

SEMINAR

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East Asia Resource Library

SLOVENIA AND CHINA: REFLECTING BACK AND BEYOND 30 YEARS OF COOPERATION

Exchange of opinions
between Slovenian and
Chinese researchers and a
reflection on the 30 years of
Slovenian-Chinese
cooperation.

09:00 am CET · December 8
Online

Register at Eventbrite

PROGRAM

9:00 CET - **Opening of the seminar with keynote speeches**

9:30 to 10:15 CET - **30 years of cooperation: opportunities used and lost**

10:15 to 11:15 CET - **2021: A semester of the Slovenian presidency and EU-China international relations**

12:15 to 13:15 CET - **2021: a year of Covid-19 crisis management and its influence on global societies, countries and organizations**

13:15 to 14:00 CET - **Travelling beyond: crossing mental and physical distances through art**

13:15 to 14:00 CET - **Travelling beyond: redesigning urban space to fit both distancing and connectivity**

14:15 to 15:15 CET - **Travelling beyond: how to reach the goals of digitalization through cooperation in science?**

REGISTER

Online:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/slovenia-and-china-reflecting-back-and-beyond-30-years-of-cooperation-tickets-219299489677>

Or at: earl@fdv.uni-lj.si

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor Schlamberger Brezar: completed her master's degree in Slovene linguistics at the Pedagogical Institute of the University of Ljubljana. In July 2000, she received her PhD in French linguistics. Since October 2001, she has been a higher education teacher for French language and translation at the Department of Translation, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. She was the holder of the postdoctoral project Contrastive Analysis of Discursive Strategies in French and Slovene and has been participating in the Slovenian Language - Basic, Contrastive and Applied Research program group under the leadership of prof. dr. Vojko Gorjanc since 2004. She has led and participated in several bilateral Proteus projects with prof. dr. Patrice Pognan.

Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Professor Iztok Prezelj: Dr. Iztok Prezelj obtained his doctorate at the University of Ljubljana in 2004 on the topic of crisis management. In the period 2015-2017, he was the head of the Department of Defense at FDV. Dr. Prezelj publishes extensively in the fields of national and international security, terrorism and counter-terrorism, threat and risk assessment, crisis management, critical infrastructure, comparative defense systems, the Western Balkans, etc. His scientific and professional work is expressed through publications in renowned international scientific journals, proceedings, books, leading national research projects, leading Slovenian research groups in EU projects, media commentary on current security events, etc.

Head of the EARL, Professor Zlatko Šabič: is a Professor of International Relations. Professor Šabič was a member of the Steering Committee of the Standing Group of International Relations within the ECPR and is one of the founding fathers of the European International Studies Association, the largest network of international relations professionals in Europe. He is one of the founders of EARL, and

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currently serves as its Director General. His areas of expertise are international relations, international organisations, international parliamentary relations, European institutions, the Western Balkans and international protection of the environment.

Director General, Institute of European Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Professor Feng Zhongping: Dr. Feng earned his PhD in History from Lancaster University in 1992 and was a visiting scholar at Harvard University (1998-1999) and Durham University (2005). He is also Vice President and Research Professor of the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR). His research focuses on European integration, Sino-European relations, trans-Atlantic relations, NATO and Chinese foreign policy. Dr. Feng is the author or editor of several books and a regular contributor to academic journals and major media.

Deputy-Director General, Institute of European Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Professor Chen Xin: Professor Chen Xin studied Economics at Pécs University in Hungary in the late 1980s and International Politics at the Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in 1990s. He obtained a PhD degree in Law. From 2007 to 2008, he was appointed as the Chinese Co-Director of the EU-China European Studies Centres Programme (ESCP). From October 2008, he was elected to the Secretary General position by the Board of the Chinese Association for European Studies (CAES). His main research interests are EU-China Trade and Economic Relations, European Economy, and Central East European Studies.

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PANELS

9:30 - 10:15 CET

30 YEARS OF COOPERATION: OPPORTUNITIES USED AND LOST

Has the road to Slovenia-China relations as we know them today been smooth? Facing the 30th anniversary of Slovenian-Chinese relations, it is time to review the historical course of cooperation, and tectonic changes that have happened in both countries in these 30 years have influenced its political, economic and societal foundations. In the recent years since the establishment of the 16+1 Platform and the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative, economic and political cooperation has increased, however, are we there yet? Many say that the cooperation lags well behind the potential (Svetličič, 2020). How can we contribute to its improvement? Can a small chicken cooperate with the big rooster?

In this talk, we will look back to discuss the opportunities taken and potentials realized by the two countries bilaterally in politics, business and science, as well as those less fruitful. We will also address the future challenges, global and bilateral ones: which are they and how can the countries connect to tackle them?

Moderator: Professor Jana Rošker, Faculty of Arts: Slovenian sinologist, co-founder of the Department of Asian Studies. Her research interests include Chinese and comparative philosophy, particularly in the field of epistemology and theory of intercultural research methodology. She is the founder, first president and since 2019 an honorary member of the

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European Association for Chinese Philosophy, a member of the Scientific Council for the Humanities and the editor-in-chief of the scientific journal *Asian Studies*.

Speakers:

Professor Emeritus Marjan Svetličič, Faculty of Social Sciences: Slovenian political scientist and economist, expert in international economic relations. A lecturer at the University of Ljubljana since 1990, his work includes consulting for agencies and organizations such as UNESCO, UNCTAD and OSCE. He is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of East West Business*, a member of the review team of the *International Trade Journal* and the *Global Society*. In addition, he is a member of the European Business Academy, the Academy of International Business, the International Studies Association and the International and Finance Association.

Prof. Feng Zhongping, Director of the Institute of European Studies, CASS, President of China-CEEC Think Tanks Network: Dr. Feng earned his PhD in History from Lancaster University in 1992 and was a visiting scholar at Harvard University (1998-1999) and Durham University (2005). He is also Vice President and Research Professor of the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR). His research focuses on European integration, Sino-European relations, trans-Atlantic relations, NATO and Chinese foreign policy. Dr. Feng is the author or editor of several books and a regular contributor to academic journals and major media.

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2021: A SEMESTER OF THE SLOVENIAN PRESIDENCY AND EU-CHINA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Slovenia took over the Presidency to the Council of the European Union starting July 1st, and will hold it until the end of 2021. The agenda from the Presidency trio has limited China on its agenda, rather they focus on speeding up the robust and sustainable recovery, strengthening the resilience of the single market, boosting investment and creating jobs, and strengthening the recovery and autonomy of the European economy. As relations with the Bloc are seemingly worsening, China's relations with respective countries are blooming. This is seen especially with the relations between China and Hungary (in EU) and Serbia (outside EU). Slovenia, during its presidency, prioritised the commencement of talks and resuming the dialogue between the European Union and the countries of the Western Balkans. This indicates that the region is of interest not only to member states of the European Union and the Union itself but also to China.

Chinese President Xi Jinping aims to bolster relations in Europe, a traditional stronghold of support for the United States, as a buffer against shaky Sino-U.S. ties, analysts believe. "We're seeing the European Union and Germany converge with the U.S., and that convergence is something that China would like to stop, as soon as possible." France, Germany and the UK further irked China this year by sending military vessels into the South China Sea where they joined Washington in keeping an eye on Beijing's movements. We have seen a sustained fall and distrust in the relation between China and the European Union.

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Moderator: Associate professor Anže Burger, Faculty of Social Sciences: A researcher at the Center for International Relations and professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana. Izr. prof. Burger's main research interests include international trade, foreign direct investments and outsourcing as well as state aid, innovation politics and quantitative analysis. He authored and co-authored more than 20 scientific articles in well known and high ranking Slovenian and international journals (Journal of World Business, Eastern European Economics, Journal of Happiness Studies, etc.).

Speakers:

Prof. Liu Zuokui, Deputy-Director of the Institute of European Studies, CASS, Secretary General of China-CEEC Think Tanks Network and is the Vice President of China-CEE Institute. His research includes experiences spanning different universities. Mr Liu has also published several books and many articles including “The EU Way of State Building: EU’s Policy towards Western Balkans, China’s Social Sciences Publishing House, Beijing, 2015” and “Europe and the Belt and Road Initiative: Responses and Risks, China’s Social Sciences Publishing House, Beijing, 2015”.

Prof. Kong Tianping, Dr., Senior Research Fellow, Institute of European Studies, CASS graduated summa cum laude from Shandong University in 1986 and in 1996 obtained a PhD in law from the Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. His main research fields include transformation and Europeanisation in CEE, transition economies, comparative economic system, international politics and China-CEE relations. He is a member of the Academic 16+1 Think-Tank Network and the International Academic Council of China-CEE Institute in Budapest. He is an executive council member at the China Society of World Economics and at

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the China Society of Emerging Economies as well as a council member at the Chinese Association for European Studies and the Vice President of Chinese Association of Central and Eastern European Studies.

Dr. Igor Rogelja, University College London is a Lecturer in Global Politics at the University College London. His main fields of interest include international infrastructure and Chinese Politics. He completed his doctoral studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Before lecturing at the UCL, Prof Rogelja was based at the Lau China Institute at King's College London. He has published various scientific articles in a number of highly valued scientific journals, such as the Journal of Current Chinese Affairs, Political Geography, The China Quarterly.

Professor Katja Zajc Kejžar, Faculty of Economics is a Professor of International Economics and Business at the School of Economics and Business. Her research interests encompass various aspects in international economics, European economic integration, global value chains, industrial restructuring and evolution. She is a guest lecturer at Shanghai University of International Business and Economics, University of Rijeka, University of Antwerp and the University of Warsaw. Her bibliographical record spans more than 60 papers and book chapters in high-ranked and prestigious scientific journals. Currently, she is chairing the programme committee of 4th scientific China-CEE Conference on the topic of the "The Three C's in China-CEE Relations: Culture, Connectivity and Creativity". She is the founding member of ECSA (European Community Studies Association) Slovenia and currently acts as its vice president.

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2021: A YEAR OF COVID-19 CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND ITS INFLUENCE ON GLOBAL SOCIETIES, COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

The pandemic has dominated not only our lives, but also the discussions in the media, academia, politics and our everyday interactions. After two years of living through a global health, social and economic crisis, it is clear that our society was deeply transformed by it, both locally and globally. The management of the crisis has provided opportunities for coming together and forging partnerships in supporting efforts of protective equipment delivery, vaccination and social distancing. However, the pandemic also caused its share of disagreements and isolation. In Europe, the EU closed its borders and trade to third countries, at first imposing strict lockdowns, which have relaxed overtime. This has led into a new surge in cases, sending Europe back into the crisis. China, on the other hand, has since the beginning enforced a strong lockdown, and followed the zero-Covid strategy. Furthermore, China's approach to moving everything online was smooth and efficient - schools functioned through a common cloud service, e-commerce increased and digital ecosystems enabled contact tracing at a large scale. In Slovenia, at first schools and companies struggled with the move online, e-commerce and logistics providers were overwhelmed and even contact tracing had to be done manually.

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Moderator: *Tea Teodora Ristevska, Faculty of Social Sciences:* Teodora Tea Ristevska has a BA in Political Science, MA in Political Science, MA in European Studies and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Defence at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. She works as a Junior Researcher at the Defence Research Centre and as a Teaching Assistant at the Department of Defence Studies at Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. Her research interests are security, human rights, terrorism and anti-terrorism measures after 9/11, and intelligence scandals. She is an active member in the Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia.

Speakers:

Professor *Dan Podjed, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts:* Dan Podjed, PhD, is an anthropologist dedicated to the development of humane and environmentally friendly services, products and solutions. He is a Research Fellow at the Research Centre of Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts and Associate Professor at the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Arts. He has led several applied, interdisciplinary and industry-oriented projects, and participated in the development of various ethnographically based solutions in EU projects. Dan Podjed acted as the convenor of EASA Applied Anthropology Network from its inception in 2010 to 2018 and continues his commitment as one of the network's Executive Advisors. In 2013, he was the founder and from 2013 to 2018 organiser of the international symposium Why the World Needs Anthropologists. In 2019, he published the highly acclaimed book *Seen*, in which he explained why we are increasingly observed and exposed with the help of smartphones and other devices. In 2020, his book *Indoor Anthropology* was published. In the book he presented to the general public how he got to know society and himself during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Assistant Professor Tadej Troha, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts:

Tadej Troha is an Assistant Professor at Postgraduate School ZRC SAZU and the Department of Educational Sciences at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. In his latest publications, he addressed and analyzed the Covid-19 crisis as well as recent global crises. He is focusing on how societies deal with crises, their management and crisis response. His research interests include ethics, political philosophy, psychoanalysis, literary theory and ecology.

Prof. Zhao Chen, Chief of European International Relations Department, Institute of European Studies, CASS:

Zhao Chen received his Ph.D degree from the Graduate School of CASS and M.A. from Peking University, both in International Relations. He is focusing on European Politics and its External Relations, Theories of European Integration, Democracy Theory and Global Governance. He has written dozens of academic articles in Chinese and English on European affairs and global governance. He is also the first translator of the Chinese version of *The Choice of Europe: Social Purpose and State Power from Messina to Maastricht* by Andrew Moravcsik and has written dozens of commentaries on European affairs for renowned newspapers. He was a visiting scholar at the European University Institute in 2018, Free University of Berlin, Germany in 2013 and 2014, University of Pittsburgh, US between 2009 to 2010, and a visiting fellow at the University of Mannheim, Germany between 2006 and 2007.

Prof. Zhao Junjie, Dr., Senior Research Fellow, Institute of European Studies, CASS:

an expert in European Studies with the CASS. Once a visiting professor at UC-berkeley and Belgian Center for European Policy Studies, Professor Zhao has been committed to the study of international issues, particularly the study of European issues and Sino-Europe relations.

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TRAVELLING BEYOND: CROSSING MENTAL AND PHYSICAL DISTANCES THROUGH ART

Art is one of the most powerful tools when trying to discover what a country or a nation is like. Art in turn makes life more colourful, liveable and stress-free. It is also a way for people to express their satisfaction with the state of mind in the country and society. Art indeed has a way to educate people in a not convenient way, which means it can work beyond the established curriculum. That being said, with Slovenia and China, coming from different political and ideological regimes, do both countries present similar possibilities to young and prospective adults only starting their professional career paths. What does the future hold for for these artists, can we say that size plays a role, or more its political environment?

In the past we know that China and Yugoslavia, which Slovenia was a part of, worked well together in the field of art. For example in the film industry Yugoslav movies were one of the first foreign films presented to the Chinese populace. They had a profound impact not only on the general public, but also on the film makers. This was also seen with the drawn art, many Yugoslav artists had exhibitions in China and vice versa. Speaking of the historical blossom of art between two countries, where are we standing now?

Panelists:

mag. Danijela Voljč is the Head of the International Relations Office and Director of the Confucius Institute Ljubljana at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana. Up until 1999, she was in charge of the full-time residential MBA programme. Afterwards she got the position of the Head of the newly established International office and has been making a significant

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contribution to the whole internationalization process of the faculty. She is responsible for establishing an extensive network of credible university partners worldwide with a special focus on innovative strategies for international student mobility, joint degrees, and building intercultural. Under her leadership the International Relations Office undertook many successful projects, including one of the largest international summer schools in Europe "Take the best from East and West". With her appointment as the Director of the Confucius Institute Ljubljana, she has contributed to building links with Asia, including active student and staff mobility with China and the establishment of the KEUDOS double degree project with South Korea. She shares her extensive international experiences as a guest lecturer and conference speaker. She is an active member of the following international associations: EAIE, APAI, NAFSA and NICE, ACE and NIBES networks. Danijela Voljc received her master degree from the American University, Washington DC. She has lived for many years in the USA and Mexico and internationalization has constituted an important part of her private as well as professional life.

Assistant Professor Wang Huiqin is an artist, painter, calligrapher, book illustrator and author as well as an assistant professor at the Department for Asian Studies at the Faculty of Arts. She graduated from the department of fine arts at the Nanjing Faculty of Education. In Slovenia she specialised in graphic arts and painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Ljubljana. Her creative medium is visual art and writing. She collaborates with the Department for Asian and African Studies and with the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana, where she teaches calligraphy and Chinese art. She has illustrated and written a number of children's books for Slovene publishers, most often tales and stories with Far Eastern references.

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TRAVELLING BEYOND: RECONSTRUCTING THE COMMUNAL SPACE

Urban design defines how the citizens interact with the built environment. Both cities and villages

should be shaped according to the needs of its population and designing the public space has always been a top priority in every city's planning agenda. Communal spaces, such as plazas, squares, parks are undeniable necessities in the urban fabric – not only they have a positive impact on health, but they generate a space to meet, play and socialize. China and Slovenia present two starkly different countries, both in size and the ways of urbanisation. Both countries and planners can and should learn from each other in urban planning and revitalisation of current urban spaces.

What defines a good city in both countries? What defines a good village? How can we tackle current challenges with urban planning? What are good examples of urban planning in Slovenia and China? If we strive for modernisation, what does that mean in city or village development?

Panelists:

Professor Jurij Sadar, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture: Graduated at the Faculty of Architecture in Ljubljana (1987), and worked as an independent architect until 1993. From 1993 to 1997 he worked as assistant professor at the same faculty. In 1996 Boštjan Vuga and him co-founded the SADAR+VUGA architectural office. Over the past fifteen years it has focused on open, innovative and integral architectural design and urban planning. The office has been driven by a quest for quality, with a strong belief that forward-leaping architectural production

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contributes to our well-being, and generates a sensitive and responsive development of the physical context we live in, broadening our imagination and stimulating our senses.

Professor Wang Hui, Tsinghua University, School of Architecture is a Professor at the School of Architecture, Tsinghua University and the Deputy Director at its Department of Architecture. His main fields of interest and expertise include Chinese architectural and urban design, architectural and urban aesthetics and architectural education. He authored a number of monographs in design theories including *Form and Meaning of Architectural Aesthetics*, *Thoughts and Aesthetics of Contemporary Architectural Design*, *Chinese Aesthetics and Architectural Design*, *Urban Aesthetics*, and more than 60 peer-reviewed papers on the theory and practice in architectural and urban design and design education. He is also the chief architect in 30+ architectural and urban design projects in major Chinese cities. His own works and supervised works won several awards such as the UIA-CBC Award, the VELUX Award and the Annual Award for China Human Settlements Design.

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TRAVELLING BEYOND: HOW TO REACH THE GOALS OF DIGITALIZATION THROUGH COOPERATION IN SCIENCE?

Since formally establishing relations, Slovenia and China have been cooperating well in the field of science. In 1993, the “Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the People’s Republic of China” was signed. It established the joint Chinese-Slovenian Scientific and Technological Cooperation Committee which convenes every two years to approve jointly funded projects. In 2003, the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences signed an “Agreement on Scientific Cooperation”. The cooperation covers mostly the exchange of visits and is open to all scientists in all research institutes under CASS and to all scientists in all research institutes and universities in Slovenia. In 2021, Slovenia launched the International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI) under UNESCO, with the aim of providing dialogue on research of AI. The EU is also strengthening its efforts in regulating cyberspace, providing resilience and security, as well as exchange of information between member states. Although cooperation in science, R&D and innovation is thriving, what more can be done?

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Moderator: Tilen Gorenšek, Faculty of Social Sciences: Tilen Gorenšek has a master's degree in sociology and is a PhD student at the Faculty of Social Sciences. He holds a master's degree in management from public and non-profit organizations and a bachelor's degree in defense science. In his doctoral dissertation he studies the impact of digitalization on human resource management. He is the Director of IPM Digital and IPM Smart Community.

Speakers:

Dr. Aljaž Košmerlj, Jozef Stefan Institute: Dr. Aljaž Košmerlj started as a young researcher at the Faculty of Computer and Information Science at the University of Ljubljana, where he developed algorithms for self-learning robots. Since completing his doctorate, he has been employed in the Laboratory for Artificial Intelligence at the Jožef Stefan Institute, where he is engaged in research in the field of machine learning. In his work, he deals with how to use artificial intelligence to solve problems in several areas. He regularly participates in projects with partners from both the academic (Carnegie Mellon University, Stanford University) and business (Bloomberg, Amdocs, Kolektor, Ceneje.si) spheres.

Professor Aleksander Aristovnik, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Public Administration: Dr. Aleksander Aristovnik is a professor of economics and management in the administration at the Faculty of Administration and professor of economics at the Faculty of Economics. He trained professionally and scientifically as a visiting researcher at Princeton University and was a visiting professor or researcher at the Universities of Zagreb, Dubai, Nevada, Ghent, etc. He teaches and researches mainly the areas of public sector economics, management in public administration, macroeconomics and economics of European integration. As a researcher he led and

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participated in numerous domestic and international research projects. He is currently leading the program group "Development of an efficient and effective public administration system" (2019-2024) and the "Changes in the management and implementation of public administration services in the digital age" research project (2019-2022). He is also a reviewer for more than seventy indexed international journals and various research agencies or networks and a (co)author of numerous scientific papers and monographs.

Prof. Cai Yuezhou, head of Division of Digital Economy Studies, Institute of Quantitative & Technological Economics, CASS: Cai Yuezhou received a B.A. in International relations and a B.A. in Economics at Peking University. She also received a M.A. in Economics at Tsinghua University and a PhD in World Economy at the Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Her main research focus is the EU's industrial policy, especially towards the ICT sector.

Prof. Sun Yanhong, Senior Research Fellow, deputy head of Division of European Economic Studies at the IES, CASS: Sun Yanhong received a Master degree at Beijing University of Technology and a PhD at the Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. As Senior Research Fellow at CASS, his research includes big data analysis and digital economy, technological innovation and economic development. He has received multiple awards for his work, published numerous articles and books on the topic of big data analysis and digital economy, and chaired projects with the Ministry of Finance and National Development and Reform Commission.