

MEDIA RELEASE

**Announcing the 6th Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC)
Conference**

*Global Connections:
Space, Place and Shared Destiny*

1 – 4 November 2018, Sichuan Normal University, Chengdu, China

NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATIONS

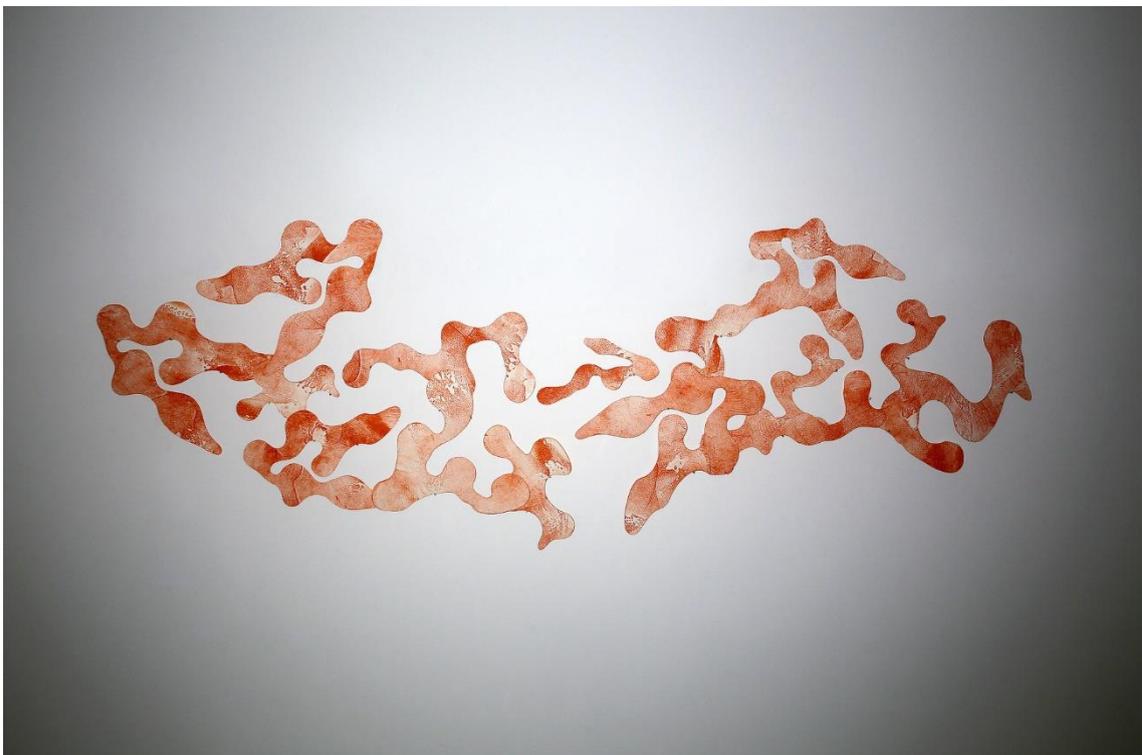


Image: Amanda Allarding, *Orange*, 2017, Collograph assemblage, 240 x 100 cm. Courtesy of the artist

Hosted by
Australian Studies Centre, Sichuan Normal University, Chengdu

Convened by
**Professor Gregory McCarthy, BHP Chair of Australian Studies
at Peking University**

Co-organised by
School of International Studies, Peking University

Sponsored by
The Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC)

The 6th FASIC conference will bring together over 60 scholars from a range of academics to share knowledge and mutual understanding by highlighting recent research on Australia and to promote Australian Studies as an international, lively, and engaging field of inquiry. The Conference is an exciting place for the many participant academics, researchers, post-graduate and other students to engage in the debates.

Global Connections: Space, Place and Shared Destiny will build upon previous conferences' narrations of connectivity between Australia and China, whilst aiming to address new and uncharted areas of timely discussion. This year's host city, Chengdu, has a unique geographical and anthropological landscape, and host university, Sichuan Normal University, is renowned for its contribution to minority studies and cultural preservation. This offers an unprecedented opportunity for the 6th FASIC conference to embark on an in-depth discussion, including but not limited to: mobility; geography; environmental stability; international relations; social and economic studies; minority and gender studies; as well as real and imagined "spaces" between East and West in 2018. The notion of "shared destiny" will address global challenges from philosophical, cultural, scientific and innovative viewpoints, aiming to construct knowledge pathways to benefit local and global communities.

The annual FASIC Conference is convened by Professor Gregory McCarthy, BHP Chair of Australian Studies at Peking University, and hosted by the Australian Studies Centre, Sichuan Normal University.

Professor McCarthy says, "This sixth FASIC Conference is an overwhelming opportunity for students, academics and researchers to meet and exchange perspectives with leading Australian Studies practitioners. The forum coincides with the 40th anniversary of the Australia China Council, which has been a long-time supporter of Australian Studies in China. This is a fitting time to explore the future of Australian studies particularly in relation to Asia."

Professor Badeng Nima, Dean of the Faculty of Education and Director of the Australian Studies Centre at Sichuan Normal University says, "In the spirit of knowledge sharing and mutual understanding, it is anticipated that this conference will foster people-to-people relations between Australia and China, whilst highlighting the shared nature of global communities and ecosystems."

For program details visit: 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 John Paul Grima jpgrima@fasic.org.au or +86 1771 0383 551.

Attending the Conference: The conference is open to the public and attendance is free, although registration is required. To register to attend the conference, please visit fasic.org.au/form/ and complete the online webform by 10 October 2018.

About Foundation for Australian Studies in China

The Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC) is a not-for-profit organisation registered in Australia. FASIC supports existing and future initiatives which deepen awareness of Australia in China across a range of disciplines and fields of study. 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 professionals. A key initiative of the Foundation is the BHP Chair of Australian Studies at Peking University.

FASIC is supported by BHP, the Australia-China Council of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and HKK Advisory.

About Professor Gregory McCarthy BHP Chair of Australian Studies at Peking University



The annual FASIC conference in China is convened and designed by Professor Gregory McCarthy, BHP Chair of Australian Studies at Peking University. The conference rotates on an annual basis and addresses a different theme with new speakers each year. 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, Professor McCarthy 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 the policies of contemporary Australian governments.

About Sichuan Normal University

Sichuan Normal University (SNU) is the largest provincial university, with the most comprehensive Undergraduate, Masters and Doctoral courses offered among universities and colleges in Sichuan province. It has approximately 35,000 students with 32,000 full-time undergraduates and 3,000 graduate students. There are about 3,000 faculty and staff, of whom 770 are professors and associate professors. 17 academicians of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering have accepted SNU positions as chief, part-time or emeritus professors.





About The School of International Studies at Peking University

The School of International Studies at Peking University is the first of its kind ever established in a Chinese university. It is an important institution in China for the training of specialists in international affairs, diplomacy and foreign policy. In the 2017 QS rankings, the School is ranked number one in China and globally it is ranked 26 in the world. It possesses 54 academics, with 29 full professors, 22 associate professors and three lecturers; reaching across five departments and three institutes. In 2017, the school had 455 undergraduates, 355 postgraduate students and 189 doctoral students, including 323 international students in total.

#FASIC6

Please follow the conference on social media with the #FASIC6 hashtag.
Previous conferences:

1st FASIC Conference - 2013, Peking University, Beijing

2nd FASIC Conference - 2014, Renmin University of China, Beijing

3rd FASIC Conference - 2015, East China Normal University, Shanghai

4th FASIC Conference - 2016, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou

5th FASIC Conference - 2017, Jiangsu Normal University, Xuzhou