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edited by
Ching Kwan Lee
University of California, Los Angeles

GLOBAL CHINA AS METHOD

Ivan Franceschini
The Australian National University
Nicholas Loubere
Lund University



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Ivan Franceschini
The Australian National University

Nicholas Loubere
Lund University

Author for correspondence: Ivan Franceschini, franceschini.ivan@gmail.com

Abstract: Is China part of the world? Based on much of the political, media, and popular discourse in the West the answer is seemingly no. Even after four decades of integration into the global socio-economic system, discussions of China continue to be underpinned by a core assumption: that the country represents a fundamentally different 'Other' that somehow exists outside the 'real' world. Either implicitly or explicitly, China is generally depicted as an external force with the potential to impact on the 'normal' functioning of things. This core assumption, of China as an orientalised, externalised, and separate 'Other', ultimately produces a distorted image of both China and the world. This Element seeks to illuminate the ways in which the country and people form an integral part of the global capitalist system. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Keywords: labour rights, digital surveillance, academic freedom, Xinjiang, Belt and Road Initiative

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