

News Release

A Big Database Approach to 2 Decades of LIVAC Pan-Chinese Newsmaker Rosters: *Putin and XI Jinping Top the List*

Media coverage of newsworthy personalities often reflects local concerns in the community. Over time they can also reveal developmental trends. The comparison of media reports on common personalities from different localities can disclose similarities and differences of social awareness and cultural orientations, and enables further exploration of the extent of shared values and seriousness of divergence among the populations. In the last 2 decades, there have been colossal and unpredictable changes in the world, especially in East Asia. The news media coverage of events in Beijing, Hong Kong, and Taiwan have provided good indications of common social concerns in terms of foregrounded personalities and events. Furthermore, the often diverse accounts of the same personalities provide interesting information on the often contrastive, positive and negative connotations, which are revealing and invite further reflections. This year, as usual, we provide the Newsmaker Rosters for Beijing, Hong Kong, and Taiwan for 2022. We also provide a retrospective account on more than 200 media personalities who have appeared on the Rosters of the last 2 decades.

1. 2022 Annual LIVAC Newsmaker Rosters for Beijing, Hong Kong, and Taiwan

Table 1 shows the 18 individuals who are found on the 2022 Pan-Chinese Roster for all 3 cities. Amongst them 16 are political personalities. Dominated by those from China and America, they include some unusual new names, such as Ukraine President Zelenskyy since the beginning of the Russian-Ukraine war, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Pelosi, and the medal-winning Eurasian skier Eileen Feng Gu representing China in the Winter Olympic Games. City University of Hong Kong Emeritus Professor Benjamin T'sou pointed out that the 2022 Pan-Chinese Roster with 18 individuals has shown an unusual increase of 7 over the past year or an increase of more than 50%. This not only reflects an unusual increase in matters of common concern among these communities, but at the same time also points to considerable differences in the perception and handling of the underlying issues. The new figures include John LEE, HE Lifeng, Thomas Bach, Indonesian President Widodo, Philippine President Marcos, former President JIANG Zemin, as well as two spokespersons from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicating new thrusts in foreign relations.

President XI heads the **Beijing Roster** (Table 2) which shows a primary focus on politics. It is followed by former President JIANG, Premier LI, former Foreign Minister WANG Yi, Hong Kong’s John LEE, as well as the First Lady PENG Liyuan, and others.

The **Hong Kong Roster** (Table 3) is led by John LEE and Carrie LAM, who, as current and former Chief Executives, are unusually close in consecutive rankings, COVID specialists, and the world renowned football player Messi. Especially noteworthy are the House of Windsor’s King Charles III and his mother Queen Elizabeth II, whose presence signals Hong Kong’s remembrance of its past, but not at the expense of appreciation of its present and future because reports on President JIANG Zemin and his death rank higher. It is interesting to note that comparing Hong Kong with other former British colonies, Singapore, but not Malaysia, takes little notice of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

The **Taiwan Roster** (Table 4) is headed by President Tsai Ing-wen and includes five non-Chinese with 3 of them being Americans, and Chinese President XI Jinping. The remaining 18 individuals are mostly locals in an election year. Their concern for local matters is similar to that on the Mainland.

2. Two Decades of Newsmakers on the Pan-Chinese Rosters

205 names have appeared on the 2 decades of Pan-Chinese Rosters for a total of 422 times, and on the average 20 names each year. But the number varies greatly from year to year, ranging from 30 to 11 (Figure 1).

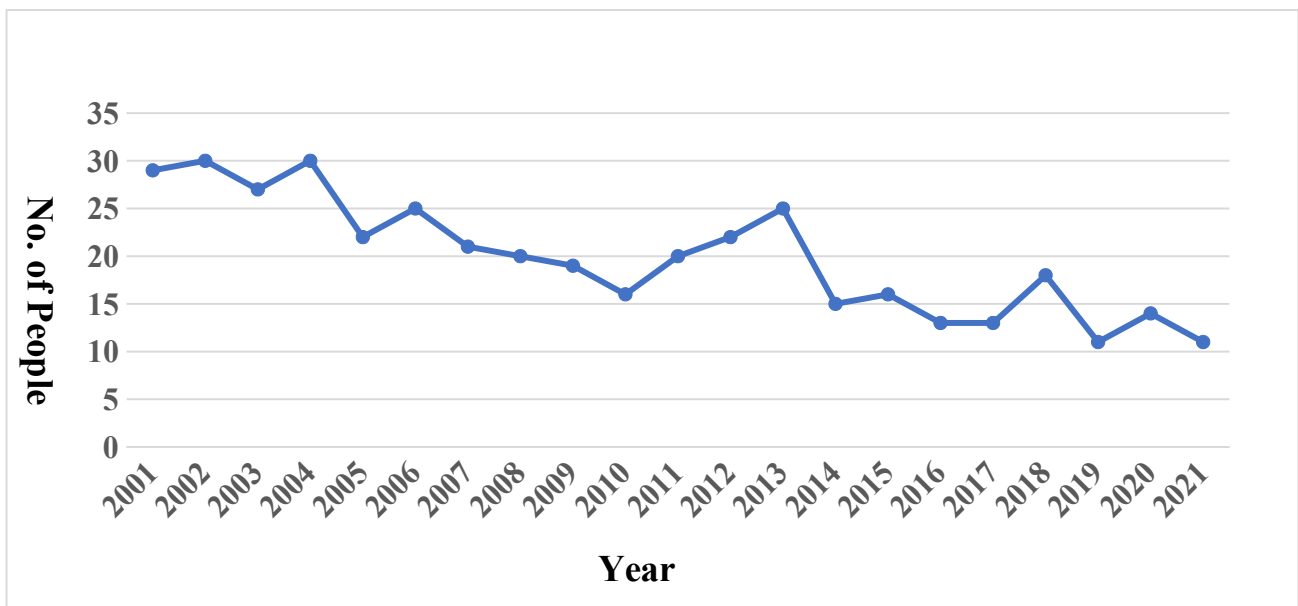


Figure 1. No. of Names on Pan-Chinese Newsmaker Rosters in 2001-2021

Of the 10 leading names topping the list (*Table 5*) are: (1) President Putin of Russia has been on the Roster for 14 consecutive years, (2) Chinese President XI Jinping (12 years), (3) Former President HU Jintao (11 years), (4) Former President JIANG Zemin (8 years), and (5) Premier LI Keqiang (8 years). In the last two decades, they have taken on commanding roles on the political stage and have drawn considerable attention, reflecting the foremost importance of the Chinese leadership among the Pan-Chinese populations. At the same time, it is surprising that the Chinese basketball player (6) YAO Ming has appeared 9 years on the Roster, which almost matches the record of former President JIANG Zemin. Furthermore, American Former Presidents (7) Bush and (8) Obama have each appeared for 10 years and 9 years respectively. Then, comes (9) former Japanese Premier Abe and (10) North Korea's KIM Jong-il (8 years). It is clear from these top names on the accumulative Pan-Chinese Rosters that politics has drawn the most attention. They come from China, then America, followed by Russia, Japan, and North Korea, altogether five countries.

We can broaden our scope to look at the wider stage and see on it 18 more individuals playing other important roles (*Table 6*). The majority are political figures, and other than President Biden and North Korea's KIM Jong-il, the others have mostly left the political stage. They are China's WEN Jiabao and ZHU Rongji, America's Trump, Clinton, and Powell, Taiwan's CHEN Shui-bian and LEE Teng-hui, Hong Kong's TUNG Chee-hwa, Japan's Koizumi, Britain's Blair, France's Chirac, Middle-East region's Bin Laden, Iraq's Saddam, and Palestine's Arafat. It is worth noting that politics and religion have interacted in the cases of Bin Laden and the Dalai Lama, and that the Taiwan's political stand is well recognized through its two former Presidents.

3. Number of names and its significance

The number of names on each year's Roster reflects the common interest of the 3 different regions but not usually shared perceptions. They show that within the 2 decades, 2001 and 2004 have peaks of 27 to 30 names, while 2019, with only 11, has the smallest showing. There is overall gradual decline of common concerns among the three regions since 2013. The number of people on the Rosters has increased up to 18 for 2022, and while common concerns are on the rise, there are more serious divergent perceptions.

Two decades represent a long time on the world stage. Most figures on the Rosters have played flash-in-the-pan cameo roles. Of the 205 individuals only 75 of them have appeared at least twice on the Roster. They constitute 36.4% of the total, and 90% of them are in the politics, 9% in sports with only 1% in other areas.

Of these 75 individuals who have appeared at least twice on the Rosters, 22 of them come from China, 16 from America, 7 from Japan, 7 from Taiwan, and 4 from Korea. As noted, many of them have left the political stage. The exception is YAO Ming. His 9-year record is justified by his performance in sports as well as other activities. There are 6 other sport stars

who have also appeared, though less frequently on the Rosters. They are LIU Xiang (4 years), LI Na (3 years), Jeremy LIN, Federer, WANG Zhizhi, and Phelps (2 years each). They reflect the consistent concerns and recognition of the Pan-Chinese populations for the principle of open and fair competition to be the basis for recognition.

In the area of entertainment, many popular figures have not entered the Pan-Chinese Newsmaker Roster for a number of reasons. For example, Andy LAU, Jay CHOU, Faye WONG, Show LO, ZHANG Ziyi, Jacky CHEUNG have high media exposure in both Hong Kong and Taiwan, and a considerable fan base in Mainland China. However, since official news coverage in Beijing pays less attention to the entertainment sector, they do not appear in the Pan-Chinese Rosters. There is similarity with the case of Chinese astronauts whose first solo appearance in space was in 2003 and whose first spectacular rendezvous in space took place in 2022. They have not appeared on the Pan-Chinese Rosters because they were quite well received only in Mainland China and Hong Kong.

Of the 75 names who have appeared at least twice on the Pan-Chinese Rosters only 8 are female. They are Carrie LAM, PARK Geun-hye, and LI Na (3 years each), and Hillary Clinton, Condoleezza Rice, Yingluck, Teresa May, and GU Kailai (2 years each). Seven of them have made their marks on the political scene. Whether it be fame or notoriety, they represent exceptional achievement by the fairer sex. In the case of LI Na, it is based only on her exceptional performance in sports. Furthermore, of all the 130 personalities who have appeared only once on the Roster, only 15 are female. It is noticeable that among them only three individuals have appeared on the Rosters solely for their role as First Ladies: PENG Liyuan, SONG Mei-ling, and Suha (Palestine).

The LIVAC Pan-Chinese Newsmaker Rosters were first launched at the City University of Hong Kong by Emeritus Professor Benjamin T'sou based on the LIVAC corpus (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LIVAC_Synchronous_Corpus). LIVAC is a news media corpus dynamically maintained since 1995. For more than 2 decades, it has regularly and concurrently drawn and analyzed data to determine linguistic and other developments on the basis of the printed Chinese media of major Chinese communities. By 2020, more than 700 million characters have been curated and analyzed and have yielded an expanding Pan-Chinese dictionary of 1.7 million words from the Pan-Chinese printed media. The LIVAC Pan-Chinese Newsmaker Rosters are released annually since 2001. Researchers compile statistics on the news media coverage of newsmakers across Beijing, Hong Kong, and Taiwan annually and compile an annual LIVAC Pan-Chinese Newsmaker Roster for each region. The common newsmakers listed in all 3 regional Rosters are further compiled into the Pan-Chinese Newsmaker Roster. Furthermore, the corpus has also released the Pan-Chinese New Buzzword Roster annually since 2004. Both Rosters provide time capsules of the major events of the times and of snapshots of the Pan-Chinese region.

230119_ A Big Database Approach to 2 Decades of LIVAC Pan-Chinese Newsmaker Rosters

Media enquiries:

Professor Benjamin T'sou Ka-yin, Department of Linguistics and Translation, City University of Hong Kong (Tel: 4677 0367)

Appendices

Table 1 : 2022 LIVAC Pan-Chinese Newsmaker Roster (18 persons)

No	English Name	Chinese Name	Note
1	Xi Jinping	習近平	中共中央總書記，國家主席
2	Joseph Biden	拜登	美國總統
3	Wang Yi	王毅	中國中央外事辦主任，前外交部長
4	Li Keqiang	李克強	中國國務院總理
5	John Lee Ka-chiu	李家超	香港特首
6	Vladimir Putin	普京 (Taiwan: 「普丁」)	俄羅斯總統
7	Volodymyr Zelenskyy	澤連斯基 (Taiwan: 「澤倫斯基」)	烏克蘭總統
8	He Lifeng	何立峰	中共中央政治局委員、全國政協副主席，國家發展和改革委員會主任
9	Thomas Bach	巴赫	國際奧委會主席
10	Joko Widodo	佐科	印尼總統
11	Jiang Zemin	江澤民	前中共中央總書記，前國家主席，2022年11月病逝
12	Cai Qi	蔡奇	中共中央政治局常委、中央書記處書記
13	Rodrigo Duterte	杜特爾特 (Taiwan: 「杜特蒂」)	菲律賓前總統
14	Nancy Pelosi	佩洛西 (Taiwan: 「裴洛西」)	前美國眾議院議長
15	Eileen Feng Gu	谷愛凌	北京冬奧奪金的中美混血女選手
16	Fumio Kishida	岸田文雄	日本首相
17	Mao Ning	毛寧	中國外交部新任女發言人
18	Hua Chunying	華春瑩	中國外交部部長助理兼新聞司司長

Table 2 : 2022 LIVAC Beijing Newsmaker Roster

No	English Name	Chinese Name	Note
1	Xi Jinping	習近平	中共中央總書記，國家主席
2	Jiang Zemin	江澤民	前中共中央總書記，前國家主席，2022年11月病逝
3	Li Keqiang	李克強	中國國務院總理
4	Wang Yi	王毅	中國中央外事辦主任，前外交部長
5	Li Zhanshu	栗戰書	中共中央政治局常委
6	Nancy Pelosi	佩洛西	前美國眾議院議長
7	John Lee Ka-chiu	李家超	香港特首
8	Hu Chunhua	胡春華	中國國務院副總理
9	Wang Yang	汪洋	中央政治局常委、中國人民政治協商會議全國委員會主席
10	Zhang Lan	張瀾	中國民主革命家、中國民主同盟首任主席
11	Wang Wenbin	汪文斌	中國外交部新聞司副司長
12	Han Zheng	韓正	中共中央政治局常委、國務院副總理
13	Wang Huning	王滬寧	中共中央政治局常委、中央全面深化改革委員會辦公室主任
14	Thomas Bach	巴赫	國際奧委會主席
15	Mao Zedong	毛澤東	前中共中央委員會主席和前中共中央軍事委員會主席
16	Yang Yin	楊殷	中國共產黨早期領導人
17	Sun Chunlan	孫春蘭	中華人民共和國國務院副總理
18	Wang Qishan	王岐山	中華人民共和國副主席
19	António Guterres	古特雷斯	聯合國秘書長、葡萄牙前總理
20	Peng Zhen	彭真	前全國人民代表大會常務委員會委員長
21	Bagatur	巴特爾	中央委員
22	Ding Xuexiang	丁薛祥	中共中央辦公廳主任、中共中央總書記辦公室主任、中央國家安全委員會辦公室主任
23	Wang Guodong	王國棟	中國工程院院士，東北大學教授，中國著名的金屬壓力加工專家
24	He Lifeng	何立峰	中共中央政治局委員、全國政協副主席，國家發展和改革委員會主任
25	Peng Liyuan	彭麗媛	習近平夫人

表三：2022 LIVAC Hong Kong Newsmaker Roster

No	English Name	Chinese Name	Note
1	John Lee Ka-chiu	李家超	香港特首
2	Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor	林鄭月娥	香港前特首
3	Xi Jinping	習近平	中共中央總書記，國家主席
4	Joseph Biden	拜登	美國總統
5	Vladimir Putin	普京	俄羅斯總統
6	Donald Trump	特朗普	美國前總統
7	Boris Johnson	約翰遜	英國前首相
8	Nancy Pelosi	佩洛西	前美國眾議院議長
9	Keung To	姜濤	香港男歌手
10	Chuang Shuk-kwan	張竹君	衛生署衛生防護中心傳染病處主任
11	Hins Cheung King Hin	張敬軒	香港男歌手
12	Elon Musk	馬斯克	全球首富，企業家、商業大亨
13	Lionel Messi	美斯	阿根廷足球員，2022年首次帶領阿根廷國家隊奪得世界盃冠軍
14	Novak Djokovic	祖高域	塞爾維亞網球運動員
15	Paul Chan Mopopo	陳茂波	香港財政司司長
16	AU Ka-wing	歐家榮	衛生防護中心傳染病處首席醫生
17	Gigi Leung Wing-kei	梁詠琪	香港女歌手
18	Eric Tsang Chi Wai	曾志偉	香港男藝人
19	Volodymyr Zelenskyy	澤連斯基	烏克蘭總統
20	Jiang Zemin	江澤民	前中共中央總書記，前國家主席，2022年11月病逝
21	David Hui Shu-cheong	許樹昌	香港政府專家顧問、中大呼吸系統科講座教授
22	Jeannie Chan Ying	陳滢	香港女藝人
23	Queen Elizabeth II (& King Charles III)	伊利沙伯二世、查理斯三世	英國前女王(和英國新國王)
24	Emmanuel Macron	馬克龍	法國總統

25	Li Keqiang	李克強	中國國務院總理
----	------------	-----	---------

Table 4 : 2022 LIVAC Taiwan Newsmaker Roster

No	English Name	Chinese Name	Note
1	Tsai Ing-wen	蔡英文	總統，民進黨前主席
2	Chen Shih-Chung	陳時中	前衛福部長
3	Joseph Biden	拜登	美國總統
4	Lim Ti-kien	林智堅	前新竹市市長
5	Chiang Wan-an	蔣萬安	台北市市長、蔣經國孫子
6	Ko Wen-je	柯文哲	前台北市市長
7	Xi Jinping	習近平	中共中央總書記，國家主席
8	Eric Chu Li-luan	朱立倫	前新北市市長、國民黨主席
9	Hou Yu-ih	侯友宜	新北市市長
10	Huang Shan-shan	黃珊珊	前台北市議員
11	Su Tseng-chang	蘇貞昌	行政院院長
12	Nancy Pelosi	裴洛西	美國眾議院議長
13	Lin Chia-lung	林佳龍	前台中市市長
14	Lai Ching-te	賴清德	台灣副總統
15	Vladimir Putin	普丁	俄羅斯總統
16	Chang San-cheng	張善政	桃園市市長
17	Lu Shiow-yen	盧秀燕	台中市市長
18	Donald Trump	川普	美國前總統
19	Cheng Wen-tsan	鄭文燦	前桃園市市長
20	Volodymyr Zelenskyy	澤倫斯基	烏克蘭總統
21	Ko Chih-en	柯志恩	前任立法委員
22	Chen Ming-tong	陳明通	前任大陸委員會主任委員
23	Cheng Yun-peng	鄭運鵬	立法委員
24	Lo Chih-chiang	羅智強	國民黨台北市前議員
25	Tai Tzu-ying	戴資穎	女子羽毛球運動員、東京奧運羽毛球女子單打銀牌得主

Table 5 : 10 Top Ranking Names in 2 Decades of the Pan-Chinese Newsmaker Rosters

No	English Name	Chinese Name	Note
1	Vladimir Putin	普京 (Taiwan: 「普丁」)	俄羅斯總統
2	Xi Jinping	習近平	中共中央總書記，國家主席
3	Hu Jintao	胡錦濤	前中共中央總書記、前國家主席
4	George W. Bush	布什 (Hong Kong: 「小布殊」；Taiwan: 「小布希」)	美國前總統
5	Barack Obama	奧巴馬 (Taiwan: 「歐巴馬」)	美國前總統
6	Yao Ming	姚明	籃球隊主將
7	Jiang Zemin	江澤民	前中共中央總書記，前國家主席，2022年11月病逝
8	Shinzo Abe	安倍晉三	日本前首相，2022年7月遇刺身亡
9	Li Keqiang	李克強	中國國務院總理
10	Kim Jong-il	金正日	朝鮮勞動黨中央總書記，2011年12月病逝

Table 6 : Top Ranking Names in 2 Decades of the Pan-Chinese Newsmaker Rosters (11th to 28th)

No	English Name	Chinese Name	Note
11	Chen Shui-bian	陳水扁	台灣前總統，涉貪污案被收押
12	Wen Jiabao	溫家寶	國務院前總理
13	Tony Blair	布萊爾 (Hong Kong: 「貝理雅」)	英國前首相，2007年5月辭職，6月離任
14	Koizumi Junichiro	小泉純一郎	日本前首相
15	Donald Trump	特朗普 (Taiwan: 「川普」)	美國前總統
16	Bill Clinton	克林頓 (Taiwan: 「柯林頓」)	美國前總統
17	Lee Teng-hui	李登輝	台灣前總統、國民黨前主席，2020年7月病逝
18	Zhu Rongji	朱鎔基	中國國務院前總理
19	Osama bin Laden	拉登 (Taiwan: 「賓拉登」)	中東富商、恐怖組織頭子，2011年5月被美軍殺死
20	Joseph Biden	拜登	美國總統
21	Saddam Hussein	薩達姆 (Taiwan: 「哈珊」)	伊拉克前總統，被美英聯軍推翻，2006年12月被問吊處死
22	Tung Chee-hwa	董建華	全國政協副主席、香港特別行政區首任行政長官
23	Kim Jong-un	金正恩	朝鮮勞動黨第一書記，勞動黨中央軍委會委員長
24	Dalai Lama	達賴	西藏活佛，流亡印度
25	Yasser Arafat	阿拉法特 (Hong Kong: 「阿拉法」)	巴勒斯坦民族權力機構主席，2004年11月病逝
26	Colin Powell	鮑威爾 (Taiwan: 「鮑爾」)	美國前國務卿，2021年10月病逝
27	Liu Xiang	劉翔	中國跨欄男選手，奧運冠軍
28	Jacque Chirac	希拉克 (Taiwan: 「席哈克」)	法國前總統，2019年9月病逝