

MEDIA RELEASE

**Announcing the 4th Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC)
Conference**

Sustainability: social and environmental issues

16-18 November 2016

Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China

NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

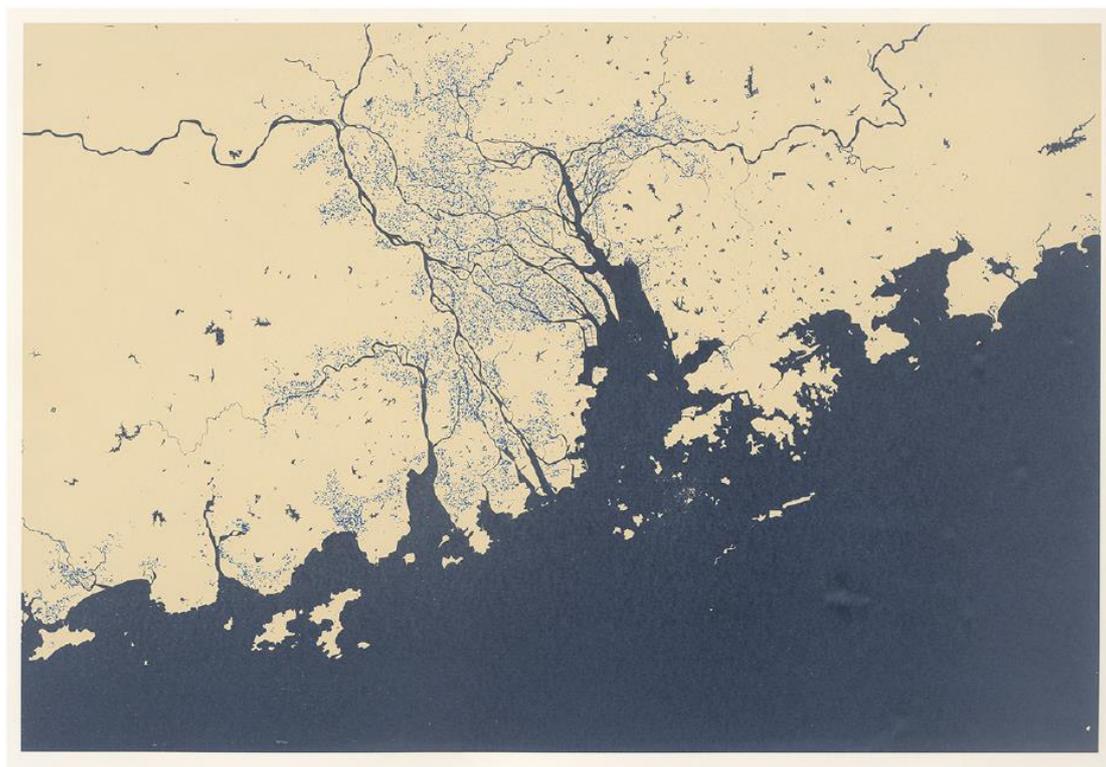


Image: Lucas Ihlein with John Causley, Guangzhou Delta Haiku (Sea Level Rise Map - light blue indicates areas already at or below sea level in the Pearl River Delta), 2016, Screenprint on paper, 100x70cm. Printers: Liang Yonghao and Han Xueyi at Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts. Courtesy of the artist.

Sponsored by the Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC), in partnership with the Centre for Australian Studies and the Center for Oceanian Studies at Sun Yat-sen University, and the Australian Studies Centre at Peking University, the FASIC Conference is the most prestigious annual Australian Studies conference held in China. The Conference is convened by the BHP Billiton Chair of Australian Studies at Peking University, Professor Gregory McCarthy.

Between November 16 and 18, scholars from across the globe will join their Chinese and Australian counterparts in a truly international gathering in the dynamic port city of Guangzhou, on the Pearl River Delta.

The Conference's aim is to share knowledge and mutual understanding by showcasing high quality research on Australia and promoting Australian Studies as an internationally lively and engaging field of inquiry. With the theme of *Sustainability: social and environmental issues*, this year's event will address a broad range of topics in the fields of innovation, history, cultural studies, media and communications, education, international relations, linguistics and literature.

From the University of Western Australia, BHP Billiton Chair of Australian Studies, Professor McCarthy is the second Professor to be appointed as the Chair for a two year term (2016-18). The role of the Chair is to enhance Australian Studies at Peking University and to support the strong network of the 40+ Australian Studies Centres located at other universities and research institutes across China. The FASIC Conference is a flagship annual event.

Professor McCarthy said *"The conference theme of sustainability addresses many contemporary issues and problems that the two countries share in common."*

"The conference brings together international scholarship to address how Australia-China relations can be sustained and deepened by the collaborative sharing of ideas and research in the multiple fields of the Australia-China relationship, the environment and global education."

The first FASIC conference *Australia's China/China's Australia: Past, Present and Future* was held at Peking University in 2013. The second FASIC Conference *The Big Picture: Lives, Landscapes, Homelands in Australian and Chinese Art* was held at Renmin University of China in 2014. The Third FASIC Conference *Contested Histories and the Politics of Memory* was held at East China Normal University, Shanghai in 2015.

Attending the Conference: The conference is open to the public and attendance is free with registration. To register contact: info@fasic.org.au

For further program details: www.fasic.org.au

Media enquiries: Featured speakers and Conference Convenor, Professor Gregory McCarthy, are available for interview on request. For all media enquiries, please contact: info@fasic.org.au.

About FASIC

FASIC is an independent non-profit foundation in Australia established to support Australian Studies Centres located across China and to provide funding and other support to the BHP Billiton Chair of Australian Studies located at Peking University in Beijing, the People's Republic of China. FASIC plays a significant role in the promotion of Australian Studies in China and looks to further expand and strengthen research and teaching collaboration between Australian and Chinese universities. FASIC provides grants and scholarships to Australian and Chinese scholars. A key initiative of the Foundation is the BHP Billiton Chair of Australian Studies at Peking University. On November 26, 2012, two Australian Ministers announced the appointment of the inaugural Chair, Professor David Walker from Deakin University, who served as the Chair from 2013 to 2016. The current Chair is Professor Gregory McCarthy from the University of Western Australia.

FASIC is supported by BHP Billiton, Universities Australia, the Australia-China Council of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Allens and Linklaters, PWC Australia and HHK Advisory.

About Professor Gregory McCarthy

Professor McCarthy holds a Personal Chair of Australian Politics at the University of Western Australia. His main research interests and extensive publications are on Australian politics and political culture. His research focuses on transitional change within and between nations, exploring how material, cultural and political forces create instability and how nations, institutions and people adapt to uncertainty. His seminal book *Things Fall Apart: A History of the State Bank of South Australia*, analysed the dynamic relations between global financial change and its dramatic effect on public banking in Australia. Recently, he has written on the internationalisation of Australian higher education effected by Chinese students studying in Australia, and the steady growth of Australian students studying in China. He has also explored the political implications of the conversion of Australian higher education from an elite to a mass education system. In addition, he has investigated the international relationship between Australia and China as read through a transcultural lens.

About Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou

Sun Yat-sen University is a top tier comprehensive university located in Guangzhou, the capital city of the southern Chinese province of Guangdong. It has four campuses – three in Guangzhou and one in the sea-side city of Zhuhai. Sun Yat-sen University's main Guangzhou campus, known as the south campus, is a picturesque leafy campus with expansive lawns, beautiful gardens, a wide range of flowering and fragrant trees and shrubs, statues, lotus ponds, and attractive red brick buildings dating from the early 20th Century. Both the Centre for Australian Studies and the Center for Oceanian Studies are located on the south campus. The FASIC conference will be held in the School of Foreign Languages building which also hosts the Centre for Australian Studies. It is close to the main south gate of the south campus. Guangzhou is easily accessible by air with a well-appointed international and domestic airport, and also accessible by train within China, with modern train stations linking to Hong Kong and other major Chinese cities, including Beijing.

FASIC is proudly supported by BHP Billiton.

The 4th FASIC Conference is generously supported by the Australian Consulate General Guangzhou.