MANCHESTER CHINA INSTITUTE
Early Career Researcher in China Studies Workshops

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

The Manchester China Institute (MCI), based at the University of Manchester, welcomes proposals for its upcoming Early Career Researcher China Studies Workshops. Our ECR workshops provide an informal, multidisciplinary forum for fellow postdocs, PhDs, more senior faculty, and their peers.

We invite research postdocs, PhD students, and other early-career scholars to submit proposals for presentations of any topic related to China Studies/the Chinese-speaking world. We are interested in a wide range of topics, ranging from social sciences to linguistics, science, technology, arts, and many more.

Our ECR workshops are held **in-person at the MCI** (view address), usually on Thursdays, during lunchtime (12:30-2pm). Each workshop comprises a 30-minute presentation followed by a Q&A session, with a tailored audience that includes senior academics, PhD/PGR students, and MCI's visiting scholars.

If you would like to present at our Spring 2024 ECR workshops, please submit the following details to mci@manchester.ac.uk
- Applicant's full name;
- Bio, brief (include academic title, institution, profile picture);
- Talk title (75 characters max.; capturing the topic/research question on China);
- Abstract (200 words max.);
- Your availability throughout the academic year.

Our ECR convenors will review your application and aim to reply to you within a week from submission. If successful, we will schedule a short online meeting with you, to discuss the format of your presentation and answer any questions you might have regarding the session.

GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

TRAVEL COSTS: If you are travelling from outside Manchester and need help covering your travel expenses, please inform us as soon as possible.

MARKETING MATERIALS:
If you want to make any final changes to your details (i.e.: update title or abstract), please inform us <u>at least a month</u> in advance.

To advertise your talk, our team will prepare a set of promotional posters and an Eventbrite sign-up page <u>similar to this one</u>, to circulate across our listservs and social media. With your approval, we will make these materials public.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR AUDIENCE:
Our usual audience is made up of senior academics, postdocs, PhD/PGRs from various disciplines, with a common interest in China. Our conference room fits 25 attendees, and we can set it up as a roundtable or lecture theatre-style, based on your preference/expected audience.

You should assume that your audience is familiar with China but is unfamiliar with your specific disciplinary approach. For this reason, we suggest focusing on your <u>empirical findings</u> rather than <u>theoretical framework</u>. Focus not on your contributions to theory or methods, but on what new your audience can learn about China.

The aim of having such a multidisciplinary audience is to support you by providing new perspectives, suggestions for improvement, and constructive critiques. Take this as an opportunity to learn, refine, and communicate your research better.

If you would like to invite specific Manchester-based colleagues, please reach out to them personally or send us their emails and we will invite them on your behalf.

BUILDING YOUR PRESENTATION:
For a successful presentation, we recommend using the following structure:
1. Introduce your topic, contextualising and motivating your research;
2. Clearly outline your research question and aims;
3. Briefly summarise and identify the research gap(s) in the existing literature;
4. Address your contribution through new data/methodology;
5. Present your key research findings and implications;
6. Reflect on your positionality, limitations, ethical considerations, etc.

If you are using PPT slides for your presentation, please send us a first draft of your slides <u>at least a week</u> before your presentation, and the final PPT <u>two days ahead</u> of

time. We highly recommend consulting with your supervisors and/or peers about how to best utilise PPT.

The slides should be visually driven rather than text-heavy, so the audience is focused on you and not the screen. Please make sure you can cover the information included on your slides within 30 minutes to allow enough time for an extended Q&A session.

PRESENTATION DAY:

Please arrive at the MCI at least 30 minutes before your presentation to meet our colleagues, familiarise yourself with the space, and grab some food if you wish.

MCI Director, Prof Peter Gries, or one of our Deputy Directors will moderate the workshop and make introductions for you and the audience, and our team will assist you with the technical side (projecting the slides, printing materials, taking photos, etc.).

Managing the Q&A session:
- Make notes of the questions and comments received from the audience;
- Answer the questions honestly, concisely, and confidently;
- Use facts, evidence, and concrete examples to support your answers;
- If you don't know how to reply, you can offer to get back to the questioner later;
- If the question is outside your expertise, defer to someone who can answer it.

Further reflections:
1. Construct a clear and engaging narrative for your presentation. What is the main message or story that you want to convey to your audience? How does your research contribute to the existing knowledge or practice in your field? How can you structure your presentation to have a logical flow and a strong conclusion?
2. Know your audience and tailor your presentation accordingly. Who are the people attending the ECR workshop? What are their backgrounds, interests, and expectations? How can you make your presentation relevant, accessible, and interesting to them? How can you invite feedback or questions from them?
3. Build your confidence and overcome imposter syndrome. How do you deal with nervousness and challenging questions from your audience? How do you acknowledge your strengths and achievements as a researcher? How do you seek and use constructive feedback to improve your presentation skills?
4. Seek opportunities to network and collaborate with other researchers. How can you use your presentation to showcase your research and connect with potential collaborators or mentors? How can you join or create networks that support your research interests and career development? How can you engage with wider academic communities and stakeholders through your presentation?

Don't hesitate to reach out to us if you need anything else.

Best Wishes,
Manchester China Institute