

MEDIA RELEASE

**Announcing the 3rd Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC)
Conference**

***Contested Histories and
the Politics of Memory***

22 – 25 October 2015, East China Normal University, Shanghai

NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATIONS

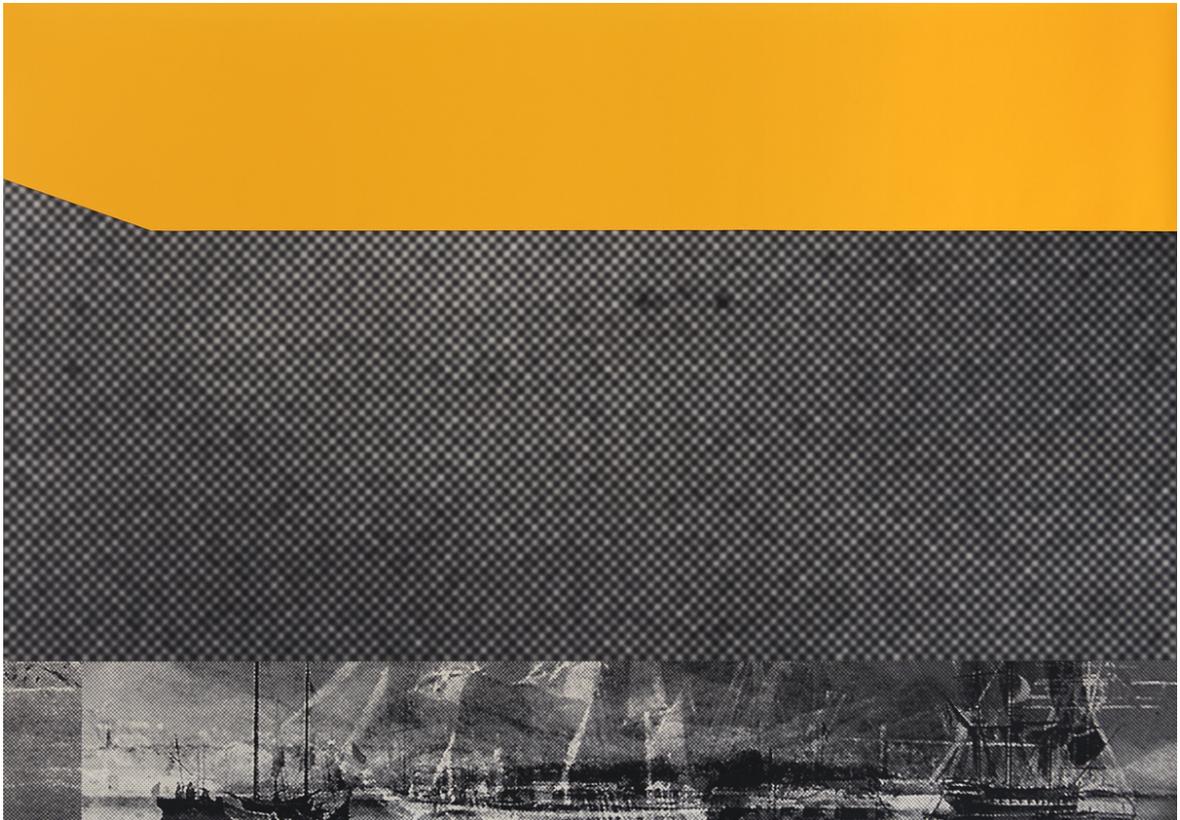


Image: John Young Zerunge, *The Illustrious Fleet of Lowe Kong Meng*, 2015, digital print and felt on canvas, 320 x 151 cm. Courtesy the artist

Presented by
**Australian Studies Centre, East China Normal University and
Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC)**

Convened by
**Professor David Walker BHP Billiton Chair of Australian Studies at
Peking University**

The 3rd Foundation for Australian Studies in China (FASIC) Conference, the largest of its kind to be held between Australia and China, will bring together over **70 scholars from 12 countries** and a range of disciplines – International Relations, History, Politics, Cultural Studies and Literature – to discuss history, commemoration, language, identity and memory in Australia and the Asia-Pacific.

Leading Chinese scholars and students of Australian Studies from over **15 institutions across China** will participate in the conference, including a cohort of 20 students, who have been shortlisted to participate in the Conference's inaugural *Student Poster Session*.

Contested Histories and the Politics of Memory will consider how societies remember, record and commemorate the past in order to explore differing interpretations of the same event and the act of commemoration itself.

Topics range from World War I to the politics of translation, from history wars to the position of Australian Studies in Asia.

The annual FASIC Conference is convened and designed by Professor David Walker, BHP Billiton Chair of Australian Studies at Peking University.

Professor Walker says, "This third FASIC Conference creates a wonderful opportunity for Chinese students, teachers and researchers to meet and share ideas with Australian Studies practitioners from Australia, the Asia-Pacific and Europe. We aim to make the FASIC Conference a major forum for the examination of Australia's past, present and future particularly in relation to Asia."

The first FASIC conference *Australia's China/China's Australia: Past, Present and Future* was held at Peking University in 2013, followed by *The Big Picture: Lives, Landscapes, Homelands in Australian and Chinese Art* at Renmin University of China in 2014.

2015 program highlights include:

- **Stephen FitzGerald**, Australia's first Ambassador to the People's Republic of China and Honorary Fellow at the China Studies Centre at the University of Sydney reflects on his time as Ambassador, and the former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam's historic visits to China in 1971 and 1973
- Professor **Feng Shaolei**, Dean of East China Normal University's School of Advanced International and Area Studies discusses the multi-level relations among China, Russia and Australia
- ABC Radio's **Richard Fidler** chairs a panel of Australian studies scholars from South Korea, China, India and Japan discussing the position of Australian Studies in Asia
- Australian artist **William Yang** presents a new storytelling performance *My Histories* for the first time in Shanghai

For full program visit: pkuasc.fasic.org.au

Media enquiries: Featured speakers and conference convenor, Professor David Walker, are available for interview on request. For all media enquiries, please contact Joanna Bayndrian joanna@creative-asia.net or +86 131 6142 9510.

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 email info@creative-asia.net by 27 September 2015.

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 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. He took up his new position in February 2013.

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 Riverstone Advisory.

About Professor David Walker BHP Billiton Chair of Australian Studies at Peking University

Professor Walker has written extensively on Australian representations of Asia. His prize-winning book, *Anxious Nation: Australia and the Rise of Asia, 1850 to 1939* (UQP, 1999) has been translated into Chinese and published by China Renmin University Press (2009). An English edition was published in India in the same year and a Hindi translation in 2015.

He is the co-editor with Agnieszka Sobocinska of *Australia's Asia: From Yellow Peril to Asian Century* (UWA Publishing, 2012). *Australia's Asia* has been translated into Chinese by academics in the Australian Studies Centre at Beijing Foreign Studies University.

A collection of his Asia-related essays has been published under the title *Encountering Turbulence: Asia in the Australian Imaginary* (Readworthy, 2013). His recently published personal history, *Not Dark Yet* has been translated into Chinese by Professor Li Yao, with the Chinese title 《光明行：家族的历史》 and published by The People's Literature Publishing House, Beijing (2014). Professor Walker is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He is

also Alfred Deakin Professor at Deakin University, Melbourne.

About East China Normal University

Founded in Shanghai in October 1951, East China Normal University (ECNU) is one of the most prestigious universities in China. With two campuses located in Minhang and Putuo District, ECNU has long been admired as a 'Garden University'. As the first normal (teacher training) university founded in the country after the establishment of the People's Republic of China, ECNU has kept teacher training as one of its main features and since China opened up to the world in 1978, ECNU has developed into a comprehensive research university.

ECNU attaches great importance to the internationalisation of its development and enjoys a wide influence and an excellent reputation around the world. The university has established exchange and cooperative partnerships with more than 150 internationally renowned universities and academic institutions. ECNU is steadily and enthusiastically working towards its goal of establishing itself as an internationally renowned high-level research university, with a number of first-class disciplines, while also taking the lead in the development of China's teacher training.

The Australian Studies Centre of East China Normal University was established in 1985. It carries out teaching activities for its students at both the undergraduate and postgraduate (MA and PhD) levels. Over a dozen academics and experts of the Centre have published extensively in areas including Australian literature, culture, politics, foreign relations, economy, education, history and society.

#FASIC2015

FASIC is proudly supported by BHP Billiton.

The 3rd FASIC Conference is generously supported by the Australian Consulate General Shanghai.