**Project Title:** China Dream: A Curatorial Study on the Artistic Interpretations of Contemporary China for the World

**Supervisors**

Professor Jiang Jiehong, Professor Jonathan Harris

Cultural partner: Sarah Fisher (Director of the Open Eye Gallery)

**Project description:**

This collaborative project focusses on the artistic interpretations of ‘China Dream’, which has been promoted as a slogan since late 2012 under Xi Jianping's regime in China and internationally: ‘a dream for peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit for all... will not only benefit the Chinese people, but also people of all countries in the world.’ The term ‘China Dream’ is culturally engaged, representing a specific political agenda, and at the same time, forming a distance – a permanent one – and yet, a romantic, even artistic distance. The study examines artistic reflections and strategies to capture a reality of extraordinary economic development and the rapid urban transformations, the image of the 'China dream', and indeed, their 'translations' for the world. Building on the previous AHRC CDA award at BCU (Jiang and Fisher, 2014-17) on 'translating' Chinese contemporary art for the UK audience, this practice-led project is designed timely to be part of the Liverpool China Season 2018, in line with the Terracotta Army exhibition at the National Museum Liverpool, and subsequently, Liverpool's international photo festival, the LOOK 2019, proposed and produced by the Open Eye Gallery and Liverpool City Council. It provides a platform to gain the firsthand experience in working with a number of non-HE organisations and creative industries, to rethink the relationship between art, culture and politics, between artistic/curatorial productions and audience perceptions, and to conduct a generative process of knowledge development through art and cultural exchange.

**The project will focus on the following research objectives:**

* To investigate the political and cultural significances of the notion of 'China Dream' and to analyse the interpretations through a variety of forms of creative arts and design;
* To obtain the first-hand materials and experience in working with curators and artists during the curatorial development of the Liverpool projects and to 'translate' the artistic reflections for the international audience;
* To develop speculative knowledge through qualitative methods in the context of Chinese arts, politics and cultural exchange.

Embedded in BCUs new STEAMHouse facility in Digbeth, Birmingham, amongst creative professionals and organisations in the city as well as working with Open Eye Gallery in Liverpool, the successful applicant will have opportunities to showcase their research project and develop meaningful networks and relationships in the arts and cultural industries.