

China in Europe Research Network (CHERN) - CA 18215

CHERN Call for papers “Narrating Europe and China in Times of Crisis”

The China in Europe Research Network (CHERN) Working Group 4 (Public diplomacy and knowledge production) is organising a workshop with a view to preparing an edited collection of papers on the topic “Narrating Europe and China in Times of Crisis”.

We intend to address the role of narratives in the quickly changing relationship between Europe and China. The narratives constructed about the perceived “other” have a crucial role in shaping the way the international context is understood by these two major powers and actors in them.

Goal:

“Narratives help to construct personal and social identity, provide sense and order to experience, and frame and structure action. In other words, the ontology of the human world is defined by the existence and ubiquity of private and public narratives...” (Roberts 2006). Our definition of “narrative” is flexible and not restricted to “stories” with sequentiality and protagonists. It is compatible with various approaches to narratives as coherent portrayals and understandings that shape the image of the “other” and may affect policy developments. The focus is on contemporary narratives, but these can also be about the role of history in interpreting current phenomena or about perceived causal relationships among events or circumstances.

The collection aims to cover European narratives on China as well as Chinese narratives on Europe. Papers may also take into account narratives in third parties, particularly the United States, on Europe-China relations and how they relate to and impact on narratives in Europe and China. Papers may discuss the formation and transformation of narratives over time, identify key actors in the formation and transmission of narratives and their purpose and influence on policy in Europe and China. In addition to narratives on specific policy areas in the Europe-China relationship, we also welcome papers addressing wider theoretical questions related to the use of narratives in the study of international relations. We aim to come up with a coherent and comprehensive collection of papers that reflect on each other substantively.

Focus areas:

We invite contributions on the role of narratives in the areas of foreign policy and security; economy; values; climate and environment; culture and education. We will group the papers into thematic sections as appropriate.

Timeline:

The **online workshop** will take place on **23-24 June 2022** (two afternoons) with presentations of paper outlines. In order to achieve the above goal of coherence, the workshop will facilitate in-depth exchange among potential contributors.

A second, **in-person workshop** on the basis of the full draft papers is expected in **early October 2022**. Initial drafts of the papers need to be circulated beforehand – for this reason we expect the draft papers to be sent in by 16 September.

The papers are to be finalized by 19 December 2022.

Editors of the collection: Duncan Freeman, Agota Revesz, Nana de Graaff, Magnus Feldmann

Requirements:

Abstracts of 250-400 words are to be submitted until 16 May 2022 to Agota Revesz: agota.revesz@tu-berlin.de and cc-d to Alexandra Filius: a.filius@vu.nl. Please, title your email "CHERN call for papers "Narrating Europe and China in Times of Crisis" - abstract submission". You will receive our response by 27 May 2022.

Participation in the workshop(s) does not guarantee inclusion in the collection. The latter will depend on the review process by the collection editors and ultimately by the review process of the publisher.