



SYMPOSIUM

Community Sentiment and Chinese Australian Experiences

Jointly hosted by the Challenging Racism Project, the Whitlam Institute and the Asia Society



ABSTRACT

Recent global engagements with Asia, particularly China, are facilitating changes to the Chinese Australian landscape. For example, in the past decade, the number of Australian residents born in China (excluding SARs and Taiwan) has doubled. Now numbering over half a million, this group accounts for 2.2 per cent of the country's total population and is the equal-second most populous migrant group. There are also over 1 million Australians of Chinese ancestry. This is the fifth largest ancestry group and comprises 3.9 per cent of the total Australian population (ABS 2017). Concerns about the influence of Chinese cultural exchange, investment and influence in Australia may well be having direct impacts on this growing local Chinese Australian community and may be linked to historic understandings and dispositions towards China and Chinese Australians.

With an official welcome from WSU Deputy Chancellor Liz Dibbs and opening remarks by Tim Soutphommasane (Race Discrimination Commissioner) and Philipp Ivanov (CEO of Asia Society Australia), this symposium will provide a forum to discuss contemporary challenges facing the Chinese Australian community. The symposium will consider the current state of public debate/community sentiment regarding Chinese Australians; present empirical evidence of the intercultural relations challenges that are emerging in Australia; and facilitate engagement and dialogue between academic researchers, policy analysts, Chinese Australian community members, and government representatives. It will include papers presented by three leading academics in the field, followed by a panel discussion among community members.

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

4-4.10pm	Official Opening	WSU Deputy Chancellor Liz Dibbs
4.10-4.30pm	Opening Remarks	Dr Tim Soutphommasane (Race Discrimination Commissioner) Philipp Ivanov (CEO of Asia Society Australia)
4.30-5.15pm	Academic Paper Presentations	Dr Dallas Rogers (USYD), Dr Alexandra Wong (WSU), Dr Jacqueline Nelson (UTS): <i>Public perceptions of foreign and Chinese real estate investment: intercultural relations in Global Sydney</i> Kathleen Blair (WSU), Prof. Kevin Dunn (WSU), Dr Alanna Kamp (WSU): <i>Chinese Australians' encounters with racism in Australia</i> Prof. Wanning Sun (UTS): <i>Selective Cosmopolitanism: Blind spots in current debates on China and the Chinese community in Australia</i>
5.15-6pm	Community Panel Discussion	Tony Pang (Chinese Australian Forum) Prof. Jocelyn Chey (ACIAC WSU) David Chin (Basis Point)
6-7pm	Drinks and canapés	

MC: Leanne Smith (Whitlam Institute)

Discussion Moderator: Prof. Ien Ang (WSU)

OFFICIAL OPENING

Elizabeth Dibbs, Deputy Chancellor, Western Sydney University, was a partner and General Counsel of PwC and previously worked with major law firms Mallesons Stephen Jaques (Sydney) and Linklaters & Paines (London). Liz now works as a non-executive director in the government and for purpose sectors. She is Chairman of United Way Australia and a Governor of the Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine and Cell Biology. She was the President of YWCA NSW from 2007-2011 and a director of YWCA Australia from 2009 to 2013. Liz has also previously served as a Council Member of Chief Executive Women and Chair of its Scholarship Committee. Liz holds a Bachelor of Arts and Law (University Medal) from Sydney University and a Master of Laws (Hons1) from Cambridge University.

OPENING REMARKS

Dr Tim Soutphommasane has been Race Discrimination Commissioner since August 2013. Prior to joining the Australian Human Rights Commission, Tim was a political philosopher and held posts at The University of Sydney and Monash University. His thinking on multiculturalism, patriotism and national identity has been influential in shaping debates in Australia and Britain.

Tim is the author of four books: *I'm Not Racist But ...* (2015), *The Virtuous Citizen* (2012), *Don't Go Back To Where You Came From* (2012), and *Reclaiming Patriotism* (2009). He was co-editor (with Nick Dyrenfurth) of *All That's Left* (2010). He has been an opinion columnist with *The Age* and *The Weekend Australian* newspapers, and presented the documentary series *Mongrel Nation* on ABC Radio National (2013). Tim is an adjunct professor at the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University and chairs the Leadership Council on Cultural Diversity.

Born in France and raised in southwest Sydney, Tim holds a Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Philosophy (with Distinction) from the University of Oxford, and is a first-class honours graduate of The University of Sydney.

Philipp Ivanov has been Chief Executive Officer of Asia Society Australia since January 2015 and is leading Asia Society Australia through an exciting period of growth and transformation. Philipp is a China specialist with extensive experience in policy, education and research and commitment to building an Asia-connected Australia. Previously, he was a Policy Officer and Manager of the Australia-China Council at the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. In this role, Philipp led the strategic renewal of the Council and had broader responsibilities for the Australia-China bilateral relationship. Philipp was one of the principal authors of the *Australia in the Asian Century White Paper - China Country Strategy*. Previously, Philipp was Acting Director and Deputy Director of the Research Institute for Asia and the Pacific at the University of Sydney, advised the University of Sydney on China strategy and managed La Trobe University's partnerships in the Gulf States, Vietnam and Thailand.

Philipp spent over 6 years in China working in education and development. He is the recipient of the 'Rose Award' by Shenyang Municipal Government for his contribution to Shenyang City. In 2009 he was also awarded the Australian Government's Endeavour Executive Fellowship to research China's policies on leadership development at the China National Academy of Education Administration in Beijing. He is a board member of the Australia-Vietnam Young Leadership Dialogue, Asia Recon, Haymarket HQ and Sydney City Council's Chinese New Year Advisory Panel. In 2015, he was invited as the only Australian to the 2015 Congress of Vienna - a preeminent global track-two dialogue on major powers conflict, migration, equality and innovation. Philipp has a Bachelor (Honours) degree in Chinese language and history from the Far Eastern National University in Russia. He also studied in Jilin and Liaoning Normal universities in China. He holds a Master of Educational Leadership and Management from RMIT University in Australia. He grew up in Vladivostok on Russia's Pacific coast and is a fluent Chinese and Russian speaker.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Dr Dallas Rogers (USYD), Dr Alex Wong (WSU), Dr Jacqueline Nelson (UTS)

Public perceptions of foreign and Chinese real estate investment: intercultural relations in Global Sydney

Moving foreign human and financial capital through landed property is not a new phenomenon in Sydney. It is a recurring geopolitical strategy that is replete with intercultural tension and deep colonial roots. In contemporary Australia, there is an assumption in public policy and media rhetoric that there is a high level of public concern about foreign investment. Talk draws on a survey of about 1000 Sydneysiders about their views about foreign and Chinese real estate investment. In big picture terms, we found high levels of public concern and discontent about foreign investment amongst Sydneysiders, with Chinese investors being a key target of this discontent. In the context of high housing prices in Sydney, there were widely held concerns about housing affordability. Survey respondents had a sophisticated understanding of what influences house prices, but with a possible overemphasis on the role of foreign investment. There was a general lack of support for policy that encourages foreign investment, and a lack of confidence in how the government is regulating foreign investment. And perhaps most alarmingly, half of our participants reported that they would not welcome Chinese foreign investors in their suburb. Thus, in broad terms, Sydneysiders were generally against foreign and Chinese real estate investment. However, when we analysed the data by housing status the story is more complicated. Anecdotal evidence and media reports suggest that Sydneysiders are against foreign investors because they are buying homes that Sydneysiders could otherwise live in. Following this logic, we would expect to find Sydneysiders who are looking to buy a house or who are in housing stress to be more opposed to foreign real estate investment than those who are not looking to buy a housing or who are in housing stress. Therefore, we looked at the relationship between housing stress and Sydneysiders' views about foreign investment. We found there were no significant differences in beliefs about foreign and Chinese real estate investment when comparing those who spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs with those who spend less. Then we looked at the links between those Sydneysiders' who were actively looking to purchase a property and concern about foreign and Chinese investment. We found that those who were actively looking to purchase a property were more likely to be supportive of foreign and Chinese investment in the housing market, than those who were not looking. Finally, we looked at how the ownership of an investment property related to Sydneysiders views about foreign investors buying properties in Sydney. We found that those who own an investment property were more likely to be supportive of foreign investors buying properties in Sydney. These findings suggest that a set of shared housing investment ideologies might be bridging an otherwise tense domestic/foreign cultural divide in Sydney.

BIOGRAPHIES

Dallas Rogers' research and teaching focuses on the relationships between housing poverty and wealth in global cities. He leads the award winning Global Real Estate Project (GREP). GREP studies focus on the intersections of housing, migration, education, intercultural relations, digital technologies and geopolitical issues. Dallas has undertaken a critical analysis of Australian urbanism through fine-grained empirical research with low-income urban citizenries as well as super-rich transnational property investors, developers and their agents. Dallas publishes on: 1) Relational examinations of housing poverty and wealth in globalising cities; 2) The changing nature of Asian-Australian housing, economic, technology and intercultural relations; and 3) The intersections of local democracy, urban planning and private sector urban development. His recent books include a monograph on 'The Geopolitics of Real Estate: Reconfiguring Property Capital and Rights', edited book on 'The Globalisation of Real Estate: The Politics and Practice of Foreign Real Estate Investment', and an edited book on 'Housing in 21st-Century Australia: People, Practices and Policies'. Dallas is the host of City Road Podcast.

Alexandra Wong is an Engaged Research Fellow at the Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University. Her research explores the interplay of innovation/creativity, culture and urban theories and covers a wide range of topics such as cultural economy, knowledge cities, migration, housing, multiculturalism and entrepreneurship. She has recently completed several research projects, including an ARC Linkage Project (2012-2015) on Sydney's Chinatown and two consultancy projects commissioned by the City of Sydney (2016, 2017). Currently, she is working on a book about Sydney's Chinatown and an ARC Discovery Project (2017-2019) about the heritage corridor between Australia and China.

Jacqueline Nelson is interested in how racism manifests and exploring how we can respond to racism, both as individuals and by challenging cultures and practices that reproduce racism and inequality. In previous work she has examined local or place-based responses to racism and discourses of denial. Her postdoctoral research uses ideas of performativity to look at how people respond to racism within their own families. Jacqueline has also published on the topics of bystander responses to racism, and ethnic discrimination in housing and employment. She holds a Bachelor of Liberal Studies (Hons I Psychology) from the University of Sydney, an MSc (Applied Social Research) from Trinity College in Ireland, and a PhD from the University of Western Sydney.

Kathleen Blair (WSU), Prof. Kevin Dunn (WSU), Dr Alanna Kamp (WSU)

Chinese Australians' encounters with racism in Australia

The levels of stated social distance towards Chinese-Australians are too high. We would expect this to be related to recent debates about housing investment in metropolitan cities, political donations, university campus politics and PRC Govt influence, and the purchase of agricultural land and mining. There is an emerging meta-discourse that is antipathetic towards China in Australia, Chinese in Australia, and this will have implications for Chinese Australians. A nationwide survey of Australians undertaken in 2015 and 2016 (n:6,001) reveals the worrying levels of racism experienced by Chinese Australians. The majority of Australians born in China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan) have experienced racism in the workplace (67%), education (69%), in seeking housing (58%), in shop or restaurants (72%), public transport or the street (76%). Four out of five have been treated less respectfully because of their cultural background. The data show similar results by language background, with 53% of those speaking Chinese languages at home experiencing racism in the seeking housing, 72% experiencing racism in shop or restaurants, and 81% of Chinese-speakers treated disrespectfully. We reflect on the link between the convergence of antipathetic China discourses and the experiences of Chinese-Australians. Our data add a critical foil to the political movements that are crystalising around anti-China sentiment.

BIOGRAPHIES

Kathleen Blair is a PhD candidate in the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University. Her doctoral work explores marginal vote seeking strategies and the use of anti-asylum seeker sentiment in federal election campaigns. Kathleen is also a research assistant on *The Challenging Racism Project* based at Western Sydney University. Her research interests include asylum seekers, refugees, discourse analysis, racism and anti-racism.

Kevin Dunn is Professor of Human Geography and Urban Studies and Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University. His areas of research include immigration and settlement, Islam in Australia, the geographies of racism and local government and multiculturalism. Kevin is lead researcher on *The Challenging Racism Project* based at Western Sydney University. His recent books include *Cyber Racism and Community Resilience* (2017) and *Landscapes: Ways of Imagining the World*. Kevin is Lead Dean for Global Rankings at Western Sydney University and Provost of the Penrith campus.

Alanna Kamp is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Urban Research Program/School of Social Sciences and Psychology, Western Sydney University. As an historical and cultural geographer, Alanna is interested in feminist and postcolonial understandings of the Chinese Australian experience and attitudes to Chinese immigration throughout Australia's history. She is particularly interested in the ways in which historical geographies of Chinese experience have contemporary relevance and shape current community experiences and identities. Recent/forthcoming publications include 'Chinese Australian Women's 'Homemaking' and Contributions to the Family Economy in White Australia', *Australian Historical Geographies Down Under: Australian Geographer Special Issue* (vol 1 2018) and 'International migration and mobility experiences of Chinese Australian women in White Australia, 1901-1973', in K. Bagnall and J. Martinez (eds.), *Mobile Chinese Women in Australia and the Asia-Pacific*, HKU Press, Hong Kong (in Press).

Prof. Wanning Sun (UTS)

Selective Cosmopolitanism: Blind spots in current debates on China and the Chinese community in Australia

In this presentation, I use the prism of the media to examine Australia's relationship with China and the everyday experience of Chinese-Australians. I approach this in three ways. First, I consider the tension between patriotism and cosmopolitanism as expressed by the PRC migrant community in Australia. Second, I offer a critique of the current narratives that dominate Australia's public discourses about China and its diasporic communities in this country. And third, I review the real and potential ramifications for Australia and for Australia-China relations if rigorous and rational debate continues to be absent from these discourses.

BIOGRAPHY

Wanning Sun is Professor of Media and Communication in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at UTS. She is a specialist of Chinese media, migration, soft power, public diplomacy and diasporic Chinese media. Two of her edited volumes—*Media and the Chinese Diaspora: Community, Communication and Commerce* (2006) and *Media and Communication in the Chinese Diaspora: Rethinking Transnationalism* (2016)—document the history and development of Chinese language media in Australia, North America, Europe, Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia.

PANELLIST BIOGRAPHIES

Tony Pang is a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) having worked in senior finance and audit positions in large listed Corporations and public services covering construction, agri-business, property development, and manufacturing. Tony is the past President of the Institute of Internal Auditors, and the Chinese Australian Forum (CAF) and current Vice-Chair of CAF. His other roles include being the former Commissioner of the Community Relations Commission (CRC), Chairperson of the Hornsby/Central Coast Regional Advisory Council and Deputy Chair/Secretary/Director of welfare group CASS CARE, Member of the Multicultural Advisory Committee for the NSW State Library, Department of Justice, Past member of the NSW Bar Association Professional and Ethic Committee.

Jocelyn Chey is a Professor in the Australia China Institute for Arts and Culture, Western Sydney University. Her current research covers cultural relations and soft power, as well as Chinese humour. Jocelyn took up the study of Chinese as an undergraduate at the University of Sydney, speaks Cantonese and Mandarin and reads classical and modern Chinese. Her late husband Moon Lin Chey was a Manchu from North China who spoke Shanghai dialect and Cantonese having lived in both parts of China. The Chey family moved from Hong Kong to Sydney in the 1960s and became Australian citizens soon after their arrival. Jocelyn's earlier career in the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade spanned 25 years from the establishment of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. Her last diplomatic posting was as Consul General to Hong Kong and Macau.

David Chin, Managing Director, Basis Point, established the firm 19 years ago, drawing from his experience across Australia and Asia as a ‘top-down’ or ‘helicopter’ analyst and marketer of the region’s capital flows in derivatives, futures, wealth management, and funds management. He was previously Head of Marketing at Sydney Futures Exchange (SFE) from 1990-1996, reporting to the CEO, and is the author of *Thy Fiefdom Comes*, a fantasy/science fiction novel. David has become an authority on Aus-China investments, speaking at dozens of events to C-level and managerial executives who seek unique insights on the opportunities and risks of the Aus-China market. He is widely quoted in the media and writes an Aus-China newsletter that is distributed to more than 13,000 executives in Australia, Asia and globally.

MC/MODERATOR BIOGRAPHIES

Leanne Smith is Director of the Whitlam Institute and is an international human rights lawyer by training, with a Masters in Public Policy from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton. Leanne has worked in the Australian judicial system, for the Australian Human Rights Commission, in the international NGO sector, regional human rights organisations, as an Australian diplomat (DFAT) and in various roles for the United Nations in New York and in the field, most recently as Chief of Policy and Best Practices for UN Peacekeeping Operations. Leanne has published a number of articles on Australian foreign policy and international human rights, rule of law and development as well as the United Nations and women, peace and security. She is a visiting fellow at the ANU Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy and the UNSW Australian Human Rights Centre.

Distinguished Professor Ien Ang is a Professor of Cultural Studies and was the founding Director of the Institute for Culture and Society. She has worked extensively on issues of multiculturalism, diaspora and Asian migration, and is the author of *On Not Speaking Chinese: Living Between Asia and the West* (2001) and many other publications. In 2015 she co-authored the report *Smart Engagement with Asia: Leveraging Language, Research and Culture* for the Australian Council for Learned Academies

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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