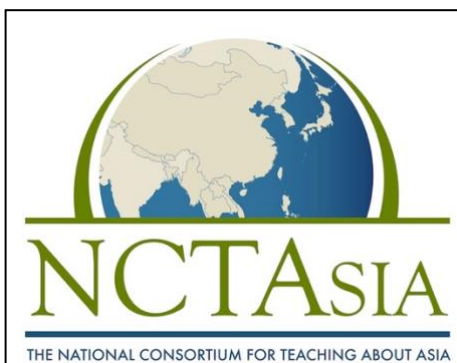




CHINESE YOUTH IN THE NEWS

Society & Culture & Education & Work Life
What Is It Like To Be A Young Person In China Today?



Compiled by Tese Wintz Neighbor
NCSS, December 2023

National Consortium for Teaching about Asia
East Asia Resource Center,
University of Washington



CHINESE YOUTH IN THE NEWS

**SOCIETY & CULTURE & EDUCATION
& WORK LIFE**

**WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A YOUNG
PERSON IN CHINA TODAY?**

(my young Beijing friend pictured here - outside the Beijing Olympics – is a sophomore at UC Santa Barbara)

If there is one word to say about youth today regarding work, marriage, interests, education, the sky is the limit! Below is a smattering of articles that I have collected mostly from 1.5 years.

See page 37 FRESH OFF THE PRESS! AUTUMN 2023 IN THE HEADLINES

CGTN (CHINA GLOBAL TELEVISION NETWORK)

[CGTN: What are Today's Chinese Youth Really Like? May 4, 1919 Anniversary \(5/4/2\) 6 minutes](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKd8pasRMKk)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKd8pasRMKk>

If time had a melody, what would youth sound like?

On April 30, 2019, President Xi Jinping said in a speech at a gathering to mark the centenary of the May Fourth Movement, "The lofty ideals and firm belief held by youth are the indestructible driving force of a country and a nation." During this year's May 4, China Media Group (CMG) dedicates a video to today's Chinese youth, who were born at a time of prosperity but still shoulder responsibilities, while showing their vigor and vitality, which reflect the hope of the Chinese nation.

[CGTN: How China's Gen-Z are Breaking Career Boundaries \(7/14/22\) 5 minutes](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9Uk3GU5Tms)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9Uk3GU5Tms>

Li Peiqi, a 26-year-old power operation and maintenance worker, became the only female competitor in the power supply bureau's skills competition and won first place, saying that the best view she has seen was from the 15-meter telegraph pole. Zhong Weiming, a 24-year-old rocket soldier, who was discharged from the army, went on to study preschool education before becoming a kindergarten teacher. He said playing the piano was the hardest thing for him. The two members of Generation Z break the career stereotypes and find their own paths in the inclusive and open Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) of southern China.

[CGTN: We Talk: China in the Eyes of Gen Z Overseas \(4.5 minutes\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfizFpvlLVl)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfizFpvlLVl>

Generation Z refers to people born after the mid-1990s and before the early 2010s. As the first generation that has grown up with access to the internet and portable digital technology from a young age, how do members of Gen Z from around the globe view China? CGTN hit the streets in the U.S., Canada, Finland, Tanzania, and Japan to ask Gen Zers about their views of China from multiple perspectives and their expectations for the future relationship between China and their countries.

[White Paper: Youth of China in the New Era \(April 2022\)](http://www.scio.gov.cn/zfbps/ndhf/2022n/202304/t20230407_710479.html)

http://www.scio.gov.cn/zfbps/ndhf/2022n/202304/t20230407_710479.html

Published by the State Council Information Office of China.... A country will be full of hope and can look forward to a bright prospect when its young generation has ideals, abilities, and a strong sense of responsibility. The future of China and the future of the wider world both belong to the young.

In the future, the young Chinese generation will "with their youthfulness, create a vibrant family, country, nation, human community, Earth and the universe." They will make their youthful dreams come true...

2022 was the year China's Gen-Z Came of Age

The first cohort of young Chinese born in the 21st century — known as the “post-’00s” generation — have now reached the legal marriage age and graduated from university. In this four-part series, Sixth Tone will explore how the post-’00s differ from earlier generations, and how they might shape China’s future. The first story in the series focuses on the post-’00s pushing back against Chinese companies’ tough “996” working culture.

Sixth Tone: Part 1 China's Gen-Z Is Entering the Workforce. Employers Are Terrified (12/5/22)

Chinese companies have long pressured staff to work grueling hours for no extra pay. Militant Gen-Z staff are fighting back.

Sixth Tone: Part 2 After 3 Years of COVID, China's Gen-Z Are Mourning Their Lost Future (12/6/22)

For young Chinese, the pandemic hasn't just brought years of lockdowns; it has fundamentally altered their expectations for the future — and their understanding of their place in society.

Sixth Tone: Part 3 The Teenagers Revitalizing China's Sports Prospects (12/7/22)

For decades, China's sporting prowess has been built on a state-driven system that excels at drilling athletes in traditional Olympic disciplines. But a new generation of young stars is determined to break the mold.

Sixth Tone: Part 4 For China's Gen-Z, Entrepreneurship Represents a Ticket to Freedom (12/9/22)

Starting a business in China's pandemic-stricken economy is far from easy. Young Chinese are plowing ahead anyway.

The Economist Special Report: Generation Xi (1/23/21)

Young Chinese are both patriotic and socially progressive. That mix is already changing their country, says Stephanie Studer, our China correspondent

Chinese youth: Young Chinese are both patriotic and socially progressive

The rural-urban divide: The gap between China's rural and urban youth is closing

Patriotism and the party: How nationalism is shaping China's young

Subcultures: How to rebel in China

Views of the world: As attitudes to the West sour, China's students turn home

Values, identity and activism: Individualism reigns in China—and with it, more social responsibility

Children of the revolution: Might freedom-seeking youths rise up again?

Sources and acknowledgments



YOUTH WORK

NYT Op-Docs: Happiness is £4 Million (24 minutes)

An idealistic, young journalist in Beijing profiles China's biggest real estate speculator. Their divergent life experiences and clashing values reflect the generational and societal changes happening in the country. Broadcast as part of POV Shorts.

Sixth Tone: Joining the Rat Race: The Challenges for China's Young Jobseekers 8 minute video (9/8/22)

According to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics on Aug. 15, the surveyed unemployment rate for 16-24-year-olds was 19.9% and the overall national unemployment rate was higher than the same period last year.

Xiao Ruan used to be a tutor. In June this year, she left Wuhan to go to Shanghai and get a job in HR. There were many other job seekers like her in the youth hostel where she was staying temporarily. After submitting more than 50 résumés, Xiao Ruan finally got an offer from a headhunting company and joined as a headhunting consultant.

Sixth Tone: For Young Chinese, Even State Sector Jobs Are No Longer a Safe Bet (10/31/22)

Chinese graduates rushed to join the civil service during the pandemic, hoping to find security amid a turbulent economy. Now, many are facing steep pay cuts — and looking for a way out.

ChinaFile Conversation: China's Record Urban Youth Unemployment (6/16/22)

China has recorded its highest level of unemployment among urban youth since the country began tracking it in 2018. In March, 16 percent of Chinese city-dwellers aged 16 to 24 were unemployed, compared to 13.6 percent a year earlier. In May, that figure climbed to 18.4 percent. Already struggling with high jobless rates before the pandemic, even the most educated of China's youth face stiff competition for fewer jobs opportunities. How long is this likely to last, and what might its effects be?

Sixth Tone: China's Youth Unemployment Rate Sets a Record, Again (8/16/22)

Top officials blame a slow economy and a growing demand for job security.

Asia Society Policy Institute: The 19 Percent: The Social Consequences of China's Youth Unemployment Rate (8/16/22)

As of August 2022, China's urban youth unemployment rate was 19.3%.

This is a number that has huge economic, political, and social consequences.

However, this series argues this number also constitutes millions of broken dreams, increased anxieties, and is provoking a collective reckoning over what constitutes a good life.

Across four papers, this series seeks to put that number in context and explain how it is experienced by young people in China today.

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Part 2: The Explosive Rise of Psychotherapy in China (12/22)

- According to the World Health Organization, the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to a 25 percent increase in the prevalence of anxiety and depression worldwide as of March 2022. Lockdowns, mass deaths, social isolation, disruptions to schooling and the transition to online work, uncertain economic futures, the politics of pandemic prevention policies, the intersection of inequality, and poor outcomes for the disease are all features of the pandemic that have affected individuals' mental health.
- Many Chinese, especially young urbanites, are turning to psychological counseling. They do so as a way of making sense of their lives and as a form of healing.
- The use of psychological counseling has changed significantly over the past two decades, and it is now a significant social development in urban centers in China. The uptake in psychological counseling is a marked change from the way that individuals sought to understand themselves and resolve trauma in the past.
- The Communist Party is interested in using psychotherapy techniques in its personnel management systems and as a way of caring for and controlling specific groups. Institutions such as the police, the army, and schools are being encouraged to adopt psychotherapy practices.

Sixth Tone: Tired of Running in Place, Young Chinese "Lie Down" (5/27/21)

China's young people have coined yet another neologism to reflect their growing disillusionment with the country's often oppressive work culture. Rather than trying to keep up with society's expectations or fight them, many are resolving to simply "lie down."

The Guardian: The Rise Of 'Bai Lan': Why China's Frustrated Youth Are Ready To 'Let It Rot' (5/22/22)

Phrase *bai lan* gains popularity as severe competition and social expectations leave many young people despondent.

CNA News: China's Slacker Youths: Why They Went From 'Lying Flat' To 'Let It Rot' 45 minutes (8/23/22)

"Tang Ping" or Lying Flat, was a 2021 movement that rejected the work culture in China. Now, it has morphed into the more extreme "Bai Lan" or Let It Rot. What behind this new phenomenon? Insight speaks to some Chinese youths who identify themselves as "Bai Lan". They are opting out of climbing the economic ladder, choosing to put in the bare minimum at work and coasting along. What are the reasons for their despondency? And will this youth movement affect China's economic recovery, even as it faces headwinds from COVID lockdowns and a property debt crisis? CNA is a Singaporean multinational news channel owned by the country's national public broadcaster Mediacorp.

Asia Society Policy Institute: Involution: The Generation Turning Inward and Away From Xi's Chinese Dream (11/9/22)

In a time of stark inequality and stalling economic growth, young Chinese feel they are struggling to keep up. In recent years, a new discourse has taken hold in Chinese society. Phrases like "involution" and "lying flat" have become shorthand for a sense that what is required to live an adequate life has become unattainable or unsustainable.

High rates of youth unemployment and poor prospects for university graduates mean that competition for scarce jobs is extremely intense, with those who find work often exploited by employers safe in the knowledge that they can easily replace burned-out employees. This discourse belies a sense of resignation amongst young people who are increasingly anxious about their future.

Involution is the result of decades of uneven and unequal development. Young Chinese today face a much more precarious economy, due both to domestic policy reasons and an increasingly unstable international environment. The same means of wealth creation available to previous generations are no longer as accessible. These intergenerational dynamics entrench inequality and a pervasive sense of futility among the young.

The government is increasingly worried about the level of disquiet amongst young people, with Xi Jinping himself making statements about the continued need for "struggle" and determination. Struggle, a term that resonates with the revolutionary fervor of the Mao-era, is increasingly being set up as the official counterpoint to involution.

The New Yorker: China's "Involved" Generation (5/14/21)

Writing for the New Yorker, Yi-Ling Liu deciphered the meaning of the word *involution* (内卷 *nèijuǎn*), the proliferation of it on the Chinese internet, and how it accurately captured a feeling of both physical and emotional exhaustion experienced by a generation of burned-out Chinese youth. "It is acceleration without a destination, progress without a purpose, Sisyphus spinning the wheels of a perpetual-motion Peloton," Liu wrote. See full article in Shared Docs.

The China Project: ‘Rat Rat, I’: Chinese Youth Claim the Rat as Spirit Animal in Latest Internet Subculture (2/22/23)

Self-deprecation is strong in Chinese internet subculture. In the latest example, many young Chinese are calling themselves “rats” as a way of conveying their real-life struggles.

Sixth Tone: I’ll Resign: A Tech Worker Counters China’s Overtime Culture (1/27/22)

A programmer’s resistance against long working hours to meet their output has once again reignited discussions on overtime in the country’s tech sector despite companies and the government vowing to end such practices.

Sixth Tone: China’s Content Moderators Are Overworked and Chronically Stressed (2/25/22)

Hired by top domestic internet companies, the so-called content moderators spend excruciatingly long hours scrubbing anything associated with horror, violence, pornography, and information deemed politically sensitive or offensive.



Sixth Tone: The Winners of China’s Housing Bust: Burnouts and Beach Bums (9/13/22)

Tired of big city life after years in Beijing and Hangzhou, freelancer Pan Deng set out as a digital nomad in 2019. The Hebei native decided to go to Guangzhou, seeking warm weather and delicious Cantonese food. But when he got off the highway on the outskirts of the southern city and saw a resort advertising rooms for just 600 yuan (\$87) a month, he assumed it had to be a mistake or a scam.

It wasn’t - an hour’s drive from downtown Guangzhou, the luxury development was desperate for customers. Pretty soon, Pan was living in a 65-square meter room with a balcony overlooking other houses and trees. In Beijing, all you can get for 600 yuan a month is a bed in a dormitory.

Sixth Tone: Overworked, Unemployed Young Chinese Embrace Street Vending (9/23/22)

Many youngsters seek to reinvent an existing business model as a temporary source of income as they try to figure out their next steps.

The China Project: In the Name of Stooping, Picking Up Trash is Suddenly Cool among Young Chinese (10/6/22)

Stooping is the practice of hunting down and snagging discarded furniture and other stuff on city sidewalks. Pioneered – or at least give a name in NYC, the hobby has taken off in major Chinese cities, where young people are leaning hard into anti-consumerism ideas in the face of an economic slowdown.

...Hoping to bring the culture to his city, Luo created StoopingBeijing, where he chronicles his finds and maps curbside castoffs via citywide community submissions. The account now has more than 12,000 followers, a figure that far exceeded Luo’s expectations.

Sixth Tone: China Offers Perks to Make Blue-Collar Jobs More Attractive (10/10/22)

A skilled worker shortage has prompted authorities to entice the younger demographic with better pay and professional titles... The popularity of higher education in China, propelled by college enrollment expansion over the past few decades, has made it difficult to fill blue-collar positions in many sectors. While China's youth unemployment rate is hitting a record high, tens of millions of skilled jobs such as machinists and salespersons go unfilled, exacerbating the outlook for the country's flagging economic growth.

Sixth Tone: Careers Stalled, China's Liberal Arts Grads Learn to Code (10/25/22)

Though a tempting option, pivoting to tech comes with risks and difficulties.

RFA: China's Xi Jinping Calls on Young People To 'Revitalize' Post-Lockdown Rural Economy (1/1/23)

Xi's latest policy is a bid to address widespread youth and graduate unemployment after three years of zero-COVID. Rural areas have little to offer young people culturally or economically. Back in the days of assigned jobs for university graduates, which continued into the 1990s, the government could dispatch people to remote areas as teachers, nurses, or doctors

Sixth Tone: With Jobs at Home Scarce, Young Chinese are Heading to Africa (12/22/22)

"I plan to work in Africa for a few years and then come back when the economy is better," Zhu tells Sixth Tone. "It's easier to find a job in Africa right now."

Sixth Tone: The Sound of Chinese Migrant Worker Writers (4/6/22)

Three Chinese migrant worker writers share their lives and poems.

SupChina: Chinese Tech Workers Outraged by Surveillance Tool That Flags Employees Who Look Likely To Quit (2/21/22)

A surveillance system developed by a Shenzhen-based software firm can identify workers who are planning to quit by spying on their online activities. Outrage at the dystopian tool from Chinese social media users resulted in the firm taking down the product from its website.

Primary Sources: Explore two recently published Chinese nonfiction illustrating unique youth perspectives from a six-month [investigation](#) by Lai Youxuan into the working conditions of food deliverymen to journalist Du Qiang's 30,000-word [essay](#) migrant workers who have become China's "new Loafer Class".



EastFenceImage+/VCG

EDUCATION

Statista: Education in China - Statistics & Facts (12/14/22)

The Chinese education system is the largest state-run education system in the world. Its quality has improved considerably over the last decades due to continuous reforms and large-scale investments. Chinese school students from Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu, and Zhejiang reached the highest scores in the 2018 PISA assessment, and more and more Chinese universities enter global rankings for the best universities in the world. However, considerable disparities exist between elite institutions in the urban centers and the average schools in the countryside. China's educational system.

World Education News and Review: Education in China (12/19/19) 2/15/23)

Extensive background report.

Sixth Tone: In Jiangsu, a New Plan for Students: More Sleep, Less Homework (2/13/23)

A school has ordered students to stop doing homework at 9 p.m. and also exempted them from completing it the next day.

Sixth Tone: Past the Peak, China's Schools Prep for a Normal Semester (2/13/23)

With more than 300 million students and teachers expected back in class, authorities have scrapped regular COVID testing and eased masking requirements.

Sixth Tone: The Grown-Up Lives of China's 'Bad Kids' (2/10/23)

Excluded and stigmatized, some young migrants look for fun and recognition off campus. ...Yifei and Anyi are just two of the millions of young people known in China as “floating children” — kids of the country’s floating population of migrant workers. Like their peers, they grew up between city and country, bouncing from urban villages to the rural or small-town communities their parents once called home. Largely excluded from the urban public education system due to their lack of a local *hukou* household registration, they must choose struggling rural schools in their hometowns or low-cost and low-quality private schools in the city. At the end of their nine-year term of compulsory schooling, most are shunted into China’s nascent and unevenly developed vocational education system...

Sixth Tone: For 16M Vocational High School Students, Hope Is Hard to Come By (9/17/21)

Roughly 40% of China’s high school-age population attends vocational school. They represent the future of the country’s workforce, so why can’t they get any respect?

Sixth Tone: Metaverse 101: What Will the Future of Chinese Education Look Like? (12/25/22)

To keep abreast of the times, Chinese universities see the metaverse as an opportunity to expand their programs.

Article: China Wants Students Working Less. So it’s Asking Teachers to do More (1/12/22)

Last summer, China’s Ministry of Education introduced the so-called double reduction policy, ordering schools to cut down on the time students spent each night on homework and implementing tough new measures to rein in private tutoring institutions...The “double reduction” policy may end up reducing the burdens on China’s students, but the more the country asks of parents and teachers, the more support they’ll need. For the policy to be effective, the education authorities must incorporate solutions to the real problems faced by both groups into their plans.

The China Project: China’s Education Reform Is Resulting in Overworked Teachers (3/8/22)

A recent survey shows parental expectations also remain high, despite the ban on for-profit tutors.

Sixth Tone: China Is Cracking Down on ‘Hidden’ Tutoring Schools (12/14/22)

Authorities are adamant on getting rid of private after-school classes, which they say add an academic and financial burden on students and parents, respectively.

The China Project: China’s Private Tutoring Firms Can’t Catch a Break (1/3/23)

A new set of rules for education and tutoring companies brings no respite for the once-booming sector, which has been suffering since a government crackdown began in 2021.

The China Project: Q&A: Director Charles Abelman on ‘English Hustle’ and China’s online language tutoring industry (2/6/23)

The China Project sat down with producer and director Charles Abelman to discuss his latest documentary, *English Hustle*, which tells the story of the rise and fall of the online English tutoring sector in China from the perspective of foreign teachers.

Trailer: <https://www.englishhustle.org/>

Sixth Tone: How Academic Tracking Exacerbates Rural China's Education Gaps (11/29/22)

Rural students are being tracked into academic programs from an early age, upping the stakes of early education and complicating efforts at education equity.

Sixth Tone: Despite Long Odds, Rural Chinese Continue to Bet on Education (11/15/22)

Contrary to popular belief, rural Chinese still see education as a viable path to social mobility.

Sixth Tone: Why China's Rural Students Can't Go Home (12/7/22)

For the most successful of China's rural students, education is all too often a one-way street.

The China Project: China Has So Few Male Teachers. But is it a Problem? (6/2/22)

Women are greatly underrepresented in politics and science in China, but most primary and secondary school teachers are women. But is calling for more men in the profession just a way to avoid dealing with the real issue: the devaluation of 'feminized' work?

The China Project: Teenagers Learn to Fix Air Conditioners and Cook as China Pushes Vocational Education (12/7/22)

According to the Ministry of Education, kids need to get a whole lot better at cleaning, cooking, and agricultural labor. But middle-class parents are worried that this vocational emphasis in school will hamper their children's career prospects.

Documentary: Under the Same Sky 2016 (19 minutes)

The Chinese government is sponsoring a national campaign on "equal" education. Award-winning *Under the Same Sky* documents school children in the city as well as the country to compare the two educational experiences.

Kanopy is a free streaming video platform. Stream movies and documentaries with your public library.

Rural China Education Foundation

RCEF is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting education for people in rural China that empowers them to improve their lives and communities. We support rural educators to develop teaching methods and curriculum in line with our [mission](#).

Sohu News: 2022 College Entrance Examination (6/8/22)

Sohu News follows several *gaokao* takers in the days leading up to the big event, documenting their struggles in an unusual year. This year's exam is extra special — and stressful — for Chinese students. The class of 2022 is the first to have completed the entire high school curriculum under the shadow of COVID-19, and the constant uncertainty surrounding the pandemic has compounded the already intense stress of the exam.

The China Project: Peking University's First Yiddish Class (10/7/22)

At one of China's most prestigious universities, students from a variety of majors are learning the Ashkenazi Jewish language.

The New Yorker: A Teacher in China Learns the Limits of Free Expression (5/9/22)

How had the country experience so much social, economic, and educational change while its politics remained stagnant? China's "zero COVID" strategy has brought the bustling metropolis of Shanghai to a standstill, with many of its twenty-five million residents sealed in their homes.

These exceptionally strict measures are being met with some public resistance, but Xi Jinping's government has largely doubled down on its approach. Peter Hessler has been in and out of China for twenty-five years. He recently returned from two years of teaching and writing in Sichuan Province. His experience led him to a

conclusion that may surprise some Americans: that, for many young people in China, the experience of the pandemic has reinforced "a general idea that the benefits of the Chinese system greatly outweigh its flaws." And, even if people resent heavy-handed government control, they also bristle when outsiders criticize it.

[Podcast New Yorker \(28 minutes\)](#)
[How COVID Strengthened](#)
[Authoritarianism in China](#)

Hessler joins guest host Evan Osnos to talk about teaching in China and how the pandemic has reshaped the public's views about the government.

CDT: A Teacher Describes Her Day as A Bit Player in Xi Jinping's Drama (10/20/22)

In this now-deleted first-person account, a teacher described the hush-hush preparations – and long periods of tedium and waiting – for an inspection by a "certain esteemed personage."

As a teacher, I never imagined that one day I would be sent to a neighborhood on a political mission to close the windows and watch the homeowners....



WOMEN

CDT: International Women's Day Posters and Artwork (3/10/22)

On this day, many people created posters, banners, and images with themes such as "March 8th Women's Day" and "Against Gender Violence" to express women's voices. This year, two high-profile cases of trafficking and spousal abuse have galvanized Chinese women to draw attention to the abduction and trafficking of women and girls. Although social media censorship of 2022 Women's Day posts has been particularly intense, with images and articles sometimes disappearing within minutes of being posted, these have been archived and translated by CDT editors.

The China Project: The State of Chinese Feminism In 2022 With Leta Hong Fincher (3/11/22)

Despite the Chinese Communist Party's brutal crackdown on online feminist activism in recent months, Dr. Leta Hong Fincher sees a glimmer of hope in the rising public outrage over victims of human trafficking. Even as civil society shrinks, new feminist spaces like bookstores and cafés are emerging.

CDT: 25 Things Men Can Do For Women On Women's Day (3/8/22)

8-minute NYT Op-doc: China Doesn't Like That I'm a Single Woman, Here's Why (2/12/20)

“Sheng nu” (“leftover women”) is a term used to describe single women who are 27 or older in China. Most of these women live in cities and lead rewarding professional lives. The term was coined in 2007 by a government organization responsible for the protection and promotion of women's rights and policies. That same year, the Ministry of Education added “sheng nu” to the official lexicon. In this Op-Doc, based on the Independent Lens feature documentary “Leftover Women,” we follow one of those women — Qiu Huamei, contending with the stigma and social pressure forcing her to go on a grueling quest in search of a husband. She grew up in a small village five hours south of Beijing and is the second youngest of five sisters. Ms. Qiu is a successful lawyer, fluent in English and opinionated — but those qualities do not outweigh one key flaw: She is not married.

The New Yorker: The Censorship Machine Erasing China's Feminist Movement (8/29/22)

The Tangshan attack was captured on crystal-clear video, rendering the brutality of misogyny and violence against women undeniable for even the most skeptical of male viewers. But as a nationwide discussion of the incident swelled up online, the government actively prevented any societal reckoning with these issues: censors took down thousands of social media posts and

accounts that allegedly “incited gender opposition”; state-media outlets pushed an official narrative that ignored gender-based violence in favor of gang violence; and police barred journalists from visiting the beaten women in the hospital. Recounting this incident and its aftermath, Han Zhang demonstrates how the CCP is heavily invested in quashing feminist discussions in the digital public sphere, since the power of the party of patriarchy is secretly sustained by violence against women.

The China Project: China’s Revised Law on Women’s Protection: What You Need to Know (11/2/22)

The revised version of the Women’s Rights and Interests Protection Law, voted for adoption by the National People’s Congress Standing Committee on Sunday and effective from January 1, is the first amendment to the women-focused legislation in 15 years.

The Guardian: China’s censored feminist movement finds solace in Sally Rooney (2/11/23)

Rooney is among a number of successful western authors who have found a growing audience in China’s restless younger generation.

The China Project: Can Women Still ‘Hold Up Half the Sky’ In China’s Future? (11/29/22)

Discrimination against women in Chinese society takes many forms. Recent legislative proposals aim to address some longstanding problems, but will they end up as mere lip service?

The China Project: 2022: The Year of Sport in China – A Good Year for Women Athletes

2022 was defined by one thing: COVID-zero. The third year of the policy meant that sport events took place in empty stadiums, while the country’s domestic leagues continued their slide into international irrelevance.

But despite the depressing state of domestic Chinese sport, Chinese athletes, especially women, found success internationally in both individual and team events.

Sixth Tone: In China, Millions of Women Never Learned to Read. Can TikTok Help? (11/4/22)

Decades of inequality have left millions of Chinese women unable to read — and shut out of society in myriad ways as a result. Now, many of them are turning to social media to get the education they were denied.

CDT: Women’s Rights News (ongoing)

China Digital Times (CDT) is an independent, bilingual media organization that brings uncensored news and online voices from China to the world. All CDT content is free of charge to all readers.

I-D: Youguine Lefèvre’s Photos Capture the Aftermath of China’s One-Child Policy (12/13/22)

In *The Land of Promises* (a visual investigation into the birth control policies that led to her adoption) the photographer explores how the 1979 regulations changed the lives of millions of Chinese children – including her own.

Sixth Tone: China's Abducted Women: 1,252 Derailed Lives in Data (2/28/22)

The who and how behind women who are trafficked across and into China.
Graphics!

Nikkei Asia: Behind the Women Billionaires: China Receding on Gender Equality (12/20/22)

Economic growth, policy, prove double-edged sword for women in China as historic progress is undone.

Sixth Tone: Sex, Lies, Deepfakes: The Secret Chatrooms Ruining Women's Lives (3/4/22)

Despite crackdowns, explicit chatrooms that incite image-based abuse and revenge porn still flourish in dark pockets of the web.

Sixth Tone: For Rural Chinese Women, a Plot of Land Is Too Much to Ask (7/2/22)

Traditional notions that brides should move in with their in-laws leaves countless women without fields to farm.

Sixth Tone: How Women are Being Coded into the Background (5/19/22)

...Although sometimes presented as antidotes to the troubles of the real world, our new virtual worlds reflect old stereotypes. Regardless of whether the proliferation of female-coded virtual assistants is a product of male fantasies or merely unconscious bias, the consequences are very real. As the UNESCO report "I'd Blush If I Could" notes, virtual assistants like Siri don't just mirror gender biases; they actively propagate them, modeling tolerance of sexual harassment and female obedience...

Sixth Tone: For China's Female Tattoo Artists, Nothing Is Permanent (1/5/23)

Faced with social stigma and the harsh realities of gig work, breaking into the industry requires more than passion.

ChinaFile: Pretty Lady Cadres (12/21/20)

New Data Shows Limits on Women's Advancement in China's Leadership

Reading the China Dream: Sun Liping on the Woman with Eight Children

Sun Liping, "On the Trafficking of Women: The Deep, Utilitarian Logic of Famous People and the Simple, Civilized Logic of Children"



Reading the China Dream: Lü Dwen on the Taishan Beating Incident

Lü Dwen, "Why an 'Ordinary' Case Touched the Nerve of Society as a Whole: A Sociological Approach to Analysis—The Case of the Tangshan Beating Incident"

She is at Home | Women at Home

Beijing Contemporary Art Foundation (BCAF) supports the latest video text creation project *She is at Home | WOMEN AT HOME* by the cooperative young artist Dai Xianjing. The artist walked into the homes of different women with a camera, communicated and photographed them, and presented them in the form

of portrait environmental photography combined with text, exploring the influence of intimacy on women's growth and independence. Scroll through the photos and text.

The China Project: China's Hottest TV Series Right Now Is Women-Centric, Edgy, And Surprisingly Short (10/26/22)

Densely packed into 12 episodes, *Rock It, Mom* is a new Chinese TV series making waves for its sensitive portrayal of a flawed female protagonist rarely seen on the small screen. And you can watch it on YouTube.

Rock It, Mom tells the story of Péng Lái 彭莱, an over-the-hill, middle-aged rock singer. A run of disappointing relationships caused her to move to the U.S., where her music career never took off, leading her to return to China. As she tries to put her troubled life back together in her home country, she reconnects with her long-lost teenage daughter, Báitiān 白天, whose passion for rock music inspires her to restart her career.

Given how dominant women are in TV-watching, it's a no-brainer that more series are making women their protagonists. Meanwhile — with the #MeToo movement still active in China despite setbacks — women's issues have changed the TV landscape. "It's beyond me how this show managed to get past censorship rules and acquire a release, but I'm glad that we get to see it," a Douban reviewer wrote, while another person said, "I'll always have respect for Chinese TV creators who dare to push the envelope when it comes content and characters."

Once the most followed person in the early days of Weibo, Yáo Chén 姚晨

is also known for leveraging her massive social media following to speak out against social issues, including China's pollution problem, food contamination, and poverty. In 2013, Yao was selected as a UN Refugee Agency Goodwill Ambassador, the first from China, to help give visibility to refugee issues in the Chinese-speaking world.

Sixth Tone: Chinese Cinema Has a Misogyny Problem (12/6/22)

Problem/ Women have made some of China's best films. So why do they keep being pushed out of the director's chair — or siloed into genre fare?



The China Project: A Chinese Debate About Sexualization in Advertising (2/23/23)

The backlash was prompted by a post on Chinese lifestyle app Xiaohongshu earlier this week that included a photo of an Auntea Jenny's cup, which shows an illustration of two women clothed in the traditional Chinese dress qipao. One of the ladies is wearing a high-slit qipao, and the way she sits exposes most of her thigh. Critics scrutinized the design and condemned it as overly sexualized.



MARRIAGE/FAMILY

Sixth Tone: Looking for Tradition in a Modern Chinese Wedding (8/4/22)

...While much has been made of the growing individualism of younger generations, when it comes to weddings, the couple's autonomy is far from absolute, and they often find themselves forced to accede to the influence of their family or other local connections...

Sixth Tone: Whose Profiting off China's Bride Prices? (2/22/23)

Few topics are the subject of more debate — or more clickbait headlines — in China than the sky-high bride prices found in some rural areas.

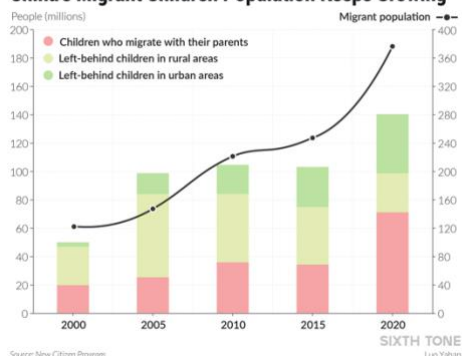
WSJ: Single Mothers in China Face Fewer Hurdles as Beijing Tries to Boost Births (2/15/23)

In a demographic bind, the Communist Party becomes more accepting of out-of-wedlock births

Sixth Tone: Why Young Chinese Are Saying 'Yes' to Lavish Proposals (12/9/22)

The question now isn't, "do you want to get married?" It's, "how much time and money are you willing to spend popping the question?"

China's Migrant Children Population Keeps Growing



Sixth Tone: How the Pandemic Left China's Migrant Kids Behind (2/16/23)

A spike in the number of “left-behind” children over the past three years threatens years of progress.

Sixth Tone: ‘Marriage? Whatever’: Young Chinese on Love, Life, and Family (10/27/22)

Polls, studies, and commentators have

Like young people everywhere, the Chinese college kids we spoke with held complex, diverse, and sometimes even contradictory attitudes toward marriage. Hear them in their own words. Video 5 minutes

<https://www.sixthtone.com/news/1011512/marriage%3F-whatever-young-chinese-on-love%2C-life%2C-and-family?source=recommend>

offered a range of theories about why China's youth have turned off marriage so rapidly. For some, it's a question of changing values, which is leading more people to stay single for longer. For others, it's more about the financial pressures that come with starting families. And still others say it's really about the country's feminist awakening and the sexist gender roles that are associated with marriage.

The China Project: Post-90s, Began to Sign Prenuptial Agreements (12/13/22)

In the past, prenuptial agreements, also known as prenups, were popularly regarded in China as tools exclusively for the wealthy and powerful. But in recent years, there's been an increase in Chinese couples requesting prenups, with a significant uptick in millennials of all income levels drafting them. For those people, the agreements are not only to protect traditional assets, but also to address a new set of societal realities, such as pet ownership and digital currencies. Three Chinese millennials open up about what drove them to draft prenups and how the documents reflect their perceptions of marriage.

SupChina: Average Cost of Raising a Child in Urban China Hits Almost \$100,000 (2/23/22)

It costs more to raise a kid in China than it does in Japan and the United States.

Sixth Tone: To Aid Birth Rate, China Adds Fertility Treatment to Insurance (2/6/23)

While recent surveys show over 10% of married couples have infertility problems, assisted reproductive technologies come at a high financial cost.

South China Morning Post: China Population: Fertility Services to Be Covered By State Insurance Amid Record Low Birth Rate (2/6/23)

Assisted fertility technologies, along with labour analgesia to reduce pain during childbirth, will gradually be covered by state insurance in all provinces.

But a fertility specialist says a better way to encourage births is by rolling out preferential policies for care and schooling of couples' second and third children

Sixth Tone: Love is in the Cards: Young Chinese Turn to Tarot for Guidance (12/4/23)

While many follow the practice unquestionably, some card readers suggest being rational.

Sixth Tone: A Chinese Bike-Share App Is Now Doubling as a Matchmaker (10/24/22)

China's competitive matchmaking market has a new entrant with hundreds of millions of existing.

Sixth Tone: A Day in a Shanghai Park: Reading Yeats at the Marriage Market (5 minute video)

12/1/22

In this video series, Sixth Tone captures the daily rhythm of life in three of Shanghai's parks. The first episode is about Cao Zaifei, an art professor who likes to read out romantic poetry at his local marriage market — a weekly meetup where residents arrange dates for their children.

The Shanghai Marriage Market is located in People's Park in Shanghai every weekend from noon until 5 where parents of unmarried children come to trade information about their children. Marriage markets are also found in other large cities like Beijing, Guangzhou and Chengdu. Watch [this 4-minute video](#).

Sixth Tone: State Media Says Gen Z Ready for Marriage. They Say, Not Really (1/10/22)

...“I keep an open mind toward marriage,” said Su Ling, a 22-year-old student in Shanghai, adding they shouldn't be pressured to find life partners as soon as they hit the legal age for marriage. “Marriage is like running a business venture, and it is hard to find the right person to walk down the aisle.” ...

Article: China's Births Hit Historic Low, a Political Problem for Beijing (1/17/22)

The demographic crisis, a challenge to the economy, also signals a limit to the reach of the government, which has struggled recently to grow the population.

Sixth Tone: Waiting for Wealth: China's Gen Z Wants Careers Before Children (2/1/23)

A new survey also found that pain during childbirth and the lack of parenting skills were among the major reasons young Chinese cited to avoid having children.

Sixth Tone: China's Introverted Millennials Find an Unlikely Refuge: Dating Apps (1/7/22)

In China Youth Daily's survey, nearly 74% of students who used anonymous social apps said they did so because the platforms helped them overcome their shyness and make new friends. Meanwhile, over 60% of users said they viewed the platforms as an avenue for sharing secrets and embarrassing personal confessions.

Sixth Tone: In China's Hinterland, Young Woman Can't Find a Man. Literally. (9/27/22)

China often blames the country's plunging marriage rate on young women choosing to stay single. But the word “choose” can be misleading in a country where the urban-rural divide is also turning into a male-female divide.

The China Project: The Real Vietnamese Housewives of Central China (11/3/22)

With more men than women left behind in China's countryside, the practice of buying a bride from the Mekong region has spilled over from border provinces into China's rural heartlands.

Sixth Tone: After Falling Births, China's Marriage Rate Sees New Low — Again (12/2/22)

The number of people registering for marriage last year is the lowest in nearly three decades. In the wake of the looming crisis, Chinese authorities at all levels have introduced a raft of policies, encouraging people to marry and have children. Such provisions usually aim to reduce

the burden of childbirth and parenting by offering an extension of parental leave, tax rebates, and other financial benefits.

Giving Parents What They Need

Chinese authorities announced a plan to support new families Tuesday, with more than 20 points. Here are some of the most important:



At least one national-level maternal and baby hospital should be built in every county, to ensure health checks for newly-weds and parents-to-be. These hospitals should enhance the screening and diagnosis of hereditary and congenital heart diseases.



Regional authorities are encouraged to build day care centers for children aged two to three. Kindergarten usually begins at age three in China.



Local governments are to encourage employers to offer flexible working arrangements for parents and build family-friendly workplaces with facilities like nursing rooms.



Families with multiple children will be able to withdraw money from mandatory housing savings accounts to cover rent. Previously, money from the accounts could only be used for real estate purchases.



The state promises to enforce laws against gender discrimination in the workplace and protect the rights of female employees during pregnancy and nursing.



The guideline also said the government should prevent "unintended pregnancy" and reduce abortions that are not "medically necessary."

Source: Reuters

Source: Guidelines For Further Improving and Implementing Fertility Support Measures by the National Health Commission, and other 16 agencies

SIXTH TONE
Fu Xiaofan

Sixth Tone: China's New Pro-Birth Plan: Give Families What They Need (8/17/22)

Facing a record-low fertility rate, China encourages young to have babies by addressing their real-life problems.

The China Project: Chicken Parenting is China's Helicopter Parenting on Steroids (6/22/21)

Helicopter parents of America may be intense, but their counterpart in China — known as "chicken parents," named after a traditional Chinese medicine remedy involving the injection of chicken blood — can be just as over-the-top.



LGBTQ+

The China Project: LGBTQ Year in Review: What Happened in 2022 (3/4/23)

As 2023 gets underway, we now look back at progress and regress of LGBTQ rights the past twelve months have brought the LGBTQ communities in mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

The China Project: ‘Real-World Consequences’: Safe Spaces Shrink for China’s LGBTQ Community (11/10/22)

China's LGBTQ community has already seen its rights and representation diminish in the past few years. Now, with Xi Jinping confirmed for a third term, the future looks bleaker than ever.

The China Project: Feminists and LGBTQ Activists at China’s COVID Protests (12/14/22)

A feminist and an LGBTQ activist speak out about the A4 protests inside and outside China — how they sparked divisions, misogyny, and violence, but also hope and solidarity.

Sixth Tone: Queering the Chinese Family (5/16/22)

In a challenging environment, LGBT Chinese have found ways to negotiate with and even challenge traditional family values.

...The current legal, cultural, and social environment in China is far from LGBT-friendly. But the tactics employed by queer Chinese stand testament to the creativity and vitality of queerness. As much as queer people may hope for the legal and social change of same-sex marriage, we should not limit our imagination of the forms queer families can take. A Chinese queer family is already coalescing and, in the process, transforming understandings of what a family is and can be.

Sixth Tone: China's Proposed Ban on Online Sales of Hormone Drugs Concerns

Transgender Women (11/23/22)

As China moves forward with a draft rule that would prohibit online selling of hormone medications, transgender women in the country fear the consequences

The China Project: Three Chinese Share Their Stories About Being Trans Outside China (2/16/23)

Three non-cis Chinese speak about their experiences of coming out while living abroad, and compare and contrast life as a trans person in the U.S. and China.

ChinaFile: Report: Precarious Progress

Report: Advocacy for the Human Rights of LGBT People in China (2020)

Whether state decisionmakers in the coming years and decades will pursue policies to protect the equal rights for LGBT people will come down to a mix of ideology, pragmatism, and public pressure. LGBT advocates are striving to turn that calculus in their favor, and, facing the long and rough road ahead, remain hopeful. Download Action International's 56-page report

The China Project: Chinese LGBTQ Dating Apps, Past and Present (10/26/22)

Gay dating apps briefly flourished in China. But many have been shut down, either for financial or political reasons. Let's have a look at some of the most influential ones.

ChinaFile Viewpoint: Thanks to a County in Utah, Same-Sex Couples Can Get Married—In China (10/3/22)

... the fact that the young couple was “making it official.” “Official” because, though physically in China, they were, legally speaking, getting married somewhere else. At the end of the ceremony, the wedding's officiant, who appeared on Zoom among the gallery of guests, lawfully pronounced them husband and husband from across the ocean in a government office in Provo, Utah...

SCMP: Chinese University Students Disciplined Over Rainbow Flags File Lawsuit Against Education Ministry (2/22/23)

For six months, two Tsinghua students have petitioned to have penalty handed down by the university in July overturned; Advocates commend the pair for persisting in a mainland environment where public discussion of LGBTQ rights is considered sensitive and is censored



SOCIAL MEDIA

Sixth Tone: The Chinese Online Slang That Took Over the Internet - Top Internet Buzzwords of 2022 (12/20/22)

This year's online buzzwords were mostly associated with COVID-19, and the others reflected the state of mind of the digital masses and the state of society.

[Lifestyle Platforms](#)
(most popular
Xiaohongshu)

Sixth Tone: Bilibili's Bullet Screen Comment of 2022 is "Grace" (12/16/22)

The word is described as having "a calm attitude under any circumstances."

Sixth Tone: Trolls, A Campaign Wants People to Flaunt Pink Hair (2/22/23)

Weeks after a 23-year-old woman ended her life after being slut-shamed for sporting colored hair, a campaign (Pink Up) has emerged online across China asking people to color their hair pink.

PBS: Is This Real Life: The Live Streaming Craze Explained (2/20/19) (includes several clips)

[Clip 1](#)

[Clip 2](#)

NYT: Op-Docs Inside the Daily Life of a Live Streaming Star in China | (4/29/21)

Watch 12 minutes

Over the past year, as Covid-19 has severely limited our ability to interact with the world beyond our front door, livestreams have helped transport us to places we couldn't visit, people we couldn't see and events we couldn't attend. In China, live streaming services command an audience of nearly 560 million, with streamers broadcasting to devoted followers who tune in every night. Successful live streamers can earn thousands of dollars each month in direct donations from fans, and those at the very top earn millions from brand sponsorships and major contracts. In the short documentary above, we enter two agencies that scout promising newcomers and mold them into high-earning stars. But what's it like working for a company that engineers every aspect of your life — and then requires you to livestream it all day?

The World of Chinese: Where Are They Now: The People Who Went Viral (9/6/22)

From the “zipline girl” to the ex-thief with a catchphrase, here's what happened to the ordinary people who became overnight sensations in the last 30 years.

CHECK OUT THE OTHER SIDE TO LIVE STREAMING (TRANQUIL, PASTORAL, MEDITATIVE) ie *The Life of Cucumbers*

Li Ziqi's YouTube channel has more than 2.4 billion views and 16 million subscribers, as verified on 21 August 2021, which is a **Guinness World Record** for "The most subscribers for a Chinese language channel on YouTube." [Check out Li Ziqi's channel](#)

Li Ziqi is a video blogger, entrepreneur, and Internet celebrity. She is known for creating food and handicraft preparation videos in her hometown of rural Pingwu, Mianyang, Sichuan, often from basic ingredients and tools using traditional Chinese techniques.

[**The Guardian: Country Life - The Young Female Farmer Who Is Now a Top Influencer in China \(1/28/20\)**](#)

[**Sixth Tone: How Li Ziqi Repackages Rural China for Urban Fantasy \(12/27/19\)**](#)

[**Vice: What Happened to Li Ziqi, China's Most Famous YouTuber? \(9/20/21\)**](#)

[**China Daily: Chinese Online Celebrity Li Ziqi and Weinian Reached Settlement after Mediation \(12/28/22\)**](#)

Rural Microcelebrities – Like Li Ziqi – a growing number of rural based videographers are turning view of rural life into short videos and generating tens of millions of domestic and international followers. You can access clips without subscribing to a channel.

Check out the Huanong Brothers channel.

The China Project: Meet Rural China's Viral Online Celebrities (6/12/18)

USC Discussion: Professor Han Li on Rural China in The Social Media Age (8/21/20)

She examines how Chinese are rediscovering the rural China and idealizing rural life in the social media age. She also looks at the social and political forces driving this trend.

Sixth Tone: The Kuaishou Poet – Writing Poetry on a Video-sharing App (2/27/21)

NPR: In China, School Principal Leads Students in Dancing to a New Beat – Enjoy/dance the two minutes of this school exercise (2019)

The China Project: The Top Idioms of The Year Or Four-Character Phrases That Captured The Mood in China in 2022 (12/29/22)

There were a lot of Chinese idioms that came out of 2022. Here's a review of some of the best ones used to describe major events that occurred over the past year, but one four-character phrase took the cake.

The China Project: 'Crazy Little Yang Brother' is the Chinese TikTok Star You Need to Know (11/9/22)

...According to Zhang's followers, the main thing that makes his videos stand out is the family dynamics, which is reminiscent of the dynamics found in successful sitcom series on Chinese television. By making familial relationships his focus, Zhang is able to make his content relatable, regardless of the occupation or social status of the viewer. "Your videos never fail to make me laugh out loud. But after that, I always get emotional thinking about my parents and how important my family is to me," a Douyin user wrote under one of Zhang's videos...



The China Project: Posing Like American Farmers Is the Latest Trend Among Chinese Influencers (11/17/22)

At first glance, one might think these photos posted on Xiaohongshu, a lifestyle and ecommerce app often referred to as China's Instagram, are taken in the American Wild West. But these images are actually from various locations across China, where pretending to be on an American farm or ranch has become the latest aesthetic that has taken Chinese influencers by storm.



The China Project: Viral Ibuprofen Dance Lifts Mood in China's COVID-19 Outbreak (12/28/22)



As China grapples with an unprecedented COVID-19 surge following its relaxation of strict virus-control measures, people have to make their own fun while avoiding face-to-face interaction...even in a time of crisis, many Chinese social media users still manage to stay creative and use content to spread laughter and positivity. Recently, a new viral trend has arisen from the deluge of morale-boosting videos: a stunt challenge inspired by the packaging of various ibuprofen products, which has seen tens of thousands of participants spinning, stretching, and jump-kicking.



Sixth Tone: In China Social Media is Fueling Dangerous Beauty Trends – for Babies (9/30/22)

Many Chinese parents believe it's their duty to ensure their children conform to traditional beauty standards. That's driving the rise of troubling – and, in some cases, potentially life-threatening – infant beauty products.

Youthology

Youthology is a Chinese marketing company that attempts to connect brands to young people and young people to brands, and as a part of their business publishes articles on youth issues on their blog.

YOUTH CULTURE/STYLE/MUSIC/ART



RADII Pulse

Unpacking Chinese youth culture through coverage of nightlife, film, sports, celebrities, and the hottest new music.

[7 Rad Influencers to Follow for a Better Understanding of Chinese Culture](#)

The China Project: The Colors of Youth (8/4/21)

Youthhood through the lens of five Chinese photographers. (includes nude photographs).

NYT: So Square It's Hip: Gen Z Tries on the Communist Cadre Look (9/7/22)

Why are some Chinese youth dressing like middle-aged civil servants? It might be ironic, or a longing for stability in uncertain times.

The China Project: Shanghai Fashion Week returns to in-person shows: Here's what happened (9/30/22)

...With strict COVID-19 protocols still in place for attendees, the weeklong event featured runway presentations by more than 60 designers, which were held at multiple locations across Shanghai, including the lifestyle landmark Xintiandi. The packed calendar also included industry panels and trade fairs, with digital campaigns sprinkled throughout the week to increase engagement from the general public.



Jing Daily: From ‘Bella Hadid Style’ To Clogcore: (2/10/23)

A Guide To 2023’s Chinese Social Media Fashion Trends

The China Project: The Fengshui-Inspired Mural Art of Sheep Chen (1/3/23)



...In China, public art first found steam by way of peasant paintings, an art form that was spurred on by government cultural initiatives between the '50s and '80s. Yet, despite the historic precedence, contemporary forms of public art never quite took off in the country. Chen believes that street art's stunted growth in China is in part due to the fact that many domestic artists fail to ground their works in relatable, local context. A successful mural requires the artist to have a thorough understanding of the place they're working in and the people they're making it for, Chen says. "A mural should radiate an aura. It should feel surprising and leave an impression. A colorful mural in the concrete expanses of a city should be a sight for sore eyes."

Sixth Tone: China’s Hottest Art Show is in the Middle of Nowhere Literally (11/17/22)

After being quarantined in a ‘fangcang’ hospital, artist Meng Lichao and two friends decided to put on a show. Don’t bother trying to get a ticket though — you have to know someone with COVID.

The China Project: The Photorealistic Paintings of Sun Yitian (2/7/23)

Plastic is the perfect symbol for the hazards of materialism, and it’s a source of inspiration for Sun Yitian, one of China’s most intriguing artists under 30.

South China Morning Post: Chinese art from the Covid-19 pandemic (2/6/23) (

‘Creepy’ works about our connection with nature and our fellow humans on show at Gagosian in Hong Kong

Sixth Tone: Micro-Dosing Nostalgia with China’s Miniature Modelers (10/13/22)

After decades of development and tear-downs, a new breed of model workers are helping Chinese recapture the long-gone countryside of their youth...At first, you might assume it's a hobby, like the fanciful townscapes made by model railroad enthusiasts. But as it turns out, it's a profession that's equal parts art and therapy: a small community of professional miniaturists



specialize in recreating their clients' demolished childhood homes.

...It's a way to revisit a simpler time, Du says. "In the '90s, when I was a child, we were not very rich, and the gap between households was small," Du says. Even though he only lived through the tail end of the decade, Du also gets lost in his memories while making models, daydreaming about life before the time of hyper-connectivity and widespread anxiety. "I'm also very nostalgic and get lost in my memories as I work. These models take me back to the past, to a time when every day was full of joy," he says.

How a Band from China's Industrial Heartland Captured the Emotions of a Generation (2/23/22)

Despite an experimental sound and just two album releases in a decade, Omnipotent Youth Society has remained one of China's most relatable rock bands since 2010

The China Project: China's Dejected Youth Find a New Anti-Hero: a 'Trashy' Wannabe Rapper (12/29/22)

Aspiring hip-hop star Big Sponge has few fans, fewer friends, and so little money that he has to collect recycling waste to make some extra cash. But his story — captured in the award-winning film "Trashy Boy" — has resonated with disaffected young Chinese. Watch 2-minute trailer.

The China Project: The Best Music to Come out of China in 2022 (12/28/22)

Here are some of the most notable records to come out of China in 2022, ranging from hip-hop and funk to post-punk and avant-garde...Five years after forming, all-female punk band Xiao Wang unleashed its debut album this autumn, putting on record the powerful, fearless, and fun songs that have made them darlings of the Beijing live scene. Pogoing between cutesy hooks and guttural roars, Kachakacha is a vibrant half hour filled with an energy that firmly establishes Xiao Wang as the spiritual successors to renowned Chinese punk acts such as Hang on the Box and Subs.

Radii: Get a Noise Complaint Blasting These 10 New Chinese Music Releases (10/22)

The World of Chinese: Reggae's Chinese Roots Run Deeper than You Think (10/3/22)

China's three major reggae artists of the last few years have been Kawa, a band from Yunnan province, Beijing's Long Shen Dao, and Taiwan's Matzka; each has had success abroad too. But those three major artists no longer monopolize the genre. While reggae was distinctly relegated to the fringes of Chinese music scenes just 10 or 15 years ago, it is now booming and even permeating into mainstream artists' work. Today, reggae music artists can be found in almost every large city in the country, and the sound of reggae beats can be heard in rap, hip hop, and even pop music listened to by millions.

The World of Chinese: Is China's Boy Band Boom Over? (10/12/22)

Ten years ago, TFBoys spurred a boom in Chinese boy bands. But now fan fatigue, investor apathy, and the pandemic threaten to burst the pop star bubble.

China's University Students Dance Like Nobody's Watching (1/24/23)

They danced to Taylor Swift's hits together until midnight in the public square, finding connection with one another in the most isolated moments of their youth.

Radii: 13 of China's Best Stand-up Comedians are Heading to North America (12/22)

China's 'father of stand-up comedy,' comedian Li Dan, and his team will perform in 13 cities in Canada and the U.S. to kick off 2023 with a laugh.

YOUTH CULTURE/GAMING

The China Project: China Declares Underage Gaming Ban Effective, But Report Shows Teenagers Aren't Studying More. Here's Why. (11/23/22)

Getting Chinese teenagers focused on studying and exercising seems to be an endless battle when there are so many entertaining things to do on screens.

The China Project: Genshin Impact Is China's Most Popular Global Video Game, And Chinese Food Brands Can't Get Enough Of It (9/9/22)

Food and beverage chains in China are co-branding with Genshin Impact. The strategy has proven so successful that police have had to stop large crowds gathering outside fast-food restaurants offering game merchandise and themed meals.

Released in September 2020, the free-to-play fantasy role-playing game from Chinese developer miHoYo, Genshin Impact (原神 yuánshén), has a gacha (toy vending machine) business model and multiple playable characters. Soon after its launch, the game took the world by storm, attracting about 60 million players around the world, and earning rave reviews from critics and players who praised its intricate world-building, beautiful art style and meticulous attention to detail. Laudatory press stretched as far as mainstream publications such as the Washington Post and NPR; both Apple and Google Play named it Game of the Year in 2020.



YOUTH CULTURE/OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Outdoor athletic activities particularly popular among China's pandemic-fatigued youths who were looking for new ways to socialize, get fresh air, and stay healthy.

Ultimate Frisbee

Snowsports

Glamping

Temple Excursions

Cycling

Stand up paddling

Surfskating/skateboarding

Alizila: No Alcohol Please! Top 5 Lifestyle Trends

Among China's Gen Z Reshaping Retail (8/30/22)

Once-obscure activities such as paddleboarding are fast becoming after-work pastimes. Meanwhile, a greater focus on wellness is boosting retail categories such as non-alcoholic beverages.



CYBER & IN PERSON PROTESTS

A Letter to My Editors and to China's Censors

In January 2021, Xu Zhangrun, perhaps China's most famous dissident legal scholar, released a letter addressed not only to China's censors but also to the editors and publishers with whom he had worked for decades. See his *Ten Letters from a Year of Plague* [here](#).

Rest Of World: In China, Fleeting “Cyber Protests” Leave Behind Fragile Memories (5/16/22)

Cyber protests still erupt: thousands share the same critical post on Weibo; activists create artwork and memes. But the influence of these actions is dwindling. Resentment on the Chinese internet has become more subtle, and increasingly contained inside small enclaves of like-minded people, according to the study co-authored by Wu. As self-censorship has become a survival instinct, online criticism has become more commonly directed at local problems instead of broader government policies — people who dare to question the regime are often attacked as anti-China.

The China Project: Have the Seeds of Dissent Been Sown in China? (12/13/22)

Something in China changed this year. Citizens have a new appreciation of their power even against a highly repressive party-state armed with advanced surveillance technology, argues scholar Lynette H. Ong.

Websites Worth Perusing (from time to time)

[Netizen Voices/ China Digital Times](#)

[SupChina's Guide to the Best of China Twitter in English](#)

[China Media Project](#) is an independent research, fellowship and exchange program, that fosters dialogue on key issues in Chinese media and communications, and monitors breaking developments in the field

ChinaFile: Nevertheless, Chinese Civil Society Persisted (8/8/22)

...In the China presented by the media, the “official” China, yes, that’s all there is. But the

strict censorship dictates hide a complex array of feelings and behaviors. Even today, there remains “civil society,” a network formed by individuals who disagree with the regime, with some of the members taking action to uncover injustice and fight against suppression. Some resist passively, committing to operate in a space outside of the mainstream; some earn money in the mainstream but direct that money and their own personal aspirations toward endeavors that run counter to the regime’s goals. What these people have in common: they refuse to be “social livestock,” and yet they also won’t lie flat. Chinese civil society’s vitality shines through in momentary flashes...

The Voice of April

From her bed in Shanghai, Paloma joined an online protest against the strict Covid-19 lockdowns in her city by sharing a video on the dominant messaging app WeChat. The video, with millions of views already, documented heartbroken voices from a city of 25 million confined for weeks in near-total lockdown: pleas from a son seeking treatment for his critically ill father, shouts from residents demanding food, and cries from babies separated from their parents.

As China’s frenzied censors worked to delete the six-minute video, titled *The Voice of April*, people created new variations to keep it circulating on WeChat Channels, a TikTok-like short video service. [The Voice of April available on Youtube](#).

Freewechat.com: Tintin in Shanghai (5/16/22)

A Chinese illustrator who goes by “DoodleKidult” online has created [a set of comics](#) that reimagines Tintin, the beloved protagonist from the popular French-language comic strip *The Adventures of Tintin*, in today’s locked-down Shanghai. The artwork sees the young adventurer taking a rapid test at home, struggling to order groceries through delivery apps, and eventually sailing out of Shanghai after having had enough of the oppressive COVID restrictions forced upon him.

CDT: Voices of Protest: “If Not For The People, Where Would You Be?”

“Voices of Protest” is a special edition of CDT’s monthly “Voices of...” video series. This 15-minute video is a compilation of video footage, images, and audio from the large, spontaneous public protests that broke out in a number of Chinese cities in late November and early December of 2022, and the transnational protest momentum that continues even today. NOTE from Tese: The video is not subtitled but the entire transcript is printed in English at this same site.

NYT: How Do You Protest in the Face of Censorship? An Empty Sign (12/22/22)

In China, Russia and the United Kingdom, unmarked sheets of white paper have become a potent symbol of defiance.

The China Story: A Year of Protest, Ceremonies and Surprises (12/19/22)

...Many who participate in physical or online protests are doing it out of personal instincts, rather than doing it for a greater ideal or for the sake of the larger population. It's clear that they can only put so much into their focus, and the risks that could be involved in their personal actions, are already so overwhelming for most Chinese citizens that they probably don't have the bandwidth to think about others most of the time.

That said, although the unprecedented level of nationwide protests that have emerged since November has largely been triggered by Chinese people's discontent towards lengthy periods of strict lockdowns and the threat they pose to people's livelihoods, what also stood out during the protests in different major cities, is the collective grievance that Chinese citizens feel as they cite examples of deadly accidents caused by the extreme nature of the zero-Covid strategy, including the Guizhou bus accident and the despair reflected through countless suicides amid strict lockdowns in different cities. While Beijing tries to appease public anger and frustration by easing the zero-Covid strategy, the damage that the policy has inflicted on civil society is one of the main driving forces behind the remarkable scale of public protests...

China Dissent Monitor 2023

From October to December 2022:

- 253 dissent events were documented, including 137 cases of dissent against COVID-19 pandemic rules between October and November—reflecting a rising wave throughout the autumn.
- Analysis indicates that relative to other dissent, lockdown protests were larger, more likely to challenge the government, and more likely to result in arrests.
- CDM data suggests a relative decrease in protests around the period of the 20th Party Congress in October, when Xi Jinping began his third term as Chinese Communist Party (CCP) head.
- There is direct evidence of authorities detaining or arresting protesters, reflecting the significant risks faced by people who engage in public dissent.
- The protests were led by diverse groups, but the risk of detention is higher for certain groups that face targeted persecution, including faith groups.
- State authorities made some concessions, especially with anti-lockdown protests, revising policies or acknowledging protesters' grievances.

Wired: How Chinese Netizens Swamped China's Internet Controls (12/2/22)

The government regained control of streets and social networks, but citizens protesting zero-Covid policies proved smartphones can help fuel mass action.

Council on Foreign Relations: From Tiananmen to COVID: Modern China's Protests in Photos (12/1/22)

China's citizens have mounted protests big and small to challenge authority in recent decades. While the catalyst for November's protests was the zero-COVID policy, past demonstrations have focused on religious freedom, environmental protection, and more.

The China Story: Chinese Youth: Westernized but not Pro-democracy (11/30/21)

On the internet, one may get the impression that the Chinese youth is increasingly nationalistic and hostile towards the West. But this is an oversimplification. Multiple national sample surveys find that Chinese youth are adopting Westernized values, with a greater preference for individualism and self-expression, and are less nationalistic. Yet, they are far from embracing Western democracy, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic.

CSIS: Public Opinion in China: A Liberal Silent Majority? (2/9/22)

This first feature analyzes data which sheds new light on the views of Chinese citizens, challenging some mainstream scholarship on the topic. Survey data shows that Chinese citizens hold diverse views on many policy topics and do not always support government choices.

The Guardian: China Bans Celebrities With ‘Lapsed Morals’ from Endorsing Products (11/2/22)

State regulator tightens advertising rules to align society with ‘core socialist values.’

NikkeiAsia: China’s Online Nationalist Army/How Social Media Users Weaponized Patriotism (Infographics) 12/29/22

The late 2022 anti-protest backlash highlights a crucial change in the nature of online nationalism in China, a force capable of humbling powerful people and international brands. Such ultra-patriotic campaigns were once openly led and directed by state media. Now individuals play a more prominent role, Nikkei Asia data analysis has found.

The online patriots often proclaim that they represent a deep public well of national pride and loyalty to the ruling Communist party. But more skeptical observers question the extent to which the messaging is orchestrated by state-affiliated groups. In this way, sentiment can be made to look more like instinctive loyalty -- and less like government propaganda.

Either way, the rise of individual online nationalist voices with huge followings carries risks as well as rewards for China’s communist rulers. Sometimes, the social media uber-patriots take more aggressive stances than authorities in Beijing.

The Diplomat: How Chinese Fans Enforce Chinese Nationalism on the World (5/8/21)

Chinese fans are quick to call out idols for crossing political red lines — and those norms are being internalized in the global pop culture industry.

NPR: A Public Payphone in China Began Ringing and Ringing. Who Was Calling? (10/3/22)

The plight of the Gourd Islanders caught the attention of Nut Brother, a Chinese artist known for his environmental activism through absurdist performances. He's vacuumed up dust from Beijing's smoggy air and turned it into a brick, transformed a river discolored by pollution into soup by tossing in toy fish and fake red peppers, and clamped his mouth shut with a variety of devices, including a face mask that read "shut up," to protest censorship.

Censored words: Here are just a few examples of words and phrases that have been censored by Beijing

Winnie the Pooh (小熊维尼) — Chinese internet users use images of Winnie the Pooh to represent President Xi Jinping.

Dalai Lama (达赖喇嘛) — The Tibetan leader in exile. A symbol of Tibetan independence.

Tibet Independence (西藏独立) — Talking about independence for Tibet is forbidden.

Soviet Jokes (苏联笑话) — Mocking the Soviet Union is considered making fun of communism.

Go, Hong Kong (香港加油) — Support for the pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong.

709 (709律师) — A group of human rights activists and lawyers arrested on July 9 (7/9), 2015.

Liu Xiaobo (刘晓波) — Nobel Prize-winning human rights activist imprisoned by China.

Great Firewall of China (伟大的防火墙) — Discussing Chinese censorship is itself censored.

Dictatorship (专政) — Suggesting or saying that China is a dictatorship is forbidden.

Tiananmen (天安门) — Any references to the 1989 pro-democracy protests that ended in bloodshed.

June 4 (六四) — The date of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests.

Tankman (坦克人) — The famous image of a Chinese man who stood in front of a column of tanks in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Nomadland 无依之地 — Chinese-born Chloe Zhao (Best Director, Academy Awards 2021)

Support Xinjiang People 支持新疆人 — When China fanned the flames of Xinjiang boycott, netizens began to wonder out loud.

Liedownism 躺平学 — Any related terms censored from e-commerce sites.

[CDT: Top Censored Terms](#)

[CDT: Words of the Week](#)

[Sound-Alike Expressions Banned by Weibo](#)

[How Netizens Use Puns to Get Past Internet Censors](#)

[Sixth Tone: The Chinese Online Slang That Took Over the Internet in 2022](#)

Brookings Report May 2022: Winning the Web: How Beijing Exploits Search Results to Shape Views of Xinjiang and Covid-19. (2-page executive summary)

Download the full 47-page report.

How the Chinese Government Uses Social Media (some examples)

[Chinese Government Turns to Pop Rap](#)

[Patriotic Rap Song](#)

[China's Internet Censors Make Their Own Theme Song](#)

[State TV Becomes More Polished, see CCTV English](#)

Beijing's Global Media Influence 2022

Download 82-page report.

The China Project: Beijing's Global Media Influence Machine — Q&A with Sarah Cook (12/16/22)

Interview with the author Sarah Cook is the research director for China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan at Freedom House, an American nonprofit organization founded in 1941 and dedicated to monitoring and defending human rights and civil liberties around the world.

BOOK: Beijing's Global Media Offensive: China's Uneven Campaign to Influence Asia and the World by Joshua Kurlantzick



'Non-interference' has long been a watchword of the Chinese state, largely due to their own painful history at the hands of interfering foreign powers. Yet when it comes to information and influence operations abroad, both overt and covert, Beijing today is one of the worst meddlers. This excellent survey narrates China's extensive attempts to become a media superpower, from expanding state media (and social media) reach overseas to influence on local media abroad, and from content-sharing deals to outright purchases of foreign media companies. With a focus on Asia, but also taking in the global west and global south, Kurlantzick also demonstrates where this bid for soft power falls flat. A sage and readable summary of an overlooked aspect of the China story.

ETC



Sixth Tone: How Chinese Abroad Navigate Race and Nationality (10/6/22)

Chinese International students in the US are often criticized for a lack of engagement in racial justice. But how do the students themselves view their struggle?

...Many of the Chinese international students I interviewed reported being verbally harassed for wearing masks or being on the receiving end of xenophobic comments like "Go back to China" from

strangers on the street — both before and after the outbreak of COVID-19. However, instead of directly adopting the term "racial discrimination" to describe these uncomfortable incidents, they generally associated these negative experiences with their nationality. In other words, they believed some Americans hold hostile attitudes toward Chinese, not because of their Asian features, but because they are from China.

Carter Foundation Report 2022: The Role of Higher Education in U.S. China Relations

[Download 153-page report](#)

"How Discrimination Increases Chinese Overseas Students' Support for Authoritarian Rule" by Yingjie Fan, Jennifer Pan, Zijie Shao and Yiqing Xu (6/29/20)

The cross-border flow of people for educational exchange in Western democracies is seen as a way to transfer democratic values to non-democratic regions of the world. What happens when students studying in the West encounter discrimination? Based on an experiment among hundreds of Chinese first-year undergraduates in the United States, we show that discrimination interferes with the transfer of democratic values. Chinese students who study in the United States

are more predisposed to favor liberal democracy than their peers in China. However, anti-Chinese discrimination significantly reduces their belief that political reform is desirable for China and increases their support for authoritarian rule. (Download paper at the link above).

Civil Society Website: China Development Brief

Created in 1996 in Kunming, and currently based in Beijing, China Development Brief (CDB) is China's first independent platform for civil society. Using both English and Chinese, CDB provides services of media and communication, research, consultancy and resource-matching to NGOs, foundations, enterprises, individuals and research institutes. CDB registered as an NGO named "Beijing E-share Civil Society Information Center" in 2017.

ChinaFile: A Vast Network of 'New Era Civilization Practice Centers' Is Beijing's Latest Bid to Reclaim Hearts and Minds (1/31/22)



...Though New Era Civilization Practice Centers have received little attention outside of China, ChinaFile has traced their emergence as a new feature of the country's political topography through Party directives, procurement notices, and state-affiliated media. The centers are designed to deliver a mix of social services and political indoctrination, to draw China's citizens ever nearer to the Party by giving them tangible reminders of the Party's largesse and by molding

them into the type of citizens the Party would like them to be...

Sixth Tone: The China's Youth are Changing. The Party's Message Must Too (5/12/22)

Like Gen-Zers elsewhere, China's post-2000 generation is more individualistic and willing to question authority than older cohorts. In a survey of people born between 2000 and 2006 by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, over 80% of respondents said that parental authority can be questioned. More than half said they directly pointed out mistakes made by their parents and teachers.

They're also more critically minded. Rather than taking information at face value, post-'00s prefer to analyze multiple sources and form their own opinions. Nearly nine in 10 said they "use multiple channels to obtain and verify information." Only 7.5% said they "judge based on feeling, intuition, and personal experience."

Can the Communist Youth League adapt its message to reach this new generation? Sixth Tone spoke with four students born around the turn of the century about their experiences as Youth League members and their views on the organization.

Merics: What do Young Chinese Think About Social Credit? It's Complicated (3/26/20)

Main findings and conclusions

1. Revisiting public opinion on the social credit system
2. Survey: Questions designed to stimulate reflection
3. Initial findings: Chinese respondents are concerned about risks of government surveillance

4. Possible explanations: Cultural background, social conditions and censorship shape opinions
5. Conclusion: Awareness leads to less acceptance of social credit

China's Youth Social Credit System May Undermine CCP Legitimacy

CGTN China News: The Point: China's Facial Recognition and How It's Reported (2021)

This week's headline buster talks about China's facial recognition tech. Facial recognition has been used widely across China, powering the technology to unlock iPhones, to pass security checks at airports, and purchase goods with a "smile to pay" function. At its core, it is a biometric software application capable of verifying or identifying a person by comparing and analyzing patterns of facial image.

RADII: China's Ten Most Livable Cities, According to Chinese Youth (7/7/22)

Economists and travel platforms often weigh in on the most livable cities in a country or the world, and it turns out Chinese youth are also opinionated on the subject. Last week, China's biggest lifestyle platform Xiaohongshu published a study revealing the factors that impact young Chinese people's decisions on where to live in the country.

Sixth Tone: Young Chinese Are Overdosing on Cough Medication to Combat Stress

Many youngsters browsing social media platforms are finding hundreds of posts peddling the use of dextromethorphan as a gateway drug.

The China Project: I Lost Faith in The U.S. And China. Then The Chinese Internet Saved Me (2/15/22)

...For those who find themselves with ties to both countries, we've entered a stage of incredible loss.

The dissolution of the relationship hits us in uniquely excruciating ways. Families are cut off, academic and career plans ruined. We feel pressed to pick sides — as if choosing one divorced parent to live with was even possible. Dealing with the unraveling of U.S.-China relations is a grieving process similar to coping with the spiraling effects of climate change..

Self as Method: Thinking Through China and the World (2020)

Self as Method is a unique book, in which Wu Qi, a young journalist from China, engages in three extensive interviews with Xiang Biao, a 48-year-old social anthropologist who was born and educated in China and now teaches at Oxford University and at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. The themes discussed cover Xiang's life as a child and a student, as well as his experiences as a researcher and his reflections about how to think about China, the world, globalization, and many other issues. The book is made possible because Xiang is something of an "academic celebrity" in China (and because both Xiang and Wu graduated from Peking University, which has considerable cachet). It essentially tells Chinese youth to think for themselves

Self as Method has already sold more than 130,000 copies in China and was named 2020's "most impactful book," and has been particularly appreciated by undergraduate and graduate students in China—to whom the book is largely addressed. Despite everything we read about the cynicism and materialism of Chinese youth, the reception of *Self as Method* clearly demonstrates that many continue to search for a guide that can help them navigate the intellectual, spiritual, and professional challenges they face in a rapidly changing world, and that many remain idealistic. **Download entire 262-page book [here](#).**

and *through* their own experiences in making sense of the contradictions around them, and demonstrates how one scholar did so. The book also wishes to urge readers to think what it means to be a reflexive Chinese citizen in today's world, in relation to all the changes in China and in the world. To be clear, *Self as Method* is not a how-to/self-help book, nor does it play overmuch on Xiang's celebrity, although both of these elements are skillfully knitted into the interviews. The book in fact is the rarest of things: an intellectual conversation that manages to be interesting and enjoyable.

OLD BUT GOOD!!! NPR: In China, School Principal Leads Students in Dancing to a New Beat – Enjoy/dance the two minutes of this school exercise

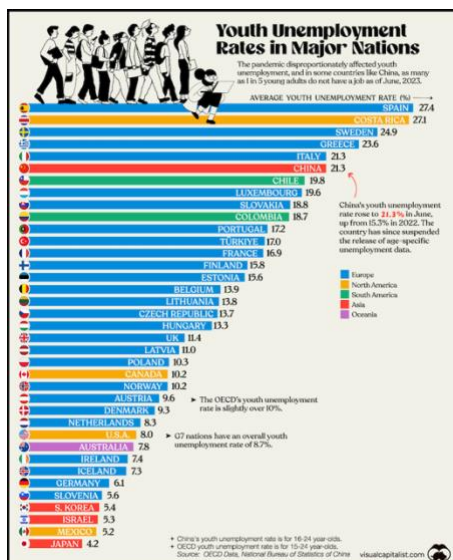
NOTE: If links do not work, please cut & paste them in!

NEWS UPDATE: YOUTH IN THE HEADLINES AS WE SPEAK! FRESH OFF THE PRESS! AUTUMN 2023 IN THE HEADLINES

The Conversation: China's Youth Unemployment Problem has become a Crisis we no Longer can Ignore (10/8/23)

<https://theconversation.com/chinas-youth-unemployment-problem-has-become-a-crisis-we-can-no-longer-ignore-213751>

Youth unemployment is a global problem, but in China the rate - 21.3% - is particularly alarming, not just because it's high, but because it could affect other economies and geopolitical relations.



The release of the rate, which more than doubled the pre-COVID rate of May 2018, coincided with China's National Bureau of Statistics announcing it would no longer report age specific data because it needed to "improve and optimize labour force survey statistics."

Council on Foreign Relations: The Root of China's Growing Youth Unemployment Crisis (9/18/23)

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/root-chinas-growing-youth-unemployment-crisis>

The youth unemployment rate (for those aged 16 to 24) hit a record-high 21.3 percent in June... a huge gap has opened between growth in the number of college graduates, the level of which now being far above its pre-pandemic level, and growth in the number of service jobs, the level of which

having flattened out during the pandemic and fallen last year.

Sixth Tone (Multimedia): On China's Streets, Young Vendors Toil for Money, Friendship, and Freedom (11/15/23)

<https://www.sixthtone.com/news/1014088>

In China, relaxing restrictions on night markets and street vendors is encouraging more young people to venture into street vending. While some are trying to turn the traditionally low-status job into a lucrative venture, others are doing it as a hobby or a lifestyle choice.

Sixth Tone (Multimedia): In China, Competition for Civil Service Jobs Keeps Getting Fiercer (11/3/23)

<https://www.sixthtone.com/news/1014012>

Applications for China's civil service exam hit yet another record high this year, as graduates seek job security amid an uncertain economic outlook.

The China Project: Crispy College Students – Phrase of the Week (10/27/23)

<https://thechinaproject.com/2023/10/27/crispy-college-students-phrase-of-the-week/>

A new phrase describes the high-pressure and unhealthy lifestyles of university students in China.



The China Project: China's Three-Child Policy Isn't Leading to a Surge in Births, Data Show (10/17/23)

<https://thechinaproject.com/2023/10/17/chinas-three-child-policy-isnt-leading-to-surge-in-births-data-shows/>

There's a new sense of urgency to China's looming demographic crisis.

Illustration for The China Project by Alex Santafé

Sixth Tone: Hangzhou To Pay Parents 25,000 Yuan for Third Child From September (8/8/23)

<https://www.sixthtone.com/news/1013483>

The eastern tech hub has also introduced preferential housing policies for families with three children in recent years.

The China Project: Move Over, Limos: Chinese Newlyweds, Use Public Buses as Wedding Vehicles (10/13/23)

<https://thechinaproject.com/2023/10/13/move-over-limos-chinese-newlyweds-using-public-buses-as-wedding-vehicles/>

Lavish banquets, expensive gowns, and a parade of high-end cars to bring guests to the venue.



These have long been staples of a Chinese wedding, considered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for newlyweds to splurge on an ultra-luxurious experience.

But in a newly emerging trend in multiple Chinese cities, couples are going frugal on wedding day transportation...and taking buses.

NYT: China's Male Leaders Signal to Women That Their Place Is in the Home (11/2/23)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/02/world/asia/china-communist-party-xi-women.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>

The Communist Party's solution to the country's demographic crisis and a slowing economy is to push women back into traditional roles.

Reading the China Dream: Interview with Liang Jianzhang, “Why are Today’s Young People Not Having Children?”

<https://www.readingthechinadream.com/liang-jianzhang-on-chinas-looming-demographic-disaster.html>

Liang's basic argument is that a stagnant population or, worse, a falling birthrate, eventually will have a large impact on factors such as market demand and even innovation and productivity. Thus in contrast to the many voices that trumpet the coming “Asian century,” Liang worries that the current advantage East Asian countries have worked so hard to achieve may disappear with declining population over the next few generation.

Sixth Tone: In China, Young Graduates Are Selling Their Knowledge on the Streets (8/8/23)

<https://www.sixthtone.com/news/1013074>

Facing a difficult job market, highly educated Chinese have found a new way to monetize their degrees: “knowledge street vending.”

The China Project: ‘The Breaking Ice’: A portrait of angst and ennui among Chinese youth (10/6/23)

<https://thechinaproject.com/2023/10/06/the-breaking-ice-a-portrait-of-angst-and-ennui-among-chinese-youth/>

*Singaporean filmmaker Anthony Chen relies heavily on symbolism in his first China-set feature. ...“A love letter to the young people of China” is how Chen describes **The Breaking Ice**. While all three of his previous features deal with outsiders or foreigners, this time Chen himself has become a stranger to the place and the people in his China-set story.*

China Dissent Monitor: Asian Games Censorship (10/23)

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/china-media-bulletin/2023/antisemitism-surges-online-asian-games-censorship-hong-kong>

KEEPING UP WITH ALL THINGS CONTEMPORARY CHINA

Primary Sources: Translated Chinese Texts & Documents

Reading the China Dream

<https://www.readingthechinadream.com/>

This web site is devoted to the subject of intellectual life in contemporary China, and more particularly to the writings of establishment intellectuals. What you will find here are essentially translations of Chinese texts that we consider important, together with discussions of related issues and a number of reference tools that can help those interested to navigate the project.

Center for Strategic & International Studies: Translating China

<https://www.csis.org/programs/freeman-chair-china-studies/translating-china>

In an effort to better understand China's evolving political system and the role of ideology, the Freeman Chair has commissioned a series of translations of important but largely ignored speeches, reports, and articles that are openly distributed within the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The goal of releasing these documents is to provide further context about the CCP's goals, ambitions, and capabilities for non-Chinese speakers.

MEDIA ON CHINA

The following resources feature some newspapers and journals that provide full coverage of China-related news and contemporary issues.

The China Project

<https://thechinaproject.com/about-2/>

China Digital Times

<http://chinadigitaltimes.net/>

Asia Society: ChinaFile

<https://www.chinafile.com/>

<http://www.chinafile.com/conversation>

China Dialogue

<https://www.chinadialogue.net/>

China Media Project

<https://chinamediaproject.org/>

Check Think & Fact Tanks Too

Brookings

<https://www.brookings.edu/topic/china/>

CFR

<https://www.cfr.org/search?keyword=China>

Wilson Center

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/search?search=China>

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

<https://carnegieendowment.org/carnegiechina>

National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR)

<https://www.nbr.org/?s=China>

Kissinger Institute on China and the US

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/kissinger-institute-china-and-united-states>

RAND

<https://www.rand.org/topics/china.html>

USIP

https://www.usip.org/?site_keywords=China

Pew Research Fact Tank

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/>

Stanford Center on China's Economy and Institutions

BBC News – China subsection

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/asia/china/>

Wall Street Journal – China subsection

<http://online.wsj.com/public/page/news-china.html>

The Economist – Asia section

<http://www.economist.com/world/asia>

The New York Times – China subsection

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/china/index.html>

China Media Project

<https://chinamediaproject.org/>

News from China Sources

Caixin Global

<https://www.caixinglobal.com/>

Sixth Tone

<http://www.sixthtone.com>

China's Global News Network CGTN

<https://www.cgtn.com/>

Engaging with China in a New Era: A Resource Bibliography

<https://www.ncuscr.org/engaging-china-new-era-resource-bibliography>

The National Committee on U.S.-China Relations has assembled a list of materials in written, audio, and video formats related to engagement with China.

The best China podcasts, all under one roof. From economics and geopolitics to women's issues and tech startups.

https://supchina.com/podcast/?utm_source=SupChina+Free+Newsletter&utm_campaign=57a0f47dbd-

EMAIL CAMPAIGN 2019 05 23 07 35 COPY 01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9606393025_57a0f47dbd-165084505

China on the Hill

<https://mailchi.mp/ncuscr/china-on-the-hill-05-10-2022?e=0a747a0020>

Podcasts



The Sinica

<http://supchina.com/sinica/>

U Penn Center for the Study of Contemporary China

<https://cscs.sas.upenn.edu/podcasts>

The Little Red Podcast

<https://omny.fm/shows/the-little-red-podcast>

U.S.-China Dialogue (Georgetown University)

<https://uschinadialogue.georgetown.edu/series/u-s-china-dialogue-podcast>

China Life

<https://china.usc.edu/section/china-life-podcast>

