2022 年後中國研究的十字路口:新典範或新方法

中共20大後,習近平成功進入第三任期的同時,也為目前既有的中國研究帶來相當程度的挑戰,中國的黨政運作及政治繼承機制已突破1978年以來的共識及規範。支撐中國崛起最重要的經濟層面,在許多國際專家看來,未來數年的前景都並不樂觀。在此同時,中共的政策出現不少內在衝突,例如中國對歐美國家的攻擊性日益增強的同時,對發展中國家的態度卻又和緩、中國地方財政困境日益嚴峻,但中央又表明無意援助。種種現象反映著中國內部黨政軍經情勢的弔詭及衝突之處,明顯已超越現有中國研究的典範。

此外,近十年來,隨著中國不斷修訂國安法規、緊縮言論空間與提升對社會的控制能力,即便不存在 COVID-19 的影響,赴陸田野調查及蒐集資料的成本與風險也越來越高,而在習近平持續主政下的今天,這樣的趨勢將無可避免地持續,未來應如何蒐集資料、找到指標檢視中國的黨政軍經動向?這些問題均值得討論。在前述的背景下,遠景基金會季刊預計以下述方向在 2023 年 12 月舉行研討會,研討會的邀稿方向如下:

- (一)習近平的第三任期與其類似毛澤東的個人風格及政策究竟將對未來的中國產生甚麼影響?
- (二)在大幅提升的民族自信心及專業的外交判斷之間,中國的外交政策如何兼顧實際利益與國家聲望?
- (三)中國經濟內外環境的各種不利因素,以及地方政府的財政困境交織下,將對中國未來的經濟發展或政府能力產生何種影響?
- (四)網路監控能力的提升賦予中國對社會更廣泛的監控能力,而中國的 監控能力及意願會否超越疆界?若果,是否將挑戰現有的主權觀及 國際法?
- (五)星鏈在烏克蘭戰場的成功與未來 6G 的走向暗示著網路頻寬將顯著 擴大、透過網路監控社會及指揮戰事的難度將大幅降低。尤其,人 工智慧近來的快速進步,更將重塑人類生活與國家政策的每個層 面。上述這些轉變將如何影響中國的發展?而美國對中國高科技產 業的制裁又將對中國造成何種影響?
- (六)其他有助於解釋、甚至預測當代中國政策或發展的典範或方法。

遠景基金會季刊歡迎符合前述議題的文章投稿,中文文稿字數以 20000 字 為限,英文文稿字數則以 9000 字為限,格式體例請參考遠景基金會季刊最新相 關規定。

Call for Papers:

Conference on the Crossroad of China Study after 2022: A New Paradigm or New Methodologies?

Xi Jinping's successful securing of a third term during the 20th CCP Congress in 2022 presents novel challenges for contemporary China Studies. The preexisting dynamics of Chinese politics, political succession, and foreign policy have all undergone significant changes, impinging upon the consensus and norms established since 1978. Consequently, our current comprehension of China proves inadequate for thorough explanations and reliable predictions. At the same time, incoherence of the logics across various policy domains have turned increasingly salient. For instance, while China's stance towards Western nations has become increasingly assertive, its disposition towards developing countries remains tolerant. In addition, as local governments in China find themselves more severely mired in financial crises, the central government resolutely refrains from offering necessary assistance. These realities encapsulate contradictions and paradoxes within China, indicating that the prevailing paradigms in China Studies warrant a reassessment and perhaps reformulation.

Moreover, China has enhanced its social control capabilities by amending national security regulations and constricting freedom of speech in recent years. The costs and risks associated with conducting field studies and collecting information have escalated, independent of COVID-19's influence. Under the current conditions in Xi's third term, this trend appears to have intensified. Accordingly, refreshed discussions on information collection for research and identification of empirical indicators for examining China's present development and future trajectory are warranted.

In light of these considerations, we welcome submissions that address this transformation in the field of China Studies. Are we in need of a new paradigm, or should we explore new methodologies, in response to the rapidly changing realities? We invite contributions that contemplate and elucidate this pivotal juncture in contemporary China studies. *Prospect Quarterly* plans to host an academic conference in December 2023, with the following themes guiding the submissions and discussions:

- 1. What influence on China's future will stem from Xi's third term and his personal traits/policy initiatives similar to those of Mao Zedong?
- 2. How will China balance its substantive interests and national reputation in the face of rising domestic nationalism and professional judgments on the international situation?
- 3. What will be the impact on China's economic development and its government

- capacity within the context of the internal and external factors that hamper China's growth, and financial difficulties of China's local governments?
- 4. The advancement of China's technology and its online surveillance capabilities have turned a pillar for the party-state's domestic ruling power. Will China's capabilities be extended beyond its borders? If so, will such a development challenge the shared norms of sovereignty and international laws in the global community?
- 5. The success of Starlink in the Ukraine war and the predicted future proliferation of the 6G communication technology suggest that bandwidth will be significantly expanded, thus drastically reducing the difficulty for national governments to monitor the society and command troops on the battlefield. Above all, the rapid development of artificial intelligence recently has opened up a new epoch where every aspect of our daily life will be reshaped. How will all the transformations above influence China's development? And what are the existing and forthcoming impacts of US sanctions on China's high-technology industries?
- 6. Other paradigms or methodologies that can strengthen the effectiveness to explain or predict China's policies or developments.

The Prospect Quarterly welcomes submissions that provide a critical explorations of these themes. Submissions written in Chinese should not exceed 20,000 words, while those written in English should be restricted to 9,000 words. The format and style should be consistent with the newly revised guidelines.