The SIGNAL Guide
to China's Leading Academic Institutions in International Relations, History, Middle East, Arab & Israel Studies

1st Edition 2016
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After two decades of formal, diplomatic relations, the two societies of China and Israel are still in the early days of discovering each other. Located on the extreme and opposite ends of the Asian continent, belonging to two different cultures and being separated by linguistic barriers makes the process of becoming acquainted with each other long and arduous. Nonetheless, an enormous mutual curiosity contributes to what has become a real need for deeper understanding of the historical and cultural roots of the other; the political and the economic circumstances of the other; and the motives and interests that guide and influence the behavior of the other.

The shared interest in learning about the other side in the China - Israel developing relations led to the mushrooming of academic relations, dialogues between various research institutes in China and Israel and publication and translation of books written about China and Israel. The Institute for National Security Studies has maintained, for example, an annual dialogue with several similar institutes in China which increase the mutual understanding and help the process of shaping the decisions taken by the two governments on issues of mutual relations.

This guide was conceived in a trip SIGNAL planned and implemented for set of lectures and briefings during June 2014 in several cities in China. I was impressed both by the numerous study centers which deal with the Middle East and by SIGNAL’s personal relations with many of the Chinese scholars and researchers. I am pleased that this knowledge has now been systematically collected into a single guide. It will be a useful tool for all those who wish to promote the mutual understanding between our two cultures and our two States. For that I am grateful to Carice Witte and to the entire SIGNAL team.

Amb. ODED ERAN

Senior Researcher

The Institute for National Security Studies.
Forward From China

I am honored to write the foreword from the Chinese perspective for the first SIGNAL Guide to Leading Academic Institutions of China. Israel and China each have a profound civilization and history. Perhaps that is partly why bilateral relations have progressed significantly in the two decades since formal relations were established in 1992. China is now Israel’s largest trading partner in Asia and third largest trading partner globally. Trade volume has increased more than 200-fold, from over $50 million at the beginning of our diplomatic relations to more than 11.14 billion in 2014. In fact, the significance of these numbers goes beyond mere trade; they represent the sharp trajectory of growth in interest by two unacquainted and unfamiliar countries to gain mutual awareness and develop cultural exchanges which promote further understanding, recognition and friendship. This evolution is largely due to the long-term cooperation between universities and research institutes of the two countries.

In 1999, on the recommendation of Amb. Ora Namir, then Israeli Ambassador to China, I received a research grant from the Fred and Barbara Kort Sino-Israel Postdoctoral Fellowships Foundation to study at Bar-Ilan University in Israel for one year. This afforded me a unique opportunity to experience the State of Israel directly and personally, leaving a deep impression of this young country. During my stay, Mr. Fred Kort addressed the post docs noting “You come here not only for gaining knowledge and mastering science. More importantly, you will become envoys who contribute to developing friendly intercourse between the two countries.” These researchers went on to become leading scholars in China, but also to promote friendly Sino-Israel relations. Upon my return to Henan University, I established the Institute of Jewish Studies with the support of a USA organization and in 2012, in partnership with SIGNAL, we established an Israel Studies program in the Henan University History department and renamed the center, Judaic-Israeli Studies Institute.
Since its establishment in 2011, SIGNAL has contributed significantly to Israeli studies in China. Many students have become the beneficiary of the program and inspired by Israel. One student wrote, “It is moving how such a small country has the capability of making remarkable achievements in nation building and has created so many miracles. I am now determined to overcome my lack of confidence and prepare for the doctoral qualifying examination to engage myself in academic research.” This student is now a PhD candidate at a leading Chinese university.

Academic relations between Israel and China have enjoyed significant growth in part due to the high level of support it has received in both countries. Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong witnessed and signed the cooperation documents of bilateral scientific and technological innovation, education and health fields. The Chinese and Israeli Ministries of Education have both put university cooperation on their agendas. In my view, the joint academic efforts of two countries, encouraged by this Guide, not only will promote greater mutual understanding, but will contribute significantly to building the friendship of two countries and in Chinese culture, this is an important fertilizer for bearing the richest fruit.

Prof. Zhang Qianhong  
Vice President  
Zhengzhou University
Introduction to
The SIGNAL Guide

The SIGNAL Guide offers a brief overview of China’s leading academic institutions, universities and research centers in fields of International Relations, Diplomacy, History, Middle East, Arab/Islamic and Israel Studies as well as global issues. The idea for the Guide was proposed by Amb. Oded Eran, Head of the INSS China forum, during his second trip to China with SIGNAL. After visiting universities and research centers around the country, he noted that SIGNAL’s network of relationships and knowledge of Chinese institutions would be of value to the Israeli academic community.

China’s academic institutions are generally unknown in Israel and with over 2600 universities and scores of research centers focusing on various fields of interest to Israeli scholars, China’s academic landscape can seem overwhelming. The Guide provides profiles of 29 universities and 35 Research Centers & Academic Institutes, offering brief introductions to China’s vast academic network. In preparing the Guide, we identified and aggregated institutes in the fields listed that we believe are most relevant and of interest to Israel’s universities, research centers, scholars and the general academic community.

SIGNAL has established Israel Studies Programs (ISPs) in 11 universities from Xinjiang to Shanghai and Beijing. The organization focuses on cultivating scholarly cooperation in the fields of international relations, diplomacy, Middle East and Israel Studies. Formed in 2011, SIGNAL establishes long-term academic alliances in these areas, which serve as the foundation for mutually beneficial and broad-based cooperation between the two nations. The SIGNAL Guide evolved from these developments.

Carice Witte
Founder and Executive Director
SIGNAL, Sino-Israel Global Network & Academic Leadership
Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) is one of China’s most important foreign languages teaching universities. Over 400 BFSU graduates have gone on to become Ambassadors for China. BFSU offers a large number of language learning programs and other interdisciplinary studies. It specializes in the areas of literature, linguistics, translation and culture studies.

With an emphasis on foreign studies, the university is a training ground for China’s diplomatic corp. Located in China’s political hub, BFSU maintains substantial academic connections worldwide and produces influential alumni and faculty in the field of diplomacy.

Among all the foreign language schools in China, BFSU offers the widest range of foreign language majors. BFSU’s School of Asian and African Studies (北京外国语大学亚非学院) alone offers a total of 16 foreign languages, including Hebrew, Farsi, Turkish, Urdu, Hindi, Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian, Burmese, Thai, Malay, Indonesian, Sinhalese, Korean, Swahili, Hausa, and Tagalog.

Israel Studies Program
Established in 2015, in the Arabic Language department
Founded in 1962, Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) leads in teaching Chinese language and culture to foreigners, as well as teaching foreign languages and cultures to Chinese students.

BLCU is one of the only universities in China with a majority of international students. The university was established under the guidance of the National Ministry of Education and Premier Zhou Enlai.

In 2015, BLCU was the first university in China to establish a Middle East School.

The university has a strong Arab Studies department. Its international focus contributes to BLCU’s active interest in cooperation with academic institutes world-wide. Many of its graduates go into the field of academia or become leaders in international business and diplomacy. The university offers Bachelor’s and Master’s degree programs in International Politics as well as many major world languages and literature.

Israel Studies Program
Established in 2013 in the Arabic Language department
China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) is the institute of higher education under the auspices and direct control of China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is specifically geared towards training future diplomats.

The university was established in 1955 after the urging of Premier Zhou Enlai and receiving approval from Chairman Mao Zedong. CFAU has departments of Foreign Languages, English, Diplomacy, International Economics, International Law and International Relations, and offers Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctorate programs.

CFAU conducts annual seminars for international diplomats. The seminars educate members of the foreign diplomatic corps, including cadets, in Chinese diplomacy and protocols.

Israel Studies Program
Established in 2014 in the Department of English and International Studies (DEIS)
China University of Petroleum is China’s leading institution for education and research related to energy in general and the field of petroleum specifically. The areas of focus include energy, technology, alternative energy, engineering as well as foreign language and culture, international economy and trade. CUP offers a Master’s program in international politics.

As China’s number one university in energy research, CUP plays a role in policy development in this field.

Many of CUP’s graduates go on to work in companies around the world where petroleum is a natural resource.
Founded in 1951, East China Normal University (ECNU) was the first national university dedicated to teacher education in the People’s Republic of China. It later evolved into a comprehensive research university with more than 22 schools, colleges, and institutes, located in two campuses. ENCU has ties to universities around the world, including New York University, King’s College London, the University of California, the University of Manchester, and the École Normale Supérieure Group in France.

The university comprises 3 affiliated schools across the Shanghai metropolitan area: NYU Shanghai in Pudong, Asia-Europe Business School and the ECNU UNC School of Sino-American Innovative Education.
Fudan University is one of the oldest and most competitive universities in China, consistently ranking in the top-five. With seventy departments and 68 undergraduate majors and hundreds of graduate studies specializations, Fudan is also one of the few institutions in China to have enrolled international students since the 1950s.

Fudan is a national leader in international public policy, Chinese politics and diplomacy, political science and international relations. The interdisciplinary approach to theoretical and practical knowledge prepares future leaders in the public, private, and nonprofits sectors.

In 2012 Fudan co-sponsored SIGNAL’s Israel Studies Conference at Fudan along with Bar Ilan University and Shanghai International Studies University, celebrating 20 years of bilateral relations between Israel and China.
Heilongjiang University is a key comprehensive university with undergraduate and graduate degrees in liberal arts, sciences, foreign languages, engineering, management, etc. The University is also a popular destination for international students and the study of Chinese as a foreign language.

Historically Harbin was home to thriving Russian and Jewish communities; both Russian studies and Jewish studies are taught at Heilongjiang University.

The University is home to the Sino-Israel Research and Study Center.

http://www.studyathlju.com/EN/
Henan University is the top university in its province, and often ranks in the top-forty universities in China. The World History Department consistently ranks within the top three in China. Henan Province was the birthplace of Chinese civilization and much of ancient Chinese culture developed in the region.

Kaifeng, one of China’s ancient capitals, was home to a thriving Jewish community for approx. 1000 yrs. The university’s Jewish Studies Center was established in 2002 by Prof. Zhang Qianhong, member of the CPPCC (People’s Congress), who went on to collaborate with SIGNAL in creating the ISP and adding an Israel Studies track to the degree in History in the World History Department.

Henan University offers degrees in Foreign Languages, European-Asian International Relations, History, Culture and Economics.
Jilin University (JLU) founded in 1946, merged with four other major universities of the same province by 2004. It is especially well-known for the study of chemistry, technology and computer sciences, and engineering.

JLU offers programs in 13 disciplinary categories including philosophy, economics, law, education, literature, history, science, engineering, agriculture, medicine, management, military science and arts.

In 2015, JLU added a focus on Israel innovation and entrepreneurship through interdisciplinary study, incorporating the university’s array of academic departments.
Lanzhou University consistently ranks in the top-thirty Chinese universities. It is generally considered one of the premier institutions of higher education in China’s northwestern region. Its ranking as a key national university is especially impressive given its location in the less-developed western area of China.

The University has one of the nation’s leading departments and research centers in Islamic Studies. There are departments in Foreign Languages and Literature, Law, Politics and Administration, History and Culture, among others. Lanzhou province has a large Hui (ethnically Chinese Muslim) population.

As China’s interest in understanding this and other religions grows, Lanzhou will play an ever-more important role.
Nanjing University consistently ranks as one of the top-ten universities in China. Located in China’s historical capital, the university is one of the oldest in the country and was an important leader in the development of higher education in modern China.

The institution boasts historical roots as far back as the third century CE and became a modern school during the end of the Qing Dynasty in 1902.

The Nanjing Jewish Studies Center was inaugurated the Diane and Guilford Glazer Institute for Jewish and Israel Studies of Nanjing University in 2013.

The university confers Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctoral degrees in Foreign Studies, International Politics, International Relations, and hundreds of other subjects. Nanjing University is also one of the C9 League, an alliance of nine important Chinese universities.
A top-twenty university, Nankai University (NKU) is located near Beijing in Tianjin, a specially-zoned city with the status of a Chinese province. The Chinese government considers Tianjin an important hub of new growth in the areas of industry and finance, and Nankai University is the premier university in this region.

NKU has a strong and comprehensive International Relations department that features Middle East studies. The Zhou Enlai School of Government Administration (named for the former premier who was an NKU alumnus) is one of the country’s most highly respected schools for educating government leaders.

NKU administrators and faculty contribute to policy analysis seminars and meet regularly with national government agencies.

The city of Tianjin formally expressed support for China-Israel relations when it established the Tianjin Israel Agricultural Tech Park in 2014.
Ningxia University is a regional comprehensive university, co-administrated by Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region and Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China. The school was founded in 1958.

Ningxia University’s School of Arabic Studies (宁夏大学阿拉伯学) was officially inaugurated in 2011. The school established a united Sino-Arab research platform, carrying out strategic research and cooperation of Arab issues, and providing advice on national and regional decision-making strategic needs.

The School of Arabic Studies is an important Arabic-based school in northwest of China.

Hui Muslims comprise the majority of Ningxia’s population.
Northwest University (NWU) is one of the most significant institutes of higher education in northwestern China. Located in the historic city of Xi’an, the heart of the ancient Silk Road, the university’s origins can be traced back to the end of the Qing Dynasty in 1902.

During the early period after the founding of the People’s Republic of China, Northwest University was one of the handful of institutes under the direct administration of the Ministry of Education.

NWU offers over sixty undergraduate courses of study, with several departments and institutes specifically concentrating on Middle East-related studies.

The Institute of Middle-East Studies (IMES) is recognized by the provincial and central governments as a valuable source of expertise on the Middle East. Many of China’s Middle East experts are graduates NWU’s Middle East studies department and conducted their graduate work at IMES.

Israel Studies Program
Established in 2013, in the School of History in cooperation with IMES
Peking University is one of the two most well known universities in China, and in recent years has ranked number one. PKU ranks in the top-fifty universities worldwide. Commonly known as Beida, it was the first national modern university in China, founded near the end of the Qing Dynasty in 1898.

As the number one university in China, Beida’s scholars have significant national and international reach. Its students go on to become some of the more prominent thinkers of modern China. The university’s institutes are leaders in their fields.

The university is one of only three with a mandate from China’s Ministry of Education to confer degrees in the Hebrew language.
The People’s Liberation Army University of Foreign Languages (PLAU) is ranked in the top-ten of China’s military schools. Located in Luoyang, a city with a large Muslim population, the school focuses on multiple disciplines including International News, International Relations and Security.

Many graduates of PLAU go on to work in government positions, such as defense and international security. Specific education in the field of security includes a growing focus on counter-terrorism.

The vast majority of graduates receive military or other security positions, and may also go into intelligence.
Renmin University (RUC), often ranked in the top-five in China, focuses heavily on the humanities and social sciences. The university has produced innumerable notable academics, politicians, businessmen and writers.

The university was originally established by the CPC (Communist Party of China) during the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1937, and officially became the Renmin Peoples University of China in 1950.

The University’s School of International Studies (SIS) ranks number one in China. Renmin is the university of China’s government. China’s current Foreign Minister is a graduate of Renmin and remains a professor there, periodically delivering lectures to the student body. Participating in innumerable international forums, professors from SIS serve as advisors on China’s foreign policy.

RUC’s Law School, School of Finance, School of Sociology, School of Journalism and School of Economics all rank number one among Chinese universities.

In 2014, Renmin established China’s first Middle East and African Studies research center formed by Israel and China.

CMEAS
Center for Middle East & African Studies (CMEAS) was founded in 2014 in cooperation with the School of International Studies (SIS)
Founded in 1901, Shandong University is one of the oldest universities in China. Situated in an economically developed coastal province in China, Shandong University consists of 31 schools and colleges.

The graduate school offers 11 main academic disciplines: philosophy, economics, law, literature, history, natural sciences, engineering, management, medicine, education and military. Three general hospitals, including Qilu Hospital and 12 teaching hospitals are affiliated with the university.

Shandong University began teaching Jewish philosophy in 1999. Its Center for Judaic and Inter-Religious Studies leads the field of Jewish Philosophy within China.
Shanghai International Studies University (SHISU) has its roots in the Shanghai Russian School, established in 1949. The school was originally designed to cultivate diplomats and translators for the purposes of developing international relations between China and Russia.

The school provides elite education to international and intercultural professionals. SHISU is one of China’s top centers for language learning and education of foreign cultures, with departments in over twenty modern languages.

The university offers courses related to international relations, including translation, business, law and economics.

SHISU is a key institution for the training of diplomatic staff. Graduates comprise staff approximately half of China’s MFA, embassies and consulates.

The university is one of only three with a mandate from China’s Ministry of Education to confer Hebrew degrees.

Israel Studies Program
Established in 2012, in the Oriental Studies Department
Founded during the Qing Dynasty, Shanghai Jiaotong University (SJTU) is one of the oldest and most selective universities in China.

The university offers 63 undergraduate programs, as well as hundreds of Master’s programs. SJTU is one of the few well-known Chinese universities throughout the international community, and in recent years has consistently ranked within the top-five in China.

SJTU is also notable for producing the annual Academic Ranking of World Universities, also known as the Shanghai Ranking.

Numerous governors, ministers and political secretaries throughout the Chinese government are SJTU graduates. The university is a leader in scholarship, technology and business. SJTU is also one of the C9 League, an alliance of nine important Chinese universities.

In 2013, SJTU established an Israel center.
Located in the autonomous region of Xinjiang, home to a significant Uyghur Muslim population, Shihezi University is a relatively new institution. Considered by China's government to be a strategically important university, it has been designated a key institution for development. This status confers upon Shihezi University special funding, resources and academic support from universities and government in western China. For example, professors from Peking University are regularly assigned to teach for one to two semesters at Shihezi University. The Central Government is expected to continue this support as China works to develop and modernize its geographic periphery, especially in the far western regions.

Shihezi University’s first academic cooperation with a foreign organization was entered into with Israel-based, SIGNAL.

As China’s bridge to Central Asia and a source of essential natural resources, Xinjiang is recognized by China as an area of strategic significance. Thus, the Central Government actively encourages and supports advancements of academic, scientific, technological and cultural programs. Shihezi is a 95 percent Han city in a province comprised of an approximately 50% Han and 50% Uygur (Turkic Muslims) population.
Sichuan International Studies University (SISU) is the only foreign languages university in South-West China. It is ranked number four out of all the Chinese international studies universities. Among the languages taught at SISU are Arabic, as well as Korean, Japanese, Russian, and European languages.

Due to its close relationship with China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SISU is a direct recruitment source of the Ministry.

In 2011, SISU became the first Chinese university to establish an Israel Studies Program (ISP). In 2015, SISU established the first translation competition focusing on Israel and Middle East content. In the same year, China’s Ministry of Education assigned SISU to be the fourth University in China to confer degrees in the Hebrew language.

The SISU Center for Israel Studies, established in 2015, is one of two official, government appointed Israel Studies centers of the Regional and Country Studies section of Chinese Ministry of Education.
SUN Yat-sen University (SYSU) was founded in 1924 by Sun Yat-sen, the founding father and first president of the Republic of China. Sun Yat-sen University is consistently ranked among the top 10 universities in China. Among its notable features, the university is home to the world’s fastest supercomputer named Tianhe-2.

In 2013, SYSU established a new school of International Relations that is quickly growing in importance.

The Sun Yat-Sen Center for Policy Studies (SCPS) has published many papers on a variety of aspects of China’s relations with Middle Eastern countries.

In 2014, SYSU began developing an Israel Studies track.
Tsinghua University, established in 1911, competes with Peking University for the position of the number one in China. The university is known for its unique expertise in engineering and maintains close ties with the world’s leading academic institutions.

Admission at Tsinghua University is extremely competitive. Tsinghua alumni include the current General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party and President, Xi Jinping, as well as the Former President, Hu Jintao. The university is a member of LAOTSE, an international network of leading universities in Europe and Asia. In 2013, Tsinghua University and Tel Aviv University established XIN, a joint center for innovative research and education, focusing on nanotechnology with medical and optical applications.

Tsinghua is the host university to the newly formed Schwarzman Scholar Program. Similar to the Rhodes scholar program, the inaugural class in 2016 will offer the world’s best and brightest students the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and professional networks through a one-year Master’s Degree at Tsinghua University where all classes will be taught in English. Students will pursue degrees in Public Policy, Economics and Business and International Studies.
Wuhan University, located in Hubei province, consistently ranks among the top-ten universities in China.

The university’s School of Political Science and Public Administration offers a Master’s degree program in International Relations.

Because the Chinese government has chosen Hubei as one of the development provinces, Hubei will receive more resources and investments in economic and educational advancement.

Wuhan’s Arab Research Center is one of China’s leading centers for the study of the Middle East. Among the university’s notable academic advisers and faculty are Shi Ting Chun, former Chinese ambassador to Yemen and Syria, Mustafa Safarini, former Pakistani Ambassador to China, and Li Rong Jian, the former Chinese First Secretary to Iraq.

Many graduates of Wuhan pursue diplomatic careers or other positions in the international arena.
Xiamen University was established in 1921, and was originally known as Amoy University. Xiamen University ranks in China's top twenty universities. It is regarded as one of the most prestigious and selective universities in the country.

In 1952, it became a comprehensive university encouraging the study of both arts and sciences. Xiamen University is strong in Economics, Social Science, Law, History, Management and Science. The School of International Relations teaches courses in English, French and Chinese.

Xiamen University is one of the top schools in the field of International Relations. The IR degree program offers a solid foundation in International Relations and thorough understanding Asia-Pacific international affairs. Graduates of the program are leading candidates for positions in diplomatic organizations, multi-national companies, government departments with a focus on Asia-Pacific and international affairs.

Xiamen University is a member of the Global U8 Consortium (GU8), an educational consortium of eight universities located in seaport towns, which include the University of Haifa.
Xinjiang University

Xinjiang University (XJU) is one of the major universities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and is a national key university. XJU was founded in 1924 in Urumqi, the capital city of Xinjiang in the northwestern region of China.

In recent years, XJU became the only comprehensive university in Xinjiang; it is listed as one of the National 211 Project universities.

The University is the first institution for higher education to receive national priority and support from both the People’s Government of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and the Ministry of Education.

The university is a leader in the study of China’s Silk Road program and the impact of terror on the Silk Road.
Yunnan University (YNU) is the only National Key University in Yunnan Province. It was founded in 1922 and has since established the Yunnan University Science Park (YNUSP). Yunnan University has a history of outstanding professors. This began in WWII when, because the Province of Yunnan was one of the few not involved in the war, teachers from around the country gathered there.

Yunnan University scholars wrote some of the first Chinese texts on Israel in the late 1980’s.

The Institute of International Relations at Yunnan University has been very active in study and research of the Middle East and global ethnic conflicts.

The university has made many contributions to national and regional social and economic development, notably publishing reports on the China-Myanmar oil and gas pipelines.

Israel Studies Program
Established in 2013, in the International Relations Department
Academy of Military Sciences

Academy of Military Science (AMS) was founded in 1958 and is the PLA’s largest research institute. AMS was founded to write the PLA’s rules and regulations and to explore important questions on modern army and combat.

AMS coordinates research conducted by the various PLA institutions according to its five year plan.

The institute focuses on military research, master’s and doctoral programs in military sciences, and advising the senior staff of the PLA and Central Military Commission (CMC).

The most important function of the AMS is researching and providing knowledge on foreign military and tactics for the CMC and the PLA General Departments.

AMS has established academic relations with militaries, academic organizations, and think tanks in more than 50 countries and regions, allowing increased mutual cooperation, trust, and academic exchanges between the PLA and foreign armed forces.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn
The Center for World Affairs Studies is the think tank of the Xinhua News Agency.

Xinhua News Agency is China’s National press agency and news supervisory authority. The World Affairs Studies Center provides original research in the field of international relations to its affiliated Xinhua News Agency and to China’s Politburo. Its research is supplied directly to the Communist Party’s leaders.

The President of the Center periodically advises the PRC’s Standing Committee.
Established in 2011, China Friendship Foundation For Peace and Development (CFFPD) is a national nonprofit organization authorized by the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs. Its main goal is promoting cooperation between Chinese NGOs and international organizations.

CFFPD’s activities involve international exchange, charitable works, and subject studies, which include international forums, seminars and training.

CFFPD supports the work of the International Department of China’s Central Committee including sponsoring conferences on international relations and global governance.
Originally established as the Beijing Institute for International Strategic Studies (BIISS) in 1979, China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CIISS) concentrates on analysis of international strategic situations, China’s national security, international politics, and the economic environment.

Research members include retired military officers, diplomats, and university professors.

CIISS has established academic exchange relations with over 100 academic research institutions in over 50 countries.

CIISS experts conduct research in international and area studies related to government and military policy.
Founded in 1956, the China Institute for International Studies (CIIS) is the think tank of China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Research at the Institute is focused primarily on medium and long-term policy issues of strategic importance, particularly those concerning international politics and world economy.

CIIS provides policy recommendations on the world’s major events and global issues. The Institute hosts seminars and conferences addressing international developments and advancing issue-specific studies.

CIIS has constructed a world-wide scholarly track II exchange network, holding regular meetings with foreign research institutions and running collaborative research projects with both domestic and foreign scholars on issues of shared interest.

Research findings at CIIS are presented in reports to the country’s foreign policy makers and institutions, as well as in published books and articles.
China Strategic Culture Promotion Association (CSCPA), established in 2011, is a civil, academic, social organization focusing on domestic and international issues, the study of Taiwan and cultural issues. It aims to strengthen national programs and promote cooperation including Taiwan-China cross-strait political, economic, military and cultural exchanges.

CSCPA is guided, managed and supervised by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Ministry of Civil Affairs. Its objectives are to strengthen international cooperation and to promote international political, economic, military, and cultural advancement.

The China Strategic Culture Promotion Association actively works to promote security and stability and peaceful development with Israel, Taiwan and the Asia-Pacific region.
The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), established in 1977, is one of China’s most prestigious academic research organizations focusing on philosophy and the social sciences. It was described by Foreign Policy Magazine as the top think tank in Asia, and is affiliated with the PRC’s State Council.

The research areas cover as many as 300 disciplines. CASS has approximately 3,045 research staff members, of whom 1,531 have senior professional titles, and 909 intermediate professional titles. CASS includes over 30 research institutions and 50 research centers, among them:

Bureau of International Cooperation (BIC) of CASS, functions as the international department of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Its main duties are: the formulation of strategies, plans, rules, and regulations for CASS’s international cooperation and academic exchanges; coordinating academy-level international cooperation affairs and carrying out the internationalization work of the academy; and the initiation and management of key cooperative programs and fellowships. BIC also liaises with related agencies dispatched by international organizations in China, handles relevant affairs concerning cooperation with the Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR, and Taiwan and exercises administrative power involving foreign affairs authorized by the State Council.
The National Academy of Economic Strategy (NAES) of CASS, includes masters degree and doctoral candidates in fiscal studies, international trade, finance, industrial economy, and tourism management, as well as postdoctoral centers in applied economics and business administration. NAES receives visiting scholars both from home and abroad, and provides training and continued education in the fields of finance and economics. A number of NAES staff members are leaders of related academic societies and associations, as well as consultants of central and local governmental departments and companies.

http://naes.org.cn/english/

National Institute of International Strategy (NIIS) of CASS, was established in 2011. Its research focuses primarily on global economic and social development, global governance mechanisms, and China’s international strategic issues, in order to advise the Party and the national policymakers. NIIS is responsible for the AsiaPacific Department of master’s and doctoral graduate training mission grants master’s and doctoral degrees in the world economy, international politics and international relations.

http://niiseng.cssn.cn/

See p.51 for IWAAS of CASS. IWAAS focuses on Middle East and North Africa.
China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) is affiliated with China’s Ministry of State Security (MSS), and overseen by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

CICIR has a staff of approximately 400, including 150 senior research fellows. It consists of 11 departments with different regional and functional concentrations, as well as two research divisions focusing on the Korean Peninsula and Central Asia under direct supervision of CICIR leaders, and eight research centers.

CICIR publishes the influential journal Contemporary International Relations (Xiandai Guoji Guanxi).

The China Institute of Contemporary International Relations has a growing Middle East department. It focuses on energy security and counter terror.
Founded in 2010, the China Center for Contemporary World Studies (CCCWS) researches in fields that include international conflicts, political party politics, political system in foreign countries. It also focuses on global governance, China’s foreign strategies, socialist theories, social and political trends of thoughts and comparative studies in development modes.

The China Center for Contemporary World Studies (CCCWS) has a growing focus on the Middle East especially Turkey and Israel.

The institute recently began to study terror and counter terrorism and is increasing its emphasis on regional and international relations.
The China Development Institute (CDI) researches China’s economic development, focusing on China’s macroeconomic policy. Because of its proximity to Hong Kong and Macau, the institute provides a unique lens from which to view Chinese economic development and politics.

The institute’s location in Shenzhen provides access to the heart of China’s manufacturing industry.

The institute’s focus on economic development includes a study of potential cooperation with states and regions.
Founded in June 1985, Chinese People’s Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD) is the largest nationwide non-governmental peace association with 24 influential member organizations in China. CPAPD’s objectives are to promote mutual understanding, friendship, and cooperation between the peoples of China and the rest of the world in joint efforts to maintain world peace, oppose arms race and war, achieve arms control and disarmament, strive for complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, protect ecological environment, and promote social harmony and sustainable development.

CPAPD focuses its academic research and analysis mainly on issues of arms control and disarmament, non-proliferation, peace and security, sustainable development. It holds bilateral or multilateral seminars regularly and publishes a quarterly journal PEACE in English. CPAPD conducts cooperation and exchanges in about 90 countries, and takes an active part in multilateral activities of the international NGO community. The CPAPD has been a leading sponsor of the UN annual national event, International Week of Science and Peace. It was awarded “Peace Messenger” by the UN, and is in Consultative Status with ECOSOC and in Associative Status with DPI of the UN.
Established in January 2013, the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies (RDCY) is a think tank jointly established by Renmin University of China (RUC) and the private Shanghai-based equity fund, Chongyang Investment Ltd.

RDCY has initiated cooperative relationships with think tanks in nearly 30 countries, and seeks to advise policymakers as a modern think tank with Chinese characteristics in the field of economics and finance.

The institute has engaged a host of influential advisors and fellows from various fields and organizations (including the People’s Bank of China, UNIDO, and the ICC’s World Council) with the hope of becoming a significant advisory body to policymakers.

RDCY focuses on financial policy, anti-trust and macro-economic analysis.
The Institute for International Strategic Studies (IISS) runs a postdoctoral program in international politics, three PhD programs in international politics, diplomacy, international relations, and four master’s programs in world economy, international politics, diplomacy, and international relations.

IISS also offers teaching and training work on international issues for senior governmental officials at ministerial, gubernatorial and mayoral levels.

The Institute for International Strategic Studies researches issues pertaining to international security, politics, and economics, and advises the Chinese government and military in policymaking.

IISS is dedicated to research on a wide range of international strategic issues and China’s foreign policy.
The Institute for West Asian and African Studies (IWAAS) was first established in 1961 at the behest of Chairman Mao Zedong. It is the largest Middle East and Africa research center and think tank in China.

IWAAS is a CASS comprehensive multidisciplinary institute with thorough research on contemporary political and economic development, and international relations throughout 73 countries and regions of Middle East and Africa.

IWAAS has not only developed research in the fields of history, sociology, culture, ethnicity, religion and law, but also is focusing increasingly on economic and political development research, and providing policy suggestions for relevant government branches and interested businesses.

In the last 50 years, IWAAS has become a noted academic center for national Chinese research of West Asia and Africa. It works closely with news agencies and research centers in the Arab world.

Due to its growing interest in Israel over the past few years, IWAAS is cultivating Israel experts from among its researchers.
Founded in April 2000, the Institute for International Strategic Studies (IISS) within the Central Party School (CPS) of the Communist Party of China (CPC) is the advanced training center for the politburo and China’s top diplomats and ambassadors. IISS is dedicated to research on a wide range of international strategic issues and China’s foreign policy.

IISS also offers teaching and training on international issues for senior governmental officials at ministerial, provincial and mayoral levels. IISS has a postdoctoral program in international politics, three PhD programs in international politics, diplomacy, international relations, and four master’s programs in world economy, international politics, diplomacy, and international relations.

The Party School of the Central Committee of the CPC is the highest institution of learning charged with the task of training senior and middle-ranking cadres of the Party including those from the politburo, provincial leaders, local and central government officials and heads of SOEs. Liu Yunshan, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of CPC Central Committee, serves as President of the Central Party School.

SIGNAL re-instituted relations between Israel and CPS in Oct. 2011 and hosted the first visit by members of the Central Party School to Israel in July 2012.
Established in 1958, the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS) is China’s oldest social studies research center. In Shanghai, it is the only research center to focus on both the humanities and the social sciences and is the second largest research institution to focus on both of these fields, after the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Established in 1988, Center of Jewish Studies Shanghai (CJSS) is based at SASS.

Historically, CJSS has been an influential research institution in China on Jewish and Israeli Studies. It has coordinated research activities in China and has collaborated with scholars from all over the world.

The Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences has established resources and connections for Israelis interested in studying China. It is a leading policy research center. CJSS focuses on the history of Jewish refugees in Shanghai (1936-1950), which is the one of the most well known Jewish community in China.
Founded in 1960, SIIS is a research organization which studies international politics, economy, security strategy and China's external relations. In particular, SIIS primarily studies the United States, Japan, Europe, Russia, and the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on relations among major powers and China's periphery environment. Relevant departments include Foreign Policy Studies, Global Governance Studies, International Strategic Studies, and International Politics, with M.A. and PhD programs offered in international politics studies and international organization studies.

Based on its studies of theories of international relations and dynamic changes of international affairs, SIIS pursues both mid-term and long-term comprehensive research on significant issues, provides relevant governmental departments and institutions with research reports, and presents findings to journals and magazines to popularize knowledge of international affairs. SIIS was named one of the “Top 10 Think Tanks in China” in 2006, and listed in the “Top 10 Think Tanks in the World (non-U.S.)” in a 2007 report by Foreign Policy Research Institute (FPRI). SIIS maintains academic exchanges and cooperative relations with hundreds of prestigious universities and leading research institutions both in China and in 30 other countries around the world.
The Center for Judaic and Inter-Religious Studies of Shandong University (CJS) was founded in 2003. In 2004, the Center was approved as one of the 100 “Key Research Institutes of Humanities and Social Sciences” by the Ministry of Education of the PRC.

The Center has published a total of 440 papers and 70 books in specialized subjects and translated 35 books since its establishment.

The main focus is Jewish Philosophy; the Center’s main academic publication is “Jewish Studies.”
The Center of Judaic and Chinese Studies was established on October 2006 at Sichuan International Studies University in Chongqing, China.

The Center’s purpose is to redress misunderstandings, misinformation, and ignorance with regards to Judaism and Christianity amongst Chinese students and teachers of Western literature and culture.

Center of Judaic and Chinese Studies promotes a better understanding of the Jewish people and Jewish culture in China and aims to encourage more balanced attitudes in international affairs.
Affiliated with Nanjing University’s Department of Religious Studies, the Center for Jewish Culture was established in 1992 as an academic research institution.

The Institute was established in order to meet the growing need for Chinese academic understanding of Jewish culture and for the promotion of further research, scholarship, and teaching.

With the formation of its Institute of Jewish Studies, Nanjing University became one of the first Chinese universities to systematically study Jewish culture. It boasts the largest library specializing in Jewish culture.

In 2013, after receiving an endowment from the Diane and Gilford Glazer Foundation, the study of Israel was added to the Institute’s focus.
The Center of Jewish Studies Shanghai (CJSS), a department of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, has historically been one of the more influential research institutes for Jewish Studies in China.

The Center focuses its research on the history of the “Shanghai Jews” (refugees of the Holocaust during World War II), the remnants of Jewish communities in China (the largest of which are in Tianjin, Harbin and Kaifeng) and political studies on the Near East. Among the Center’s publications are The Jews of China, The Jewish Civilization, The Revitalization of the Jewish People and Jews in China: Legends, History and New Perspectives.

In addition to CJSS’s publications and research, it held its first international seminar “The Jews in Shanghai” in 1994, and “Jewish Studies Youth Forum” in 2010.
Formed in 2014, Center for Middle East and Africa Studies (CMEAS) is the first Chinese-Israeli research institute for the study of the Middle East and Africa in a global context. Focusing on international relations and strategic analysis, CMEAS is based at the School of International Studies (SIS) at Renmin University of China and is the result of a cooperation between SIS and SIGNAL.

The Center holds workshops, roundtables and other scholarly events dealing with current global affairs and geopolitical transitions as they pertain to the Middle East and Africa.

Based at one of China’s leading universities, and centered in the country’s top international relations school, CMEAS combines the resources of Israel and China to create a world-class center where Chinese and Israeli scholars and experts have the opportunity for direct collaboration.

The Center sponsors joint research papers where Chinese and Israeli scholars conduct first hand research in both countries. The forthcoming publication of the Center’s first joint research paper, “Can China-Taiwan Cross-Straits Relations Serve as a Model for Israeli-Palestinian Cooperation?”, will appear in Israel Affairs.
Peking University holds China’s oldest Hebrew language and culture department; its establishment dates back to 1985, and has produced dozens of Chinese trained in Hebrew. Institute members focus on Jewish Studies at Peking University and partner faculties and research institutions.

The Institute provides a platform for research and cultural studies of the Judaism and Hebrew.

Peking University’s Institute for Hebrew and Jewish Studies is the oldest and one of the most influential Hebrew institutes in China.
Established in 2010, the Institute of Arab Research at Wuhan University aims to strengthen China’s economic and cultural exchange with Arab countries and increase study of the Arab world.

The Institute of Arab Research at Wuhan University is a leading Chinese center for the study of the Middle East.
The Institute of International Relations at Yunnan University was officially established in 1964.

The Institute carries out research and the study of Southeast Asia, South Asia, West Asia, and Africa.

The institute’s key areas of research include Security Studies, Energy Security and Strategy, as well as Arab issues. The Institute was one of the first to conduct research on Israel.

Its Director, Prof. Xiao Xian, now director of the Israel Studies Program at Yunnan University, just published A Concise History of Israel. Some of the research for this book was done during his scholar-in-residence program at BGU’s Israel Studies International Institute at Sde Boker in 2013.

Prof. Xiao Xian originally visited Israel in the early 1990s where he conducted research for one of the first books on Israel to be written in Chinese.

In the mid-1990’s, members of the Institute wrote many of the initial books and papers on the State of Israel in Chinese. These remain seminal works for the study of Israel in China.
The Institute of Islamic Culture Studies at Lanzhou University was formally established in 2006 within the School of Philosophy and Social Sciences for the research and study of Islam and Islamic culture.

Most of the institute’s researchers are graduates of Islamic universities in Muslim countries.

The research focuses on the interpretation of the original texts of Islamic culture and cross-cultural studies.

Since religious study has become an important educational discipline in China in recent years, the institute assumes the responsibilities of offering Islamic courses to graduate and undergraduate students.

It enjoys rich Islamic culture and cultural resources, as well as the benefit of northwestern China’s unique geography and cultural environment.
The Institute of Middle Eastern Studies (IMES), formerly the Institute of Islamic Countries, was established in 1964 as one of China’s first institutions focusing on international conflicts.

Renamed in 1978, IMES is divided into four areas: Middle Eastern History, Middle Eastern Economy, Religions and Culture of Middle East, and International Relations in Middle East.

IMES is one of the oldest professional Middle Eastern studies institutes in China, with a number of notable faculty members and publications in the field.

Many of China’s Middle East experts were trained at IMES.
Newly established, the Israel Center examines Sino-Israel relations in a global context from both an academic and policy-relevant vantage point.

The Israel Center is designed to promote research regarding the State of Israel and translate to Chinese key works on and about Israel.
Established in 2002, the Judaic-Israeli Studies Institute at Henan University is a research, teaching, and decision-making advisory body. Originally focused solely on Jewish studies, the Jewish Institute of Henan University expanded its focus to include the State of Israel in 2012.

The institute promotes academic exchanges and cooperates with the Henan University Israel Studies Program also established in 2012 in the History department. The Judaic-Israeli Studies institute focuses on research of contemporary Israeli economic, political, religious, cultural, and diplomatic fields.

In 2015, the Institute wrote the first Blue Book on Israel. China’s Blue Book series is a comprehensive annual profile on nations China considers of importance. The USA, Australia and European countries are featured in the Blue Book series. The Israel Blue Book will be written by the institute and published by CASS on an annual basis.

Research areas include Israel and Middle East economic studies, religion and culture in Israel, Israel’s politics and diplomacy, Jewish-Israeli history, and the ancient Kaifeng Jewish community. Kaifeng was home to China’s oldest Jewish community, originally established in 998 CE.
The Middle East Studies Institute of Shanghai International Studies University (formerly the Middle East Culture Institute) was established in September 1980.

Its areas of research include the Arabic language and culture as well as analyses of Middle East politics.

The Middle East Research Institute is nationally and internationally recognized in the field of Middle Eastern studies and research.

The center’s “Arab World” journal enjoys circulation throughout China’s academic network.
The Pakistan Study Center was founded in 2008. The Center focuses on increasing academic and non-governmental cooperation between China and Pakistan.

The Center’s objective is to promote Sino-Pakistan friendship, improving communication and cooperation in the areas of economy, culture, education and social affairs.

The Center also focuses on forming academic alliances for Pakistan studies and research.

It conducts academic exchanges and cooperation with partners in Pakistan. The center works to promote Sino-Pakistani academic, economic, cultural, and social relations.
Established in 2013 at Fudan University, the Policy Research Center for the Chinese Economy has swiftly become influential in the field of economic research.

Focusing on issues related to China’s development, the center hosts researchers from Fudan University, Peking University, Yale University, and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS).

The center is quickly expanding its influence in the research of economic development.
Founded in 1985, the Research Center for Iran Studies at Southwest University is a center for long-term research of world history and human geography.

The center has become one of the bases for Iran research and the training of Iran researchers in China.

Southwest University has close relations with national Iran studies research centers as well as close relations and long-term cooperation agreements with the Tehran University Law and Politics College and Iran’s Cultural Communication Association.
The Sino-Israel Research and Study Center, was established in 2002 at the Heilongjiang University, School of Western Studies, in Heilongjiang’s capitol, Harbin. The following year, the Center established a formal relationship with Hebrew University of Jerusalem through doctoral candidate exchanges.

The Center’s academic work includes research of the history of China’s Jewish communities and their social, cultural, economic, and political experiences; study of the circumstances that led Jews to settle in China in general and Harbin specifically.

The Center collects historical materials such photos, tapes, films, documents and personal items relating to the Jews who lived in Harbin and other parts of China.

The Sino-Israel Research and Study Center is one of the most extensive academic bodies dedicated to Jewish studies in China in terms of the span of its projects.

Although officially named Sino-Israel Research and Study Center, the center’s primary focus is the study of Jews in China.
Considered outstanding in the field of Arab studies, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Centre for Arabic and Islamic Studies at Beijing Foreign Studies University, was the first in China to offer master’s and doctoral degrees in the field. In 2002, the Arab Language and Literature program won the Beijing Municipal Key Discipline Award.

The Department is partnered with over 20 academic institutes in Arab countries. It offers courses in Arabic as well as in translation, Arab literature, and Arab culture.

The center is one of the oldest Arabic and Islamic research centers in China. The building where the center is based is designed in the style of a mosque. It was donated by Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the late President of the UAE, upon his visit to China in 1990. The complex is a landmark on BFSU campus.