5th INTERNATIONAL CA/AC CONFERENCE

CHINA-AFRICA

IN GLOBAL COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

27-29 JUNE 2018

UNIVERSITE LIBRE DE BRUXELLES (ULB)

CONFERENCE BOOKLET
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Welcome from the Executive Director

*Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network (CA/AC)*

Dear Colleagues –

On behalf of the entire Executive Board, a warm welcome to our 5th CA/AC conference. As some of you may know, the seeds of the Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network were first sown in 2007 following a public seminar and a small gathering of a handful of researchers who started looking at Chinese migrants across Africa. At our first international conference held in South Africa in 2009, we amassed a gathering of 26 scholars and the Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network was born. From those early days, we now have over 1,000 unique members!

While we have expanded rapidly as a research network, we are most proud of the sense of community that we have created and worked to retain, even as the Network has grown. As a mostly virtual network – where communications take place across a website, listserv, emails, and a WeChat group – these opportunities to make face-to-face connections at conferences and workshops are incredibly important. We look forward to connecting with you over the coming three days – reuniting with old friends, making new friends, and hopefully fostering the seeds of new collaborations with other China-Africa colleagues in an intellectually stimulating and inviting space. Again, a warm welcome to all of you, whether you are first-time participants or old China-Africa hands.

Best,

Yoon Jung Park

The members of the CA/AC Research Network Executive Board are: Solange Chatelard, Heidi Haugen, Tu Huynh, Liu Haifang, Jamie Monson, Barry Sautman, Bob Wekesa and Yan Hairong.
INTRODUCCION

CHINA-AFRICA IN GLOBAL COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

5th INTERNATIONAL CA/AC CONFERENCE

THE CONFERENCE

China-Africa in Global Comparative Perspective is the 5th Edition of the CA/AC’s bi-annual conferences. We have previously hosted conferences in Johannesburg, South Africa (University of Johannesburg and Monash University), in Guangzhou, China (Jinan University) and in Nairobi, Kenya (Aga Khan University). This is our first conference in Europe and we are both honoured and excited to be hosted this year by the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Belgium.

The aim of 2018 CA/AC conference is three-fold. First, it will showcase the latest research on China-Africa with an emphasis on comparative analysis, new issues and reflexive methodologies. The second aim is to promote and participate in the ongoing formation of a constructive China-Africa-Europe dialogue and further develop CA/AC's network in Europe. Finally, we hope that this conference will help produce and facilitate the publication of new books, articles, special issues and edited volumes like our previous conferences have.

THE NETWORK

The Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network (CA/AC) is the world’s largest independent, interdisciplinary, research network dedicated to China-Africa affairs.

Established in 2007, the network currently hosts more than 1000 members around the world and includes experts in academia, diplomacy, media, and international development.

The Network’s primary goals are to promote academic research and intellectual exchange about China-Africa affairs, with emphasis on people to people ties and issues and favouring field based research and empirical work.

Our main objective is to help move the global conversation about China-Africa forward in a critical and constructive way while developing a transnational community of scholars and practitioners who value dialogue, equity and inclusiveness.

CONFERENCE THEME

This year’s conference focuses on China in Global Comparative Perspective. Few countries have succeeded in achieving an economic performance as transformative and impressive as China in the last few decades. Within less than a generation, China has become the world’s second largest economy, its greatest exporting nation, and an undisputed engine of global growth despite major
structural imbalances and socio-economic setbacks at home. The global impact of China’s domestic reforms, however, are still unclear.

Despite its growing role in shaping the global economic and political order, few topics about China’s remarkable ascension on the global stage have captured the interest and imagination of both popular and academic audiences more vigorously in recent years than China’s renewed engagement with the African continent. Justifiably or not, Africa has become a major platform from which to analyse and understand China’s growing influence in the developing world and capture local responses to it. Although we have witnessed an evolution in the China-Africa literature in recent years which has helped broaden existing state-driven, geopolitical conversations to include more nuanced, ethnographic studies of grass-root realities, few examinations set out to analyse China-Africa relations in comparative perspective.

Why have China-Africa relations, thus far, captured a disproportionate amount of academic and media attention compared to extensive Chinese engagements in other regions of the world? What can we gain from siting China-Africa relations in a broader comparative historical and geographic perspective? What real-life issues and controversies are relevant beyond fixed geographic boundaries?

What role does the West play in establishing the parameters of the China-Africa conversation? How have China-Africa engagements been framed and studied so far and how can existing approaches be improved? What new questions and analytical frameworks can help us improve the way we locate and understand unfolding dynamics? What comparative lessons can be learnt by studying similar processes in different regions of the world?

This conference sets out to explore these questions with a particular focus on China-Africa engagements in global comparative perspective, taking grass-root dynamics and people to people relations as our starting point.
CONFERENCE HOSTS AND ORGANISERS

This conference was led and organised by a fruitful collaboration between the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and the Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network (CA/AC), and supported by a host of Belgian and international sponsors and partners.

At the ULB, six academic and administrative departments were critical in making the conference possible:

- Laboratoire d'anthropologie des mondes contemporains (LAMC)
- East Asian Studies Centre (EAST)
- Afric@ULB
- Maison des Sciences Humaines (MSH)
- International Office for Development Cooperation
- Confucius Institute (ULB)

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- Solange Chatelard (ULB, Sciences Po Paris, CA/AC)
- Vanessa Frangville (EAST, Confucius Institute, ULB)
- Pierre Petit (LAMC, ULB)
- Geneviève Lecorbisier (LAMC, ULB)
- Maïté Bosschaerts (MSH, ULB)
- Vincent Chapaux (MSH, ULB)
- Susan Black (International Office, ULB)
- Heidi Haugen (University of Oslo)
- Yoon Jung Park (CA/AC Research Network and Georgetown University)
- Ching-Lin Pang (University of Antwerp)

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Solange Chatelard (ULB, Sciences Po Paris, CA/AC)
- Jean-Christophe Defraigne (Université Saint Louis and Université Catholique de Louvain)
- Stijn Deklerck (KU Leuven)
- Bart Dessein (University of Ghent)
- Vanessa Frangville (ULB)
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- Tu Huynh (Jinan University)
- Jamie Monson (Michigan State University)
- Ching-Lin Pang (University of Antwerp)
- Yoon Jung Park (CA/AC Research Network and Georgetown University)
- Pierre Petit (ULB)
- Barry Sautman (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)
- Bob Wekesa (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa)
- Song Xining (Renmin University and Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
- Yan Hairong (Hong Kong Polytechnic University)
- Zhang Zhejiang (Jinan University)

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

- Fondation Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique, Belgium (FNRS)
- Research Foundation Flanders, Belgium (FWO)
- Wallonnie-Bruxelles International, Belgium (WBI)
- Visit Brussels, Belgium
- Laboratoire d'anthropologie des mondes contemporains, ULB (LAMC)
- Maison des Sciences Humaines, ULB (MSH)
- International Office for Development Cooperation (ULB)
- Confucius Institute (ULB)
- Institute of Asia and Pacific Studies, University of Nottingham Ningbo, China (IAPS)
- African Studies Centre, Michigan State University (MSU)
- Université Saint Louis (Brussels)
- Africa-China Reporting Project, University of the Witwatersrand
- Royal Museum for Central Africa (Tervuren)
- University of Antwerp
CONFERENCE PANELS

STREAM A: MIGRATION AND MOBILITIES, IDENTITIES AND VALUES

R42.4.110 (4th FLOOR) ROOM A

- Panel A1 - Mobilities and identities
- Panel A2 - Africans in China: navigating migrant life in China
- Panel A3 - Gender and identity politics in Sino-African mobility flows
- Panel A4 - Performative constructions of Afro-Chinese identity
- Panel A5 - Everyday lives of Chinese in Africa
- Panel A6 - Chinese goods in Africa
- Panel A7 - Drugs, dietary supplements and Chinese machines: Pathways to medical hybridisation in Africa

STREAM B: CULTURAL REPRESENTATIONS OF CHINA-AFRICA

R42.5.110 (5th FLOOR) ROOM B

- Panel B2 - Emerging media landscapes
- Panel B3 - Politics of knowledge production in China-Africa studies: fieldwork and methods roundtable
- Panel B4 - Encounters in Literature
- Panel B5 - Film: Wolf Warrior 2 Revisiting hard and soft Chinese power in Africa
- Panel B6 - Cultural and educational engagements
- Panel B7 - Photography and story-telling roundtable
STREAM C: ENVIRONMENT, URBANISATION AND SPATIAL FOOTPRINT

R.42.5.503 (5th FLOOR AMPHITHEATRE) ROOM C

- Panel C1 - Environmental stakes and social corporate responsibility
- Panel C2 - Human and non-human animal relations
- Panel C3 - Chinese-led urbanisation and industrialisation in Africa
- Panel C4 - Ordinary Chinese spaces: shifting aesthetics, everyday life and urban forms
- Panel C5 - Infrastructures of power: Chinese investment and dynamics of state reproduction in Africa
- Panel C6 - China’s internationalisation and new forms of territorialisation
- Panel C7 - Infrastructure investment or development loans? Comparing theory and practice

STREAM D: DEVELOPMENT AND SOUTH-SOUTH RELATIONS

R42.5.103 (5th FLOOR) ROOM D

- Panel D1 - Re-examining the history of South-South relations
- Panel D2 - Chinese development assistance: instruments and narratives
- Panel D3 - Chinese involvements in communication systems in Africa
- Panel D4 - Chinese firms and investment in Africa
- Panel D5 - Afrique du nord: études de cas nationaux (in French)
- Panel D6 - Afrique subsaharienne francophone: études de cas nationaux (in French)
- Panel D7 - Chinese engagements in the Horn of Africa: ambitions, opportunities and challenges
ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

WED 27 JUNE 2018 ULB SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL
42 Avenue Franklin Roosevelt

8:00-9:00  Registration in the Atrium of Solvay Business School, ULB

9:15-9:45  Welcome Remarks, 5th Floor R42.5.503

Solange Chatelard, ULB, Executive Board CA/AC
Marie-Frère Soleil, ULB, Special Advisor for the Rector of International Development Cooperation/Director of Afric@ULB
Vanessa Frangville, ULB, Director of East Asian Studies Centre
Yoon Jung Park, Executive Director, Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network (CA/AC)

10:00-11:30 STREAM A

PANEL A1  MOBILITIES AND IDENTITIES

- Johanna von Pezold (Peking University) and Miriam Driessen (University of Oxford), Made in China, Fashioned in Africa
- Wu Cong (Chinese Academy of Science) and Alice Nicole Sindzingre (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique CNRS, France), Language as a dimension of the economic relationships between China and Sub-Saharan Africa (with a focus on East Africa)
- Zou Yijie (College of William and Mary) and Liu Ye (New School for Social Research), Farmer is a miner too: a global connectivity between small-scale gold mining in Ghana and mining wasteland farm in China
- Chair: Sasha Newell (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
10:00-11:30 STREAM B

PANEL B1  EXPLORING FRANCO PHONE SPACES IN AFRICA-CHINA ENGAGEMENTS.
WITS AFRICA-CHINA REPORTING PROJECT ROUNDTABLE (IN FRENCH)

- Gerard Guèdègbé, (Africa -China Reporting Project /Wits Journalism), Media and communication training expert
- Christophe Assogba (SciDev.Net/Le Progrès, Benin), Journalist, China and the looting of Beninese forests  (La Depeche newspaper, 17 November 2017)
- Hasna Belmekki (Morocco), Journalist, Derb Omar: stronghold of the Chinese traders of Casablanca
- Chair: Marie-Soleil Frère (Université Libre de Bruxelles)

10:00-11:30 STREAM C

PANEL C1  ENVIRONMENTAL STAKES AND CORPORATE SOCIAL REPOSNSIBILITY

- May Tan-Mullins (University of Nottingham Ningbo China), Political ecology of corporate social responsibility of Chinese enterprises in Africa
- Weng Xiaoxue (Centre for International Forestry Research CIFOR), Chinese investments, environment and rural poverty in Africa: insights from agriculture, forestry and mining sectors in Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- Sara Zumbika-Van Hoeymissen (University of Botswana), China and the international responsibility to protect non-human animals: the case of ivory trade
- Wang Duanyong (Shanghai International Studies University), Infrastructure expansion and logging in the DRC: a case study of Chinese contractors
- Chair: Coraline Goron (University of Oxford)
10:00-11:30 STREAM D

PANEL D1  RE-EXAMINING THE HISTORY OF SOUTH-SOUTH RELATIONS

- Vera Leigh Fennell (Lehigh University), 'Arise! All Those who Refuse to be Slaves!': *Blackness as red China’s soft power*
- Matthew Galway (University of California Berkeley), "Mwalimu-ism" and Maoism: a comparative critique of post-independence development
- Jodie Yuzhou Sun (University of Oxford), *Historicising African socialisms: Kenya’s African socialism, Zambian humanism, and Communist China’s entanglements*
- Andrea Azizi Kifyasi (University of Basel), *Cold War politics and medical aid to Africa: a case of Communist China’s medical aid to post-colonial Tanzania.*
- Chair: Jamie Monson (Michigan State University).

11:30-13h  LUNCH: HOT BUFFET AND DRINKS IN ATRIUM
FOR CONFERENCE SPEAKERS AND CHAIRS ONLY

13:00 – 14:30 STREAM A

PANEL A2  AFRICANS IN CHINA: NAVIGATING MIGRANT LIFE IN CHINA

- Heidi Haugen (University of Olso), *Finding a way out of China: an exploration of circumstantial migration*
- Su Ping (Sun Yat-sen University), *Education and integration of the second generation African immigrants in Guangzhou.*
- Wang Wei and Lucy Jordan (University of Hong Kong), *Unblessed union: African-Chinese couples in southern China*
- Michaela Pelican and Lai Pik Chan (University of Cologne), *Managing foreigners in China: perspectives from Ghangzhou and Shenzhen.*
- Chair: Qiu Yu (Independent Researcher)
13:00 – 14:30 STREAM B

PANEL B2 EMERGING MEDIA LANDSCAPES

- Barry Van Wyk (University of the Witwatersrand), *Networking a quiet community: South African Chinese news reporting and networking*
- Li Hangwei (SOAS), *Unpacking Chinese private media landscapes in Africa: the case of Oriental Post Group and Global Max Media Group*
- Cai Yifan (Clark University), *Racial discourse in Chinese new media: a case study of the representation and perception of African workers on the Kuaishou app*
- Chair: Bob Wekesa (University of the Witwatersrand)

13:00 – 14:30 STREAM C

PANEL C2 HUMAN AND NON-HUMAN ANIMAL RELATIONS

- Hongxiang Huang and Wang Jing (China House, Nairobi), *The roles of Chinese nationals in African illegal wildlife trade: myths, reality, and gaps*
- Boubacar Barry (Université de Thiès – ENSA, Senegal), *Chinese in Senegal: an Alterity within the limits of food and livestock (donkey)*
- Adewale Owoseni (University of Ibadan, Nigeria), *Contributions from Yoruba and Chinese worldviews to post-anthropocentric contention on human and animal relations*
- Suweon Kim (University of the Western Cape, South Africa), “Stop killing OUR rhinos”: the political economy of rhino keeper identity
- Chair: Vincent Chapaux, (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
13:00 – 14:30 STREAM D

PANEL D2  CHINESE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN AFRICA: INSTRUMENTS AND NARRATIVES

- Christine Hackenesch (German Development Institute), *Birds of a feather flock together - The Chinese Communist Party meets African political parties*
- Christopher Chagnon (London Centre of International Law Practice), *Hard East Soft West? Investigating presumptions about trends in Chinese and Western development finance in Africa*
- Paul Kadetz (Drew University and University College London), *Outsourcing China’s welfare: unpacking the outcomes of ‘sustainable’ self-development in Sino-African health diplomacy*
- Chair: Jean-Pierre Cabestan (Hong Kong Baptist University)

14:30 – 14:45 LEG STRETCH

14:45 – 16:15 STREAM A

PANEL A3  GENDER AND IDENTITY POLITICS IN SINO-AFRICAN MOBILITY FLOWS

- Lesley Nicole Braun (Humboldt Universität), *The Travail and Travels of Congo’s Transnational Trader Women*
- Jackson Miller (Harvard Kennedy School), *Mobilizing the Margins: Chinese Women, Intersectionality, and Globalizing African Workspaces*
- Shanshan Lan (University of Amsterdam), *Race and state-endorsed patriotic Chinese masculinity in Wolf Warrior II*
- Yu Qiu (Independent scholar), *No longer at ease: the problem of masculinity among Nigerian migrant men in Guangzhou*
- Chair: Tu Huynh (Jinan University China).
14:45 – 16:15 STREAM B

PANEL B3  POLITICS OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION IN CHINA-AFRICA STUDIES - FIELDWORK AND METHODS ROUNDTABLE

- Mingwei Huang (University of Minnesota) and Vivian Chenxue Lu (Stanford University), *The politics of knowledge production in China-Africa studies*
- Carlos Oya and Florian T. Schäfer (SOAS), *Researching Chinese firms in Africa – methodological lessons from a large-scale survey in Ethiopia and Angola*
- Frangton Chiyemura (The Open University), *Doing fieldwork in Africa on Africa-China development cooperation: reflections on fieldwork experiences in Ethiopia on Ethiopia-China cooperation in the development of Adama wind farms*
- **Chair**: Yoon Jung Park (Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network)

14:45 – 16:15 STREAM C

PANEL C3  CHINESE LED URBANISATION AND INDUSTRIALISATION IN AFRICA

- Allan Cain (Development Workshop, Angola), *Alternatives to African commodity-backed urbanization: the case of China in Angola*
- Ricardo Reboredo (Trinity College Dublin), *The Political Economy of Chinese-led Megaprojects in South Africa*
- Abosede Babatunde (University of Ilorin, Nigeria), *Enter the Messiah? Potentials and Implications of Chinese Oil operations in the Nigeria’s Niger Delta*
- Ning Rundong (Yale University), *Construction assemblage: how construction projects shape China-Africa encounters*
- **Chair**: Romain Dittgen (University of the Witwatersrand)
14:45 – 16:15 STREAM D

PANEL D3  CHINESE INVOLVEMENTS IN COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS IN AFRICA

- Elling Tjønneland and Helge Rønning (Chr. Michelsen Institute), *China and telecommunications in Africa*
- Shubo Li (University of Oslo) and Aslak Orre (Chr. Michelsen Institute), *The Wolf and the Bull in the Palanca’s Realm. Chinese telecommunication equipment companies in Angola*
- Sérgio Chichava (Institute of Social and Economic Studies), *Chinese communications strategies in Mozambique – the physical and the electronic*
- Chair: Barry Sautman (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

17:00  WELCOME RECEPTION AND DINNER AT THE AUBERGE BONDAEL - FOR INVITED SPEAKERS AND PANEL CHAIRS ONLY

AUBERGE DE BOONDAEL

Square du Vieux Tilleul, 12

1050 Brussels

TEL +32 2 672 70 55

See MAP and full details on p.40

Reception drinks start from 5:00pm onwards.

Dinner will be served around 6:00pm.
THURSDAY 28 JUNE 2018
ULB - SOLVAY BUSINESS SCHOOL
42 AVENUE FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT

8:00-8:45 REGISTRATION

9:00-10:30 STREAM A

PANEL A4 PERFORMATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS OF AFRO-CHINESE IDENTITY

- Tara Mock (Bowdoin College), *Manufacturing sameness: continuities and expansions of identity in Afro-Chinese relations*
- Carlton Jama Adams (John Jay College/City University New York), *Black histories for self-construction within a Chinese context*
- Rirhandu Mageza-Barthel and Uta Ruppert (Goethe University Frankfurt), *Tones and trajectories of gender politics: transnationalism and transregionalism revisited*
- Chair: Vera Fennell (Lehigh University)

9:00-10:30 STREAM B

PANEL B4 CHINESE-AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS IN LITERATURE

- Xavier Luffin (Université Libre de Bruxelles), *Amin Zaoui’s Al Malika: A Chinese-Algerian Romance*
- Duncan Yoon (New York University), *Towards the Global South Novel: Africa, China, and Bofane’s Congo Inc.*
- Yan Lu (York University), *Yellow-Black divergence in He Chen’s Novella ‘I am a Little Bird’.*
- Chang Ti-Han (Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3), *Negotiating the past: Remaking history, memories and narratives in the postcolonial novels of J.M. Coetzee and Wu Ming-yi*
- Chair: Vanessa Frangville (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
9:00-10:30  STREAM C

PANEL C4  ORDINARY CHINESE SPACES: SHIFTING AESTHETICS, EVERYDAY LIFE AND URBAN FORMS

- Yan Hairong (Hong Kong Polytechnic University) and Barry Sautman (Hong Kong University of Science & Technology), Chinese and “self-segregation” in Africa
- Gerald Chungu (University of the Witwatersrand), Building the City of tomorrow – challenging ‘Chinese-ness’ and the influence of Chinese contractors in shaping the built environment in Lusaka
- Romain Dittgen (University of the Witwatersrand), The ordinary made exceptional – layered readings of a ‘Chinese’ street in suburban Johannesburg
- Melissa Lefkowitz (New York University), Following Chinese dreams in the Silicon Savannah: ordinary spaces among Chinese millennials in Nairobi
- Chair: Karsten Giese (GIGA Hamburg)

9:00-10:30  STREAM D

PANEL D4  CHINESE FIRMS AND INVESTMENT IN AFRICA

- Sanne Van Der Lugt (University of Bremen), Both Chinese and U.S. investments are directed to political unstable and institutional mature countries in Africa
- Matumelo Tinstwalo Wilkin (University of Nottingham-Ningbo), Sustainable foreign direct investment- capacity building and knowledge transfer: South Africa and China
- Matthew Ferchen (Tsinghua University), The dog that didn’t bark: why so little comparison of China’s South-South relations and why does it matter?
- Ronald Chipaike (Bindura University of Science Education, Zimbabwe), Agency at the margins: Zimbabwe’s economic engagement with China since 2000
- Chair: Giles Mohan (The Open University)

10:30 -10:45 LEG STRETCH
10:45-12:15 STREAM A

PANEL A5 EVERYDAY LIVES OF CHINESE IN AFRICA

- Chen Ying (Freelance Researcher and Consultant), *An update report of Chinese immigrants living in South Africa from 2008-2017*
- Yuan Ding (Shanghai Normal University) and Pang ChingLin (University of Antwerp), *Exploring the concept of “guoke” in recent South-South migration: a comparative perspective of migrant trajectories of Chinese in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Congolese in China*
- Wang Jinpu (Syracuse University), *Nationalism, overseas Chinese state, and the construction of “Chineseness” among Chinese migrant entrepreneurs in Ghana*
- **Moderator:** Yan Hairong (Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

10:45-12:15 STREAM B

PANEL B5 FILM: WOLF WARRIOR 2 REVISING SOFT AND HARD CHINESE POWER IN AFRICA

- Li Yuqing (Guizhou Normal University), *Representation and reality of China’s military might in Africa: a comparative analysis of “Wolf Warrior II” and “Peacekeeping Infantry Battalion”*
- Dan Large (Central European University), *‘Guess the Chinese military ain’t so lame after all’: Wolf Warrior II and the Chinese peace and security engagement in Africa*
- Nicole Talmacs (Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University), *Trust and uncertainty in visions of Africa: Chinese audience reception to “Africa” in Wolf Warrior II*
- Xiang Yu (Shanghai University), *Nationalism, Stereotype and New Hegemonic Narrative: Comparative Reception Analyses of the Chinese Audience and African Audience of Wolf Warrior II*
- **Chair:** Solange Guo Chatelard (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Sciences Po Paris)
10:45-12:15 STREAM C

PANEL C5 INFRASTRUCTURES OF POWER: CHINESE INVESTMENT AND DYNAMICS OF STATE REPRODUCTION IN AFRICA

- Obert Hodzi (University of Helsinki), *The China model of development: multiple conceptualisations and praxis in Africa*
- Fabien Nkot and René Faustin Bobo Bobo (University of Yaoundé II), *The deep seaport of Kribi: symbol of the “new” developmental ambition of Cameroonian state*
- Guive Khan-Mohammad (University of Geneva), *Beyond Chinese infrastructures in Cameroon: the arduous journey to an industrial-led development*
- Linda Yin-Nor TJIA (City University of Hong Kong), *Explaining the geo-perception of Chinese freight-led infrastructure in Kazakhstan*
- **Chair:** Antoine Kernen (University of Lausanne)

10:45-12:15 STREAM D

PANEL D5 AFRIQUE DU NORD – ETUDES DE CAS NATIONAUX

- Hicham Rouibah (Université Paris-Diderot), *Travailler en Algérie pour exister en Chine, se former en Chine pour travailler en Algérie*
- Moustafa Benberrah (Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne), *L’instauration d’un dialogue culturel en cause : l’offensive de la diaspora chinoise sur l’Algérie*
- Elena Aoun (Université Catholique de Louvain) and Thierry Kellner (Université Libre de Bruxelles), *La Chine et l’Égypte après le « printemps arabe » : combler le vide ?*
- Hamitouche Youcef (Université Algiers 3), *La présence chinoise en Afrique du Nord : le cas du Maroc et de l’Algérie*
- **Chair:** Joël Noret (Université Libre de Bruxelles)

12:15-13:45 LUNCH: HOT BUFFET AND DRINKS IN ATRIUM

FOR CONFERENCE SPEAKERS AND CHAIRS ONLY
14:00-15:30 STREAM A

PANEL A6 CHINESE GOODS IN AFRICA

- Alice Sala (University of Neuchâtel), *Standard, sub-standard, fake & original: evolution, roles and discourses on Chinese products in the Nigerian IT market*
- André Chappatte (Leibniz-ZMO), *'Yutong ça nous arrange!': The arrival of Chinese coaches in West Africa, reliefs, opportunities and reactions*
- Ute Röschenthaler (Goethe University Frankfurt), *Foreign manufactured products on African markets: their trajectories and integration in local regimes of value*
- Sylvain Racaud (University of Bordeaux Montaigne), *On the trade routes of cheap Chinese items between African large harbour centres and rural periodic markets*
- Chair: Guive Khan Mohammad (University of Geneva)

14:00-15:30 STREAM B

PANEL B6 CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

- Charline Kopf (University of Oxford), *A tale of an empty museum and the imaginaries contained therein: China's contribution to Dakar’s Museum of Black Civilisations*
- Derek Sheridan (Brandeis University), *The Kung Fu histories of the Swahili coast*
- Zhang Mingyuan (University of Western Ontario), *“Kung Fu vs. Radio Calisthenics”: Chinese language education and the representation of Chinese culture in northern Madagascar*
- Sun Yi (University of Massachusetts Amherst), *An analysis of China-Africa relations through the lens of higher education: conversations with Cameroonian students in China*
- Chair: Elisabeth Hsu (University of Oxford)
14:00-15:30        STREAM C

PANEL C6       CHINA’S INTERNATIONALISATION AND NEW FORMS OF SPATIAL TERRITORIALISATION

- Giles Mohan (Open University), *The territorialisation of China’s internationalisation*
- Jon Phillips (University of Exeter), *The enclave meets the grid: re-spacing Ghana through Chinese and American energy investments*
- Tom Goodfellow and Huang Zheng Li (University of Sheffield), *China and the geopolitics of urban transformation in Ethiopia and Uganda*
- Ding Fei (University of Minnesota), *Worlding developmentalism through economic zones: Views from the Eastern Industrial Zone of Ethiopia*
- **Chair:** Helge Rønning (University of Oslo)

14:00-15:30        STREAM D

PANEL D6       AFRIQUE SUBSAHIENNE FRANCOPHONE – ETUDES DE CAS NATIONAUX

- Jean-Denis Miala Ndomele (Université de Kinshasa, RDC), *La stratégie commerciale et entrepreneuriale de la Chine en République Démocratique du Congo*
- Madeleine Christelle Njiki Bikoi (Université de Douala, Cameroun), *Stratégies d’intégration des communautés chinoises au Cameroun : étude à partir de la ville de Douala*
- Richard Alemdjrodo (Université de Lomé, Togo), *Rôle de la Chine et de l’Afrique dans la reconfiguration régionale du pouvoir*
- Salomon Mahotogui (EHESS, France), *Les produits chinois en Côte d’Ivoire : une nouvelle culture matérielle et de nouvelles figures de la réussite*
- **Moderator:** Thierry Kellner (Université Libre de Bruxelles)

15:30-15:45 LEG STRETCH
15:45-17:15 STREAM A

PANEL A7  DRUGS, DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS AND CHINESE MACHINES: PATHWAYS TO MEDICAL HYBRIDIZATION IN AFRICA

- Lucia Candelise (EHESS/CNRS), Between "local" and "global", the practice of acupuncture outside China: the cases of Cameroon and Switzerland
- Antoine Kernen (University of Lausanne) and Idrissou Mounpe Chare (University of Yaoundé I, Cameroun), Medical Hybridization and Dietary Supplements in Cameroon
- Françoise Bourdarias (Université de Paris-Diderot), The definitions of "real Chinese medicine" in Mali. Genesis and modes of existence of a technical object, the "machine for diagnosis"
- Elisabeth Hsu (University of Oxford), Chinese medicine in East Africa: emplotment and empotment
- Chair: Sarah O’Neill (Université Libre de Bruxelles)

15:45-17:15 STREAM B

PANEL B7  PHOTOGRAPHY AND STORY TELLING ROUNDTABLE

- Justin Hui (Architect, independent photographer), Urban Africa, Made in China
- Manon Diederich (University of Cologne), « Queen B » - A Life Between Senegal and China
- Hicham Rouibah (Paris 7 Diderot) et Moustafa Benberrah (Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne), Les chinois en Algérie
- Lesley Braun (Humbolt University), The Weighty World of Women’s Cargo
- Chair: Romain Dittgen (University of the Witwatersrand)
15:45-17:15 STREAM C

PANEL C7 INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS OR DEVELOPMENT LOANS? COMPARING THEORY AND PRACTICE

- Winslow Robertson (Independent Researcher), *Investment, loans, and language: the rhetoric behind Chinese finance in Ghana*
- Saite Lu (University of Cambridge), *China’s infrastructure investment in Sierra Leone – a case study of the Mamamah Airport Project*
- Frangton Chiyemura (The Open University), *Ethiopia-China cooperation in the development of Adama wind farms*
- **Chair:** Allan Cain, (Development Workshop, Angola)

15:45-17:15 STREAM 4/ROOM D

PANEL 7 CHINESE ENGAGEMENTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA: AMBITIONS, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

- Jean-Pierre Cabestan (Hong Kong Baptist University), *China’s New Military Base in Djibouti and Africa Security*
- Isaac Nunoo, (Jilin University Changchun China), *China’s economic boom and military rise: a realist perspective of the dragon’s zest for global power and presence in Africa*
- Aron Tesfaye (William Paterson University), *The Ethiopian-Djibouti railway and China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): towards a trans-African-linkage?*
- **Chair:** Tom Goodfellow (University of Sheffield)

17:30 EVENING PROGRAMME - FREE
FRIDAY 29 JUNE 2018 PUBLIC SEMINAR
SALLE DUPREEL – S Building, 44 Avenue Jeanne

8h30-9h Registration

9-10h30 Public Seminar:

CHINA-AFRICA-EUROPE: TOWARDS A NEW BALANCE

- Anna Stahl (College d'Europe)
- Song Xining (Renmin University Beijing/Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
- Ajay Kumar Bramdeo (African Union Representative to the EU) TBC

10h30-11h Coffee Break

11h-12h30 Public Seminar:

REVISITING SOFT AND HARD CHINESE POWER IN AFRICA

- Jean-Christophe Defraigne (University of St Louis)
- Alicia Garcia Herero (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)
- Estelle Youssouffa (Journalist)
- Huang Hongxiang (China House, Nairobi)

VIDEO AND SOUND INSTALLATION (ALL MORNING)

- “The Weighty World of Women’s Cargo”: Congolese female traders in Guangzhou by Lesley Braun (Humboldt University Berlin)

FOR INVITED SPEAKERS AND CHAIRS ONLY: VISIT TO THE ROYAL MUSEUM FOR CENTRAL AFRICA IN TERVUREN

12h45 Coach departure from outside the S building

13h30-14h30 Informal lunch on the estate of the Museum – lunch bags provided by ULB

15h – 15h45 Introduction by Prof Gryseels, Director of the Royal Museum for Central Africa

16h – 17h Exclusive Preview Visit of the Museum (still in renovation)

17h15-18h15 Closing Cocktail at the Museum

18h30 Return back to Brussels – CLOSING DINNER (TBC) For Conference Speakers and Chairs only
HOW TO GET TO YOUR HOTEL AND TO THE UNIVERSITY BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

IMPORTANT:

There are two official languages in Brussels: French and Flemish (Dutch).

Every public space, station, road name etc is written in both French and Flemish, which can make orientation confusing. Please pay attention to this when using public transport.

In Brussels, public transport is run by the public company STIB. De Lijn is the Flemish company which you will not be using.

You can buy your ticket either at the station through ticket machines (2,10 EUR) or in the bus or tram for a slightly higher price (2,50 EUR).

If you buy the ticket in the bus or tram please make sure to have small change as they don’t take notes higher than 5 EUR.

Don’t forget to validate your ticket by touching it against the red card readers distributed throughout trams and buses.
How to reach the Train Hostel?

TRAIN HOSTEL
6, AVENUE GEORGES RODENBACH
1030 SCHAERBEEK
TEL +32 2 808 61 76


BY TRAIN:

From the airport, take the Airport City Express Train and go to Gare du Nord (13 min). Change at Gare du Nord and take another train to Schaerbeek Gare. Please consult the timetables, many trains stop at Schaerbeek and the journey is very short. The Train Hostel is a 2 minute walk from Schaerbeek station on your left (see map 1). The train ticket will cost you 9 EUR.

Map 1 Directions from Schaerbeek Station to the Train Hostel
BY BUS:

There is also a bus service into Brussels from the airport called the **Airport Line** (Line 12). Take bus 12 towards Brussels City and get off at Diamant (5 stops, 20 mins) (see Map 2). Walk over to Diamant Metro station and follow the steps underground. From there, take tram line 7 (it’s underground but it’s a tram, yes it’s confusing). Take tram 7 towards Heysel and get off at “Princesse Elisabeth” (7 stops, 15 mins) and walk down Avenue Elisabeth towards Schaerbeek Train station (6-10 minute walk) to the Train Hostel (see Map 3).

For 1 journey (purchased outside vehicle): **4,50 EUR**
For 1 journey (purchased inside vehicle): **6,00 EUR**

**Don't forget to validate your ticket**

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Map 2 Princesse Elisabeth Stop (tram n.7) to the Train Hostel
How to reach Hotel Argus?

ARGUS HOTEL BRUSSELS
6, RUE CAPITAINE CRESPEL
B-1050 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

TEL +32 2 514 07 70
FAX +32 2 514 12 22
http://www.hotel-argus.be

BY TRAIN

From the airport, you can take the Airport City Express Train to Gare du Midi. From Gare du Midi take the Metro line 2 towards Elisabeth and get off at “Louise” (3 stops). When you come out of the station, you will see a tall building call the Hotel Tower (former Hilton Brussels). The street is opposite this building (see Map 4).

The train ticket will cost you 9 EUR.

Note that you are a stone’s throw away from the Palais de Justice courthouse, and the commercial Avenue Louise full of shops, bars and restaurants.
BY BUS

There is also a bus service called the **Airport Line** (Line 12). Take this bus to “Luxembourg” (7 stops, 30 min), then change for either bus 34 or 80 towards “Porte de Namur” (3 stops, 5 min). Get off at “Porte de Namur”, when you come out of the station you will see a tall building, the Hotel Tower (former Hilton Brussels). The street is opposite this building (see Map 6)

For 1 journey (purchased outside vehicle): **4,50 EUR**
For 1 journey (purchased inside vehicle): **6,00 EUR**

Don’t forget to validate your ticket

Map 4 Directions from Porte de Namur station to Hotel Argus
How to reach Hotel Barsey by Warwick?

HOTEL BARSEY BY WARWICK
381-383 Avenue Louise
1050 Brussels,
TEL +32 2 649 98 00
info.warwickbarsey@warwickhotels.com

BY TRAIN

From the airport, you can take the Airport City Express. This train stops at all three major stations in Brussels. Get off at the Gare du Midi and take the Metro line 2 towards Elisabeth. Get off at "Louise" (3 stations), come out of the station and immediately take tram 93 or 94 (direction Musée du Tram) and get off at Abbaye. The Hotel Barsey is a 2 min from the tram stop in the opposite direction of the traffic (see Map 7).

The train ticket will cost you 9 EUR.

Map 5 Directions from Louise station to Hotel Barsey by Warwick
BY BUS:

There is also a bus service called the **Airport Line** (Line 12). Take bus 12 and get off at "Diamant" (5 stops, 20 mins) then walk over to the Metro station Diamant and follow the steps underground. From there, take tram line 7 (it’s underground but it’s a tram, yes it’s confusing) towards Vanderkindere and get off at “Legrand” (11 stops, 20 mins). At Legrand, head up Avenue Louise and walk 8 mins to the hotel (maps 6 and 7).

For 1 journey (purchased outside vehicle): **4,50 EUR**  
For 1 journey (purchased inside vehicle): **6,00 EUR**

**Don’t forget to validate your ticket**

MAP 6 Directions from Diamant station to Hotel Barsey by Warwick
MAP 7 Directions from Legrand tram stop to Hotel Barsey by Warwick
Venues of the conference and public transport access

- The Academic Conference on June 27 and 28th will be held at the Solvay Business School, **Building R42**
  42 Avenue Franklin Roosevelt, 1050 – Brussels

- The Public Seminar on Friday 28th June will be held at the Institute of Sociology, **Building S**
  44 Avenue Jeanne, 1050 – Brussels

- The nearest public transport station is “Cambre-Etoile”, 5 mins walk away (see map 8)

Map 8 ULB Campus (Solbosch)
NEAREST PUBLIC STATION TO ULB CAMPUS:

From all three hotels, the nearest public station is:

LA CAMBRE-ETOILE (5 MINS WALK)

Map 9 Directions from La Cambre tram stop to ULB campus – Solvay Business School
How to reach the university from Train Hostel?

There are 2 tram routes:

- Direct route on tram line 7: From the Hostel go to Princesse Elisabeth tram stop. You can either walk from the hostel (6-10 mins walk) or take tram 92 in front of the train station and ride one stop to Princesse Elisabeth. From Princesse Elisabeth take tram 7 towards Vanderkindere and get off at Cambre-Etoile. Then walk 5 mins to the ULB campus. It is a direct journey on tram 7.

- "Scenic route" through the centre of Brussels (15 mins longer): From the Hostel take tram 92 in front of the train station to Louise station (45 min ride through the centre of the city). Change at Louise for tram 94 to La Cambre. Walk 5 mins to the ULB campus.

Please set off an hour earlier from the Train Hostel to make sure get there on time. Belgian public transport is notoriously irregular.
How to reach the university from Hotel Argus

Walk to Louise roundabout/station and take the tram 94 toward "Musée du Tram" to Cambre-Etoile (7 stops, 20 mins). Walk 5 mins to the ULB campus.

MAP 11 Directions from Hotel Argus to ULB campus
How to reach the University from Hotel Barsey?

From the hotel it is a 15-20 min walk through the garden of the Abbaye La Cambre (see map 16).

Alternatively, you can take tram 94 outside the hotel at the stop “Abbaye” and get off at “Cambre-Étoile” (2 stops, 3 min). It is a 5 min walk from there.

MAP 12 Directions from Hotel Barsey Warwick to ULB Campus
Welcome Dinner at the Auberge de Boondael – Wed June 27

All conference speakers and chairs are invited to a complementary welcome dinner at the Auberge de Boondael on the first night. The restaurant is a 15 min walk from the ULB campus (see map 17)

Reception drinks start from 5:00pm onwards.

Dinner will be served around 6:00pm.

AUBERGE DE BOONDAEL

Square du Vieux Tilleul, 12

1050 Brussels

TEL +32 2 672 70 55

https://www.aubergedeboendael.be/

Map 13 Directions from Campus to the Welcome Dinner at the Auberge de Boendael by foot.
Those who prefer to take public transport the directions are:

From Avenue Adolphe Buyl take tram 25 or 94 towards Rogier or Musée du tram and get off at “Marie José” (4 stops, 8 min). It is a 5 mins walk from there along Avenue du Bois de La Cambre (see Map 18).

Map 14 Directions from Campus to the Welcome Dinner at the Auberge de Boendael by tram
Friday June 29 – Royal Museum for Central Africa

All conference speakers and chairs are invited to an exclusive preview visit of the Royal Museum for Central Africa on Friday June 29th.

A coach will collect you from outside the venue, S building (44 Avenue Jeanne), at 12:45 and drop you back at your hotel afterwards.

ROYAL MUSEUM FOR CENTRAL AFRICA (Outside Brussels)
Leuvensesteenweg 13
Tervuren 3080
TEL +32 2 769 52 11
http://www.africamuseum.be/en

PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

For those who wish to make their own way there, take tram 7 at the stop Cambre-Etoile up to Montgomery (14 min, 8 stops). At Montgomery take tram 44 towards Tervuren Station and get off at the final destination, where the Museum is. The return is the same trip in reverse order (see Map 15).

PROGRAMME:

12h45  Coach departure from outside the venue, S building (44 Avenue Jeanne)

13h30-14h30  Informal lunch on the estate of the Museum – lunch bags provided by ULB

15h – 15h45  Introduction by Prof Gryseels, Director of the Royal Museum for Central Africa

16h – 17h  Exclusive Preview Visit of the Museum ( still in renovation)

17h15-18h15  Closing Cocktail at the Museum

18h30  Return back to Brussels – CLOSING DINNER (TBC) For Conference Speakers and Chairs only
Map 15 Directions from ULB, tram stop La Cambre, to the Royal Museum for Central Africa Tervuren by public transport.
INDIVIDUAL BIOGRAPHIES AND CONTACT

Name: ADAMS C. Jama

Institutional Affiliation and Position: John Jay College-CUNY, Associate Professor

Presentation Title: Black Histories for Self-construction Within a Chinese Context

Abstract:

Black identities in China, as elsewhere, are in tension with Black individualities. Black foreign workers in China are often required to cope with essentialist and negative identity ascriptions, alongside attraction to their technical skills. This happens within a Black self with its unique individuality. This paper explores this phenomenon, paying particular attention to the ways in which African and African descended people negotiate feelings of attachment, belonging, recognition, and the processes of value formation and norm integration within China.

Biography:


Email: cadams@jjay.cuny.edu
Name: ALEMDJRODO Richard

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Lomé, Assistant Professor

Presentation Title: Rôle de la Chine et de l'Afrique dans la reconfiguration régionale du pouvoir

Abstract:

L'objectif des BRICS est de façonner les nouveaux ordres mondiaux et régionaux. L'Afrique à des revendications à faire valoir dans le nouvel ordre mondial qui se dessine. Le continent africain réclame par exemple une place au sein des membres permanents du Conseil de sécurité, et il aimerait prendre son indépendance vis-à-vis des institutions financières de Bretton Woods contrôlées par les États-Unis et l'Europe. Sur cette question de repositionnement de l'Afrique par rapport aux puissances occidentales, les BRICS, au sein desquels se trouve l'Afrique du Sud, se doivent de jouer un rôle déterminant, même s'ils ne présentent pas un front uni. En effet, la présence massive sur le continent africain de la Chine, au détriment des autres membres des BRICS, et la relation privilégiée de la Chine avec les pays africains pourraient permettre à la Chine de soutenir l'agenda africain au sein des BRICS. Est-ce le cas? Sinon comment y parvenir?

Biography:

Richard Alemdjrodo is a lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University of Lome, Togo. He holds a PhD in Law from the University of Saarland, Germany. He also held a postdoctoral position at the University of Montreal, Canada, and was a research fellow at the University of Paris V, René Descartes. His research and teaching interests include international law, law and society, trade, and international security. He is a 2016 recipient of the Social Science Research Council’s African Peacebuilding Network’s Individual Research Grant.

Email: alem3002@yahoo.com
Abstract: China has shown increased assertiveness in the Middle East/North Africa (MENA Region) in the aftermath of the “Arab Spring” uprisings and especially so in its relations with Egypt. While Western powers were thriving to adapt their policies and to overcome major discrepancies between their discourses and their practices in the fluctuating post-“Arab Spring” Egyptian environment, China has significantly developed its relations with the country, irrespective of who has been at the helm (the military, Morsi or Sissi). Based on an extensive data collection (facts and figures on trade and cooperation, diplomatic and political statements, initiatives,…) in 4 languages (Arabic, Mandarin, English and French) this qualitative oriented paper argues from a constructivist perspective that the turbulence ushered in by the “Arab Springs” has opened new opportunities for China to build a new role in this region. This is particularly so as local actors are seeking new alliances to strengthen their hand in times of shifting tides. This co-construction of a new Chinese role is seen as constitutive of a reordering of global balances that challenges the Western-dominated status quo ante not through the dismantling of the existing international system but rather through a resistance to the Western monopoly over its evolution and over the production and interpretation of norms.

Biography: Elena Aoun holds a Ph.D. in International relations from the Institut d’études politiques of Paris. Currently an assistant professor at the Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium, her research revolves around the conflicts and crises in the Middle East, and EU foreign policy in that region. At the intersection of her work on the Middle East and her interest in transnational mobilizations, Elena Aoun has also been working on the rise of transnational jihadism. In parallel, she is involved in various research projects regarding the phenomenon of resistance in the Middle East and Africa, the rise of emerging powers such as China in the Middle East.

Email: elena.aoun@uclouvain.be
Name: ASSOGBA Christophe


Presentation Title: China and the looting of Beninese forests.

Biography:

Christophe T Assogba is an investigative journalist, a science journalist, an author and a PhD student in archaeology based in Benin. He has freelanced for SciDev.Net since 2011 about science issues in Benin and the wider West Africa region. He is also the president of the Association des Journalistes et Communicateurs Scientifiques du Benin and the West Africa Forum of Science Journalists and Communicators.

Email: assochrist2002@yahoo.fr
Abstract:

This article explores the potentials and implications of the Chinese oil operations for the trajectories of the struggles for environmental justice and sustainable development in the Niger Delta. The recent commitment to over $100 billion prospective investments by Chinese firms in the Nigeria oil and gas sector is considered the single biggest amount of investment in any African country. This laudable investments could be considered as a defining moment for the future prospects of oil operations in the Niger Delta, which has hitherto been the preserve of Western oil multinationals. It offers a window of opportunity for oil-rich Nigeria which is in dire need of upgrading its poorly maintained oil and gas infrastructure leading to the underperformance of Nigeria’s four refineries and the excessive reliance on expensive imported fuel for 80 percent of the country’s energy needs. It also rekindle hope of finding lasting solutions to the environmental and infrastructural challenges in the Niger Delta. Yet, the relentless attacks on oil facilities by the Niger Delta militants may significantly undermine the impact of such huge investments. Also, studies and media reports on Chinese mining and oil operations in Zambia and Sudan have shown significant anti-Chinese sentiments among the local populations that are attributed to the poor working conditions, low wages, environmental degradation, and so on. This raise concerns about the potential impacts on the trajectories of the armed struggles for environmental justice and sustainable development in the Niger Delta. It remains to be seen how these challenges can be surmounted in the short and medium term. In the long run, these critical issues will determine the implications of China’s oil operations for the trajectories of armed struggles in the Niger Delta. At the moment, the nature and content of Chinese oil operation in the volatile oil-rich region remains a conjecture.

Biography:

Abosede Omowumi Babatunde lectures at the Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria. Dr. Babatunde is a member of the Society for Peace Studies and Practice, Nigeria; International Peace Research Association (IPRA); Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA); African Studies Association; and has been a Senior Research Fellow, French Institute for Research in Africa (IFRA). She has been awarded several distinguished academic fellowships such as the African Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow (2010) of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Research Fellowship in Peace Studies (2013) at the Consortium for Peace Studies, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. She is a 2016 Individual Research Grantee of the African Peacebuilding Network of the Social Science Research Council (APN/SSRC). Dr Babatunde is a 2017 Fellow of the Brown International Advanced Research Institutes (BIARI), Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, United States. She is also a 2017/2018 Fellow, Rachel Carson Centre for Environment and Society, Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich, Germany. She has published many articles in local and International Journals and book chapters. Her research interests include Conflict Resolution with emphasis on traditional models of conflict resolution; Resources Governance; Human rights and security; Peacebuilding; and Gender Studies.

Email: bose_babatunde@yahoo.co.uk
Name: BARRY Boubacar

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Université Libre de Bruxelles - LAMC & ENSA-Sénégal, PhD candidate

Presentation Title: Les chinois en Afrique, une altérité dans les limites de l'alimentaire et de l'élevage (d'âne)

Abstract:

La présence chinoise en Afrique est de plus en plus massive, expressive et challengeuse. Par ses logiques, elle déroge aux traditions classiques des entrepreneurs de la morale qui, au-delà de leur business sur les ressources du continent, se comportent par ailleurs dans la perspective politique, comme des maîtres chevaliers d'un certain ordre démocratique. Le rapport des Chinois à l'Afrique s'inscrit plutôt dans la stricte exigence du « doing business » en partant de l'exploitation des ressources locales. Dans ce contexte, ils entrent en contact avec les populations locales qui ont entretenu de nombreux mécanismes (quelquefois limités) de valorisation et de protection de ces ressources qu'elles entourent parfois d'interdits et de tabous. Certaines espèces animales dont les ânes se situent dans ce registre et se définissent pour la plupart des communautés, comme des animaux impropre à la consommation. L'élevage des ânes s'entoure de toutes sortes de normes et de valeurs qui rejettent la viande de cet animal au-delà des besoins alimentaires des populations. Cela fait que les Chinois, en s'accaparant de la viande et de la peau d'ânes, se définissent comme une altérité qui ébranle les tabous et déplace les limites de l'alimentaire. Par les Chinois donc, le rapport à cette ressource tend aussi à se déplacer. Les abattages d'ânes se multiplient à l'échelle de la région. Au Sénégal, cette réalité défie la chronique et alimente depuis 2016 les médias.

Biography:

Enseignant vacataire depuis 2010 à l'université Assane Seck de Ziguinchor (Sénégal) et responsable du Bureau d'études GEFIC-AFRICA. Doctorant chargé d'étude sur les réseaux et organisations d'éleveurs dans le cadre du projet inter-universitaire (Liège, Namur, ULB, UCAD-EISMV et ENSA de Thiès) financé par ARES-CCD. Mes recherches mettent aussi en lumière les mobilités sous-régionales des réseaux d'éleveurs et leurs effets différentiels sur les nouvelles dynamiques sociales dans les espaces urbains et périurbains sénégalais.

Email: sidikhbarry@yahoo.fr
Name: BELMEKKI Hasna

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Journalist freelance

Presentation Title: Derb Omar, stronghold of the Chinese traders of Casablanca

Abstract:
Chinese traders’ migratory movement to Derb Omar in Morocco is a recent phenomenon. Specialised in wholesale and semi-wholesale goods directly imported from China, who are these small entrepreneurs, where do they come from, what relations do they have with the people of Casablanca?

Biography:
Hasna Belmekki is an independent journalist based in Morocco. Using several formats, audio video, printed, she works on societal issues and migration, especially the situation of migrants in transit in Morocco and waiting to join Europe.

Twitter: @hbelmekk
**Name:** BENBERRAH Moustafa

**Institutional Affiliation and Position:** CRPS-CESSP, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, PhD candidate

**Presentation Title:** L’instauration d’un dialogue culturel en cause : l’offensive de la diaspora chinoise sur l’Algérie

**Abstract:**
Profitant de la hausse des prix des hydrocarbures depuis le début des années deux-mille l’Algérie a entrepris une politique des grands travaux afin de combler ses lacunes dans le domaine des infrastructures. Ainsi, elle a consacré près de 6 400 milliards de dinars (60 milliards d’euro) à ces projets, souvent proposés lors d’un appel d’offres national ou international. En respectant les besoins en termes de temps et de coûts, les entreprises chinoises de BTP se voient attribué une grande majorité de ces projets. Soutenus par le gouvernement chinois, ces acteurs transnationaux semblent les mieux disposés à accomplir ces transactions qui nécessitent de lourds investissements. Ils se présentent comme des partenaires de la relance économique de l’Algérie et développent une stratégie d’internationalisation qui vise à accroître leur compétitivité ainsi que leur adaptation aux spécificités locales dans un domaine porteur de richesse autant que d’inégalités sociales. Ces intervenants innovants demeurent en quête de nouveaux marchés à travers l’amélioration des moyens de production, de l’organisation du travail et de l’adoption de stratégies commerciales agressives. Parmi outils les plus controversés de ces compagnies, figure le recours à une main d’œuvre chinoise, difficile à concurrencer. En effet, on estime aujourd’hui leur nombre à approximativement 90 000 (des travailleurs sous contrat et des chefs d’entreprises suivis par leurs familles). Le besoin de résoudre les problèmes de logement et de rattraper le retard dans les infrastructures, de l’hydraulique et du transport a conduit le gouvernement algérien à octroyer des dérogations aux opérateurs chinois contrairement à la réglementation en vigueur. Dans un contexte marqué par un chômage massif (estimé à 30%) et des troubles sociaux endémiques, ce recours à des entreprises et à une main-d’œuvre étrangère a accentué les tensions entre cette diaspora et la population locale ainsi que les professionnels du secteur. On dénonce souvent une concurrence déloyale ainsi qu’un refus de se mélanger aux autochtones. Du côté chinois, on dénonce une paresse des ouvriers algériens et le rejet de la différence d’une population peu habituée à la présence d’immigrés. Cette recherche porte sur les rapports qu’entretient la communauté chinoise avec les acteurs algériens et étrangers. Cette interaction se fait dans le cadre de l’implantation des entreprises chinoises de BTP en Algérie à travers l’étude des éléments politiques, économiques et sociaux qui les façonnent.

**Biography:**


**Email:** moustafa.benberrah@gmail.com
Name: BOBO BOBO René Faustin

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Université de Yaoundé 2, PhD candidate

Presentation Title: Le Port en eau profonde de Kribi : un bien précieux sur le marché politique

Abstract:

Faire la socio-anthropologie politique du gigantesque port autonome de Kribi, c'est ouvrir un espace de réflexion permettant de saisir les processus politiques qui accompagnent le retour de l'État sur la scène du développement. A l'interne, le projet de construction du port en eau profonde de Kribi, tel que ressuscité depuis décembre 2010 et soutenu financièrement par la Eximbank of China, est symptomatique d'un État en chantier qui entend saisir l'opportunité stratégique du financement Chinois pour accroître son PIB, renouer avec la croissance et améliorer les conditions de vie des populations. Par rapport à la sous-région d'Afrique centrale, la mise en service du troisième plus grand port d'Afrique témoigne de la contribution du Cameroun à l'atteinte des objectifs du Programme Économique Régional (PER) définis par la CEMAC à l'horizon 2025. Mais au-delà de cet agenda institutionnel, se trouve un processus néo-institutionnel historique et rationnel capable de rendre compte de l'instrumentalisation politique des grands projets infrastructuraux. La présente communication entend ainsi montrer que, en réaffirmant la vision développementaliste du Cameroun, le port en eau profonde de Kribi peut être vu comme un bien précieux structurant les transactions des élites sur le marché politique national, régional et international. Au plan national, nous comptons montrer comment ce bien légitime le « story telling » des élites et concourt à leur stabilité hégémonique, bien qu'il donne également à voir les contradictions qui travaillent le bloc hégémonique. Au plan sous-régional, nous indiquerons que ce projet offre au Cameroun de se constituer en core-market sous-régional capable d'entretenir un certain niveau de domination géopolitique. Sur le marché politique international, nous soulignerons que l'implication de la Chine dans l'important projet du port de Kribi constitue une ressource politique dont usent les acteurs centraux de pouvoir au Cameroun dans leurs transactions avec les bailleurs occidentaux.

Biography:

BOBO BOBO René Faustin, originaire du Cameroun, est titulaire d'un master recherche en Science Politique à l'université de Yaoundé 2 (Soa). Chercheur au Centre d'Étude et de Recherche en Dynamiques Administratives et Politiques (CERDAP) à l'Université de Yaoundé II (Soa), il est par ailleurs Engagé comme doctorant dans le cadre du projet R4D sur le « Retour de l'État développementaliste en Afrique ? ». Ses principaux champs d'intérêt sont la sociologie politique et l'anthropologie politique. Ses travaux de recherche exploitent actuellement les dynamiques de résilience de l'État en Afrique en articulation avec le développement politique et les transactions qui accompagnent cette dynamique. Il s'intéresse par ailleurs aux problématiques de la participation politique des minorités ethniques et peuples autochtones au Cameroun.

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Name: BRAUN Lesley

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Post-doc

Presentation Title: The Travail and Travels of Congo’s Transnational Trader Women

Abstract:

Increased state-level agreements between Congo and China have facilitated the mobility of both Chinese and aspiring Congolese entrepreneurs. Specifically, travel visas and direct flights to China with generous baggage allowances encourage those with the financial means to try their hands in the import business. Unlike other African countries, women in Congo have only recently begun to participate in transnational trading activities. Trader women, known as femmes commerçantes, are not only an important part of a changing economic landscape, they also reveal the gendered aspects of transnational trade. Without any support from Congo’s banks, traders must search for ways to finance their trips and navigate complex bureaucracy relating to unpredictable, and expensive custom tariffs. Just as men rely on their social networks to ensure the success of their business activities, trader women too must forge relationships with people in positions of power. This paper considers the gendered politics of trade and explores some of the moral implications for transnational trader women who, like men, are engaged in a dynamic search for opportunities and contacts that can sustain their livelihoods.

Biography:

Lesley Nicole Braun holds a PhD in Anthropology from Université de Montréal. Based on eighteen months fieldwork in Kinshasa, her doctoral dissertation examined the world of popular concert dance in Kinshasa, and the ways in which professional dancers challenge the status and roles of women in Congolese society through increased visibility. Thematically, her research investigates how changing notions of gender and sexuality impact and shape women's activities in the public sphere. Braun is recipient of Canada’s Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council award, and her research has been funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation. Braun completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Chicago (2014-16) and most recently a fellowship with the Art Histories and Aesthetics Practices Program with the Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin. She is currently affiliated with the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin at the Institute for Asian and African Studies. In the fall of 2018 she will begin a lectureship at the University of Basel at the Institute of Social Anthropology.

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Name: CABESTAN Jean-Pierre

Institutional Affiliation and Title: Hong Kong Baptist University, Professor

Presentation Title: China’s New Military Base in Djibouti and Africa Security

Abstract:
In late 2015, the Chinese government announced the decision to build a military base in Djibouti, a former French colony strategically located outside the mouth of the Bab el Mandeb Strait. This was a surprising decision as China had previously been adamantly opposed to the very idea of setting up, as other great powers, military bases overseas. Beijing has argued that its Djibouti base is not a military base as such, but a “logistical support facility”, “mainly used to provide rest and rehabilitation for the Chinese troops taking part in escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somalia, U.N. peacekeeping and humanitarian rescue.” Nevertheless, built by the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), China’s Djibouti base has already been manned by around 2,000 military, and not only Navy personnel. In addition, today Djibouti is asked to play a key role in the securitization of Xi Jinping’s Belt and Road initiative, and its maritime Silk Road. This paper analyses China’s rationale in opening its Djibouti base as well as the missions that it is supposed to fulfill. It explores the potential role that the Chinese military stationed in Djibouti can play in case of crisis and, particularly, if Chinese interests and nationals in Africa need to be protected.

Biography:

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Name: CAI Yifan

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Graduate School of Geography, Clark University, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Racial discourse in Chinese new media: a case study of the representation and perception of African workers on the Kuaishou app

Abstract:

The existing literature on racial discourse in the Chinese context has largely focused on intellectuals and social elites. With China’s growing presence in Africa and elevated levels of mutual migration, an increasing number of ordinary Chinese have been engaged, via new media, in the production of knowledge about Africa and Africans, adding to the complexity and dynamics of racial discourse in the Chinese context. This study sheds light on racial discourse in Chinese new media through an analysis of data collected from Kuaishou – the most popular video and livestreaming app in China. Core users of Kuaishou are marginalized youth typically from provincial and rural areas, which differentiates Kuaishou from other major social media platforms in China. Over a one-year observation period (2016-2017), a total of 50 short videos of African workers are selected as samples for this study. These videos were taken by 23 Chinese migrants in 10 African countries. To map the contours of racial dynamics in Chinese new media, this research uses a content and discourse analysis of these videos, as well as more than 23,000 comments made on them. Findings of this research demonstrates that although racist comments account for less than 1% of total comments, racial issues are among the most controversial topics. Maoist class theory remains a powerful weapon for combating racism in post-socialist China. This study further analyzes how racial discourse intersects and interacts with other dimensions of identity in the representation and perception of African workers, including nationality, gender, and development. This paper finally discusses that the knowledge about the Other produced from the bottom-up both complements and challenges nationalist discourse that has been controlled by the party-state.

Biography:

Yifan Cai is a Ph.D. candidate at the Graduate School of Geography at Clark University, USA. She has been trained as an economic geographer and received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in geography from Peking University, China. Her research interests include political economy, political ecology, and China’s engagement in the Global South. She has authored and co-authored a number of publications in English and in Chinese.

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Name: CAIN Allan

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Development Workshop (Angola), Director

Presentation Title: Alternatives to African Commodity-backed Urbanisation Lessons from China for Angola

Abstract:

With the collapse of oil prices through 2014 to 2016 the Angolan state budget has been drastically reduced, and the government will be unlikely to be able to provide investment and subsidies to continue building new housing and urban infrastructure at the rate of the previous decade. Since the end of the civil war in 2002, the government of Angola has used Chinese credit facilities backed by petroleum-based guarantees to build prestige urban projects. The private sector, both international and local, has been a major beneficiary of state construction subsidies. The private sector, however, has been reluctant to provide its own financing and invest in real estate due to weak land tenure and the lack of legislative reforms to make a functional land market. Solving the problems around land may be a way to stimulate the engagement of private-sector participation in providing financing for housing. The successes and failures of ‘land-value capture’, a method that provided financing for the growth of Chinese cities, should be studied and could be adapted to finance the large backlog in urban upgrading of basic service infrastructure and housing for the poor for cities like Luanda.

Biography:

Allan Cain is an architect and specialist in project planning, urban development and is the director of the non-profit organisation Development Workshop. He has a degree in Environmental Studies in Architecture (U.Waterloo), did his graduate studies at the Architectural Association (London, UK) and further specialist studies at Harvard Business School and Boulder, Colorado (in Microfinance and Housing Finance). He has over 40 years of professional experience in developing countries, many of those in conflict and post-conflict Angola. He was awarded an Order of Canada in 2004 for his work in international development and contribution to peacebuilding in Angola. He has worked as a consultant and lead research and policy development projects for the World Bank, UN Habitat the European Union and other international organisations and is a member of the boards of several development institutions. He has lectured at universities in China, Angola, Norway, USA, South Africa, UK and Canada where he is a visiting professor at the University of Ottawa. His articles and papers have been published widely in international journals.

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Name: CANDELISE Lucia

Institutional Affiliation and Position: UMR Chine, Corée, Japon, EHESS/CNRS, Paris

Presentation Title: Between "local" and "global", the practice of acupuncture outside China: the cases of Cameroon and Switzerland

Abstract:

The circulation and re-appropriation of Chinese medical knowledge out of their home territory to other continents can be described as a phenomenon of globalization. Chinese medicine produces now a knowledge that can be understand as "local" as these practices are now taking root and mastered in most countries in the world. If we understand globalization as a process of cross-strategies between nation-state and transnational initiatives, it seems interesting to analyze the process of re-appropriation of these Chinese medical practices made of differentiation and localization of specific knowledge. The acupuncture and the moxibustion, exercised outside China, can particularly be understand as the result of a "re-development" of this practice and this know-how. This knowledge also considered as "authentic" is reinvested with (new) meaning and (new) therapeutic power by practitioners. Either doctors that practice in institutionalized contexts or therapists that are in search of recognition and legitimacy, all offer new promises of care. Taking the examples of Switzerland and Cameroon, my presentation will analyze the socio-historical process of hybridization in two specific context. My communication will show first how the doctors acupuncturists and therapists of Chinese medicine in Switzerland and Cameroon "localize" and individualize their practice by introducing other therapeutic tools. Using direct and filmic observations made during consultations, I will use this empirical material to exemplify the circulation and appropriation of Chinese acupuncture. I will show also how the practitioners differentiate themselves by technical aspects of their work differently as their face conventional medicine, traditional indigenous medicine or national care systems.

Biography:

LUCIA CANDELISE worked at the University of Geneva (Institute of Gender Studies) as chef assistant within the FNS project “Chinese medical practices in Europe: comparison between their reception in Swiss, Italian and French medical contexts”. As historian and anthropologist, she works on the reception of Chinese medicine in Europe and on medical knowledge as an immaterial cultural heritage. She belongs to the Centre d’étude sur la Chine moderne et contemporaine (CECMC), UMR 8173, Chine, Corée, Japon (EHESS/CNRS), but she is also member to the laboratory SPHERE, UMR 7219, CNRS/Paris 7, the l’Institut universitaire d’histoire de la médecine et de la santé publique (IUHMSP-CHUV), in Lausanne, and the laboratory CETCOPRA Paris 1 la Sorbonne.

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Name: CHAN Lai Pik

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Cologne, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Managing foreigners in China: perspectives from Guangzhou and Shenzhen

Abstract:

This paper will analyse how the new Chinese Exit and Entry Administration Law of 2012 has gradually been implemented, using the example of service centers for foreigners in Guangzhou (Xiaobei) and Shenzhen (Shekou). As we will show, the service centers in the two cities cater to the needs of rather different migrant groups (mostly African traders and business people in Xiaobei; mostly Western educators and business people in Shekou). This is reflected in the centers’ respective spatial organization, their styles of communication, the services they provide, and their collaboration with the local authorities. We will argue that over the past few years, there has been a gradual shift in the local management of foreigners from curbing (undesired) illegal migration to accommodating (desired) skilled migrants as part of the local community. Migrant responses to these measures have been varied, reflecting their interests and social positionalities.

Biography:

Lai Pik Chan is a doctoral candidate in Cultural and Social Anthropology at the University of Cologne. Her PhD research focuses on the situation of foreign English language teachers in China. Lai Pik is a member of the project “Chinese Immigration Law and Policy” which investigates the social dynamics and outcomes of the implementation of the new exit-entry law of 2012 by focusing on the actions of state and non-state actors, including legislators, administrators and (im)migrants. Her project is also part of the international research cooperation "Immigration and the Transformation of Chinese Society" (https://immigrantchina.net/).

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Name: CHAGNON Christopher

Institutional Affiliation and Position: London Centre of International Law Practice, Independent Researcher, Assistant Director

Presentation Title: *Hard East, Soft West? Investigating presumptions about trends in Chinese and Western Development Finance in Africa*

Abstract:

Since 2000, China has had an increasing presence in development finance (aid and other official finance) in Africa. As this presence and the visibility of Chinese-financed projects have increased, so have international misunderstandings and presumptions about this presence. These misunderstandings and presumptions are fueled by the fact that China does not put any conditions on countries receiving aid, does not follow OECD-DAC standards for giving or reporting development finance, generally treats aid as a state secret, and does not have a portal for releasing information about development finance. One of the persistent presumptions is that African governments turn predominantly to China for aid for “hard”, economically-focused projects, and to traditional Western donors for “soft” human development-focused projects. Although there have been some spot comparisons of Chinese and Western development finance data, as well as investigations into the geography and impacts of Chinese finance, there has not been a study comparing trends in Chinese and Western development data. This paper aims to fill that gap in the literature and address the aforementioned presumption. This is done by developing categorical definitions for “hard”, “soft”, and “other” projects and using project-level data on Chinese and OECD-DAC development finance between 2000 and 2013. The findings indicate that there is little statistical evidence to support the presumption that African governments turn predominantly to China for aid for “hard”, economically-focused projects, and to traditional Western donors for “soft” human development-focused projects. Further, while China is one of the top donors for “hard” projects, it is not disproportionately so. However, the data shows that African governments did turn predominately to China to finance the most expensive “hard” projects: China provided almost 40% of the funding for the top 1% of the most expensive “hard” projects and almost 70% of funding and total number of projects for the top 0.1% of the most expensive “hard” projects.

Biography:

Christopher Chagnon is the assistant director of the Centre for International Economic Law, Trade, and Development (CIELTD) at the London Centre of International Law Practice (LCILP). His personal interest and expertise is in social enterprise development, public private partnerships in the development context, and Sino-African trade and development. He spent over five years living and working in China in a variety of positions including in business development, finance, M&A, academia, and journalism for foreign multinational corporations, Chinese companies, universities, and media. He has also worked in academia in Saudi Arabia and Italy. He is fluent in Mandarin Chinese. Academically, he has an MSc in International Development of Emerging Economies from King’s College London, as well as an MA in International Studies focusing on international business and education from Concordia University Irvine. He wrote his dissertations about trends in Chinese vs. OECD-DAC Development Finance in Africa, and Mainland China – Taiwan economic and political relations.

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Name: CHANG Ti-Han

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Doctor of Transcultural Studies, IETT

Presentation Title: Negotiating the Past: Remaking History, Memories and Narratives in the Postcolonial Novels of J.M. Coetzee and Wu Ming-yi

Abstract:

In the field of postcolonial studies, representations of historical events or collective memories have always been a critical issue. It is particularly true in the nature of postcolonial novels, for one important objective of this literary genre is to provide its readers with a chance to revisit a historical past that was once lived and shared by certain individuals or groups of people, whose experiences are recounted in the form of fiction. Many philosophical debates in the field of literary writing revolves around questions such as “can the past be remembered or recalled realistically?”, or, “are postcolonial novels truly able to represent past experiences or narrate ‘authentic’ histories?” This paper puts forward a comparative study looking at various aspects of the postcolonial novel—including its historical or socio-political contexts, its theoretical frameworks, and its literary qualities—with a specific focus on South Africa and Taiwan. To address the questions above, it is first necessary to define specific time periods, so that the presented analyses can be coherent and focused. The first part of this paper presents the postcolonial social and political conditions of South Africa and Taiwan, with a focus on two time frames: (1) the transitional period (from end of the WWII to the late 1980s or early 1990s) and (2) the postcolonial era (from the late 1980s and onward). Both South Africa and Taiwan experienced almost half a century of traumatic transition, which encompassed calamitous racial, sexual, cultural, class and linguistic violence arising from the colonial legacies, notably in the form of the imposition of the “Order of Martial Law” (戒嚴令 Jieyanling) in Taiwan and the implementation of apartheid in South Africa. It was not until the late 1980s and the early 1990s that the “Order of Martial Law” was lifted and apartheid finally came to an end. During this period, both countries had undergone painful historical upheavals arising from their colonial legacies, but both had envisaged the prospect of a future democratic change in their political systems. The second part of the paper deals with the theoretical frameworks of postcolonial literary writings, presenting an analytical summary of different theoretical positions of several literary critics, including Njabulo Ndebele, André Brink and Peng Hsiao-yen 彭小妍. These South African and Taiwanese critics address the subject of how history and memories, in relation to the colonial or transitional periods, should be articulated, represented, remembered or even remade in postcolonial literary texts. For instance, Ndebele and Peng consider that the main objective of fictional, yet historical, writing is to remember the past “factually.” To an extent, they also think that it is the writer’s responsibility to reconstruct a historical narrative which presents an “authentic” representation of past events. In contrast, Brink argues that historical narrative embodied in fictional writing should go beyond “facts,” since memory never comes from facts but from personal experiences of the past—whether psychological or corporal—that occur in certain socio-political conditions. Moreover, Brink believes that literary writings such as postcolonial novels should be more accommodating to different kinds of narrative construction. Finally, the last part of the paper delivers a comparative analysis of two postcolonial novels: J.M. Coetzee’s Boyhood: Scenes from Provincial Life (1997) and Wu Ming-yi’s Danche shiqieji 單車失竊記 [The Stolen Bicycle] (2015). Both novels contain autobiographical elements. The analysis draws attention to two major themes found in these texts: (1) the choice of semi-autobiographical events narrated from a child’s perspective and (2) the involuntary memories evoked by bicycles, which become both a symbolic and historical reference. In fact, parts of these two authors’ childhood memories revolve around their physical experiences of, and emotional attachments to, the bicycles. These memories were meant to reflect an early stage of childhood innocence, showing unawareness of the unsettling times they lived through. Nevertheless, when the authors revisit these memories, the individual “physical” memories that are engraved on
their bodies compel them to confront the enduring suffering of the collective colonial past. Their texts therefore call readers’ attention to the unsettling transitional period “corporally” carved into individual memory and which is crucially linked to the collective memory of the country as a whole.

**Biography:**

Ti-Han Chang obtained her doctoral degree in June 2018 at the Institute of Transcultural and Transtextual Studies at Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3. She works as a board member of the Association Francophone d’Études Taïwanaises. Her main research interests are the socio-political history of postcolonial countries, animal ethics, environmental justice, and ecocriticism. Her doctoral thesis, “The Role of the Ecological Other in Contesting Postcolonial Identity Politics: Postcolonial Eco-Literature of J.M. Coetzee and Wu Ming-yi,” offers an interdisciplinary research study of postcolonial eco-literature in its theoretical, political and literary aspects. Through analysis of the works of these two authors, this thesis not only contextualizes the socio-political history of South Africa and Taiwan, but also advocates the importance of developing postcolonial eco-critical theory. In addition to her doctoral research, she also works on philosophical critiques of borders and political identities, the relation of migrants to new environments, and the ethics of eco-terrorism. Her journal publications include: “Excluding the Included: des Hommes Étrangers in Taiwan and France via Theories of Giorgio Agamben” (2016) and “Éco-terrorisme ou éco-héroïsme: une Analyse littéraire de The Rice Bomber de Cho Li basé sur l’autobiographie de Yang Ju-men” (forthcoming in 2018).

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Name: CHAPAUX Vincent

Institutional Affiliation and Title: Université Libre de Bruxelles

Biography:

Vincent Chapaux est titulaire d’une licence en Sciences Politiques/relations internationales (Grande distinction, ULB, 2002), d’un DES en droit international (Grande distinction, ULB, 2004), d’un DEA en Sciences Politiques (Grande Distinction 2007) et d’un doctorat en Sciences politiques/relations internationales (ULB 2011). Il a été chargé de cours à l’Université Libre de Bruxelles de 2014 à 2016, à l’Institut supérieur de traducteurs et interprètes de Bruxelles (2015-2016) ainsi qu’à l’Université d’Ottawa (2016). Il a également effectué deux séjours de recherche prolongés, le premier à la New York University School of Law (Fulbright Grant 2012), le second à l’Université du Québec à Montréal (2013). Ses deux aires d’expertise principales sont le conflit du Sahara occidental et le droit international des animaux. Il tient sur ce dernier sujet un blog intitulé InternationAnimals. Il est actuellement logisticien de recherche auprès de la MSH.

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NA
Name: CHAPATTE André

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Leibniz-ZMO, Post-Doc

Presentation Title: ‘Yutong ça nous arrange!’: The arrival of Chinese coaches in West Africa, reliefs, opportunities and reactions

Abstract:

The heat, the dust, the overcrowding, the distance between cities and its boredom, the potholes and checkpoints, and the old and worn ‘France au revoir’ coaches, all together make traveling by coach within West Africa a demanding experience. In early 2010s, however, Chinese coaches have ‘thankfully’ transformed this experience: cooler journey due to air conditioning, possibility to watch films because of the presence of a few TV sets in the cabin, growing offer of coach service. In Odienné, a provincial town of northern Ivory Coast, several coach companies offering daily services to Abidjan have emerged within a few years. They operate with Chinese coaches, such as Yutong, Kinglong and Sunlong; their price, compared to European-made coaches, are affordable; local entrepreneurs progressively pay them via loans granted by local banks. These daily services to Abidjan are full; one should book in advance to have a seat in these ‘comfortable’ coaches. All travellers have welcomed these new Chinese coaches. In 2017, I travelled by coach from Bamako to Abidjan. At that time, I surprisingly discovered that the three Malian coach companies that lead international travels within West Africa have all shifted to new Mercedes coaches built in Egypt. Although 1,5 times more expensive, their staff told me that the solidity of ‘MCV’ coach is more suitable for international travels; the Chinese coaches are still bought but only for the national market. Based on the case of two coaches companies (the medium-size TCF company based in Odienné and the large Nour company based in Bamako), this paper explores the arrival of Chinese coaches in West Africa in three ways: relieved travellers, opportunities of entrepreneurship, reactions from Western coach manufacturers.

Biography:

André Chappatte graduated in social anthropology from SOAS in 2013. He is a research fellow of the research group on Cities as Laboratories of Change at Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin. His current postdoctoral project focuses on the socio-sensory unfolding of a Muslim life in relation to public morality, secrecy and desire at night in Odienné, a provincial town of northern Côte d’Ivoire; this work is mostly influenced by the anthropology of ethics, human geography, and phenomenology. In parallel, his interest in the recent arrival of Chinese coaches in West Africa stems from ethnographic observations that stress the 2000s growing consumption and now quasi-ubiquity of Chinese products in West Africa. In 2014, Chappatte published an article called ‘Chinese products, social mobility and material modernity in Bougouni, a small but fast-growing administrative town of southwest Mali’ in the African Studies Review journal.

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Name: CHATELARD Solange Guo

Institutional Affiliation and Title: Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Sciences Po Paris, CA/AC Research Network

Biography:

Solange is a Research Associate at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) in Belgium. She has worked and published on state formation and the implementation of rural development policies in Hubei province, China. Since 2008, she has focused on new Chinese migration to Africa through the case study of Zambia, in Southern Africa. Solange has conducted long term ethnographic fieldwork in China and Africa and spent most of her time between 2008-2012 in Zambia looking at the everyday lives of Chinese migrants. Her research explores the local realities of global power dynamics and the power and global implications of everyday interactions.

Solange received a BSc in International Relations at the London School of Economics, and MSc in Comparative Politics at Sciences Po Paris, where she is finalising her PhD in Political Science at the Centre de Recherches Internationales (CERI). She is on the Executive Board of the Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network (CA/AC).

In addition to her research, Solange has worked extensively with the media (BBC, France24, Le Monde, Al Jazeera, National Geographic, Quartz, The China-Africa Project etc). She has produced two film documentaries about China’s growing presence in Africa, including the award-winning BBC documentary When China Met Africa (2011) which won the Margaret Mead Film Award (New York) in 2010, and the investigative film documentary King Cobra and the Dragon for AL JAZEERA (2012).

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**Name:** CHEN Ying  

**Institutional Affiliation and Position:** CA/AC, Independent Researcher  

**Presentation Title:** An update report of Chinese immigrants living in South Africa from 2008-2017  

**Abstract:**  

The number of Chinese immigrants in South Africa continued to increase after the diplomatic relationship between China and South Africa was formed in 1998. This report provides a comprehensive review of the history, the living conditions, the economic, social and political activities of Chinese immigrants in South Africa since 2008.  

**Biography:**  

Ying Chen (Anna), a Chinese researcher based in South Africa, has extensive academic interests in researching Chinese investment, Chinese companies and Chinese immigrants in Africa, especially in South Africa. She is a former sector head for Standard Bank China Business in South Africa and worked as a research associate for South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) and University of Johannesburg (UJ).  

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Name: CHIPAIKE Ronald

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Bindura University of Science Education, Lecturer

Presentation Position: Agency at the margins: Zimbabwe’s economic engagement with China since 2000

Abstract:

This paper discusses Zimbabwe’s agency in its interaction with a multiplicity of Chinese actors. Based on key informant interviews as well as documentary reviews this study reveals that Zimbabwe’s censure by erstwhile partners at the turn of the 21st century left the Robert Mugabe regime isolated. This isolation prompted the recalibration and pronouncement of a Look East Policy (LEP) that shifted the country’s foreign policy disproportionately to China. In the context of this shift, Zimbabwe’s ability to negotiate and bargain effectively with Chinese actors was compromised. Owing to frozen relationships with erstwhile allies in the West, Zimbabwe’s desperation to get Chinese political and economic benevolence became apparent. Thus, with no important and strategic allies, Zimbabwe has found herself at the mercy of Chinese actors. This compromised agency has been witnessed in the consummation of deals without parliamentary scrutiny, the emergence of secretive and opaque partnerships as well as the failure to force Chinese actors adhere to important rules and regulations in different sectors. The paper further notes that Zimbabwe’s agency has been compromised as a result of the state’s disdain to work with independent non-state actors in negotiating with Chinese actors. The state also makes it difficult for civil society as well as parliament to play their watch dog and oversight roles in areas where government is working with the Chinese. As a recommendation, the paper notes the need for a strategic partnership between the government, state institutions such as parliament and general civil society if Zimbabwe is to exert transformative agency in its engagements with China. After all, African agency is becoming multi-faceted.

Biography:

Dr Ronald Chipaike holds a PhD in International Relations from Rhodes University in South Africa. His research interests are in Africa-China relations, International Relations and African Agency in international politics. He has published a number of papers in different journals and presented a significant number of conference papers at international conferences. He has also reviewed papers for a number journals including Asian Ethnicity. Currently, Dr. Chipaike lectures international relations at Bindura University of Science Education in Zimbabwe.

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Name: CHIYEMURA Frangton

Institutional Affiliation and Position: The Open University, United Kingdom, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Doing fieldwork in Africa on Africa-China development cooperation: reflections on fieldwork experiences in Ethiopia

Abstract:

Although the rise of China and its burgeoning economic, political and social relations with Africa has been overly researched over the past decades or so, very few accounts exist of how to effectively and efficiently conduct fieldwork in this topical area. Existing work tends to allocate very few pages or lines in most texts without proper attention given to explaining and accounting for the methodological procedures. This presentation reflects on a recently completed fieldwork in Ethiopia on Ethiopia-China engagement in the financing and the development of Adama 1 and Adama 2 wind energy infrastructure in Ethiopia.

Biography:

Frangton Chiyemura is currently pursuing his PhD in International Development and Inclusive Innovation at The Open University, Milton Keynes, England, where he is researching on Ethiopia-China cooperation on wind energy infrastructure financing and development in Ethiopia. Broadly, his research interests lie in South-South cooperation with a special focus on Africa-China relations in renewable energy sector development in Africa.

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Name: CHUNGU Gerald

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Lecturer, University of the Witwatersrand

Presentation Title: Building the City of tomorrow – Challenging ‘Chinese-ness’ and the influence of Chinese contractors in shaping the built environment in Lusaka

Abstract:

In Lusaka, Chinese contractors have emerged as the dominant players within the building construction industry. In reference to this Chinese presence many buildings are labelled as ‘Chinese’ at some stage of their life cycle even if characteristics remain subject to various interpretations and relate to various aspects such as funding, design, the building process and associated usage. Through the lens of the building construction industry in Lusaka, this paper will explore and challenge the concept of “Chinese-ness” by unpacking the layers that make up these ‘Chinese buildings’, whether existing or emerging, and which increasingly form part of the built environment in Lusaka.

Biography:

Gerald Chungu is an Architect and Urban Designer based in the school of architecture and planning at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. His work has centered around issues of sustainability, urban informalities and most recently on the Chinese influences in shaping the built environment in urban African cities. Gerald combines academic work with architectural and urban design practice and spent 12 years working in Shanghai. He studied Architecture at Copperbelt University, Urban Design at Tongji University, Shanghai and obtained a PhD in Urbanism from IUAV-University of Venice in Italy.

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Name: DEFRAIGNE Jean-Christophe

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles & UCL, Professor

Presentation Title: Does the Chinese economic penetration in Africa affect the post colonial international division of labour between Africa and Europe?

Abstract:

This contribution adopts a long term approach to assess to what extent China ODI, trade and aid flows have transformed the role of African economies in the international division of labour. It will start by analysing the economic legacy left by the European colonial powers in the 1960s and outline the path dependency phenomena that account for the technological gap between Africa and the industrialized economies. Then it will try to assess to what extent the Chinese economic penetration that accelerated in the mid 2000’s might help African economies to move up the global value chain, generate technological and managerial spill-overs and foster industrialization in Africa. It will also attempt to highlight how these changes are reshaping the relation between African economies and Europe.

Biography:

Jean-Christophe Defraigne holds a MSc in Economic History at the London School of Economics in and a PhD in Economics at the University of Brussels. He is currently professor in International and European Economics at the Institute for European Studies of Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles, at the Louvain School of Management UCL and a research fellow at the Leuven Centre for Global Governance Studies of the KULeuven. He has been visiting scholar and professor at UIBE Beijing (Jing Mao Da Xue) and Zhejiang Da Xue. Among recent publications: « Introduction à l’Economie Européenne » 2ème édition, Ouvertures Economiques, De Boeck, Brussels, 2017 ; « Chinese Outward Direct Investment in Europe and the control of the global value chain”, in the Asia Europe Journal, Springer, Asia Europe Journal, April 2017, « Le projet mercantiliste de Trump : une tentative pour les firmes américaines de garder le contrôle de la chaîne de valeur globale face à la montée des économies émergentes et à la Chine dans une période de crise mondiale », Outre-Terre, revue européenne de géopolitique, N°50, Edition l’Esprit du Temps, Paris, 2017. ; « China, the EU and Global Governance », Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, 2012.

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Name: DIEDERICH Manon

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology (Cologne, Germany), PhD candidate

Presentation Title: « Queen B » - A Life Between Senegal and China

Abstract:

The pictures assembled for « Queen B » form part of a larger body of photographs that were taken between 2010 and 2017 in Dakar and Guangzhou. The result of an intense interaction between me - as a photographer - and B. - a young woman from Senegal - the project is conceived to offer an intimate portrait of a particular woman construing her life between Senegal and China. By doing so, I wish to « shed light » on the complexities of African women's translocal trajectories in China and thus add important dimensions to current Africa-China narratives. At the same time, I seek to explore the potentials and implications of such an endeavor, by taking a self-reflexive stance and critically reflect on the context in which the pictures were taken.

Biography:

Manon Diederich is a PhD-candidate and lecturer at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Cologne. In her work she focuses on the (re-)negotiation of notions of femininity and masculinity among Senegalese migrants – and more particularly Senegalese women – in Guangzhou. Her academic interests – revolving around gender, intersectionality and migration – inform her artistic perspectives. In her photographic practice she explores the relation between art and anthropology, as well as her own role as a photographer.

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Name: DING Yuan

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Shanghai Normal University, Lecturer

Presentation Title: Exploring the Concept of “guoke” in recent South-South Migration A Comparative Perspective of Migrant Trajectories of Chinese in DRC and Congolese in China

Abstract:

The growth of migration between China and Africa over the last two decades has become a trend that cannot be ignored in the world South-South Migrations. Researches on migration between China and Africa has also become a hot topic while less of them brought a concept or a theory from a perspective of China or Africa. Based on a multi-sites fieldwork in China and DRC from 2010 to 2017, we compared two groups, notably the Chinese in DRC and the Congolese in China, who showed some similarities in their migration process. Both of them practices a diverse, fragmented and short-tern transnational trajectories. None of DRC or China is their migration destination but as a springboard or transfer node for their lifelong migration process to EU or US. And due to different cases, most of them have to keep a long stay in their receiving countries or jump between different developing countries. Their strategy of integration of the local society also shows a clear difference from the classical immigration pattern. Comparing with those concepts in migration studies such as Diaspora, Sojourner, Astronaut and Guest Workers, we adopt the concept of "Guoke" or global transient guests to analyze those two groups. From a macro, meso and micro perspective, we analyzed the features and formation of Chinese Guoke in DRC and Congolese Guoke in China. The paper proposes that more researches to pay attention to the Guoke group in the study of migration between China and Africa and the concept of Guoke also need further discussion.

Biography:

Yuan Ding is a lecturer of Anthropology at Shanghai Normal University (China). He holds a Ph.D. of Ethnology at Yunnan University (China) and is finishing a Ph.D. in social and cultural anthropology at KU Leuven (Belgium). Base on his field work in Kinshasa, Brazzaville, Guangzhou and Yiwu from 2010 to 2016 his research has been on the transnational mobility of Congolese merchants in China and the Chinese merchants and construction labours in DRC. Besides that, his current research projects also including the issue of how to understand refugee crisis in Europe from a Chinese perspective and the issue of hospitality and mobility of tourists in a Chinese ancient town.

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Name: DITTGEN Romain

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of the Witwatersrand, Post-doc

Presentation Title: The ordinary made exceptional – Layered readings of a ‘Chinese’ street in suburban Johannesburg

Abstract:

Derrick Avenue in Cyrildene, a suburb in the eastern parts of the city, is the closest one can get to a clichéd Chinese (street life) atmosphere in Johannesburg. With its wide array of restaurants, businesses and significant numbers of Chinese residents, customers and shopkeepers, this activity node sparks imaginaries of a spatialised elsewhere while standing in sharp contrast to the surrounding, mostly residential, neighbourhood. Owing to the prevalence of visible Chinese markers and its demographics, this street has mainly been viewed as exceptional and different, contributing to divorcing Derrick Avenue from the rest of the city. Yet, at the same time and irrespective of its Chinese qualities, it also points to a number of urban dynamics that characterise Johannesburg as a whole, whether in terms of challenges or opportunities. If, in the absence of an overall co-ordination, Derrick Avenue conveys the image of a disorderly strip with its over-crowding, informality and lacking urban management, at the same time the clustering of different functions epitomises the sort of compact, dense and mixed-use urban environment that is envisioned by the local administration at a wider metropolitan level. While acknowledging the tangible features of a growing Chinatown, in this paper we seek to understand how these specific characteristics of a lived or constructed differentiation relate to geographies of the ordinary. Due to Chinese layers being added on top of a pre-existing urban fabric, the transformations occurring in this suburb, both in terms of the built environment and ways of living, echo changes happening elsewhere. Consequently, we challenge tropes that tend to qualify this section of Cyrildene as an ethnic enclave or ethnoburb, and see existing land-uses and forms of (compact) co-existence as indicative of normal urban shifts in various parts of the city.

Biography:

In his research, often comparative, Romain Dittgen has mostly been interested in studying the effects of various forms of capital on economies and societies in Africa. His areas of attention range from imaginaries and perceptions of foreign actors (primarily Chinese), transnational urbanism to the governance of future cities. Romain holds a PhD in Human Geography from the University of Paris 1 (Panthéon-Sorbonne) and is currently a Post-doctoral Fellow (Life in the City Research Grant), jointly hosted by the African Centre for Migration and Society (ACMS) and the South African Research Chair in Spatial Analysis and City Planning (SA&CP) at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Previously, he held positions as Senior Researcher at SA&CP, the South African Institute of International Affairs, as joint post-doctoral visiting fellow at the African Studies Centre and the International Institute for Asian Studies (both located in Leiden, the Netherlands) and as Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Geography at the Sorbonne. His current research/book project, conducted in collaboration with Dr. Gerald Chungu and photographer Mark Lewis, explores the Chinese influence in shaping the built environment and urban practices in Johannesburg and in Lusaka.

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Name: DRIESSEN Miriam

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Oxford, Post-doc

Presentation Title: Made in China, Fashioned in Africa

Abstract:

In this paper, we explore the influence of the growing Chinese presence in Africa on African fashion trends and tastes. The entry of Chinese clothes and other fashion products, such as footwear, cosmetics, hair extensions, and jewellery, as well as fibre, fabrics, and designs in markets across the African continent has had a profound impact on the composition of local fashion industries as well as the fashion choices of African consumers. Rather than bilateral adoptions and adaptations, changing African fashion, we argue, reflects a triangular relation between China, Africa and the West. Drawing on research in Mozambique and Ethiopia, we show that the introduction of Chinese fashion products, fabrics, and designs has prompted competition in value, regarding price, aesthetics, and quality, as well as complementation of value. Affordable, novel, bold, and bright, Chinese fashion both competes with African and Western fashion when it comes to price and aesthetic value and fills a niche in the market between African and Western fashion products and designs. What is more, through the purchase of western-style Chinese-made products and fabrics, Mozambicans and Ethiopians with limited means are able to approximate western styles. For one thing, fashion politics in the context of China in Mozambique and Ethiopia reflect and represent the very nature of China-Africa-West relations. As the African continent has once again become an ideological battle ground, China's growing role is perceived as competing with, as well as complementing Western influence, while African producers, sellers and consumers weigh newly available choices and reshape fashion trends and tastes.

Biography:

Miriam Driessen is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at the School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies and Jesus College, University of Oxford.

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**Name:** FEI Ding  

**Institutional Affiliation and Position:** Arizona State University, Postdoctoral Research Associate  

**Presentation Title:** Worlding Developmentalism through Economic Zones: Views from the Eastern Industrial Zone of Ethiopia  

**Abstract:**

This paper substantiates my recent review article on the “export” of Chinese zoning practices China–Africa Cooperation (CAC) by an empirical study of the most developed Chinese economic zone (EZs) in Ethiopia – the Eastern Industrial Zone (EIZ). The concept of worlding developmentalism was proposed to capture the politics of imagination and anticipation by individuals and institutions in the uneven process of Chinese globalization. The empirical research was conducted in Ethiopia where the EZs have been formalized as a key industrial strategy by the federal government and numerous zones being planned or constructed over the past years have begun to transform the development landscape of the country. The paper starts by an overview of the EZ-driven transformation in Ethiopia and the important roles played by Chinese actors as financier, developers, contractors and investors. It continues with a case study of EIZ with mixed-method field techniques of participant observation, semi-structured interviews and opinion survey during the summer of 2016. The study reveals the collective yet by no means coherent process of clustered globalization by Chinese government institutions at multiple ministerial and geographic levels, Chinese enterprises of varying sizes and industrial focuses, and Chinese people with situated incentives and constraints in overseas activities. In addition, analyses of the changing policy environment for EZs in Ethiopia and survey with local workers in EIZ further highlight the agencies of host countries and populations that constantly shape and are shaped by the practices of Chinese businesses and migrants. By uncovering the daily encounters and negotiations in the EIZ, the paper identified a politics of mutual-adaptations to the zone-based China-Ethiopia cooperation.  

**Biography:**

Ding Fei just obtained her PhD degree from the Department of Geography, Environment and Society at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. She will join the School of Geographical Sciences & Urban Planning at the Arizona State University as a postdoctoral research associate in August 2018. Her dissertation research examines the variegated construction of local work regimes by Chinese investment in Ethiopia, with comparative case studies of Chinese companies in sectors of telecommunication, auto assembly, construction and manufacturing. Her work has published in Development Policy Review, Journal of International Development, Human Ecology, the Rangeland Journal, and other venues.  

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Name: FENNELL Vera

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Lehigh University, Associate Professor

Presentation Title: ‘Arise! All Those who Refuse to be Slaves!: Blackness as red China’s soft power

Abstract:

The Chinese Communist Party expressed its moral standing as the protectors of the oppressed by presenting Cold War-era political struggles of Africans and African-Americans in a positive light, while highlighting the failures of Western states (America, Britain, and France) to live up to principles of racial equality. The use of the opening line of the socialist anthem, The Internationale, translated as "The March of the Volunteers" as the title of this paper points to an analysis of this strategy as China’s part in this global soft power battle in the early phases of the Cold War.

Biography:

Vera Leigh Fennell is an Associate Professor in Lehigh University’s Department of Political Science and a Globalization and Social Change Initiative/Global Studies Program professor. Professor Fennell is from Baltimore, Maryland and attended Princeton University where she majored in East Asian Studies, specializing in the study of China’s state-directed women’s liberation movement. She continued studying China and speaks (nearly) fluent Mandarin. She received her MA/Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Chicago. Her dissertation focused on female micro-enterprises in the early stages of China’s market-oriented reforms. She has studied under Perry Link, Andrew Nathan, William Parish and Susanne Rudolph. She has taught at Beijing Foreign Studies University, Fairleigh Dickenson University and Colorado College. Her book manuscript on how the Chinese Communist Party represented its Cold War-era foreign policy outreach to various African states as an expression of “soft power” is currently under contract with Oxford University Press and will come out sometime next year.

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Name: FERCHEN Matthew

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy, Nonresident Scholar

Presentation Title: The Dog That Didn’t Bark: Why So Little Comparison of China’s South-South Relations and Why Does it Matter?

Abstract:

This presentation will directly address the following, provocative statement from the official conference theme: "Justifiably or not, Africa has become a major platform from which to analyze and understand China’s growing influence in the developing world and capture local responses to it...[yet] few examinations set out to analyze China-Africa relations in comparative perspective". This presentation will explore, first, why there has been so little explicit comparison of China-Africa relations with other developing country regions, including Latin America and Southeast Asia. And second, it will analyze what kinds of insights, in terms of both academic scholarship and public policy, might profitably emerge from such comparisons. In particular, the presentation will explore how such cross regional comparisons can shed light on a) important structural issues, such as commodity dependency, b) on the environmental and social impacts, including in conflict areas, of Chinese investment, and c) on civil society responses and interactions with Chinese commercial and government counterparts, especially in countries and communities confronting conflict and instability.

Biography:

Matt Ferchen is a nonresident scholar at the Carnegie–Tsinghua Center for Global Policy, where he runs the China and the Developing World Program. From 2008 to 2017 he was a faculty member in the Department of International Relations at Tsinghua University. His research and writing have focused on the political economy of the “China model” of development as well as China’s relations with Latin America. Building on this background, his current projects examine how China is managing political risk in its ties to fragile states, and on the nexus between development and security in China’s foreign policy. Ferchen is currently part of the Public Intellectual Program sponsored by the National Committee on United States-China Relations. His work has appeared in academic publications such as the Review of International Political Economy and the Chinese Journal of International Politics and also in numerous media publications such as Foreign Affairs, Caijing, the Diplomat, EL PAÍS, and Phoenix Weekly. Ferchen has a Master's degree in China and Latin American studies from Johns Hopkins SAIS and a PhD in comparative politics and international relations from Cornell University.

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Name: FRANGVILLE Vanessa

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Université libre de Bruxelles/EAS, Professor

Biography:

Vanessa Frangville is currently Senior Lecturer and Chair holder in Chinese studies at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium. She was previously a Lecturer in Chinese studies at the Victoria Wellington University of Wellington, New Zealand. She holds a PhD in Chinese studies from the University of Lyon 3, France, and completed two postdoctoral research projects in Taiwan and Japan. Her research deals with discourses on ethnicity and nation building in modern and contemporary China, with a special focus on cinema and “ethnic minority” film.

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Name: FRERE Marie-Soleil

Institutional Affiliation and Title: Director of Research at the National Fund for Scientific Research and Professor at the Université libre de Bruxelles

Biography:

Pr Marie-Soleil Frère is Director of Research at the National Fund for Scientific Research and Professor at the Université libre de Bruxelles. Her research focuses on media and journalism in sub-Saharan Africa. She is coordinating the network Afric@ULB, a multidisciplinary network of African studies at ULB. She is also currently Special Advisor of the Rector for Development Cooperation.

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Name: GALWAY Matthew

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of California, Berkeley, Post-doc

Presentation Title: “Mwalimu-ism” and Maoism: A Comparative Critique of Post-Independence Development

Abstract:

This paper presents Abdul Rahman Babu’s critique of African socialism through a Maoist lens as an alternative framework to understanding the socio-political detriments that plagued post-independence development in Tanzania. It takes seriously Babu's criticism of the idea of harmonious past equality in Africa; his charge that material progress, Maoist “voluntariness,” and self-reliance (or Maoism writ large) could have reversed Tanzania's negative social frictions informs this paper's thesis. Indeed, Julius Nyerere's commitment to neutral non-alignment, Fabian socialism, and Catholic social teachings superseded any serious pledge to pursue a Maoist course for Tanzanian development. Nyerere and his political Party, the Tanganyikan African National Union (TANU), later the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), instead drew inspiration primarily from an idyllic perception of pre-colonial African life to suit Tanzania's current needs. Indeed, rather vocally, Nyerere regarded ujamaa as a program centered on development efforts on an indigenous base instead of on thought streams from without. But instead of redistributing nationalized property to the impoverished, for instance, nationalized ujamaa property remained in the firm control of the vibwanyenye (Swahili for bourgeoisie), and long-standing fears of losing status dominance in Tanzania led them to distrust and mistreat peasants. As Babu notes, Maoism may have served as an alternative modernity—a fitting model since Mao's own approach to Marxist analysis of society emphasized the primacy of practice and encouraged a mass line approach to peasant grievances. Such a study also intends to convey the difficulty in reconciling theory and practice and to weigh the efficacy of localizing an ideology in settings disparate of its origin.

Biography:

Dr. Matthew Galway is the 2017-2018 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, a former Sessional Professor of History at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC, Canada, a Research Fellow at the Center for Chinese Research (UBC), and the Hansen Trust Lecturer in Asian History at the University of Melbourne starting in 2019. His research and publications focus on intellectual history more broadly, with attention to the global diffusion of Maoism across cultures in the post-WWII era. His current project examines the origins of the Communist Party of Kampuchea's (aka. Khmer Rouge) ideology from a genealogical perspective, with a view to a larger regional project on the motive forces behind revolution in the developing world.

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Name: GIESE Karsten

Institutional Affiliation and Title: GIGA Institute of Asian Studies, Senior Research Fellow

Biography:

Karsten Giese (展易), Dr Phil. Modern China Studies, is a Senior Research Fellow at the GIGA Institute of Asian Studies, GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Hamburg, Germany. From 2005 to 2015, he was Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Current Chinese Affairs. Since 2013 he has served as Executive Member of the Managing Board for the German Association of Asian Studies (DGA). His mainly qualitative research has covered various elements of socio-economic change in China and Chinese human mobility, ranging from rural-to-urban migration to transnational migration to entrepreneurial migration between China and Africa. His recent publications include “Same-Same But Different: Chinese Traders’ Perspectives on African Labor” (The China Journal 69, 2013, pp. 134-53), “无心插柳柳成荫: 西非中国新移民商人与当地草根社会创新的关联互动分析” (The International Journal of Diasporic Chinese Studies, 8, 2016, pp. 37-55) and Entrepreneurs africains et chinois. Les impact sociaux d’une rencontre particulière (co-edited with Laurence Marfaing, Karthala, Paris 2016).

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Name: GORON Coraline

Institutional Affiliation and Title: University of Oxford

Biography:

Coraline Goron is Doctor in Political Science, currently a Wiener-Anspach postdoctoral researcher affiliated with the Oxford University China Centre. She obtained a double PhD degree in Politics from the University of Warwick and the Université Libre de Bruxelles in 2017 with a dissertation on the politics of low-carbon transformation in China. Her current research focuses on the politics of online environmental information disclosure and its role the resolution of environmental conflicts in Shandong Province.

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Name: GUEDEGBE Gerard Senakpon

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Africa-China Reporting Project / Wits Journalism

Presentation Title: Media and Communication Training Expert

Abstract:

African journalists are working in quite hostile conditions reporting on issues like Chinese footprints in Africa. Their challenges range from lack of access to information to editorial independence and lack of resources and time to conduct newsworthy investigations. This communication opens up the discussion on how best journalists operating on the continent are resilient in such restrictive environments and how they manage to succeed in doing their job though.

Biography:

Gerard Senakpon Guedegbe is an Expert in Media Training and strategic Communication stationed in Benin. He has been headhunted in 2006 by the Forum for African Investigative Reporters (FAIR) as the peer mentor for francophone African Newsrooms. He has a very active previous journalistic experience and co-authored chapters of FAIR Investigative Journalism Manuals. He proved to be a determinant conveyor of investigative journalism techniques and practices. He has worked with top African NGOs and political organizations to use strategic communication and political marketing to push their agenda forward. He currently conducts some academic research on journalism and communication in Africa and teaches investigative journalism to media practitioners.

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Name: HACKENESCH Christine

Institutional Affiliation and Position: German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik, Dr.

Presentation Title: Birds of a feather flock together: The Chinese Communist Party meets African political parties

Abstract:
This article investigates a largely overlooked actor in China’s foreign relations, the Communist Party’s International Department (CCP-ID) which has bolstered its efforts to reach out to other parties around the globe in recent years. Building on a new dataset, we investigate the patterns of the CCP’s relations with ruling parties across Sub-Saharan Africa since the early 2000s and explore several potential drivers of party-to-party interaction. We find that party-to-party relations serve as track II diplomacy to realize China’s national economic and political foreign policy interests. In addition, party-to-party relations also serve the CCP’s organizational interests such as enabling organizational learning or showing to a domestic audience that the CCP has longstanding friends. Party-related characteristics such as historic ties, similar ideology and organizational structures are therefore important to explain intensity of party contacts. Our findings have implications for our understanding of China’s foreign relations and of organizational learning in authoritarian regimes.

Co-author, Julia Bader, University of Amsterdam

Biography:
Christine Hackenesch is a senior researcher at the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) where she heads a research team working on the EU’s role as an actor in global development. Her research focuses on EU development policy, EU democracy support and EU-Africa relations as well as China-Africa relations. She has recently published a monograph with Palgrave on “The EU and China in African authoritarian regimes - domestic politics and governance reforms” (available open access).

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**Name:** HAMITOUCHE Youcef  

**Institutional Affiliation and Position:** Teacher  

**Presentation Title:** *China presence in North Africa: The case of Algeria and Morocco.*  

**Abstract:**

This paper will focus on the evolution of China's involvement in Algeria and Morocco, through diplomatic ties, investments, trade relations and in the field of energy. Such a study will rely on relevant data and statistics drawn from specialized Algerian and Moroccan as well as international and Chinese agencies. China’s presence in North Africa, has grown considerably over the past three decades, and has been impressive. China has become an actor in this highly strategic region which was perceived mostly as a sphere of influence of France since the colonial era, though this influence became more and more challenged by US involvement. The People’s Republic of China has traditionally established strong relations with North Africa countries (Egypt, Algeria then with Morocco). These links have substantially increased in the last decade. It tends to tighten and develop sustained cooperation and partnership with these countries, particularly Algeria and Morocco, at different levels, economic, political and cultural. Such a strategy is an important step to enhance China’s ability to counterbalance French and American interests in North Africa. Algeria and Morocco are considered as a pivot states in North Africa by foreign powers because of their important geographic location, geopolitical assets in the Mediterranean Sea and Africa. Algeria’s and Morocco’s assets and potential has incited China to turn to these countries in order to sustain economic growth, meet the needs of its booming population and compete with other foreign powers for the control of oil supplies. These incentives were behind China's desire to be present in the supposedly oil-rich Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as to reach and infiltrate in African continent (due to Algeria and Morocco presence in Africa continent) through her economic involvement in Algeria and Morocco. China’s presence in Algeria and Morocco combines many interrelated features, whether political, diplomatic, economic, energy or trade relations. Therefore, it remains to review what policy this country has conducted to reinforce its presence in this North Africa and what kind of relationship it has incepted with Algeria and Morocco, mainly. It remains also to reveal what are the concealed goals China expects to achieve through her partnership with Algeria and Morocco.

**Biography:**


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Name: HAUGEN Heidi

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Oslo, Research Associate/Fellow

Presentation Title: Finding a way out of China: an exploration of circumstantial migration

Abstract:

Migration processes are often said to involve elements of choice and constraint in variable measure. However, this bipolar framing may fail to capture the ways in which migration can simply unfold in unplanned and unpredictable fashions. Such circumstantial migration defies theoretical determination, yet raises theoretical questions about the interplay of migrants, control regimes, and various third parties in shaping migration dynamics. In this presentation, I examine experiences of becoming immobilized among African migrants who seek to leave the People's Republic of China. The rise of China as a migration destination has been accompanied by modernization of immigration legislation that partly is informed by Western policy models, but also displays distinct Chinese characteristics. A striking feature of the country’s current migration management is the tall barriers to exit for migrants who have overstayed their visas. This challenge is compounded by the decentralization and partial privatization of enforcement, which can render the de facto migration regime both illegible and contradictory. Getting out of China can be a taxing and convoluted journey in social, spatial, and bureaucratic terms. Based on ethnographic data collected in Guangdong Province between 2009 and 2017, I examine lived experiences of trying to leave China. These experiences allow for challenging the limits of established concepts such as ‘social navigation’ and ‘bounded rationality’ in explanations of micro-level migration dynamics. Furthermore, the presentation goes beyond the conventional dyadic framework of migrants versus control regimes by incorporating the role of other actors who, with diverse motivations, seek to facilitate the migrants’ departure. The presentation is based on a manuscript co-authored with Jørgen Carling.

Biography:

Dr Heidi Østbø Haugen is a researcher at the Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo. She has studied migration and trade between West Africa and China since 2003, when she collected data for a project on Chinese entrepreneurial migration to Cape Verde. She developed an interest in African transnational traders when working for the World Food Programme in Dakar, Senegal, where there is a vibrant trading culture. This inspired her to go to Guangzhou, South China, to do fieldwork among West African traders for her PhD dissertation (University of Oslo, 2013). Between 2009 and 2017, she has carried out a total of 16 months of ethnographic fieldwork in Guangzhou among West Africans and their Chinese counterparts. She has followed several research participants over an eight-year period, and travelled with them to their hometowns in China and Nigeria, the Gambia, Ghana, and Togo.

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Name: HOJDZI Obert

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Helsinki, post-doctoral researcher

Presentation Title: The China Model of Development: Multiple Conceptualisations and Praxis in Africa

Abstract:

Does China have a replicable model of development? Outside of China, political leaders in Africa allude to a China model of development inspiring their own national development trajectories. In China's internal discourse, there is denialism and reluctant acceptance of a replicable model of development. The emergent paradox is that if China has not yet articulated the fundamental components of a model that is exportable and implementable in other contexts, what are African countries claiming to follow the China model implementing? Assessing understandings and conceptualizations of the 'China Model of Development' among state and non-state actors in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe, this paper examines complexities of diverse understandings and praxis of the China Model of Development in Africa to the making of an alternative global development model.

Biography:

Obert Hodzi is postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Cultures at the University of Helsinki, Finland. He holds a PhD in Political Science from Lingnan University, Hong Kong (2016). He has previously been a visiting researcher at the Renmin University of China (2017) and at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia (2015). His research focuses on emerging powers and global governance, China-Africa security and economic relations, and politics in Africa. His forthcoming publication is a book entitled: The End of Non-intervention of China in African Civil Wars, to be published by Palgrave Macmillan (London).

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Name: HSU Elisabeth

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Oxford, School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography

Presentation Title: Chinese medicine in East Africa, emplotment and empotment

Abstract:

This paper is based on multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork undertaken at the grass roots between 2001-2008 in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. What generally is framed as a matter of technology transfer, cultural exchange or translation, within a South-South, or perhaps more accurately, an East-South relation, is in this presentation presented as a relation between patients and practitioners who seek health and wholesomeness through efforts of emplacement into the constantly changing urban landscapes in which they live. Alongside their narratives of emplotment, both the travelling medics and the treatment-shopping clients engage in hands-on techniques of what I shall call 'empotment'. What do their routinised practices of injecting and ingesting substances tell us about their perceptions of self and other?

Biography:

I started doing fieldwork in East Africa after having spent twenty years of travelling to and through the People's Republic of China from 1978 onwards, first as a Chinese language student, liuxue sheng, then, after graduation in biology and the founding of a travel agency, lüse zhi xing, as a nature tour guide, and ever since my doctoral research, as a medical anthropologist of Chinese medical learning. The East Africa experience made me aware of qinghao, Artemisia annua L., as a herbal antimalarial, and in recent years I have been involved with studying it from several different angles.

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Name: HUANG Hongxiang

Institutional Affiliation and Position: China House, Founder and CEO

Presentation Title: The Role of Chinese Nationals in African Illegal Wildlife Trade

Abstract:

This project examines the relationship between Chinese nationals in Africa and illegal wildlife trade. It tries to explore how the interactions among Chinese communities in Africa, illegal wildlife trade and wildlife conservation organizations could propose a new solution to the global wildlife conservation challenge as well as the sustainable development of Belt and Road Initiative.

Biography:

Hongxiang graduated from Columbia University. Since 2011, he has been researching Chinese investment in Latin Americas, Africa and related social, environmental conflicts. Since 2014, he started China House in Kenya, hoping to connect China and the developing world through youth engagement. He is also featured in Netflix documentary the Ivory Game as an ivory trade investigator.

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Name: HUANG Mingwei

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Minnesota, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Access, Gender and Underground Fieldwork

Abstract:

This roundtable examines the dynamics of knowledge production and academic collaboration in the growing field of China-Africa engagements, specifically focusing on field research and social-scientific knowledge production. Gender, ethnicity, race, nationality, and other identity markers influence how researchers conduct fieldwork, as do disciplinary traditions, institutional positions, and locations across continents. How does the researcher's embodied social perspective inform approaches to Chinese and African subjects and topics? How might we understand the politics of access, trust, refusal to participate and exclusion from field sites as they are mediated through not only language and gatekeepers, but fields of power, including the state? What ethical and political conundrums do researchers encounter during fieldwork or representation that might be particular China-Africa contexts? What forms of data do they collect? How do they share, or not share, their data with other researchers or journalists? How do the above-mentioned issues shape the knowledge produced by the growing China-Africa field?

We will present findings from a CA/AC network survey conducted in 2018 concerning research methodologies, positionalities, access, and immersion, as well as the thornier, often unaddressed issues around the politics of citation and collaboration between scholars, especially when there are differences in positionality and rank. As the field draws scholars from across different continents and institutional settings, understanding how knowledge is produced in the field and presented in academia will enrich our understandings of the academic community, trends in China-Africa research, and potential ways to improve academic collaboration and interaction.

Biography:

Mingwei Huang recently earned a PhD in American Studies and Feminist and Critical Sexuality Studies at the University of Minnesota. She is an incoming assistant professor and 2018-19 postdoctoral fellow in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Dartmouth College. Her dissertation "The Intimacies of Racial Capitalism: Contemporary Chinese Capital and Migration in South Africa" is based in fifteen months of fieldwork (2013-16) primarily sited at Johannesburg’s China Malls and Chinatown. Her research has been supported by the Social Science Research Council, the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, and the University of Minnesota. In Johannesburg, she was affiliated with the Centre for Indian Studies in Africa at the University of Witwatersrand, and has written about fieldwork and vulnerability in The Chronicle of Higher Education and Anthropology News. She has collaborated with artists, curators, journalists, and filmmakers on China-South Africa engagements.

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Name: HUANG Zhengli

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Sheffield, Post-doc

Presentation Title: China and the geopolitics of urban transformation in Ethiopia and Uganda

Abstract:

Urban development is now firmly on the agenda of many Western donor countries that give large amounts of aid to Africa. This represents a partial reversal of a trend since the 1980s, which saw urban policy and programmes downsized by donors and urban issues often ignored by NGOs. However, the renewed attention to the urban comes at a time when China is taking centre stage as an international player shaping urban areas and economies across the Africa continent. These parallel developments raise important issues about the potential and pitfalls of new forms of international co-operation (and competition) on the ground in African cities. In this paper we explore how this new international development context is reshaping African cities, with a particular focus on Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) ad Kampala (Uganda). As the Chinese state steps up its role as a provider of major loans for infrastructure projects, and Chinese firms increase their investment presence in many African cities through special economic zones, manufacturing and real estate projects, the Western donors are also adapting the way they work. On the one hand, new forms of ‘tri-lateral’ co-operation between China, European states and African countries are emerging. Through case studies of these two African cities, we explore the multiple ways in which Chinese firms and loans are reshaping urban landscapes and economies, and the degree to which different forms of engagement are ‘joined up’, rather than operating independently. Moreover, by also casting China’s role in a comparative light, we explore how ideas about what constitutes a ‘well planned’, ‘modern’ or ‘sustainable’ city are shifting in response to the diversity of international agencies operating in (and on) African cities today.

Biography:

Zhengli Huang gained her PhD from Tongji University in 2017. She studied informal settlements in cities in Africa, focusing on the dynamic nature of these settlements and their symbiotic relationship with urbanization. She's currently working with Tom Goodfellow on a project about China’s impact in African urbanization, taking Ethiopia and Uganda as case studies. Having worked as an intern for UN-Habitat where she developed research interests in cities in Africa, Zhengli focuses her research now particularly on two subjects. The first one is urban informality in African cities, particularly reflected in the form of housing. The second is on the impact of Chinese companies in African cities, especially through infrastructure. Zhengli has carried out and participated in several research projects on urbanization in African cities and surveys on Chinese enterprises in African countries, including Kenya, Zambia, Ethiopia and Uganda.

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Name: HUI Justin

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Independent Architect

Presentation Title: Urban Africa, Made in China

Abstract:

All across the African continent, Chinese companies are building new housing, roads, and even entire cities. Bringing along new financing, construction capabilities, and economies of scale, China’s foray into Africa reflects an emerging chapter of Chinese urbanization: China is no longer simply undergoing the fastest urbanization in urban history, it is exporting it worldwide. Urban Africa, Made in China follows a seven month journey throughout Eastern and Southern Africa to examine Chinese development and its impact on Africa’s urban future. With photographs and interviews, these stories shed light on the urban landscapes transformed by these developments and the personal narratives of those shaped by it. These anecdotes will ask what Chinese urbanism means for this rapidly urbanizing continent and for the world’s urban future.

Biography:

Justin is an American architect and photographer based in Hong Kong. His work focuses on places and people shaped by globalization, using photography to capture urban landscapes in transformation that describe the global contemporary city. His latest work, Urban Africa, Made in China, examines Chinese urbanism in Africa and its impact on Africa’s urban future. Justin has contributed to cultural and institutional projects with Herzog & de Meuron and Office for Metropolitan Architecture. He received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from Cornell University with the top thesis award. He is a licensed architect in the State of Massachusetts and currently lives in Hong Kong.

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Name: HUYNH Tu

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Jinan University, Associate Professor

Biography:

I am an Asian American with years of experience living, researching, and teaching abroad. Of the countries I have been to, I stayed longest in South Africa and China. Currently, I am Acting Associate Professor in the School of International Studies and Academy of Overseas Chinese Studies at Jinan University in Guangzhou (PRC). I am also a co-founder of the Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network. Within the Network, I also occupy the position of Vice-Chair and Treasurer.

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Name: KADETZ Paul

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Drew University, USA & University College London, UK

Presentation Title: Outsourcing China’s welfare: unpacking the outcomes of ‘sustainable’ self-development in Sino-African health diplomacy

Abstract:

At the 2015 Forum on China–Africa Cooperation in Johannesburg, President Xi Jinping announced: ‘China now has the technology, equipment, professional and skilled personnel and capital needed to help Africa realize sustainable self-development’. Fostering self-sufficiency and independence in African States are particularly important outcomes for China’s historical development discourse, in which China’s development aid has been historically portrayed as both an alternative to post-colonial western imperialism and as an approach to development that would be of mutual benefit to China and African countries that were newly independent in the mid-twentieth century. However, has China been successful at fostering self-sufficiency in its development aid, particularly in the health sector? Foreign aid directed toward the health sector, or health diplomacy, is a form of soft power that ultimately may assist with the fulfillment of the foreign policy goals of the donor country. China’s health aid to African States (which spans more than half a century) seeks to offer an alternative to normative western aid both in its discourse of mutually sustainable self-development and structurally in its more horizontal approach to health care. This research, based on semi-structured interviews conducted at the Third International Round table for China–Africa Health Cooperation in Beijing, and with targeted stakeholders in Antananarivo, Madagascar, aims to identify the actual sustainable self-development being fostered by Sino-African health diplomacy. Regardless of the horizontal structure of China’s health aid to African contexts, the foreign policy development discourse emanating from Beijing and the work of thousands of Chinese in African States since the mid-1960s, this research identifies that, similar to OECD-DAC health aid, Chinese health aid to Madagascar has resulted in a fragmented health care system – and, ultimately, in increased dependency on foreign aid – rather than in the reported goal of sustainable self-development.

Biography:

Paul Kadetz holds the Robert Fisher Oxnam Chair of Science and Society at Drew University, where he is the director of the graduate programs in Medical Humanities. He is also a Senior Research Fellow at The University of Liverpool in China and an Associate and Lecturer of the China Centre for Health and Humanity, University College London. Paul has conducted and published research concerning: Post-disaster recovery, global health policy, the anthropology of safety, the impact of foreign aid on healthcare systems and healthcare challenges in China, The Philippines, Cuba, Guatemala, Madagascar and Morocco. His co-edited volume, "The Handbook of Welfare in China", was published by Edward Elgar. His co-edited and co-authored volume; "Creating Katrina, Rebuilding Resilience: Lessons from New Orleans on Vulnerability and Resiliency", was recently published by Elsevier.

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Abstract:

China has shown increased assertiveness in the Middle East/North Africa (MENA Region) in the aftermath of the “Arab Spring” uprisings and especially so in its relations with Egypt. While Western powers were thriving to adapt their policies and to overcome major discrepancies between their discourses and their practices in the fluctuating post-“Arab Spring” Egyptian environment, China has significantly developed its relations with the country, irrespective of who has been at the helm (the military, Morsi or Sissi). Based on an extensive data collection (facts and figures on trade and cooperation, diplomatic and political statements, initiatives,...) in 4 languages (Arabic, Mandarin, English and French) this qualitative oriented paper argues from a constructivist perspective that the turbulence ushered in by the “Arab Springs” has opened new opportunities for China to build a new role in this region. This is particularly so as local actors are seeking new alliances to strengthen their hand in times of shifting tides. This co-construction of a new Chinese role is seen as constitutive of a reordering of global balances that challenges the Western-dominated status quo ante not through the dismantling of the existing international system but rather through a resistance to the Western monopoly over its evolution and over the production and interpretation of norms.

Biography:

Thierry Kellner is Lecturer at the Political Science Department of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) where he teaches Chinese foreign policy. He is a member of several research centers at ULB (REPI, EASt) and an associate researcher at the GRIP (Brussels). He is the author of numerous studies on Chinese foreign policy regarding Central Asia, Iran, Turkey, the Xinjiang/East Turkistan question, energy issues, Asian policy of Islamic Republic of Iran.

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Name: KERNEN Antoine

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Université de Lausanne, Switzerland

Presentation Title: Medical Hybridization and Dietary Supplements in Cameroon

Abstract:

Given the number of Chinese companies active in Cameroon in the resale of dietary supplements, no doubt that this market is booming. However, the arrival of the first Chinese companies doing Multi level Marketing in this sector dates back only to the 2000s. In October 2003, Tiens (or 天狮 tianshi in Chinese) was the first one active in Douala. And all the retailers of dietary supplements surveyed recognize that its arrival marks an important change as Tiens was the first company to pay cash bonuses. following Tiens, many other Chinese companies active in the same sector settle in Cameroon as Green World, BF Suma, Green Life, Guanjie, Unalite / JM Ocean Avenue, Eternal, Tasly, Tevo.

Biography:


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Name: KHAN MOHAMMAD Guive

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Geneva, Senior Researcher

Presentation Title: Beyond Chines infrastructures in Cameroon: the arduous journey of an industrial-led development

Abstract:

In 2009, the Republic of Cameroon, through the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Territorial Development, published a strategic document entitled "Cameroon Vision 2035". With this planning document, the Cameroonian government intended to "formulate a proactive vision of long-term development" (DPPS, 2009, p.4) aiming to make Cameroon an emerging country by 2035. In the pursuit of this objective, industrialization was presented as "the foundation and cornerstone of Cameroon's long-term development vision" (DPPS, 2009: 36). While such a desire for industrialization has led to the adoption of new pro-industrial policies, it has so far expressed itself mainly in the implementation of major infrastructure projects (dams, ports, railways, roads, ...). These major projects, classified under the label of "structuring projects" and placed at the center of the political program of President Paul Biya, are thought to be an indispensable first step for the development of a competitive Cameroonian industry at the national, regional and international levels. In Cameroon, as in many other African countries, the Republic of China has established itself as the main partner in the implementation of these major infrastructure projects. Whether in the form of preferential loans or through their direct involvement in the construction of these projects, the Chinese State and the Chinese companies thus participate in providing materiality to Cameroonian industrial ambition. Behind these great achievements, however, Cameroon's industrialization process is confronted with numerous obstacles, linked, on the one hand, to an unfavourable international conjuncture, but also and above all, on the other hand, to internal structural conditions limiting the industrial development. In this communication, we therefore support the idea that if the large infrastructures provided by China contribute to give shape to the Cameroonian project of an industrial-led developmentalist State, the blockages that limit for the moment industrial development shed light on the nature of a Cameroonian State that is primarily characterized by rentier, extraverted and neo-patrimonial logics, and whose main objective is much more oriented towards the maintenance of political stability than to the structural transformation of its economy. In order to support this idea, this communication is based on field research and interviews carried out between August and September 2017 with the Cameroonian administrations and with numerous economic operators active in the cities of Yaoundé and Douala.

Biography:


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Name: KIFYASI Andrea Azizi

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Basel University, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Cold War Politics and Medical Aid to Africa: A Case of Communist China's Medical Aid to Post-colonial Tanzania

Abstract:

Cold war politics divided the world into two major blocs, the western and the eastern. To distance themselves from ideological clashes, trilateral cooperation of Latin America, Asia and Africa was formed in the Bandung Conference of 1955. Being not allied in either of the side gave an opportunity to many African countries to receive different forms of aid from either of the bloc. Since commencement of the war both the east and the west used different forms of aid as a weapon of getting more allies mainly from Global South countries. Communist China like many other Global South countries was badly wounded by the cold war politics. Whilst its 1949 successfully revolution the United Nations kept on recognizing Republic of China as the representative of the whole China in the UN Assembly. To enable it attain its legitimate position to the UN Communist China embarked into providing different forms of aid including medical. Therefore, during the cold war era medical aid was used as a diplomatic instrument to both eastern and western as well as the communist China. It is an attempt of this paper to examine the ways and the extent in which the cold war politics influenced medical aid to Africa. The paper will also identify the ways and the extent Communist China used medical aid to Africa as a defensive wall against repercussions of the war. Using archival materials and analysis of available research literature the paper argues that medical aid to Africa was among important weapon the PRC government used to maintain its political position in the world map. Medical aid strengthened brotherhood relationship between Communist China and other Global South countries including Tanzania which played a vital role in demanding the UN’s admittance of Peoples Republic of China (PRC) in its Assembly.

Biography:

I was born in 20th December 1985 in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania. Currently I’m a PhD student at the Department of History, University of Basel-Switzerland under sponsorship of Humer Foundation for Academic Talent. I also work as an Assistant lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. My current postal address is Giessliweg 72, postcode 4057, Basel-Switzerland. My home postal address is, Department of History, University of Dar es Salaam, P.O.BOX 35050, Dar es Salaam-Tanzania, Mobile Phone +255 766 590 954, Email: andreaazizi.kifyasi@unibas.ch or andreakifyasi@yahoo.com I hold Master of Arts in China Studies (MACS), Zhejiang University (ZJU), September 2015 to July 2016, M.A. (History), University of Dar es Salaam, 2013-2015 and a B.A. (Education), University of Dar es Salaam, 2008-2011. Current PhD project is under title: Diplomatic History of China’s Medical Assistance to Africa: A Case of Post-Colonial Tanzania which is in progress. My second masters dissertation was under a title; “The Goals of China-Africa Medical Cooperation: A Case Study of Tanzania, 1960s-2010.” Masters Dissertation, Zhejiang University, July 2016, and my first was under a title; “Sao Hill Forest Plantation and Local Communities’ Livelihoods in Mufindi, 1960s-2010.” Unpublished Master Dissertation, University of Dar es Salaam. November, 2015.

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Name: KIM Suweon

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of the Western Cape, Extraordinary Researcher

Presentation Title: “Stop killing OUR rhinos”: the political economy of rhino keeper identity

Abstract:

More than 80% of worldwide rhino population resides in South Africa. A rhino is an emblematic fauna which appears on its currency. This explains why a recent rhino poaching crisis which pushes the species to the verge of extinction and the fight against it became a battle for South African national identity. I found two diverse perceptions of anti-poaching activities based on how to define the perpetrators and their correspondingly diverse anti-poaching strategies. The political elite, mainly comprised of native South Africans, tend to see international capitalism as the cause of the crisis: Chinese, Mozambicans, and the imperial West are to be blamed, and a militarised reaction by the army is the preferred reaction on this stance. On the other hand, the economic elite in South African, still dominated by offspring of European settlers, tend to rely on fundraising to support private honorary rangers, most of whom are racially in sync with themselves since they see incapable and corrupt national park and security governance as the loophole in anti-poaching activities. Amid these diverse approaches, I argue that fighting better fights to keep rhinos becomes a race towards becoming better and truer South African against antagonists home and abroad and examine the political economy of the fight. The first part of the article examines a history of relations between the rhino and South Africans from the era of pre-European settlers to the formation of wildlife conservation parks. The second and main part analyses the nuanced debates on fight to keep rhinos in South Africa.

Biography:

Suweon KIM got her PhD in International Relations at University of the Western Cape, South Africa in 2014 under the auspices of the Korean government. Her research interests are Africa-Asia relations with focus on North and South Korea and China’s engagement with Africa, particularly in the context of development cooperation and soft power. Her recent publications include Maoism for the survival of the elite in Africa, and Rhino poaching and the border control in SADC. She has recently published Who watches Korean TV dramas in Africa? A preliminary study in Ghana.

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**Name: KOPF Charline**

**Institutional Affiliation and Position:** MPhil candidate in Social Anthropology at the University of Oxford

**Presentation Title:** A tale of an empty museum, and the imaginaries contained therein: China contribution to Dakar's Museum of Black Civilisations

**Abstract:**

This paper analyses the reconfigured geopolitical realities and postcolonial imaginaries behind the new Museum of Black Civilisations in Dakar. Financed by the Chinese state, the Museum was built for the purpose of displaying the cultural contribution of black civilisations to the universal heritage of humanity. Although the Museum is about to open, the building remains empty. Indeed, most of African art and artefacts are not located on the continent, but in museums of former colonial powers. This, however, does not seem to be a major problem for the Senegalese museum administrators. Although the project's infrastructure could accommodate objects looted during the colonial period, their restitution is not the main focus of the new museum. Instead, the director argues for a new approach which seeks to decentre the importance of material objects and re-evaluate intangible African heritage. Aimed at challenging Europe as central referent in history and art, this vision goes hand in hand with a pragmatic approach towards Chinese investments. This differs from Western media accounts that tend to portray Sino-African projects as a form of neo-colonialism. In the eyes of the museum's administration, Chinese investments are advantageous, precisely because they do not bring with them a ‘colonial past,’ like the former French colonial power. Based on fieldwork conducted during summer 2017, this paper seeks to give voice to my Senegalese interlocutors involved in the negotiations of the museum’s construction. At stake across these conversations are the possibilities and limitations of imagining a reconfigured world order in Senegal. Drawing on the anthropology of infrastructure and museums, I observe how my Senegalese interlocutors situate themselves relationally and historically vis-à-vis their French and Chinese counterparts so as to unravel the specific ways in which the colonial past continues to play a constitutive role in shaping the political subjectivities of my interlocutors.

**Biography:**

Charline is an MPhil Candidate in Social Anthropology at the University of Oxford. Attending especially to the anthropology of the state and migration, transnational security practices as well as art and politics, her current project deals with China’s infrastructure politics in Senegal. More specifically, she explores the construction of the new ‘post-ethnographic’ museum of Black Civilisations in Dakar. She is a committee member of the Oxford China-Africa Network which brings together scholars, policy makers and graduate students to research the ever-dynamic phenomenon of China-Africa relations. Prior to Oxford, Charline completed her undergraduate degree in European Studies at King’s College London (KCL), including a year at the Humboldt University in Berlin. She worked as research assistant at the Dickson Poon School of Law (KCL), and as intern at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Luxembourg as well as at the Goethe Institute in Quito, Ecuador. Charline will be pursuing her doctorate in the coming autumn as part of the multi-disciplinary European research project in the Anthropology of Human Security in Africa (Anthusia) conducted by a consortium of four universities in Oslo, Leuven, Aarhus, and Edinburgh.

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Name: LAN Shanshan

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Amsterdam, Assistant Professor

Presentation Title: Race and state-endorsed patriotic Chinese masculinity in Wolf Warrior II

Abstract:

This paper presents a critique of Wolf Warrior II by reading the movie’s celebration of patriotic Chinese masculinity against the author’s ethnographic research data gathered in Guangzhou and Lagos during 2012-2014. The critique consists of three parts. First, the movie privileges state narratives over grassroots ones. The exaggeration of the magic power of the Chinese flag, which managed to clear a path among the rebel army, forms a contrast with the many complaints from my Chinese informants in Lagos, who accused the Chinese state for failing to protect their personal safety and business interests. Second, Leng Feng’s performance of patriotic Chinese masculinity was achieved by the feminization and infantilization of African characters in the movie. The absence of positive male African figures in the film was manifested by the binary images of African men as either military rebels who kill innocent people, or helpless victims waiting to be rescued by the Chinese hero. Third, the movie avoids discussions of anti-black racism among Chinese by reframing Chinese/African relations in gendered terms, when Leng Feng asked all the women and children to board the airplane and all the men leave by truck. Wolf Warrior II functions to reproduce Chinese state propaganda which has been presenting an imbalanced picture of China/African relations. Its celebration of patriotic Chinese masculinity not only contributes to growing trends of racial nationalism in China, but betrays the exclusion of diaspora Africans in China from the imagined community of the Chinese nation.

Biography:

Shanshan Lan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Amsterdam. She received her PhD in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Her research interests include transnational migration, race and immigration policy, trans-border trade activities and networks, urban China, African diaspora in China, global Chinese diaspora, class and social stratification in contemporary Chinese society. She is the author of Diaspora and Class Consciousness: Chinese Immigrant Workers in Multiracial Chicago (Routledge 2012), Mapping the New African Diaspora in China: Race and the Cultural Politics of Belonging (Routledge 2017).

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Name: LARGE Daniel

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Central European University, Assistant Professor

Presentation Title: ‘Guess the Chinese military ain’t so lame after all’: Wolf Warrior II and the Chinese peace and security engagement in Africa

Abstract:

How does Wolf Warrior II correspond to actual Chinese security relations in Africa and illuminate China’s changing foreign policy debates? The military blockbuster and reactions to it illuminate diverse, important aspects of media representations of China and Africa. The film must also, however, be situated in the context of an evolving Chinese security engagement in the real continent, not the fictional country of Africa that it is set in, amidst foreign policy debates about China’s ‘big power’ diplomacy. From piracy and UN peacekeeping to Chinese Embassy staff helping the PLA-Navy evacuate Chinese nationals, the film presents an all-action take on notable themes in actual security trends. Exploring the blurring of fiction and fact, this paper uncovers how the film amplifies aspects of orthodoxy in China’s bilateral and multilateral engagement together with enacting armed, nationalist departures. The film also foregrounds trends going against official foreign policy doctrine, evident in the tension between support for official UN process and the efficacy of daring, unilateral forcible self-help, invoking future scenarios where this becomes necessary. The film thus presents a window onto tensions between China’s traditional approach to security and more recent calls for more robust approaches commensurate with new challenges, real and perceived, facing Chinese engagement in Africa. In its negotiation of idealism and adventure, normative and realist considerations, militarized African politics and allied American mercenaries, Wolf Warrior II does more than portray contemporary dilemmas: it appears to license more robust, unilateral intervention. While flying the Chinese flag with pride in exotic, dangerous Africa, and valorizing intervention by an increasingly powerful Chinese military in the name of peace, however, it ultimately presents a historically familiar account of how external powers protect interests.

Biography:

Daniel Large is an Assistant Professor at the School of Public Policy at Central European University in Budapest. He is also a Senior Non-Resident Fellow of the China Policy Institute at the University of Nottingham, and a Fellow of the Rift Valley Institute.

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Name: LEFKOWITZ Melissa

Institutional Affiliation and Position: New York University, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Following Chinese Dreams in the Silicon Savannah: Ordinary Spaces Among Chinese Millennials in Nairobi, Kenya

Abstract:

Nairobi is a unique city within East Africa. Affectionately dubbed the “Silicon Savannah,” over the last few decades it has developed into Africa’s premier hub for three major sectors: development, media, and technology. The city’s combination of established and emerging industries, along with its stable infrastructure, has attracted professionals from around the world. Young Chinese professionals, members of a generation known as Chinese millennials, are a part of this influx as well, and their motives for going to Nairobi are multifaceted. For this group, Nairobi is a site to volunteer in the development world, begin freelance work for a Chinese media outlet, or teach in one of Kenya’s four Confucius Institutes, to name a few examples of people’s experiences there. Preliminary data suggests that new contact zones, particularly volunteer organizations and digital platforms, are creating unprecedented opportunities for negotiation, interaction, and the shaping of imaginaries between China’s young transnational elites and their Kenyan colleagues. Chinese millennials’ entry into Nairobi opens important questions within the anthropology of China, Africa, development, media, and transnationalism. Of the many critical questions this phenomenon provokes, this presentation will investigate the following: What spaces do young Chinese professionals inhabit in Nairobi, and what do these spaces reveal about burgeoning expatriate social worlds within the city? Drawing on preliminary ethnographic fieldwork from the summers of 2016 and 2017, this presentation will address the ways in which young Chinese professionals navigate through and co-construct social spaces, both digitally and physically, within Kenya’s capital city. These mobilities and sites will be placed in conversation with those of other generations of Chinese residents of Nairobi, who primarily reside in the Kilimani district, an area that is increasingly hailed as Nairobi’s “Chinatown.”

Biography:

Melissa Lefkowitz is a PhD Student in the Department of Anthropology and Certificate Program in Culture and Media at New York University. Her dissertation research focuses on emergent social practices among Chinese millennials and development professionals in Nairobi, Kenya. Her research interests include transnational mobilities, international development, and digital anthropology. She is the co-director of China Remix (2015), a short documentary about the everyday lives of three Nigerian and Ugandan musical entertainers who live and work in Guangzhou, China. Prior to pursuing a PhD, Melissa received a BA in East Asian Studies and Literature from NYU and an AM in East Asian Studies from Harvard University, where she wrote a master's thesis that examined dominant visual representations of Africans in Chinese mass media from the Mao era to the present. Her writing has been published in China Brief, The Diplomat Magazine, Concentric, Slate, Roads & Kingdoms and the edited volume China-Africa Relations: Building Images Through Cultural-Cooperation, Media Representation, and Communication (Routledge).

Email: melissa.f.lefkowitz@gmail.com
Presentation Title: *Media Politics in a Globalized World: Unpacking Chinese Private Media Landscapes in Africa*

Abstract:

The past decade has witnessed a dramatic explosion of China-Africa interactions. These economic ties (i.e. investment, trade), political relations (i.e. foreign aid) and culture exchange (i.e. Confucius Institute) are the focus of considerable media attention in China and beyond. Media, mostly referred as a platform of debate and a conduit of information, has been seldom a research subject itself in the current discourse of China-African relations, regardless of a much richer body of journalistic pieces observed on this topic. With the exception of some studies on China-Africa knowledge production, there has not been much investigation of the way in which Chinese media-based knowledge and space has been created in China-Africa relations. CCTV’s and People’s Daily’s strides into Africa have inspired a growing attention to Chinese media’s influence in Africa, however researchers have paid much less attention to understand the ways and roles Chinese private media has played in this process. This paper has chosen Chinese private media Africa Oriental Post Group and Global Max Media Group as case studies. This paper explores how commercial media companies with close connection to the Chinese government are reporting on Africa and China in Africa. The paper has also shed light on similarities and differences between Chinese state-owned media and private media reporting China in Africa and the rationale behind it. This research is methodologically designed as an interpretive case inquiry, primarily using qualitative data. Content & discourse analyses on historical achieves and recent reports as well as in-depth interviews of journalists from the two media companies are major sources of data in the case studies. The author has completed the field work in Zambia, Ghana, Tanzania for the past three years. This paper argues that Chinese private media acted as semi-autonomous organizations receiving instructions from Beijing whilst pursuing their own commercial interests. It also argues that Africa-based Chinese private media companies have more flexibility in terms of news room production, localization and marketization, comparing to Chinese state-owned media in Africa.

Biography:

Hangwei Li is a PhD candidate in politics and international studies at SOAS, University of London, who holds a Master’s degree in Media, Journalism and Globalisation from Aarhus University and City, University of London. Before starting her PhD, she worked three years in Africa (Ghana, Zambia and Tanzania) as journalist and researcher. Hangwei has working experiences with the Council of Europe, United Nations Information Center, Zambia 5FM Radio and University of Zambia. Hangwei's previous work has published in various Chinese, English and African media, including WTO Magazine, the Guardian, Financial Times, NPR, VICE, Middle East Eye, South China Morning Post, Caixin, Beijing TV, etc. She is also a winner of the United Nations Correspondents Association Global Prize in 2017. Her PhD project focuses on the changing relationship between politics and media from the perspectives of international relations, political geography and media politics, with a focus on the emerging non-Western media. Meanwhile, she also collaborates with University of Wroclaw as researcher for the Polish National Science Centre’s project on Chinese investment in Angola and Zambia.

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Name: LI Shubo

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Chr. Michelsen Institute, Research Associate

Presentation Title: The Wolf and the Bull in the Palanca’s Realm. Chinese telecommunication equipment companies in Angola

Abstract:

Chinese telecommunications companies started to operate in Angola shortly after the end the 27-year long civil war that ended in 2002. This article is an analysis of how they fared, what they did, and how accommodated with Angola’s political economy. What happened when Huawei – which attributes its success to its “Wolf-culture”, and ZTE, using a Bull to symbolise a “pragmatic, down-to-earth, low-profile and tangible” – stepped into the habitat of Palanca, the national symbol of Angola? The article argues that as much as the Angolan telecom sector has changed by the massive presence of Chinese telecommunication equipment companies, the Angolan way of doing business forced those very companies to adapt – as was the case for the “Western” multinationals with which the Chinese companies compete.

Biography:

Shubo Li, research associate at Chr.Michelsen Institute. She holds a PhD in communication from University of Westminster, London. She writes on China-Africa, new media and news media. Her research focuses on China-Africa media development, Chinese online media, public diplomacy and global challenges. She has done field work in Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique and Angola. She is the author of Mediatized China-Africa Relations: How Media Discourses Negotiate the Shifting of Global Order, Palgrave Macmillan: 2017. She has published articles on Media, Culture & Society, Ecquid Novi: African Journalism Studies, Chinese Journal of Communication, and Journal of African Cultural Studies. She reviews for Asian Journal of Communication, Chinese Journal of Communication, China Information, and Journal of African Cultural Studies. She is also a regular contributor to leading magazines and online media in China.

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Name: LI Yuqing

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Guizhou Normal University, Lecturer

Presentation Title: Representation and Reality of China’s Military Might in Africa: a comparative analysis of Wolf Warrior II and Peacekeeping Infantry Battalion

Abstract:

Dubbed as “the TV version of Wolf Warrior II”, the television series Peacekeeping Battalion Infantry hit the small screen across mainland China with a positive viewership rating right after the market triumph of Wolf Warrior II. Peacekeeping Infantry Battalion displays a considerable amount of resemblance to Wolf Warrior II, including Africa as the synonym of war and poverty and Africans always in need of rescue and aid; China’s military response to the unrest of Africa in accordance with international laws; China’s proactive role in helping restoring peace and order in African while other players are not effective or willing; Chaotic political situation caused/exacerbated by terror groups and Western mercenaries; Other forms of Chinese presence in Africa including business people and medical aid workers; and a taciturn superhero pursues by a reckless female protagonist whose professionalism lands herself in trouble. Those shared features might explain why the two shows have appealed to an audience with a growing nationalistic sentiment. Differences between the two productions, however, are also clear: Wolf Warrior II shows positive sides about Africa and personal bonds between Chinese and Africans while Peacekeeping Infantry Battalion displays racial and gender bias. The market success of the two shows does not necessarily mean that they provide an accurate or insightful representation of China’s military presence in Africa. On the contrary, similar types of portrayals will prevail as long as Chinese perception of Africa and international dynamics in a wider world remain unchanged.

Biography:

LI Yuqing is currently working with the School of History and Political Science, Guizhou Normal University in Guiyang, Guizhou Province in the southwest of China. Prior to this position she was a trainer at China Peacekeeping Police Training Centre for eight years, including one year as a peacekeeping police in the United Nations Mission in Liberia. Yuqing’s current area of interests focuses on media portrayal of China, and language analysis of media representations of China, especially by international television networks.

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Name: LIU Ye

Institutional Affiliation and Position: New School for Social Research, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Farmer is a Miner Too: A Global Connectivity between Small-scale Gold Mining in Ghana and Mining Wasteland Farm in China

Abstract:

This article discusses the vernacular practices of mining ruin restoration in an agritainment park in rural China. From 2006 onwards, around 15,000 gold rushers from Shanglin county, China, mined alluvial gold in Ghana. In 2013, Ghanaian authority initiated waves of campaigns to fight against the ecologically hazardous mining activities in its territory. The political pressures in Ghana propelled many Chinese gold rushers to leave the country and return to their Shanglin hometown where the farmlands were ruined by the mining operations decades ago. Some Shanglin returnees established an agritainment park on a piece of mining wasteland in their hometown. In one corner of the park, several former miners started a soil restoration project aiming for turning the mining ruin into a horticultural garden. The owners of the park believed that the soil restoration experiment would change the conventional view that the mining ruin had no ecological future. In this ethnographic project, the authors will take account of three questions: 1. What kind of ecological consciousness has emerged from the landscape of mining ruin? 2. How the Chinese miner peasants’ ecological ethical consciousness correspond to both the mining political economy in Ghana and the state’s ideological turn on peasantry in post-socialist China; 3. How is the ethics derived from Chinese peasant miner's ruin-based ecological practice different from the mainstream ecological ethic in global mining affairs? By discussing these three ethnographic strands and their interconnections, the authors present an alternative anthropological view on the mining ruins regarding the pragmatist ethics of Shanglin peasant miner's eco-practices.

Biography:

Ye Liu has a Masters in sociology from the London School of Economics and is now a sociology PhD student at the New School for Social Research, New York. As an interdisciplinary researcher, he also studied anthropology and architecture/planning and works with ethnographic, visual and digital methods. His research explores a broad spectrum of spatial politics, ranging from infrastructure, built environment to human-earth relations, within historical contexts. Supported by various institutes, Ye has done fieldwork in Tibet (2013-2014), India (2016) and African communities in China (2015). Currently, he is working on a project to discover the historical comparison between the apex of the Cold War (1960s and 1970s) and current technical assistance in architecture from China to African countries.

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Name: LU Saite

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Cambridge, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Chinese infrastructure investment in Africa: a case of Mamamah Airport Project

Abstract:

How successful is China’s financing model in large scale infrastructure projects in Africa? What is the role of the other donor agencies (e.g. the IMF) in such projects? This study focuses on one of the largest infrastructure investment projects in Sierra Leone since the end of its civil war in 2002. With limited domestic resource mobilization and increasing expenditure pressure, the government is forced to borrow externally to finance its development projects. Following the request from the government of Sierra Leone, the China EXIM bank agreed to offer its flagship concessional loan for the project with China Railway International Group being selected as the contractor for construction work. The project has soon become a focal point at the negotiation table between the local authority and the IMF, which serves as an anchor for all traditional donor agencies, as the latter worries the project will carry large macroeconomic risks and create fiscal distress to the country. The project is a ‘miniature’ of many China’s infrastructure investments in Africa. The study will contribute to the understanding of the interactions between China, local authorities, and other international donor agencies in infrastructure development in Africa.

Biography:

Saite Lu is currently a third year PhD candidate at the Centre of Development Studies, University of Cambridge. Prior to this, he was a Senior Economist/ODI Fellow at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development in Sierra Leone. He managed the macroeconomic forecasting model, which acts an essential tool that assists policy debates and budget preparation within the Ministry. He also advised the government officials on fiscal and investment policies, facilitated the budget supporting negotiation with donor agencies (including the IMF and the WB). Upon completion of the fellowship, he continues to work as a macro-fiscal adviser for the Budget Strengthening Initiative (BSI), providing technical support to the governments of Sierra Leone and South Sudan. He has an MPhil in Economics from the University of Oxford and a BSc in Economics from the University of Ulster.

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Name: LU Vivian

Institutional Affiliation and Title: Stanford University, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Living with the Workers, Everyday Life of the Ethnographer

Abstract:

This roundtable examines the dynamics of knowledge production and academic collaboration in the growing field of China-Africa engagements, specifically focusing on field research and social-scientific knowledge production. Gender, ethnicity, race, nationality, and other identity markers influence how researchers conduct fieldwork, as do disciplinary traditions, institutional positions, and locations across continents. How does the researcher's embodied social perspective inform approaches to Chinese and African subjects and topics? How might we understand the politics of access, trust, refusal to participate and exclusion from field sites as they are mediated through not only language and gatekeepers, but fields of power, including the state? What ethical and political conundrums do researchers encounter during fieldwork or representation that might be particular China-Africa contexts? What forms of data do they collect? How do they share, or not share, their data with other researchers or journalists? How do the above-mentioned issues shape the knowledge produced by the growing China-Africa field? We will present findings from a CA/AC network survey conducted in 2018 concerning research methodologies, positionalities, access, and immersion, as well as the thornier, often unaddressed issues around the politics of citation and collaboration between scholars, especially when there are differences in positionality and rank. As the field draws scholars from across different continents and institutional settings, understanding how knowledge is produced in the field and presented in academia will enrich our understandings of the academic community, trends in China-Africa research, and potential ways to improve academic collaboration and interaction.

Biography:

My research interests surround diasporic mobilities and the politics of profit, distribution, and market control in contemporary capitalism. My current research project, Risky Hearts: Nigerian Marketcraft in the Global South, examines how globally-mobile Nigerian merchants across trade sites in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East are transforming Nigerian economic landscapes and conceptions of home. The project investigates processes of identity, sovereignty and marketcraft, and the politics of value along transnational trade routes. I am an Anthropology PhD Candidate at Stanford University (USA), and I received my Bachelors from Columbia University (USA) in African Studies and Anthropology.

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Name: LU Yan

Institutional Affiliation and Position: York University, Sessional Instructor

Presentation Title: Yellow-Black Divergence in He Chen’s “I am a Little Bird”

Abstract:

My paper examines the representations of Chinese-Black encounters in an emergent genre of “little overseas student literature.” It focuses on the volatile relationships between overseas Chinese students and Black Canadians in Chinese diasporic writer He Chen’s novella “I am a Little Bird”. The novella opens with Chinese-Black interactions and cultural exchange. Representative of a unique age cohort, young overseas Chinese students have more opportunities to mingle with black youth and are more likely to open up alternative spaces than are available in a more rigidly ordered adult society. However, such contact is ephemeral and transient. The potentially positive Chinese-Black connections fail to achieve the promising possibilities of cultural crossings as a result of the essentialization and reification of cultural difference and economic inequality between the two communities. As the story progresses, stereotypical and even racist images of African people are reinforced; cross-racial space is closed under the pressure of socioeconomic differences between affluent Chinese and impoverished Blacks, leaving unaddressed class divisions within both communities. Black characters are not primarily deployed to critique the racial politics of the dominant white society or expand the reach of fiction to showcase Chinese-Black solidarity and coalition. Instead, they represent the inferior groups that young Chinese students need to shun in order to return to normative social structures. The reinforced yellow-black divergence is not so much a reflection of the established racial order in Canada as a critical lens to examine social stratification, economic inequality, and political corruption in contemporary China.

Biography:

I received my PhD degree from the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto. I am currently teaching Chinese literature, film, and culture in the Department of Languages, Literatures & Linguistics at York University. My research interests focus on the representations of cross-ethnic and interracial relationships between minority groups, in particular between Chinese immigrants, Native communities, and African diasporas in Chinese diasporic literature.

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Name: LUFFIN Xavier

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Université libre de Bruxelles, Professor

Presentation Title: Amin Zaoui’s Al Malika: A Chinese-Algerian Romance

Abstract:

Amin Zaoui is an Algerian novelist who writes in Arabic and in French. In "al-Malika" (The Queen, 2014), published in Arabic, Zaoui tackles the issue of the Chinese immigration in Algeria through the depiction of a love affair between a young divorced Algerian woman and a Chinese immigrant - a rather innovative manner to write about Arab/non-Arab couples, since most of the Arab authors who have chosen this topic usually imagine a romance between an Arab Muslim male and a foreign woman, a pattern which is religiously and socially more acceptable. In his novel, Zaoui does not only depict the Chinese community of Algiers in details, he also tackles the way the ‘Other’ is represented in the Algerian society.

Biography:

Xavier Luffin teaches Arabic Language and Literature at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium). He is also a member of the Royal Academy of Belgium and the Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences. One of his main fields of research is the cultural interaction between Africa and the Arab world. He has published several books about the Arabic Literature and he has translated c. 20 books (novels, short stories, drama, poetry), mainly from Arabic (Sudan, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, etc.) to French. One of his books focuses on the representations of Africans in Arabic Literature: "Les fils d'Antara. Représentations des Africains dans la littérature arabe contemporaine", Brussels: Safran, 2012.

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Name: MAGEZA Rirhandu

Institutional Affiliation and Position: AFRASO, Goethe University Frankfurt, Post-doc, Research Associate/Fellow

Presentation Title: Tones and Trajectories of Gender Politics: Transnationalism and Transregionalism Revisited

Abstract:

Over the past decades gender politics has become an increasingly international affair integral to any discussion of development. Critiquing North-South relations and engaging in South-South relations, African feminists have developed a register of political activism that has also played out in the field of China-Africa relations. African governments have framed their actions employing a rhetoric of south-south relations rooted in the earlier Bandung spirit, even though the local and global conditions have decisively changed. The underlying tone, which has come to the fore in their arguments for increased African-Asian interactions, has been the creation of harmonic state-society relations that allegedly benefit both sides equally. Although south-south relations have always been a people-to-people project, governments on both sides expect social movements to respond euphorically to their ongoing efforts at transregionalisation as epitomized in intergovernmental exchanges and fora. Like many around them, African women’s movements have indeed shown both a supportive as well as a detached, if not critical attitude to this dominant narrative on African-Asian solidarity. In the context of Chinese-African cooperation, they have selectively collaborated with and ignored Chinese actors who have been seen to embody this agenda. If what is on offer is so different and steeped in solidarity, we ask, why then do they display such a puzzling stance to these newer interactions? In this paper, we follow the path of the South African women’s movement to compare their embrace of transnationalism to their ostensible rejection of transregionalism. Based on discussions and interviews by the authors in a research project spanning four years, we systematize South African (and more generally African) women’s movement at times piercing and other times pointed responses to the ongoing narrative of Chinese-South African relations. Their responses are primarily levelled at the South African state and geared toward their own experiences of international relations.

Biography:

Rirhandu Mageza-Barthel is a Research Fellow at AFRASO and lectures in the Department of Political Science at Goethe University Frankfurt. Her work centres on the international relations of gender politics in the global South. The current focus on transregional relations stems from her collaboration with Uta Ruppert at AFRASO. She is the author of the monograph "Mobilizing Transnational Gender Politics in Post-Genocide Rwanda" (2015) and co-editor of the volumes "Negotiating Normativity: Postcolonial Appropriations, Contestations and Transformations" (2016) and "Afrasian Transformations: Transregional Perspectives on Development Cooperation, Social Mobility and Cultural Change" (forthcoming).

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Name: MAHOTOGUI Salomon

Institutional Affiliation and Position: EHESS, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Les produits chinois en Côte d'Ivoire : une nouvelle culture matérielle et de nouvelles figures de la réussite.

Abstract:
Dans cette communication, nous nous intéresserons aux consommateurs des produits chinois, mais également à d'autres acteurs essentiels de la révolution des produits chinois en Côte d'Ivoire: les commerçants ivoiriens en portant une attention particulière aux conséquences micro-sociales de l'arrivée des produits chinois sur le quotidien des Ivoiriens. À ce jour les travaux sur les relations entre la Chine et les Afriques, peinent encore à appréhender les conséquences micro-sociales des échanges commerciaux sino-africains dans les économies africaines. L'essentiel de ces travaux perçoivent les échanges commerciaux sino-africains en termes de menaces ou d'opportunités pour le développement des économies africaines. Si l'attention se porte généralement sur les importations chinoises en provenance d'Afrique, vu leur valeur géostratégique, nous voulons montrer dans le cas de la Côte d'Ivoire les profondes transformations induites par les importations des produits chinois dans la société ivoirienne. Les échanges commerciaux sino-ivoiriens, ont connu une augmentation rapide ces dernières années. Alors qu'en 2012 les exportations des produits ivoiriens par la Chine, étaient à 55 515 milliards de franc CFA, elles sont passées en 2016 à 42 383 milliards de franc CFA, quant aux importations en provenance de la Chine, elles ont connu une augmentation fulgurante de 364 103 milliards de francs CFA en 2012, elle ont atteint 885 699 milliards de franc CFA en 2016. Cette augmentation des importations des produits chinois par Côte d'Ivoire correspond à l'arrivée d'une grande diversité de produits manufacturés sur le marché ivoirien. Pour bon nombre d'Ivoiriens, la présence de ces produits sur le marché ivoirien est l'expression de la bonne coopération sino-ivoirienne. Notre communication s'appuie sur les observations empiriques et d'entretiens réalisés en Côte d'Ivoire au cours des années 2013-2016 dans le cadre de nos recherches doctorales.

Biography:


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Name: MIALA NDOMBELE Jean Denis

Institutional Affiliation and Title: Université de Kinshasa, Chef de travaux (Senior Lecturer)

Presentation Title: La stratégie commerciale et entrepreneuriale de la Chine en République Démocratique du Congo

Abstract:

Biography:

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Name: MILLER Jackson

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Harvard Kennedy School, Independent Researcher, Master in Public Policy Candidate

Presentation Title: Mobilizing the Margins: Chinese Women, Intersectionality, and Globalizing African Workspaces

Abstract:

In his 2008 work: Asian Godfathers: Money and Power in Hong Kong and Southeast Asia, investigative journalist Joe Studwell forcefully dispels myths of racialized "Chinese business acumen" by examining the manifold sociohistorical forces that allow diasporan Chinese financial networks to flourish. By redeploying Studwell's multidisciplinary research methods to Afrocentric contexts, this work offers an initial framework that investigates how notions of gender, particularly femininities, might reconfigure capital accumulation strategies for Chinese entrepreneurs in African geographies. As the title suggests, the author relies heavily upon notions of "intersectionality," to investigate how axes of social location interact to either further marginalize Chinese women in globalizing African workplaces...or provide means for them to transcend mechanisms of social exclusion. In the context of economic globalization in the twenty-first century, Dr. Aihwa Ong's work on “flexible citizenship” binds the scope of analysis to focus on transnational commercial magnates, as "International managers and professionals have the material and symbolic resources to manipulate global schemes of cultural difference, racial hierarchy, and citizenship to their own advantage." Aware of his social location as a white, American male, the author offers strategies to expand upon this work and combat research approaches that perpetuate neocolonial, patriarchal forms of domination.

Biography:

After spending several years mapping and tracking transnational organized criminal syndicates who traffic elephant ivory, rhino horn, and even illicit timber products across Africa and Asia from his desk in Washington, DC, to ultimately help catalyze law enforcement action, Jackson Miller enrolled in the Harvard Kennedy School to further investigate the use of public-private partnerships as tools to combat organized crime in African contexts. He currently manages the anti-wildlife trafficking portfolio of grants at the Wildcat Foundation, a private philanthropy based in the United States. Simultaneously, Jackson leverages his fieldwork on illicit economies from over a dozen African countries to examine how Chinese business magnates, particularly those in natural resource and extractive industries, leverage their ethnic, national, and gender locations to advance their personal business strategies. In this way, Jackson's work offers means to mainstream cultural studies and intersectional feminism into China-Africa affairs, a field (justifiably) awe-stricken by the massive injection of Chinese financial capital into the African continent...an inherently masculine act! Jackson has presented components of this work for academic and policy circles in Belgium, Spain, Japan, and the US. A proud graduate of NYU's Gallatin School of Individualized Study, Jackson is proficient in Mandarin and French.

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**Name:** MOCK Tara

**Institutional Affiliation and Position:** Bowdoin College, Post-doc

**Presentation Title:** Manufacturing Sameness: Continuities and Expansions of Identity in Afro-Chinese Relations

**Abstract:**

The presentation examines the nature and awareness of, and attitudes toward Chinese nation branding in Africa. Using findings derived from 13 months of field research, the paper examines the impact of images and messages indicative of brand-China on attitudes toward China in the Gambia, Kenya, and South Africa. By debating the significance of these images to China's continued rise on the continent, the author hopes to prompt a reconsideration of the discursive power mechanisms exercised in and through national image making in Africa. The argument established is that brand-China serve as an integral component of the strategy and substance of the PRC's strategic self-presentation in Africa and, thus, African leaders and individuals should pay greater attention to the performative practices states engage in as, first, national imaginary constructions and, second, as strategies of presentation in the world.

**Biography:**

Tara Mock is a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Africana Studies at Bowdoin College. Her dissertation, entitled "Manufacturing Sameness: Continuities and Expansions of Community Identity in Afro-Chinese Relations", explored cultural identity and community formation through the lens of Chinese nation branding in Africa. The project questioned whether Africa's incorporation into Chinese cosmology encourages expansion of community identity beyond sanguine and geographical boundaries to include the "Global South" née Chinese. Tara earned her PhD in African American and African Studies at Michigan State University, received a MALD in International Relations from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and studied international business at the HEC School of Management in Jouy-en-Josas, France. Her areas of research interest include Afro-Chinese relations, cultural political economy, and globalization in Africa.

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Name: MOHAN Giles

Institutional Affiliation and Title: The Open University, Professor

Presentation Title: The territorialisation of China’s internationalisation

Abstract:

Much of the analysis of China-Africa relations has focused on inter-national processes under the heading of ‘South-South cooperation’; that is deals between recognized state entities. While we should not underplay these important forms of geo-political relationships, contemporary China-Africa relations are creating new forms of territory at a range of spatial scales. The paper surveys these different forms of territorialisation, which operate at scales above and below the national scale but also cross-cut and integrate these scales in diverse ways. Taking the examples of mining concessions and infrastructure projects the paper explores spaces of enclosure, which are at once bounded but also connected to global supply chains. These seemingly ‘enclaved’ spaces are also part of wider territorial assemblages of infrastructure corridors, both at the continental level but also more expansively in the case of the ‘Belt and Road’ initiative. These novel forms of territorialisation are not simply political entities, because they deeply engage private actors and we see rivalry between China, US, and Europe for different versions of these spaces. So while there may be some interdependence within these territories competition exists between actors for control of them.

Biography:

Giles Mohan is Professor of International Development at the UK’s Open University. He is a human geographer who studies African governance and the transnational connections to and from Africa, especially migrants. His recent work focuses on China’s engagement with Africa and has been funded by a series of grants from the Economic and Social Research Council. Giles has published extensively in geography, development studies and African studies journals and has consulted for a range of BBC documentaries on issues of international development. In 2012 he co-authored a book, with Marcus Power and May Tan-Mullins, entitled China’s Resource Diplomacy in Africa: Powering Development? (Palgrave MacMillan). In 2014 Zed Books published Chinese Migrants and Africa’s Development written with Ben Lampert, May Tan-Mullins and Daphne Chang. In 2017 he was co-author on a book led by Sarah Neal entitled Living Multiculture: the new social and spatial relations of diversity (Routledge: London).

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Name: MONSON Jamie

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Michigan State University, Professor

Biography:

Jamie Monson is Director of African Studies and Professor of African History at Michigan State University. Her research focuses on the history of African and Chinese engagement especially the mid-twentieth century. Her current projects include a book and film about the history of work on the TAZARA railway and a history of women's internationalism in China-Africa diplomacy.

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Name: MOUNPE CHARE Idrissou

Institutional Affiliation and Title: Université de Yaoundé 1, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Hybridation médicale et les compléments alimentaires au Cameroun

Abstract:

Au regard du nombre d'entreprises chinoises actives dans la vente de compléments alimentaires au Cameroun, il ne fait aucun doute que ce marché est en plein essor. L’arrivée de ces entreprises chinoises ne remonte toutefois qu’aux années 2000. La première est Tiens (ou 天狮 tianshi en chinois) qui s’implante à Douala en octobre 2003 pour faire du Marketing en réseau. Et tous les revendeurs des compléments alimentaires interrogés reconnaissent que son arrivée marque un changement car Tiens est la première compagnie à payer les bonus en espèces. À la suite de Tiens, beaucoup d’autres entreprises chinoises du même secteur se sont installées au Cameroun comme Green world, BF Suma, Green life, Guanjie, Unalite / JM Ocean Avenue, Eternal, Tasly, Tevo. Si Tiens a choisi dans son marketing de mettre en avant ses origines chinoises pour se placer en héritière cette tradition médicale, la plupart des autres entreprises du secteur sont plus discrètes sur leurs origines et certaines ont même choisi de les camoufler en installant un siège social aux États-Unis. Comme toutes s’appuient sur le marketing de réseau, elles ont réussi à « localiser » l’entier des personnes diffusant leurs produits. Bien sûr, dans ce modèle marketing, les revendeurs sont considérés comme des «entrepreneurs » ne disposant pas d’un contrat de travail. Toutefois même dans les centres d’approvisionnement et de formation, le nombre d’employés chinois est très limité. Certains camerounais s’approprient progressivement la consommation et la vente de ces compléments alimentaires chinois, notre intervention se concentrera sur ce phénomène. Nous nous intéresserons aux consommateurs et leurs motivations pour cette nouvelle offre thérapeutique et comment elle s’inscrit dans leurs itinéraires thérapeutiques ; sans oublier les profils des revendeurs, les réseaux de distribution qu’ils développent et leurs rêves de réussite ; ni délaisser les liens consommation et vente de compléments alimentaires.

Biography:

Idrissou MOUNPE CHARE est Doctorant au Département de Sociologie de l’Université de Yaoundé 1 et Cadre des Services Administratifs (du Ministère de l’Enseignement Supérieur) en service à l’Université de Yaoundé I. Auteur et co-auteur de plusieurs articles publiés, donc entre autres sur la Chine-Afrique. Membre de plusieurs réseaux de recherche (AISLF, CODESRIA, POINT SUD, REJAC, ROCARE etc.). Achève une thèse sur la jeunesse camerounaise face à la question de l’engagement. A conduit plusieurs études opérationnelles pour des organismes nationaux et internationaux et contribué à la production de plusieurs rapports de recherche-action et de capitalisation notamment dans le domaine de la santé au Cameroun.

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Name: NING Rundong

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Yale University, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Construction assemblage: How construction projects shape China-Africa encounters

Abstract:

One of the most significant realms of China’s current activity in Africa is the construction industry. Whereas many studies have focused on the influences of the end products of these construction projects, much fewer have looked at the process of construction and its repercussions in local societies. Drawing on ethnographical research on several construction sites of Chinese contractors and in the companies of some Chinese entrepreneurs in Brazzaville, this paper argues that China’s construction projects in Africa tend to engender the formation of construction assemblages consisting of Chinese and local workers, managers, engineers, entrepreneurs and their companies, and other components. These assemblages, in turn, help facilitate the realization of the projects, and the components of them stay active to searching business opportunities in other construction projects. My ethnography also shows that while contingency, tension and friction are intrinsic to this assemblage, there is a tendency that the assemblage functions increasingly smoothly, driven by not only the principal contractor but also the workers themselves and the involved entrepreneurs. Yet such assemblages are highly dynamic and sensitive to the situation of the construction market. When the market goes into depression, the assemblages become less active. This concept of construction assemblage, I would argue, is useful to generate a big picture of China’s activities in Africa by highlighting how various Chinese elements are generated and linked in the process of carrying out construction projects, which are essential to almost all other agricultural and industrial ones.

Biography:

Rundong Ning is a Ph.D. student in sociocultural anthropology at Yale University. His dissertation project is about entrepreneurship and the national economy of the Republic of Congo. Before studying at Yale, he did research on volunteerism in contemporary China and got a MPhil in sociocultural anthropology at the University of Hong Kong. His research interest includes economic and development anthropology, African studies, and science and technology studies.

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Name: NJIKI BIKOI Madeleine Christelle

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Université de Douala, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Stratégies d'intégration des communautés chinoises au Cameroun : étude à partir de la ville de Douala

Abstract:

L'étude de la migration chinoise au Cameroun que nous menons a pour objectif de faire ressortir les mécanismes d’implantation et les techniques d'insertion de ces migrants au Cameroun et singulièrement dans la ville de Douala. En effet, cette communication consiste d’une part à faire la démonstration des raisons du choix de cette trajectoire migratoire, des enjeux encourus dans ce cadre national ; et d’autre part, de mettre en exergue les voies et moyens utilisés par ces migrants afin de faciliter leur intégration dans la ville de Douala. Comme le rappelle Luc SINDJOUN : « l’immigration est difficilement séparable de l’Etat », c’est-à-dire, malgré sa nature transnationale, ce mouvement de personnes se réfère toujours à l’action des Etats tant de départ que d’arrivée. Raison pour laquelle, nous convenons de présenter le référent étatique dans les processus migratoires vers le Cameroun. Et par la même occasion, nous nous attarderons sur les modes d’organisation de ces communautés étrangères aux fins d’appropriation de l’espace d’accueil. Comment expliquer le choix de cette trajectoire migratoire ? Autrement dit, quels sont les facteurs qui déterminent le choix de cette trajectoire migratoire des chinois ? Et quelles sont les enjeux qui s’y construisent tant pour les Etats, les migrants que pour les populations locales ? Les techniques mobilisées sont entre autres, l’analyse documentaire, la pratique des guides d’entretiens et interviews semi-direct, et enfin l’observation participante. L’objectif étant ici d’effectuer une analyse structurée de la migration et des processus d’intégration et de construction d’une identité transnationale actuellement mise en œuvre au sein de cette société camerounaise. Pour se faire, l’usage de méthodes appelant à l’empirisme avec pour support théorique le constructivisme et l’interaction stratégique permettent de comprendre l’interaction et l’interrelation qui puisse exister entre le sujet et son environnement.

Biography:


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Name: NORET Joël

Institutional Affiliation and Title: Université Libre de Bruxelles, Associate Professeur

Biography:

I am an anthropologist interested in the complexities of African social change. In my PhD (2002-2006), I have researched how funerals unfolded in southern Benin, across social divisions and religious identities, using funerary events as a key entry point to examine wider social dynamics. Later on, other research interests have been the memories of slavery on the West African Coast, as well as the transnationalization of Pentecostalism. More recently, I have started investigating social inequalities in education in southern Benin, using survey research to explore the intersection of different variables in the making of the unequal school careers of secondary school students. Apart from southern Benin, I have also had research experiences in Togo, Nigeria, and DRC. My publications include Deuil et funérailles dans le Bénin méridional: enterrer à tout prix (2010), Mort et dynamiques sociales au Katanga (co-authored with Pierre Petit, 2011), Funerals in Africa: Explorations of a Social Phenomenon (coedited with Michael Jindra, 2011), as well as articles in journals such as African Studies, Cahiers d'Etudes Africaines, Journal of African Economies, Politique Africaine, ROAPE, and others. I am now associate professor of anthropology at the Université libre de Bruxelles, and currently president of the department of social sciences.

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Name: NKOT Pierre Fabien

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Université de Yaoundé 2, Professor

Presentation Title: Le port en eau profonde de Kribi: un bien précieux sur le marché politique

Abstract:

Faire la socio-anthropologie politique du gigantesque port autonome de Kribi, c'est ouvrir un espace de réflexion permettant de saisir les processus politiques qui accompagnent le retour de l'Etat sur la scène du développement. A l'interne, le projet de construction du port en eau profonde de Kribi, tel que ressuscité depuis décembre 2010 et soutenu financièrement par la Eximbank of China, est symptomatique d'un Etat en chantier qui entend saisir l'opportunité stratégique du financement Chinois pour accroître son PIB, renouer avec la croissance et améliorer les conditions de vie des populations. Par rapport à la sous-région d'Afrique centrale, la mise en service du troisième plus grand port d'Afrique témoigne de la contribution du Cameroun à l'atteinte des objectifs du Programme Economique Régional (PER) définis par la CEMAC à l'horizon 2025. Mais au-delà de cet agenda institutionnel, se trouve un processus néo-institutionnel historique et rationnel capable de rendre compte de l'instrumentalisation politique des grands projets infrastructurels. La présente communication entend ainsi montrer que, en réaffirmant la vision développementaliste du Cameroun, le port en eau profonde de Kribi peut être vu comme un bien précieux structurant les transactions des élites sur le marché politique national, régional et international. Au plan national, nous comptons montrer comment ce bien légitime le « story telling » des élites et concourt à leur stabilité hégémonique, bien qu'il donne également à voir les contradictions qui travaillent le bloc hégémonique. Au plan sous régional, nous indiquerons que ce projet offre au Cameroun de se constituer en core-market sous régional capable d'entretenir un certain niveau de domination géopolitique. Sur le marché politique international, nous soulignerons que l'implication de la Chine dans l'important projet du port de Kribi constitue une ressource politique dont usent les acteurs centraux de pouvoir au Cameroun dans leurs transactions avec les bailleurs occidentaux.

Biography:


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Name: NUNOO Isaac

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Jilin University, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: China’s Economic Boom and Military Rise: A Realist Perspective of the Dragon’s Zest for Global Power and Presence in Africa

Abstract:

Can and does realism explain the linkage between China’s economic growth and its ever increasing military (/global) power? Realists have argued that in an anarchic global world, the state’s ultimate aim is to strengthen its security and gain more power. When the economy of a state booms, its craving for military or security and power increases as well. Since the beginning of China’s “open policy,” its economy has witnessed tremendous hikes, being regarded as the world’s second largest economy. A vital coincidence of the economic briskness has been the ever increasing attempt to modernizing its military and general security systems. Of major concern is its recently established overseas military base in Djibouti. Is this an indication of a departure from defensive realism to offensive realism? Is it simply, an affirmation of traditional realist assumption of state interest first and power-seeking-hunger of great powers? Realism of all genres contend that states seek first and foremost, their interests and security. Neoclassical realists further add that a change in the international system may equally impact the foreign policy of a state. While defensive realism reinforces a state’s security beef up as a core objective of its hard power, offensive realism asserts that states develop their hard power machinery to not only defend but also to attack as and when it is necessary. Thus, security concerns are not limited to internal affairs only, but also external aggression and defence. Interestingly, the rise of China as an emerging power with global reach has witnessed both offensive and defensive foreign policy trajectories. An important development that necessitates China’s military presence is the ‘Belt and Road’ initiative, which runs through a number of African countries. Thus, we see a reflex of economic-military/security concerns with each influencing the assertiveness of the other. Analysing this connexion through a realist perspective, using case studies and historical analogies, the article argues that realism best provides reasons for the linkage.

Biography:

Isaac Nunoo is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in International Relations at Jilin University, China. He is the former public relations officer of Ghana Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Isaac is a columnist for ghanaweb, modernghana, B&FT and has published on Ghana’s public and private sector businesses; China’s Belt and Road project; China’s global power; South and East Asia Security and African economy among others. He is the CEO of Save a Soul and Build a Life (NGO-Ghana) and Rhoike Company Ltd.

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Name: O’NEILL Sarah

Institutional Affiliation and Title: Université Libre de Bruxelles - LAMC Research Associate

Biography:

Obtained her PhD in Social Anthropology at Goldsmiths College University of London in 2013. The PhD research was concerned with local people’s opposition to the national ban on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Fouta Toro, northern Senegal. The thesis was awarded the Audrey Richards Prize of the African Studies Association, UK in 2014. Since then she has also worked on African men’s involvement in FGM/C in Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK in the context of a Daphne funded project (Men Speak Out) as well as acting as a consultant for the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and the World Health Organization (WHO) on FGM/C. Most recently Sarah has been doing fieldwork at the FGM specialist clinic CeMaVie, St Pierre hospital, Brussels. Other research in the context of a postdoc position at the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp (ITM) took place on of malaria clinical trials, research ethics, health-seeking behaviour and neonatal health at the Medical Research Council in the Gambia; intra-vaginal practices and reproductive health in Tanzania. While at ITM, Sarah also obtained a grant from the Flemish Government for a 3 year interdisciplinary study aiming to contribute to the identification of the cause of Nodding Syndrome/Epilepsy (Cameroon, Tanzania and Uganda).

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Name: ORRE Aslak

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Chr. Michelsen Institute, Research Associate/Fellow

Presentation Title: The Wolf and the Bull in the Palanca’s Realm. Chinese telecommunication equipment companies in Angola

Abstract:
This chapter seeks to examine the Chinese telecommunication vendors’ influence in Africa through a case study in Angola, through a focus on the two biggest Chinese telecom companies – Huawei and the Zhongxing Telecommunications Equipment Corporation (ZTE) – and their experiences in the Angolan telecom sector. The two companies have focussed on a partly overlapping market, but their business strategies have differed – and linked up to a different set of Angolan actors. Based on an analysis of available sector data and insights from interviews among sector insiders, the authors sought to understand the role of the Chinese companies in comparison to its “western” competitors and, in particular, their role in the political economy of the Angolan telecom sector. The authors find that the success of the two Chinese companies depended in part on their original match with Angolan partners. Although the Chinese companies arrived in Angola with superior technology, financial muscles and expertise in comparison to their Angolan partners, it is nevertheless their Angolan counterparts that remain “in charge” through a tight political control of the telecom market. We also find that the Chinese credit lines were only a strong competitive advantage for Chinese companies in parts of the period under review.

Biography:

Aslak Orre is a political science researcher at the Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) in Bergen, Norway. He is educated in comparative politics, with a focus on local government reform and the politics of decentralisation, corruption and anti-corruption, as well as parties and opposition in Africa. Orre's specializes on Angola and Mozambique. He has a long-standing with the Angolan institute Centro de Estudos e Investigação Científica (CEIC), which focusses on the Angolan "oil state" and how its politics and economy can be reformed to enhance equitable social and economic development. In Mozambique he has cooperated with the Institute for Social and Economic Studies, IESE. Current research interests also include the political economy of oil in Africa, the role of China in Africa; media, public space and press freedom; the politics of the youth bulge in Africa; taxation and public sector reform, as well as the telecom sector.

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Name: OWOSENI, Adewale

Institutional Affiliation and Title: Department of Philosophy, University of Ibadan, Ph D Candidate

Presentation Title: Contributions from Yoruba and Chinese Worldviews to Post-Anthropocentric Contention on Human and Animal Relations

Abstract:

Post-anthropocentrism emphasizes the philosophical contention that surrounds the debate on the subjectivity of animals in the course of human and (non-human) animal relations. Oftentimes, the anthropocentric nuance of human and animal relations is reflected in the conception of rights and welfare (liberation) for animals as subject of considerable interest, in order to alleviate animals from pains or sufferings when engaged in human endeavours. The deconstructionist reflections of scholars like Jacques Derrida, Donna Harraway, Cary Wolf, and Gary Steiner among many others have raised critical questions on the anthropocentric motives or rationale of human and animal relations, conveyed through the popular thoughts of Peter Singer, Tom Regan and Wesley Smith, that is, animal rights, animal welfare and human exceptionalism or speciesism. It is not out place to state that while the consideration of such philosophical contention underlies the global North/Western philosophers’ circle, the prominence of contribution from non-Western/global South circles to the discourse of human and animal relations is yet to be fathomed. Chinese and African worldviews of human and animal relations remain inclusive in the global South category. This discourse interrogates the context in which post-anthropocentrism, in lieu of human and animal relations, is manifested in indigenous Yoruba and Chinese worldviews, besides perspectives from Global North. It adopts hermeneutics and critical approaches to analyze the Chinese zodiac ontological cum cosmological beliefs, sayings/worldview about human and animal relations. The same approaches is also deployed to analyze Yoruba thought or worldview of human and animal relation, to discern the plausible contribution of inter-subjectivity of human and animals, for post-anthropocentric contention. Basically, this discourse attempts to address the fundamental concern of; besides Western philosophical contention of post-anthropocentric undercurrent of human and animal relations; what contributions do indigenous Yoruba and Chinese worldviews on human and animal relations make to this post-anthropocentric fervor?

Biography:

Adewale O. Owoseni is currently an Assistant Lecturer and a PhD student of the Department of Philosophy, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. His research interests include Animal Ethics, Environmental Ethics, African philosophy, and Epistemology. He is a recipient of the Bergen Summer Research School Grant (BSRS 2016) and University of Basel Summer School (BSS & ECAS) Research Grant in Switzerland and has published some articles in reputable journals on philosophical reflections on Yoruba notion of animals and the theme of African development. He could be contacted through his e-mail; a.owoseni@yahoo.com, phone number; +2348139469526 and Orcid ID; http://orcid.org/0000-0002-0592-1242.

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Abstract:

The dramatic upsurge during the 2000s of Chinese investment in sub-Saharan Africa has sparked discussion about its development impact. In particular in the area of labour relations, Chinese investments have proven controversial. Reports of employment creation have been accompanied by accounts of low pay for African workers, labour rights violations, cultural clashes and rumours of mass immigration of China labourers into African countries. However, concrete evidence on the impact of Chinese firms has remained limited. Much of the relevant research is based on case studies or surveys with small sample sizes. These can tell us a lot about the everyday experiences and perspectives of both Africans and Chinese, but are of more limited use for comparative work. One of the reasons for this relative lack of comparative large-scale studies is the difficulty of conducting surveys of Chinese firms and projects in Africa. Sampling, access and logistics issues present formidable barriers to research in many African contexts, and are especially severe in the case of Chinese firms and projects. This paper discusses these difficulties and presents practical methods for overcoming or mitigating them. These solutions are based on a recently completed large-scale survey of workers on Chinese projects, compared to other foreign and local firms/projects. Our survey was designed to gauge the employment effects of both Chinese foreign direct investment and Chinese overseas contracted projects. Accordingly, we conducted 500 interviews with workers in 31 Chinese firms and projects in two sectors, construction and manufacturing, in two countries where such Chinese investment has been substantial, i.e. Angola and Ethiopia. We also interviewed over 1,000 workers in non-Chinese firms in the same sectors and countries. Our sample of Chinese companies and projects included both state-owned enterprises and private firms. This paper explains the methods used to construct a complete sampling frame in the absence of reliable administrative data, to create partnerships with African and Chinese stakeholders, and to negotiate access to companies and projects.

Biography:

Carlos Oya is Reader (Associate Professor) in Political Economy of Development at SOAS, University of London, where he has worked since 2002 and where he did his PhD in Development Economics. He worked for several years in government in Mozambique, where he also did extensive field research on rural labour markets and rural poverty. His main research interests are: agrarian political economy, employment, political economy of development, development policy, development aid, and research methodology. Carlos is now leading a large research project looking at labour conditions and outcomes in Chinese companies in Ethiopia and Angola, and has previously done research in other countries such as Mozambique, Senegal, Mauritania, and Uganda.

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Presentation Title: Exploring the Concept of “guoke” in recent South-South Migration A Comparative Perspective of Migrant Trajectories of Chinese in DRC and Congolese in China

Abstract:

The growth of migration between China and Africa over the last two decades has become a trend that cannot be ignored in the world South-South Migrations. Researches on migration between China and Africa has also become a hot topic while less of them brought a concept or a theory from a perspective of China or Africa. Based on a multi-sites fieldwork in China and DRC from 2010 to 2017, we compared two groups, notably the Chinese in DRC and the Congolese in China, who showed some similarities in their migration process. Both of them practices a diverse, fragmented and short-tern transnational trajectories. None of DRC or China is their migration destination but as a springboard or transfer node for their lifelong migration process to EU or US. And due to different cases, most of them have to keep a long stay in their receiving countries or jump between different developing countries. Their strategy of integration of the local society also shows a clear difference from the classical immigration pattern. Comparing with those concepts in migration studies such as Diaspora, Sojourner, Astronaut and Guest Workers, we adopt the concept of "Guoke" or global transient guests to analyze those two groups. From a macro, meso and micro perspective, we analyzed the features and formation of Chinese Guoke in DRC and Congolese Guoke in China. The paper proposes that more researches to pay attention to the Guoke group in the study of migration between China and Africa and the concept of Guoke also need further discussion.

Biography:

Ching Lin Pang (1963), University of Antwerp/KU Leuven is trained as philologist (MA at KU Leuven), Asian Studies-political scientist (MA at University of California Berkeley) and anthropologist (PhD at KU Leuven) with a research focus on migration/mobilities, interculturalism/transculturalism, arts and creative industry in the urban context at the University of Antwerp and KU Leuven. She teaches courses on China as a global actor; contemporary issues in Chinese society and globalization, interculturalism/transculturalism and identity in East Asian societies. She is the promoter of 9 doctoral PhDs, of which two dissertations investigate Africans in China. She is also involved in different research projects/cooperation in China with Zhejiang University, Yunnan University and Lanzhou University.

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Name: PARK Yoon Jung

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network, Executive Director

Biography:

Dr. Yoon Jung Park is an international scholar and a leader in growing field of China/Africa studies. Her work sits at the intersections of migration studies, African and China studies, work on the Global South, and identity studies. Dr Park is the author of A Matter of Honour. Being Chinese in South Africa (Jacana/Lexington Books) and dozens of articles and book chapters in scholarly publications. Her research focuses on ethnic Chinese in southern Africa and perceptions of Chinese people by local communities, centering on migration, race/ethnicity/identity, race/class/power, gender, affirmative action, and xenophobia. Dr Park has affiliations at the Sociology Department at Rhodes University (South Africa); African Studies at Georgetown University (Washington, DC); and the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University (Washington, DC). She is currently teaching at Georgetown and SAIS. In addition to her research, writing, and teaching, she is co-founder and Executive Director of the Chinese in Africa/Africans in China (CA/AC) Research Network, an international network of scholars, researchers, graduate students, journalists, filmmakers and practitioners and the digital networking hub (google group and We Chat) for all things China-Africa. Dr. Park has a PhD from University of the Witwatersrand (Sociology); an MA from Fletcher School at Tufts University (International Relations); and a BA from Pitzer College (Sociology and Women’s Studies).

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Name: PELICAN Michaela

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Cologne, Professor

Presentation Title: Managing foreigners in China: perspectives from Guangzhou and Shenzhen

Abstract:

This paper will analyse how the new Chinese Exit and Entry Administration Law of 2012 has gradually been implemented, using the example of service centers for foreigners in Guangzhou (Xiaobei) and Shenzhen (Shekou). As we will show, the service centers in the two cities cater to the needs of rather different migrant groups (mostly African traders and business people in Xiaobei; mostly Western educators and business people in Shekou). This is reflected in the centers' respective spatial organization, their styles of communication, the services they provide, and their collaboration with the local authorities. We will argue that over the past few years, there has been a gradual shift in the local management of foreigners from curbing (undesired) illegal migration to accommodating (desired) skilled migrants as part of the local community. Migrant responses to these measures have been varied, reflecting their interests and social positionalities.

Biography:

Michaela Pelican is Professor of Cultural and Social Anthropology at the University of Cologne. She is also a principal investigator in the Thematic Research Area I 'Migration, Citizenship and Labour' of the Global South Studies Center Cologne (GSSC), and was previously the director of the University of Cologne Forum "Ethnicity as a Political Resource: Perspectives from Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Europe" (2013-16). Her current research investigates transnational migration from Cameroon to the Gulf States and China. Michaela is a member of the project "Chinese Immigration Law and Policy" which investigates the social dynamics and outcomes of the implementation of the new exit-entry law of 2012 by focusing on the actions of state and non-state actors, including legislators, administrators and (im)migrants. Her project is also part of the international research cooperation "Immigration and the Transformation of Chinese Society" (https://immigrantchina.net/).

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Name: PHILLIPS Jon

Institutional Affiliation and Position: King’s College London/ University of Exeter, Postdoc

Presentation Title: The enclave meets the grid: the reterritorialisation of offshore oil in Ghana

Abstract:

This paper explores the forms of territory associated with Chinese and US energy investments in Ghana since the advent of oil production in 2007. Enclave development has become a cornerstone of spatial studies of extractive industries, describing a highly selective form of territorialisation and a highly exclusionary form of development. At their most extreme in Africa, resource enclaves describe a continent of economically viable, resource-rich pockets that become privately managed and separated from the unviable, hollowed-out structures of the postcolonial state. Yet the image of the privatised and semi-autonomous enclave omits important processes of territorialisation performed by state with corporate actors, which make extraction possible. Moreover, these apparently divided modes of state and corporate visioning are connected in important ways through the recent efforts of African governments to create domestic markets for extractive resources. The paper provides a comparative account of how recent international energy investments in Ghana have produced territory at different scales. A domestic market for natural gas has forged connections between two otherwise distinct spaces of rule: the bounded enclave of offshore petroleum production, and the expansive, grid-like national territories of electricity networks. To extract, transport, and process natural gas the Ghanaian government has entered new relationships with Chinese, US and multilateral partners to construct the infrastructure and build the institutions required to securitize foreign investment and commodify natural gas. The question arises, does the reterritorialisation of the offshore oil industry offer new development opportunities for African state-societies?

Biography:

Jon Phillips is a postdoc in the Geography Department at the University of Exeter/ King’s College London (UK) and an incoming Lecturer in Development Studies at the University of Cambridge. His interest in China-African relations are guided by a broad concern with the formation of environment-society relations in Africa, which led him to research Chinese investment in the Ghanaian oil sector as part of his doctoral studies.

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Name: QIU Yu

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Independent Researcher

Presentation Title: The problem of masculinity among Nigerian migrant men in Guangzhou

Abstract:

Although often put as one of racial attributes in the construct of 'blackness', the idea of 'African masculinity' has been essentialised in a way to implicitly address a gendered virtue. However, for the Nigerian men in China, the performance of masculinity, as this paper suggests, is no longer at ease. As part of their cultural shock, many complain how a typical young Chinese woman in Guangzhou wields an uncontrolled power over her boyfriend or husband. Such a gender role sits in contrast to the one in Nigeria, in which man is claimed to be the dominant part of a romantic relationship and the head of a household. Based on long-term fieldwork in Guangzhou (China), this paper highlights the cultural and economic conundrums faced by Nigerian migrant men in performing a certain ideal of masculinity, which relates to, for instance, male authority, sexual attraction, sweet talk and the provision of financial support, and how they attempt to negotiate a new form of masculinity without being subjugated to a less advantageous position in China.

Biography:

Trained as a social anthropologist at University of Cambridge, Yu Qiu was a post-doctoral fellow at African Studies Center of Leiden University. She has research interests in a range of theoretical questions: emotional, affective and intimate dimension of China-Africa interactions; Sino-Africa friendship politics; gender relations; and racial and national identities in China. In her recent research, Qiu takes an interdisciplinary approach to unpacking the private and intimate life of Nigerian migrant traders in Guangzhou (China), and pays particular attention to the socio-cultural logic behind the establishment of intimate/business partnerships between these traders and Chinese women. She has been conducting ethnographic fieldwork in China and Nigeria.

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Name: RACAUD Sylvain

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Bordeaux Montaigne-LAM, Lecturer

Presentation Title: On the trade routes of cheap Chinese items between African large harbour centres and rural periodic markets

Abstract:
What are the connections between a village in Cameroon or in Tanzania and the transnational network of Chinese junk? From interviews with vendors of Chinese junk and observations of the commercial places, the research emphasizes territorial dynamics at two ends of two trade route between large harbour centres (Douala and Dar es Salaam) and rural periodic markets (Mt Bamboutos and Uporoto Mts). The study is about the trade of cheap imported items from China (plastic sandals, cheap jewellery, various fashion accessories, cheap clothing, etc.) that have flooded African markets, from busy metropolitan commercial areas to small periodic markets in agricultural mountains. The specificity of the junk is that these items are very much available; they are cheap and are adapted to low income traders. The junk trade business is also easily affordable as the necessary starting capital can be very low. Therefore, the junk circulates a lot and its flows connect the centres and some “margins of the world”. This paper proposes that the structuring of the Chinese junk commercial road integrates town and countryside in a complementary space produced by commercial relations, appropriated by the traders, and characterised by recent booming trading places, recent urban-rural mobility and unprecedented connections to transnational networks. The development of the Chinese junk sector structures a commercial road characterised by local combinations between visible faces and inconspicuous connections and sides. The first part emphasizes the specific urbanization in towns through the change of the commercial equipment’s landscape and the change of the actor landscape. The second part deals with the role of the rural markets and of the rural hawkers’ mobility in the structuring of the commercial road and of new territorialities based on urban-rural mobility.

Biography:
Sylvain Racaud is a Lecturer in geography at the University of Bordeaux Montaigne (UMR 5115 LAM) and the former Deputy Director of the French Institute of Research in Africa (IFRA-Nairobi). His research investigates urban-rural linkages in Africa through trade networks that integrate rural society with urban, and to globalisation. His work focuses on the structuring of trade routes between African trading posts and mountainous villages. He develops a “geography of the cheap trade” in order to points out an in-between area, i.e. a sphere for opportunities and complementarity between rural and urban, local and global, formal and informal resources.

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Name: ROBERTSON Winslow

Institutional Affiliation and Position: IESE, PhD Student

Presentation Title: Investment, Loans, and Language: The Rhetoric Behind Chinese Finance in Ghana

Abstract:

This paper explores how African, Chinese, and American stakeholders use the rhetoric of Chinese “investment” in the African continent. The term “investment”, in this context, means any Chinese commercial activity is counted as part of a Chinese-directed strategy, which contrasts with actual investment, in which an item or asset is purchased in the hope that it will generate profit or appreciate in value. That rhetoric, usually applied to Chinese debt-financed projects rather than equity investments, results in these stakeholders communicating a view of China that suits their interests. There is a robust literature documenting and differentiating Chinese investment from debt-financing, yet the rhetorical use of “investment” by these stakeholders continues through April 2018, the time of writing this research. This stands in stark contrast with how these stakeholders discuss debt-financing broadly, such as World Bank Group loans to African countries. Using Ghana as a case study, this paper will examine the rhetoric of Chinese “investment” in relation to financing and commercial activity from outside actors. Why is the Bui dam an “investment”, despite getting most of its financing through China EXIM bank loans and export credits, while World Bank support for Ghanaian infrastructure is a loan? Why does this distinction matter? This paper hopes to provide answers.

Biography:

Winslow Robertson is a PhD student at the IESE Business School who focuses on Chinese provincial State-Owned Enterprise decision-making structures as part of the Belt and Road Initiative. He was formerly the Managing Member of Cowries and Rice, a China-Africa strategy consultancy that advises in all aspects of the China-Africa relationship, and its services have been used by private companies, individual investors, strategic advisory firms, think tanks, and non-profits.

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Name: REBOREDO Ricardo

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Trinity College Dublin, PhD candidate

Presentation Title: The Political Economy of Chinese-led Megaprojects in South Africa

Abstract:

The emergence of Chinese-led development projects throughout Africa is emblematic of increasingly complex and global processes. Megaprojects serve as some of the main instruments of Chinese geopolitical and geoeconomic strategy on the African continent and bring together a range of actors which can include central State-Owned Enterprises, regional SOE’s, private investors, policy banks, governmental departments, economic migrants, small to medium enterprises, and international agencies. In the South African context, Chinese corporations have encountered a unique set of regulatory environments, multi-scalar governmental initiatives, and historical legacies which heavily influence project development and construction. Additionally, these ground-level realities often collide with both high-level political rhetoric and popular depictions of megaprojects as engines of economic growth.

This research will look at 3 separate Chinese-led projects – the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone, the BAIC factory in Port Elizabeth, and the Modderfontein New City in Johannesburg - and explore the distinct sets of state/corporate networks which drive project development, the discourses surrounding their construction, and their impact (or lack thereof) on surrounding urban areas. Given their diverse logics, sectoral distribution, and varying construction statuses, these projects are well suited for comparison and elucidate the complex nature of the Sino-South African relationship.

Biography:

Ricardo Reboredo is a PhD candidate from Miami, Fl, currently studying at Trinity College Dublin. He specializes in Sino-African relations and economic geography.

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Name: RØNNING Helge

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Oslo. Professor and CMI. Senior Associate Researcher

Presentation Title: Panel: Chinese Involvements in Communications Systems in Africa. with Sergio Chichava, Shubo Li, Aslak Orre, Elling Tjønneland

Abstract:

We view China's interests in communication industries as part and parcel of a wider strategy for combining elements of both transport and communications systems in order to increase China's economic, political and soft power in Africa. Our research is focused on how the strategy in these areas has been consistent as the Chinese state, finance institutions, and major companies regard communications and transport as closely interconnected in China’s overall policies in Africa. Transport and communications systems are, as Harold Innis in his theoretical and historical writings pointed out, essential prerequisites for the development and exercise of power. Thus the interrelationship between these different forms of communication influences economics, politics and cultures. It is therefore interesting to view the Chinese presence in the construction of African communications of space – roads, railways – and investments in communications of time – electronic communications – as elements of China's economic and political consolidation on the continent.

Biography:

Helge Rønning. Professor Emeritus in The Department of Media and Communication. University of Oslo. Senior Researcher Chr. Michelsen Institute, Bergen.

International Research
Research and scholarly work at the University of Ibadan, 1976 and 1978.
Visiting scholar at The University of California, Santa Barbara. 1987.
Research and scholarly work at the University of Zimbabwe several times since 1988.
Recent Research Projects
"Elections and Democracy in Africa" (2009 – 2012)
http://www.cmi.no/research/project/?1349=elections-and-democracy-in-africa
http://www.cmi.no/research/project/?1686=voice-of-china

Publications
Published numerous articles on literary, social, political, media and cultural topics in Norwegian, Scandinavian, European and American journals and newspapers.
Published and contributed to several books on literature, media and cultural topics in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, UK, Zimbabwe, Mozambique.

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Name: RÖSCHENTHALER Ute

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Afraso project, Goethe University Frankfurt, Professor

Presentation Title: Foreign manufactured products on African markets: their trajectories and integration in local regimes of value

Abstract:

Scholars have observed the growing quantity of industrially manufactured commodities on African markets. These commodities arrive from different world regions, above all from Asia, namely China. Urban African consumers are more than ever before able to choose between large numbers of different processed and packaged brand-name products. However, not enough is known about how these goods are understood by African consumers from their own perspective and along locally established regimes of value. The new mercantile situation has created much uncertainty on the side of the consumers. As manufactured goods such as apparel, accessories, packaged foods, or household goods are in great demand, brand names are frequently copied and their content manipulated. Consumers criticize this fact in their search for good quality but, facing limited budgets, nevertheless often have to acquire the more affordable choice. This contribution will provide insights in the trade networks and the traders through whose agency such products arrive on African markets. I will also discuss how local consumers cope with the new uncertainties about product quality and understand manufactured commodities from the vantage point of local value hierarchies. My findings are above all based on interviews with different categories of traders and consumers as well as observations on markets in Cameroon since 2008. These insights will be complemented by findings from research in several other African and Asian countries since 2012. The contribution highlights the active role of African traders in importing and distributing these products and the competition of African and Chinese traders. Different from assumptions about the functioning of brand-names, I will also point to the fact that in this highly dynamic field, which is characterized by an ongoing transformation of markets, product qualities and commodity trajectories brand-names do not necessarily evoke the trust that their original owners intended to endow them with.

Biography:

Ute Röschenthaler is a professor of anthropology at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany, and a member in the AFRASO project “Africa’s Asian Options” at the Goethe University Frankfurt. She published on cultural mobility, trade networks, intellectual property rights, entrepreneurship and the emerging markets in Africa. Her book Purchasing Culture: The Dissemination of Associations in the Cross River Region of Cameroon and Nigeria (Africa World Press, 2011) explores the history and cultural entrepreneurship of women’s and men’s cult associations and their dissemination by purchase and sale which includes the transfer of local intellectual property rights. Among her recent publications are Copyright Africa: How Intellectual Property, Media and Markets Transform Immaterial Cultural Goods (edited with Mamadou Diawara, Sean Kingston Publishing 2016), Cultural Entrepreneurship in Africa (edited with Dorothea Schulz, Routledge 2016) and Mobility between Africa, Asia and Latin America: Economic Networks and Cultural Interactions (edited with Alessandro Jedlowski, Zed Books 2017).

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Name: ROUIBAH Hicham

Institutional Affiliation and Position: UMR245 CESSMA, Paris-Diderot, IRD, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Travailler en Algérie pour exister en Chine, se former en Chine pour travailler en Algérie

Abstract:

Based on an ethnographic field approach (immersive observation and non-directive interviews) and an analysis of statistical data, we will present in this work two distinct aspects representing two categories of migration-emigration between China and Algeria: The first is a restitution of the “standard” path of migrant-Chinese workers who have gone to work in Africa and particularly in Algeria for pay attractiveness but also to benefit from "administrative stability" vis-à-vis authorities once repatriated to China. In another route, a look is also taken to expatriate Chinese executives in Algeria. The second is devoted to describing the aspirations and investments of young Algerians who are sinners. Most of them who have known China go back to Algeria to work independently, work in the most prestigious national or foreign institutions, or integrate the Chinese groups present in Algeria to occupy key positions.

Biography:


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Name: RUPPERT Uta

Institutional Affiliation and Position: AFRASO, Goethe University Frankfurt, Professor

Presentation Title: Tones and Trajectories of Gender Politics: Transnationalism and Transregionalism Revisited

Abstract:

Over the past decades gender politics has become an increasingly international affair integral to any discussion of development. Critiquing North-South relations and engaging in South-South relations, African feminists have developed a register of political activism that has also played out in the field of China-Africa relations. African governments have framed their actions employing a rhetoric of south-south relations rooted in the earlier Bandung spirit, even though the local and global conditions have decisively changed. The underlying tone, which has come to the fore in their arguments for increased African-Asian interactions, has been the creation of harmonic state-society relations that allegedly benefit both sides equally. Although south-south relations have always been a people-to-people project, governments on both sides expect social movements to respond euphorically to their ongoing efforts at transregionalisation as epitomized in intergovernmental exchanges and fora. Like many around them, African women’s movements have indeed shown both a supportive as well as a detached, if not critical attitude to this dominant narrative on African-Asian solidarity. In the context of Chinese-African cooperation, they have selectively collaborated with and ignored Chinese actors who have been seen to embody this agenda. If what is on offer is so different and steeped in solidarity, we ask, why then do they display such a puzzling stance to these newer interactions? In this paper, we follow the path of the South African women’s movement to compare their embrace of transnationalism to their ostensible rejection of transregionalism. Based on discussions and interviews by the authors in a research project spanning four years, we systematize South African (and more generally African) women’s movement at times piercing and other times pointed responses to the ongoing narrative of Chinese-South African relations. Their responses are primarily levelled at the South African state and geared toward their own experiences of international relations.

Biography:

Uta Ruppert is a professor of Political Science and Political Sociology with a focus on South-South and Gender Studies at the faculty of Social Sciences at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, Germany. She sits on the board of directors of the Cornelia Goethe Centre for Gender Studies’ and is one of the founders of the research program Africa’s Asian Options. Together with Rirhandu Mageza-Barthel she investigates civil society perspectives on African-Chinese relations. She has published widely on transnational gender politics and the politics of women’s human rights. Currently, together with Ross Anthony (Center of Chinese Studies, Stellenbosch University), she is preparing a volume on African-Asian encounters.

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Name: SALA Alice

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Neuchâtel, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Standard, Sub-standard, Fake & Original

Abstract:

Computer Village in Lagos, Nigeria, is one of the biggest IT markets in Africa. It offers new, used, original, fake, standard or substandard IT related goods or services. Spontaneously born in a former residential area, Computer Village is also must-know hub in the IT trading networks of the so-called globalization from below. Asian products played a central role in the birth and growth of the market, as it will be illustrated with two examples. The first one, relating to the history of the market, shows how in the early nineties, the importation of spare parts from Hong Kong led to the creation of the cloning industry – locally assembled, unbranded computers – and the first period of boom of the market. The second focuses on the contemporary repair industry. With the arrival of laptops, computer cloning faded away and used-electronics from the West became a leading source of computers. A thriving repair industry developed. Spare parts for the industry are obtained by the scrapping non-working and non-repairable machines imported from the West (mainly, but not only, UK and USA) challenging the understanding of e-waste. Scarcity of specific parts, such as the motherboard and screens, make the importation of new, but sub-standard parts from China, crucial to the sustainability of the industry. The two examples emphasize how Chinese and Western products evolved side by side in the market, and how this co-evolution was (and is) a sine qua non for the success of Computer Village. However, discourse around Chinese products are often shaped in comparison/competition with Western products. Complaints about the quality of Chinese products as well as trust-related issues with Chinese traders, are so common, that in the market, the word China is used as synonymous for substandard or fake products. On the other hand, Computer Village traders, appreciate Chinese traders’ who consider African traders as valuable and equal economic partners. Unlike the Western World who provides better quality simply because they get rid of their grade A garbage. An exploration of the double narrative of complaints and praises, with a reflection on the double movement of competition and complementary of Chinese and Western products, opens a way to re-think the place of Nigerian traders in the global movement of commodities, challenging the narrative of African as victims of the used-electronics trade.

Biography:

Alice Sala works on the informal trade of used electronics, also known as e-waste. Based on a multisided ethnography in Lagos (Nigeria) and Guangzhou (China), her research focuses on Computer Village—one of the biggest African IT markets, and on the fast-growing Nigerian traders’ community in Guangzhou—one of the biggest suppliers for this market. Used electronics are the fastest growing stream of waste, yet are poorly researched by social scientists. Alice’s work explores strategies, practices and discourses of the migrants/entrepreneurs/traders, and wants to understand this global phenomenon beyond the victimhood and/or criminal templates. Her original research is part of the project Circuits of Value, Streams of stuff: living off the global trade and treatment of “e-waste”. Alice previously worked on prostitution, migration, and visual anthropology. Today, along her PhD dissertation, she is working on a documentary film on the same topic as her research.

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Name: SAUTMAN Barry

Institutional Affiliation and Title: Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, Professor

Presentation Title: Chinese and "Self-Segregation" in Africa

Abstract:
Chinese are often said to "self-segregate" in Africa. Chinese ethnocentricty is typically offered as an explanation for the putative noninteraction. Meanwhile Chinese are not compared to other non-indigenous people in Africa, implying unique Chinese self-isolation. Based on surveys, interviews and documents, we examine the varied presence of Chinese in Africa, particularly in terms of their residential patterns and acquisition of local languages, drawing distinctions between Chinese expatriates and Chinese migrants. Factors affecting Chinese adaptation include local political environment, recentness of migration, language barriers, and corporate policies to mitigate crime and conflict. We argue that residence, language learning and socialization patterns indicate that most Chinese in Africa are not self-segregated. Chinese are not more isolated in Africa than are other Asian migrants and whites in Africa. Claims of Chinese self-segregation reflect a longstanding, global Yellow Peril discourse that persists despite discrediting evidence.

Biography:

Barry Sautman, a political scientist and lawyer at the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, has worked on ethnic politics in China, including ethnic policies, the Tibet and Xinjiang issues, and relations between Hong Kong people and mainland Chinese. He co-authored with Yan Hairong, Localists and 'Locusts' in Hong Kong: Creating a Yellow-Red Peril Discourse (Baltimore: University of Maryland Series in Contemporary Asian Studies, 2015). They also research China/Africa political economy and interactions between Chinese and Africans, most recently publishing 中国在非洲: 话语与现实 (China in Africa: Discourses and Reality) (北京:社会科学文献出版社 2017).

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Name: SCHAEFER Florian

Institutional Affiliation and Title: SOAS, University of London, Post-doc

Presentation Title: Researching Chinese firms in Africa – methodological lessons from a large-scale survey in Ethiopia and Angola

Abstract:

The dramatic upsurge during the 2000s of Chinese investment in sub-Saharan Africa has sparked discussion about its development impact. In particular in the area of labour relations, Chinese investments have proven controversial. Reports of employment creation have been accompanied by accounts of low pay for African workers, labours rights violations, cultural clashes and rumours of mass immigration of China labourers into African countries. However, concrete evidence on the impact of Chinese firms has remained limited. Much of the relevant research is based on case studies or surveys with small sample sizes. These can tell us a lot about the everyday experiences and perspectives of both Africans and Chinese, but are of more limited use for comparative work. One of the reasons for this relative lack of comparative large-scale studies is the difficulty of conducting surveys of Chinese firms and projects in Africa. Sampling, access and logistics issues present formidable barriers to research in many African contexts, and are especially severe in the case of Chinese firms and projects. This paper discusses these difficulties and presents practical methods for overcoming or mitigating them. These solutions are based on a recently completed large-scale survey of workers on Chinese projects, compared to other foreign and local firms/projects. Our survey was designed to gauge the employment effects of both Chinese foreign direct investment and Chinese overseas contracted projects. Accordingly, we conducted 500 interviews with workers in 31 Chinese firms and projects in two sectors, construction and manufacturing, in two countries where such Chinese investment has been substantial, i.e. Angola and Ethiopia. We also interviewed over 1,000 workers in non-Chinese firms in the same sectors and countries. Our sample of Chinese companies and projects included both state-owned enterprises and private firms. This paper explains the methods used to construct a complete sampling frame in the absence of reliable administrative data, to create partnerships with African and Chinese stakeholders, and to negotiate access to companies and projects.

Biography:

Florian T. Schäfer is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Development Studies at SOAS, University of London, from where he also obtained his PhD. His main research interests are the political economy of industrialisation and agrarian change, the development of entrepreneurship and labour markets, and empirical research methods. Much of this research focuses on Ethiopia, where Florian has lived and worked for several years.

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Name: SHERIDAN Derek

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Brandeis University, Lecturer

Presentation Title: *The Kung Fu Histories of the Swahili Coast*

Abstract:

The Chinese state has recently mobilized the Chinese martial arts (wushu) as a form of “soft power.” The practice of the broader East Asian martial arts on the Swahili Coast, however, predates the current China-Africa moment, and derives from a multitude of sources including: Hong Kong films, postcolonial military exchange programs, itinerant migration, and Islamic spiritual knowledges. These histories illustrate the longstanding presence of Afro-Asian connections and the significant role played by African martial artists, complicating assumptions about who has authored “East Asian” and/or “Chinese” cultural signs in the region. What happens when these histories encounter the Chinese state’s mobilization of “martial arts diplomacy”? In this paper, we challenge the presentism and state-centrism of much of the discussion on Chinese “cultural diplomacy” by situating signs of “Chinese-ness” into broader East African imaginaries of East Asia with longer historical roots. We argue that Chinese cultural diplomacy has not been alone in the construction of Afro-Asian imaginaries, although the forms they take may not be immediately recognizable. In the case of the martial arts, some Shaolin Temple-trained Chinese instructors in Tanzania regard the eclectic hybridity of the Tanzanian martial arts to be a mistranslation of Chinese cultural heritage. Tanzanian martial artists, on the other hand, offer contending perspectives on cultural authority. Authenticity and validation for “true” martial arts are often attributed to China and other East Asian countries, but also to more local destinations like the offshore island of Pemba, from which an unusually high number of Tanzanian Karate and Wushu practitioners have originated. Some of them are spiritual healers who offer alternative narratives which locate the origins of the martial arts in the Islamic world. These practices and narratives suggest an East African history of the martial arts which both precedes and shapes the China-Africa present.

Biography:

Derek Sheridan is a Lecturer with the Department of Anthropology at Brandeis University. He holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Brown University. His research addresses transnationalism and migration, ethics, inequality, race, theories of empire and non-empire, and South-South relations between (global) China and Tanzania. He has been a previous recipient of research fellowships from the National Science Foundation, Wenner-Gren Foundation and the Social Science Research Council. His work appears in *Verge: Studies in Global Asias*, and an upcoming issue of *Anthropological Quarterly*. Derek’s doctoral field research as conducted in Dar es Salaam among Chinese migrant entrepreneurs and their Tanzanian interlocutors. Derek’s research recasts worldmaking claims about “empire,” “friendship,” and “Afro-Asia” in Chinese-Tanzanian relations through the lens of the interpersonal ethics of global inequality.

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Name: SINDZINGRE Alice Nicole

Institutional Affiliation and Position: National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS, France); SOAS University of London, Senior Research Fellow

Presentation Title: Language as a dimension of the economic relationships between China and Sub-Saharan Africa (with a focus on East Africa)

Abstract:

The economics of language focuses on the relationships and endogeneity between economic mechanisms and concepts on the one hand, and language on the other (Grin, 1996a,b; Huang et al, 2017; Rubinstein, 2000): how economic activities influence the use and dynamics of language; and how language and language policies influence economic outcomes and income (Huang, 2017). In these studies, however, analyses of developing countries remain under-investigated.

The paper contributes to filling this gap and uses the conceptual questions of the economics of language for an analysis of the determinants and constraints that shape the relationships between language (Chinese and African languages) and the economic nexus linking China and Sub-Saharan Africa (trade, investment, aid; migration). These relationships are shaped by various factors, such as language skills as human capital and language as an asset in migration.

Firstly, the paper argues that language influences bilateral economic linkages (Melitz, 2008; Egger and Lassmann, 2012) in terms of both efficiency and depth and makes the point that the reciprocal relationships between language usage and economic outcomes may be subjected to a process of fallacy of composition: at the micro level, communication through a given language may constitute an economic asset, which disappears if at the macro level, all master that language (which may be due to governmental policy). Using ‘less-commonly-taught languages’, such as Chinese, may be economically efficient and the differences in economic impacts depend on the level of language skills as human capital (Zhang, 2016). Secondly, the paper argues that migration between Sub-Saharan Africa and China is another aspect of the relationships between economic outcomes and language, with immigrants’ quest for trade and investment opportunities fostering the use of local language as an asset regarding their adaptation.

Biography:

Alice Nicole Sindzingre is a Research Fellow at the French national agency for research, the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), and is affiliated to the University Paris-Nanterre (research centre EconomiX). She is also Associate Researcher at the research centre ‘Africas in the World’ (LAM, CNRS-SciencesPo-Bordeaux). She taught in 2008-2010 at the Institute of Political Studies (SciencesPo-Paris). She is also since 2003 Visiting Lecturer at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS University of London), in the department of economics, where she teaches the macroeconomic dimensions of Sub-Saharan African economies. In 2005-2008, she wrote the monthly column on the theories of development in the French newspaper Le Monde. She has served as a consultant for governments and international organisations. She has been a member of the Core Team of the World Bank World Development Report 2000-1 on poverty. She has conducted research on development economics and political economy, mostly in West Africa. She has published a great number of articles in academic journals and books on a large range of topics, including international trade, the economic relationships between Sub-Saharan Africa and China, and the theory of institutions in relation with development.

Email: ansindzingre@orange.fr
Name: SONG Xinning

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Jean Monnet Chair, Renmin University of China & VUB, Professor

Presentation Title: China-Africa-Europe: A Complicated Affaire

Abstract:

China's role in Africa, not overestimate. China's economic relations with Africa is not China's priority. Problems of China's development assistant to Africa. China is learning the lessons of Europe in Africa. Delimas of EU-China cooperation in Africa. Possible EU-China cooperation in Africa: economic, development, security, etc.

Biography:

Prof. Dr. Xinning Song is Jean Monnet Chair ad personam at Renmin University of China in Beijing. He is the China Director of the Brussels Academy of China and European Studies, and China Director of Confucius Institute at VUB, Belgium. He serves also Vice President of China Association for European Studies, Vice President, China Association for European Politics, and Vice President of China Association for British Studies. He was the Senior Research Fellow at UNU-CRIS from 2007 to 2010, Director of the Centre for European Studies at Renmin University of China from 1994 to 2007. He acted also as the Vice Chair of International Politics Department and then the Associate Dean of the School of International Studies at RUC from 1988 until 2005. His research interests include: international relations theory, international political economy, comparative regional integration, European integration, regional integration in the Asia-Pacific, European politics and external relations, Chinese politics and foreign policy, EU-China relations.

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Name: SUN Jodie Yuzhou

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Oxford, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Historicising African socialisms: Kenya’s African socialism, Zambian Humanism, and Communist China’s entanglements

Abstract:

While it is commonly recognised by scholars that there is not a monolithic definition of socialism, the meaning of the term was the subject of fierce and politically influential contestation during the Cold War. Although the great dispute regarding ‘true’ interpretations of socialism divided the Communist bloc throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Africa’s own role in these debates, despite its perceived position as laboratory for Western ideas and practices, has received little contemporary scholarly attention. Marxist writers for example generally considered African societies as too underdeveloped to host a proletarian revolution led by its tiny working-class. There has also been an increasing interest in re-evaluating Africa’s contributions to the theories and practices of socialism. This article builds on these achievements, drawing on the newly accessed Kenyan and Zambian archives and previously neglected Chinese sources. It constructs a historiography of African socialisms through a triangulation of the influences of the global Cold War, the political culture of individual African states, and their bilateral relations with Communist countries. Post-independence Kenya and Zambia developed their distinct political, economic and social trajectories in ways that reflected their own experience and the distinct perspectives of their rulers, among other factors. But these two African states, despite considerable similarities in their historical development, did not deliver identical results. While Zambian Humanism was a catch-all term during the rule of Kenneth Kaunda’s United National Independence Party, Jomo Kenyatta and the later anti-Odinga coalition within Kenya African National Unity preferred the branding of ‘African Socialism’ much more than its substance or ethos. Kenya and Zambia’s increasing divergence, in terms of foreign policy in general and relations with Communist China in particular, revealed the diversity rather than the consistency of African experiments in socialism.

Biography:

Jodie Yuzhou Sun is a DPhil student in History at the University of Oxford, sponsored by the China Scholarship Council-Oxford Scholarship. Her research is titled ‘Brotherly Strangers: Historicising and Disaggregating Kenya and Zambia’s relation with China (1961-2000). She has published a couple of writing pieces and blogs in both English and Chinese. She has been invited to present her research at several international conferences such as the 58th Annual Meeting of African Studies Association in San Diego, U.S. She has been active in various research networks such as the Oxford University China Africa Network and organised the 2017 Researching Africa Day graduate conference at the Oxford African Studies Centre. In 2014, she graduated from the MSc African Studies at the University of Oxford. Her previous working experiences include the University of Nottingham Ningbo China and the China Development Bank.

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Name: SUN Yi

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Massachusetts Amherst, Ph.D. Candidate

Presentation Title: An Analysis of China-Africa Relations through the Lens of Higher Education: Conversations with Cameroonian Students in China

Abstract:

In the past twenty years, China’s “invite in” (引进来 or inflow FDI) and “go out” (走出去 or outflow FDI) strategies have been influencing both of its domestic and foreign policies. As a national development strategy to the course of China’s modernization, although the two terms were initially understood in the commercial realm, the strategic concept behind the policy represented China’s willingness to cooperate with the world, and the use of both terms have been extended from commercial to social and cultural related sectors. For instance, higher education institutions in China serve as one of the leading sectors that carry responsibility for human capacity building and social development; it implements China’s developmental policy and puts it into actions at various levels. On the one hand, the Chinese government and higher education institutions encourage Chinese students to go overseas to learn skills and expand their global horizons. On the other hand, China also invites international students to come to study in Chinese universities. This paper uses China’s strategy of extraversion as a theoretical background, aims to examine how China’s developmental concept also serves to improve and strengthen its relationship with countries in the global South by promoting educational aid through exchange and scholarship programs. China’s new role as a developmental partner rather than a traditional donor in Africa has always been controversial. In the higher education realm, for instance, China’s education assistance to Africa is different in forms and faces methodological challenges. Through conversations with 15 Cameroonian students in a Chinese university, the paper analyzes their motivations for studying in China, opinions of living in China, and their plans after graduation. Based on the findings of the case study, the paper evaluates current status and progress of cooperation and implications of China’s higher education engagement with Cameroon and beyond.

Biography:

Yi Sun is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Center for International Education, Educational Policy, Research and Administration Department at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She was awarded the Ambassador Cynthia Shepard Perry Award for the year 2017-2018 and has been an active researcher on China-Africa relations, China’s model, and South-South cooperation, through the lens of higher education and human resource development. Yi holds a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics. Under the guidance of Professor Donaldo Macedo and Professor Pepi Leistyna (passed away), her research focuses were then in the areas of sociolinguistics, cultural studies, and critical theory, which provided a solid theoretical foundation for her later research. Yi’s doctoral dissertation looks at the business education of African students in a Chinese university. It examines China’s development model, China’s role in international education, and how China’s international higher education interacts with Africa’s rising economic development and human capacity building and beyond. Yi’s research attempts to analyze China’s higher education engagement with African countries from cultural, historical, social, and economic perspectives. She has been collaboratively working with researchers in the fields of comparative education, China’s foreign relations, China-Africa relations, and African studies.

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Trust and uncertainty in visions of Africa: Chinese audience reception to “Africa” in Wolf Warrior 2

Abstract:

Wolf Warrior 2 (Wu: 2017), a film released in 2017 during broader national celebrations for the PRC’s 90th anniversary of the People’s Liberation Army, topped China’s all time box office rankings. The film garnered praise from within China for its portrayal of a strong China, while outside of China the film received criticism for the exploitative portrayal of a volatile and imaginary “African” nation. While China’s trading interests in the African continent was established some time ago now, Wolf Warrior 2 heralded the first time “Africa” featured prominently on China’s big screens. This paper presents the results of focus groups conducted with 80 Chinese university students in Suzhou (Jiangsu Province) in conjunction with screenings of the film. Focus groups with the students revealed a range of thoughts and attitudes to what students understood “Africa” to be after watching Wolf Warrior 2, and varying degrees of trust in the film’s portrayal of “African” society, and “Africa”. While some were adamant that this was in fact what Africa was like, others responded with caution. Despite these students feeling embarrassed or disappointed in the film’s portrayal of Africans, these students were disappointed but for reasons they were not entirely sure how to explain. Having little to no knowledge about Africa, and brought up in a society where trust and loyalty to the nation’s leadership is highly regarded, criticizing Wolf Warrior 2 in a group discussion environment became a question of critiquing China. Overall, only 2 of the students out of 80 expressed an interest in visiting somewhere in Africa after watching the film, with all others saying they would not feel safe travelling to Africa due to the portrayal of Africa in Wolf Warrior 2.

Biography:

Dr Nicole Talmacs received her PhD from the University of Sydney (2015) and joined the JC School of Film and Television Arts at Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (Suzhou, Jiangsu) as a Lecturer in Media and Communications Studies in 2016. She is the author of China’s Cinema of Class: Audiences and Narratives (Routledge 2017). Her current research project investigates global audience reception of contemporary commercial Chinese cinema in light of China’s recent efforts to internationalise the nation’s commercial film industry. The project incorporates reception from audiences of Chinese cinema in Australia, UK, USA, India, Zambia, Ethiopia and Kazakhstan.

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Name: TAN-MULLINS May

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Nottingham Ningbo China, Director of Institute of Asia and Pacific Studies, Professor

Presentation Title: Political Ecology of Corporate Social Responsibility of Chinese enterprises in Africa

Abstract:

Drawing upon empirical data collected in China and Africa, this article evaluates Chinese overseas corporate social responsibility strategies through the political ecology approach. By focusing on power relations between various stakeholders, this paper specifically investigate Chinese projects in Africa to assess the effectiveness of Chinese CSR in mitigating environmental impacts in parts of Africa. China’s enhanced role within the global economy has profound environmental implications for the world. In particular, China has rapidly expanded its environmental footprint in Africa, largely because of its burgeoning economic presence through trade and aid projects such as infrastructure and public works. These large-scale projects, commonly managed by State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), tend to be in sectors that are environmentally sensitive such as oil and gas exploration and construction of major infrastructure. At the international level, global financial institutions along with growing pressure from civil society organisations are encouraging China to demonstrate a commitment to addressing the environmental impacts of its overseas projects. At the domestic level, growing awareness of such issues has generated an emerging trend of Chinese entities promoting and adopting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. These moves seek to improve the environmental and social impacts of Chinese overseas investments. However, research has shown that the outcomes of Chinese overseas CSR strategies (particularly in environmental protection) vary widely due to: (1) the operating procedures of the Chinese SOEs; (2) specific local political and social structures; (3) composites of stakeholder groups and finally (4) unequal power relationships between the different stakeholders. In general environmental protection is weak and so there is a need for the Chinese and African governments to create a legislative and institutional framework to address Chinese investment in Africa especially in the area of natural resource extraction. But what is more important is that CSR should become a tool of empowerment and provide a platform for the stakeholders’ negotiation and wider public participation in environmental issues arising from Chinese investment in Africa.

Biography:

Professor May Tan-Mullins became the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning on 1 January 2018. She is also a Professor in International Relations, the Director of Institute of Asia and Pacific Studies and the series editor of Palgrave Series in Asia and Pacific Studies. Besides, May is appointed as the Head of The International Exchange and Cooperation Center of Ningbo Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) Cooperation Institute, as well as the Director of The Ningbo International Collaboration Research Institute. May joined the University of Nottingham Ningbo China in 2009 as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to full professor in 2015. She was also previously the Head of School of International Studies and Dean of Graduate School. In addition, she is a recipient of the esteemed Lord Dearing Excellent Teaching Award (2014) and Vice Chancellor Medal (2017). Her research interests are political ecology of rising China, environmental and energy justice, poverty alleviation and building resilience for the poorest and most vulnerable. Based on her expertise in various international development and human security issues, she is a consultant for the UNDP, National Bureau of Asian Research (US), the Revenue Watch Institute (US) and the Chinese government.

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Name: TESFAYE Aaron

Institutional Affiliation and Position: William Paterson University, Professor

Presentation Title: The Ethiopian-Djibouti Railway and China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): Towards a Trans-African-Linkage?

Abstract:
Ethiopia-China friendship is solid. The Ethiopia-Djibouti Railway, which was completed by China and Ethiopia in 2017 is widely seen as the first electrified railway in Africa and the start of a Trans-African railway project via China’s Belt and Road initiative (BRI). It is expected to buoy up the relation to continental level. But there are challenges to the BRI with its vision how the Ethio-Djibouti Railway, is expected to connect Ethiopia to Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and South Africa. These are the above nations lack resources for inter-continental infrastructure building, and the African Union (AU) has an urgent priority in which it must address the root causes of Africans migrating to Europe—such as poverty, marginalization and war. The paper will explore opportunities for Horn and Eastern African nations to participate in the BRI linking Djibouti, the ports of Lamu (Kenya) and Bagamoyo (Tanzania) leading to regional economic development and international trade with China.

Biography:
Aaron Tesfaye is Professor of Political Science at William Paterson University, in Wayne, NJ. He is the author of several books and many scholarly articles. His publications include:; State and Economic Development in Africa: the Case of Ethiopia (2017); The Political Economy of the Nile Basin Regime in the Twentieth Century (2009); Political Power and Ethnic Federalism: the Struggle for Democracy in Ethiopia (2002) and China and Ethiopia: The Long-Term Perspective (forthcoming NY: State University of NY Press 2019.) He is a Visiting Professor at the Institute of Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University, and has also taught at Universidad De Sao Jose, Macau, S.A.R. Peoples Republic of China (2011.) He was a 2010-2011 Fulbright Scholar at the Department of Political Science and International Studies, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.

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Abstract:

Ever since China announced the ‘Vision and actions on jointly building Silk Road economic belt and 21st century maritime Silk Road’ and elaborated on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2015, academic research, policy reports and journalistic commentaries have been sceptical of the intentions and potential outcomes of such a massive infrastructure plan. It is not surprising that China’s slowing economic growth, the unprecedented problem of overcapacity and inevitable development bottlenecks will continue to drive speculation and interest into the study of the hidden agenda, development imperatives, unsustainable economic outcomes and undesirable socio-political trajectories for the engaging countries. Following the perspectives adopted by studies on China’s overseas investments, foreign trade and non-conditional aided programme during the ‘going-out’ strategy in the 2000s, much of the research on BRI focuses on controversial geo-strategic frameworks and explains the possible outcome of state developmentalism such as extractive neo-colonialism, military expansionism and authoritarian statism. Although China’s geo-political implications in the region is a legitimate concern, its geo-perceptions are of no less importance. This paper first compares the public perceptions of the relation with China in four different cities in Kazakhstan—Khorgos, Almaty, Astana and Aktau—and seeks to discover the patterns of which outsiders in general project more negative perceptions than insiders. An in-depth case study of the emerging China-Europe freight train services, and the resulting freight-led infrastructure in Khorgos will then be used to explain the geo-perception of China’s Belt and Road initiatives and its impact on the local community in terms of historical legacy, goal compatibility, power distribution and market structure.

Biography:

Dr Linda Yin-Nor Tjia is a political economist who specializes in infrastructure development in China. Her solely authored book on Explaining Railway Reform in China was published in 2016 under the Routledge Contemporary China Series. She also studies ports and logistics development; cross-boundary movement of people and social integration; as well as social capital, social economy and social development. Dr Tjia received her doctoral degree at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. She is currently an assistant professor at the Department of Asian and International Studies, the City University of Hong Kong. Prior to her academic endeavors, she has extensive working experience in the railway sector in Hong Kong and the Mainland.

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Name: TJØNNELAND Elling

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Chr. Michelsen Institute, Research Associate/Fellow

Presentation Title: China and Telecommunications in Africa

Abstract:

The article will present aspects of Chinese investments in telecommunications with special attention on the situation in a few African countries (South Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya) and looking at how Chinese telecommunications companies (Huawei, ZTE, StarTimes), Chinese finance institutions and the Chinese state operates in this sector and analyse their role in the African telecom revolution and its implications.

Biography:

Senior researcher at the Chr. Michelsen Institute in Bergen, Norway. Political scientist. His main research has revolved around (Southern) Africa, peace and security, emerging powers, civil society and the global aid architecture. He also provides advisory services for a range of development aid agencies.

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Name: VAN DER LUGT Sanne

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Both Chinese and U.S. investments are directed to political instable and institutional mature countries in Africa

Abstract:

International Business theories put much weight on the China-Africa discourse; even though these theories are not always empirically verified. For example, potential explanations provided in a discussion section of the much quoted paper by Buckley et al. (2007) for why Chinese firms may not behave in the conventional manner regarding risk taking, are referred to as findings in later studies (Amighini et al. (2013); Buckley, Yu, Liu, Munjal and Tao (2016). This way the assumption of the uniqueness of the determinants of Chinese FDI is perpetuated without providing proof for it. Taking stock of the above discussion, the aim of our study is to empirically test the assumed competitive advantage for Chinese firms in relatively high risk host countries. We use a conceptual framework presented by Child and Marinova (2014) to study this role of regulative institutional distance for the location choice of Chinese and U.S. firms. In line with Cuervo-Cazurra and Genc (2008) and Morck et al. (2008), Child and Marinova (2014) argue that firms are most successful in host countries with a similar level of political stability (PS) and institutional maturity (IM) as in their home country since this reduces the learning that is required to build institutional and resource capital in those countries. However, a quantitative proof of the framework is lacking. Our study aims to fill this gap and empirically test Child and Marinova's framework. To do this we run an analysis on the determinants of FDI from Chinese and U.S. firms in a group of African destination countries for the period 2003-2011. Our results provide interesting new insights on the role of institutional distance, on the uniqueness of Chinese FDI, and partly contradict the framework presented by Child and Marinova (2014).

Biography:

Ms. Sanne van der Lugt is a BIGSSS Ph.D. Fellow at Jacobs University, Germany. Her research interests are the political economy of China-Africa relations, Chinese outward FDI and Chinese business culture, with a current focus on Chinese investments in the telecom infrastructure sector in Nigeria. Her background in Anthropology, International Political Economy and International Business has allowed her to study these topics from various perspectives. She aims to reduce some of the pressure between China and Western powers in Africa by revealing the mistakes in the strong assumptions regarding Chinese economic activities in Africa expressed in Western media and academic reports. She has worked as a research analyst at the Centre for Chinese Studies at Stellenbosch University in South Africa and led and conducted fieldwork in South Africa, Nigeria, Lesotho, the DRC, Zambia, Senegal and Algeria.

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Name: VAN HOEYMISSEN Sara

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Botswana, Assistant Professor

Presentation Title: China and the International Responsibility to Protect Non-Human Animals: The Case of Ivory Trade

Abstract:

Under the leadership of Xi Jinping China’s policy on international trade in ivory has quickly evolved from utilitarian to increasingly conservationist. The presentation explores the interplay of ideas and institutions, norms and interests, national and international factors that contributed to this remarkable policy change. The paper highlights three factors in particular. Firstly, it explores the importance of broader ideational changes in Chinese foreign policy, in particular ideas about power, influence, sovereignty and responsibility, in paving the way for a growing Chinese acceptance of a responsibility to protect elephants. Secondly, the paper highlights the role played by a sustained global campaign emphasizing a causal relationship between any form of trade in ivory, including legal trade, and poaching. Finally, the paper highlights how careful bilateral diplomacy on the part of the Obama Administration resulted in joint action by China and the US on this multilateral conservation issue. The paper argues that the role played by ideational changes in Chinese foreign policy, global activism and US-China diplomacy account for the fact that although ivory trade is an African issue, Africa did not feature that prominently in the dynamics surrounding Chinese decision-making on ivory trade. The presentation draws more general conclusions on effective pathways to influence China’s policies on African issues that could benefit from increased Chinese involvement.

Biography:

Sara Van Hoeymissen is a Senior Lecturer in the Chinese Studies Programme at the University of Botswana (UB). She lectures in Chinese Studies and Mandarin Chinese. She currently also serves as the Programme Coordinator. Prior to joining the University of Botswana, Sara taught in Belgium and Zimbabwe. She holds a PhD in Chinese Studies from University of Leuven. Her research interests are in Chinese foreign policy and Africa-China relations.

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Name: VAN WYK Barry

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Africa-China Reporting Project, University of the Witwatersrand, Project Coordinator

Presentation Title: Networking a quiet community: South African Chinese news reporting and networking

Abstract:

South Africa's Chinese community has its own Chinese language news reporting and networking, yet due to the language barrier this has remained closed off to non-Chinese. Based on in-depth research of South African Chinese news reporting for the period January to June 2017, this paper will lift the veil on South Africa’s surprisingly rich Chinese news reporting and networking, focusing among other things on the South Africa Chinese Community & Police Cooperation Centre and all the major players in the local Chinese community. The paper will also include a timeline of all major news affecting the Chinese community for the period covered, an overview of major players and associations, and a review of underlying trends.

Biography:

Barry van Wyk is Project Coordinator of the Africa-China Reporting Project at Wits Journalism in Johannesburg, a post he has held from 2015. He holds an MSc in Economic History from the London School of Economics, and an MHCS from the University of Pretoria. Previously Barry spent eight years in China studying Chinese at Tianjin Normal University, and working as a consultant for The Beijing Axis and Danwei, both in Beijing.

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Abstract:

In this paper, we explore the influence of the growing Chinese presence in Africa on African fashion trends and tastes. The entry of Chinese clothes and other fashion products, such as footwear, cosmetics, hair extensions, and jewellery, as well as fibre, fabrics, and designs in markets across the African continent has had a profound impact on the composition of local fashion industries as well as the fashion choices of African consumers. Rather than bilateral adoptions and adaptations, changing African fashion, we argue, reflects a triangular relation between China, Africa and the West. Drawing on research in Mozambique and Ethiopia, we show that the introduction of Chinese fashion products, fabrics, and designs has prompted competition in value, regarding price, aesthetics, and quality, as well as complementation of value. Affordable, novel, bold, and bright, Chinese fashion both competes with African and Western fashion when it comes to price and aesthetic value and fills a niche in the market between African and Western fashion products and designs. What is more, through the purchase of western-style Chinese-made products and fabrics, Mozambicans and Ethiopians with limited means are able to approximate western styles. For one thing, fashion politics in the context of China in Mozambique and Ethiopia reflect and represent the very nature of China-Africa-West relations. As the African continent has once again become an ideological battle ground, China's growing role is perceived as competing with, as well as complementing Western influence, while African producers, sellers and consumers weigh newly available choices and reshape fashion trends and tastes.

Biography:

Johanna von Pezold graduated from the MSc in Contemporary Chinese Studies at the University of Oxford in 2017. For her master’s thesis, she conducted ethnographic fieldwork in the Mozambican capital Maputo, examining mutual fashion adaptation in the context of Chinese migration to Mozambique. Before that, she has been studying Chinese and Economics at the University of Hamburg and the Pontificia Universidade Catolica in Rio de Janeiro. She has worked for the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Beijing, the BRICS Policy Center in Rio de Janeiro, and the Boston Consulting Group in Hamburg. Johanna currently is a visiting student at the School of Chinese as a Second Language at Peking University, supported by a Chinese Government Scholarship.

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Abstract:

With initiating the infrastructure reconstruction with a predictably large scale as the necessary consequence of peacebuilding, there has been increasing discussions on the relationship between road built and forest protection during the process of the DRC recovering its stability and order in the past over ten years. In construction sector, the business from Africa is critical to Chinese companies. Since 2004, Africa has the biggest of all overseas markets for Chinese contractors and beyond 2008 this continent has contributed over 40% income of these companies abroad. Therefore, it is inevitable to raise the concerns about if Chinese contractors give rise to more deforestation in the DRC. The research is aimed to investigate this topic. This research aims to establish the nature of the relationship between infrastructure (principally transport) projects and the illegal timber trade based on the fieldwork in the DRC and China in 2016 and the data mining on China’s timber trade in the past 15 years. In conclusion, it is lack of assertive evidence of Chinese contractors’ involvement into those illegal activities. One side, there is inadequate economic incentive for Chinese contractors to chase the logging or timber trade. The other side, infrastructure expansion in the DRC actually provided the opportunity to develop substitute energy for wood consumption of local people therefore it was helpful to rainforest protection. Although so, it will be meaningful for China’s government, investors, contractors and NGOs to develop more collaboration with partners in the DRC and from international community.

Biography:

Mr. Wang Duanyong is the Director of the Centre for China’s Overseas Interests Studies and associate professor at Shanghai International Studies University, China. Professor Wang received his Ph.D. in Economics from Wuhan University in 2007. He has served in enterprises, universities and think tanks for more than 20 years. Currently his research interests focuses on China’s investment in mining, agricultural sector and infrastructure projects in Sub-Saharan African countries. Since 2011, Dr. Wang and his team have conducted a series of fieldworks in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Angola and Egypt on Chinese economic engagement in the sectors of excavation, forestry, construction and security.

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Name: WANG Jing

Institutional Affiliation and Title: China House, Nairobi, Kenya.

Presentation Title: The Roles of Chinese Nationals in African Illegal Wildlife Trade: Myths, Reality, and Gaps

Biography:

Wang Jing has been interning at China House since 2017 and has been working on wildlife conservation projects

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Name: WANG Jinpu

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Syracuse University, PhD candidate

Presentation Title: Nationalism, overseas Chinese state, and the construction of “Chineseness” among Chinese migrant entrepreneurs in Ghana

Abstract:

This study aims to investigate the role of the expanding overseas Chinese state in the construction of “Chineseness” among Chinese migrant entrepreneurs in Ghana. It especially focuses on the manifestation of the ideology of Chinese nationalism in the migrants’ living experience. Data analyzed in this study are primarily drawn from extensive interviews with private entrepreneurs, employees of Chinese state-owned enterprises, and Chinese embassy officials in Ghana. Besides, this study is supplemented by a content analysis on archive data collected from media reports, policy documents, online forums and social media. This study reveals that as an unintended consequence, private entrepreneurs enjoy tangible benefits from the expanding presence of overseas Chinese state in Ghana. Strategies and policies implemented by the Chinese government and its overseas representatives that aim to engage Chinese diasporas also contribute to spreading nationalism and building a deterritorial Chinese identity.

Biography:

Jinpu Wang is currently a PhD candidate in Sociology Department, Syracuse University. His research interest encompasses globalization, immigration, and social stratification. Jinpu’s ongoing dissertation project explores the links between Chinese emigration to Ghana and social transition in contemporary China.

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Name: WANG Wei

Institutional Affiliation and Title: The University of Hong Kong, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: Unblessed Union: African-Chinese Couples in Southern China

Abstract:

Despite long-standing anti-colonization and Black-Yellow political solidarity between sub-Saharan African countries and the People's Republic of China, it is only recently the Black African community visibility in China has garnered attention. A growing field of interdisciplinary studies has concentrated largely on the precarious experiences of Africans and institutional barriers for their integration in China. This study examines romantic relationships and dynamics between African foreign traders and ethnic Chinese nationals in Guangzhou, drawing on intra-household bargaining theory. Findings from ethnographic fieldwork with members of African-Chinese couples (n= 18) highlight how this group differs from the more typical international marriages in East and Southeast Asia. In this group, the foreign partners are mostly men. Furthermore, the marriage patterns fail to reflect hypergamy, especially compared to other regional international marriage migrations. The study contributes to understanding how African-Chinese interracial couples navigate their marital pathways and enriches the current literature on international marriage in East and Southeast Asia.

Biography:

Wang Wei (Jupiter) is a first-year Ph.D. student with a particular focus on African-Chinese interracial couples in China and Ethiopia. Currently, he is working under the supervision of Dr. Lucy Jordan in the Department of Social Work and Social Administration and is affiliated with the African Studies Centre, both at The University of Hong Kong. Prior to joining the PhD program, he worked as research assistant and field worker for the project of Afro-Chinese interracial families in Guangzhou, contributing to the publication of two papers on non-profits and service delivery for African migrants and families. Previously Wang Wei studied Journalism in Sichuan University, China and worked as a journalist in the field of economics and public policies from 2007 to 2011 for Hunan Satellite TV, China, before completing his Master of Social Work from The University of Hong Kong in 2015.

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Name: WENG Xiaoxue

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Research Fellow

Presentation Title: Chinese investments, environment and rural poverty in Africa: insights from agriculture, forestry and mining sectors in Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Abstract:

Our report, synthesising findings from three years of research in agriculture, forestry and mining across three African countries, we sought to understand whether Chinese trade and investments in Africa’s rural economy can be leveraged to bring about inclusive and sustainable development. Using qualitative and quantitative data collected from over 700 surveys, 130 interviews and 100 focus groups, we examined the following questions: Do Chinese businesses engage with Africa’s rural economy differently from established businesses and, if so, how?; How do African actors and their governance systems formally and informally respond to and interact with disruptions in the commercial landscape linked to Chinese enterprises?; and How are Africa’s environment and its small-scale producers (of agriculture goods, timber and minerals) affected by such disruptions in the commercial landscape and governance systems? Across the three sectors, Chinese investors are employing a variety of business strategies that contrast with those employed by established players in the sector. In all cases, this has upset the prevailing governance regimes. The immediate impacts on small-scale rural producers (farmers, loggers and miners) are found to be generally positive. Direct benefits include cash incomes enabled a large share of our sampled producers—who suffer from multidimensional poverty in the form of food insecurity and lack of access to education for household members—to improve their livelihoods. Moreover, the new business strategies allowed rural producers to bypass the formal economic structures perceived to be exclusionary and unfair—in terms of lack of resource rights, high regulatory barriers, collusion between industry and government—and integrate into the global commodity trade with better financial returns. However, positive socio-economic gains were accompanied by high environmental risks across the sectors, including biodiversity losses (for example, risks of extinction for certain tree species), long-term soil depletion, and water and soil pollution by toxic metals.

Biography:

Xiaoxue Weng is a Research Fellow with Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) based in Nairobi, Kenya. She conducts participatory mixed methods research on landscape governance and sustainable rural development in sub-Saharan Africa, with a focus on identifying effective business models, governance structures and financing modalities to slow deforestation resulting from land conversion. Prior to joining CIFOR, she was a Researcher with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) based in London where she conducted research and policy advocacy on Chinese investments in forestry, mining, agriculture and infrastructure in Africa. She has more than seven years of work experiences in sub-Saharan Africa and China, working closely with in-country and international researchers and policymakers to conduct collaborative research in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. She holds a MSc in Environmental Change and Management from University of Oxford, and will be pursuing a PhD degree at University of Freiburg, Germany.

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Name: WEKESA Bob

Institutional Affiliation and Title: Wits Africa China Reporting Project, University of the Witwatersrand, Research Associate

Biography:

Wekesa is research associate at the Wits Africa China Reporting Project since 2012 and a board member of the Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network. He is also a senior lecturer in the Journalism Department at Wits University and coordinator of a post graduate class, research and publication. He is affiliated to the Wits African Center for the Study of the US and is a fellow at the Nairobi-based Africa Policy Institute. He graduated with a Bachelor of Education degree in English linguistics and literature from University of Nairobi (1998), an MA in International Communications from Communication University of China (2012) and a Ph.D. from the same institution (2015) focusing on Chinese media and public diplomacy in Africa with Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. Before going into academia, he worked as a reporter and editor in Kenyan media between 1999 and 2010. Wekesa has researched and published in the fields of Africa-China engagements, media and public diplomacy and journalism studies. He is a frequent commentator on these topics in Kenyan, South African and Chinese media.

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Name: WILKIN Matumelo

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Nottingham (Ningbo), PhD candidate

Presentation Title: Sustainable Foreign Direct Investment- Capacity building and knowledge transfer: South Africa and China

Abstract:

This research analyses Chinese Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into South Africa by examining whether these investment activities influence communities positively or negatively in the long term. The emphasis is on African agency with an outcome of sustainable FDI, which this research recognises as an on going long-term consideration with strategies encouraged and steered by the South African actors keen on ensuring knowledge is transferred into the economy via FDI agreements and negotiations. The research welcomes the perception placing South Africa as a dominant contributor viewpoint as compared to traditional emphasis on the foreign investor as the commanding participant. Therefore, the research then identifies three gaps in current debates on the Chinese investment in South Africa: 1. An African perspective analysis of the South Africa-China relationship 2. Looking at how Chinese FDI impact on South African women particularly within the knowledge transfer aspect 3. The sustainability of these FDI in terms of the legacy they leave behind. This research aims to account for these gaps in the literature by presenting a multi disciplinary approach that utilizes theories from the International Relations: dependency theory, uneven development. The research then branches out to the study of sustainability in order to pull together all the discussions through acknowledging African agency. The focus on South African's FDI engagement with China in a post apartheid era requires an explanation of existing structures that were set up during apartheid, which then affect how these two countries navigate FDI interaction. This then raises the need to explore dependency theory, which allows for the discussion of the development of South Africa-China relationship, within the wider African discourse, using these lenses.

Biography:

Matumelo graduated with a BA in International Business Management from The University of Nottingham. There, she was exposed to the actual influence of business on itself and other stakeholders, and the pressures placed on some ‘foreign’ countries. She then went on to complete her MA in Africa and International Development from The University of Edinburgh during which she conducted field research in conjunction with a local South African NGO. Both of these experiences have built on her desire to pursue a PhD International Studies with a focus on South Africa-China FDI relations, which is her area of research at The University of Nottingham-Ningbo, China (UNNC). Prior to this, Matumelo worked as a School Coordinator for SABIS Facilities Management in public schools in UAE; partnering with the local deputy principal to ensure smooth running of the school. She is an active member of the school, where she is a member of the Postgraduate Student Association and holds a board committee position of Academic Department Head. Also, Matumelo was the only PhD student chosen to be a panellist on an otherwise all-male panel discussing ‘Hot Debates Roundtable on Zimbabwe’ held on the 29th of November 2017.

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Name: WU Cong

Institutional Affiliation and Title: Chinese Academy of Science

Presentation Title: Language as a dimension of the economic relationships between China and Sub-Saharan Africa (with a focus on East Africa)

Abstract:

The economics of language focuses on the relationships and endogeneity between economic mechanisms and concepts on the one hand, and language on the other (Grin, 1996a,b; Huang et al, 2017; Rubinstein, 2000): how economic activities influence the use and dynamics of language; and how language and language policies influence economic outcomes and income (Huang, 2017). In these studies, however, analyses of developing countries remain under-investigated. The paper contributes to filling this gap and uses the conceptual questions of the economics of language for an analysis of the determinants and constraints that shape the relationships between language (Chinese and African languages) and the economic nexus linking China and Sub-Saharan Africa (trade, investment, aid; migration). These relationships are shaped by various factors, such as language skills as human capital and language as an asset in migration. Firstly, the paper argues that language influences bilateral economic linkages (Melitz, 2008; Egger and Lassmann, 2012) in terms of both efficiency and depth and makes the point that the reciprocal relationships between language usage and economic outcomes may be subjected to a process of fallacy of composition: at the micro level, communication through a given language may constitute an economic asset, which disappears if at the macro level, all master that language (which may be due to governmental policy). Using ‘less-commonly-taught languages’, such as Chinese, may be economically efficient and the differences in economic impacts depend on the level of language skills as human capital (Zhang, 2016). Secondly, the paper argues that migration between Sub-Saharan Africa and China is another aspect of the relationships between economic outcomes and language, with immigrants’ quest for trade and investment opportunities fostering the use of local language as an asset regarding their adaptation.

Biography:

Cong Wu has completed her MA African Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS, University of London) in 2017. Her MA thesis has focused on the evolutions of the nexus of economic relationships between China and Sub-Saharan Africa and their impacts on the export structure and infrastructure level in Sub-Saharan Africa. She graduated from Beijing Foreign Studies University, China, in 2016 with a BA in Kiswahili literature. In 2014-2015, she was an exchange student studying Kiswahili in University of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. During her BA study in China, Cong Wu has led a group research project in National Undergraduate Training Program for Innovation and Entrepreneurship focusing on the religious belief in the coastal area of Tanzania.

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Name: XIANG Yu

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Shanghai University, PhD candidate

Presentation Title: Nationalism, Stereotype and New Hegemonic Narrative: Comparative Reception Analyses of the Chinese Audience and African Audience of Wolf Warrior II

Abstract:

The unprecedented success of Wolf Warrior II in China is phenomenal. It has scored a relatively high rating of 7.3 on DouBan - the most popular and picky movie website in China. It is incredibly unusual for a patriotic Chinese movie like Wolf Warrior II to achieve such popularity as the younger audiences in Chinese market always hold antipathy against didactic and propagandist ideological injection about nationalism and patriotism. The strong opinions expressed by the individualistic hero Leng Feng in the movie about the absolute invincibility of China aroused passionate discussions either amongst the general movie audiences or the professional observers from the media industry. Tom Harper from Independent in U.K. thought this movie echoes the changes of China's foreign policy and reflects ‘China's growing confidence and assertiveness in the Xi Jinping era’ (Harper, 2017). Although the whole background of the Wolf Warrior II story is the continent of Africa, ‘the target audience is the Chinese’ as clearly realized by one African observer (Chan, 2017). Many criticisms of this movie are accusing it of being a pure imitation of American hegemonic narrative following the traditional narrow perspective on the negative part of Africa. There are obviously very divergent receptions amongst Chinese audiences and African audiences of this movie. With the growing visibility of China in Africa, it is of great importance to study how the soft power of China is echoing in the ground of Africa. Therefore, to answer the question that how audiences from different backgrounds interpret the agenda of Wolf Warrior II, this research is going to provide a comparative analysis on the receptions of Chinese and African audiences of this movie. Qualitative research methods of focus groups and individual interviews will be conducted to collect subjective opinions of both Chinese and African correspondents accurately.

Biography:

Yu Xiang is a lecturer at Shanghai University. She is the course leader of ‘international communication studies’ at the department of journalism and communication. Her doctoral research is about the ideological reception of television news produced by CCTV in Africa. Her current research interests lie in the aspects of theoretical development on international communication, audience reception, China-to-Africa media flow and mobile media studies. Her publications include: China in Africa: Refiguring centre-periphery media dynamics; The Trapped Critique of Critical Media Practices in Protest Movements: A Review of Anne Kaun's “Crisis and Critique”.

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Abstract:

Chinese are often said to "self-segregate" in Africa. Chinese ethnocentricity is typically offered as an explanation for the putative noninteraction. Meanwhile Chinese are not compared to other non-indigenous people in Africa, implying unique Chinese self-isolation. Based on surveys, interviews and documents, we examine the varied presence of Chinese in Africa, particularly in terms of their residential patterns and acquisition of local languages, drawing distinctions between Chinese expatriates and Chinese migrants. Factors affecting Chinese adaptation include local political environment, recentness of migration, language barriers, and corporate policies to mitigate crime and conflict. We argue that residence, language learning and socialization patterns indicate that most Chinese in Africa are not self-isolated. Chinese are not more isolated in Africa than are other Asian migrants and whites in Africa. Claims of Chinese self-isolation reflect a longstanding, global Yellow Peril discourse that persists despite discrediting evidence.

Biography:

Based at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, YAN Hairong's intellectual interests include labor, gender, rurality, rural-urban relations, and collective and cooperative rural economy. Her earlier research focused on rural-to-urban migrant domestic workers in urban China. She thus examined the transformation in rural-urban relations, gender relations and class relations in China's reform process. She is the author of New Masters, New Servants: Migration, Development, and Women Workers in China (Duke University Press, 2008). She has been collaborating with Barry Sautman on China-Africa links and has co-authored East Mountain Tiger, West Mountain Tiger: China, Africa, the West and "Colonialism" (Maryland Monograph Series in Contemporary Asian Studies, no. 186) and, in Chinese, China in Africa: Discourse and Practices (Beijing: shehui kexue chubanshe, 2017). In recent years, she has become concerned with food sovereignty and agrarian change in China. She publishes in the Journal of Peasant Studies and the Journal of Agrarian Change and contributes to the food sovereignty network in China.

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Name: YOON Duncan

Institutional Affiliation and Position: New York University, Assistant Professor

Presentation Title: Toward the Global South Novel: Africa, China, and Bofane’s Congo Inc.

Abstract:
China's emergence as a major player on the African continent has produced a fundamental shift in patterns of 21st century globalization. Predictably, almost all scholarship focuses on economic or social scientific factors, interrogating whether the Chinese presence is a “new colonialism” or embodies a “win-win” for development. In contrast, this article examines how a Congolese novel represents Africa-China relations, asking whether the narrative constitutes a shift in generic type? Through a series of close readings of the novel's chronotope, this essay contends that Congo Inc. "enstranges" the classic interpretative axis of the postcolonial African novel by turning away from "writing back" to the West. Instead, it "entangles" the multiple axes--historical, geo-political, cultural, linguistic--of what scholars have recently termed the global South. This shift in dominant chronotope renders formally explicit the temporal plurality of the postcolonial African novel, expanding it to depict interactions between non-colonial Others. Congo Inc. thereby signals a shift in type of postcolonial narrative toward the global South novel. As a result, the global South novel accounts for contemporary patterns of multipolar globalization, updating, and, in so doing, deepening postcolonialism’s “unfinished critique.”

Biography:
Duncan M. Yoon's current book examines representations of China in African literature. Additional research interests include globalization, narrative theory, the Cold War, postcolonialism, diaspora, and world literature. Recent publications are “Our Forces Have Redoubled: World Literature, Postcolonialism and the Afro-Asian Writers Bureau,” in The Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry, as well as a book chapter, “Bandung Nostalgia and the Global South,” in the volume The Global South and Literature, also from Cambridge University Press. He is the co-director of The Global South Project at Cornell University and is completing a digital humanities project on the Heinemann African Writers Series. He is the delegate representative for the Modern Language Association's Forum: The Global South. Pedagogically, he is interested in the intersections between digital technology and critical thought. Yoon has an MA from Dartmouth College and a PhD in Comparative Literature from UCLA. Before coming to Gallatin, he was an assistant professor of postcolonial literature at the University of Alabama. His research has been funded by the Social Science Research Council and the Mellon Foundation. He served as a Fulbright Scholar to South Korea in 2004. In 2017 the Library of Congress awarded him a Kluge Fellowship for his research project, "Africa Writes China: Literature and Globalization."

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Name: ZHANG Mingyuan

Institutional Affiliation and Position: University of Western Ontario, PhD Candidate

Presentation Title: “Kung Fu vs. Radio Calisthenics”: Chinese Language Education and the Representation of Chinese Culture in Northern Madagascar

Abstract:

Confucius Institute - a worldwide educational project sponsored by the Chinese government aiming to promote Chinese language and culture – has established two regional head offices in Madagascar since 2008. The rapid spread of China’s educational project represents one crucial aspect of China’s intensive engagement in Africa since the late 1990s. Most Chinese projects in Africa are undertaken by state-owned corporations and private businesses and they remain in sectors such as agriculture, mining, and infrastructure construction where males disproportionately outnumber females. However, most language instructors working at the Confucius Institute in Madagascar are female university graduates in their early 20s. This paper explores the personal paths of Confucius Institute instructors from China to Madagascar and discusses the practices of teaching and learning Chinese-language in the social context of northern Madagascar. This paper argues that in countries such as Madagascar where education infrastructure is relatively weak, the classrooms of the Confucius Institute provide rare but much-desired opportunities for students to learn Chinese languages and culture. My critique of the Confucius Institute in Madagascar lies in the following three aspects: first, the instructors lack proper training of local languages, pedagogical methods and cultural awareness to provide effective teaching in Madagascar; Second, the Confucius Institute represents “Chinese culture” as a timeless and bounded entity by only emphasizing “traditional” elements such as Kung Fu and ancient Chinese imperial court dance in various cultural events; and last, I argue that the bureaucratic system of the educational institute proves to operate in the spirit of neoliberalism as its main goal is to benefit the institute itself rather than Malagasy students, which explains why many programs offered by the Confucius Institute represent the features of “discontinuity,” “disconnectedness” and “exclusiveness” similar to many other global projects in Africa entail.

Biography:

My name is Mingyuan Zhang, and I am a fourth-year PhD student from the Department of Anthropology of the University of Western Ontario, Canada. I speak and write Mandarin Chinese and English fluently, and have a working knowledge of French and the dialect of Malagasy spoken in northern Madagascar. Based on 14 months of multi-sited fieldwork, my current PhD project explores how the meaning of “being Chinese” is culturally and socially constructed in northern Madagascar, focusing on identity-shaping encounters between the Mandarin-speaking Chinese and the Malagasy people in three particular contexts: 1) a sugar plantation managed by a Chinese state-owned corporation in Sirama, Ambilobe; 2) networks of Chinese and Malagasy private businessmen who enable the movement of cheap Chinese commodities from Guangzhou, China to Antsiranana, Madagascar; and 3) the classrooms of the Confucius Institute - a worldwide educational project sponsored by the Chinese government aiming to promote Chinese language and culture in Antsiranana. In 2012, I graduated from the School of International Studies of Renmin University of China in Beijing. In 2014, I received my master’s degree in Socio-cultural Anthropology from the University of Western Ontario.

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Name: ZHANG Zhenjiang

Institutional Affiliation and Position: Jinan University, Professor

Presentation Title: A Theory for overseas Chinese: Prospects and Challenges

Biography:

Dr. Zhenjiang ZHANG is currently a full Professor of International Relations and the Dean of School of International Studies/Academy of Overseas Chinese Studies, Jinan University, Guangzhou, China. He is also the Chief of the Chinese Journal of Southeast Asian Studies, Director of the Center for Transnational Migration Studies in the university.

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Abstract:

This article discusses the vernacular practices of mining ruin restoration in an agritainment park in rural China. From 2006 onwards, around 15,000 gold rushers from Shanglin county, China, mined alluvial gold in Ghana. In 2013, Ghanaian authority initiated waves of campaigns to fight against the ecologically hazardous mining activities in its territory. The political pressures in Ghana propelled many Chinese gold rushers to leave the country and return to their Shanglin hometown where the farmlands were ruined by the mining operations decades ago. Some Shanglin returnees established an agritainment park on a piece of mining wasteland in their hometown. In one corner of the park, several former miners started a soil restoration project aiming for turning the mining ruin into a horticultural garden. The owners of the park believed that the soil restoration experiment would change the conventional view that the mining ruin had no ecological future. In this ethnographic project, the authors will take account of three questions: 1. What kind of ecological consciousness has emerged from the landscape of mining ruin? 2. How the Chinese miner peasants’ ecological ethical consciousness correspond to both the mining political economy in Ghana and the state’s ideological turn on peasantry in post-socialist China (post-socialist China); 3. How is the ethics derived from Chinese peasant miner’s ruin-based ecological practice different from the mainstream ecological ethic in global mining affairs? By discussing these three ethnographic strands and their interconnections, the authors present an alternative anthropological view on the mining ruins regarding the pragmatist ethics of Shanglin peasant miner’s eco-practices.

Biography:

Yijie Zou is a second-year doctoral student at the College of William and Mary, VA, USA. Yijie is currently enrolling in the Historical Anthropology program with William and Mary Recruitment Fellowship. He received his Master of Arts Degree from Brandeis University, Waltham, USA. Before Yijie came to the U.S., he studied at Sun Yat-Sen University and earned the Bachelor of Law degree from the Department of Anthropology. He has a long-standing interest in learning more about the Africans in China and Chinese in West Africa. Yijie’s current interest lies in Chinese artisanal gold mining in Ghana and the contradiction between agriculture and mining in the neo-liberal global political economy. As to theoretical concerns, Yijie is interested in exploring the place of Marxist Dialectical Materialism in the 21st century in relation to the historical legacies of the twentieth-century Chinese and Sub-Sahara African peasantry politics.

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