Deserepi style guide

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This document outlines criteria used to evaluate manuscripts intended for publication in *Deserepi: Studies in Chinese Communist Party external work*, an annual peer-reviewed journal, as a guide for authors and reviewers.

0   Relevance

Deserepi publishes research on the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) current and historical political activities orientated towards foreign countries. In line with Leninist frameworks, 'politics' is understood broadly, to include actions aimed at, or resulting in, spreading the party's messaging, causing alignment with its policies or countering threats to its power.

Papers are welcome that present new findings on the structure, history and operations of party, government and military organs whose work targets foreign political systems. Intelligence, foreign affairs, propaganda, trade and united front agencies that participate in such external influence work — including, in particular, external aspects of diaspora, ethnic and religious policy — are seen as natural subjects. Case studies of their activity in specific external locales likewise fall within the journal's scope.

Deserepi's focus on new findings excludes work that primarily elaborates on or discusses previous literature. The journal does not currently publish reviews. Nor does it accept submissions opining on or advocating policy choices in China or elsewhere.

1   Format

Deserepi publishes papers as brief notes or full-length research articles. These differ in scope and scale; they undergo similar review procedures.

Notes are short technical communications on new findings made in the course of ongoing research. They may be primarily addressed to researchers working on closely related topics and thus require only cursory discussion of their more general implications. Their length is limited to 3000 words, excluding notes and appendices.

Articles, while expected to be concise, have no fixed length limits. They should target the broader research community, discussing the significance of their findings for the

understanding of the CCP's external work, beyond the description of a specific entity or event.

Manuscripts should preferably be submitted as Markdown or TeX files. Office Open XML documents (`.docx`) may also be used for initial submissions. References should be provided as `.bib` files (in Biblatex format) or input manually, in the style described on p. 7 below.[0]

Papers may include figures and tables. Figures (other than TeX diagrams) must be provided as separate image files, indicating the desired placement and captions in the main file. Since typeset papers have a maximum size of 2 MB, larger images will lose resolution. Figures for which the author does not hold copyright are only acceptable if permission from the copyright holder has been obtained, if they are publicly available for non-commercial use, or if their reproduction amounts to fair use. Tables may be provided in the main text or as separate files.

2 Originality

Papers should be original work, not previously published or currently under consideration for publication elsewhere. Any overlap in content with previous work, including the authors', must be clearly acknowledged in the text body.

Each of a paper's authors is understood to be fully responsible for the entirety of the text and underlying research. The text may specify the extent of each author's contribution. This is especially encouraged when those contributions significantly differ in scale or are centred on specific sections of a paper. In the absence of further clarification in the text body, it is understood that the first listed author is the corresponding author and the one whose contribution is the most significant.

Contributions owed credit can fall below the coauthorship threshold. Footnotes and a final acknowledgements section can document discussion and collaboration with colleagues, students or research assistants.

All papers should acknowledge previous scholarly treatments of their narrow subject matter, even if describing them as incomplete or inadequate. Authors should err on deference's side as regards any previous published discussion of source material used whose identification amounts to a significant finding. Discussion of a leader's speech widely covered in international media may demand no acknowledgement of such secondary reporting; it may, if only noticed by a single external observer, however obscure. Citation is owed to previous findings, factual and conceptual: whenever applied or built upon, explanatory frameworks attributable to other researchers should be acknowledged. Any literal phrasing from previous literature, published or unpublished, by the authors or others, should be rendered as such in quotation marks and cited.

The journal will reject or retract any work it finds likely to involve plagiarism, in an understanding that may be broader than that of legal or other arguably relevant definitions. In particular, 'ghost' and 'guest' authorship — respectively, uncredited work and credit without substantial contributed research — are considered forms of plagiarism.

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[0]TeX and Biblatex templates are available from the editor.

3 Sourcing

The quality of sources used in a paper are given as much weight in the review process as the quality of the analysis.

Papers must present and analyse the authors' original research, mainly relying on sources that originate with the research subjects and associated entities. Common examples of such contemporary sources are party–state agencies' accounts of events, as well as speeches and documents relayed through state media, typically available online. For the purposes of the journal's editorial process, these sources may be regarded as 'primary'.[1] In particular, it follows that all papers must be primarily based on Chinese-language sources, and that case studies on foreign countries must also use sources in the main languages of those locales.

Primary sources used should be as authoritative and close to the facts, data and ideas discussed as possible. Discussion of CCP policy should be chiefly based on authoritative party and government documents, rather than on the way they are explained to external audiences through propaganda organs. Statistics should be sourced from state offices, rather than media reports that quote them. Media and other online accounts of events are commonly copied or recycled from other content, often without acknowledgement; it is a paper's authors' task to trace texts and other information to the earliest available source.

Citing a ***secondary source*** amounts to acknowledging its priority. In the absence of further clarification, a bare citation implies: 'to the best of our ability, we have reproduced the work with primary sources that substantiates this assertion; the authors of this secondary source did it first'. A claim's previous appearance in print does not absolve of responsibility for asserting it.[2] In particular, it is understood that the authors of a paper have consulted available primary sources used in relevant passages of secondary sources they cite.

Some sources are too distant from original research to be normally citable in a research paper. Typical examples are online user-editable encyclopaedias and commentary produced by media outlets, blogs or 'think tanks'. Their exceptional use requires further elaboration on why the authors find a specific claim found in them reliable or otherwise worth mentioning.

Citations may have other roles than their default ones as referencing sources of evidence (primary) or prior accounts (secondary). They may, e.g., provide context necessary for backing up a claim, or acknowledge treatments of related topics. Such citations should not be given in isolation; their role should be clarified in the notes.

The use of interviews or other fieldwork should be acknowledged in footnotes, indicating at least an approximate date.

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[1]This definition is admittedly laxer than those common in other fields.

[2]'Upon meeting a friend, a scholar said: "I heard you were dead." His friend replied: "But you see that I'm alive." The scholar: "But the one who told me that was much more trustworthy than you." ' *Philogelos*, 22.

4 Structure

Papers should follow the following structure.

4.1 Title and authors

Titles should seek to clearly summarise the paper's core findings, rather than its subject matter.

Titles should not normally contain punctuation other than quotation marks, commas or colons.

The use of punning or otherwise fanciful phrases in titles is discouraged, except when they refer to the paper's central concepts in an informative way.

A title should make the strongest claim the findings warrant, without overstating their significance. It should seek the attention of those whose work should be affected by the findings, and nobody else's: it is not the journal's aim to bother a broader audience.

If non-alphabetical, the order of the authors' names will be understood to reflect their relative contributions to the paper.

Author affiliations may be added as footnotes.

It is recommended to provide an e-mail or other contact address for the corresponding author.

4.2 Abstract

An abstract should consist of one paragraph not exceeding 200 words. It should summarise the paper's conclusions and argue for their significance by refering to previous research on its subject matter — or the lack of it.

The use of abbreviations, unexplained overly technical terms and non-Roman characters in abstracts is discouraged.

4.3 Introduction

The introduction should present background on the paper's subject matter and explain the significance of its findings.

It should include, preferably in this order: an introduction to the topic, accessible to the intended audience; a review of previous literature, focused on justifying the need for the research the paper reports on; a summary of the paper's conclusion, establishing their novelty and significance; and a section-by-section road map of the rest of the paper, indicating each section's role in the overall argument. A statement of each author's contribution may be added afterwards. These parts of the introduction may be numbered sections or, in shorter papers, unlabelled paragraphs.

The introduction and any sections of it should ideally have headings that at once straightforwardly indicate their function (e.g., with words like 'introduction', 'previous research') and refer to their key concepts.

4.4   Core sections

Outside the introduction, a paper should present and analyse original research, chiefly based on primary sources not discussed in previous literature.

The structure of these sections should reflect the logic of the paper's core argument, rather than an ontology of the subjects treated or the temporal sequence of the authors' research tasks.

Sections may include sections and subsections and, in longer papers, lower-level divisions. Non-obviously structured running prose should not normally fill more than four consecutive paragraphs.

4.5   Conclusion

Like the introduction, the conclusion should be both functionally and conceptually titled and may contain sections.

Briefly recapitulating the paper's main argument is encouraged, even at the expense of conciseness.

Conclusions may end with more speculative argument, hypothesising their extrapolated validity. The concluding section may also suggest avenues for future research by the authors or the larger community.

4.6   Acknowledgements

This section should describe, as precisely as possible, any contributions to the paper by persons other than the authors. These may include reviews (anonymous or otherwise), discussions with colleagues, shared sources and research assistance. Contributions acknowledged in notes to the core sections should be mentioned again in the acknowledgements.

Erring on the side of explicit acknowledgement is encouraged, even for minor contributions.

Vocabulary referring to personal emotions (e.g., 'thanks', 'grateful') should be avoided.

Funding for any research discussed in the paper should be acknowledged, as required by grant donors or otherwise. It is assumed that any research used in a paper for which no funding is acknowledged was conducted at the authors' own expense. Conflicts of interest, such as the authors' recent or on-going remunerated work for organisations that may benefit from the publication of information contained in the paper, should be declared in this section.

The journal treats the absence of acknowledged contributions, funding or conflicts of interest as equivalent to statements that none exists. Reasonable doubts that such issues went undeclared may lead to a rejection or retraction.

4.7   Appendices

Material that would disrupt the flow of the text and would not fit in footnotes may be given in one or more appendices.

5 Language and style

Deserepi does not employ correctors. It can only accept manuscripts written idiomatically and conforming to its style.

English, in UK spelling, is the journal's primary language. Papers may be published in other languages if that does not needlessly complicate the review process. Citation and other style guidelines for text in other languages should be adapted on the basis of this guide and comparable conventions in scientific literature in those languages.

Names of Chinese entities not assumed to be familiar to the reader[3] should be given both in transcription or translation and the original script the first time they occur in the text body. Chinese characters should appear in parentheses following a translation, without parentheses following a sound-based transcription, regardless of whether it follows a widely accepted standard. Chinese text in the text body should use the PRC's standard script, with the possible exception of papers most of whose primary sources are originally in traditional characters.[4] For terms transcribed from other non-Latin scripts, the original script only needs to be provided when doing so helps disambiguate the transcribed form.[5] Names in Latin-based scripts should be given in the original orthography, including any diacritics.

Sections and their subdivisions, down to the paragraph, should typically begin with brief statements of their contribution to the larger argument: a summary paragraph should open a section; a topic sentence should open a paragraph.

Even in — indeed because of — the absence of a rigid word limit, brevity should be aimed at. Data should only be presented as required for making an argument supporting the paper's conclusion. Conciseness should not, however, come at clarity's expense. All evidence required by an argument should be given, maximising reproducibility.

The journal's citation format creates footnotes on most pages. This invites the use of notes for any additional remarks of potential interest to the readership, without distracting from the main argument in the text body. As notes are meant to be read in conjunction with the text, it is advisable to avoid inserting footnote calls midsentence: all citations and additional remarks attached to a sentence should normally come after the next full stop.

Studies should avoid passing moral or political judgement on their primary subject matter — party–state agencies and their external interactions. However, the authors' informed opinions, blunt if need be, are welcome on previous treatments of their subjects. These chiefly belong in a paper's literature review.

The journal's review process requires a version of a submitted manuscript to be depurated of information that identifies the authors. Such a version is more easily produced if the original manuscript avoids referring to the authors' own work differently from

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[3] 'Beijing', 'Mao Zedong' presumably do not require disambiguation. Names of individuals, agencies or companies introduced in the text normally do, if a researcher in the broader field cannot be expected to know them.

[4] This requirement does not apply to citations, on which see 6 below.

[5] For example, Japanese names originally spelt in kanji, and Korean terms whose hanja spelling is relevant, should normally be accompanied with the original script. Adding, e.g., Tibetan, Mongolian or Burmese script forms may be helpful when the main text uses a lossy transcription from which the original is hard to recover.

that of others, such as by using first-person pronouns. An impersonal style is otherwise favoured in general, foregrounding argument, rather than its provenance.

The journal primarily uses single quotation marks. Double quotation marks should only be used inside quotations.

Only footnotes should be used, not endnotes.

Cross-references to parts of a paper, e.g., a (sub)section, page, figure or note, should be hyperlinked.

6 Citation format

This section is primarily aimed at authors writing citations manually. Much of it is redundant for Biblatex users. A Biblatex template is available from the editor.

Footnotes in this section are solely intended to illustrate the citation format. Some of the works cited are fictional.

6.1 Style and languages

The journal uses a Chicago-based citation style, with full references in footnotes and no reference list. This description below is not intended to be complete; it focuses on aspects where the house style differs from that standard.

References should be given in full form as footnotes, the first time they occur, without a final bibliography.

The style is optimised for citations of online sources, which are predominant in the journal's field. For online-only sources, archived URLs (e.g., on the Wayback Machine) should be used whenever possible, rather than direct links to the original. This obviates the need for an 'accessed' date, as archived links include a time stamp. Hyperlinks should generally be provided for sources that might also exist in print.

It is expected that authors will keep offline copies of any visited pages, since some pages cannot be archived, and archived links are not permanent, or reliably long-lived. Reviewers and the editor may request such copies when sources are not accessible online.

Links are embedded in a citation's title field. Papers should not include bare URLs.

The style omits the place of publication in book citations.

Titles and proper names in references should not be translated or transcribed. Citations should also preserve the capitalisation and script variants (e.g., simplified or traditional Chinese) used in the original source. Even if the names of the authors, title, journal, website or publisher are given in a foreign language, the overall format of the bibliography entry should conform to the journal's style, rather than a style more common in that language. Chinese text should not be italicised; this overrides rules on italicised citation fields later in this document. The same applies to other scripts where italic type is not commonly used in citations.

Papers in languages other than English should adapt the description below to an analogous citation style customary in that language.

6.2 Citation structure

A footnote may contain one or more citations, along with other text. In a footnote consisting solely of bare citations, the citations are separated by semicolons.

A citation contains a reference to a **work** and, optionally and after a comma, a **place** (e.g., a page number).

When a work is cited more than once, subsequent citations are abbreviated, with certain abbreviations referring to both work and place. Those are described in 6.5.

6.3 Work

A reference to a work renders a sequence of comma-separated **fields**, described below.

6.3.1 Title

Only the **title** field is mandatory in every citation.[6]

Titles of books are italicised.[7] Titles of articles, book chapters, reports and web pages are given in quotation marks.

A source without an original title may be assigned a title consisting of its first few words, (e.g., the beginning of a social-media post), in quotation marks and with an ellipsis in place of any omitted text; a conjectured or conventional title, in square brackets, italicised or in quotation marks; or a descriptive title, without quotation marks.[8]

Obvious mistakes or eccentricities in a source's title may be highlighted with a note in square brackets.[9]

Whenever possible, the **archived URL** of a webpage where the relevant text in the source is visible should be embedded in the title (with any quotation marks outside the hyperlink text). When a publicly accessible web page with the relevant text does not exist, it is recommended to add a web link that can lead the reader to the original source (e.g., the publisher's page on a book, an article's DOI, a newspaper's link to a pay-walled article). Links to pages that do not include the relevant text in a cited source need not be archived.

Titles may have **short forms** used in repeated citations of a work when deictic references (see 6.5) would be ambiguous. These short titles should consist of the first few words of the original title, and optionally an ellipsis.[10]

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[6] *Ah ! vous dirai-je maman.*

[7] Bobo Phobo, *Postgrammatological methods in win-win cooperation*, Smart Cookie Press, 2017.

[8] Klaus Raus, 'Delighted to see my new book...', TwitSocial, 5 Dec. 2020; Bobo Phobo, *[What I really think]*, unpublished manuscript; interview with Zhang San, 15 Sep. 1994.

[9] Yana Banana, 'Tired of win-winning: an autoethnography of teh [sic] Self', The Silk and Road Blog, 22 Jan. 2017.

[10] Phobo, *Postgrammatological methods...*

6.3.2 Author

Only the *author* field may precede the title. Authors are understood to be human individuals, not organisations. When no human authors are identifiable, this field stays empty.

If there are up to four authors, the author field consists of author names, with '&' as the last separator and commas as any previous separators.[11] If there are more authors, only the first one should be cited, with the others replaced with 'et al.'[12]

Names should generally be given in the form in which they appear in the source cited; in particular, in the original script and orthography, maintaining the order of the name parts (e.g., surnames and given names).[13] Any alterations to that original form, such as expansions or additions, should be notated in square brackets.[14]

Subsequent citations of a work (see 6.5) may require author names within an author field to take on *short forms*. Short forms of Chinese and Korean names spelt in Chinese or Korean scripts should equal their full forms; the same applies to all naming styles in which a component of the full name does not customarily stand for the full name.[15] Surnames (resp. given names) should be used as short forms in naming styles like that of modern English (resp. Mongolian).[16] When these rules make citations ambiguous, short forms should be expanded with initials (or full forms) of omitted name parts.

When works by the same authors are cited consecutively, citations after the first one use 'idem' (optionally inflected for gender and number) as the short form of the author field.[17]

6.3.3 Publication

If non-null, a field providing information about the circumstances of a source's *publication* directly follows the title.

Institutional authors should be given in the publication, rather than the author field.

For a book or other self-standing work, the publication field consists of the publisher's name. It is not necessary to include the place of publication.

For a journal, newspaper or magazine article (online or offline), the publication field gives the periodical's name, in italics, followed by volume and issue numbers.

For a web page, the field should be the name of the website where it appeared, italicised only if it is also the name of a periodical.[18] When that website is the website

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[11]Yana Banana, Bobo Phobo & Klaus Raus, *The Tree of State Security: a dendrochronological approach*, Smart Cookie Press, 2016.

[12]Bobo Phobo et al., *We can haz monograph*, Smart Cookie Press, 2011.

[13]张三, '国家政治安全，你了解多少？', 政治安全网, 15 Apr. 2021; Minta János, *Kik állnak az állambiztonsági fa mögött*, Nagyon Nagy Agy Kiadó, 15 Apr. 2020.

[14]K[laus] Raus, 'Das also war der Partei Kern: wir hatten nichts davon gewusst', *Beiträge zur Öffnungspolitik* 4.10, 2016; 薄伯伯 [=Bobo Phobo], '政治安全在我心', The Silk and Road Blog, 15 Apr. 2021.

[15]张三, op. cit.

[16]Banana, Phobo & Raus, op. cit.

[17]Eidem, *The Tree of State Security II: a novel dendrochronological approach*, Smart Cookie Press, 2021.

[18]Yana Banana, '14 postgrammatological exegeses of the National Security Law; no. 11 will inspire you!!', *South Castalia Unification Morning Post*, 14 May 2022.

of an organisation, the publication field should simply identify the latter, without adding (an equivalent of) 'website of...'[19]

For a social-media post, the field should describe the account that published it (unless it is the name of a human individual) and the social-media service that hosted that account.

Especially with online sources, reproduction of an otherwise unavailable text is frequent. Any such reproduction warranting reasonable doubt that the original text relevant to the use of the source has been altered should be noted in the citation. Unless further elaboration is needed, the purported original source should be given first, followed by 'via' or 'reproduced in'.[20]

The use of abbreviations in the publication field is encouraged. Abbreviations may be used for, e.g., organisations discussed earlier in the paper, including citations, as well as easily identified publishers.[21]

6.3.4 Date

The **date** field primarily identifies the cited work's original date of publication. When transmission through other works warrants doubts on the integrity of source text relevant to the citation, further dates should be noted.

Date references are of the form '$D\ M\ Y$' where D is a day of the month in one or two digits, M is a three-letter month name or an abbreviation of a longer one and Y is a year, where the day and month fields may be missing. Only the year is given when citing periodicals with issue numbers and books. Any dates absent from the source itself but inferred from other sources should be given in square brackets.

6.3.5 Other fields

Additional fields necessitated by a citation type may occur between the title and date, and after the date.[22]

The spirit of the citation style described above should inform the adaptation of legal and other styles not discussed here.[23]

6.4 Place

After fields identifying a work, a citation often further specifies a location within that work.

Parts of a location field should be comma-separated.

Typical parts are note, page, section, chapter and volume numbers.

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[19]'关于我们', 火星中国和平统一促进会.

[20]'习近平读完《格萨尔王传》', 共青团流亡中央, via Twitter, 17 Feb. 2018; '조선로동당중앙위원회 국제부가중국예술단을위하여환영연회마련', 로동신문, via 우리민족끼리, 14 Apr. 2018.

[21]Min Ye, *The Belt Road and Beyond*, CUP, 2020.

[22]Bobo Phobo, 'Can one be too secure? A critical view of political security', *Critical approaches to Chinese politics: Festschrift for Klaus Raus*, ed. by Yana Banana & Zhang San, Smart Cookie Press, 2021.

[23]*United States v. Nickie Mali Lum Davis*, Information, D. Haw., 17 Aug. 2020.

Page numbers should be introduced with 'p.' (for a single page number') or 'pp.' (for multiple pages). Following a page number, 'sq.' means 'and the next page', 'sqq.' means 'and the next few pages'.[24]

Page numbers should be given for references longer than 25 pages.

A footnote or endnote number should be introduced with 'n.' following, without a comma, a reference to the page where the note starts.[25]

6.5   Subsequent citations

If a work has already been cited, subsequent citations of that work refer to it in an abbreviated form, referring to the first citation with anaphoric terms or short forms of some of its fields.

The following rules describe these abbreviated citations. They apply only when they do not lead to ambiguity.

'Ibid.' refers to the last work cited in the text.[26]

What follows describes references to works other than the last one cited. A (resp. T) stand for short forms of author (title) fields, as defined in 6.3.2 (6.3.1).

'T' refers to the last cited authorless work of that title.

'A, loc. cit.' refers to the last cited work with authors A and the place in that citation.[27]

'A, op. cit.' refers to the last cited work by A; it is used with a different place, or no place.[28]

'A, T' refers to a work by A cited before other works by A.

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[24]Banana, Phobo & Raus, *The Tree of State Security: a dendrochronological approach*, pp. 64–71, 415 sqq.
[25]Phobo et al., op. cit., p. 250 n. 11.
[26]Ibid., p. 521.
[27]Banana, Phobo & Raus, loc. cit.
[28]Phobo et al., op. cit., p. 250; 张三, op. cit.