

# Tsinghua Newsletter

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The Tsinghua Laboratory of Brain and Intelligence and the Future Laboratory unveiled



Chen Xu visits universities in St. Petersburg, Russia



Farewell 2017, Welcome 2018!  
-- New Year Greetings from Tsinghua International Students

清华大学  
脑与智能实验室

清华大学  
未来实验室



# The Tsinghua Laboratory of Brain and Intelligence and the Future Laboratory unveiled

**O**n December 15th, the Tsinghua Laboratory of Brain and Intelligence (THBI) and the Future Laboratory, Tsinghua University (THFL), were officially unveiled. Among the attendees at the ceremony were Hua Jianmin, the Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the 11th National People's Congress, former State Councilor and Secretary General of the State Council, as well as the Chairman of Tsinghua's Committee of Strategic Development; Xu Guanhua, member of the Standing Committee of the 11th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference National Committee, former Minister of Science and Technology, member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Chair of the Scientific

Steering Committee of the Institute for Global Change Studies at Tsinghua; Wu Qidi, former Vice Minister of Education and Director of Tsinghua's Center for Engineering Education; Zhang Jingan, former Secretary-General of the Ministry of Science and Technology, former Chief of the Science and Technology Daily, Deputy-Director of the Administration Committee of Institute for Culture Creativity, Tsinghua University; Professor Sir Keith Burnett, the President & Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, the President of Tsinghua University Qiu Yong, and the Vice President Xue Qikun.

Hua Jianmin extended his congratulations to Tsinghua in his speech, and emphasized the importance of



interaction across academia, enterprises, and other social circles, and their deep integration. He noted that in the past three years, Tsinghua had proposed many important measures concerning reform and innovation. Especially in its promotion of interdisciplinarity, Tsinghua had made successful attempts at improving the management, cultural environment, supportive systems, and organization of interdisciplinary research, and had obtained fruitful results. The ACM Gordon Bell Prize Tsinghua has just won is a good example of the university's achievements in this regard. He also hoped Tsinghua would take the establishment of these two labs as an opportunity, and attain outstanding results in the production of revolutionary technological innovations at the forefront of research. He hoped Tsinghua would support and contribute to the construction of an innovation-oriented country.

Xu Guanhua, Wu Qidi, and Zhang



Jingan also congratulated Tsinghua on the unveiling of the two labs.

In his address, Qiu Yong noted that the establishment of the THBI and THFL is a landmark event in Tsinghua's reform of the systems and mechanisms of scientific research, and a crucial measure to promote interdisciplinarity within the university. He also stated that innovation is the most important keyword of the 21st century, and to promote interdisciplinary research is key in obtaining high-level innovative results. The future development of innovation at Tsinghua demands great attention to interdisciplinarity. President Qiu hoped the two labs could produce results that truly represent the fruitful outcome of this innovation in the systems and mechanisms of scientific research at Tsinghua.



As a new measure to fully implement the national strategy of innovation-driven development, and to deepen the comprehensive reforms, including the reforms of the systems and mechanisms of scientific research carried out by Tsinghua, these two

new interdisciplinary research institutes will target the forefront of science and technology, further promoting interdisciplinary research.

The THBI and THFL will look towards the future and nurture a richer culture for interdisciplinary research by pooling together wisdom from around the world. Through their revolutionary technological innovations these two labs aim to generate original results through interdisciplinary research, thereby better serving the requirements of major national strategies and the need for economic development, and leading progress in science and technology.

These two labs will cultivate as well as attract a group of leading scientific talents and researchers, and conduct interdisciplinary research in the vanguard of academia, with the aim of contributing to future developments in science and technology, and to providing strategic support for the construction of an innovation-oriented country.

The main research area of the THBI will be the interaction of systems and computational neuroscience, and artificial intelligence. The lab will gather top scholars from all over the world, and add momentum to interdisciplinary research in engineering, life sciences and medical research at Tsinghua, while promoting as well as leading the development of the

interdisciplinarity of the university at large.

The main research directions of the THBI are: 1) to develop the next generation of key neuro-technologies in brain-computer interface, human-computer interaction and neural modulation; 2) to use engineering techniques and computational models to explore complex problems in the forefront of brain science, especially in frontier areas such as the neural mechanisms of speech and language, music perception and social interaction, the neural circuits of emotion and decision-making, and neuro-aesthetics; 3) to develop brain-inspired devices and systems and conduct theoretical work on general artificial intelligence systems. An important mission of the laboratory is to train the next generation of researchers with dual training in engineering, mathematics and neuroscience.

"Brain science is an important discipline today where engineering and life sciences intersect to a high degree. The THBI will make the most of Tsinghua's advantages in these subjects, and gather together the world's leading scholars in brain science and artificial intelligence to explore the complex issues at the frontier of brain science, and to promote fundamental research in AI," said Wang Xiaoqin, the director of the THBI and professor from the Department of Biomedical



The THFL will aim to promote changes in the fields of human cognition, interaction and logic, and endeavor to explore the future of humanity and revolutionize our life and working style. It will incubate innovative technologies and emerging industries, thereby making the future tangible.” The lab will first conduct research in multi-channel cognition and interaction, future habitats, future health care, computational photography, emotional expression data collection and analysis, and affective computing. It will also expand its exploration to other areas, striving to lead innovation in technology.

Engineering.

Xu Yingqing, the Director of the THFL and Professor from the Academy of Arts & Design of Tsinghua, stated in his speech that “the THFL

will build upon Tsinghua’s advantages in different disciplines and talent training, and realize multi-level intersections of science and technology, as well as arts and humanities.

# Chen Xu visits universities in St. Petersburg, Russia

*--Promoting technological cooperation and people-to-people exchange between China and Russia*

From December 4th to 5th, Chen Xu, the Chairperson of the University Council of Tsinghua, led a delegation to St. Petersburg, Russia, in order to promote scientific and technological cooperation as well as people-to-people exchange between Chinese and Russian higher education institutions. The visit by Tsinghua, through concrete activities, applied the 2017-2020 implementation guideline for the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation, ratified by the leaders of the two countries. During the visit to Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University and Saint Petersburg University, the delegation held in-depth discussions on inter-university strategic cooperation, injecting new energy into the implementation of Tsinghua’s Global Strategy and the exchanges between China and Russia on education, science, technology and culture.

On December 4th, the “Tsinghua University Day” series of events were held at Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University. Chen Xu





noted in her talk that St. Petersburg Polytechnic University is a famous comprehensive university celebrated for its advantages in engineering, and it has trained a multitude of talents for Russia and the world. She believes that with the success of “Tsinghua University Day”, the two universities would have closer cooperation in broader fields and on a deeper level.

Rector A.I. Rudskoy of Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University spoke highly of the international reputation and academic strength of Tsinghua and said he had high expectations from the strategic partnership between the two universities.

Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University awarded an honorary doctorate to Chen Xu to commend her achievements in academic research and higher education management, her contribution in promoting friendly cooperation between the two universities and in Sino-Russian education and people-to-people exchange. Rector Rudskoy presided over the conferment ceremony and congratulated Chen Xu for becoming the youngest and the first foreign female recipient of the honorary doctorate.

In recent years, Tsinghua and St. Petersburg Polytechnic University have been vigorously promoting communication and collaboration in many areas such as aeronautics and

astronautics, industrial engineering, materials science, mechanical engineering and social sciences. To further upgrade research collaborations between the two universities, the two sides have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on scientific and technological cooperation between Tsinghua University and St. Petersburg Polytechnic University, which aims to promote jointly conducted research projects, student and facul-



ty exchange, and lab co-construction.

Chen Xu also visited the joint lab co-developed by the two universities, as well as St. Petersburg Polytechnic

University’s research centers and labs. She spoke with the researchers in these labs and learned about the university’s latest research developments and the transformation of these achievements.

During the “Tsinghua University Day at St. Petersburg Polytechnic University”, Tsinghua University held an international education exhibition at St. Petersburg Polytechnic University to present Tsinghua’s accomplishments and introduce key measures for implementing Tsinghua’s Global Strategy to make the university more international. Meanwhile, a special exhibition on the communication and cooperation between the two universities was held to review the history and the achievements. Chen Xu and Rector Rudskoy attended the exhibition together with faculty and students from St. Petersburg Polytechnic, and interacted with the Chinese and Russian students



present on the occasion.

On December 5th, Chen Xu visited Saint Petersburg University. She held a talk with Rector Nikolay Kropachev and signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the two universities.

Chen Xu noted during the talk that the cooperation between the two universities is of great significance for promoting Sino-Russian people-to-people exchange, and hoped that the two universities would strengthen cooperation in talent training and jointly nurture the world's future leaders. Kropachev



noted that Saint Petersburg University places great importance on the cooperation with Tsinghua and hopes to explore more fields of cooperation in the future.

Dmitry Mezentsev, an alumnus of Saint Petersburg University, a

Member of the Russian Federation Council, Chairman of the Russia-China Friendship Association, and the former Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, also attended the talk.

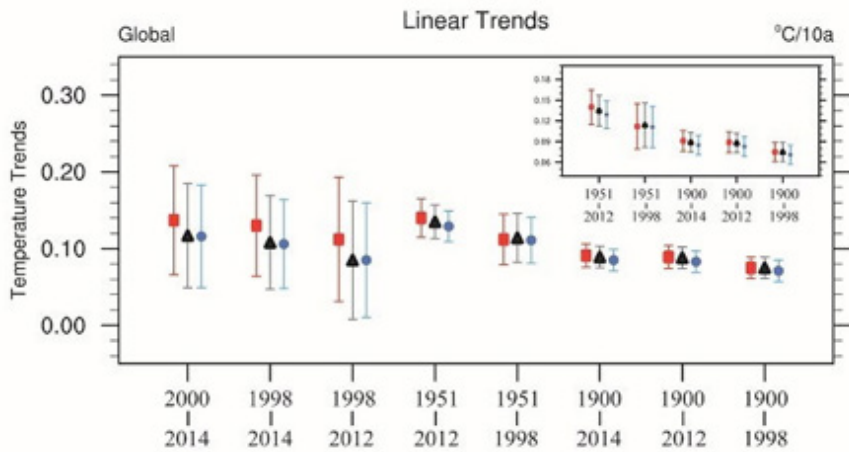
During her visit, Chen Xu presented the Russian edition of *Xi Jinping: The Governance*

*of China* to Saint Petersburg University and the Russia-China Friendship Association, and introduced the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. She also visited the Museum of History of Saint Petersburg University that day.

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# Professor Yong Luo's research group reconstructed the Arctic temperature dataset of last hundred years, revealing a continual global warming trend

On November 20th, a group of researchers under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Yong Luo (Department of Earth System Science, Tsinghua University) and in collaboration with Prof. Xiangdong Zhang (University of Alaska, Fairbanks), Dr. Suping Nie (Associate Research Fellow in the National Climate Center), and others, published an online article entitled "Recently amplified arctic warming has contributed to a continual global warming trend" in the journal *Nature Climate Change*. Using a new interpolation method, a set of surface temperature sequences in the Arctic region over a time span of more than 100 years with a strong spatial and temporal homogeneity was established. Analysis of the new dataset shows that the global climate is persistently warming without any sign of hiatus or slowdown. New insights have been put forward to the international scientific community to debate



over the existence of a “global warming hiatus” and its possible mechanism in recent years.

From the beginning of 2009, the topic of a “global warming hiatus” has puzzled the entire scientific community. Researchers have put forward different views to explain the mechanism and have also regarded it as a new challenge to global warming research. The term “global warming hiatus” refers to the slowdown or pause in the global mean temperature rise around 1998, although the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are still on the rise. The temperature increased by 0.05C per decade in 1998–2012, which was much lower than the average warming rate of 0.12C per decade since 1951.

Linear trends and associated uncertainties in the global mean annual SAT data based on reconstructed Arctic temperatures during the eight time periods of our interest are shown in the figure. In the inset, the results of the latter five periods are zoomed in. The results from the annual mean temperature change rate of NOAA for reconstruction (filled

black triangles), the monthly mean temperature change rate of the original NOAA (filled blue circles) and the global mean temperature change rate after the Arctic temperature reconstructed in this paper (filled red squares) are shown here. Color bars denote a 90% confidence interval. (Unit: C/10 years)

The inconsistency between the manifestations of a “global warming hiatus” and the continuous increase of CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the atmosphere puzzled the researchers, who doubt whether global warming has stalled. Are anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions key to global warming? Is there any need to step up efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? To answer these major scientific issues



**From left to right: Qiyi Zhang, Yong Luo, Xiangdong Zhang, and Jianbin Huang investigated Seward Glacier in Alaska in August 2014.**

of widespread concern, climatologists around the world have conducted extensive research from the perspectives of, e.g., the effects of solar activity, volcanic activity and other external forces, deep oceanic heat content, and the role of the Pacific Ocean and the North Atlantic Ocean.

However, surface temperature observation sites are unevenly distributed globally, especially in the Antarctic and the Arctic regions where the observations are extremely sparse. Therefore, to what extent is the influence on the judgment of a “global warming hiatus” when calculating the global mean temperature in the absence of the Arctic region, which has been rapidly and intensively warmed in recent years? This is the pressing scientific problem that needs to be solved urgently.

The team has used the latest global temperature observation dataset released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (lack of observation data in the polar region), and the Arctic temperature buoy dataset released by the International Arctic Buoy Programme (IABP) from 1850 to 2014 and from 1979 to 2004 respectively for their analysis. They applied the Data Interpolating Empirical Orthogonal Functions (DINEOF) method, which takes full advantage of the temporal and spatial coordination of the Arctic temperature, to reconstruct the temperature dataset in the regions with sparse observations, finally establishing a set of annual mean temperature series covering an area north of 50° N, and from 1900 to 2014.

Research based on the new dataset found

that the Arctic region has experienced accelerated warming after 2000. The global mean temperature including the Arctic region shows a warming trend of 0.112C per decade in 1998–2012, which is significantly higher than the trend that excludes the Arctic region (0.05C per decade). The result is surprisingly similar to the warming trend in 1951–2012. This study reveals for the first time that rapid Arctic warming may have offset the cooling effects in the tropical eastern equatorial region on the global mean temperature in recent years. Although the spatial pattern of global warming has changed, the increasing trend in the global mean temperature has not changed. The study further points out that the lack of observation data in the Arctic region has a far greater impact on the calculation of the global mean temperature than that in the Antarctic region. The conclusion of the study clarifies the current debate over the “global warming hiatus”, namely, that global warming is still continuing without a hiatus or slowdown.

Dr. Jianbin Huang, from the DESS at Tsinghua University, is the first author of this paper, and Prof. Yong Luo and Prof. Xiangdong Zhang are the corresponding authors. The co-authors also include M.S. Qiyi Zhang, A.P. Yanluan Lin, Mingju Hao (PhD student), Prof. Zongci Zhao, Dr. Yao Yao, Dr. Xin Chen, Dr. Lei Wang, Senior Engineer Jiansong Zhang from the DESS at Tsinghua University, Associate Research Fellow Suping Nie, Associate Research Fellow Yizhou Yin, and Research Fellow Ying Xu from the National Climate Center.

**The original link:**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-017-0009-5>

# The first 2018 Postgraduate Work Exhibition of the Academy of Arts & Design being held at the Visual Art Center



**The exhibition will continue until Dec 27th.**

On November 29th, the opening ceremony of the first 2018 Postgraduate Work Exhibition of the Academy of Arts & Design of Tsinghua University was held at the Visual Art Center.

The exhibition is being held in Galleries 1, 2 and 3 of the Visual Art Center, located on the first floor of Area B. More than 150 graduation artworks by 13 Master’s degree students feature in the exhibition, which demonstrates a multitude of genres and forms.

The students come from the Department of Ceramic Design, the Department of Industrial Design, the Department of Information Art & Design, the Department of Painting, the Department of Sculpture, the Department of Arts and Crafts, and the Department of Art History.





# Outstanding Students honored at 2017 Tsinghua Scholarship Awards Ceremony



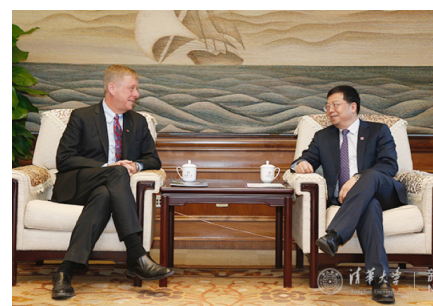
A number of outstanding Tsinghua students were honored on December 21st at the 2017 Tsinghua Scholarship Awards Ceremony in the Main Building. 20 students were awarded Tsinghua Top Grade Scholarships, 50 students received Jiang Nanxiang Scholarships, and 50 students received “December Ninth” Scholarships. Tsinghua University President Qiu Yong, Tsinghua Vice President Wang Xiqin, and Vice Chairperson of University Council Guo Yong awarded certificates to the scholarship winners.



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# Qiu Yong meets the President of Khalifa University

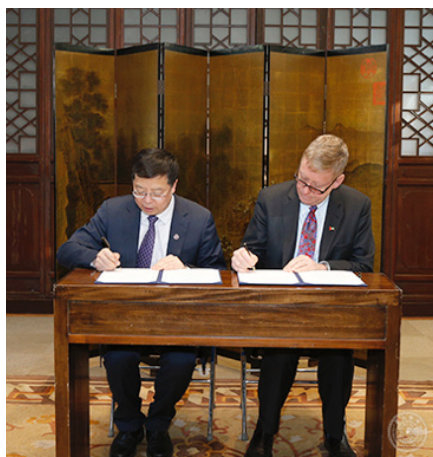
*--A Memorandum of Understanding on Communication and Cooperation signed*



On December 5th, President Qiu Yong of Tsinghua met with Dr. Tod A. Laursen, the President of Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The two sides held discussions on promoting communication and research collaborations between the two universities and signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Communication and Cooperation.

During the meeting, Qiu Yong noted that Tsinghua University has been vigorously promoting its Global Strategy and he welcomed students from Khalifa University and other UAE students to come and study at Tsinghua. President Qiu also hoped the two universities could conduct in-depth research collaborations in the field of new energy sources.

Laursen noted that Tsinghua is a world-renowned university and that there is great room for the two universities to communicate and cooperate with each other. The University students of today's world need to have a global vision, and it is very important for the two universities to conduct cultural exchanges. Both sides also held in-depth discussions on student and faculty exchange, lab collaborations, and research into new energy sources.



**President Qiu and President Tod A. Laursen then signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the two universities.**

## Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme Erik Solheim Delivers Speech at Tsinghua

The Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mr. Erik Solheim, visited Tsinghua University and delivered a speech to the Tsinghua Forum to share his insights on global environmental governance and the role of youth on December 11th.

The Executive Director of UNEP mentioned in his speech that the world needs China's leadership in several areas including: counteracting air pollution, building green cities, and reducing as well as recycling plastic waste. He also noted that we need the dedication of young people for the changes to happen in the near future.



Prior to joining UNEP, Mr. Solheim was the chair of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). From 2007 to 2012, he held the combined portfolio of Norway's Minister of the Environment and International Development, and from 2005 to 2007 served as Minister of International Development.

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## Gala Night 2018: One Stage, One World

The Tsinghua International Students & Scholars' Gala Night 2018 took place on Friday night, December 15th, to much anticipation from the international community. Hundreds of students and professors gathered to be amazed by gravity-defying martial arts, awe-inspiring dance moves, and enchanting songs.

The evening started with an opening remark delivered by Vice President Shi Yigong. He congratulated international students and scholars on their accomplishments at Tsinghua University.

### **24 Acts Wow the Audience**

International students at Tsinghua from over 40 countries performed in 24 acts ranging from songs

and dances to dramatic performances.

The program offered a little bit of everything. The energetic instrumental performance on Korean drums warmed up the crowd.

For the first act, Latin Dance turned the temperature way up as they danced in pairs to “Despacito,” the hottest international song of the summer.



### Voices to Rival the Stars

On the edge of their seats, the night saw many beautiful songs performed by students and teachers. Hit songs from musicals, hip-hop artists, Chinese-Korean and Chinese-English ballads, and even beatboxing, had members of the audience cheering and singing along to the music.

Solo acts by students such as Dylan perfectly complemented



the group performances by the Schwarzman Scholars, ZZAPPY, and You Say Wah Say.

### Traditional-Meets-Modern

The night saw students deftly performing a fusion of modern and traditional dances and songs including a song by the Beijing Opera Students Association, traditional and modern Indian dances complete with beautiful costumes by students Reshimita and Chitra Shukla, and a lively African dance by the African Students Association.

The audience cheered and swayed to the music as dance acts ranging from K-Pop to jazz, street dance, and ballroom lit up the floor.

The Martial Arts mixed traditional movements with exciting music, jaw-dropping flips and kicks, and a glow-in-the-dark sequence showcasing their combined talents of speed and precision.



### Students and Staff Who Go Above and Beyond

But the arts weren't the only talents recognized last night. The annual Leadership Scholarship for International Students was awarded

to the students who have demonstrated a passion for advancing the impact and image of the University. Service members who have positively contributed to the daily life of international students were also recognized with the 2017 Campus Services' Person of the Year award.

The event was co-organized by the International Students and Scholars Center and the Tsinghua University Students' Association of International Cultural Exchange.

Despite the cold, the international community at Tsinghua left Gala Night 2018 amazed and energized by the skilled performances.

The performers' talents proved that Tsinghua University and its International Students and Scholars truly embody the practice of the old and the new living harmoniously in One School, One Family.





## Annual Singing Competition held at Tsinghua

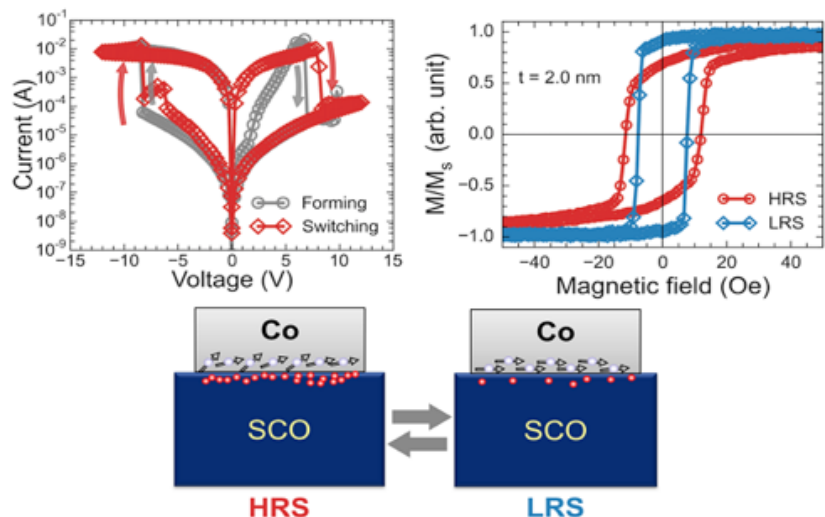
For the singers among us, December is the highlight of the year.

Every December, the Tsinghua Annual Singing Competition takes place at the Sports Center. This year, the 27th Annual Singing Competition was held on December 17th.

Initiated in 1990, the Tsinghua Annual Singing Competition remains one of the most popular cultural events on campus. The student singers showcase their talent here, and some of them have even elected to pursue a career as professional singers after graduation.



# Prof. Pu Yu's research group achieved a novel pathway to achieve electric field control of magnetism through ionic evolution



On December 18th, 2017, a research team led by Prof. Pu Yu (Department of Physics, Tsinghua University) published their research results entitled “Electric field control of ferromagnetism through oxygen ionic gating” in the journal of *Nature Communications*. In this work, using a simple resistive switch device architecture of Co/SrCoO<sub>2.5</sub> heterostructure, the team has demonstrated an effective pathway to control the ferromagnetism in Co metal through electric field controlled oxygen ion evolution within an oxide SrCoO<sub>2.5</sub> layer.

Electric-field control of magnetism, i.e. magneto-electric coupling, forms one of the key approaches to achieve next generation high-speed and low-power spintronic. Recently, researchers have proposed that oxygen ions in oxide materials can be utilized to effectively manipulate the magnetic properties of ferromagnetic metal layers in metal/oxide heterostructures, through electric-field controlled reversible redox reactions within metal layers. However, to facilitate the oxygen ion migration and necessary redox reactions, extended operating times (several seconds or

even minutes) and elevated temperature conditions (~100 °C) are typically required. Thus, achieving high-speed performance at room temperature remains one of the main challenges before such simple architectures can be readily adopted in modern semiconductor technologies.

Among the complex oxides, the brownmillerite SrCoO<sub>2.5</sub> (SCO) possesses a unique oxygen-vacancy ordered crystalline structure, providing a suitable condition for the ionic transport. Early this year, based on this material, Prof. Yu's group has demonstrated an electric field controlled tri-state phase transformation with dual ion evolution. Inspired by the previous work, the SCO was employed in the current study as a potential fast ionic gate to realize magneto-electric coupling in metal/insulator (Co/SCO) junctions. The group has discovered that the simple device exhibits nice resistance switching behavior, i.e. the resistance can be switched between different states

under an external electric field. Interestingly, they have revealed that the magnetic property of the Co layer is strongly correlated with the resistant state, thus showing the magneto-electric coupling nicely. They further proved that both behaviors are dominated by the ionic transfer at the interface, in which the variation of interfacial oxygen ion concentration modulates strongly both the interface resistive state and the magnetic anisotropy of the Co layer. Due to the rapid ion transportation at the interface and its independence to the bulk redox, the room-temperature device response speed is about four orders of magnitude faster than previous Co/GdOx systems, which could be further improved through device optimization.

The current study provides a solid foundation to combine the study of magneto-electric coupling and resistance switch effects together, with potential for creating multi-functional devices compatible with modern

semiconductor technologies.

Prof. Pu Yu is the corresponding author of the paper, and Dr. Hao-Bo Li is the first author. The work was done with the close collaboration of a large group of people, which include Prof. Cewen Nan's group at the School of Materials Science and Engineering, Tsinghua University, Prof. Lin Gu's group and Prof. Kui Jin's group at Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Prof. Hui Liu's group from Nankai University. The project was financially supported by National Basic Research Program of China, National Natural Science Foundation of China, The Initiative Research Projects of Tsinghua University, Strategic Priority Research Program of Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the Beijing Advanced Innovation Center for Future Chip (ICFC).

**The original link:**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-017-02359-6>

# Farewell 2017, Welcome 2018!

## -- New Year Greetings from Tsinghua International Students

As 2017 is drawing to a close, some international students currently studying at Tsinghua were invited to share their growth, memories, and joy experienced here on campus.



"In the few months that I've been at Tsinghua, I've enjoyed making friends and discovering 'meiwei' (delicious) food around the campus canteens. The whole process from getting my lunch card, at first not being able to read the 'caidan' (menu) to eventually being able to read part of the 'caidans', and finally ordering the food, made the experience all the more memorable."

--Wendy, Canadian, Chinese Language Program



"It has been a wonderful year at Tsinghua University. I have had the pleasure of making lasting friendship and memories, while living in the vibrancy of this rich campus. This

prestigious institution harbors many legends, and I look forward to seeing many more to come.”

--Jack C. Glasgow, USA, School of Economics and Management

“I have been living and studying in China for four years. Currently I’m a student in the Department of International Relations. I’ve seen people taking pictures of their children in front of the Main Gate, the West Gate and the Old Gate. The children would tell their mothers that they want to study at Tsinghua when they grow up. To be able to study here is not only a dream for Chinese children, but I’d like to say that it is also a dream for international students. I hope that everyone is happy every day, at Tsinghua. I hope everyone can find good friends here.”

-- David Janna, Colombia, Department of International Relations



“My name is Lara Connaughton. Currently I’m a scholar at Schwarzman College completing a Masters in Global Affairs. This year I’m the administrative chair of the student government here and we have taken part in some great events with the graduate and international students of Tsinghua. It has been fantastic meeting the Tsinghua students from both China and abroad in the lovely canteens and cafes on campus, in some classes we take together, and through the various student societies. As my friends know back home, I was never very athletic. But there is a wonderful emphasis put on sports here. Last year, the female Schwarzman scholars set up a soccer team, and we have kept the tradition

going. Being part of the Tsinghua family has been a really special experience. Even when we travel around China, no matter how far away we get from Beijing, you can be sure that everyone knows the Tsinghua name! Best of luck to all at Tsinghua in 2018 - ‘Go n- éiri an t- ádh libh’ - 加油!”

--Lara Connaughton, Ireland,



Schwarzman College

“Throughout my experience at Tsinghua University I’ve had the opportunity to mingle with some of the smartest students in China, learn more about the people and culture while studying the language, and most importantly, make friends from all around the world. Tsinghua has an immense international student body, with over 3,000 students this year alone! My most memorable experience was at a Halloween party hosted by Tsinghua’s Shuo society where they provided an open bar and face-painting activities. Whether you wanted to have a skeleton face or a cup of “fruit juice”, you got it. It turned out to be a very memorable night indeed.”

--Matthew, USA, Chinese Language Program



“My study term in Tsinghua has been one of the most interesting and enriching experiences I’ve had in my

life. As time passed by, I started getting more and more involved in the different activities on campus, and I decided to join a student association and even participated in the Gala Night through a performance representing Latin American culture. Thanks to the many activities on campus, I was able to learn about many different cultures that exist in the world while at the same time being able to share mine. Overall, my time at Tsinghua has allowed me to better understand who I am, what I want to do, and what opportunities exist both in my home country and in China.”

--Julio César Manjarrez, Mexico, School of Economics and Management



“The Tsinghua University campus is very big. The university has everything a student needs in order to live: various sports fields, supermarkets, cafeterias, theaters and much more. If you want to, you don’t have to leave the campus for a whole year. I have met a lot of nice and interesting people so far, and have acquired new professional and economic knowledge and I have gotten to know the events happening on campus. In particular, I like the teaching style; it is a little bit like at school. Unlike in Germany, there are midterms and homework, which allows you to learn continuously.

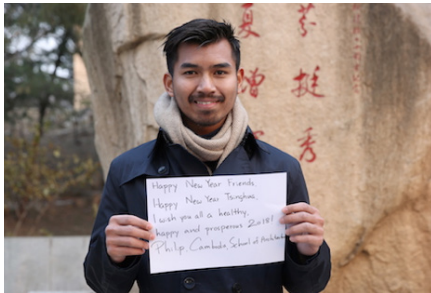


I would recommend everyone to get involved in this beautiful country and rich culture.”

-- Mustafa, Germany, Department of Industrial Engineering

“I’ve made it my passion to be a life-long learner to sharpen my skills, abilities and God-given talents. Of course, being a Masters student at Tsinghua University has allowed me to not only learn everything that I possibly can, but also to establish amazing friendships with people from different backgrounds. Happy New Year friends, Happy New Year Tsinghua! I wish you all a healthy, happy and prosperous 2018.”

--Tepyuthyea Philip Sophoan, Cambodia, School of Architecture



“One Tsinghua, one family. Spending a semester at the most prestigious university in China has been a rewarding experience in terms of my academic and personal development. I will soon return to my home country with a better understanding

of China, its people and culture. I am only one international student out of thousands at Tsinghua, but I now join a new generation of young people eager to genuinely engage with China. I know that my connection with China has only just begun. I wish the Tsinghua University community all the best in 2018. 清华大学再见!(Goodbye, Tsinghua!)”

--Piero Craney, Australia, School of Law



“The past year at Tsinghua has been beyond interesting and a little challenging, but a great learning experience. Being a part of a multicultural classroom has led me to being patient, open-minded and very curious to learn about other people and their backgrounds. From both in and out of the classroom, I have been able to make friends and learn more about the world from different perspectives, giving me a better understanding about how different conditions can affect people differently around the

world. Together, we can talk and brainstorm ideas to solve our problems, discuss intricate topics to gain a deeper learning, throw around business ideas and chat about the many possible start-up companies we’ve thought up. My time at Tsinghua has been nothing but enjoyable. Even though there are days when I just cannot find the right words in Chinese, or struggle to study new concepts from class, there is something new to learn every day. Looking forward to learning and enjoying life in the year to come!”

--Elena, USA, School of Economics and Management

