



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
RESEARCH DG HUMAN RESOURCES  
AND MOBILITY

SCF-LCF Periodic Activity Report

**Project No:** 29888

**Project Acronym:** China in the World

**Project Full Name:** China in the World. Postgraduate Research  
Summer School in Chinese Studies

## Marie Curie Actions

# SCF-LCF Periodic Activity Report

**Period covered:** from 01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008

**Date of preparation:** 11/03/2009

**Period number:** 3rd

**Start date of project:** 01/01/2006

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**Project coordinator name:**

**Duration:** 48

**Project coordinator organisation name:**  
University of Leeds

**Version:** 1

Marie Curie Actions  
SCF-LCF Periodic Activity Report

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>Project No:</b>	29888
<b>Project acronym:</b>	China in the World
<b>Project full name:</b>	China in the World. Postgraduate Research Summer School in Chinese Studies
<b>Period number:</b>	3rd
<b>Period covered - start date:</b>	01/01/2008
<b>Period covered - end date:</b>	31/12/2008
<b>Project start date:</b>	01/01/2006
<b>Project duration [months]:</b>	48
<b>Project coordinator name:</b>	
<b>Project coordinator organisation name:</b>	University of Leeds
<b>Date of submission:</b>	11/03/2009

## EVENTS SUMMARY

**Contractor:** University of Leeds

Event Type	Start Date	Duration in Days	Location		Event Participants				Funded Event Participants		
			Country	LFR	Total	Third Countries	Largest Nationality Group		Early Stage Researchers	Experienced Researchers	European Researchers Active Outside Europe
							Number	Country			
Training Course (TC)	15/07/2008	4	UK-United Kingdom	No	41	12	7	UK-United Kingdom	33	3	0

## GENERAL PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT

**Feasibility of the overall project:**

a) It is running as originally planned

**If you answered b) or c) please include a detailed description of the research problems encountered, deviations and/or modifications to the project during the reporting period.**

### Qualitative indicators of progress and success

The third summer school under this project was held in Bristol, UK, with the participation of 41 research students (junior and experienced researchers) and 19 trainers/speakers. A total of 61% of the participants were women. The 4-day event achieved well on all qualitative indicators.

Although it is difficult to quantify "increased knowledge and research skills", the feedback from a satisfaction survey of participants was overall very positive in terms of the strengths of the event and its importance for the development of participants' research practice. In particular, Chinese students said it was advantageous to practice their English oral presentation skills in the PhD presentations and informal exchanges. Other students appreciated the opportunity to practice their presentation skills. Many stated that feedback from these exchanges will be incorporated into their research methodology and was useful for gaining insight into projects, shedding light on potential problems in fieldwork and encouraging them to question their work.

Overall, the students found the summer school helpful for their own projects. The interdisciplinary approach and broad-based topics introduced them to new theories and approaches which helped them to either revise or reinforce their own methodology. For instance, the group work sessions on archival research given by Professor Chen Qianping and Professor Robert Bickers were highlighted as particularly useful. Participants appear to have learned a lot in other areas such as data collecting, interview techniques, etc.

One of the aims of the programme is to promote international collaboration between researchers, with an emphasis on establishing connections between researchers in China, Europe and the United States. This objective was achieved through the participation of researchers from 15 geographic regions, including 11 Europe nations, China, Japan, Australia, and the US. We had been expecting a higher number of participants, however, a considerable number of students pulled out of the Summer School just before its commencement for personal and other reasons. As a result of these last-minute registration changes, just under 30% of participants in this Summer School were third country nationals. The potential scope for cross-national networking was further highlighted by the fact that participants hailed from 32 different universities and institutes. Furthermore, a substantial number of participants were researching their PhDs outside the country or region of their national origin.

A retrospective survey of the long-term impact of the Summer Schools on alumni's research, networking, collaboration and careers conducted in February - March 2008, indicated that alumni are continuing to benefit hugely from the networking opportunities presented by the Summer Schools. One researcher said that by participating in one of the Summer Schools, she gained "connections that have helped my research over the last two years and may be helpful in the future." Another said that the friendships he developed at the Summer School "provided rich information about research conferences in my research area and potential research collaboration in the future." Other key perceived benefits were: presenting work and gaining feedback; building confidence; widening students' vision on future research; building upon working relationships with other students and engaging in joint projects; providing access to the latest developments in theory; the opportunity to learn about China-specific applications of theory and methodology; and having the chance to meet with top scholars in the field and other students working on similar topics.

## PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

### Scientific and technological highlights of the project

The programme covered mainly research approaches in the history and development of interaction between China and Europe, with a focus on regional politics. The core theme was China's global and regional integration (including interaction with Europe). Activities were centred on approaches to China's global integration: political economy, development, politics and social policy; methodologies: comparative methodology and paradigm shifts; and hands-on method training: (a) surveys, questionnaires; (b) using archival material.

The programme was organised in six panels, each with a key-note speaker, as follows: (a) Panel 1: History and Archival Research led by a lecture by Professor Chen Qianping (Nanjing, China) on "Contemporary China and Europe? Historical Review and Vision for the Future"; (b) Panel 2: Development led by a lecture by Professor Jeffrey Henderson (Bristol, UK) on "China, Development and the Global Political Economy"; Panel 3: International Politics led by a lecture by Professor Yongjin Zhang (Bristol, UK) on "China, Europe and the World: A Historical Encounter in the 19th and 20th Centuries"; (d) Panel 4: Regionalism and Comparative Political Economy led by a lecture by Dr Sebastian Bersick (German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Germany) on "The EU and China as regional actors in East Asia: A Comparative Analysis"; Panel 5: Social Policy led by a lecture by Professor Flemming Christiansen (Leeds, UK) on "Migration and Labour Straddling China and Europe"; and (e) Panel 6: Economics and Business led by a lecture by Professor Thomas Sharping (Cologne, Germany) on "Survey Work in China, Theory and Practice". Each lecture was followed by group work and discussion led by three trainers. A total of 12 seminars allowed participants to present their research to a peer audience under the guidance of highly experienced researchers.

One of the highlights of the event was a special seminar given by Dr Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary General of ASEAN on "China, Globalisation and the Future of ASEAN". Other special seminars were given by Jamie Carstairs on "Picturing China 1870-1950" and Dr John Kieschnick (Bristol, UK) entitled "Question and Answer Session on Academic Publishing".

The event was highly successful. The strong participation of young scholars from diverse backgrounds (China, Europe, the US, Australia, and Japan) in peer debate and collaboration was rewarding. The programme followed the model of previous Summer Schools in that sessions were commenced with a conceptually-oriented lecture followed by topic-specific workshops. This gave good variation to a well-organised and informative programme. Dr Harald Bøckmann (Oslo, Norway), Professor Qianping Chen (Nanjing China), Professor Flemming Christiansen (Leeds, UK), and other key scholars participated in leading the PhD student seminars.

### **Contact building and training activities**

The event not only consolidated collegial networking among trainers/speakers, but was also highly successful in forging and enhancing networks among junior scholars of Chinese scholars. As demonstrated in the section entitled 'Qualitative indicators of progress and success' above, networking and contact-building among participants has proved to be one of the most outstanding and long-lasting benefits of the Summer Schools. Alumni have joined the web-based community, which was started after the Nanjing Summer School in 2006 and continued following the Leeds Summer School in 2007.

We hope to consolidate and encourage future networking and exchange between Summer School alumni, trainers and speakers through the creation of password-protected Summer School alumni webpages as part of the new website currently being developed for the Summer Schools at [www.wreac.org](http://www.wreac.org). The development of the Summer School alumni pages will be a core focus of our work in 2009.

## PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENTS AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

### Participation in conferences and training courses

Type of Researcher	Active participation			Passive participation
	Keynote Speech	Oral	Poster	
Early Stage Researchers	0	37	0	0
More Experienced Researchers	0	4	0	0
European Researchers active outside Europe	0	0	0	0
Third country nationals	0	12	0	0

### Dissemination of results

As this is a research training event, no particular "dissemination of results" in terms of publications is expected. Web-based access to core documents is currently found at <http://www.wun.ac.uk/chinacenter/sumschools.html>; however, materials are in the process of migrating to the new website at [www.wreac.org](http://www.wreac.org) and this should be completed in the near future. In the meantime, we are actively working to remedy broken chains and disrupted access to the site and hope that the new website will present a more comprehensive overview of the project and its related materials.

In addition, it must be appreciated that the presentations made by PhD students of their own research, in many cases, represented work at a very early stage, and that the Summer School activities presented an opportunity for researchers to gain feedback on their research plans and preliminary results, rather than for the presentation of completed research.

The programme implementation has not yet led to any publications because its focus has been the training of the participants. The key-note speaker contributions represented a necessary didactic contribution to the Summer School. This requirement has been given priority above presentation of original research, as we have discussed aims and appropriateness of contributions with the key-note speakers. Consequently, the Summer School does not represent a step towards publication of research outcomes.

Ultimately, however, we aim to disseminate the results of the Summer Schools by way of contributions by trainers, which will be published under the various creative commons licenses in web and .pdf format. This will be professionally handled in terms of layout and desk-top publishing. The aim is to create a lasting resource under copyright conditions that will allow flexible adaptation, alteration and creative addition under the condition of acknowledgement of the original author, so that the resource will have a long-standing value for future trainers and for students who want to use the materials for self-study.

### Contribution overview

Contribution type	Total
Peer Reviewed - Articles in Journals	0
Peer Reviewed - Chapters in Books	0
Peer Reviewed - Articles in Conference Proceedings	0
Peer Reviewed - Books and Monographs	0
Non-Peer Reviewed (including in press)	0
Submitted (only for peer reviewed contributions)	0

Contribution type	Total
Manuscripts in preparation (for all type of contributions)	0

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Any additional information, which may be considered useful to assess the work done during the reporting period.**

<b>Attachments</b>	
<b>Name</b>	
<b>Date</b>	
<b>Signature</b>	