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EDITORIAL

Matters of Multiplication

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The editorial committee is pleased to present volume 6.1 of the *Journal of the European Association for Chinese Studies*, which opens with a special section on "Ciphering and Ruling Modern China's Population".

編委會榮幸地推出《歐洲漢學學會學刊》第六卷第一期。本期特設“近代中國人口的編碼與治理”專題，作為開篇內容。

Keywords: Editorial, China, Sinology, Quantification, Statistics, Modern China, Population, Society

關鍵詞： 編委，中國，漢學，量化，統計，近代中國，人口，社會

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Welcome to the first *JEACS* issue of 2025! This year we are starting to produce two issues of the Journal instead of one. We hope this will enable our readers to enjoy a wider variety of articles and book reviews through the year.

Appropriately for the first year of our multiplication, this issue contains a special section on numbers and how they have been used to govern China. **Andrea Bréard** and **Stefan Christ** have brought together a group of scholars who originally met for a conference on this topic at FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg in July 2022. Numbers and statistics may not be a familiar topic for those of us with an arts and humanities background, but readers will find that the authors of our special section papers have opened up an interesting and original topic, integrating the ‘hard’ science of statistics with the ‘softer’ fields of social and political studies, and showing how the new science of statistics in early 20th-century China played into ideas about the transition to a modern nation-state and the emerging concept of ‘society’. The introduction to the special section by our guest editors explains the significance of the theme and clarifies some of the issues addressed in the papers, including their own.

In addition to the special section we have a fascinating ‘Spotlight’ article by one of our editorial team, **Marie Bizais-Lillig** of the University of Strasbourg, highlighting the work of a French sinologist couple, Jean-Pierre and Colette Diény, and the significance of the bequest of their sinological book collection to the Bibliothèque Nationale et Universitaire de Strasbourg (a distinct institution from the University of Strasbourg). Our Spotlight articles, of which we usually include one or two in each issue, aim either to discuss the life and work of a significant – but often lesser known – European sinologist, or to examine a current hot topic in Chinese studies. We welcome suggestions for Spotlight articles via journal@chinese-studies.eu.

We also present several book reviews. **Yiyang Gao** provides a review of Gao Xi’s 高晞 research-based but accessible work *He Lu zhi si: 1831 nian zhenhan quanqiu de yiliao shijian* 何魯之死：1831年震撼全球的醫療事件 (The Death of Hoo Loo: The 1831 Medical Incident that Shocked the Globe) (2024); this uses a now obscure event – the death on the operating table in London of a Cantonese patient with scrotal elephantiasis – to illuminate the cultural, social, and political circumstances of the time which were reflected in the trope of China as the ‘sick man of Asia’. **Stefan Messingschlager**’s review of *The Conscience of the Party: Hu Yaobang, China’s Communist Reformer* (2024) by Robert L. Suettinger, who comes from a policy rather than an academic background, shows how a biographical study can also contribute to a deeper understanding of China’s politics and governance. A review by **Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik** of Andreas Fulda’s *Germany and China: How Entanglement Undermines Freedom, Prosperity and Security* (2024) is illustrative of the gulf between those in European countries who adopt different stances towards the Chinese government.

We have no translation reviews in this issue. We do encourage our readers to submit proposals for reviews of recent translations from the Chinese language of any era, particularly translations into European languages other than English. And of course we still welcome reviews of recent academic (or popular) books on Chinese topics in any European language, or in Chinese. To propose a book or translation review, please contact jeacsbookreviews@chinesestudies.eu.

Our second issue of 2025, which will not have a specific theme, will be published at the end of this year. The deadline for submissions is **15 July 2025**.

As the editorial team, we hope to be in Paris around the time of the EACS 50th anniversary celebrations later this year, and look forward to meeting many of our readers and contributors there.