



BRITISH INTER-UNIVERSITY CHINA CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

HIGHER EDUCATION

FUNDING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND



BICC Annual Report 2006-2007

Contents

- 1. Executive Summary**
- 2. Introduction: BICC's objectives and progress toward objectives**
- 3. Main outcomes for the year 2006-2007**
- 4. Main issues, problems, and action taken during the year**
- 5. Forward look**
- 6. Budget issues**
- 7. Brief reports on activities of individual research staff members and research students**

Appendices

- 1. Highlights**
- 2. Staff Employed**
- 3. Training Funded**
- 4. Budget**
- 5. BICC Advisory Board**
- 6. Publications**

1. Executive Summary

The British Inter-university China Centre (BICC/ The Centre) is a joint enterprise of the universities of Oxford, Manchester and Bristol for the development of teaching, research, outreach and knowledge transfer in relation to contemporary, modern and traditional Chinese society, politics, language, and culture.

During its first year, BICC focussed on capacity building, student recruitment, course development, and the creation of a network of contacts not only within academia but also amongst the business, politics, charity and NGO, and wider educational community. BICC also established full governance structures to administer its own affairs and to embed BICC activities fully in the three partner institutions.

The first six BICC postgraduate students started their five year BICC scholarships in September and October 2006. All three partner institutions developed Masters courses, and all BICC-funded students had full postgraduate study pathways mapped out. BICC set its own language teaching and learning conventions, which will be used as guidelines for the standardization of teaching and testing within the three partner institutions. BICC has drawn up language course structures for students at foundation and intermediate levels at Manchester and Bristol, and at advanced level in Oxford.

BICC not only succeeded in making all 8 of its planned appointments within its initial review period despite delays caused by the truncated period between the award of funding and the Centre's commencement, but also utilised the resultant initial underspend to appoint an additional career development fellow on a part-time basis.

The Centre constructed a website that provides information about BICC staff and students, acts as a dissemination tool for activities and research projects, and through which people can access all recruitment and studentship application material. The site also acts as a medium for a series of working papers, and hosts the web presence of the China Postgraduate Network.

The three-day BICC launch conference in June 2007 was a pivotal event in the first year, setting the direction for the Centre's user engagement, research strategy and Chinese language teaching.

Inevitably several matters of concern arose in the course of the year. Whilst the Centre has secured a satisfactory resolution to most of these, one main issue remains. BICC has consistently been told that its studentships could not exceed the five-year lifespan of the centre, and we have structured the timing and duration of studentships accordingly. As a result, only the year 1 studentships are full 1+4 or 2+3 awards. It has, however, transpired in the course the year that in fact considerable leeway exists in the timing of the scholarships. In order fully to fulfil its mission of creating a new cadre of China specialists, we strongly argue the case for extending all BICC studentships to the full five years.

2. Introduction: BICC's objectives and progress toward objectives

BICC is a joint enterprise of the universities of Oxford, Manchester and Bristol for the promotion of teaching and research on contemporary, modern and traditional Chinese society, politics, language and culture. In the course of its five-year lifespan, BICC works towards realizing the following main outcomes:

- First-rate institutional and IT infrastructure to enable, initiate, and coordinate a comprehensive range of cutting-edge research, teaching and sharing of resources on China across the social sciences, humanities and life sciences
- Flexible portfolio of training in Chinese language at the beginner, intermediate and advanced level that caters for the study and research needs of undergraduates, postgraduates, post-doctorate and more advanced researchers
- Completion of a broad portfolio of cutting-edge research projects and publications on strategic aspects of China studies, including politics and international relations, sociology and development, history, philosophy and religion
- Embedding teaching, postgraduate supervision and research on China in a broad range of social science and humanities disciplines.
- Programme of strong research methodology training specifically geared to the needs of postgraduate students in China studies
- Exchange relationships and cooperation with key Chinese universities and leading China centres across the world.
- Interface between China research and academic and non-academic users in the UK and beyond
- Dissemination of best practice in teaching Chinese language and China studies across the UK

In the first 13 months of BICC (1 September 2006 to 30 September 2007) progress has been made as planned to achieve these outcomes by means of the organization of events, academic and non-academic appointments, award of postgraduate scholarships, research and publications, user engagement and outreach, IT development, course development, and the institutional embedding of BICC.

Despite the short lead time between the award of the funding and the start of BICC, all planned appointments were made in this review period, albeit in several cases later than scheduled. In addition to the Director (Pieke), two Co-Directors (Bickers and Callahan) and the Language Coordinator (Kan), all of who already are in full-time employment at one of the partner institutions, as of 1 October 2007 BICC employs an administrator (Holloway), a language instructor (Hu), six Career Development Fellows (two at each of the partners: Barabantseva, King, Llamas, Lora-Wainwright, Meyer, Murphy) and one short-term career development fellow (Ladds).

BICC put in place the required institutional framework needed for coordination and cooperation between the three partner institutions, and fully to embed BICC in the administrative structures of the partners. A dedicated website was created, a working papers series initiated, and steps were taken for the commissioning of a dedicated virtual

working and learning environment. In the coming year we are therefore in an excellent position to build on the foundations laid in the first year and fully achieve our targets for the second year of BICC in terms of course development and delivery, graduate supervision, research, publication, user engagement and outreach.

In September or October the first seven BICC postgraduate students started their five year BICC scholarships. The BICC launch conference in June of 2007 was a pivotal event in the first year. In its first year, BICC hosted short-term visits by three visiting scholars from Australia and the US. In February 2007 BICC organized a Postgraduate Training workshop in Modern Chinese History in Bristol; in September 2007 BICC co-organized a two-day conference in collaboration with the University of Venice on the theme 'Italy, China, and the World: Republican Foreign Relations 1911-49'. BICC has also been active with user engagement, dissemination and outreach. BICC organized two workshops on China strategy for Kent County Council. In June 2007, the first of the BICC lunchtime seminars on contemporary China for senior civil servants in the FCO and other government departments was held at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. In 2008, this seminar will be held twice a term. BICC also organized two outreach programmes in the Bristol area. BICC also actively seeks to disseminate its own best practice of Chinese language teaching and is involved in the planning of the national Chinese language teaching and Chinese language teacher training with the Institute of Education in London and the Open University. Finally, BICC funding (and more recently White Rose Centre funding) and BICC students have reinvigorated the China Postgraduate Network (CPN) of the British Association of Chinese Studies. The CPN webpage is hosted on the BICC website.

In terms of research, the newly appointed BICC fellows have spent most of their time in the first year as planned either finishing their Ph.D. thesis (in one case) or preparing their completed Ph.D. thesis for publication as a book. In addition, preparatory work has started on several BICC research projects that between 2007 and 2009 will generate funding applications, cooperative agreements with other academic institutions in the US and China, workshops, research and, increasingly, publications. The topics of such research projects include

- Security, identity and the rise of China
- Environment and health in China
- China as an immigration country
- China as a development model
- Grassroots cadres and local government in minority areas in China
- Care and provision for left-behind children in rural China
- Family plans and sex-ratios in rural China
- The internationalization of China: a history of the Chinese treaty ports

In the first year, publications and media coverage have mainly come from ongoing research projects of senior BICC staff, including 5 articles in refereed journals, 1 article in an edited volume, 1 edited volume and 1 special issue of a refereed journal. However,

the newly appointed BICC fellows have also begun to publish, accounting for 3 articles, 1 working paper and 4 conference presentations.

3. Main outcomes for the year 2006-2007

The original BICC application specified the following milestones for the academic year 2006-2007:

- BA in Chinese Studies and MA in China in a Comparative Perspective (Manchester)
- 1+4 postgraduate pathway for language-based area studies degrees
- Foundational and intermediate modern Chinese language teaching programme
- Area studies research methods courses (all partners)
- Centre launch conference on “China in the International Arena”
- Publication of 3 articles in refereed journals and 3 other articles

Although all milestones were reached, we have taken these as merely the minimum standard. Substantial further work has been carried out to reach BICC’s longer-term outcomes as set out in the application (see section 2 above). Below we report on both the 2006-7 milestones and our further work.

Governance structures

A Central Executive and a Plenary Management Committee have been established, along with a Language Committee. The Executive Committee consists of the director, the two co-directors and the language coordinator. The Plenary Management Committee consists of all members of the three local management committees. Members of the Language Committee are the language coordinator, the director, the director of the Bristol language centre, Dr Llamas (Bristol), Mr Baki and Dr St-Andre (Manchester). An Advisory Board has been appointed and convened (for membership, see appendix 5). Local management committees have been put in place at each partner institution. Manchester’s local management committee comprises Professor Callahan, Professor Hong Liu (Director of the Centre for Chinese Studies at Manchester), and Professor Fang Lee Cooke of the Manchester Business School. BICC is embedded in the expansion of Chinese Studies at the University of Manchester and is monitored by the Strategy Board for the Centre for Chinese studies, a committee of the Faculty of Humanities. Bristol’s local management committee includes the director of the Centre of East Asian Studies (CEAS), BICC academics outside CEAS, and the director of the University of Bristol Language Centre. The BICC co-director and the CEAS director work closely together, and coordinate the work of the two centres. CEAS has seen some staff turnover in 2006-7 but the net impact for Chinese studies at Bristol has been very strong, and the University remains strongly committed to the initiative. In Oxford, the local management committee consists of Dr Pieke (BICC director and director of the University’s China Centre and Institute for Chinese Studies), Professor Vivienne Shue (head of the Leverhulme Contemporary China Studies Programme), Mr Shio-yun Kan (BICC language coordinator) and Dr Rana Mitter (head of the Leverhulme research programme on ‘The persistence of conflict: experience, legacy and memory of the Sino-Japanese War, 1931 to the present’). Administratively, BICC is part of the University’s School of Inter-Disciplinary Area Studies. As in

Manchester and Bristol, BICC is fully embedded in Oxford's strategy for the expansion of Chinese studies.

Appointments

Two Career Development Fellows (CDFs) were appointed at Bristol. Dr Regina Llamas's appointment was proposed in the application, and she commenced work on 1 October 2006. A open recruitment process brought the appointment of Winnie King, a late-stage Oxford University D.Phil. student, who commenced work from 1/12/06. As discussed with ESRC, the four-month salary savings on the delayed appointments of Llamas and King were used to fund a third CDF, Dr Catherine Ladds, on a 0.5 eight month contract. Ladds is a historian of modern China. Dr Ladds's responsibilities mirrored those of the full-time staff, enhancement of her research, and in her case, of her intermediate Mandarin. She had an article accepted in a German Chinese studies journal, undertook a period of research at Nanjing University, and has commenced additional language training. She has been supported in other career development activity, notably grant-making, and applied for postdoctoral schemes run by ESRC and the BA.

Two CDFs were appointed at Manchester. Dr Elena Barabantseva was proposed in the application, and she commenced work on 1 October. Dr Anna Lora-Wainwright was appointed through an open recruitment process, and she commenced work on 1 July 2007.

Two CDFs were appointed at Oxford, both through an open recruitment process. Dr Rachel Murphy, whose post was upgraded to the status of University Lecturer through the provision of funds from the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies, commenced work on 1 September 2007. Mr Dirk Meyer commenced work on 1 October 2007. In addition, an Instructor in Chinese Language was appointed through an open recruitment process. Ms Hu Bo commenced work on 1 April 2007.

A full list is contained in Appendix 2.

Launch conference, advisory board meeting and other events

The main event that BICC organized in its first year was the launch conference in June 2007. The first meeting of the Advisory Board took place the day before the conference. Both the meeting of the Board and the first day of the conference were held in central London and started BICC's engagement with international and national academic and non-academic partners and non-academic users in government and business. The second day in Oxford was a more strictly academic event with the aim of sharpening our ideas for future BICC research and identifying individual and institutional partners of future BICC research. The third day in Oxford focused on Chinese language teaching and learning to assess the direction the development of BICC's language teaching should take.

Two major BICC events have been convened at Bristol in the year. In February 2007 a postgraduate training workshop in Modern Chinese History was organised, and funded by BICC and AHRC funds. Thirteen PGRs from BICC and non-BICC institutions joined a number of UK and international academics for a 2-day programme of PGR presentations and discussions. The event was joined by Professor Niu Dayong, the head of Peking University's History Department, China's premier history department, a representative of the Shanghai Municipal Archives, and by visiting international students or post-docs from Chicago, Singapore and Venice. The aim was to provide a forum for presentation of work in progress, to provide up to date information for PGRs on using Chinese libraries and archives, and to allow UK students to network with useful international contacts. A second event in September 07, with significant postgraduate attendance, was aimed at developing BICC's European profile. This two-day conference was held jointly between the University of Venice, and Bristol, with the theme "Italy, China, and the Work: Republican Foreign Relations", and was attended by US, Chinese, Canadian, Taiwanese and European senior and junior scholars. Publication of some of the papers is being discussed with a Chinese journal.

Website and Virtual Working and Learning Environment

A website has been built that provides information about BICC's staff, activities, and research projects. It also acts as a medium for a series of working papers, and hosts the website for the China Postgraduate Network (see below). Negotiations are in their final stage for the construction of a Virtual Working and Learning Environment. This will host a wide variety of interactive language learning materials to complement BICC's language learning strategy, and will provide an interactive research environment for scholars and students.

Courses

In Manchester the MA in Contemporary China was created in 2006. This also included the creation of a foundational and intermediate modern Chinese language teaching programme. The MA admitted its first students in the year 2006-7, including two BICC funded postgraduate students. Manchester also launched a 4 year BA in Chinese Studies in September 2006. In Oxford, preparations were made for a new MSc in Modern Chinese Studies for approval from the University later on in 2007. The course will admit its first students in October 2008.

Area studies research methods courses. In Oxford, the new BICC fellow in the Sociology of China set up this course in the summer of 2007. It is now a required part both of the existing MPhil in Modern Chinese Studies and the new MSc in Modern Chinese Studies. In Manchester a dedicated module "Research Methods for Chinese Studies" was developed as a core course requirement for the MA degree that was launched in September 2006; the new MA programme's other required core course "Perspectives on Contemporary China" (taught by BICC postdoctoral fellow Dr. Barabantseva) also addresses issues of Chinese studies research methods. At Bristol generic or subject-based training units are offered within the programmes that students have taken or will take

(MSc East Asian Studies, MA Buddhist Studies), with additional individually tailored training programmes developed to fit student needs. In 2006-2007 Bristol BICC student Gow took the modules Collecting Quantitative Data, Qualitative Methods, and Analysing Quantitative Data.

Student admission and student progression

In summer of 2006, applications for a BICC scholarship were invited from all eligible students, both on course and incoming, at one of the three partner universities. Despite the very short notice, we received a strong field of applicants from whom seven were chosen for a five-year scholarship. All seven have made satisfactory progress in their course work, except for one who was a French national and could only be awarded a fees-only award. He subsequently had to terminate his studies in the second half of the year owing to funding problems. In November of 2006, the selection was made for the second round of seven postgraduate scholarships for commencement of study in September or October 2007. After full consultation with and permission from the ESRC, one studentship recipient will commence her award in 2008.

In the course of the year, arrangements were made with Peking University and, in one case, Xinjiang Normal University for BICC students to study Chinese language in China for a period of time varying between four months to a full academic year. Importantly, this also involved setting unambiguous minimum targets and examination standards for the language learning of all BICC students before, during and upon completion of their study tour in China.

At all three partner institutions 1+4 or 2+3 study pathways were negotiated between Chinese (East Asian) studies and disciplinary departments for the first cohort of BICC students. In the case of two Bristol students, this entailed enrolment on the MPhil in Modern Chinese Studies at Oxford in preparation for doctoral work in Bristol. In the course of this work it became clear that such arrangements necessarily will continue to have a strong “hand-made” quality in order to cater for the unique situation and aspirations of each individual student. In this context we should also note that BICC cannot require from any department that it unconditionally admits a BICC student for a Ph.D. after completion of a Masters, nor can BICC exercise any influence over specific requirements of additional coursework that such students should undertake after the start of their Ph.D. However, BICC tries to make contingency plans for individual students in case their application for admission to a particular Ph.D. proves unsuccessful.

Language training activities

The BICC language teaching committee (LTC) was established in December 2006. The LTC set the BICC language teaching and learning conventions, which are to be used as guidelines for the standardization of teaching and testing within the three partner institutions. The LTC has drawn up course structures for students at foundation and intermediate levels at Manchester and Bristol. In Oxford, the LTC has set up an advanced Chinese language module that in future can be elected by students on the new M.Sc. in

Modern Chinese Studies and other postgraduate students in the University. The LTC and Peking University have jointly formulated and implemented a language learning programme for BICC students. Several BICC students have already benefited from this programme.

The LTC created an interactive online learning programme for basic Chinese grammar, which became operational on 1 October 2007. This online learning programme and the language testing system will play an important role in the monitoring of student progress and the standardisation of learning within the BICC. The system might also be of benefit in the design of the inter-university Mandarin course that the Open University has just embarked on.

Two national surveys have been carried out by the LTC: one on Chinese language learning difficulties, and the other on a language course for mid-career development. The results of both surveys will be published in December 2007. In June, the LTC organized the third day of the BICC launch conference as a learner-centred seminar on Chinese language learning difficulties. This seminar was held jointly with the British Chinese Language Society, a forum for Chinese language teaching in British higher education institutions. A second learner-based language workshop will be held in summer 2008.

The LTC is in the process of designing a language course consisting of intensive teaching and internet learning for those who need to use Chinese for research. A trial course is planned for April 2008.

User engagement and outreach, including non-academic courses

The launch conference's first day in central London put BICC firmly on the map among a broad constituency of users, including members of the business community, NGOs, government, the media and academic institutions. Relationships started at this event will shape BICC's engagement with its users for the next four years.

In November 2006 and January 2007, BICC organized two workshops for Kent County Council. KCC is developing a China strategy for which the BICC events provided both academic expertise and contacts with local authorities in Guangdong province in China. In cooperation with Chatham House BICC is currently negotiating a contract to help KCC implement this strategy over the next year.

In June 2007, the first of the BICC lunchtime seminars on contemporary China for senior civil servants in the FCO and other government departments was held at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. In 2008, this seminar will be held twice a term.

BICC also organized two outreach programmes in the Bristol area. The first is a Chinese club in the Portishead cluster of schools. The second is a series of BICC public lectures on current and historical Chinese topics at the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute.

BICC also actively seeks to disseminate its own best practice of Chinese language teaching and is involved with initiatives in language teaching and Chinese language teacher training at the Open University and the Institute of Education in London. In the spring of 2007, BICC conducted two web-based language learning questionnaire surveys (see under “language training activities” above).

In 2007, Pieke conducted the review of UK Home Office Country of Origin (COI) Report on China for the Advisory Panel on Country Information (APCI).

Visitors

Bristol, Manchester and Oxford have hosted the following BICC visiting speakers: Luigi Tomba (ANU), Pal Nyiri (Macquarie), Joshua Fogel (York, Toronto). Fogel delivered at Oxford and Bristol his 2007 Reischauer Lectures that are annually held at Harvard.

Publications and dissemination during review period

A full list of publications of all members of staff is attached as Appendix 4.

Research projects

The BICC CDFs all worked on the publication of their dissertation during this review period (see section 7, brief reports on activities of individual research students and CDFs), while the senior staff were mostly still engaged in projects committed to before the start of BICC. During the review period, Callahan applied successfully for a fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson Center to write the manuscript of the book “Security, identity and the rise of China”, while Murphy carried out BICC-funded fieldwork for her project “Family plans and sex-ratios in rural China.” In addition, preparations for BICC research projects commenced, although for most no grant applications were yet made. The topics of these projects include: Environment and health in China (Lora-Wainwright); China as an immigration country (Pieke); China as a development model (Barabantseva and Callahan); Grassroots cadres and local government in minority areas in China (Pieke); Care and provision for left-behind children in rural China (Murphy); the history of the Chinese treaty ports and the internationalisation of China; historical photographs of China (both Bickers). All these projects will involve applications for non-BICC funding (Leverhulme, ESRC, SSCR, Getty, Nuffield) and will entail extensive collaboration with Chinese and North American partners.

Grants and honours

Callahan was awarded a one-year residential fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC for the academic year 2007-8) to write the manuscript for “Security, Identity and the Rise of China.” The WWC is a federal government-supported think tank; it enables Callahan to interact with think tanks, government officials, academics and the media. Callahan received grants from the British Academy to conduct research on “Security, Identity and the Rise of China” as a

visiting fellow at Taiwan's Academia Sinica (October-November 2006) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences – Institute of World Economics and Politics in Beijing (April 2007).

Pieke was awarded a one-year residential fellowship at the Netherlands Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) for the academic year 2008-9 to write the manuscript "Market Leninism: Party Schools, Cadre Training and Governance in Contemporary China."

Bickers was a visiting scholar at the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica in June 2007, and at Nanjing University in September-October 2007. He was awarded a University of Bristol (public) 'Engagement' award in 2007 for his outreach work on China coast family history, and applications to the Leverhulme Research Project scheme and to the British Academy's Research Project scheme both passed the outline stage during the year and were submitted to the second round of each scheme.

4. Main issues, problems, and action taken during the year

Some teething problems encountered arose from a lack of communication between departments within the ESRC. The short notice period between establishing the Centre and commencing the studentships caused the ESRC to delay sending offer letters to students. This meant that one Bristol student, although submitting his response as soon as he received the letter, was not included on the ESRC's studentship list. As a result, Bristol has had to meet his studentship costs out of their budget and claim this back at the reconciliation stage, effectively being penalised for a mistake not of their making. In the contract, a specific stipulation was laid down that BICC liaise with the ESRC's Finance Officer over the procurement of its Virtual Learning Environment. When contact was made, the Finance Officer was not expecting to be approached and referred BICC to Oxford's own procurement policy. The decoupling of studentships from the award has caused some confusion, coming as it has during the period when the ESRC is devolving studentship administration to individual universities. In particular students within the collaborating institutions have not had a clear point of contact for issues concerning aspects of their studentship such as the Research Training and Support Grant. All these problems have now been resolved and we expect the administration of the studentships to proceed much more smoothly in subsequent years.

BICC has consistently been told that studentships could not exceed the five-year lifespan of the centre, and we have structured the timing and duration of studentships accordingly. As a result, only the year one studentships are full 1+4 or 2+3 ones. However, when a year 1 BICC studentship was postponed, BICC was initially informed that the studentship could only be re-offered the following year as a four year award, only to be told a year later that it could be offered as a five year award, i.e. extending to one year after the end of the BICC grant. More generally, it has transpired from a meeting of all heads of the LBAS centres in Glasgow in November 2007 that there is very considerable variation between centres in what the ESRC allows in the timing studentships, with at least one centre reportedly being allowed to start a full five-year studentship in the *final* year of that centre. We very strongly argue that all BICC studentships should be extended to the full five years, to allow all students the full and adequate language, area studies and disciplinary training needed for the new cadre of UK China specialists.

The Virtual Work and Learning Environment was offered to tender at the start of 2007, with a view to work commencing in April 2007 and the project being completed in time for the 2007-2008 academic year. Owing to the University of Oxford's tendering procedures, however, the University's Purchasing Officer and Legal Services Department were involved in every stage from the selection of a preferred bidder to contract negotiation. The extra levels of consultation that this has created at each stage between departments within the University, and between the University and the supplier, have led to a delay of around 8 months. The lengthy and iterative procedure has now reached a stage where work, on a solid contractual basis, should commence in January 2008.

Vincent Ortet, in receipt of a 1+4 fees only studentship, withdrew from study at the end of his first year. His grant was added to the pool of studentships in the second year as a four-year (1+3) award.

5. Forward look

BICC's online presence

BICC will continue to develop its core website in 2007-2008, developing its working papers collection and an archive of written and presentation materials from BICC's seminars, workshops, conferences, and visiting speaker programmes. BICC will also expand its public engagement programme through the website. The principle online project for 2007-2008 will be the creation of the Virtual Working and Learning Environment that will, by the end of 2008, provide an essential tool for BICC students and fellows, with a view to its expansion for wider use in 2008-2009 and beyond.

Research

In the next two years, BICC will shift its main focus from capacity building and course development to research and user engagement. As outlined in sections 2 and 3, BICC staff are currently developing a range of projects that will be pump-primed with BICC funds in the year 2007-8 with a view to developing first-class applications for external funding in years 2, 3 and 4 of BICC. Currently, proposals are developed or are already submitted to the Leverhulme Foundation, the Social Sciences Research Council (US), the James Martin School for 21st Century Research. Further applications are expected to the ESRC, AHRC and the British Academy.

Course development

A Masters in Chinese Studies, based in the CEAS, is under discussion at Bristol, with a proposed initial timetable for possible development in 2007-8, coming on to the books in 2008-9. This would build on the existing MSc in East Asian Studies and would incorporate research training options in social science research (using existing training units from the Social Sciences Faculty), or in relevant humanities fields, as well as language training. In the medium/long-term Bristol's School of Modern Languages has discussed the strategic case for developing a BA in Mandarin, which would involve significantly augmenting the Chinese studies capacity at Bristol. In Oxford, the one year M.Sc. in Modern Chinese Studies has now been approved for commencement in 2008-9.

6. Budget issues

The profile payment of the award means that actual expenditure within categories will match that of the award over the Centre's lifetime but is unlikely to during any particular year. For 2006-2007 there have been two issues of note in this respect. The first is that, as per the original application, consumables expenditure has been front-loaded, with new office equipment and PCs and peripherals for new appointees all being purchased within the first year of the project. The virtual learning environment, for which up to £90,000 was budgeted, was expected to be paid for this year, but delays have meant that the project will now be paid for in the 2007-2008 financial year. Again, this means that actual expenditure will not follow the profile of payments.

The main budgetary underspend for 2006-2007 has arisen from the late appointment of staff. The Postdoctoral Fellow in Chinese Philosophy was in place as planned for the beginning of 2007-2008, but four of the appointments due to begin in 2006 suffered a degree of delay varying from 2 to 11 months. The partners have dealt with this underspend in different ways. Bristol have employed a temporary part-time Career Development Fellow, whilst substantial amounts of the Oxford and Manchester salary underspend have contributed to research and dissemination activities.

7. Brief reports on activities of individual research staff members and research students

BICC Directors

Professor Robert Bickers

Bickers led two main research projects in 2006-7. The first is an AHRC-funded project "History of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service." He delivered papers at the Institute of Historical Research (London), Columbia University, Hong Kong University and the Academia Sinica in Taiwan. Secondly, he led a team locating and digitising historical photographs of China located in the UK. Funded by AHRC, the project has delivered an open-access website, "Historical Photographs of China" (<http://chp.ish-lyon.cnrs.fr/>), and in autumn 2007 an exhibition and book. The project is based on a collaboration with the Institut d'Asie Orientale, Lyon, and UK colleagues. Bickers was awarded a University of Bristol public engagement award for this and related work. A presentation on this work was made by Bickers at the Co-Reach (Co-ordination of Research between Europe And China) conference organized by the British Academy and the Royal Society. Bickers was also invited to join a panel celebrating (and critiquing) the career and work of Paul A. Cohen at the American Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting in Boston in March 2007. This paper will be published in the journal *The Chinese Historian*. Bickers also co-organised (with Dr Ray Yep, at City University Hong Kong) a conference marking the 40th anniversary of the anti-British movement in Hong Kong in 1967. The papers are now contracted to Hong Kong University Press for publication in 2008.

Professor William A. Callahan

Callahan worked on two projects in 2006-7. For the first project, "Security, Identity and the Rise of China," Callahan received grants from the British Academy to conduct research on as a visiting fellow at Taiwan's Academia Sinica (October-November 2006) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences – Institute of World Economics and Politics in Beijing (April 2007). The result of this research in 2006-7 is two essay-chapters: "Trauma and Community: The Visual Politics of Chinese Nationalism and Sino-Japanese Relations" and "National Humiliation Maps, Lost Territories and China's Geobody." "Trauma and Community" has been accepted by *Theory & Event*, and will be published in late 2007 or early 2008. "National Humiliation Maps" is under consideration at *Public Culture*, and benefited from presentations at the two BICC partners, Bristol and Oxford. Callahan's second research project examines how Chinese ideas impact international relations theory. For the BICC Launch Conference he explored these issues by co-convening the "Tradition and Modernity in Chinese Foreign Policy" panel. For the 2007 International Studies Association annual conference in Chicago, he was asked to convene a panel "Politics, Policy and Responsible Scholarship in Pacific Asia," and presented a paper "Chinese visions of world order: Tianxia, empire and the world" for another panel. Callahan was asked to present a similar paper for a July 2007 workshop at Peking University on China's soft power. A long version of the essay is available as a BICC working paper, and Callahan has been commissioned to submit shorter versions to a special issue of *International Studies Review* and to CASS's *Shijie jingji yu zhengzhi-World Economics and Politics*.

Dr Frank Pieke

Pieke worked on two main projects in 2006-7. The first project was funded by the ESRC on "How to Be a Good Communist in Reform-era China: Moulding the Agents of the State in Contemporary China." From this research Pieke published one BICC working paper and presented papers at Tsinghua University in Beijing and Cambridge University. He also presented a paper at the panel "The ethnography of ideology in contemporary China" that he organized with Andrew Kipnis at the American Anthropological Association meeting in San Jose in November 2006. He is currently writing a monograph with the working title "Market Leninism" that will be completed by December 2008. The second project was funded by the International Labour Organization on "Working conditions of Chinese irregular immigrants in the UK." This project yielded a report for the ILO, a BICC working paper (together with Xiang Biao) and paper presentations at Tsinghua and Peking universities. A revised version of the BICC working paper has been submitted to the International Migration Review.

BICC Postdoctoral Fellows

Dr Elena Barabantseva, BICC Career Development Fellow/Lecturer in Chinese International Relations, University of Manchester

In the first year of the BICC postdoctoral fellowship Dr Barabantseva built on her doctoral research project, developing it into several publications, including four research articles and a manuscript proposal. She undertook a three week research trip to Beijing's Central University for Nationalities in April-May 2007, where she presented a guest lecture, "The Non-Territorial Character of China's National Project." In the first semester of 2006/07 she designed and taught an MA course "Perspectives on Contemporary China", which was compulsory for students enrolled in the MA in Contemporary China, and available to postgraduate students across the School of Social Sciences. She organised and chaired four research seminars for the Centre for Chinese Studies (CCS) in the second semester, including joint BICC/CCS events. Since January 2007 she has been acting as a PhD panel advisor for Liyun Yao, a PhD student in the Centre for Chinese Studies working on the overseas Chinese communities in the UK. Dr Barabantseva was co-convenor of the panel, "Tradition and Modernity in Chinese Foreign Policy" for the BICC Launch Conference.

Dr Regina Llamas, Fellow in Chinese Language and Culture, University of Bristol
Dr Llamas has been in post since October 2006. This year she has taught the Advanced Mandarin unit for Masters Students, and the individual reading course at beginner level. She has organized two outreach programmes, both of which will be ongoing in the coming academic year. The first is a Chinese club in the Portishead cluster of schools, beginning in year four, with the aim of continuing until students take their GCSEs. The second is a series of BICC lectures, held every two months, at the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute, that are part of the World Affairs Group at the BRLSI. She is working on a book, "A Critical History of Chinese Southern Theatre", and had a paper accepted by the journal *Asian Major*. Dr Llamas was co-convenor of the panel, "The Internationalisation of Late Qing and Twentieth Century China" at the BICC Launch

Conference, and was academic secretary to the conference, “China, Italy, and the World”, held in Bristol and supported by BICC.

Ms Winnie King, Fellow in Chinese International Political Economy, University of Bristol

Winnie King arrived in post in December 2006. Since then she has completed and submitted her DPhil dissertation, “The Role of Civil Society in the Formation of Taiwan’s Cross-strait Policy.” She has had a paper published in *Berliner China-Hefte/Chinese History and Society*, Vol. 32 that will also be part of an edited book to be published by Routledge in 2008. She is co-editor of the BICC Working Paper series and was co-convenor of a panel on Business and International Political Economy for the BICC Launch Conference. In July and August she completed a course in Chinese with the IUP program at Tsinghua University, focusing on Chinese characters, and formal Chinese speaking and reading levels, before travelling to Taiwan to gather data in preparation for transforming her dissertation into a book.

Dr Anna Lora-Wainwright, Postdoctoral Fellow in Contemporary Chinese Culture and Society, University of Manchester

Dr Lora-Wainwright has been in post from 1 July 2007. She was a convenor of the panel, “Environment, Development, and Public Health” for the BICC Launch Conference, and has already arranged a fortnightly seminar series on, “Environment and Health in China – Interdisciplinary Perspectives” for the forthcoming academic year.

Mr Dirk Meyer, Postdoctoral Fellow in Chinese Philosophy, University of Oxford
Mr Meyer took up his post from 1 October 2007.

Dr Rachel Murphy, University Lecturer in the Sociology of China

Dr Murphy took up her post on 1 September 2007. She has been conducting research into the sex ratio distortions in rural China. She has been pursuing this through two inter-related projects. One project, for which follow-up fieldwork was conducted 26th September to 5th October, involved collaborative fieldwork with Chinese scholars on the effects of social and cultural institutions, in particular kinship arrangements, on son preference in rural areas. The other project has been exploring more generally government measures to enhance gender equality in rural areas. She has also recently finished writing the introduction and the editing of a collection of policy-oriented essays originally commissioned by IOM on Labour Migration and Social Development in Contemporary China which will be published by Routledge in 2008.

Dr Catherine Ladds

Dr Ladds took up her post on 1 July 2007. She has primarily worked on improving her research profile and language skills. During the summer she conducted research in the Chinese Customs Service archive held in the Second Historical Archives of China, Nanjing. This additional research will form the basis of two articles. The first, “‘The Life Career of us All’: Germans and Britons in the Chinese Customs Service, 1854-1917,” was completed during the summer and will be published in *Berliner China-Hefte: Chinese History and Society* in early 2008. She is currently in the process of writing the

second of these articles, 'Charles Mason, "King of China": The Customs and the Gelaohui uprising of 1891'. From July until mid-October she also worked as co-curator of an exhibition of historical photographs of China, 'Picturing China: Photographs in British Collections, 1870-1950,' now showing at the Brunei Gallery, London.

BICC Research Students

Isabella Jackson, University of Bristol (Masters component being taken at Oxford)
Isabella has successfully completed the first year of Oxford's MPhil Modern Chinese Studies, the first half of the year spent in Oxford and the second in China. She has chosen a topic for my MPhil dissertation and begun collecting relevant sources and materials, both in English and Chinese. She has also helped to re-launch the China Postgraduate Network, supported by BICC, which she is now running.

Jonathan Howlett, University of Bristol (Masters component being taken at Oxford)
Jonathan has successfully completed the first year of my MPhil in Modern Chinese Studies at the University of Oxford. This course involved a four month period of language training at Beijing University. Following completion of the language course he conducted research for his MPhil dissertation, provisionally titled 'The Chinese Maritime Customs Service and the Chinese Civil War: The End of the Customs', at the Second Historical Archives in Nanjing.

Mike Gow, University of Bristol

During the 2006-7 academic year Mike Gow was awarded a distinction in his MSc in East Asian Studies at the Centre for East Asian Studies, University of Bristol, focussing on the developing role of China within the wider context of Asia and the historical context of China's recent developments. His MSc dissertation focused on the decision making process utilized by Chinese students when choosing an overseas University.

Nicola Horsburgh, University of Oxford

Nicola Horsburgh passed the first year qualifying exams of the two-year MPhil degree course in Modern Chinese Studies. From October 2006-March 2007, she completed the Introduction to Modern China core paper, and Chinese language requisites. From March 2007-August 2007, she completed intensive language courses at Beijing University, China. During her time in China, she also conducted research at Beijing University and Tsinghua University in preparation for her MPhil dissertation.

David Tobin, University of Manchester

David passed the MA in Contemporary China with Distinction at the University of Manchester, with modules in Chinese Language for Beginners, Perspectives on Contemporary China, Research Methods in Chinese Studies, Global Politics of China, Directed Reading Course, and a Dissertation. From September 2007 he has been undertaking intensive language training at Xinjiang Normal University.

Appendix 1

Highlights

During its first year, BICC focussed on capacity building, student recruitment, course development and development of its network of academic and non-academic contacts. BICC also set up full governance structures to administer its own affairs and to embed BICC activities fully in the three partner institutions.

In September or October the first seven BICC postgraduate students started their five year BICC scholarships. Masters courses were developed at all three partners and full postgraduate study pathways were mapped out for all BICC-funded students. BICC set its own language teaching and learning conventions, which are to be used as guidelines for the standardization of teaching and testing within the three partner institutions. BICC has drawn up language course structures for students at foundation and intermediate levels at Manchester and Bristol, and at advanced level in Oxford.

Despite the short lead time between the award of the funding and the start of BICC, all planned appointments were made in this review period, albeit in several cases later than scheduled.

A website has been built that provides information about BICC staff, activities and research projects. It also acts as a medium for a series of working papers, and hosts the website for the China Postgraduate Network

The three-day BICC launch conference in June 2007 was a pivotal event in the first year, setting the direction for BICC's user engagement, research strategy and Chinese language teaching.

Appendix 2

Staff Employed

- **Dr Frank Pieke**, Director, University of Oxford, 0.33 FTE from 1 October 2006
- **Prof Robert Bickers**, Co-Director, University of Bristol, 0.167 FTE from 1 October 2006
- **Prof William A. Callahan**, Co-Director, University of Manchester, 0.167 FTE. From 1 October 2006
- **Dr Elena Barabantseva**, BICC Career Development Fellow/Lecturer in Chinese International Relations, University of Manchester, 1 FTE, from 1 October 2006
- **Dr Anna Lora-Wainwright**, BICC Career Development Fellow/Lecturer in Contemporary Chinese Culture and Society, University of Manchester 1 FTE, from 1 July 2007
- **Ms Winnie King**, Postdoctoral Fellow in Chinese International Political Economy, University of Bristol, 1 FTE, from 1 December 2006
- **Dr Regina Llamas**, Postdoctoral Fellow in Chinese Language and Culture, University of Bristol, 1 FTE, from 1 October 2006
- **Mr Dirk Meyer**, Postdoctoral Fellow in Chinese Philosophy, University of Oxford, 1 FTE, from 1 October 2007
- **Dr Rachel Murphy**, University Lecturer in the Sociology of China, University of Oxford, 1 FTE, from 1 September 2007
- **Ms Hu Bo**, Instructor in Chinese Language, University of Oxford, 1 FTE, from 1 April 2007
- **Mr Dan Holloway**, Administrator, University of Oxford, 1 FTE, from 1 October 2007
- **Dr Catherine Ladds**, BICC Career Development Fellow (p/t), University of Bristol, from 1 July 2006-29 Feb 2009

Appendix 3

Training funded

Masters Students Funded, Commencing Study

- **David Tobin**, 2006: MA in Contemporary China, University of Manchester
- **Mike Gow**, 2006, MSc in East Asian Studies, University of Manchester
- **Jonathan Howlett**, 2006, MPhil in Modern Chinese Studies, University of Oxford
- **Isabella Jackson**, 2006, MPhil in Modern Chinese Studies, University of Oxford
- **Nicola Horsburgh**, 2006, MPhil in Modern Chinese Studies, University of Oxford

Appendix 4

Budget

Total budget for year: £719,859

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Staff Costs | 238,715 |
| Consumables | |
| Equipment | 6,407 |
| Travel and Subsistence | 30,178 |
| Other | 50,549 |
| Overheads | |
| Total Direct Costs | 325,849 |
| Staff | 38,719 |
| Estates | 43,353 |
| Access & Facilities | |
| Total Directly Allocated (FEC Only) | 82,102 |
| Indirect Costs (FEC Only) | 311,908 |
| Total Budget | 719,859 |

Appendix 5

BICC Advisory Board

Lord Patten (chair), Vice-chancellor, University of Oxford

Dame Professor Jessica Rawson (in the chair), Warden of Merton College, specialist in early China

Mr Khalid Malik, Head of the UN in China

Dr Baige Zhao, Vice-Minister for Family Planning and Population Control, PRC

Mr Lance Browne, Head of Standard Chartered Bank in China

Dr Sarah Cook, Institute for Development Studies

Professor Tom Gold, University of California, Berkeley, contemporary Chinese Society

Mr Rod Wye, FCO Research Analyst, Asia

Mr James Kynge

Mr Sebastian Wood, FCO, Director of Asia Pacific unit

Professor Roderick MacFarquhar, Harvard

Mr Will Hutton, The Work Foundation

Dr Jennifer Holdaway, Program Director, Social Sciences Research Council (US)

Appendix 6
Publications

| Type | Author | Title | Journal/ publisher | Volume/Issue/Date | Pages | ISBN/ISSN |
|-----------------|--|---|--|-------------------|---------|---|
| Journal article | Robert Bickers | Transforming Frank Peasgood: Family photographs and Shanghai narratives | European Journal of East Asian Studies | 6.1 2007 | 111-122 | 1568-0584 |
| Journal article | Robert Bickers | Chinabound: Crossing borders in treaty port China | History in Focus | 11 Autumn 2006 | | http://www.history.ac.uk/ihr/Focus/Migration/articles/bickers.html |
| Journal article | William Callahan | Future Imperfect: The European Union's Encounter with China (and the United States) | Journal of Strategic Studies | 30.4 2007 | 777-807 | 0140-2390 |
| Journal article | Winnie King | From Exclusive to Adaptive National Identity: Taiwan's Mainland Spouses' Immigration Policy | Berliner China-Hefte/Chinese History and Society | 32 2007 | 140-159 | 978-3-8258-0431-2 |
| Journal article | Frank Pieke | Community and Identity in the New Chinese Migration Order | Population, Space and Place | 13.2 2007 | 81-94 | 1544-8444 |
| Journal article | Frank Pieke (with Nicholas Van Hear, Anna Lindley) | Beyond Control? The Mechanics and Dynamics of 'Informal' Remittances between Europe and Africa | Global Networks | 7.3 2007 | 348-366 | 1470-2266 |
| Journal article | Catherine Ladds | The life career of us all: Britons and Germans in the Chinese Maritime Customs Service, 1854-1917 | Berliner China-Hefte/Chinese History and Society | October 2007 | | |
| Journal article | Regina Llamas | Revenge and the Fate of the Ungrateful Scholar in Early Chinese Southern | Asia Major | 20.2 2007 | | 0004-4482 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|---|--|-----------|---------|-------------------|--|--|
| | | Drama | | | | | | |
| Book | Robert Bickers (ed. With R.G. Tiedemann) | The Boxers, China, and the World | Rowman and Littlefield | 2007 | 272 | 9780742553941 | | |
| Book Chapter | William Callahan (Liu Fei, David Kerr) | Comparative Regionalism: The Logic of Governance in Europe and East Asia | OUP | 2007 | 231-258 | 978-0-19-726408-9 | | |
| Edited volume | Frank Pieke (with Janett Salaff) | New Chinese Diasporas | special edition of Population, Space and Place | 13.2 2007 | | 1544-8444 | | |