Australian National University

China Update 2026

Decarbonization in China
19–20 November 2026
Molonglo Theatre

ANU Crawford School of Public Policy

China Economy Program

Program

China Update 2026 brings together researchers, policymakers and practitioners to examine decarbonization in China and its implications for economic development, investment and international cooperation.

Across two days, the programme explores pathways to carbon neutrality, green investment and innovation, energy security, low-carbon transport, sustainable aviation fuel, agricultural ESG, and the decarbonization of the steel sector. Keynote presentations also examine China's development paradigm, regional growth prospects, monetary spillovers and macroeconomic performance.

The conference takes place on 19–20 November 2026 at the Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University. An internal round table at Acton Theatre on 20 November is by invitation.

Program

Day one: 19 November 2026, 8.30am–5.40pm AEDT

8.30–9am

Registration (Molonglo Theatre)

9–10am

Opening session

9–9.05am Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country: **Yixiao Zhou**, Associate Professor and China Economy Program Director, Australian National University
9.05–9.20am Professor **Gordon de Brouwer** AO PSM FIPAA, Chancellor, Australian National University
9.20–9.35am Mr **LI Fanjie**, Minister of the Chinese Embassy
9.35–10am **Ross Garnaut** (University of Melbourne and Australian National University)

10–11am

Session One: Pathways to Carbon Neutrality Policy and Strategy

Chair: **Peter Drysdale** (Australian National University)
Policy Options for China's Carbon Neutrality.
Yu Liu (Peking University)
A Quiet Revolution: Two Decades of Energy Transition in China
Ye Qi (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou))
Dual Carbon Mitigations with Diminishing Margins in China's Intensity-Based National Emissions Trading Scheme
Ke Wang (Beijing Institute of Technology)
Investing in China's Green Transition: Decarbonization, Capital Flows, and the Future of Sustainable Growth
Wei Li (University of Sydney)

11–12pm

Keynote speech

Chair: **Ligang Song** (Australian National University)
Speaker: **Jiahua Pan** (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou))
Toward Zero-Carbon Prosperity: Drivers and Prospects of China's Development Paradigm Shift.

12–1pm

Lunch

Program

Day one: 19 November 2026, 8.30am–5.40pm AEDT

1–2pm

Session Two: Green Economy Products: New Frontiers for Investment Growth

Chair: **Llewelyn Hughes** (Australian National University)
Synergic Development of Automobile Intelligence and Low-Carbon Transportation
Tong Zhang (Beijing Institute of Technology)
The New Energy Trade: Harnessing Australian renewables for global development
Reuben Finighan (The Superpower Institute)
China's Innovation Policy: From Catch-Up to System Power
Marina Zhang (University of Technology Sydney)

2–3.10pm

Session Three: Energy Security and China's Global Engagement

Chair: **Xin Meng** (Australian National University)
Powering the Transition: Chinese Energy Investment and the Remaking of Energy Security in ASEAN
Lixia Yao (Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore)
Clean Energy Superpower or Fossil Fuel Giant? Two Views of China's One Transition
Muyi Yang (Ember / University of Technology Sydney)
Phase down of coal power in China
Xunpeng Shi (University of Technology Sydney)
Achieving China's 2030 Carbon Intensity Target Without GDP Loss: Analysis of Potential Policy Pathways
Paul Gretton (Australian National University)

3.10–3.30pm

Tea break

3.30–4.30pm

Session Four: Innovation, Investment and the Low-Carbon Transition

Chair: **Jing Wu** (Australian National University)
The Environmental Toll of AI: Connecting the Dots to the Line.
Peng Wang (Institute of Urban Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences (Xiamen))

Program

Day one: 19 November 2026, 8.30am–5.40pm AEDT

Australia and China in the Global Sustainable Aviation Fuel Value Chain: Competition, Complementarity and Cooperation
Shane Zhang (Adelaide University)
China's Agricultural ESG and Green Investment Good Practices
Jieying Bi (Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences)

4.30–5.30pm

Keynote speech

Chair: **Warwick McKibbin** (Peterson Institute for International Economics and Australian National University)
Speaker: **Franziska Ohnsorge** (World Bank)
Growth prospects for China and East Asia: Riding the AI Wave

5.30–5.40pm

Concluding remarks

Ligang Song (Australian National University)
Paul Burke (Australian National University)

Program

Day two: 20 November 2026, 9am–3.15pm AEDT

9–9.45am

Keynote speech

Chair: **Yixiao Zhou** (Australian National University)
Speaker: **Kaiji Chen** (Emory University)
Nighttime Light and the Construction Financing Channel of Monetary Spillovers

9.45–10.45am

Session Five: Special Session on Decarbonization of China's Steel Sector

Chair: **Jorrit Gosens** and **Annette Zou** (Australian National University)
Panel: *Establishing an Australia-China green iron trade*
Panellists:
Fiona J. Beck (Australian National University)
James Boyle (Mission Possible Partnership)
Chris McMahen (Heavy Industry Low-carbon Transition Cooperative Research Centre and Australian National University)
Moderator: **Annette Zou** (Australian National University)

10.45–11.45am

Keynote speech

Chair: **Jane Golley** (Australian National University)
Speaker: **Yiping Huang** (Peking University)
China's Macroeconomic Performance

12–1pm

Lunch

1.15–3.15pm

Internal round table (Acton Theatre, by invitation)

Chair: **Yixiao Zhou** (Australian National University)
Speakers: TBC

Biographies

Fiona J. Beck

Australian National University

Dr Beck is a freelance analyst and Honorary Associate Professor at ANU's School of Engineering with 10 years' experience leading multidisciplinary research on decarbonisation of industry and energy systems. Combining engineering, policy and techno-economics, her work informs decision makers in industry and government through submissions, reports, direct briefings, and through a variety fora, including the Parliamentary Library, DFAT's Diplomatic Academy, and COP28 and 29. Most recently, she led a research program at the Heavy Industry Low-carbon Transition CRC, working with partners across industry, government, and consultancy to facilitate decarbonisation of the iron, steel and alumina industries in Australia.

Gordon de Brouwer

Australian National University

Dr Gordon de Brouwer has around 40 years' experience in public policy, governance, institutional leadership and reform. He served as Australian Public Service Commissioner from 2022 to 2026 and Secretary for Public Sector Reform, where he led work to strengthen capability, integrity and workforce management across the 200,000-strong Australian Public Service. Previously, Dr de Brouwer was Secretary of the Department of the Environment and Energy from 2013 to 2017 and held senior roles in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Treasury and the Reserve Bank of Australia. Dr de Brouwer completed his PhD in Economics at ANU in 1996 and has subsequently held academic and governance roles at the University, including as Professor of Economics and, since May 2026, Honorary Professor. He has also served on the boards of organisations including the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, the Committee for Economic Development of Australia and The Nature Conservancy Australia. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2026 for distinguished services to public administration, public policy and reform, diversity, environmental conservation and education. He is also a recipient of the Public Service Medal, a Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia and is a Chevalier of the Legion d'honneur, France's highest order of merit. Dr de Brouwer holds a Bachelor of Commerce with First Class Honours and a Master of Commerce with First Class Honours, both from the University of Melbourne, and a PhD from ANU. Dr de Brouwer is the 14th Chancellor of The Australian National University.

Biographies

James Boyle

Mission Possible Partnership

James Boyle is Australia Programme Lead at Mission Possible Partnership. His work concerns clean industrial transition and the policy, investment and trade conditions needed to bring low-carbon projects to market. He contributes to discussions on green iron and steel, industrial competitiveness and international cooperation, including work on South Korea's steel transition. He is involved in the Clean Deal Monitor, which tracks Australia's emerging clean-industry project pipeline and the conditions supporting investment decisions.

Jieying Bi

Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences

Bi Jieying is an Associate Professor and Director of the General Office at the Center for International Agricultural Research, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CIAR of CAAS). As a researcher at the Agricultural Information Institute of CAAS specialising in international poverty alleviation and rural development policy, she has published more than 40 papers and six monographs on poverty reduction and food security. She has successfully led over 60 projects funded by organisations including the National Natural Science Foundation of China, IFPRI, FAO, WFP, IFAD, IPRCC, JICA and YPARD. Dr Bi has received the “Outstanding Young Researcher” award and is a recipient of the CAAS Youth Talents Program. She previously served as the Asia–Pacific Coordinator for Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) and as Coordinator of the Agricultural Technology Sharing Working Group for the G20 Meeting of Chief Agricultural Scientists (G20-MACS).

Biographies

Paul Burke

Australian National University

Professor Paul Burke is Deputy Director of the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University. His research focuses on energy, environmental and development economics, particularly in the Asia-Pacific. His current work includes Australia's electricity sector and energy transition in South-East Asia.

His research has appeared in the American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, Economic Inquiry, Nature Geoscience, Nature Climate Change, Energy and Global Environmental Change. He is an Associate Editor of Asian-Pacific Economic Literature and serves on the Editorial Board of the Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies. He has also delivered executive education in microeconomics, environmental economics and energy economics.

He holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Economics with First Class Honours from the University of Sydney and a PhD in Economics from the Australian National University. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and a Distinguished Fellow of the Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society.

Kaiji Chen

Emory University

Kaiji Chen is Professor of Economics at Emory University and Fellow of Asian Bureau of Financial and Economic Research. He is an associate editor of International Economic Review and Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control. His main research fields are macroeconomics and financial economics. In recent years, his research has focused on China's macroeconomy, including Chinese housing bubbles, shadow banking and monetary policies, and trends and cycles in China's macroeconomy. He has published in leading economic journals such as American Economic Review, Journal of Finance, NBER Macroeconomics Annual, American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, and Journal of Monetary Economics. His research was cited by major media, such as Financial Times, Bloomberg, The Economist and Wall Street Journal. He was awarded the 3rd Sun Yefang Financial Innovation Award in 2018.

Biographies

Peter Drysdale

Australian National University

Peter Drysdale is Emeritus Professor of Economics and the Head of the East Asian Bureau of Economic Research and East Asia Forum at the Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU. He is widely recognised as the leading intellectual architect of APEC. He is the author of a number of books and papers on international trade and economic policy in East Asia and the Pacific, including his prize-winning book, International Economic Pluralism: Economic Policy in East Asia and the Pacific. He is recipient of the Asia Pacific Prize, the Weary Dunlop Award, the Japanese Order of the Rising Sun with Gold Rays and Neck Ribbon, the Australian Centenary Medal and he is a member of the Order of Australia.

Reuben Finighan

The Superpower Institute

Reuben is Research Lead in Economics at the Superpower Institute. He holds a PhD in Political Economy from the London School of Economics and a Masters of Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School, as a Fulbright, Frank Knox, John Monash, and Leverhulme scholar. He has co-authored papers with Harvard Professor Robert Putnam, Ross Garnaut AC, and Lord Nicholas Stern, and previously worked at the University of Melbourne in applied economics.

Jane Golley

Australian National University

Professor Jane Golley is an economist and Head of Department in the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics at the Crawford School of Public Policy at The Australian National University (ANU). Jane's research has covered a wide range of topics centred around the Chinese economy, often intersecting with other disciplines, including geography, demographic change, and political relations. Jane teaches a Masters course on the Chinese economy. She has served as the President of the Chinese Economic Society of Australia (2010-2012) and the Chinese Studies Association of Australia (2020-2021) and has been an Executive Member of the Australia-China Business Council (ACT) since 2017.

Biographies

Ross Garnaut

University of Melbourne
Australian National University

Ross Garnaut AC is Emeritus Professor of Economics at the University of Melbourne and The Australian National University. He has held senior policy and diplomatic roles, including Research Director of the ASEAN–Australia Economic Relations Research Project, principal economic adviser to Prime Minister Bob Hawke, Australian Ambassador to China from 1985 to 1988, and Chair of the Boards of major Australian and international companies. He is widely recognised for his influential contributions to international economics, public finance, economic development and climate policy. He authored key Australian Government reports, including The Garnaut Climate Change Review (2008) and The Garnaut Review 2011: Australia and the Global Response to Climate Change, and has published extensively on East Asian and Pacific economic issues.

Llewelyn Hughes

Australian National University

Professor Llewelyn Hughes is Director of the Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions (ICEDS) and Professor at the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University. He is a Lead Author for Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Seventh Assessment Report and serves on the Executive Committee of the Global Alliance of Universities on Climate Change.

Beyond the university, he is a Non-Executive Director of the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA). He is a member of the Clean Energy Transition Advisory Committee and the Australia Japan Business Co-operation Committee (AJBCC), and serves as Australia's Focal Point for the Energy Research Institute Network of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).

Biographies

Jorrit Gosens

Australian National University

Jorrit Gosens is a Fellow at the Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, and holds a PhD in Environmental Economics & Management from the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences. He works primarily on modelling of energy and resource markets, focused on prospects of Australian coal and iron ore exports to China and the APAC, under future decarbonisation scenarios, and tracks Chinese energy transition policy

Paul Gretton

Australian National University

Paul Gretton is an Honorary Fellow at the Crawford School and a Senior Research Associate of the Centre of European Studies at the Australian National University (ANU). Paul is a former Assistant Commissioner at the Australian Productivity Commission, where he led the Trade and Economic Studies branch. In this role, he was responsible for trade policy reviews, the conduct of commissioned inquiries and policy reviews, assessment of the impacts of national economic reforms, productivity reporting and quantitative economic modelling. Before joining the Productivity Commission, Paul had roles at the Australian Bureau of Statistics which included responsibility for the introduction of a new system for the preparation of input-output tables and a review of Australian foreign investment statistics.

Paul has also worked as an international advisor in Pakistan, the Kyrghyz Republic and Ukraine, and represented Australia at an official level in high level forums in the Asia-Pacific and OECD areas.

Paul's current research interests are economic growth, national economic reform and trade policy. Paul regularly uses and encourages the use of, economy-wide economic modelling to support economy-wide and sectoral assessments of key policy issues. He has published in refereed journals and high-level outlets and is a regular contributor on methodological and policy issues at leading conferences on global economic analysis.

Biographies

Yiping Huang

Peking University

HUANG Yiping is Peking University Boya Distinguished Professor, Dean of the National School of Development, Dean of the Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development, and Director of the Institute of Digital Finance at Peking University. In March 2024, he was reappointed as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the People's Bank of China. In April 2026, he was invited to join the Group of Thirty (G30). He is also currently a member of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing's Mainland China Advisory Group, the China Finance 40 Forum and the China Economists 50 Forum; Deputy Secretary-General of the China Society of Finance and Banking; Chairman of the Special Committee on Fintech Development and Research of the National Internet Finance Association of China; and an Associate Editor of Asian Economic Policy Review.

His key research interests are macroeconomics, financial policy and digital finance.

Previously, he served as a policy analyst at the Research Center for Rural Development of the State Council (1987–1990), Senior Lecturer at the Australian National University (1994–2000), General Mills International Visiting Professor of Economics and Finance at Columbia Business School (1997–1998), Managing Director and Chief Asia Economist for Citigroup (2000–2009), a member of the People's Bank of China's Monetary Policy Committee (2015–2018), a research fellow at the Financial Research Center of the Councilor's Office of the State Council, Editor-in-Chief of China Economic Journal, and Associate Editor of Asian Economic Policy Review.

Professor Huang received his Bachelor of Agricultural Economics from Zhejiang Agricultural University, Master of Economics from Renmin University of China, and PhD in Economics from the Australian National University.

Fanjie Li

Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Commonwealth of Australia

Li Fanjie is Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Commonwealth of Australia. He holds a PhD in International Relations from Tsinghua University. He previously served as a Counsellor at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Timor-Leste and in the Department of Policy Planning at China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Biographies

Wei Li

University of Sydney

Wei Li is a Senior Lecturer in International Business and Program Director of the Master of International Business at the University of Sydney Business School. Her research focuses on the internationalisation of Chinese enterprises, China–Australia trade and investment, RMB internationalisation, and the impact of geopolitical tensions on multinational enterprises. She also studies Chinese migrant entrepreneurship and international graduate employability. Her research draws on firm-level surveys, executive interviews and company case studies to understand how businesses navigate international markets and institutional challenges. She works closely with industry and government partners to translate research into practical insights for business and policy.

Yu Liu

Peking University

Yu Liu is a Boya Distinguished Professor and Tenured Professor at the College of Urban and Environmental Sciences, Peking University, and an Adjunct Professor at the Institute for Carbon Neutrality, Peking University. A recipient of the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars, his research focuses on employing Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models to evaluate the economic and emissions impacts of energy and environmental policies. He has published extensively in leading international journals, including Nature Climate Change and Nature Communications, and has led numerous key national research projects funded by China's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC).

Chris McMahen

Heavy Industry Low-carbon Transition Cooperative Research Centre
The Superpower Institute
Australian National University

Chris McMahen is the Industry Engagement manager for Iron and Steel in the Heavy Industry Low-carbon Transition - Cooperative Research Centre (HILT-CRC). Chris has several decades of experience in the Australian resources sector and is a recognised authority on issues related to iron ore mining, processing and trade. In recent years, Chris has specialised on the issue of decarbonisation of the steel making sector, how Australian iron ore exports may be affected by this transition, and how iron ore suppliers can position themselves in this transition.

Biographies

Warwick McKibbin

Peterson Institute for International Economics
Australian National University

Professor Warwick J. McKibbin, AO, FASSA, is an Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Economics and Public Policy and Director of the Centre for Applied Macroeconomic Analysis (CAMA) in the Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University (ANU) and a Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) in Washington, DC. He is also CEO of McKibbin Software Group Pty Ltd. He is a Distinguished Public Policy Fellow of the Economic Society of Australia and a Fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (London). Professor McKibbin was awarded the Order of Australia in 2016 "For Distinguished Service to Education as an Economist, particularly in the Area of Global Climate Policy, and to Financial Institutions and International Organizations" and the Centenary Medal in 2003 "For Service to Australian Society through Economic Policy and Tertiary Education".

Professor McKibbin is internationally renowned for his contributions to global economic modelling (co-author of the McKibbin Sachs Global model and the G-Cubed multi-country model), the theory of monetary policy, climate change policy, and economic modelling of pandemics. He has published more than 250 peer-reviewed academic papers and six books and is a regular commentator in the popular press. He regularly advises international institutions, central banks, governments, and corporations across a range of developed and emerging economies.

Xin Meng

Australian National University

Professor Xin Meng, a member of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences, conducts research across four primary themes: the Chinese labor market during economic transition, institutional and cultural impacts on gender discrimination, economic implications of rural-urban migration and immigrant assimilation, and the effects of major catastrophes on long-term welfare. She led the Rural-Urban Migration in China (RUMiC) project, overseeing a nine-year panel survey (2008-2016) on rural-urban migrants. Her work has received funding from the Australian Research Council, AusAID, Ford Foundation, World Bank, and Australian Government departments. Xin has published in prestigious journals, including Science, Review of Economic Studies, The Economic Journal, Journal of Economic Perspectives, Journal of Labour Economics, and Journal of Development Economics.

Biographies

Franziska Ohnsorge

World Bank

Franziska Ohnsorge is the World Bank Chief Economist for Asia. In this role, she is responsible for leading the research program on key economic issues in the East Asia and Pacific Region and the South Asia Region to inform the policy debate and World Bank lending. Before starting this position, she was Chief Economist for South Asia, and previously Manager at the Development Economics Vice Presidency where she spearheaded the flagship Global Economic Prospects report. Prior to joining the World Bank, Franziska Ohnsorge worked in the Office of the Chief Economist of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and at the International Monetary Fund. Her research has been featured in peer-reviewed journals as well as policy publications and has covered a wide range of topics in international macroeconomics and finance, including debt and financial crises, inflation and monetary policy, as well as growth and informal labor markets. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto.

Jiahua Pan

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou)

PAN Jiahua is Professor and Executive Director of the Centre for Global Climate Strategies at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou). He serves as Vice Chair of China's National Expert Panel on Climate Change, Lead Author of Working Group III (Mitigation) for the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6, 2021), and a member of the Independent Group of Scientists convened by the UN Secretary-General for the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report.

His previous academic and professional appointments include Director-General of the Institute of Eco-civilization Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (2008–2020); Director of the Institute of Eco-civilization Studies, Beijing University of Technology (2021–2025); Member of the Foreign Policy Advisory Committee of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2010–2014); and President of the Chinese Society of Urban Economists (2018–2023).

His research focuses on sustainable development economics, energy and climate policy, and ecological economics. He has authored 16 monographs and published more than 300 peer-reviewed and general academic papers in both English and Chinese. As a lead author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), he shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the IPCC. His academic honors also include the Sun Yefang Prize in Economic Science (2010).

Biographies

Ye Qi

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou)

Ye Qi is Chair Professor and Dean of the Society Hub at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Guangzhou). His research focuses on climate change, environmental policy and governance, and sustainability science. He received his PhD in Environmental Science from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry and Syracuse University in 1994. Before joining HKUST, he held professorships in environmental policy and sustainability at Tsinghua University. From 2014 to 2019, he was a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and Director of the Brookings-Tsinghua Center for Public Policy. He previously taught ecosystem management and climate-change science at the University of California, Berkeley, and has led research and writing for the Annual Review of Low-Carbon Development in China.

Ligang Song

Australian National University

Ligang Song is Professor of Economics in Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University. His research interests include international economics, development economics and policy studies, and the Chinese economy. He teaches graduate courses in development economics and institutional economics and supervises a number of PhD students in economics at Crawford School. He has been a convener for organising the annual China Update conferences and an editor for publishing the annual China Update book series at Australian National University.

Xunpeng Shi

University of Technology Sydney

Xunpeng (Roc) Shi is Professor of Energy and Environmental Economics and Sustainability at the University of Technology Sydney. He is the founding president of the International Society for Energy Transition Studies (ISETS). He serves as editor of the ISETS–Springer Book Series on Climate Change and Energy Transition, co-editor of the Journal of the Asia Pacific Economy, and associate editor of China and World Economy (SSCI, Q1) and Energy Economics (SSCI, A*), and holds editorial roles with more than 10 journals. He was named a Clarivate Highly Cited Researcher in 2025 and has been ranked among the world's top energy scientists since 2020. His interdisciplinary work spans energy, resources, climate change, and other environmental issues across economics, policy, and sustainable development. He holds a Master of Environmental and Resource Economics (MERE) and a PhD in Economics from ANU.

Biographies

Jing Wu

Australian National University

Dr Jing Wu is a Research Fellow at the Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University. She received her PhD in Spatial Planning and Environment from the University of Groningen (the Netherlands). Her research focuses on energy transitions, industrial decarbonisation, and sustainable urban development, with particular attention to China and the Asia-Pacific. She examines how policies and institutions shape low-carbon transitions, exploring pathways for deep decarbonisation and their implications for economic restructuring and socio-environmental outcomes. Her work has been published in leading international journals, including Nature, Energy Policy, Energy Research & Social Science, Cities, and Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews.

Ke Wang

Beijing Institute of Technology

Ke Wang is a tenured Professor in the School of Management at Beijing Institute of Technology and Deputy Director of its Centre for Energy and Environmental Policy Research. His research covers energy, resource and environmental economics modelling, climate-policy modelling, and efficiency and productivity measurement. He holds a PhD in Management Science from Beihang University and undertook joint doctoral training at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His research examines emissions trading, carbon-abatement costs, industrial energy efficiency and the transition to electric vehicles. He has led projects supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the National Social Science Fund of China, and contributed to research on energy-efficiency financing and low-carbon development.

Peng Wang

Chinese Academy of Sciences

Peng Wang is a Professor at the Institute of Urban Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences. His research connects artificial intelligence, the circular economy and climate change, with a focus on critical minerals for low-carbon and digital transitions. He studies the circular economy of batteries, photovoltaic systems and wind-power equipment, using industrial-ecology methods including material-flow analysis, life-cycle assessment and geospatial analysis. His work has appeared in journals including Nature Energy, Nature Computational Science, Nature Geoscience and Nature Communications. He serves as an Associate Editor of the Journal of Cleaner Production and contributes to international discussions on material criticality and plastic pollution. He received his PhD in Manufacturing Engineering and Management from the University of New South Wales in 2019.

Biographies

Lixia Yao

Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore

Dr. Yao Lixia is a Senior Research Fellow at the Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore. She obtained her PhD from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and holds a Bachelor's degree from Dalian Maritime University in China and a Master's degree from Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium. Her research focuses on energy policy and energy security, including the impacts of China's macroeconomic reforms on its energy sector, as well as energy policy and security dynamics across Southeast Asia. She has led research projects on decarbonization strategies in major global economies. Her current work examines China's Belt and Road Initiative, its energy transition and governance, and broader decarbonization trends in Southeast and Northeast Asia.

Muyi Yang

Ember
University of Technology Sydney

Muyi Yang is a Principal Energy Analyst at Ember, a global energy think tank, where he leads analysis of the clean energy transition in China and the broader Asia-Pacific. He is also Secretary of the International Society for Energy Transition Studies (ISETS), a Non-Resident Senior Policy Fellow at Asia Society Australia, and an Adjunct Fellow at the Australia-China Relations Institute (ACRI) at the University of Technology Sydney.

His research covers coal power transition, clean energy finance, transport electrification, regional power connectivity, and energy governance and political economy. Taking a multidisciplinary, policy-oriented approach, he examines how economic, political and geostrategic forces shape energy transitions. He has led research projects for multilateral and regional organisations and contributes regularly to regional policy dialogue on energy transition strategy.

Biographies

Annette Zou

Australian National University

Annette Zou is a Senior Researcher and Programs Lead at the Centre for Climate and Energy Policy, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University, and a PhD scholar. Her research focuses on decarbonisation pathways for iron and steel supply chains, particularly the trade relationship between Australia and China. She also convenes policy dialogues and high-level roundtables on climate and industrial transitions. Her doctoral work explores structural transformations in economic and social systems that support low-emissions development. Her background includes design, systems innovation and co-creation, with previous teaching at Stanford University's d.school and Doerr School of Sustainability. She has worked with international development organisations and, in Australia, with The Superpower Institute and the Climate Council.

Marina Zhang

University of Technology Sydney

Marina Yue Zhang is an Associate Professor at the Australia-China Relations Institute, University of Technology Sydney. Her research examines digital transformation, emerging technologies and latecomer catch-up in innovation, including advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, biopharmaceuticals, new-energy vehicles and global value chains. She explores how these developments affect Australia-China relations. She holds a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from Peking University and an MBA and PhD from the Australian National University. Before joining UTS, she held academic positions at Tsinghua University, UNSW and Swinburne University of Technology. She has authored three books, including Demystifying China's Innovation Machine: Chaotic Order, co-authored with Mark Dodgson and David Gann and published by Oxford University Press in 2022.

Shane Zhang

Adelaide University

Shane Zhang is Professor of Aviation at Adelaide University. His research focuses on aviation economics, sustainable aviation fuel, and policy and finance for aviation decarbonisation. He leads the Australia–China Cooperation for Sustainable Aviation (ACCSA) project, bringing together researchers, industry and government to advance sustainable aviation. He is an Associate Editor of the Journal of Air Transport Management and Executive Committee member and Secretary of the Air Transport Research Society.

Biographies

Tong Zhang

Beijing Institute of Technology

Tong Zhang is a tenure-track Associate Professor and doctoral supervisor at the School of Management and the Centre for Energy and Environmental Policy Research, Beijing Institute of Technology. Dr Zhang holds a PhD in Economics from the Australian National University and researches energy and environmental economics and transport economics. Dr Zhang's work examines electric-vehicle subsidies, fuel prices, transport outcomes and the transition to cleaner energy. Dr Zhang received the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society's award for best doctoral thesis and has led projects funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the China Postdoctoral Science Foundation, and previously worked as a consultant on the World Bank's Carbon Pricing Assessment Tool project.

Yixiao Zhou

Australian National University

Yixiao Zhou is Associate Professor of Economics in the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics and Director of the China Economy Program at the Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University. The *Australian*'s 2026 Research Magazine named her Australia's Top Researcher in Chinese Studies and History. In 2025–26 she was a Visiting Scholar at Harvard University.

Her research spans global macroeconomics, the economics of technology and innovation, and the Chinese economy in a global context. She studies how economic and policy shifts in China and other major economies spread around the world through trade, investment, technology and capital flows. This work includes multi-country modelling of the global costs of trade and technology conflict, research on automation and inequality, and the measurement of innovation and intangible capital. She has received two Best Paper Awards, from *China Economic Review* (2019) and *Economic Papers* (2024).

Associate Professor Zhou is Editor-in-Chief of *Asian-Pacific Economic Literature*. Since 2019 she has co-convened the annual ANU China Update conference and co-edited the China Update book series (ANU Press). She comments regularly on China's economy for the BBC, ABC, SBS, The *Conversation* and *East Asia Forum*. She also works with industry and government partners to bring rigorous research into economic policy and strategy. She holds a PhD in Economics from ANU and bachelor's degrees in Economics and Atmospheric Physics from Peking University.

Contact us

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