

Dr. Jonathan Benney
Chinese Studies
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Biography

I'm a Lecturer in Chinese Studies in the School of Languages, Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics at Monash University. Before coming to Monash, I was a lecturer at Macquarie University; a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for U.S.-China Issues at the University of Oklahoma; a visiting researcher on the LOEWE Research Focus project 'Extrajudicial and Judicial Conflict Resolution' at the Goethe University Frankfurt; and a research fellow at the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore.

Before starting my academic career, I studied and worked in Australia, China, and Taiwan. I received my PhD from the University of Melbourne in 2010.

My monograph *Defending Rights in Contemporary China* was published by Routledge in 2013.

My current research concentrates on political communication in modern China, with particular emphasis on political campaigns, new media, visual culture, aesthetics, and the process of design. I am also interested in how Chinese culture and society are taught and learnt at secondary schools and universities in Australia. My earlier research focused on the development of the concept of rights in China and the ways in which rights are used to describe and resolve conflicts.

Data from the Visual Propaganda in Mainland China project can be found on the Bridges database.

As a teacher, I coordinate ATS1002 (Introductory Chinese), ATS2040 (Understanding contemporary China), and ATS3959 (Chinese politics and political cultures).

I welcome enquiries from students who are interested in doing Honours and postgraduate degrees under my supervision. I'm especially interested in supervising topics relating to my research interests and publications. Please get in touch at any time (but please also provide a concrete research proposal).

I'm the staff coordinator of the LLCL Staff-Student Liaison Forum.

I am Deputy Editor of *Asian Studies Review*.

Together with the Debaters Association of Victoria and the Monash Association of Debaters, I organise the yearly Monash Asian Studies Debating Competition for secondary schools.

I am a Fellow of Advance HE (FHEA) and a committee member of the Chinese Studies Association of Australia.

Please get in touch if you would like more information!

Qualifications

Chinese Studies, PhD, University of Melbourne

Award Date: 1 Mar 2010

2022 → ... Fellow of Advance HE, FHEA

Employment

Lecturer

Chinese Studies

MONASH UNIVERSITY

13 Jul 2015 → present

Research output

The importance of fitting society and culture into Australian university language courses

Benney, J., 13 Mar 2023, In: Melbourne Asia Review. 13

Teaching culture in a competitive market: the introduction of VCE Chinese Language, Culture, and Society

Benney, J., Chan, P. W. K. & Gindidis, M., 2023, (Accepted/In press) In: Australian Review of Applied Linguistics. 24 p.

Review of The Chinese Internet: The Online Public Sphere, Power Relations, and Political Communication, by Qingning Wang

Benney, J., Jul 2022, In: The China Journal. 88, p. 168-170

Decentralization of political design in China

Benney, J., Dec 2020, In: Pacific Affairs. 93, 4, p. 709-734 26 p.

Aesthetic resources in contemporary Chinese politics

Benney, J., 2020, In: Critical Inquiry. 46, 3, p. 606-626 21 p.

Selective use of political opportunity: A case of environmental protest in rural China

Deng, Y. & Benney, J., 7 Jan 2019, *The Palgrave Handbook of Local Governance in Contemporary China*. Springer, p. 403-418 16 p.

The decline of Sina Weibo: a technological, political, and market analysis

Benney, J. D. & Xu, J., 2018, *Chinese Social Media: Social, Cultural, and Political Implications*. Kent, M., Ellis, K. & Xu, J. (eds.). 1st ed. New York: Routledge, p. 221-235 15 p.

Selective use of political opportunity: A case of environmental protest in rural China

Deng, Y. & Benney, J., 2017, In: Journal of Chinese Governance. 2, 1, p. 91-105 15 p.

Weiwen at the Grassroots: China's stability maintenance apparatus as a means of conflict resolution

Benney, J., 2016, In: Journal of Contemporary China. 25, 99, p. 389 - 405 17 p.

Introduction: modes of activism and engagement in the Chinese public sphere

Benney, J. D. & Marolt, P., 2015, In: Asian Studies Review. 39, 1, p. 88 - 99 12 p.

Social media: China and India compared

Benney, J. D. & Rangaswamy, N., 2015, *Media at Work in China and India: Discovering and Dissecting*. Jeffrey, R. & Sen, R. (eds.). New Delhi India: SAGE Publications Ltd, p. 295 - 325 31 p.

"The corpses were emotionally stable": agency and passivity on the Chinese Internet

Benney, J. D., 2015, *China Online: Locating Society in Online Spaces*. Marolt, P. & Herold, D. K. (eds.). 1st ed. Abingdon Oxon UK: Routledge, p. 33-48 16 p. (Media, Culture and Social Change in Asia; vol. 41).

The aesthetics of Chinese microblogging: state and market control of Weibo

Benney, J. D., 2014, In: *Asiascape: Digital Asia*. 1, 3, p. 169 - 200 32 p.

Defending Rights in Contemporary China

Benney, J. D., 2013, Abingdon Oxon UK: Routledge. 197 p.

How to avoid the centre: the strategies of a small feminist workshop in rural China

Benney, J. D., 2012, In: International Journal of China Studies. 3, 3, p. 383 - 410 28 p.

Twitter and legal activism in China

Benney, J. D., 2011, In: Communication, Politics & Culture. 44, 1, p. 5 - 20 16 p.

Rights defence and the virtual China

Benney, J., 1 Jan 2007, In: Asian Studies Review. 31, 4, p. 435-446 12 p.

Activities

Committee member

Jonathan Benney (Fellow)

Apr 2022 → ...

Contemporary Chinese Political Economy and Strategic Relations: An International Journal (Journal)

Jonathan Benney (Editorial board member)

Jan 2015 → ...

Asian Studies Review (Journal)

Jonathan Benney (Associate editor)

Nov 2014 → ...

Press / Media

Complaints by Chinese students about Australian universities

Jonathan Benney

30/09/17

1 Media contribution

How should Australia respond to China's influence in our universities?

Jonathan Benney

30/10/17

1 Media contribution

National security law: Australian universities move to protect Hong Kong students

Jonathan Benney

10/11/20

1 Media contribution

Review: In 'Hooligan Sparrow,' a Chinese Activist's Hair-Raising Defiance of the State

Jonathan Benney

22/07/16

1 item of Media coverage

Students from China may defend their country but that doesn't make them Communist Party agents

Diarmuid Cooney-O'Donoghue & Jonathan Benney

8/10/19

1 Media contribution