

Call for Papers

Graduate Conference:

“Rethinking State-Society Relations in Contemporary China”

10-11 May 2013

St Antony’s College, University of Oxford

Three decades of reforms in China have brought profound changes to the country’s socio-political structure. The phenomenal economic growth has given birth to new social groups receptive to a plurality of ideas and norms. The spread of the internet and the process of marketization allow them to better articulate their interests and organize themselves than ever before. The myriad of social issues, popular discontent and religious and ethnic tensions are also forcing the party-state to adapt new modes of governance and pursue new control strategies.

Making sense of this changing relationship is crucial to our understanding of China’s political and social development. Is the relatively empowered civil sector ready to push for more fundamental changes, or is the state simply reconfiguring power with new ways of exercising it? Or perhaps the very idea of state-society relations has become obsolete, ready to be replaced by new concepts that go beyond the dichotomy of state and society?

The conference examines the complex dynamics and transformations of state-society relations in China and aims to bring together students and researchers from diverse social science disciplines for an inter-disciplinary dialogue. Graduate students (both masters and doctoral levels) and early career researchers are invited to submit papers addressing, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Theoretical perspectives on state-society relations in China
- Social control, stability maintenance and governance
- Social organizations and international NGOs
- Social entrepreneurship and social innovation
- Cultural governance
- Media, Internet, propaganda and censorship
- Grassroots political participation and activism
- Religious development, ethnic issues and nationalism
- Specific social groups such as migrant workers, the middle class and elites and their relationship to the state

The one-day conference will be held on Saturday, **11 May 2013** at St Antony's College, Oxford. On the evening of Friday, 10 May 2013, there will be a roundtable discussion with Oxford faculty members on the theoretical and methodological issues of studying state-society relations in China. All conference participants are invited to the discussion and to the wine reception afterwards.

Submission Deadlines:

Please submit an abstract (no more than 1 page) of your research and your brief CV by **09 March 2013** to oxfordchina2013@gmail.com. If a travel grant is required, please give us an estimate of the travel expenses.

We will notify applicants whether their papers are accepted for the conference by **23 March 2013**. Successful applicants are required to submit their completed papers by **20 April 2013**.

Funding:

Free accommodation is provided for participants from outside Oxford. Limited funding is available to cover student travel cost to and from the conference within the UK.

The conference organizers acknowledge the generous financial support from the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford and the Annual Fund of St Antony's College, Oxford.