

NCCU-FUB Winter School | Online Lectures 2023

Abstracts and Short Bio of Speakers of National Cheng Chi University, Taipei, and Freie Universität Berlin

Time Berlin	Monday, 9 Jan 2023	Tuesday, 10 Jan 2023	Wednesday, 11 Jan 2023	Thursday, 12 Jan 2023	Friday 13 Jan 2023	Time Taiwan
7:45	Welcome Address, Introduction					14:45
8:00 - 9:30	Prof. Yen-pin Su: The White Terror and Transitional Justice in Taiwan	Prof. Tse-kang Leng: Globalization and China revisited	Dr. Alfonso Sánchez Romera: Lifestyle and the Urban Middle Class in Contemporary China	Prof. Chung- min Tsai: The Political Economy of Financial Regulation in China	Prof. Genia Kostka: China's Digital Transformation	15:00- 16:30
10:00 - 11:30	<i>/ Information on School and Working Group Formation / (for working groups only)</i>	Prof. Sabrina Habich- Sobiegalla: China's poverty alleviation campaign and the role of numbers and methods of quantification in Chinese politics		Dr. Emily Graf: China's barefoot doctors and their relevance to global health	<i>/ Wrap Up Discussion with Working Groups /</i>	17:00 – 18:30



09.01.2023, 8 AM (Berlin) | 3 PM (Taipei)

White Terror and Transitional Justice in Taiwan

Abstract: This lecture introduces a brief historical overview of the White Terror and issues about transitional justice in Taiwan. The questions that we address in this lecture include: What are the features and political impacts of the White Terror in Taiwan? What are the main policies about transitional justice in Taiwan? Are these policies successful? The purpose of this lecture is twofold. First, it aims to provide a basic historical background for understanding political development in Taiwan. Second, it aims to provide useful perspectives for examining challenges that are related to the authoritarian past in new democracies.

Dr. Yen-Pin Su is Professor in Political Science at National Chengchi University. His research focuses on party politics, social movements, democratization, and human rights politics, with a regional specialization in Latin America. His articles are published in *Comparative Politics*, *International Political Science Review*, *European Political Science Review*, *Party Politics*, *Latin American Research Review*, and *Latin American Politics and Society*. He has field research experiences in Chile (2018), Costa Rica (2016), Panama (2016), Colombia (2015), Peru (2012), and Mexico (2010).



10.01.2023, 8 AM (Berlin) | 3 PM (Taipei)

Globalization and China revisited

Abstract: This lecture will first introduce the tendencies of global transition and anti-globalization, followed by the discussion on current political and economic problems in the post-pandemic China. Furthermore, the US-China rivalry and competition will be the focus in the lecture to demonstrate the dilemma of economic globalization and national security. Three additional topics will also be discussed: cross-Taiwan Strait economic relations, China's cultural industry, and China's new initiatives in the Arctic region.

Tse-Kang Leng is Research Fellow of Institute of Political Science at Academia Sinica (IPSAS) and Professor of Political Science at National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan. Professor Leng served as Director of IPSAS, Head of Political Science Department of National Chengchi University, Visiting Fellow at Stimson Center, Senior Fulbright Scholar at University of Virginia, Visiting Professor at University of Göttingen and University of Tübingen, and Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. His research interests focus on political economy of globalization, local governance and cultural industries in China, and Arctic diplomacy. Professor Leng received his Ph.D. in government and foreign affairs from the University of Virginia in 1995.

10.01.2023, 10 AM (Berlin) | 5 PM (Taipei)

China's poverty alleviation campaign and the role of numbers and methods of quantification in Chinese politics

'Seeing true poverty, alleviating true poverty, truly alleviating poverty' (看真贫、扶真贫、真扶贫) was one of several core political slogans used by President Xi Jinping to describe the goals of the targeted poverty alleviation (TAP) campaign that rolled through the Chinese countryside from 2014 to 2020. In line with Xi's statement, the first step of truly alleviating poverty was to 'see true poverty'. Accordingly, TAP was accompanied by an extraordinary effort of statistical data collection on China's rural poor and the establishment of digitized poverty ID cards (建档立卡) to consolidate individual data in local and national 'poverty clouds' and facilitate big data analysis.

This lecture will scrutinize the role of statistical data and big data analysis in China's poverty governance. More specifically, I will identify the underlying rationalities of the techniques of enumeration used in TAP. In line with prior studies that have revealed the diverse roles that statistics have played as technologies of truth production in contemporary modes of social governance in China and beyond. I will show that numbers in China's TPA represent first, tools of negotiation used by central and local governments to find common ground on who can count as poor in China; second, a technique of the self, used by the Chinese party-state to highlight its objectivity and rationality alongside displays of increasingly charismatic legitimation; third, a disciplinary tool deployed on the poor and the local party-state bureaucracy to jointly work towards the national state project of poverty elimination; and lastly, an 'art of persuasion' displayed to convince its audience of China's superior model of poverty alleviation. As such, I contend that the techniques of enumeration aim to reconstruct China's rural poor as a social group and attempt to reconstruct the party-state itself.

Sabrina Habich-Sobiegalla is Professor of modern Chinese state and society at the Institute for Chinese Studies, and Vice-Director of GEAS at Freie Universität Berlin. She studied Chinese Studies, Political Science and Business in Würzburg, Beijing and Vienna. Among other things, her research revolves around digitalization and the use of AI in China, on Renewable Energies, and the social impact of local resource politics.

11.01.2023, 8 AM (Berlin) | 3 PM (Taipei)

Lifestyle and the Urban Middle Class in Contemporary China

Abstract: Since the beginning of the 1990s, class has been an ongoing process of reconfiguring the unequal distribution of material, cultural, social and symbolic rewards in the People's Republic of China. The research presented in this lecture explores the formation of the middle class in contemporary urban China. Including case studies on middle-class professionals living in Beijing, this study analyses how social and economic changes in Chinese society create a middle-class lifestyle and new forms of distinction, with a particular focus on the social construction of identity. Looking through Bourdieu's concepts of 'capital' and 'social reproduction' in his class theory and the lens of individuals' perception of life trajectories and ideological taxonomies generated within the framework of post-reform China, the lecture uncovers whether the middle class is a social phenomenon of class production or class reproduction, and the role that the middle class play in a state-sponsored discourse and where the distinctions identifying the middle-class lifestyle produce inequality, transfer privilege, and disadvantage. The case study's findings in Beijing indicate that Maoist forms of social categorization and class background still have a significant impact on the life chances of urbanites in Beijing today. In addition, this study supports the thesis of a cleavage society or the so-called class crystallization which is maintained primarily through consumption, but not through a recognizable 'class' identity or 'real class'. Besides, the research revealed the validity and the reconfiguration of the concept of class—together with place of origin, ethnicity, and gender—to produce accurate practices and representations of the institutionalization, legitimization, and reproduction of both structures of entitlement and disadvantage in contemporary societies.

Alfonso Sánchez-Romera is a researcher at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (InterAsia Research Group) and postdoctoral fellow at Freie Universität Berlin. He graduated in Humanities and East Asian Studies and holds a PhD in Intercultural Studies. His research interests include class, Chinese society, and discourse analysis.

12.01.2023, 8 AM (Berlin) | 3 PM (Taipei)

The Political Economy of Financial Regulation in China

Details of the talk will follow soon.

Chung-Min Tsai is Professor at the Department of Political Science, Director of IDAS, Vice Dean of the College of Social Sciences at National Chengchi University, and the Taiwanese Political Science Review editor. He obtained his BA and MA from National Taiwan University and PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. He served as the secretary-general of Taiwan Political Science Association from 2015 to 2018 and the deputy director of Institute of International Relations at National Chengchi University from 2018 to 2020. His academic interests include comparative politics, political economy, and China studies. He has published articles in *The China Quarterly*, *Asian Survey*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, *Issues & Studies*, *Taiwanese Political Science Review*, *Chinese Political Science*, and edited volumes.

12.01.2023, 10 AM (Berlin) | 5 PM (Taipei)

China's barefoot doctors and their relevance to global health

Abstract: In this talk, I focus on the time period starting during the Cultural Revolution in the mid-1960s until the Reform and Opening Period in the early 1980s. During this time a new term and concept was shaped in China: the so-called barefoot doctor (*chijiao yisheng* 赤腳醫生), a term that was used from 1968-1985 and thereafter was removed from public discourses on health in China. The barefoot doctor was a local health worker with only rudimentary medical training, promoting primary healthcare and hygiene. The term barefoot doctor greatly changed medical knowledge in China, embodying (in theory more than in practice) a combination of “Chinese” and “Western” medical practices (Fang Xiaoping 2012). Their function to improve health care and hygiene in the countryside came to change what health meant not only China, but shaped health policies globally. The research question which leads me through my investigation is: How did the term, the image, the collective memory and the concept of the barefoot doctor shape the notion of “world health” in and beyond China?

Emily Graf is a postdoctoral researcher at the Joint Center for Advanced Studies "Worldmaking from a Global Perspective: A Dialogue with China" at the Friedrich-Meinecke-Institute, Freie Universität Berlin. She received her PhD in Sinology and Transcultural Studies in 2018 from Heidelberg University, analyzing the institutional histories of author museums in the PRC, the GDR and Taiwan. A research semester at National Taiwan University, Taipei (2010) and a visiting-PhD fellowship at Renmin University of China, Beijing (2013–2014) enabled her to visit author museums across China and Taiwan, interviewing museum directors, staff and visitors. In her current research she approaches the cultural history of “barefoot doctors” and their relation to the field of Global Health.

13.01.2023, 8 AM (Berlin) | 3 PM (Taipei)

Chinas Digital Transformation

Abstract: Digital technologies are rapidly transforming our social, economic and political lives. This is especially true in the case of China, where city governments have begun to experiment with digital technologies to harness the power of big data analytics for governing society. From using biometric checkpoints to track Muslim minorities, to using AI for intelligent traffic management, big data driven applications are mushrooming quickly in Chinese cities. What are China's digital and big data ambitions and actual local realities? Are these digital experiments more 'buzz and hype' or real game changing? Do these technologies alter digital governance practices in authoritarian China and if so, how? Top-down or bottom-up mobilized state-led digitalization? Are digital technologies tools for convenience or control? And how does it alter state-society relations in China? Drawing from interviews, surveys, and a database of local digital initiatives across China, this talk will shed light on the intended and unintended consequences of incorporating digital technologies into local governance processes in Chinese cities.

Genia Kostka is a Professor of Chinese Politics at the Freie Universität Berlin. Her research interests include digital media and technologies and digital governance with a regional focus on China. For her current ERC Starting Grant (2020-2025), she examines how local governments use digital technologies for urban governance in China.