

## Media Roundup Issue 42 (14/10/17 – 20/10/17)

### 1. Chinese Government intrusion into Western universities sparks push for collective action

**15/10/2017**

**Andrew Greene**

**ABC News Online**

The fear of Chinese Government intrusion into Western universities is sparking a push by Australia's closest allies for a more coordinated response to Beijing's aggressive tactics.

Having observed attacks on academic freedoms in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand — discussions have begun in diplomatic and security circles about whether the Five Eyes intelligence partners should respond collectively to the threat, so there are no "weak links" which can be exploited.

So far nothing formal has been proposed but senior national security figures have told the ABC Australia is taking a "leading role" in publicly highlighting the situation.

*Read more:*

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-15/chinese-intrusion-on-western-universities-sparks-action/9048456>

### 2. Chinese student furore reveals Australia's poor integration strategy

**14/10/2017**

**Merriden Varrall**

**East Asia Forum**

Why does Australia encourage international — including Chinese — students to study within its borders? Australian universities are about teaching and learning, but they need to be properly resourced to do so, so one reason for encouraging foreign students is the funding they bring to Australian universities. Another more important aspect is the potential to enrich their appreciation for Australia's

way of life, its values and its ethics — which can ultimately enhance Australia's soft power.

But the way Australia's system currently functions — churning through thousands of international students each year — is not only missing an opportunity to improve how Australia is seen by the rest of the world, but in some cases is creating negative perceptions of Australia.

Over the past few months, there has been considerable coverage in the Australian media on Chinese students in Australia. So far, with some exceptions, there has been more emphasis on ringing alarm bells than on setting out thoughtful, balanced responses.

*Read more:*

<http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2017/10/14/chinese-student-furore-reveals-australias-poor-integration-strategy/>

### 3. China's next five-year plan on the way and it is a big deal for Australia

**15/10/2017**

**Stephen Letts**

**ABC News Online**

When the world's second largest economy sits down to reshuffle its leadership and map out an economic plan for the next five years it is a big deal.

It is an especially big deal in Australia given China's role as our most important trading partner.

Just what the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (NCCPC) will deliver is very much open to question and its impact is unlikely to be felt for some time.

The NCCPC gathers every five years in Beijing's Great Hall of the People with a very select guest list of around 2,300 part elite from the provinces, bureaucracy, military and industry.

*Read more:*

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-15/china-communist-party-congress-should-we-worry/9050032>

#### 4. Let's not isolate ourselves from the benefits of China

**16/10/2017**

**Laurie Pearcey  
The Australian**

“There is an old Vulcan proverb Captain — only Nixon could go to China”. And so it was that James Tiberius Kirk’s loyal right-hand man counselled the captain of the Enterprise on his looming peace mission to heal wounds with his arch enemies in the Klingon Empire.

Yet for Australia, it was Whitlam, in 1971, who had the foresight to go to China. The opposition leader’s landmark meeting in Beijing was hailed by the then prime minister William McMahon as a “political asset” for the Coalition. The government could hardly contain its delight at being given a free kick from the Labor Party at the height of bitter Cold War polemic that plagued Australia’s polity.

What McMahon didn’t know was that just three days after Whitlam shook hands with the Communist Party elite, Henry Kissinger secretly landed in the Chinese capital laying the foundations for US president Richard Nixon’s history-defining summit with Chairman Mao.

*Read more (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/lets-not-isolate-ourselves-from-the-benefits-of-china/news-story/944818ba06ba72074ca6319d28a70a97>

#### 5. Belt and Road: The case for ‘wait and see’

**16/10/2017**

**Ian Hall  
The Interpreter**

Nick Bisley is right to call for a clearer – and I would add more confident – Australian strategy towards China. But should this involve signing up to President Xi Jinping’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)? I am not convinced.

BRI is long on rhetoric and unclear in design. According to Xi, speaking at the Belt and Road Forum back in May, BRI is intended to build ‘peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit’, rekindling the supposed spirit of the old Silk Road. It is meant to help realise the

'China Dream' (one of Xi's signature concepts) at home and to export China's economic wisdom abroad.

Yet as Peter Cai recently argued in perhaps the best short account of BRI, the initiative is also an attempt to address chronic security and economic challenges. It is intended to strengthen Beijing's hold over Tibet and Xinjiang by accelerating economic development with a westward flow of capital and improved connectivity into Central Asia. It is also intended to address overcapacity in the cement and steel industries, and diminishing returns on domestically invested capital.

*Read more:*

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/belt-and-road-case-wait-and-see>

## 6. Sports summit seeking to strengthen ties to China

**17/10/2017**

**Rowan Callick**  
**The Australian**

Top sporting teams and leaders have flown to Shanghai for the inaugural Australia-China Sports Summit which kicked off yesterday — aiming to help break down stereotypes of an Australia boasting only brawn, and of Chinese athletic disinterest outside the Olympics.

In applauding the concept, federal sports minister Greg Hunt said the government recognised “the power of sport to act as a bridge facilitating connectivity and promoting trade” between the countries.

Representatives of Melbourne City and Newcastle Jets A-League clubs, Tennis Australia, the AFL, the National Basketball League, Football Federation Australia, and sports marketing company Gemba and stadium design firm Populous, are among those participating in the summit.

The Australian Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai has linked the Australian organisations with Chinese counterparts and potential business partners, who are also attending.

*Read more (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/sport/sports-summit-seeking-to-strengthen-ties-to-china/news-story/d9d82f9e0d669a7ff6497cfab316d7c2>

## 7. 'A bad omen': Chinese state media challenge foreign interference threat

**17/10/2017**

**Primrose Riordan  
The Australian**

Chinese commentators labelled government warnings over foreign interference in Australian universities “a bad omen” as Foreign Minister Julie Bishop added her voice to the debate.

Last week departmental secretary Frances Adamson urged Australian universities to resist foreign interference and warned Beijing to expect greater scrutiny of its activities abroad as its influence expands.

In recent months, the Chinese government has been accused of becoming involved in cases where international students have campaigned against individual lecturers for using material seen as offensive or out of line with Beijing’s view of the world.

Further, Australian academics have reported they believe some international students fear speaking up in class, while Chinese student groups at universities are explicitly “supervised” by government diplomats.

*Read more (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/a-bad-omen-chinese-state-media-challenge-foreign-interference-threat/news-story/74bc1d1739e387aeddcf3a9db1144ffc>

## 8. Beijing’s man says Canberra ‘suspicious’ of Chinese students

**18/10/2017**

**Primrose Riordan  
The Australian**

A former Chinese ambassador to Canberra, Zhang Junsai, has accused Australia of treating foreign students with “suspicion”.

The concerns come after universities were urged to resist foreign interference and Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said international students and academics should respect free speech.

Australian Institute of International Affairs NSW president Richard Broinowski said Mr Zhang made the remarks this month during a Chinese government-organised visit to Sydney.

"I was quite surprised at his quite strong criticism of the way students are treated in Australia and I said 'come on, this is a free society'," he said. In a "cordial exchange", he said Mr Zhang questioned why the students were "the focus of a bad press" and suspicion.

*Read more (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/beijings-man-says-camberra-suspicious-of-chinese-students/news-story/559ebe92b22d69e3338bf714eb0841ce>

## 9. ANU head warns against generalising Chinese students

**18/10/2017**

**Emily Baker**

**Sydney Morning Herald**

The head of the Australian National University has urged Australians to avoid the "flat-out wrong idea" that all Chinese students are spies or incapable of critical thinking.

Speaking at a China Matters meeting, Brian Schmidt said Chinese students who attended the ANU - about one in five enrolments - were "some of the very best and brightest", "open to new ideas" and "extraordinary, ambitious and bold".

But the Nobel Laureate also acknowledged increasing scrutiny of China's influence on the nation's universities, warning any degradation of institutions' commitment to rigorous inquiry would badly impact on Australia's academic standing internationally.

The ANU had a responsibility to recognise and address the challenges of allegations of spying and monitoring of students by embassy officials and other students, Professor Schmidt said.

*Read more:*

<http://www.smh.com.au/act-news/australian-national-university-head-brian-schmidt-speaks-on-china-influence-20171018-gz3bd4>

## 10. Be in no doubt, Xi Jinping wants to make China great again

**18/10/2017**

**Nick Bisley** (member of the China Matters Advisory Council)

**The Australian**

It was long, very long. And, as with previous iterations, Xi Jinping's speech to the Chinese Communist Party's five yearly national congress was a mix of party slogans, Marxist jargon, subtle signalling and long to-do lists.

Given the density and length of the speech it will repay careful scrutiny, particularly given its political function within the party-state. But on first impression a number of interesting developments were immediately evident.

One of these could be found at the end of speech's title, itself a typically catchy CCP number: "Secure a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and strive for the great success of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era."

*Read more:*

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/18/be-in-no-doubt-xi-jinping-wants-to-make-china-great>

## 11. Beijing pulls out of human rights talks

**19/10/2017**

**Greg Sheridan**

**The Australian**

The Chinese government has walked away from its long-standing human rights dialogue with Canberra, as President Xi Jinping delivered a striking 3½-hour address to the 19th Communist Party Congress yesterday in which he vowed to make China the world's most powerful nation.

Mr Xi, the most dominant national leader in China since Mao Zedong, told 2300 delegates that China was entering a new era and it now "stands tall in the East".

He rejected Western notions of liberalism and confirmed ruling party ideology, including promoting "socialism with Chinese characteristics".

In a strongly ideological speech, Mr Xi declared: "The Communist Party of China is a great party — it has the fight and mettle to win."

He also reaffirmed his commitment to modernising China's military and, in a sharp warning against moves to independence in Taiwan, said: "We will not tolerate anyone, using any means, at any time, to separate one inch of land from China."

*Read more (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/foreign-affairs/beijing-pulls-out-of-human-rights-dialogue-with-canberra/news-story/e944dc3a59ad6e8518068c94961f71c3>

## 12. ASIO battling spy threat from China and Russia

**19/10/2017**

**Primrose Riordan**

**The Australian**

Australia's peak spy agency is struggling to cope with the rise of foreign interference in Australia, with security analysts highlighting China and Russia as ongoing threats.

The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation has revealed that foreign governments were undertaking activities aimed at ethnic and religious communities "designed to diminish their criticism of foreign governments".

"These activities ... represent a threat to our sovereignty, the integrity of our national institutions and the exercise of our citizens' rights," ASIO said in its annual report.

It said it was "overextended" in dealing with this "significant threat" to national security.

ASIO's update comes amid a debate about Chinese government influence in Australia and after a warning from former Defence Department head Dennis Richardson about espionage operations in the country.

*Read more (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/national-security/asio-battling-spy-threat-from-china-and-russia/news-story/78ae4df93a6e9e3e664b28bdd1e88b96>



### 13. You thought China valued human rights? Wrong

**19/10/2017**

**Greg Sheridan  
The Australian**

The sad, depressing fate of the Australia China Human Rights Dialogue tells us a great deal about the contemporary China-Australia relationship, and more broadly about the nature of contemporary leadership in Beijing.

But first it's worth noting the substance of Xi Jinping's speech to the 19th Communist Party congress. It was a powerful signal of the understanding that the Beijing leadership now has of China's national position. In time, Xi told his party confreres in a speech at the Fidel Castro length of 3½ hours, China would become the most important nation on the global stage.

It strongly reaffirmed Communist Party ideology. This speech, and this congress, will repay lengthy analysis over time.

*Read more (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/columnists/greg-sheridan/you-thought-china-valued-human-rights-wrong/news-story/6d1ecb65f67b6e954ee1dad922f4275c>

### 14. China demand pumps up Aust wine exports

**19/10/2017**

**AAP  
SBS News Online**

Australia's wine exports are growing strongly as consumers worldwide demand a higher-quality drop, especially in China.

Wine exports grew by 13 per cent to \$2.44 billion in the year to September 30, and volumes rose nine per cent to 799 million litres, according to industry group Wine Australia's latest annual export report.

"This growth reflects increasing demand for premium Australian wines in most regions around the world, where consumers are trading up to higher-value products across a range of categories," Mr Clark said in a statement.

Red wine accounted for 74 per cent of export value.

The top export market was mainland China, which accounted for 30 per cent of total export value, followed by the US, UK, Canada and Hong Kong.

*Read more:*

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2017/10/19/china-demand-pumps-aust-wine-exports>

## 15. New Zealand MP embroiled in Chinese influence controversy worked in Australian Parliament

**20/10/2017**

**Fergus Hunter**

**Sydney Morning Herald**

A New Zealand MP embroiled in a controversy over his past links to Chinese military intelligence worked as an intern with the Australian Senate's committee on foreign affairs, defence and trade in the 1990s.

Documents released to *The New Zealand Herald* under freedom of information of laws show that Jian Yang, who has found himself at the centre of a controversy over Chinese influence abroad, worked at the powerful committee for two months after leaving China, where he was a lecturer at the military-linked Luoyang Foreign Languages Institute, which trains spies.

In his application for New Zealand residency in 1998, Mr Yang did not detail the sensitive nature of the institution he worked at, disclosing only employment with "Luoyang University".

Before moving to New Zealand, Mr Yang spent time in Australia and attained master's degree at the Australian National University in 1994. While undertaking a subsequent PhD, he was head of the university's Chinese Students and Scholars Association, an organisation linked to the Chinese embassy.

*Read more:*

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/new-zealand-mp-embroiled-in-chinese-influence-controversy-worked-in-australian-parliament-20171019-gz4ncl.html>

## 16. China faces a 'Minsky Moment'

**20/10/2017**

**Adam Creighton**

**The Australian**

“Housing is for living, not for punting,” said Chinese President Xi Jinping during his 3½ hour speech at the twice-a-decade Communist Party Congress this week.

Clearly, he wouldn't stand a chance in Australian politics, where borrowing to punt on houses is sacrosanct. But he doesn't have to worry about getting votes. And Chinese households and businesses have taken to borrowing with a vengeance, in any case.

Chinese household and business debt combined, as a share of GDP, has reached the same level as Japan's in the early 1990s, when its bubble spectacularly burst.

Thanks to an explosion of money and credit, the value of housing in China is now equivalent to more than 250 per cent of GDP, compared to 200 per cent in Japan in 1990 — the height of its bubble — and 170 per cent in the US in 2006, just before its own housing crisis.

*Read more (Paywall):*

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/opinion/adam-creighton/china-faces-a-minsky-moment/news-story/7b469a80e76fa2a8e0d3ab1d8da7f457>