

# China in Transition, 1945-1955

University of Bristol 8-9 October 2011

Sponsored by the British Inter-University China Centre and the Leverhulme China's War with Japan Programme, University of Oxford.

## Programme

The period from 1945-1955 was one of the most dramatic, creative and disruptive in China's modern history. This period saw the end of the Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945), the collapse of the *Guomindang*, and the establishment of the People's Republic of China. Yet this period has received relatively little scholarly attention. It is only recently that researchers have gained access to previously closed Chinese archives, and have been able to move beyond the dominant narratives and political biases of the Cold War. This makes the 1945-1955 period a particularly rich area for new research. This workshop considers the changes and continuities in China from 1945 to 1955. How did China's ideas and institutions (broadly defined) transition during this period? What kinds of local, national, and international transformations took place, and what remained the same? What happened to China's place in the world during these years? This two-day workshop will bring together postgraduate students, early career scholars and senior scholars working on a range of topics within the humanities and social sciences. We hope that the workshop will foster dialogue and an opportunity to collaborate with one another and with senior faculty members.

## Saturday 8 October

**11.00 Welcome and opening remarks**

**11.30 Panel 1: Foreign presence in China**

Discussant: Robert Bickers (University of Bristol)

Jon Howlett (Newcastle University)

*'The British Boss is Gone and Will Never Return,' the takeover of British Companies in Communist Shanghai*

Audrey Salters (University of Edinburgh)

*Dispensing with foreign doctors - a tale of five hospitals, 1945-1951*

David Woodbridge (University of Manchester)

*Christianity in China after the missionaries: Watchman Nee and the Little Flock, 1945-1956*

**13.00 Lunch**

**14.00 Keynote speech: Rana Mitter and Robert Bickers**

14.45 Coffee

**15.00 Panel 2: War with Japan and its aftermath**

Discussant: Rana Mitter (University of Oxford)

Chang Cai (Harvard University)

*Trials of sovereignty: Chinese Nationalist trials of Japanese war criminals, 1946-1949*

Tony Brooks (University of Cambridge)

*Angry states: elite Chinese views of Japan, 1949-1955*

Amy King (University of Oxford)

*Trading with the enemy: China's economic relations with Japan, 1949-1955*

16.30 Coffee

**16.45 Panel 3: Transition of institutions in China**

Discussant: Tehyun Ma (University of Oxford/Birkbeck, University of London)

Tyler Rooker (University of Nottingham)

*From 'Middle Official Graveyard' to 'Science City': Zhongguancun, 1945-1955*

Jun Kajima (University of Tokyo)

*Transition in the fiscal and taxation system before and after the Chinese Communist Revolution: a case study of Shanghai Municipality, 1945-1956*

Carles Brasó Broggi (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona)

*The transition of Dafeng: a textile industrial group between Shanghai and Hong Kong, 1945-1955*

18.15 Finish

**19.00 Dinner:** Primrose Café, 1 Clifton Arcade, Boyces Avenue, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 4AA

**Sunday 9 October**

**10.00 Panel 4: Campaigns and Resistance**

Discussant: Christian Hess (University of Warwick)

Jie Deng (Queen's University)

*Land Reform, Collectivization and the formation of China's rural-urban divide (1947-1957)*

Masuda Hajimu (Cornell University)

*Between mobilization and participation: reconsidering the Campaign to Suppress Counterrevolutionaries*

11.30 Coffee

11.50 Roundtable led by Tehyun Ma and Christian Hess

13.00 Finish

Please note: participants will have 15 minutes to present their papers, and Powerpoint will be available for those who wish to use it (if you wish to use Powerpoint, please email your presentation to us by Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October at the latest).

### Workshop Participants

Professor Robert Bickers, University of Bristol  
Professor Rana Mitter, University of Oxford  
Dr Christian Hess, University of Warwick  
Dr Tehyun Ma, University of Oxford/Birkbeck, University of London

Amy King, University of Oxford  
Jon Howlett, Newcastle University  
Audrey Salters, University of Edinburgh  
Carles Brasó Broggi, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona  
Hajimu MASUDA, Cornell University  
Chang CAI, Harvard University  
Jun KAJIMA, University of Tokyo  
David Woodbridge, University of Manchester  
Jie DENG, Queen's University  
Tony Brooks, University of Cambridge  
Tyler Rooker, University of Nottingham

### Travel Information

#### Directions to Bristol

If you are arriving from Bristol Airport, please take the Airport Flyer into town (the Clifton Triangle stop is the most convenient for the university). If you are arriving from any of the major London airports, we recommend that you first make your way into central London by bus or by train. The Heathrow Express train directly links Heathrow Airport to Paddington station and is a convenient option if you are unfamiliar with London (however tickets can be expensive at around £18, so a National Express bus may be a cheaper option).

Trains to Bristol leave from Paddington station and take around 1hr 40mins. We recommend you purchase tickets in advance if possible, as they are usually cheaper (see [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)). When travelling to Bristol, please make sure that you book your train ticket to **Bristol Temple Meads** station (not Bristol Parkway). From Bristol Temple Meads station you can either get a taxi directly to the conference location, or take the number 9 bus and get off at Woodland Road/the University (please ask the driver to tell you where to get off - they are usually very friendly).

**Directions to the Workshop Venue**

The Workshop will be held in Room G37, 11 Woodland Road, at the University of Bristol, BS8 1TB. A map of the University Precinct is available here:

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/maps/google/>

You can see the entrance to numbers 3-21 Woodland Road on this map (where Woodland Road meets Tyndall's Park Road). Please enter through the door of number 3-5 Woodland Road and make your way along the back of the building to number 11. Room G37 is at the front of number 11 (there will be signs to direct you).

**Directions to the Hotel**

We will give you directions and a map to the hotel from the university when you arrive at the workshop.

Avon Gorge Hotel

Address: Sion Hill, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4LD

Telephone: 0117 973 8955

[www.avongorge-hotel-bristol.com](http://www.avongorge-hotel-bristol.com)

**Contact Details**

If you have any difficulties, please don't hesitate to contact Amy King (07788 420177) or Jon Howlett (07961 538539).