



Alexander von
HUMBOLDT
STIFTUNG



GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN IN PUBLICA COMMODO
SEIT 1737

Conference Program

Monday, May 19, 2025

14:00 – 19:15



PAULINERKIRCHE
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Location

Paulinerkirche (Papendiek 14, 37073 Göttingen).

Online Option: YouTube Livestream

<https://www.youtube.com/@centreformoderneastasianst8840>

Identity, Ignorance, and the Politics of the Self: Chinese Art and Literature in Conversation

Monday, May 19, 2025

14:00 – 14:15

OPENING AND WELCOME

Dominic Sachsenmaier (Göttingen University)
Wang Hui (Tsinghua University)

14:15 – 15:45

Identities and Uncertainties – Literary Readings

Chair: Lydia He Liu (Columbia University)

Ge Fei (Beijing)
“True” and “False” in Literature

Ouyang Jianghe (Beijing)
The Historical Poet in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Xi Chuan (Beijing)
“The Eagle’s Words”

Guo Xiaolu (London)
Ishmael or Ishmaelle - The Narrative of Identities

Discussion

15:45 – 16:00

SHORT BREAK

16:00 – 17:30

Settings, Endings, and Transitions

Chair: Wang Hui (Tsinghua University)

Yu Hua (Beijing)
The Multiple Choices of Literature

Steffen Kopetzky (Pfaffenhofen)
“Queen Sacrifice”

Mao Jian (Shanghai)
“Of Pestilence and Love”

Li Tuo (New York)
Staging the Art of Storytelling: Guo Baochang and His World

Panel Discussion

17:30 – 18:00

BREAK

18:00 – 19:15

Doing Art Today?

Chair: Anselm Franke (Zürich)

Presentation:

Xu Bing (Beijing)
With What Are We Doing Art Today?

Roundtable Discussion (moderated by Anselm Franke):

Xu Bing (Beijing)
Anna-Louise Rolland (Leipzig)
Viktor Lukas Witkowski (Dartmouth)
Zhang Hanwen (Berlin)



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GA GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
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Conference Program

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

10:00 – 18:30



DIE HISTORISCHE STERNWARTE
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Location

Historische Sternwarte (Geismar Landstraße 11, 37083 Göttingen)

Online Option: YouTube Livestream

<https://www.youtube.com/@centreformoderneastasianst8840>

Identity, Ignorance, and the Politics of the Self

Wednesday, May 21, 2025:

10:00 – 10:15

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Dominic Sachsenmaier (Göttingen University)

10:15 – 11:15

Keynote Presentation

Chair: Viren Murthy (University of Wisconsin–Madison)

Wang Hui (Tsinghua University)
Survivors and Traces of Civilization

11:15 – 12:45

The Politics of the Self: Facets, Dynamics, Tensions

Chair: Sebastian Conrad (Free University of Berlin)

Klaus Mühlhahn (ZU Friedrichshafen/FU Berlin)
On “Being Wrong” as a Lens on Our Time

Lydia He Liu (Columbia University)
Who Owns Great Ideas in a Multipolar World?

Hans van Ess (LMU Munich)
What Are Our Values, “Western Values” and “Chinese Values”?

Discussion

12:45 – 14:00

LUNCH

14:00 – 15:30

Global Dynamics of Ignorance and the Politics of the Self

Chair: Poo Mu-chou (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Selçuk Esenbel (Boğaziçi University)
An Attempt at Self-Reflection from Istanbul in Times of Uncertainty

Christian Sorace (University of Cambridge)
Historical Nihilism as Global Phenomena

Srirupa Roy (Göttingen University)
Contemporary Indian Civilizationisms and Their Global Contexts

Discussion

15:30 – 16:00

BREAK

16:30 – 18:30

China as a Contested Object of Thought

Chair: Axel Schneider (Göttingen University)

Rebecca Karl (New York University)
The Future of China Studies in the US – In Light of the Current US-China Hostilities

Sally Chengji Xing (Nankai University)
Chinese Exclusionism – Now and Then

Hsiung Ping-chen (CIPSH)
Chinese Humanities: Institutional Developments

Henrike Rudolph (Göttingen University)
From Self-Confidence Towards a “Culturally Strong China”

Discussion