Telling Our Own Story: A Bibliometrics Analysis on the Influence of Mainland China in Chinese Politics Research from 2001-2020

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Calculation of Standardized Citation

We denote that an article has total citation c_i published in Year y by the time we collected data (i denotes the order of the publication of the article in year y). For all the articles (N= n_y) published in Year y, we calculate the mean of total citation $\mu_y = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n_y} c_i}{n_y}$ and the standard deviation σ_y . Then, the standardized citation of article a equals (c_{ai} - μ_y) / σ_y .

Analysis of Institute-level results

Figure 1 Number of Articles by Country/Region (Institutes)

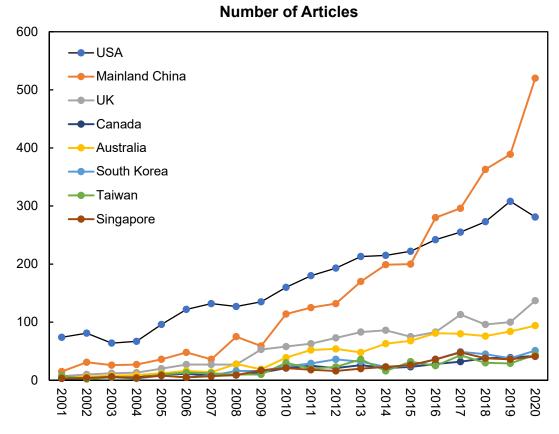


Figure 2 Number of Funded Articles by Country/Region (Institutes)

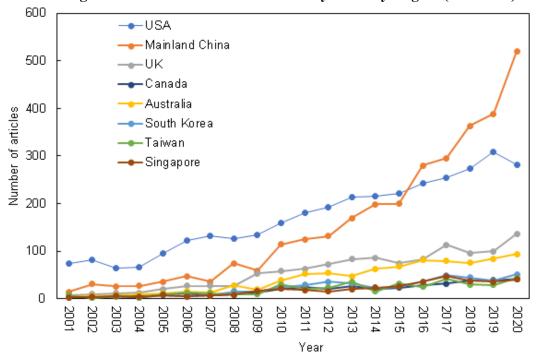
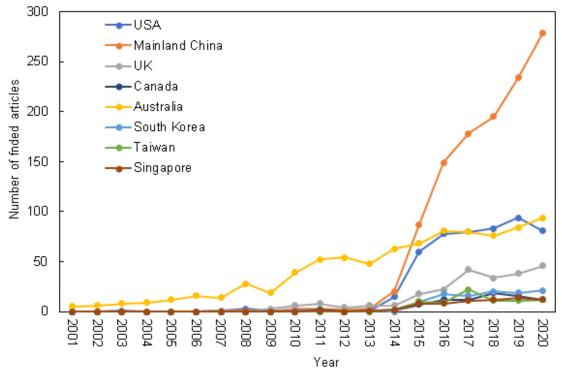


Figure 3 Proportion of Funded Articles by Country/Region (Institutes)



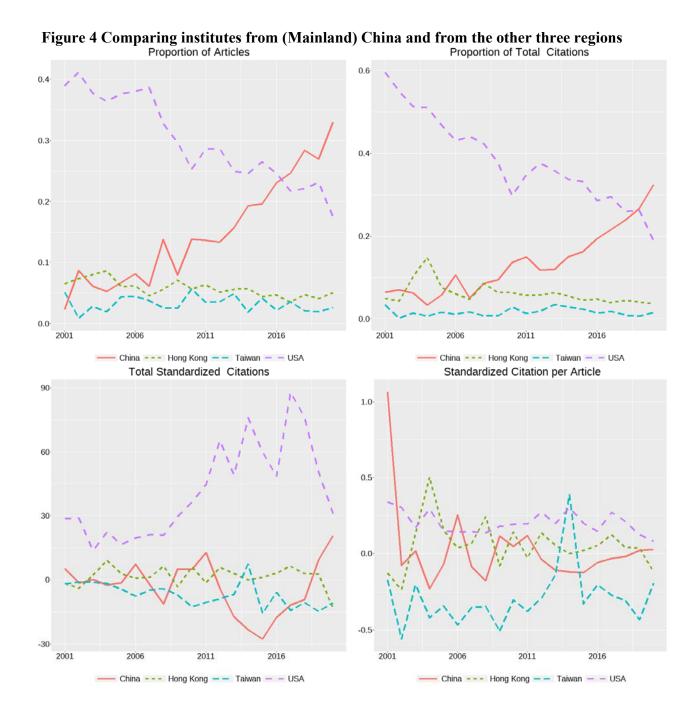


Table 1 shows the regression results by taking the authors' country and the subjects as independent variables and the citation / standardized citation as the dependent variables.

Table 1 Regression on Citation and Region

| | Standardized Citation | Total Citation |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Mainland China | -0.02 | -0.28 |
| | (0.02) | (0.37) |
| USA | 0.23 *** | 4.95 *** |
| | (0.02) | (0.54) |
| POLISCI | -0.06 ** | -2.14 *** |
| | (0.02) | (0.46) |
| IR | -0.17 *** | -4.03 *** |
| | (0.02) | (0.51) |
| AREA | -0.22 *** | -3.87 *** |
| | (0.02) | (0.50) |
| Year-Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes |
| Constant | 0.12 | 16.85 *** |
| | (0.08) | (1.91) |
| N | 11285 | 11285 |
| \mathbb{R}^2 | 0.02 | 0.10 |

Note: OLS estimator with robust standard errors were used; the baseline of authors is articles with no authors from Mainland China institutes or USA institutes. The categories of the journals are not mutually exclusive. Yearly fixed-effects added; *** p < 0.001; ** p < 0.01; * p < 0.05.

Exploration on the Surge of Mainland China Scholars' Publications

Several potential factors may jointly contribute to the surge of publication from Mainland China institutes. First, with the economic growth and fiscal income growth, the research investment in social science from the Chinese government expanded tremendously. We analyzed the funding information collected by the Web of Science dataset and visualized the results in Figure 2 and Figure 3. We found that Mainland China had most funded articles and proportion of funded articles since 2015. During 2016-2020, China's average proportion of funded articles was 56.2% (compared to all articles Chinese institutes published), ranging from 53.2 to 60.2. In the same period, the average funded proportion of the United States institutes was 39.7%, ranging from 28.8% to 32.2%. Funded articles from British institutes took 34.1%, ranging from 26.5%-38.0%. The results show that in 2016-2020, China's publications had higher chance to be funded than their American and British counterparts.

Another indicator is the growth of National Social Science Fund. Figure 5 and Figure 6 shows that the both the financial support per project and the number of supporting projects increased substantially in 20 years.

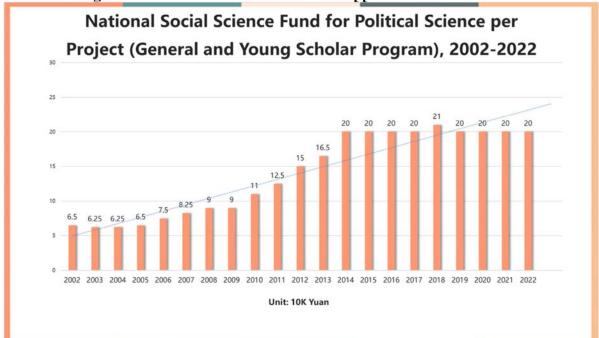
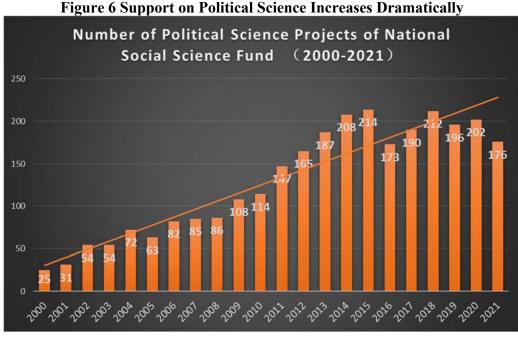


Figure 5 National Social Science Fund Support on Political Science

Source: National Social Science Fund Database, https://bit.ly/37BAQ7G



Source: National Social Science Fund Database, https://bit.ly/37BAQ7G

Second, Chinese high education system provides incentives for international publication. Chinese institutes have increasing ambition to become globally influential and reputable. Such ambition is the product of the government's educational policies to build "world class" universities. ¹ The universities also have incentives to compete for the government's "world class" titles. ² To meet this goal, universities started to hire more faculty members with PhD degree in oversea universities, to admit more oversea students, and to increase International publications. ³ The requests to publish in International publications (especially journals of SCI, SSCI and ESCI) create incentives for Chinese scholars. One anecdote shows that one university rewarded 100 thousand yuan per article in an SSCI Q1 journal and 50 thousand per article for an Q2 journal. Another second-tier university rewarded 1500 yuan per article for SSCI, compared to 600 yuan per article to the best

¹ Sharma, Yojana 2002 "More universities become 'world class' to meet China ambitions", University World News, https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20220217082128415, accessed 05-06-2022

² For an example of Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangdong, see https://web.archive.org/web/20220506060712/http://www.sysu.edu.cn/en/news/news01/34345.htm; accessed 05-06-2022

³ For an example of "Talent Program", see:

https://web.archive.org/web/20220506060938/http://employment.ustc.edu.cn/cn/enindexnews.aspx?infoID=66559789515625003 2; accessed 05-01-2022; for oversea students, see: https://web.archive.org/web/20220506061255/https://www.china-admissions.com/blog/chinese-universities-with-the-highest-number-of-international-students/; accessed 05-06-2022; finally, the reliance on international publications becomes less, starting from year 2020. https://web.archive.org/web/20220506061447/https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20200225181649179; accessed 05-06-2022

Chinese journals. ⁴ More faculty members with PhD from foreign institutes also facilitate international publication. Nevertheless, the government planned to change this publication-reliance trend starting 2020 but international publications are still important to universities as long as they need to keep their global ranking.⁵

Thirdly, the enthusiasm to publish articles about Chinese politics in International journals also fits the requests of the government's strategy to enhance soft power and take the "international discursive power." (争夺国际话语权) For example, Chinese scholars proposed that the "Chinese experience of governance" should be introduced into the world by using China's discourse. Chinese institutes also consider publishing in SSCI journals as an achievement to "tell China's good stories." Nevertheless, it is hard to identify the causal relation of the government's soft power campaign and scholars' publication with current data. We encourage future studies to systematically examine the effectiveness of such soft power campaign in.

Another potential factor of Chinese scholars' surging publication may be due to the acknowledgement of the International scholars, especially of the scholars from the United States. Figure 7 shows that collaborated publications between Mainland China scholars and American scholars has increased dramatically over 20 years, from 1 article in 2001 to 56 articles in 2019. However, this evidence is insufficient to prove the increasing acknowledgement between scholars. We regard this evidence as suggestive and urge further studies to explore.

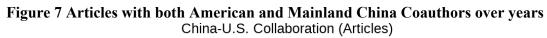
 $\frac{\text{https://web.archive.org/web/20220506062732/https://bbs.pinggu.org/forum.php?mod=viewthread&action=printable\&tid=133570}{7}, accessed 05-01-2022;$

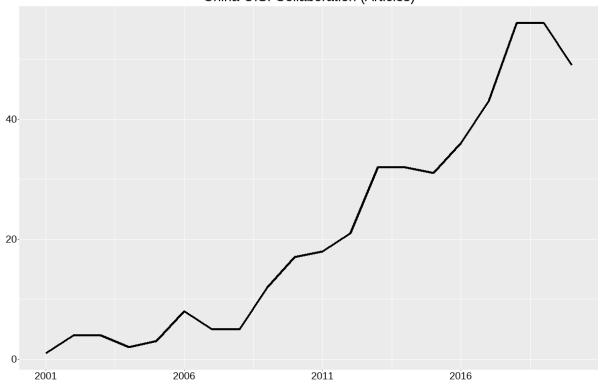
⁴ Source:

⁵ See the announcement from the central government:
https://web.archive.org/web/20220506062404/http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xxgk/moe_1777/moe_1778/202010/t20201013_494
https://web.archive.org/web/20220506062404/http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xxgk/moe_1777/moe_1778/202010/t20201013_494
https://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xxgk/moe_1777/moe_1778/202010/t20201013_494
https://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xxgk/moe_1777/moe_1778/202010/t20201013_494
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https://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xxgk/moe_1777/moe_1778/202010/t20201013_494
https://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xxgk/moe_1777/moe_1778/202010/t20201013_494
https://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xxgk/moe_1777/moe_1778/202010/t20201013_494
https://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xxgk/moe_1777/moe_1778/202010/t20201013_494
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⁶ Changhe Su, "Use Chinese Concepts to Tell Chinese Stories"; 苏长和. 2012. 用中国概念讲好中国故事[J/OL]. 人民论坛(S1): 5. https://doi.org/10.16619/j.cnki.rmlt.2012.s1.028.

⁷ https://econ.fudan.edu.cn/info/1024/17773.htm, accessed 05-12-2022





The Effects of Collaboration

Table 2 Effects of Chinese Institutes' International Collaboration on Citations

| Table 2 Effects of | Chinese Instituti | es international | Collabol ation o | on Citations |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Standardized Citation | Total Citation | Standardized Citation Binary | Total Citation Binary |
| Mainland China | -0.11 * | -1.27 | -0.12 *** | -2.21 *** |
| | (0.05) | (1.08) | (0.02) | (0.34) |
| Number of Countries | 0.16 *** | 3.34 *** | | |
| | (0.02) | (0.39) | | |
| Collaboration | | | 0.14 *** | 1.97 *** |
| | | | (0.03) | (0.58) |
| Polisci | -0.05 ** | -1.94 *** | -0.06 ** | -2.01 *** |
| | (0.02) | (0.46) | (0.02) | (0.46) |
| IR | -0.18 *** | -4.26 *** | -0.18 *** | -4.25 *** |
| | (0.02) | (0.51) | (0.02) | (0.52) |
| AREA | -0.22 *** | -4.00 *** | -0.22 *** | -4.04 *** |
| | (0.02) | (0.51) | (0.02) | (0.51) |
| CHN#Collaboration | | | 0.08 | 1.87 * |
| | | | (0.05) | (0.86) |
| CHN#Countries | 0.00 | -0.60 | | |
| | (0.04) | (0.83) | | |
| Year Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Constant | 0.08 | 16.24 *** | 0.21 ** | 18.93 *** |
| | (0.08) | (1.97) | (0.08) | (1.97) |
| N | 11285 | 11285 | 11285 | 11285 |
| R2 | 0.02 | 0.10 | 0.01 | 0.10 |

Standard errors are heteroskedasticity robust. Number of Countries means how many countries co-authored one article. Collaboration is a binary variable that denotes number of countries equal to 1 as 0, and denotes number of countries larger than 1 as 1. *** p < 0.01; ** p < 0.01; * p < 0.05.

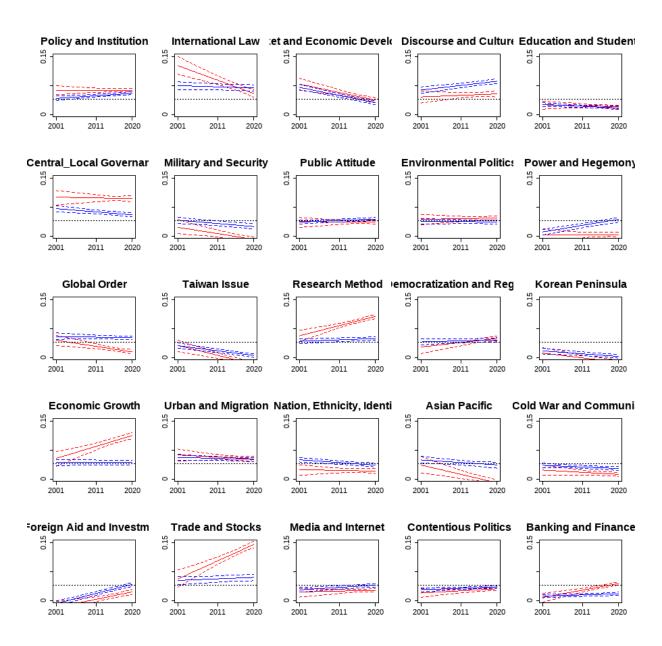
Table 3 Effects of USA Institutes' Collaboration on Citations

| | Standardized | Total Citation | Standardized | Total Citation |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| _ | Citation | | Citation Binary | Binary |
| USA | 0.35 *** | 8.32 *** | 0.25 *** | 5.52 *** |
| | (0.06) | (1.30) | (0.03) | (0.68) |
| Number of Countries | 0.15 *** | 2.96 *** | | |
| | (0.02) | (0.47) | | |
| Collaboration | | | 0.17 *** | 2.66 *** |
| | | | (0.03) | (0.52) |
| Polisci | -0.05 * | -1.95 *** | -0.06 ** | -2.07 *** |
| | (0.02) | (0.45) | (0.02) | (0.45) |
| IR | -0.17 *** | -3.95 *** | -0.17 *** | -4.00 *** |
| | (0.02) | (0.50) | (0.02) | (0.51) |
| AREA | -0.21 *** | -3.71 *** | -0.21 *** | -3.74 *** |
| | (0.02) | (0.49) | (0.02) | (0.50) |
| USA#collb | ` , | ` , | -0.16 ** | -3.32 ** |
| | | | (0.05) | (1.07) |
| USA#Countries | -0.12 ** | -3.17 *** | , , | |
| | (0.04) | (0.81) | | |
| Year Fixed Effects | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Constant | -0.01 | 14.21 *** | 0.10 | 16.49 *** |
| | (0.08) | (1.93) | (0.08) | (1.90) |
| N | 11285 | 11285 | 11285 | 11285 |
| R2 | 0.02 | 0.11 | 0.02 | 0.10 |

Standard errors are heteroskedasticity robust. Number of Countries means how many countries co-authored one article. Collaboration is a binary variable that denotes number of countries equal to 1 as 0, and denotes number of countries larger than 1 as 1. *** p < 0.001; ** p < 0.01; * p < 0.05.

Mainland China Scholars' interests change over years

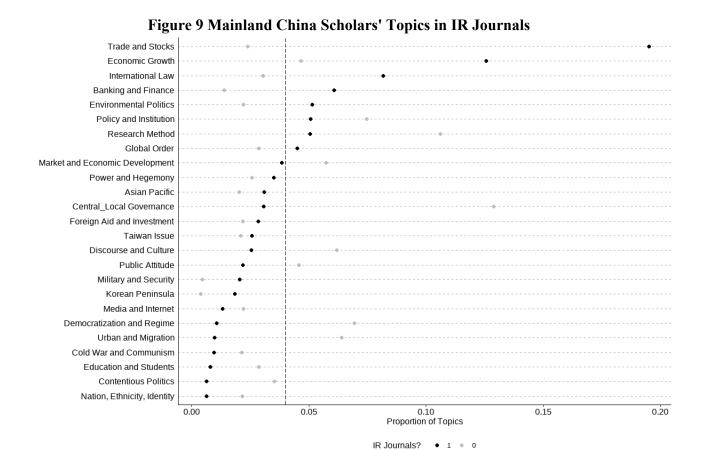
Figure 8 Comparison between Mainland China Scholars and the Others over years



Note: The dark line depicts the proportion change of the given topic with at least one author from Mainland China institutes. The lighter grey line depicts the proportion change with no Mainland China authors. The dotted horizontal line represents the "average proportion" (4%) of 25 topics in total; CI=95%.

Why do Chinese scholars published less on IR topics but published more on IR journals?

Figure 9 compares the topic proportions Mainland China scholars published in IR journals. There are seven topics higher than the "average proportion" (4%) of 25 topics. Five of them are in Political Economy cluster and two belong to Domestic Politics cluster, including the Research Method topic. This result suggests that in IR journals, Mainland China scholars mainly published studies of political economies. IR journals are also interested in the research methods and China's domestic institutions/policy-making.



How do Mainland China scholars have a changing interest in political economy topics?

When Mainland China scholars boost their publications on most political economy projects, why did their interests of Market and Economic Development decline?

Figure 10 extracted examples of the abstracts across the PE topics. Figure 11 compares the frequently-used words between Market and Economic Development and Economic Growth. We found that the Market and Economic Development topic is relevant to a meso-level analysis of political economy, involving industries, sectors, private enterprises, capitals, and market. The Economic Growth topic is a more macro-level analysis emphasizing the usage of quantitative data. Trade and Stocks and Banking and Finance are at the micro level. In other words, Mainland China scholars published more papers on the macro- and micro- levels of Political Economy and lost their interests in the meso-level.

Figure 10 Comparing content of Political Economic Topics

Market and Economic Development

China's high-speed railway (HSR) has experienced rapid development in the past five years. The author explains that institutional factors, namely national monopoly on market resources, a highly centralised management system and substantial support from various departments in the State Council, have contributed to the sector's growth. Adhering to the independent innovation strategy and by means of mobilising resources to accomplish large undertakings, the state created an industrial development model known as the government-oriented integrated innovation model, which capitalises on the institutional advantages as mentioned above. Through this model, with the entire national railway network being operated under a unified command and dispatch system, China was able to acquire core technologies from the market, integrate a complex array of subsystems and develop a portfolio of production and research, all of which were conditions essential for achieving the rapid development of high-speed railway in China. This article, in analysing the institutional origins of China's development of the high-speed railway, sheds light on China's unique institutional advantages in shaping its national competitive advantages in the world economy today.

Economic Growth

In this article,we employ the China Health and Nutrition Survey (CHNS) data to investigate the effect of medical insurance on household durable goods consumption,which is closely related to China's future rapid economic growth. We apply a logit regression model and find that medical insurance significantly promotes household durable goods consumption. Moreover,urban and rural households have different consumption choices when they are covered by medical insurance. To be more specific,urban households with medical insurance augment their consumption of refrigerators,washing machines, and air conditioners; rural households with medical insurance increase their purchases of color TVs, refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners, and computers.

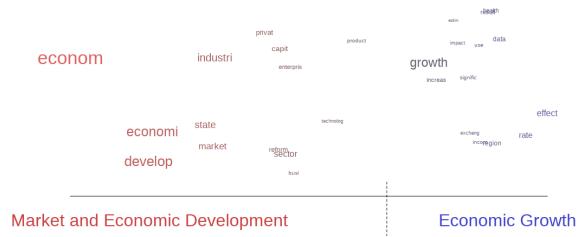
Trade and Stocks

We examine the informativeness of short selling in the Chinese stock market based on monthly and daily short-interest data from January 2011 to July 2018. We find that short selling negatively predicts future stock returns in China. The pattern is robust when controlling for firm size, book-to-market ratio, and liquidity. A long-short strategy using a short-interest ratio (SIR)-shares shorted to shares outstanding-generates a 0.865% monthly return. We also document that return predictability is stronger when short selling is restricted. Meanwhile, we examine the information content of short-selling activity, and we confirm that the significant negative relationship between preannouncement short activity and post-announcement period returns.

Banking and Finance

This study analyzes the safety and soundness of the Chinese banking system based on capital adequacy, asset quality, management, earnings, liquidity, and growth (CAMELG). In particular, we investigate how the Chinese style of shadow banking system (referred here as bank shadow) affects bank rankings. The Chinese style of shadow bank refers to banks that engage in unregulated credit activities that differ considerably from shadow banks that are activities created by non-bank financial institutions. The Chinese style of shadow bank transforms risky corporate loans into interbank lending. Therefore, fisky weight assets are underestimated, thereby resulting in bias of the observed high capital and liquidity measures. Moreover, the weights of the capital and liquidity measures are distorted. Hence, the CAMELG-based ranking is incorrect. Bank regulators and shareholders should incorporate the effect of shadow bank into observed financial ratios in assessing the safety and soundness of the banking system.

Figure 11 PE Topics Comparison



Extra Information on the dataset

Table 4 Top 10 cited articles, 2001-2020

| Authors | Year | Title (first few words) | Journal | Citation | Subject |
|---------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|---|----------|---|
| King,G;Pan, J;Roberts,M E | 2013 | How Censorship in China | AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW | 649 | Political Science |
| Nathan,AJ | 2003 | Authoritarian resilience | JOURNAL OF DEMOCRACY | 537 | Political Science |
| Chan,KW;B uckingham, W | 2008 | China Abolishing the Hukou | CHINA QUARTERLY | 466 | Area Studies |
| Ikenberry,G J | 2008 | The rise of China | FOREIGN AFFAIRS | 390 | International Relations |
| Saxenian,A | 2005 | From brain drain to | STUDIES IN COMPARATIVE INTERNATION AL DEVELOPMENT | 385 | International Relations; Political Science |
| Edin,M | 2003 | State capacity and local | CHINA QUARTERLY | 323 | Area Studies |
| Mertha,A | 2009 | Fragmented Authoritarianism 2.0: | CHINA QUARTERLY | 318 | Area Studies |
| Shambaugh, D | 2004 | China engages Asia | INTERNATION AL SECURITY | 303 | International Relations |
| Yang,GB | 2005 | Environmental NGOs and institutional | CHINA QUARTERLY | 283 | Area Studies |
| Johnston,AI | 2013 | How New and Assertive Is | INTERNATION AL SECURITY | 279 | International Relations |

Table 5 Top 10 standardized-cited articles, 2001-2020

| Authors | Year | Title (first few words) | Journal | Std. Citation | Subject |
|------------------------------|------|--|---|------------------|------------------------------------|
| King,G;Pan,J ;Roberts,ME | 2013 | How Censorship in China | AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW | 19.99 | Political Science |
| Yu,H | 2017 | Motivation behind China's One, | JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY CHINA | 14.84 | Area Studies |
| King,G;Pan,J ;Roberts,ME | 2017 | How the Chinese Government Fabricates | AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW | 14.74 | Political Science |
| Ferdinand,P | 2016 | Westward ho-the China dream | INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS | 14.31 | International Relations |
| Mertha,A | 2009 | Fragmented Authoritarianism 2.0 | CHINA QUARTERLY | 13.46 | Area Studies |
| Mearsheimer _,JJ | 2019 | Bound to Fail The | INTERNATIONAL SECURITY | 12.99 | International Relations |
| Colantone,I; Stanig,P | 2018 | Global Competition and Brexit | AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW | 11.02 | Political Science |
| Shih,V;Adol ph,C;Liu,MX | 2012 | Getting Ahead in the | AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW | 10.67 | Political Science |
| Narins,TP;A gnew,J | 2020 | Missing from the Map | GEOPOLITICS | 10.22 | Geography; Political Science |
| Chan,KW;B uckingham, W | 2008 | China Abolishing the Hukou | CHINA QUARTERLY | 10.18 | Area Studies |

Table 6 Journals with Most Publications, 2001-2020, Top 10

| Journal | Article | Proportion |
|--------------------------------|---------|------------|
| EMERGING MARKETS FINANCE AND | 627 | 5.6% |
| TRADE | 027 | 3.070 |
| CHINA QUARTERLY | 553 | 4.9% |
| JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY CHINA | 543 | 4.8% |
| WORLD ECONOMY | 288 | 2.6% |
| PACIFIC REVIEW | 271 | 2.4% |
| ASIAN SURVEY | 266 | 2.4% |
| KOREAN JOURNAL OF DEFENSE | 258 | 2.3% |
| ANALYSIS | | - 10/ |
| MODERN CHINA | 237 | 2.1% |
| CHINA-AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL | 236 | 2.1% |
| ISSUES & STUDIES | 214 | 1.9% |

Table 7 Journals with Most Citations, 2001-2020, Top 10

| Journal | Citation | Proportion |
|---|----------|------------|
| CHINA QUARTERLY | 13055 | 11.0% |
| JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY CHINA | 6475 | 5.5% |
| INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS | 3984 | 3.4% |
| INTERNATIONAL SECURITY | 3767 | 3.2% |
| FOREIGN AFFAIRS | 3591 | 3.0% |
| PACIFIC REVIEW | 3067 | 2.6% |
| MODERN CHINA | 2927 | 2.5% |
| WORLD ECONOMY | 2901 | 2.4% |
| EMERGING MARKETS FINANCE AND TRADE | 2582 | 2.2% |
| CHINESE JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS | 2507 | 2.1% |

Table 8 Journals with Most Citation Per Article, 2001-2020, Top 10

| Journal | Citation Per Article |
|--|----------------------|
| AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW | 98.39 |
| WORLD POLITICS | 59.00 |
| INTERNATIONAL SECURITY | 58.86 |
| QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE | 58.33 |
| PERSPECTIVES ON POLITICS | 56.17 |
| JOURNAL OF MODERN AFRICAN STUDIES | 54.00 |
| JOURNAL OF DEMOCRACY | 46.50 |
| AMERICAN POLITICS RESEARCH | 46.00 |
| AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE | 43.08 |
| GOVERNANCE-AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION | 42.67 |

Note: Only rank journals that published over 10 articles in the dataset.

Table 9 Journals with Most Standardized Citation, 2001-2020, Top 10

| Journal | Standardized Average Citation |
|--|-------------------------------|
| CHINA QUARTERLY | 11.29435 |
| INTERNATIONAL SECURITY | 9.381874 |
| AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW | 9.300775 |
| INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS | 8.518545 |
| JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY CHINA | 5.785334 |
| AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE | 4.865107 |
| FOREIGN AFFAIRS | 3.911876 |
| MARINE POLICY | 3.52454 |
| EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL RESEARCH | 3.50536 |
| ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS | 3.42395 |

Note: Only rank journals that published over 10 articles in the dataset.

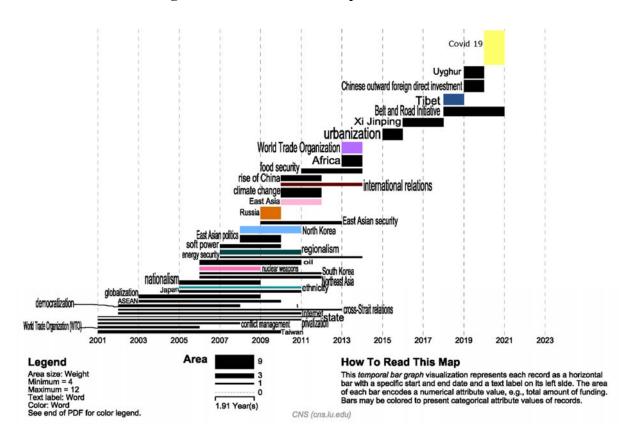


Figure 12 The Outburst of topics over 2001-2020

Figure 13 Word clouds of STM



Table 10 References cited ≥100 times

| Category | Subfield | Type | Complete Reference | Reference Time |
|----------|-------------|---------|---|-------------------|
| IR | IPE | Book | Wade, R., & Veneroso, F. (1998). The Asian crisis: the high debt model versus the Wall Street-Treasury-IMF complex. New Left Review, (228), 3. | 255 |
| IR | Security | Book | Mearsheimer, J. J., & Alterman, G. (2001). The tragedy of great power politics. WW Norton & Company. | 242 |
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