

Call for participation:

CHERN Joint WG Conference

in Paris, Inalco 2-3 September 2022

Dear CHERN members and participants,

CHERN is organizing a joint working group conference in Paris on 2 and 3 Sept, hosted by Inalco.

The programme on Friday Sept 2 consists of a series of roundtables, a keynote and networking opportunities (see the preliminary programme [on our website](#)).

The programme on Saturday Sept 3 consists of intensive workshops and networking opportunities organized by the CHERN Working Groups for which you are invited to **submit a proposal for participation**.

Participants will be selected and invited based on their application, on the basis of appropriate fit and expertise with the respective workshop theme and aim, and attentive to inclusiveness policies of COST and CHERN. It is possible to participate in more than one workshop (both in the morning and afternoon session). Anyone invited to attend one of the workshops will be able to attend the others, in addition to the full programme of events over the two days. Invited participants are eligible for financial reimbursement for travel and living costs according to [COST rules](#) – see annex 1 – for the whole conference. You can find the contact details for each workshop below.

Submit your proposal(s) latest 25 June, 2022.

List of CHERN WG Workshops on 3 September

Click on the titles for contribution and application procedure (given below the list)

Morning workshops

Workshop 1 (WG1): Affective investments in visual narratives of China and the coronavirus pandemic

Workshop 1 (WG2): Approaches to analyzing China's unfolding digital capabilities

Workshop 1 (WG3): Chinese real estate investment in Europe

Workshop 1 (WG4): Adaptation strategy I: Institutions on research cooperations with China

Workshop 1 (WG5): New Methods in Researching International Migration from China: A Conversation around Three Books

Afternoon workshops

Workshop 2 (WG1): The dynamics and effects of Chinese infrastructure investment in Europe

Workshop 2 (WG3): Geoeconomics and geopolitics in Europe-China financial relations

Workshop 2 (WG4): Adaptation strategy II: Researchers on doing research on/with China

Workshop 2 (WG5): Impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the Ukraine war on migration from China

Morning workshops

Workshop 1 (WG1): Affective investments in visual narratives of China and the coronavirus pandemic

Convenor: Agnes Szunomar

How do European publics respond to the competing narratives of China's pandemic diplomacy? The workshop will give insights to an ongoing research that investigates the diverse and sometimes contradictory responses by European publics to narratives about China and the implications of these 'affective investments' for the future of the Liberal International Order (LIO). The project presents an important case for the study of affects, their evocation in the media, and their resonance with audiences. Media representations are only effective to the extent that they resonate with their audiences, yet research on media and global politics frequently neglects policy and public audiences as a site of analysis and the background knowledge they bring. This project addresses this gap by drawing upon theories of 'affective investment' that can help us address the neglected question of how audiences, including policy audiences respond to narratives of assistance aid during a crisis like the ongoing pandemic.

How to Participate:

Presenters will be drawn from the research team.

We are also looking for further contributors, either for short presentations of related work or to simply participate in the discussion.

How to Apply:

Please submit a recent CV plus 100-200 words on your research interests and how they relate to the theme of the workshop to:

agnes.szunomar@uni-corvinus.hu

Workshop 1 (WG2): Approaches to analyzing China's unfolding digital capabilities

Convenor: Tim Rühlig

China's digital technology capabilities are increasing. Since President Xi Jinping has consolidated his power, the Chinese Communist Party has tightened its control over the People's Republic not least by means of digital technologies. China has further developed into an innovation powerhouse. Chinese digital technology is no longer primarily mimicking Western invention but has become cutting edge. Only a few years ago, most observers did not anticipate that the West would discuss how to protect its critical digital infrastructure from competitive Chinese solutions.

How can China scholars best analyze this rapidly developing dimension of Chinese power? Are traditional methods of social scientific research sufficient? What can we do to project developments better than in the past?

Research of political developments have become increasingly difficult during the pandemic due to the lack of access to the country. In the digital technology domain, another challenge is the pace of the development. This workshop brings together researchers from across Europe analyzing China's digital technology policy domestically and its consequences in Europe and for the rest of the world to share experiences and broaden the perspectives for innovative and interdisciplinary research on China's digital power.

How to Participate:

Short presentations of research projects and underlying methods and sources will kick start the workshop to be followed by a discussion of their opportunities and challenges.

How to Apply:

Please submit a short description of your research related to the workshop's topic and a short summary of what makes it innovative to: ruehlig@dgap.org

Workshop 1 (WG3): Chinese real estate investment in Europe

Convenor: Nick Jepson

Property prices across much of Europe have risen precipitously in recent years, driven in large part by the growing attractiveness of real estate as a relatively high-yielding class of investments. In many cities these shifts are transforming the urban landscape and substantially raising the cost of living. While we know that volumes of capital flowing from China to overseas real estate markets are significant, the contours and relative significance of Chinese finance in European property sectors are still poorly understood. The CHERN Real Estate Project is a joint WG3/WG5 initiative aiming to address these gaps by mapping flows of Chinese finance into European cities. The first phase comprises initial scoping studies, focusing on Barcelona, Lisbon, Athens, Budapest, London and Amsterdam. This session will consist of a work in progress report from teams conducting initial fieldwork over the summer. We will then open up the session for a discussion of broader issues. Questions of focus might include: (i) what are the key drivers and trends of Chinese investment in European real estate? (ii) How do the various cities/regions compare? (iii) How are such investments linked to processes such as financialisation, migration, city formation and gentrification?

How to Participate:

Presenters will be drawn from CHERN Real Estate Project STSM teams.

We are also looking for further contributors, either for short presentations of related work or to simply participate in the discussion.

How to Apply:

Please submit a recent CV plus either (a) a 200 word abstract for a presentation on a related topic; or (b) 100-200 words on your research interests and how they relate to the theme of the workshop to: nicholas.jepson@manchester.ac.uk

Workshop 1 (WG4): Adaptation strategy I: Institutions on research cooperations with China

Convenor: Agota Revesz

Higher education and research institutions across Europe have developed a number of guidelines for research cooperations with China in the recent years – or are currently in the process of developing some. The environment, however, is changing every day, resulting in a need to adjust those strategies. How can institutions cope with this challenge? What interests and goals are prioritized? Is the recognition of a volatile international landscape present in the guidelines? This workshop aims to pool together experiences and practices across Europe with regard to guidelines on research cooperation and knowledge security in

relation to China. The focus is on adaptation strategies at the institutional level in higher education and research.

How to Participate:

Very short (5-10 minutes) summaries of institutional experiences, focusing on the questions and problems the institutions face when formulating and/or putting into operation their guidelines. The inputs have to be kept short, as we need time for discussion.

How to Apply:

Please, send in a CV and a paragraph about your experience in this topic to:

agota.revesz@tu-berlin.de

Workshop 1 (WG5): New Methods in Researching International Migration from China: A Conversation around Three Books

Convenor Pal Nyiri

Speakers: Mikkel Bunkenborg, co-author of *Collaborative Damage*, Caroline Knowles, author of *Serious Money*, and Fran Martin, author of *Dreams of Flight*

The pandemic and the ensuing limitations on travel, as well as tightening surveillance and limitations imposed on academics in China, have had consequences not just for research inside China but also for research on migration. The trend towards more online research has accelerated dramatically, making methodological and ethical dilemmas about it more urgent. At the same time, research outside China is once again becoming a proxy for research on Chinese society itself. This roundtable will discuss three recent books on that are not only highly topical in their focus but have also broken new ground for how we think about research on Chinese migration, its methods, and its relationship to China.

How to Participate and Apply:

Those wishing to attend the workshop should e-mail p.d.nyiri@vu.nl and a.filius@vu.nl with a brief outline of their research interests and publications. Travel and accommodation for a limited number of participants with relevant research interests will be reimbursed. WG 5 members will be given priority.

Afternoon workshops

Workshop 2 (WG1): The dynamics and effects of Chinese infrastructure investment in Europe

Convenor: Agnes Szunomar

Using the lens of Chinese investment in European infrastructure the workshop will examine what China's rise means for how we understand global development and, specifically, Europe's place in it. Presentations will take a disaggregated approach to unpack project-by-project effects. Through comparative case studies in the UK, Germany, Greece and Hungary, presentations will produce fine-grained analysis to understand the rationales for Chinese infrastructure investment in Europe, the geopolitical dynamics

surrounding these financing streams, the structuring of projects, and how they interface with national and local development policy.

How to Participate:

Presenters will be drawn from the research team REDEFINE. We are also looking for further contributors, either for short presentations of related work or to simply participate in the discussion.

How to Apply:

Please submit a recent CV plus 100-200 words on your research interests and how they relate to the theme of the workshop to: agnes.szunomar@uni-corvinus.hu

Workshop 2 (WG3): Geoeconomics and geopolitics in Europe-China financial relations

Convenor: Nick Jepson

The global political economy has entered a period of flux. Ripples from the Russian invasion of Ukraine have been felt in capital, commodity and currency markets, with some observers even questioning the longevity of global dollar hegemony. Simultaneously, logistical disruptions, inflation and rising interest rates are complicating pandemic recovery across much of Europe, while China has resorted to strict lockdowns to control Covid spread among economic uncertainties. All of this is occurring in an environment of still rising US-China tensions. This session will explore the implications of this current conjuncture for the state of financial relations between China and Europe. Topics may include (but are not limited to):

- Recent developments in China's financial opening and implications for Europe (RMB internationalisation, Chinese onshore and offshore market opening)
- Shifting patterns of investment and capital flows between China and Europe (regulatory crackdowns in China, capital flight, RMB depreciation)
- Financial sanctions on Russia and implications for China and Europe (China-Russia financial relations, dangers of secondary sanctions, financial shifts in response etc.)
- European/Chinese financial infrastructures, standards and governance
- Chinese state capital in Europe
- European and Chinese finance in the rest of the world (e.g. Global Gateway and Belt and Road)
- Theorising finance in China and Europe

The session will consist of a number of presentations of research related to the above, plus a wider discussion of these issues

How to Participate and Apply:

We are seeking two different types of participant for this session

(1) Contributors to present papers or work in progress relating to the themes of the workshop. Please submit your CV plus a 200 word abstract.

(2) Contributors to the wider discussion and/or willing act as discussants for paper presentations. Please submit your CV, plus 100-200 words on your research interests and how they relate to the themes of the workshop.

Send to: nicholas.jepson@manchester.ac.uk

Workshop 2 (WG4): Adaptation strategy II: Researchers on doing research on/with China

Convenor: Agota Revesz

Doing research on China has become very difficult in the recent years: China researchers have to develop various strategies for continuing their work. They have to adapt to the new institutional guidelines (see Workshop I) and also to the fact that they are isolated from China and cannot do field research. It is hard to see when things might change, and when they do, in what direction. How do researchers cope with this challenge? This workshop complements the first one, focusing also on adaptation strategies in higher education and research – at an individual level.

How to Participate:

Very short (5 minutes) summaries of individual experiences, focusing on the questions and problems researchers face when trying to continue/formulate research on China and/or with Chinese partners including their position on national or institutional guidelines on research cooperation and knowledge security. The inputs have to be kept short, as we need time for discussion.

How to Apply:

Please, send in a CV and a paragraph about your motivation. To: agota.revesz@tu-berlin.de

Workshop 2 (WG5): Impact of the coronavirus pandemic and the Ukraine war on migration from China

Convenor: Pal Nyiri

The coronavirus pandemic, the war in the Ukraine, and lockdowns in China have had multiple effects on international migration and Chinese outside China. First, mobility has been severely limited, forcing many migrants to reconsider their life strategies and transnational practices. Second, migrant populations that have been largely unnoticed before, such as Chinese students in the Ukraine, have suddenly attracted media and research attention. Third, conflicting narratives between Chinese and Western media about the pandemic, the means to contain it, and the war have caused Chinese outside China to reevaluate the ways they relate to China and their countries of residence.

Roundtable participants: Krzysztof KARDASZEWICZ (University of Warsaw), Maria REPNIKOVA (University of South Georgia, tbc), Natalia RYZHKOVA/Yulia KORESHKOVA (Palacký University, tbc) WANG Simeng (CNRS), ZHANG Juan (University of Bristol), ZHAO Bei (Kharkov Pedagogical University, tbc)

How to Participate and Apply:

Those wishing to attend the workshop should e-mail p.d.nyiri@vu.nl and a.filius@vu.nl with a brief outline of their research interests and publications. Travel and accommodation for a limited number of participants with relevant research interests will be reimbursed. WG 5 members will be given priority.
