

Centre for Asian Business and Economics

CABE RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

PRESENTER Professor Simon Collinson (Zhejiang University)

TOPIC From Catching Up to Overtaking: Innovation and Learning in China

DATE Thursday 1 May 2025

TIME 11:30 AM – 12.30 PM

VENUE The Spot (198 Berkeley Street), Level 10, Room 10.039

ABSTRACT

WIPOs Global Innovation Index (2024) shows that 7 out of the top 10 S&T clusters are now in Asia, 4 in China. This index measures the 'input' side of some types of innovation, it has limitations but does indicate the growing innovation-related capacity and capability of key industries in China. Data and evidence from Harvard's Growth Lab, particularly on economic complexity, and other macro-level and industry-level analysis also provide compelling evidence that China's firms are moving rapidly up particular kinds of global value chains. This talk will connect these high-level measures to firm-level studies that are starting to give us a clearer picture of how some Chinese firms are doing this. There will be some reference to (IB) internalisation theory, 'recombinant advantages,' dynamic capabilities, and the development of ownership assets and capabilities (Oa), to frame the discussion.

BIO

Simon Collinson is the Tsingshan Chair Professor in the [School of Management, Zhejiang University](#) (SOM, ZJU), one of the leading universities in China. He is also an Honorary Professor at the University of Birmingham and an Associate at the Bennett Institute for Public Policy at Cambridge University. Before moving to China in May 2024 he had a dual role at the University of Birmingham. After 4 years as Dean of the Business School (2012-2016) he became the first Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor for Regional Engagement and established the City-Region Economic Development Institute ([City-REDI](#)) as its Founding Director, leading research on inclusive regional growth. He has been an ESRC Council member, Chair of the Chartered Association of Business Schools (CABS) and is a Fellow of the Royal Society, of the Academy of Social Sciences, of the British Academy of Management and of CABS.

His current research is on international business, regional innovation systems and economic growth, R&D commercialization and the management of productivity and innovation. He works with government, businesses and community organisations in the UK and internationally in these areas and has been awarded over £15million of research funding from Research England, ESRC, EPSRC, AHRC, the EU, the UK government, and the private sector.

Alongside peer-reviewed journal outputs in, for example, *Research Policy*, *Regional Studies*, *JIBS*, *Business History and Organisation Studies*, his research has featured in the *Financial Times*, *Sunday Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *BBC Radio 4*, and the *New Statesman*. He is also lead author of the FT/Pearson *International Business* textbook (9th Edition, 2024). He has taught at the MBA and Executive levels at Henley (Reading), WBS (Warwick) and Judge (Cambridge) Business Schools and has consulting experience with a wide range of multinational firms.

