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Editor's Note

At this time of a year when we say "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!" to you, we are presenting you our new issue of the ACPS newsletter.

The last issue was published at the end of summer 2015. The 2016 issue was delayed for a few months because we were waiting for the most important event of the ACPS, its annual meeting, which was held in October. We strongly feel obliged to include a report on this event so that our members who had missed the conference would be able to keep track of the activities and spirit of our organization.

This is the year of transition of the ACPS board, with President Liang leaving and President Yang taking the presidency. We include in the issue the farewell statement of President Liang and the inaugural speech of President Yang. Liang summarizes her experiences as the president in the past two years and what the organization has achieved during her

From the Desk of New President

"I intend to carry on the ACPS tradition of providing a collegial and intellectually stimulating platform for China scholars around the world."

Yi Edward Yang, President



Since its founding in 1986, the Association of Chinese Political Studies (ACPS) has provided a platform to bring together Chinese political studies scholars from around the world.

Over the past few years, ACPS has grown significantly. ACPS now has nearly 1,000 individual members from more than a dozen countries across four continents. ACPS expanded its institutional partnerships with world-class Chinese universities such as Beijing University and East China Normal University. The ACPS annual conference continues to showcase cutting-edge China studies scholarship. The ACPS flagship journal—the *Journal of Chinese Political Science*—is moving up the ranks and becoming an increasingly influential outlet for some of the best work in the field.

What truly makes ACPS unique is its warm organizational culture. ACPS conferences and activities have always been described as one big family gathering where you catch up with old friends and make new ones, where scholars who share the same China studies passion can freely exchange ideas and comment on

presidency. President Yang lays out his visions of the organization in the coming two years.

What follows is the special report on the recently concluded 29th annual conference in October, as a record of our activities and as an information sharing opportunity with other interested readers. If you missed the 29th meeting, please pay special attention to our announcement of the 30th meeting in 2017.

What cannot be omitted is the update of the activities and publications of our members during the one and half year period from summer 2015 to the end of 2016. Their achievements are impressive and encouraging.

At the end, we introduce our new board to the readers. We also include several pictures showing the current and ex-presidents, who have been running this organization at different times. We thank the ex-presidents for continuously attending the conference and giving advices to the new board. Their presence is the evidence showing the continuity, progress as well as the solidarity of the ACPS. ■

Any contributions, comments and/or suggestions, please contact the ACPS Newsletter editor Wanfa Zhang at globalpolitics@fit.edu or President Yang at: yangyx@jmu.edu.

Announcement of the 2017 Meeting

After intensive discussions with our overseas partner universities and the ACPS Board, the next conference, the 30th ACPS Annual conference and international symposium will be held at Nankai University, Tianjin, China, June 10-11, 2017. Call for proposals will be distributed to subscribers of ACPS listserv at the end of December. It will also be available on the ACPS website at: www.acpsus.org. As usual, all participants will receive three nights' hotel stay and meals for free during this most important event of ACPS.

2017 will be the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the ACPS. The organization will hold some activities to commemorate its birth and it is anticipated that we will receive more proposals this year.



each other's work in a relaxed and non-judgmental atmosphere.

I am honored to serve this organization and its members as the ACPS president for the 2016-2018 term. I intend to carry on the ACPS tradition of providing a collegial and intellectually stimulating platform for China scholars around the world. ACPS is moving in a positive direction and I will aim to set our collective sights even higher by creating new programs, expanding our institutional partnerships, and engaging a broader audience beyond the traditional scholarly circle.

ACPS will need help from you, its members, to accomplish these goals. Your support and enthusiasm are the bedrock of this organization's success. Let's continue to build an exciting future for this great community — together. ■

Farewell Speech of Former President

Wei Liang

I am honored to serve as the president of the Association of Chinese Political Studies (ACPS) in 2015-2016. The ACPS has been an important part of my academic career and I greatly benefited from presenting my most recent research at the annual conferences, exchanging views and building networks at various ACPS-sponsored workshops, and getting my work published at JCPS. Therefore, it was a great pleasure for me to serve as board members for six years and president for the last two years. I was extremely fortunate to work with president-elect Edward Yang and a great Board of Directors: Zeng Jin, Zhang Wanfa, Zhang Ning, Steve Balla, and Li Xiaojun. We accomplished much and put together two outstanding conferences.

On June 6-7, 2015, we held the 28th annual conference in Beijing, China. The conference, entitled "China and the changing world order: domestic and international dimensions", was hosted by the ACPS and School of International Studies (SIS), Peking University. This timely and stimulating conference attracted 75 participants from 17 countries and regions, including U.S., Russia, Germany, Singapore, Pakistan, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Canada, South Korea, United Kingdom

Israel, Japan, mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao. For the keynote speech given at the opening ceremony on June 6, President Wang Jisi of the Peking University Institute of International and Strategic Studies spoke on "One World, One Dream : China and International Order." For the keynote speech given at the conference banquet on June 7, General Zhou Chen, from Academy of Military Science of the Chinese People's Liberation Army on China's new defense policy.

We just finished this year's annual conference in Monterey, California on October 10-11. It was co-hosted by ACPS and Middlebury Institute of International Studies. The conference theme was "Domestic and Global Governance in the Era of China's "New Normal". This conference attracted 76 American and international scholars to present their recent research on China's domestic politics and international relations. Professor Margaret Pearson of University of Maryland and Professor Yan Jirong of Peking University were our keynote speaker at the conference. They both are prominent scholar specialized in China/IPE and public administration respectively and have published extensively in these areas. At the ACPS business meeting during the conference, Dr. Jessica Teets of Middlebury College was elected to become President-elect of ACPS.

"The greatest pleasure in serving as the president of the ACPS is having the opportunity to meet and work with China scholars from around the country and the globe."

Wei Liang, ex-president of ACPS

I have learned much over the last two years. The greatest pleasure in serving as the president of the ACPS is having the opportunity to meet and work with China scholars from around the country and the globe. I have enjoyed meeting new people and fellow China scholars at the conferences as well as working my friends and colleagues on the Board of Directors.

With your continued support, ACPS will grow stronger in the years ahead. More opportunities will be offered to our members as we build more institutional relations with other academic organizations. I am confident that under President Yi Edward Yang's leadership ACPS will further advance excellence in the pursuit of academic excellence and intellectual development in China studies.

I am looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones at the future ACPS meetings and events! ■

Special Report on the 29th ACPS Annual Meeting Jointly Held with Middlebury Institute of International Studies, CA

If you have sharp ears and listen carefully at night in Hotel Pacific that houses the conference participants, you might hear the sea lions' roar from the Fisherman's Wharf in the Monterey Bay, California. This is the place that is immortalized by John Steinbeck, the winner of the 1962 Nobel Prize in Literature and "a giant of American letters", in his famous novels *Cannery Row*, *Tortilla Flat*, and *East of Eden*.

For the China scholars from around the world, this year's Monterey is the place where they meet and share their research and scholarship at the 29th ACPS annual meeting hosted by the Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS).



President Wei Liang opening up the 2016 meeting.

The theme of this year's conference is "Domestic and Global Governance in the Era of China's 'New Normal,'" which attracts more than 70 participants from America, Asia and Europe. The two-day long gathering is kicked off with a reception in the boardroom of McCone Building on the evening of October 9, followed by two days' formal proceedings.

The first day's (October 10) meeting is opened by President Wei Liang who introduces the organization and arrangement of the meeting. Then Dean Kent Glenzer of the Graduate School of International Policy and Management and Vice President Jeff Dayton Johnson of MIIS expressed their welcome to the attendees of the conference. Professor Margaret Pearson from the University of Maryland delivers a keynote speech, summarizing the state of China studies in the social science field and reporting the most recent progress and development in the discipline. As a tradition of the ACPS, all participants have a group photo taken outside of Casa Fuente, the main location of the conference during the morning break.



Professor Margaret Pearson of the University of Maryland making her keynote speech.

Six panels are held the first day, two in the morning and four in the afternoon. Each session has two concurrent panels, one is devoted to China's domestic issues and the other focuses on the country's foreign relations.

The arrangement of the second day (October 11) is more intense with two pairs of concurrent panels being held in the morning and two in the afternoon respectively. The highlights arrive during the lunch, during which a second keynote speech was delivered by Professor Yan Jirong from Peking University in Samson Center. Professor Yan introduces the most recent developments in China's



Panel MD-2A with panelists (L-R) Jean Marc Blanchard, Baogang Guo, Jianguang Ma, Stephen Noakes, Tsuneo Akaha, and Adam Liu.

political reforms and discusses the progress, obstacles and prospects of China's political development and public administration in the future.



Professor Yan Jirong (right), Peking University, delivering his keynote speech with the interpreter doing the translation.

The second highlight follows Professor Yan's speech--the election for future president and board members of the ACPS during the term 2016-2018. Dr. Yi Edward Yang, associate professor of political science at James Madison University and president-elect from the previous term, formally assumes his office. Dr. Jessica Teets, associate professor of political science at MIIS and the associate editor of the flagship journal of the ACPS--*Journal of Chinese Political Studies*, is elected president for the term 2018-2020. All other board members of the current term 2014-2016, such as treasurer and research director, are re-elected, hence will retain their current positions.



ACPS 2016 Election was held after Yan's speech in Samson Center, MIIS.

The conference is concluded with the closing remarks by the incumbent president Dr. Yi Edward Yang in the Irvine Auditorium in McCone Building at 5:30pm. In his remarks, President Yang first expresses his appreciation to all participants in the conference, all assistants who have helped with the organization of the activities, and all other supporters for the ACPS. The organization will not have grown to its current status and achieved what it has without them. President Yang also lays out his plans and ambitions for the future of the organization during his presidency.

There are three things that are noteworthy for this year's conference. First, the host institution MIIS has provided a full course high quality simultaneous two way English-Chinese translations from the beginning to the end, for each speaker or presenter at each panel. This is the first time that an ACPS conference has received such a privilege thanks to the superb logistics provided by MIIS. This service greatly facilitates the conference for the participants who have deficiencies in either one of the two languages. Second, this is the second time that the ACPS holds simultaneous panels during the meeting, following last year's conference at Peking University. It proves the growth of the ACPS in membership and the number of papers received. Third, two ex-presidents, Professor Baogang Guo (2008-2010) and Professor Jean Marc Blanchard (2010-2012), have also presented their papers at the meeting, showing their continuous support for the organization. They also share their academic and management experiences with the ACPS members during the breaks.

Participants Gregory Moore (above) and Chunman Zhang asking questions during the meeting.



A statue at the Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, California



The conference's great success needs no further elaboration. However quite a number of attendees leaves Monterey with a sense of regret, as they did not get time to tour the town and its interesting places so passionately and vividly described by John Steinbeck. Certainly they will not return next year since the next annual conference will be held at Nankai University, Tianjin, China. ■



Participants on the first day of conference.

Meet the people who are involved in the operation of ACPS since 2008



Current ACPS Board of Directors (2016-2018)

Left: Four former and current presidents of ACPS. From left to right, Dr. Guo Baogang (2008-2010), Dr. Yi Edward Yang (2016-2018), Dr. Wei Liang (2014-2016), and Dr. Blanchard (2010-2012).

Bottom (left-right): Dr. Wanfa Zhang, Dr. Shanruo Ning, Dr. Jin Julie Zeng, Dr. Wei Liang, and Dr. Xiaojun Li.

Below (left-right): Dr. Steven Balla, Dr. Yi Edward Yang and Dr. Jessica Teets.



President:

YI EDWARD YANG (杨溢)

Board of Directors:

JESSICA TEETS, President-elect

STEVEN J. BALLA, Research Director

JIN JULIE ZENG (曾金), Treasurer

XIAOJUN LI (李晓隽), Publicity Director

SHANRUO NING ZHANG (张宁), Membership Director

WANFA ZHANG (张万发), Secretary and Newsletter Editor



Above (left-right): Dr. Wanfa Zhang, Dr. Shanruo Ning, Dr. Jin Julie Zeng, Dr. Wei Liang, and Dr. Xiaojun Li.

Highlights of Member's Scholarly Publications since mid-2015

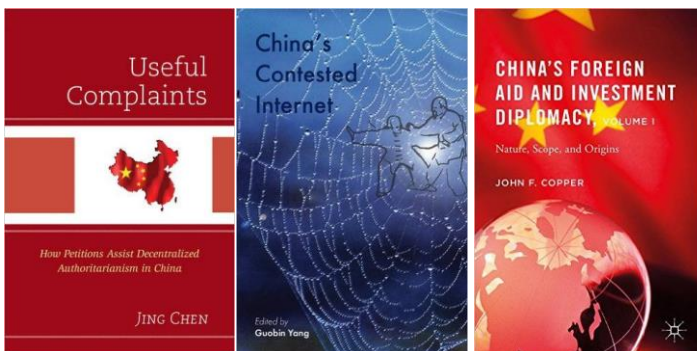
Books:

Chen, Jing. 2016. *Useful Complaints: How Petitions Assist Decentralized Authoritarianism in China*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Copper, John. 2016. *China's Foreign Aid and Investment Diplomacy, Volume I: Nature, Scope and Origins*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Copper, John. 2016. *China's Foreign Aid and Investment Diplomacy, Volume II: History and Practice in Asia, 1950-Present*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Copper, John. 2016. *China's Foreign Aid and Investment Diplomacy: Volume III: Strategy Beyond Asia and Challenges to the United States and the International Order*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.



Liuhto, Kari, Sergei Sutyryn, and Jean-Marc F. Blanchard. 2016. eds., *The Russian Economy and Foreign Direct Investment*, Routledge.

McBeath, Jerry. 2016. *Big Oil in the United States: Industry Influence on Institutions, Policy, and Politics*, Praeger.

Thaxton, Ralph A. 2016. *Force and Contention in Contemporary China: Memory and Resistance in the Long Shadow of the Catastrophic Past*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

White, Lynn T. 2016. *Democratization in Hong Kong - and in China?* Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Other Member Updates

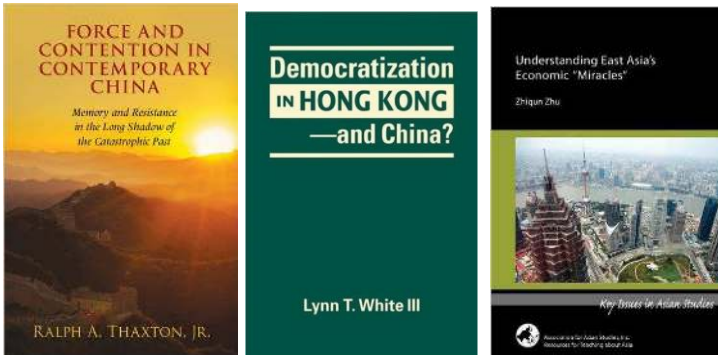
Steven Balla served as a Fulbright Scholar at the Zhou Enlai School of Government at Nankai University in Tianjin during the 2015-2016 academic year.

Jean-Marc Blanchard joined the School of Advanced International and Area Studies at East China Normal University (Shanghai) as a Distinguished Professor while continuing to serve as Executive Director of the Mr. & Mrs. S.H. Wong Center for the Study of Multinational Corporations (USA), a non-profit think tank focused on the politico-economy of foreign direct investment/multinational corporations in and from East Asia. In Fall 2015, he also became the editor of the "Palgrave Studies in Asia-Pacific Political Economy" book series. He also edited a special issue on Chinese relations with Latin America that will appear in *Asian Perspective*, Vol. 40, No. 4 (Oct.-December 2016) and published an article entitled "The Political-Economy of China's Contemporary Latin American Relations: Issues, Findings, and Prospects" that will appear in this volume.

Jerry McBeath was reappointed to a new term on the Alaska Advisory Committee by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. In May 2016, Beijing Normal University invited him to teach a short course on "Environmental Education" to undergraduate and graduate students in education. He also lectured at the University of International Business and Economics on the 2016 U.S. presidential election. From February through May, the Alaska Department of Law retained Jerry as an expert witness on a challenge, in U.S. District Court, of the Republican Party against Alaska's stringent campaign finance laws. Most important for Jerry, however, was the birth of his second grandchild Ellie McBeath Zilkha on October 7th.

Jessica Teets was recently appointed non-resident senior fellow at the China Policy Institute at the University of Nottingham.

Zhu, Zhiqun. 2016. *Understanding East Asia's Economic "Miracles"*. Ann Arbor: the Association for Asian Studies, 2nd edition.



Wanfa Zhang was nominated a “stellar faculty” of Florida Institute of Technology in March 2016. On July 24, he gave a public lecture on “Traditional Chinese Culture and the Grand Strategy of a Rising China” at Guiyang Confucius Academy, Guizhou Province. The feedback to the lecture led Guizhou TV-Channel 6 to invite him for an interview to further discuss the topic a few days later. A 20-minute interview was aired afterwards.

Zhiqun Zhu received a small research grant in 2016 from the American Political Science Association (APSA) for his project on North Korea and East Asian security. ■

Journal Articles and Other Academic Publications:

Balla, Steven. "Government Consultation and Political Participation on the Chinese Internet." In *China's Contested Internet*, edited by Guobin Yang. NIAS Press, 2015.

Blanchard, Jean-Marc. "Political Aspects of Chinese Investment in Latin America." *Tempo Do Mundo*, 2, no. 2, 2016.

Blanchard, Jean-Marc. "The Politico-Economy of China-Japan Ties: Seeking Truth from Fact." In Norrin M. Ripsman and Steven E. Lobell, eds., *The Political Economy of Regional Peacemaking*, University of Michigan Press, 2016.

Cooper, John. "Taiwan as a Catalyst for a Sino-American Conflict." *East Asian Policy*, April/June 2016.

Cooper, John. Taiwan's 2016 Presidential/Vice Presidential and Legislative Election: Reflections on the Nature of Taiwan Politics and Shift Therein, Baltimore: University of Maryland School of Law, No. 1, 2016.

Cooper, John. "The Taiwan Factor in Sino-American Relations: Creating Escalating Tensions," *Background Brief*, No. 1097, East Asian Institute, January 6, 2016.

Cooper, John. "Taiwan's Newly-Elected President Tsai Ing-wen: Facing Formidable Problems, Challenges, and Dilemmas," *Background Brief*, No. 1147, East Asian Institute, June 23, 2016.

Hsu, Carolyn and Jessica C. Teets. "Is China's New Overseas NGO Management Law Sounding the Death Knell for Civil Society? Maybe Not." *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, Vol. 14, Issue 4, No. 3, February 2016.

Keller, Jonathan W. and Yi Edward Yang. "Problem Representation, Option Generation, and Poliheuristic Theory: An Experimental Analysis." *Political Psychology*, Vol. 36, 2016.

Liu, Xinsheng, and Yi Edward Yang. "Examining Chinese Official Media Perception of the United States: A Content Analysis of People's Daily Coverage." *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, Vol. 20, 2015.

Teets, Jessica. "The Politics of Policy Innovation in China: Local Officials as Policy Entrepreneurs." *Issues & Studies*, Vol. 51, no. 2, 2015.

Teets, Jessica. "Policy Diffusion in China: Contracting Out Elder Care." *China: An International Journal*, Vol. 14, No. 3, 2016. ■

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

