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Knowledge Graph Drawing: Westen research on Chinese Communist Party

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Abstract:Overseas research on the CCP has a long history and has accelerated since entering the new century. In combination with the fact that overseas research on the history and construction of the Chinese Communist Party as been listed as an important research direction of the first level discipline of the history and construction of the Communist Party of China, it is necessary to sort out and interpret overseas research on the Communist Party of China. This article is based on the scientometric tools CiteSpace and VOSviewer to draw a knowledge graph of English literature in the field published in the Science Citation Index (SSCI) and the Arts and Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI) from 2006 to 2024, making the research results more concrete. Research shows that the field is mainly focused on regional studies, with an overall increase in the number of publications. The research methods of the new generation of young scholars, including women, are more diverse, and empirical research that reflects the characteristics of the times, such as quantitative big data and qualitative interviews, has become the preferred choice for most researchers.

Keywords: Overseas CCP·Scientometrics· CiteSpace·VOSviewer

1.Introduction

Since the 1950s, overseas research on the CCP has flourished. The Harvard School led by John King Fairbank not only established the East Asian Studies Center and expanded the scope of research in this field, but also cultivated numerous "China experts" in this field, many of whom hold multiple positions, including university professors, government officials, or work closely related to the study of the Chinese Communist Party. To some extent, these scholars have promoted and even changed the impression and attitude of overseas governments towards the CCP, enabling them to set up more think tanks, attract talents from all fields to study relations with China and formulate feasible policies to ensure the maximization of their own interests.

At the same time, the overseas academic research on the CCP has gone through a long process so far. From the perspectives of research fields, research paradigms, academic relationships, and geographical relationships, research can be described as diverse. In particular, at present, political disputes and military conflicts are breaking out in many places around the world, and the election of multinational leaders will test the ruling ability of the CCP from the perspective of political figures, geographical relations and economic trends. Although the international community has seen the achievements of the CCP since the new century, we should fight for the left-wing party who sympathizes with the Communist Party of China in overseas Communist Party studies, judge selectively for the middle wing or the right-wing party who criticizes China, and fight to the end for the anti Communist party.

What's more, the CCP stands in the east of the world in what manner. In addition to the perspective of "others", it also has our own position. How to 'speak' and 'be spoken'?

2.Objectives and Methods

It is in the above context that a panoramic depiction and systematic review of the current overseas Chinese Communist Party research through the knowledge graph will help domestic and foreign researchers to comprehensively, accurately and deeply understand and promote the research of the Chinese Communist Party, which will help timely respond to various wrong views and guide the international community to form a correct view of the Communist Party. It also provides domestic researchers who are interested in entering this field with overseas scholars, institutions and countries distribution in this field, accurately grasp the evolution process of various topics in overseas research in terms of time and content, and now, so as to combine their own discipline characteristics and directions, and ultimately provide reference information with reference value for joining the overseas Chinese Communist Party research field.

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There are many knowledge networking tools in the field of scientometrics, and each software has its own technical advantages and is widely applicable to various fields of research. However, CiteSpace and VOSviewer have always been loved and used by researchers at home and abroad for their clear drawings and simple color schemes. This paper selects the above two scientometrics software as research methods, which are relatively new in the discipline of Marxist theory. On January 1, 2025, the author of this article entered the Web of Science core collection of the electronic database of Beijing University of Foreign Chinese¹, and set the theme = "Communist Party of China" or "Chinese Communist Party", Documents Type = Article and Review, Language = English, the time span is January 1, 2006 ~ January 1, 2025, will meet the above requirements, and the subject contains "Communist Party of China" all the literature collection, in line with the requirements of recall and accuracy, a total of 1201 articles were retrieved, 539 articles were removed from China², only 650 articles (Articles) and 12 book reviews (Review) were retained, Remove 1 article published in 2025. After loading CiteSpace 6.3.R3 in .txt format for deduplication, 661 samples were used as valid research data in this paper.

3.Mapping and data interpretation

(1) The basic characteristics of the literature

The number of documents published

The change characteristics of the number of literature are one of the important indicators to evaluate the historical evolution of research in a knowledge field, which can reflect the research progress process in this field.

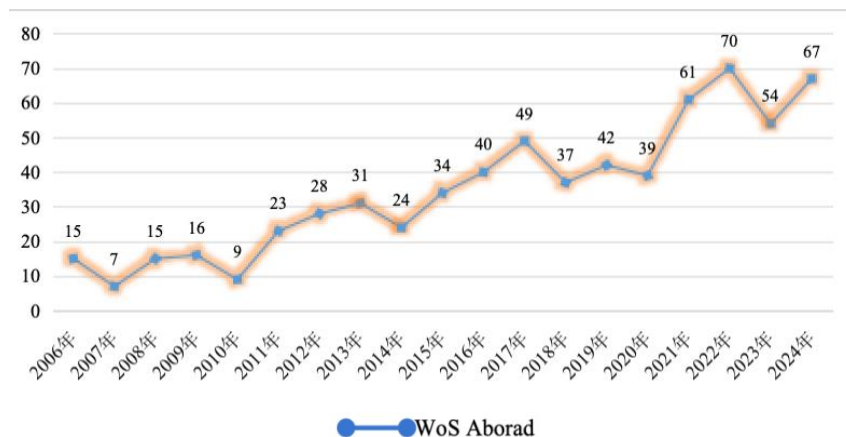


Figure 1: Annual distribution of the number of documents over time

Figure 1 shows that during the five-year period from 2006 to 2010, research has been in a sluggish state, and the number of published papers has been hovering at a low level, with a total of 62 articles published, accounting for 9.38% of the total number of published papers. Since 2011, the number of published articles has increased slightly, until 2017, 49 articles were published, and it can be said that a total of 229 articles have been published in seven years, although the growth is slow, but the number of published articles has accounted for 34.64% of the total. It should be said that since the end of 2012, China's political discourse has entered a "New Era", but overseas research on the Chinese Communist Party has still grown limitedly, and even declined between 2018 and 2020, with only 39 papers published in 2020.

Surprisingly, in 2021~2022, 131 papers were published in just two years, and in the four years until 2024, a total of 252 papers were published, accounting for 38.12%. In other words, the literature achievements of overseas CCP studies in the past four years have far exceeded the number of papers published in the past seven years (2011~2017, a total of 229). Therefore, in this sense, the study of overseas CCP studies has entered a period of rapid development. This rapid growth may be due to the rapid increase in overseas attention to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) after the outbreak of the pandemic in 2020, thanks to the political mobilization implemented by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in responding to emergencies, the strong advantages of publicly-owned hospitals, the rapid and decisive handling of the epidemic, and the incredible phased success (victory). Whether this research trend can be sustained in the future depends on a variety of factors.

The field to which the literature belongs

The literature source and its research direction are a powerful basis for judging the future research field of overseas CCP studies. In CiteSpace, the WC (Web of Science Category) and SC (Subject Category) fields in the sample papers are extracted³. In this paper, according to the discipline category identification of Web of Science, combined with CiteSpace6.3.R3, click Category on the main interface, and the other parameters remain unchanged, the published discipline in this field is displayed, as shown in Figure 2.

The top three with the most were regional studies with 281 papers, accounting for 42.51%, which was almost an overwhelming majority. The second place was political science, with 118 papers, accounting for 17.85%. Only these two fields have published more than 100 articles. The third place is international relations, with a total of 78 articles, accounting for 11.80%. The fourth place is history, with only 45 articles, compared with the first three, it is a cliff-like decline, and it has only entered the field of overseas CCP research since 2008. Surprisingly, the fifth place is economics, although the research period is long (data available since 2006), but the number of published papers is only 35, but the degree of economics reaches 18, and the centrality (centrality) is 0.45, which is the highest in the top 10.

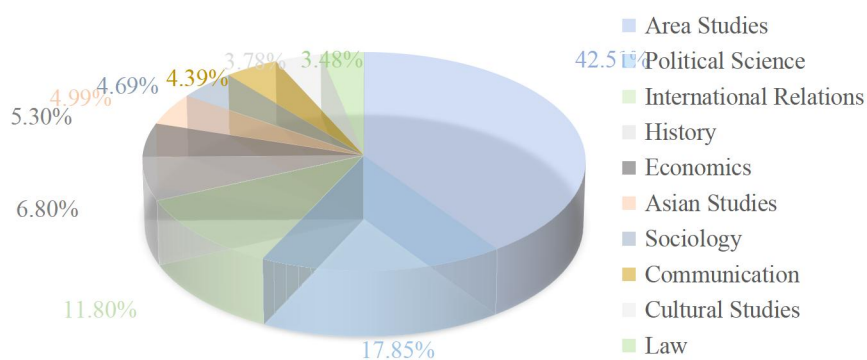


Figure 2: Distribution of the fields to which the literature belongs

It can be seen that although the number of papers published in economics is not as good as the top four in overseas CCP studies, its importance has always been impossible to ignore. This was followed by Asian Studies with 33 publications. The last four disciplines are sociology, communication, cultural studies and law, with a total of 108 articles. Among them, cultural studies and law were only published for the first time in 2007, and there is still a lot of time and space for development in the future, which may reveal a new research branch of overseas CCP studies.

4.Cooperative network analysis

Author

The author is the smallest molecule in the research field, and the analysis and interpretation of the author can quickly grasp the famous scholars in this field of research and use it to measure the research hotspots. According to the Authors option provided in CiteSpace 6.3.R3, set topN=20 in the project properties Selection Criteria. Due to the large number of authors with 3~4 papers, this paper takes the method of observing the half-life of their articles from high to low, and the data and main research contents of the top 10 authors are as follows.

Table1: Top 10 key authors based on authors' publications

No.	Authors	Country	Count	Year	Half Life	Research Point of Interest
1	Tsai,Wen-Hsuan	China Taiwan	18	2012	4.5	cadre management system; policy reform and decision-making models; public opinion management and publicity system; the operation of national governance;
2	Lim,Kean Fan	America	8	2014	2.5	the city's industrial, social welfare, and financial policies; China's post-1949 policy and economic restructuring;
3	Lee,Jonghyuk	Korea	5	2016	4.5	Chinese Meritocracy; Elite promotion and mobility mechanisms; Chinese political system
4	Leibold,James	Australia	4	2010	9.5	Asian Studies; China Culture;
5	Brady,Anne-Marie	New Zealand	4	2009	5.5	CCP ideology, external propaganda; New Zealand's diplomatic relations with China;
6	Perry,Elizabeth J	America	4	2015	5.5	the peasant problem in modern China; the Chinese Workers' Movement; Chinese Society & Political; the China Problem in the United States;
7	Chen,Minglu	Australia	4	2022	1.5	China's economy;
8	Fewsmith,Joseph	Australia	3	2008	10.5	Chinese Nationalist Party; Contemporary China; comparative politics; China's Domestic Politics; Foreign policy; Institutionalization;
9	Kennedy,John James	Australia	3	2009	8.5	local elections; tax reform; Family planning; health care; cadre management system; rural political studies;
10	Cho,Young Nam	Korea	3	2008	7.5	the evolution of Chinese politics in the era of reform; the functioning of China's political system; political developments in China and East Asian countries;

In terms of the number of articles published, Tsai and Wen-Hsuan from the Institute of Political Science, Central Research Institute of Taiwan have published 18 articles and many works so far, and are the most prolific authors. The second place is Lim and Kean Fan, with 8 articles published in total. He is an economic geographer who critically examined the geographical historical premise of the development of the "Chinese model", and thus caused countless sensations. The third author has published 5 articles, and is a young Korean scholar, Lee, Jonghyuk. After field investigations and research in China, he recognized the uniqueness of China's political system. The authors from fourth to seventh place have 4 articles published, and scholar Leibold James is affiliated to the Center for Asian Studies at the University of Rabbit Preparation in Australia. The university is good at Asian research and has many "China Communications".

The fifth place is Brady Anne-Marie from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. In 2012, she had a period of research experience at the Institute of Asia-Pacific and Global Strategy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences as a visiting scholar. Perry Elizabeth J, ranked sixth, was formerly director of the Fairbank Center for East Asian Studies at Harvard University, currently a professor of the Department of Government at Harvard University and president of the Yenching Society. Most of her works are collaborative with Chinese scholars. The seventh place is Chen Minglu from the School of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney, Australia. She once delivered an English speech at a China-Australia Relations Forum in 2018, "The Chinese Economic Miracle Is Not Replicated by Other Countries."

There are 3 posts from eighth to tenth. Among them, Fewsmith and Joseph from the Fairbank Center for East Asian Studies at Harvard University are more well-known. The ninth place is Kennedy, John James, a professor of political science at the University of Kansas and director of the Center for East Asian Studies. Since 1994, he has been engaged in rural political research in China, and his field belongs to China's local governance and social development. The last one is Cho, Young Nam from the Graduate School of International Relations, Seoul National University, South Korea. He made a speech entitled "China's Political Reform and 'Democracy with Chinese Characteristics'" at the 2008 Beijing Forum "Interaction between World Political Changes and Civilizations".

It is not difficult to see from the above ten authors who have published more articles that there are both older generations who have a lot of connections with China and emerging young scholars, especially the two Korean

scholars. Many of them have visited China many times and participated in field inspections. Of course, in the selection of research methods, the new generation of researchers highlighted the characteristics of the times, that is, using big data and quantitative methods to scan portraits of Chinese Communist Party figures. The most eye-catching one is the Korean scholar Lee and Jonghyuk, who was an undergraduate student in computer science and technology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen), which provided strong technical support for him to carry out quantitative research on elite politics in the future. In addition, three of the ten authors are women and have good academic backgrounds, proving that overseas Chinese studies have formed a scene of alternating new and echoing new and old, indicating that this field is full of vitality.

Introduction of co-cited authors

In CiteSpace's co-citation analysis, the co-citation analysis of authors can not only obtain the distribution of highly cited authors in a certain field and determine the influential scholars in the field, but also understand the knowledge structure composed of similar authors in a certain field through the authors' co-citation network and clustering.

The larger the node or tag, the higher the citation frequency of the corresponding author. The connection between nodes represents the co-citation relationship between authors and authors. The color of the line is used to indicate the time when the two authors first established a co-citation relationship (i.e., the time of the first co-citation)⁴. Therefore, under the previous operating conditions, the selection of item properties is still selected, and topN=20 is set to generate Figure 3⁵.

In the figure, the author with the highest node is SHAMBAUGH DAVID, who has been cited an astonishing 103 times since 2008, with a burst intensity of 7.16 and an article half-life of 8.5. Next is NATHAN AJ, with 61 citations. From the third place onwards, the citation counts of the authors are significantly lower than the top two. DICKSON BJ has only 32 citations, but has the highest article half-life among the ten authors, reaching 12.5. The next one is the Chinese-American author ZHAO SS, who has been cited over 35 times since 2008. Fifth is HEILMANN S, with only 34 citations, but with the highest burst intensity among the ten authors at 7.87, and the burst period has continued until now, making him one of the most sought-after overseas scholars in the field of Chinese Communist Party studies. The one after him is PERRY EJ, whose coefficients are slightly lower than those of DICKSON BJ.

Seventh is Fewsmith Joseph, who has been cited 31 times since 2011. The next one is another Chinese scholar, LI CHENG, whose main achievement was predicting the rise of "technocrats" in China and claiming that they would form the core of the third and fourth generations of Chinese leadership. This prediction has since been proven correct, establishing his academic reputation. Ninth is OBRIEN KJ (O'Brien), a professor of Asian politics at the University of California, Berkeley, whose research focuses on comparative politics, Chinese politics, social movements, and has collaborated with several highly cited authors. Therefore, Figure 3 particularly shows the cooperative relationships among the cited authors in 2024. The last one is Brady Anne-Marie.

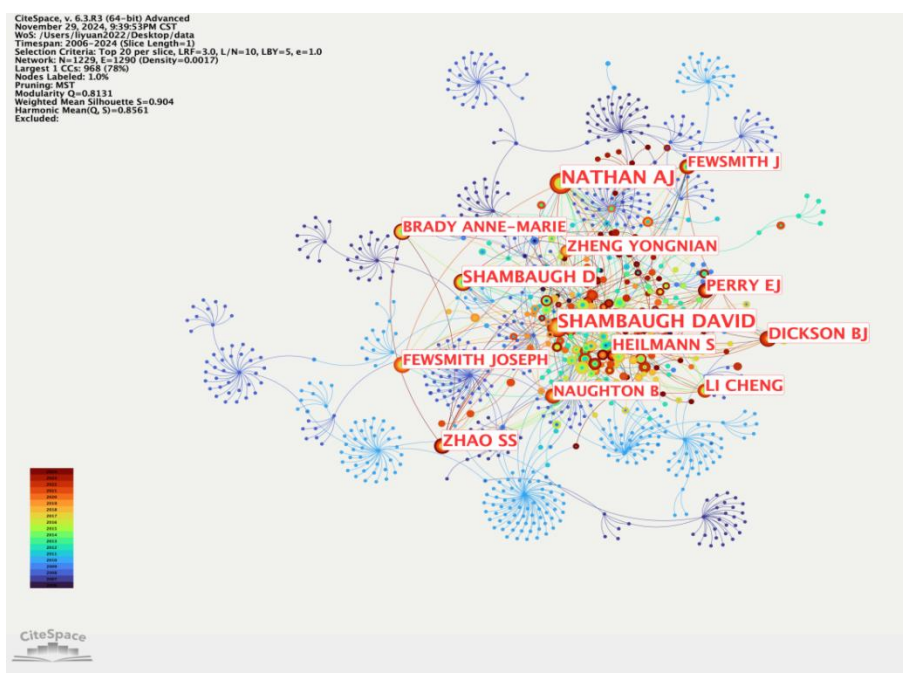


Figure 3. Based on the top 10 key authors who were Co-Cited

However, in the upper-left corner of the graph, an author named ZHENG YONGNIAN is still shown. Compared with Li Cheng, Zheng Yongnian's intensity, emergence time, and article half-life are slightly higher. What they have in common is that in July 2023, Li Cheng returned to China and became a professor in the Department of Politics and Public Administration at the University of Hong Kong, and the founding director of the Center for Contemporary China and World Studies. In September 2024, Zheng Yongnian established the School of Public Policy at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, and at the same time, launched the "Global Order and National Governance" theme forum. It can be said that the "return" of these two scholars has provided strong support for the study of Chinese Communist Party related studies in China and overseas. Secondly, Macfarquhar Roderick is also shown in the graph. His article has a half-life of 7.5, an emergence intensity as high as 7.85, and an emergence time of more than five years, demonstrating his lofty prestige and the vitality of his articles in this field.

More than half of the above 10 highly cited authors are first-generation veterans of overseas CCP studies, who were either born in China or have studied in China, and most of them belong to political science in terms of academic background, and some of them have entered the US government or held important positions in think tanks. All in all, they all share inextricably linked and complex feelings with China. I don't know the true face of Lushan, only because I am in this mountain. Perhaps, it is close to this subtle distance that they can observe and even examine every step of this ancient oriental power with a more calm, objective and prudent attitude.

Institution

An institution is an intermediary in a research field, connecting authors and countries and regions, and the analysis and interpretation of institutions can determine whether the research in this field has formed a consistent academic system and academic discourse.

The research institute where the scholar works constitutes the middle atom in the field of research. Generally speaking, if many scholars are concentrated in the same university or research institute, it will help to form an academic school with a unified research style. Therefore, the graphical description and data interpretation of the issuing institution is a window to understand the overseas research of the Communist Party of China. According to the Institution option provided in CiteSpace 6.3.R3, set topN=20⁶ in the Project Property Selection Criteria field, and the published data is shown in Table 2.

The top 10 institutions published a total of 140 articles, accounting for 21.18% of the total 661 articles, about 1/5. Among them, the first institution is Acad Sinica, Taiwan's Academia Sinica, which published a total of 23 papers between 2011 and 2024, and the degree centrality of both the publication frequency and the node is very high, and the half-life of the article is in the middle. In addition to this, there is also Natl Chengchi Univ National Chengchi Univ National Chengchi University in Taiwan, which is ranked fifth. A total of 36 papers were published by the above two universities in Taiwan, China, accounting for 25.71% of the top 10, or about 1/4. It can be seen that Taiwan, which is closest to Chinese mainland, is still one of the regions that pay the most attention to the Communist Party of China. In second place, Univ Oxford University entered the field of CCP studies overseas for the first time in 2013, with 20 publications, which means that 2 articles have been published every year so far. Also in the region is the University of British Columbia, which has been producing papers since 2006, but is nowhere near as large as the University of Oxford. Even so, the half-life of the papers of this institution is the highest among the above ten institutions, reaching 13.5, indicating that although it produces fewer papers, it has more excellent papers and a high citation rate. In addition, Kings College London, which ranked 10th, began publishing articles in 2016 with only eight articles. The total number of papers published by the above three UK-based institutions is 39, accounting for 27.86% of the top 10, surpassing Taiwan.

Table2 Top 10 key Institutions based on publications/Cited Institutions

No.	Institution	Freq	Half-life	No.	Cited Institutions	Citations	Total link strength
1	Acad Sinica	23	5.5	1	Cornell Univ	144	37
2	Univ Oxford	20	7.5	2	Univ Penn	117	181
3	Univ Sydney	17	9.5	3	Natl taiwan Univ	111	31
4	Natl Univ Singapore	17	9.5	4	Univ Missouri	100	49
5	Natl Chengchi Univ	13	2.5	5	Natl Univ Singapore	100	1
6	Univ British Columbia	11	13.5	6	Acad Sinica	73	142
7	Nanyang Technol Univ	11	4.5	7	Natl Chengchi Univ	72	142
8	Univ Penn	10	3.5	8	Kings Coll London	64	38
9	Harvard Univ	10	14.5	9	Univ Sydney	58	38
10	Kings Coll London	8	1.5	10	Univ Oxford	50	20

The third place is the University of Sydney, which has only 17 papers. The fourth place went to Natl Univ Singapore, and the seventh place in the same region, Nanyang Technol Univ, which was an early entrant and began to produce papers in 2007, and the latter only began to publish its first overseas Chinese Communist Party studies in 2016, a decade later. Despite this, the two universities have a total of 28 articles, which is the third country with more articles after the United Kingdom and Taiwan. The eighth and ninth places went to Univ Penn University of Pennsylvania in the United States, both of which published 10 papers, and the two institutions in the United States published a total of 20 papers.

As can be seen from the ranking of the above ten institutions, Taiwan and the United Kingdom have issued the most articles, which have exceeded half of the top 10, followed by Singapore and the United States. Of course, among the papers published, Harvard University has a Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, which has already gained fame in the last century, so the half-life of the article is as high as 14.5, and its classic literature is still enduring.

Coupling analysis of institutional scientific research

In bibliometric studies, bibliographic coupling was first proposed by M.M. Kessler in 1963, and the main principle is to measure the similarity of documents by citing the same number of references. With the development of literature coupling analysis, the theory has been extended to the coupling of authors, journals, countries/regions, and institutions⁷. Therefore, VOSviewer 1.6.18 is used in this paper, and the top 10 institutions with the highest coupling strength are retained in this paper after appropriate parameter adjustment, and the specific data are shown on the right side of Table 2, as shown in Figure 4.

Table 2 shows that there are three universities in Taiwan, namely Natl Taiwan Univ, Acad Sinica, and Natl Chengchi Univ. All three ranked third, sixth and seventh respectively in terms of number of citations, with a total of nine articles receiving more than 250 citations, which is rare for a region. This also confirms its non-negligible position in overseas CCP studies.

In Figure 4, Cornell Univ Cornell University has the largest node, with three articles cited 144 times, but the total link strength is only 37, which is a huge difference from the second Univ Penn University of Pennsylvania's 181. The fourth place is Univ Missouri University, and the fifth place is Natl Univ Singapore, although two articles have been cited 100 times, but the total link strength is 1, it can only be said that the institution is relatively independent, rarely cooperating with foreign countries, but its research results should not be underestimated.

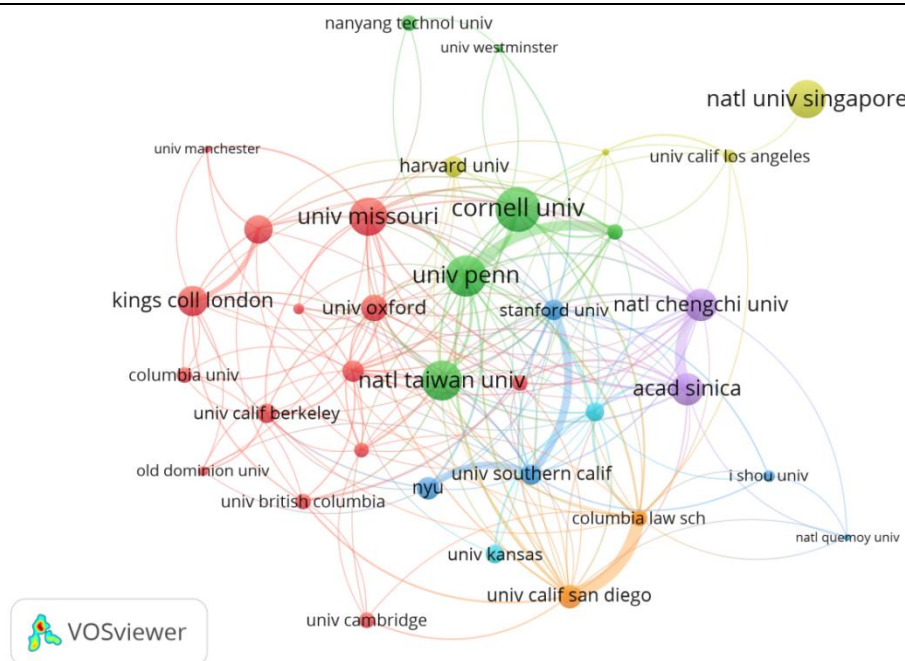


Figure 4 Top 10 partner institutions based on coupling analysis

Two of the final three universities are based in the UK. One is Kings Coll London, and the other is Univ Oxford. Relatively speaking, both in terms of the number of citations and the total link strength, they are gradually declining, and cannot compete with the above institutions. The only university from Oceania is Univ Sydney, which has been cited 58 times for six papers and only 38 for collaborations with other institutions, both of which are not satisfactory.

Country (Region)

In the regional and national disciplines, the results of national and regional research represent official attitudes. Therefore, the analysis and interpretation of the countries and regions studied by the Communist Party of China overseas can provide reasonable support for domestic policy formulation and diplomatic fronts. According to the Country option provided by CiteSpace 6.3.R3, without changing any parameters, it can be seen that four countries began to publish overseas research articles on the Communist Party of China for the first time in 2006. The largest number of countries continues to be the United States, with a total of 247 papers published so far. This is followed by 90 in the United Kingdom, a difference of as much as two times. The third place is Australia, with a total of 60 articles. In fourth place, Taiwan is China, with a total of 52 articles. In fifth place is Canada, although it has been published since 2006, the total number of articles is only 36, which is relatively backward. A total of 485 papers were published in the above five countries, accounting for 73.37% of the total 661 articles extracted from this paper. The sixth to tenth places were Singapore, Germany, South Korea, Japan and France, with a total of 92 publications in the five countries, accounting for only 13.92% of the total 661 articles.

Since both authors and institutions are cited for analysis, they are no longer added cumulatively in the country and region section. The most cited country is still the United States, followed by the United Kingdom and Taiwan.

5. Journal Analysis

The publications and citations are from journals, in which journals are the 661 articles in this sample published? Which journals are the references to these publications? Do they have anything in common?

According to the Publication Titles provided in the Web of Science Core Collection, 57 articles were published in *China Quarterly*, followed by *Journal of Contemporary China* with 46 articles. The third place is *Modern China* with 35 articles. The fourth and fifth places were placed in the *China International Journal* (23 articles) and *China Journal* (19 articles). In terms of numbers, the number of articles published by the first-place *China Quarterly* is almost three times that of the fifth-place *China Journal*. However, a total of 180 papers were published in the top five, accounting for 27.23% of the total 661 papers. It can be said that in overseas studies of the CCP, the journals that scholars prefer to

publish most are the five journals listed above. From the sixth to the tenth place, except for the Chinese Journal of Political Science, a total of 16 articles were published, and all other papers were published in Asia-related regional studies journals, such as *Asian Survey* (also known as *Asia Overview*), *Journal of Asian Studies* and *Asian Perspective*.

The bottom five of the top 10 add up to only 57 articles, almost one-third of the top five. However, the top 10 journals published a total of 237 articles, accounting for 35.85% of the total 661 articles, which can still be regarded as the most popular among overseas scholars in the study of the CCP. See Table 3 for the above data.

Table3. Top 10 key Journals/Cited Journals with the most published articles by authors

No.	Journal	Freq	No.	Cited Journals	Freq
1	<i>China Quarterly</i>	57	1	<i>CHINA QUART</i>	338
2	<i>Journal of Contemporary China</i>	46	2	<i>J CONTEMP CHINA</i>	199
3	<i>Modern China</i>	35	3	<i>CHINA J</i>	169
4	<i>China an International Journal</i>	23	4	<i>MOD CHINA</i>	127
5	<i>China Journal</i>	19	5	<i>J DEMOCR</i>	111
6	<i>Journal of Chinese Political Science</i>	16	6	<i>AM POLIT SCI REV</i>	104
7	<i>Asian Survey</i>	14	7	<i>ASIAN SURV</i>	91
8	<i>Modern Asian Studies</i>	10	8	<i>WORLD POLIT</i>	89
9	<i>Journal of Asian Studies</i>	9	9	<i>COMP POLIT STUD</i>	72
10	<i>Asian Perspective</i>	8	10	<i>J CHIN POLIT SCI</i>	68

The first number of cited journals is still the *China Quarterly*, an international authoritative academic journal founded by McFarquhar et al. in 1960, with 338 citations. Then there is *Contemporary China*, which has 199 citations, but the strength reaches 11.36, and the half-life of the article is 13.5, which is also the highest among all journals. Moreover, given that *Contemporary China* is located in the UK, this is indeed relatively rare, and it can be said that this journal enjoys a very important position in the field of Chinese Communist Party studies overseas.

In third place is *China Journal*, which has been cited 169 times, slightly lower than *Contemporary China*, but has a higher degree of centrality of 60. *Modern China*, ranked fourth, was cited 127 times and had a strength of 4.05, which was higher than that of *China Journal*. Therefore, *Modern China* should belong to the journal that has risen rapidly among the above journals and has gradually been favored by researchers in this field.

In fifth place is *Journal of Democracy*, a Baltimore-based journal that is not reflected in the author's article, but has been cited a whopping 111 times. As of 2024, the journal's emergence-intensity is 7.28, the degree centrality is 56, and the article half-life is 13.5, all of which fully indicate that the journal has received great attention from researchers. Since 2012, when China's political discourse system has entered a "New Era", *Democracy* has published three highly cited papers, namely "*Are the Rules of the Chinese Communist Party Fragile or Resilient?*" (Minxin Pei, 2012), "*Xi Jinping: The Revival of Maoism*" (Zhao Suisheng, 2016) and "*Xijiping: Return to Individualistic Domination*" (Tse, 2018). The above article is full of ideological connotations from the title alone. At the same time, the journal has a pieper coefficient of 0.8, which is a relatively difficult journal to publish, and the above three authors are also well-known scholars in overseas CCP studies.

From the sixth place *American Journal of Political Science*, this journal is located in New York, USA, which has been cited 104 times, and belongs to the same field of political science as *Democracy*, and the latest data shows that the Piper coefficient is as high as 0.995, which is an extremely difficult series to publish. Although neither of them appears in the top 10 lists of journals published in overseas CCP studies, it is clear that both have received great attention from researchers. In 2018, His paper "*Making institutions work: China's Sponsorship networks, Performance Incentives, and China's economic development*" from Victor Shih of Northwestern University, Christopher Adolph of the university of Washinton, and Mingxing Liu of Peking University was cited five times and Popped up from 2022 to 2024 with a burst intensity of 3.35, Indicating that there are authors in China cooperating.

Also located in New York, USA is ranked 8th *World Politics*, which is classified as International Relations and is cited 89 times. However, the ninth-place *Comparative Political Studies* and the tenth-ranked *Journal of Chinese Political Science* both had higher emergences than it, with 9.42 and 14.39, respectively. In particular, the *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, which was founded by Springer Nature in 1995, has only been published for 20 years, but the intensity of emergences has continued since 2020, indicating that the journal has a very high research content on

the academic value of overseas CCP studies, and the intensity of emergences is as high as 14.39 after only 61 citations, the highest among the top 10 journals.

Although the seventh *Asian Survey* is also ranked seventh among the journals published by authors, it has 14 publications and 91 citations, indicating that the journal is the closest to overseas research on the Chinese Communist Party. In addition, according to the journals published by the authors, there are three journals in the Asian category on the list, and only *Asian Perspective* is a highly cited journal.

In addition, the *New York Times* has a strength of 17.87 but an article half-life of 4.5. In other words, the newspaper's articles are explosive, but the ability of the articles to be cited continuously is insufficient. As well-established journals *Foreign Affairs* and *American Political Science Review*, they still have a great advantage in burst intensity and half-life of articles. The former has been cited 41 times and the latter 38 times, both of which continue to this day, proving that it is still one of the most popular reference journals in the field of overseas CCP studies.

6.Fund Analysis

Acknowledgments are given at the end of some of the downloaded literature, which are generally supported by state, academic societies or project funds, and the supporting institutions behind them can also be found through these acknowledgments, so as to get more academic information. So, with the Web of Science Core Collection, you can find it in Funding Agencies. A total of 251 articles were supported by at least one fund, accounting for 37.97% of the 661 articles. Among them, the 10 institutions with the most outputs of the fund projects are listed below.

Table4. Top 10 Funded Projects supported based on Literature

No.	Funding Agencies	Count
1	UK RESEARCH INNOVATION (UKRI)	15
2	MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TAIWAN	10
3	ECONOMIC SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (ESRC)	9
4	ARTS HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL (AHRC)	6
5	AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL	6
6	CHIANG CHING KUO FOUNDATION	4
7	SPANISH GOVERNMENT	4
8	GERMAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION	3
9	NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY	3
10	SMITH RICHARDSON FOUNDATION	3

Among them, the organization that funded the most literature publications is the UK's Research Innovation (UKRI), which has produced a total of 15 literatures. If calculated from 2006, an article has been published almost every year between 2006 and 2024. Next is the Ministry of Science and Technology Taiwan, which has funded 10 articles.

The third place is the Economic Social Research Council(ESRC). This institution is very famous in the UK and mainly funds economic and social sciences. Although it does not have its own research institute, nor does it have subordinate research units or personnel, the projects it funds are generally entrusted to universities or independent research institutions. All funded projects are either proposed by the government or selected through a bottom-up open competition process, and the entire selection and acceptance process is carried out publicly and transparently in accordance with peer review. Its annual budget is as high as 169 million pounds, and data shows that even in the 2007-2008 fiscal year, its funding was approximately 99 million pounds. Of course, the funding amount for each project varies, with small projects receiving about 15,000 pounds and large projects reaching 5 million pounds. It mainly focuses on funding social sciences, with three branches: economics, sociology, and politics and international relations. Among the 13 sub-disciplines, regional and development studies are listed as the first, followed by economic and social history, social decision-making research, social law research, and computing and methodology, etc. Currently, its funding priorities are primarily global economic operations, policies and management; security, conflict and justice; and social diversity and population vitality.

The fourth place, the Arts Humanities Research Council (AHRC), still comes from the UK. It can be seen that three of the top ten funding institutions are from the UK, which have funded a total of 30 literatures, accounting for 11.95% of the total 251 literatures. This proportion supported by a single country is already very high, and it also reflects why UK institutions have produced more literature.

The fifth place is the Australian Research Council, which, like the AHRC, has funded 6 papers. Following it is the Chiang Ching Kuo Foundation, the second foundation from Taiwan, China, among the top ten. Although only 4 papers were published with its support, Taiwan has funded a total of 14 literatures, half of that of the UK. This indicates that the reason why these two countries and regions have produced more literature is indeed related to the influx of funds. The Spanish Government has also published 4 papers.

Next is the German Research Foundation (DFG), which has funded 3 papers. Although many institutions in Germany fund research projects, the German Science Foundation can provide funding for individuals and their research projects and is one of the largest project institutions in Germany.

The last two funding institutions are Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, which belongs to university funding, and the US Smith Richardson Foundation, both of which have produced 3 literatures. However, the Richardson Foundation has a large support strength and breadth and is extremely close to politics. It also supports two organizations: one is Freedom House, which was once led by former US CIA Director Woolsey; the other is the Council on Foreign Relations, an elite organization in the field of US diplomacy. It can be seen that the Richardson Foundation has a large support strength and breadth and is extremely close to politics. Moreover, according to the 2015 Research on the Funding Strategy of US Conservative Foundations for Universities by Xiamen University, the organization integrates different social trends and influences public policies through its strong financial resources and careful planning.

7. Conclusions and prospects

From 2006 to 2024, the full 19 years of CCP studies abroad is not a long time, but it is a difficult process for growing China. During this period, the Chinese Communist Party has experienced many hardships and sorrows, but it has stood tall in the east of the world again and again. Based on the knowledge mapping and brief scientometrics of the above 661 documents, combined with the basic paradigm of overseas CPC research, this paper argues that overseas CCP research has followed the traditional four types of research themes since the new era. They are: the paradigm of historical figures, the paradigm of elite politics, the paradigm of authoritarian research, and the paradigm of factional struggle.

Acknowledgments: This research work was supported by the Heilongjiang Province Basic Research Business Fund "Research on Empowering Higher Education Practice Development with Digital Literacy"(Grant No.: 2024-KYYWF-1042).

Declarations (24th June 2025)

- 1.Consent to Publish declaration: not applicable.
- 2.Clinical trial number: not applicable.
3. 'Ethics, Consent to Participate, and Consent to Publish declarations: not applicable.
- 4.The basic data of this article comes from the author's lawful use of the Web of Science (SSCI+A&HCI) research database platform in the Beijing Foreign Studies University Electronic Library(<http://lib.bfsu.edu.cn>) during my visiting period at Beijing Foreign Studies University (September 2024- July 2025). The highly cited literature data comes from other databases.
- 5.Yuan. Li: Conceptualization, Methodology, Writing-Original Draft; Data Curation, Formal Analysis, Writing-Review & Editing; Investigation, Validation.
- 6.Competing Interests The author declares no competing interests.

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¹ Note: The Web of Science core collection databases purchased by the library of Beijing University of Foreign Chinese include SSCI and A&HCI, which have been collected since 2006.

² Note: The Web of Science core collection databases include Hongkong and Macau, NOT Taiwan.

³ Li Jie ,Chen Chaomei: CiteSpace: Scientific and Technological Text Mining and Visualization (3rd Edition), Capital Economics and Trade Press, 3rd Edition, March 2022, p. 226.

⁴ Li Jie ,Chen Chaomei: CiteSpace: Scientific and Technological Text Mining and Visualization (3rd Edition), Capital Economics and Trade Press, 3rd Edition, March 2022, p. 171-172.

⁵ Note: Since there is not much increase in literature in 2025 and the number of posts per author cannot be displayed in the pictures, the drawing on November 29, 2024 is used.

⁶ Note: Freq represents the number of publications by an institution, Half-life indicates the decay rate of literature, Citations denote the number of times a publication is cited, and Total link strength signifies the intensity of collaboration with other institutions.

⁷ Note:Li Jie, "Principles and Applications of Scientific Knowledge Graphs: A Beginner's Guide to VOSviewer and CitNetExplorer", Higher Education Press, August 2018, p. 52.