

CHRISTIAN SORACE

Curriculum Vitae

E-mail: CS2205@cam.ac.uk

EMPLOYMENT

- 2023 – present **University of Cambridge**
Lecturer, Department of Politics and International Studies
Fellow and Director of Studies, Corpus Christi College
- 2017 – 2022 **Colorado College**
Assistant Professor, Political Science
- 2015 – 2017 **The Australian National University Centre on China in the World (CIW)**
Post-doctoral Fellow
- 2014 - 2015 **Hobart and William Smith Colleges**
Visiting Assistant Professor, Political Science

DEGREES

- 2008-2014 **PhD in Government, University of Texas, Austin**
Fields: Comparative Politics and Political Theory
- 2006-2007 **MA in the Social Sciences, University of Chicago**
- 1999-2003 **BA in Philosophy (honors), minor in film studies, Trinity College**

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2022 *Proletarian China: A Century of Chinese Labour* [co-editor with Ivan Franceschini]. Verso
- 2019 *Afterlives of Chinese Communism: Political Concepts from Mao to Xi* [co-editor with Ivan Franceschini and Nicholas Loubere]. Verso/ANU Press
- 2017 *Shaken Authority: China's Communist Party and the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake*. Cornell University Press

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2021 "The Communist Party's Nervous System: Affective Governance from Mao to Xi," *The China Quarterly*
- 2021 "Ideological Conversion: Mongolia's Transition from Socialism to Post-Socialism," *positions: asia critique*
- 2020 "Introduction: Political Enchantments, Aesthetic Practices and the Chinese State" [with Gloria Davies and Haun Saussy], *Critical Inquiry*
- 2020 "Metrics of Exceptionality, Simulated Intimacy," *Critical Inquiry*
- 2019 "In the Name of the Working Class: Narratives of Labour Activism in Contemporary China" [with Ivan Franceschini], *Pacific Affairs*
Winner of the *Holland Prize* for Best Research Article Published in *Pacific Affairs* in 2019
- 2019 "Extracting Affect: Televised Cadre Confessions in China," *Public Culture*
- 2016 "Party Spirit Made Flesh: The Production of Legitimacy in the Aftermath of the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake," *China Journal*
- 2016 "China's Phantom Urbanization and the Pathology of Ghost Cities" [with William Hurst], *Journal of Contemporary Asia*
- 2015 "The Communist Party's Miracle? The Alchemy of Turning Post-Disaster Reconstruction into Great Leap Development," *Comparative Politics*
- 2014 "China's Vision for Developing Sichuan's Post-Earthquake Countryside: Turning Unruly Peasants into Grateful Urban Citizens," *The China Quarterly*
- 2014 "Ai Weiwei: China's Last Communist," *Critical Inquiry*
- 2011 "Recession and the Politics of Class and Production in China" [with William Hurst], in *New Political Science*
- 2010 "Saint Mao" in *Telos Journal*, Issue 151 China: Critical Theory, Market Society, and Culture

Book Chapters

- 2023 "Making Something Out of Nothing," in *North Korea Seen and Unseen*, eds. Lisa Min, Hoon Song, and John Lie, University of California Press
- 2022 "The Short-Lived Eternity of Friendship: Chinese Workers in Socialist Mongolia (1955-1964)," [with Ruiyi Zhu] in *Proletarian China: A Century of Chinese Labour*, eds. Ivan Franceschini and Christian Sorace, Verso Books
- 2022 "We're All (Romantic) Socialists: Lenin's Struggle with Economic Romanticists Then and Now," [with Kai Heron] in *The Future of Lenin*, eds. Alla Ivanchikova and Robert Maclean, SUNY Press
- 2020 "Democratic Corpses and Communist Specters: Between the Liberal Democratic and Post-Socialist State," in *The Future of the State: Philosophy and Politics*, ed. Artemy Magun, Rowman and Littlefield
- 2019 "Introduction" [with Ivan Franceschini and Nicholas Loubere] in *Afterlives of Chinese Communism*, eds. Christian Sorace, Ivan Franceschini, and Nicholas Loubere, Verso Books/ANU Press
- 2019 "Aesthetics" in *Afterlives of Chinese Communism*, eds. Christian Sorace, Ivan Franceschini, and Nicholas Loubere, Verso Books/ANU Press
- 2019 "Urban China: Change and Contention" [with William Hurst] in *Politics in China: An Introduction*, edited by William Joseph, Oxford University Press
- 2016 "'When One Place is in Trouble, Help Comes From All Sides': Fragmented Authoritarianism in Post-Disaster Reconstruction" in *Chinese Politics as Fragmented Authoritarianism: Earthquakes, Energy, and Environment*, edited by Kjeld Erik Brødsgaard, Routledge
- 2010 "Workers in Post-Socialist China: Shattered Rice Bowls, Fragmented Subjectivities" [with William Hurst and James Hudson], in *Chinese Capitalisms*, edited by Yin-Wah Chu, Palgrave Macmillan

Other Publications

- 2022 "Biopolitical Binaries (or How Not to Read the Chinese Protests)" [with Nicholas Loubere], *Made in China*.
Translated into Mandarin Chinese, Italian, and Swedish

- 2022 "In Mongolia, Protestors With Empty Stomachs Are Denouncing Empty Promises" [with Zoljargal Enkh-Amgalan], *Jacobin*
Translated into Mongolian
- 2020 "Undoing Lenin: On the Recent Changes to China's Ethnic Policy," *Made in China*
- 2020 "Against Police Brutality, Everywhere," *Lausan*
- 2020 "Gratitude: The Ideology of Sovereignty in Crisis," *Made in China/ROAR Magazine*
Translated into Italian
- 2020 "Poetry After the Future," *Made in China*
Translated into Mongolian
- 2020 Response to Chris Courtney's Review of *Shaken Authority* in *The PRC History Review*
- 2019 "From the Outside Looking In: A Response to John Garnaut's Primer on Ideology," *Made in China*
- 2019 "Lost in the Fog: Protest in Mongolia's Capital Ulaanbaatar" [with Sanchir Jargalsaikhan], *Jacobin*
- 2018 "Communist Hibernation," *Made in China*
- 2018 "Ulaanbaatar, City of the Future," photo essay, *Made in China*, April
Translated into Mandarin Chinese
- 2018 "Be Grateful to the Party! How to Behave in the Aftermath of a Disaster" *Made in China*, April
- 2017 "Let a Hundred Flowers Bloom: A Response to William Hurst on the Field of Chinese Politics," *Made in China*, September
- 2017 "Communist Party Immunology," in *China Story Yearbook 2016: Control*, edited by Luigi Tomba and Jane Golley, May
- 2017 "In the Midst of Life: An Interview with Gu Tao," *Made in China*, interview and translation, April
- 2017 "Losing the World: After the Moose Have Gone Away," *Made in China*, April

- 2016 "Paradise Under Construction," *Made in China*, October
- 2015 "In Rehab with Weiwei," *The China Story Journal*, October
- 2014 "Red Memory," *Mayday Magazine*, Summer Issue.
- 2011 "Red Fist" Cover Photograph, *Cultural Anthropology*, November 2011, Vol. 26, No. 4
- 2010 "New Powers, New Terms," Interview with Wendy Brown, *Broken Power Lines*, February 27.

Translations

- 2020 Cai Qing, "Risk: The Hidden Power of Art Creation," *Made in China*
- 2019 Guan Kai, "People's War" in *Afterlives of Chinese Communism*, eds. Christian Sorace, Ivan Franceschini, and Nicholas Loubere, Verso Books/ANU Press
- 2019 Ou Ning, "Utopia" in *Afterlives of Chinese Communism*, eds. Christian Sorace, Ivan Franceschini, and Nicholas Loubere, Verso Books/ANU Press
- 2019 "Hooligan Sparrow and a new generation of woman filmmaker: A conversation with Wang Nanfu," [with Nan Liu] *Made in China*
- 2018 "Imagining the Digitalisation of Politics: A Conversation with Wang Lixiong," *Made in China*

Book Reviews

- 2021 Orhon Myadar, *Mobility and Displacement: Nomadism, Identity and Postsocialist Narratives in Mongolia in Inner Asia*
- 2021 Kristen E. Looney, *Mobilizing for Development: The Modernization of Rural East Asia in Perspectives on Politics*
- 2020 Corey Byrnes, *Fixing Landscape: A Techno-Poetic History of China's Three Gorges in Critical Inquiry*
- 2018 Bin Xu, *The Politics of Compassion in Journal of Asian Studies*

- 2017 *Chinese Thought as Global Theory: Diversifying Knowledge Production in the Social Sciences and Humanities*, ed. Leigh Jenco, in *The China Quarterly*
- 2010 Ralph A. Thaxton, Jr., *Catastrophe and Contention in Rural China: Mao's Great Leap Forward Famine and the Origins of Righteous Resistance in Da Fo Village* in *Journal of East Asian Studies*
- 2010 Lin Chun, *The Transformation of Chinese Socialism* in *Journal of East Asian Studies*

Media Interviews

- 2021 Quoted in *The Economist* on Mongolia's 2021 presidential election, June 19 <https://www.economist.com/asia/2021/06/19/mongolias-ruling-party-secures-a-thumping-victory>
- 2020 Quoted in *SBS News* on protests in Inner Mongolia, September 26 <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/amid-suicide-and-threats-to-their-language-ethnic-mongolians-in-australia-cautiously-speak-out>
- 2020 *Sinica* Podcast Feature on Inner Mongolia [with Christopher Atwood] <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-fight-over-inner-mongolias-bilingual-education-policy/id1121407665?i=1000494077688>
- 2019 *New Books in East Asian Studies Podcast* on *Afterlives of Chinese Communism*. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/christian-sorace-afterlives-of-chinese-communism-political-concepts-from-mao-to-xi-verso-anu-press-2019/>
- 2018 *Sinica* Podcast Feature on *Shaken Authority*. <https://supchina.com/podcast/shaken-authority-party-speak-propaganda-and-the-sichuan-earthquake-of-2008/>
- 2018 *The Little Red Podcast*, "Shaken but Not Stirred: The Chinese State and the Sichuan Earthquake", May 11. <https://soundcloud.com/user-340830825/shaken-but-not-stirred-the-chinese-state-and-the-sichuan-earthquake>
- 2015 KCBS San Francisco Radio Interview on China's Ghost Cities, August 1

SELECTED MAJOR CONFERENCE PAPERS FROM 2018 - PRESENT

- 2023 "Steppe Immunity," to be presented at the *Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference*, Boston, March 16-19 (panel organizer).
- 2021 "Affective Governance: On *Outrage, Sympathy, and Gratitude* in the People's Republic of China," *Soyuz Symposium* November 4-7 (online).
- 2020 "Democratic Necrophilia: On the Liturgical Effects of Mourning Democracy," *American Political Science Association Annual Conference*, San Francisco, September 10-13 (panel organizer).
- 2019 "Communist Spirits" roundtable on *Afterlives of Chinese Communism* at the Marx 2019 Conference, Stockholm, Sweden, October 25-27.
- 2019 "Democracy on a Respirator," *Radical Critical Theory Circle*, Nisyros, Greece, June 7-11.
- 2019 "Temporal Dislocations: Urban Planning in Mongolia and Inner Mongolia," *Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference*, Denver, March 21-24 (panel organizer).
- 2018 "State-Society Relations in Changing China: Engaging New Works in the Field" roundtable, *American Political Science Association Annual Conference*, Boston, August 28-September 2.
- 2018 "The Twilight of Emancipation: On Worker-Poets in 21st Century China," *Western Political Science Association Annual Conference*, San Francisco, March 29-31.
- 2018 "Wenchuan Earthquake: A Decade of Changes and Continuities" roundtable organizer and participant, *Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference*, Washington DC, March 22-25.

INVITED LECTURES, GUEST SEMINARS, and WEBINARS

- 2023 "Steppe Immunity," to be presented at the Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University, May 16.
- 2023 "Steppe Immunity," to be presented at the Capitalism / Socialism / Democracy series at The Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy, University of Pennsylvania, March 22.

- 2022 "Steppe Immunity," History of Consciousness, University of California, Santa Cruz, November 2.
- 2021 "National Extinction, Planetary Survival: Mongolian Avant-Garde Poetry on a Dying Planet," Mongolia and Inner Asian Studies Unit Research Seminar, Cambridge University, November 16
- 2021 "Ideological Conversion: Mongolia's Transition from Socialism to Post-Socialism," Mongolei-Colloquium, Universität Bonn (online)
- 2020 "Beyond history: social science research on China" in *Preparing for the Field Seminar* (Harvard University and University of Chicago)
- 2020 "Anti-China Politics in the US Election," *Critical China Scholars*
<https://youtu.be/pS21a8nl-gk>
- 2020 "Brainwashed: The Legacies and Perils of American Sinophobia," (co-organizer and participant)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTxZYXqEsgU&t=4773s>
- 2020 Colorado College Conversations on *Racism, Policing, and Protest*, June 18.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzha_8BVrv4
- 2020 "The Hidden Sovereign Logic of Gratitude," Foreign Correspondents' Club of China (via Zoom), May 8.
- 2020 "Affective Governance: On *Outrage, Sympathy, and Gratitude* in the People's Republic of China," Hunter College, February 12.
- 2019 "Affective Governance: On *Outrage, Sympathy, and Gratitude* in the People's Republic of China," University of British Columbia, October 7.
- 2019 "Democratic Corpses and Communist Specters," Trinity College, September 26.
- 2019 "Desiring the City: Ideology in Socialist Mongolia," American Center for Mongolian Studies, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, March 6.
- 2018 "The Mirage of Development: The Sichuan Earthquake, One Decade Later," University of Texas at Austin Comparative Politics Series, November 12.
- 2018 "The Mirage of Development: The Sichuan Earthquake, One Decade Later," Liberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, April 17.

- 2018 "The Mirage of Development: The Sichuan Earthquake, One Decade Later," Northwestern University, March 9.
- 2018 "The Mirage of Development: The Sichuan Earthquake, One Decade Later," University of Colorado, Boulder, February 23.
- 2018 "Extracting Affect: Televised Cadre Confessions in Contemporary China," Center for Asian Research at Arizona State University, Tempe, February 15.
- 2016 "The Political Aesthetics of Development," Monash University, Melbourne, July 13.
- 2016 "Urbanization is Not a Panacea" (城镇化不等于包治百病), Xilingol Vocational College, Inner Mongolia, July 1.
- 2016 "Power, Ideology, and Organization of the Leninist Party," guest lecture in Politics of China course, Australian National University, March 8.
- 2015 "The Double Life of the Party Cadre," *Cornell Contemporary China Initiative Lecture Series* (CCCI), April 6.
- 2013 "Philosophy, Politics, and Experience" (哲学, 政治, 与经历), Sichuan Provincial Communist Party School, June 29.
- 2012 "The Current Situation of American Politics and Society" (美国国情社情), Guangzhou University of Technology, Institute of Political Science and Law, December 18.
- 2012 "Philosophy, Politics, and Experience" (哲学, 政治, 与经历), Sichuan Academy of Social Sciences, October 31.

EXTERNAL GRANTS

- 2022 Fulbright Fellowship (Mongolia)
- 2012-2013 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (China)
- 2010-2011 Ministry of Education of the Republic of China (Taiwan) Mandarin Enrichment Scholarship

INTERNAL GRANTS

Spring 2022	Colorado College Social Science Divisional Research and Development Grant
Fall 2018	Colorado College Social Science Divisional Research and Development Grant
Fall 2018	Colorado College Asian Studies Gaylord Fellowship
Fall 2017	Colorado College SEGWay Grant
Spring 2017	Australian National University Asia-Pacific Innovation Program Grant
Spring 2016	Australian National University Early Career Research Grant
Fall 2013-Fall 2014	University of Texas Graduate School Continuing Fellowship
December 2012	UT Office of Graduate Studies Professional Development Award
Fall 2012-Spring 2013	UT Government Department MacDonald Fellowship (declined)
Spring 2012	UT Government Department Supplemental MacDonald Fellowship
Spring 2012/Fall 2011	UT Ward Fellowship
Summer 2010	UT Government Department Supplemental MacDonald Fellowship
Summer 2009	UT Joe R. Long Fellowship

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

Spring 2022 National University of Mongolia Visiting Scholar
Spring 2012 – Summer 2013 Sichuan Academy of Social Science Visiting Scholar

CURRENT COURSES (University of Cambridge)

Politics of China (MPhil Paper)

PREVIOUS COURSES (Colorado College)

Conduct of Chinese Foreign Policy
Marxist Political Economy and the Crisis of Capitalism
Aesthetics, Power, and Urban Space
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Power and Everyday Life
Language and Power
Utopia and Dystopia (with John Gould)
Power, Populism, and the Pandemic (with John Gould)
Revolutionary Asia (with John Williams)
Politics, Affect and Cinema (with Scott Krzych)

STUDENT SUPERVISION

B.A. Honors Theses, 12 at Colorado College (2018-2022)

MPhil Theses, 2 at University of Cambridge (2023-present)
Monash University, Doctorate Examiner (Spring 2020)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

National Committee on US-China Relations Public Intellectuals Program Fellow (PIP VI): 2019-2021

Made in China, editorial board (2017-present)
<https://madeinchinajournal.com/about-us/>

Colorado College, *encounters speaker series* organizer (2018-2022)
<https://www.coloradocollege.edu/academics/dept/politicalscience/newsevents/encounters-speaker-series.html>

Colorado College, Diversity and Equity Advisory Board (2020-2021)

Colorado College, Incarceration Community Engagement Group (2018-2020)

Colorado College, Political Science Assessment (2019-2022)

Colorado College, Political Science Advisory Committee, Faculty Advisor (2018-2019)

Selection Committee for the Hayward R. Alker Award for best conference paper by a PhD student that uses interpretive methods (2020)

External Reviewer for Research Grants Council (RGC) of Hong Kong (2020)

Expert Witness for Defense in Deportation Case of Chinese National (2020)

Co-organizer of Chinese Politics Mini-Conference at APSA (2019)

ANU-CIW Asia and Pacific Screens Film Programmer (2016-2017)

Peer Review/Refereeing

Presses: Stanford University Press, Indiana University Press; Routledge; Palgrave Macmillan

Journals: Comparative Political Science; Comparative Politics; PS Politics and Political Science; New Political Science; Theory & Event; Political Theory; Problems of Post-Communism; positions: asia critique; Inner Asia; The China Journal; The China Quarterly; Modern China; Chinese Literature and Thought Today; Central Asian Survey; Historical Materialism; American Ethnologist; Journal of Contemporary Asia; Urban Studies; Journal of Chinese Political Science; Pacific Affairs; Asian Studies Review; World Art; Open Philosophy; Asiatische Studien; Journal of Development Studies; Journal of Urban Affairs; International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction; Natural Hazards; Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History

External Review

Colorado College, Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Global Film Theory (2019)
Colorado College, Search Committee for Open Rank Professor in Comparative Politics (2019)
Colorado College, Search Committee for Open Rank Professor in International Relations (2019)
Colorado College, Search Committee for Assistant Professor in International Relations (2020; 2021)

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese (fluent)
Mongolian (advanced)
Italian (beginner)