subscription cover almost all significant PRC journal publications across the arts, humanities and political and social sciences (though not STEAM subjects, which have to be purchased separately). Members of the consortium (currently 20 institutions) can select which specific databases they wish to subscribe to and the number of consecutive users who can have access, according to their needs and financial resources. The grant for £24,000 p.a. in 2023 was, as before, shared out equally between the 20 members of the consortium.

The past 18 months saw great uncertainty surrounding the continued provision of these e-journal databases due to changes in PRC data laws and a government investigation into CNKI's business practices. These issues have now been resolved, and I am very pleased to report that Eastview confirmed recently that it should be "business-as-usual" going forward. They have also confirmed that the consortium deal can be carried forward to the academic year Oct. 2024-Sept.2025.

The statistics provided by Eastview for the period Jan-Sept.2024 indicate that use of the databases may end up down slightly on the previous 2 years. However, with an average of around 160,000 article downloads per annum over the past few years, the databases continue to be the single most important source of information for researchers in the UK about China and the research being done there.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the members of the consortium to thank the UCCL once again for its most generous and timely support.

### **Member Institutions for 2024**

Bangor University	Lancaster University	Queen Mary University
Bristol University	Leeds University	Sheffield University
British Library	London School of Economics	SOAS
Cambridge University	Manchester University	University College London
Durham University	Newcastle University	Westminster University
Exeter University	Nottingham University	Warwick University
King's College London	Oxford University	

November 2024

John Moffett  
Convenor, China Library Group