Taiwan Studies Programme, Asian Studies Centre

Week 7 – Wednesday 10th June 4.00pm
Syndicate Room, Old Main Building, St Antony’s College

Book Launch:
Cross-Taiwan Strait Relations in an Era of Technological Change: Security, Economic and Cultural Dimensions

Abstract:
This presentation will explore three key questions connected to the role of high-technology in cross-Strait relations which intersect with each of the themes of security, economics and culture that are the subject focus of this new book. First, to what extent has mainland China’s innovation investment in its military and industrial sectors created a meaningful example of technology catch-up that could shift the balance of capabilities from Taiwan to the mainland?

Second, does the OEM (original equipment manufacturer) model of growth, fostered so successfully by Taiwanese business elites over the past three decades of investment in the mainland, represent a feasible future approach in the face of policy shifts in cross-Strait economic relations and structural changes to mainland China’s own economy as it seeks to move up the production value chain to directly compete with Taiwan?

Third, is the cultural gap between the two communities on both sides of the Taiwan Strait being broken down or reinforced by new media developments in the internet era, and do such new communication channels represent an avenue of delivery for a distinctive cross-Strait dialogue that reduce or exacerbate tensions?

In seeking answers to these questions, the presentation will draw on new research presented in this volume which offers a rich source of evidence to explain how changing dynamics across the Taiwan Strait, fuelled by technological change, may be altering the future direction of the cross-Strait relationship. The conclusion suggested in the book is that major changes are indeed taking place, but at a different pace and in different ways across each of the three dimensions under scrutiny, this process, the book offers crucial reflections on how to compare and how to study small nations.”

About the speaker:
Paul Irwin Crookes is Departmental Lecturer in the International Relations of China and Director of Graduate Studies for the Contemporary China Studies Programme at the University of Oxford. Paul gained his MPhil and PhD degrees from the Centre of International Studies at the University of Cambridge and holds a BSc(Econ) from the LSE. Prior to entering the academic profession, Paul had a successful 20-year career in the international IT industry, which took him on work assignments to the US, Europe, India and China. He has particular research interests in East Asian security, China’s innovation capabilities, EU-China relations, and the development of international regimes.

Jan Knoerich is Lecturer in the Economy of China at the Lau China Institute, King’s College London. He obtained his PhD degree from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. His research examines issues in the contemporary Chinese economy, China’s international economic relations and, in particular, the internationalisation of Chinese enterprises and Chinese outward foreign direct investment. Jan is also interested in the economic development implications of foreign direct investment and international investment policy. He held previous positions at the University of Oxford and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

All are Welcome

Convenor: Feng-yi Chu & Paul Irwin Crookes

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