



EAF 未來

Research Training Group (GRK 2833)

East Asian Futures

Visions and Realizations on National, Transregional and Global Scales

Proposal Workshop

June 13–15, 2024

Funded by



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Research Training Group (GRK 2833) East Asian Futures

Proposal Workshop, June 13–15, 2024

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Proposal Workshop

June 13–15, 2024

Preface

Ever since its conceptualization, the Research Training Group “East Asian Futures” (EAF) has been promoted by highly motivated people. Born as a joint initiative of the two largest institutions for academic research on East Asia in the Ruhr Area, the Faculty of East Asian Studies of the Ruhr University Bochum, and the Institute of East Asian Studies of the University of Duisburg-Essen, leading scholars from both locations carried the programme through the application phase to a successful DFG grant with the support from university administrators at Bochum and Duisburg. After a busy preparatory period with recruitment of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers alongside qualifying fellows (master students) and project coordinators, EAF was inaugurated on October 9, 2023.



Participants in the inaugural event on October 9, 2023 © RUB, Marquard

In the following nine months, the surrounding infrastructure conditions have proven to be a support for research, and sometimes a challenge. In this period, the RUB Faculty of East Asian Studies moved house on campus, and the frequent imponderables of train

traffic between Bochum and Duisburg time and again required flexible solutions for teaching and other meetings of the group members.

In the past months, the number of participants has steadily increased, to now also include three affiliated doctoral students. Recently, right before the Proposal Workshop, the Mercator Fellow professors have joined the group in physical presence. Next to the regular and frequent sessions with supervisors, their suggestions are proving to be a stimulus and enhancement of research for the young researchers, offering new perspectives on thought and formulation, on theories, methods, and sources.

The Proposal Workshop is the first opportunity for the doctoral researchers to present consolidated drafts of their elaborated dissertation proposals to all participating researchers and postdocs. The Mercator Fellows and other visiting scholars are invited to participate in this workshop to give the researchers feedback at the initial stage of their projects. Discussions and suggestions from the workshop will enable the doctoral researchers to position their topics within the overall programme and to submit their full dissertation proposals. They worked towards this goal in a series of due dates with scheduled supervisory feedback for the literature review, research question, research design and methods, and a practice session for the presentations at the Proposal Workshop.

As the programme shows, research projects from the humanities and social sciences, covering China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan in the period from the late nineteenth through the twenty-first centuries will be presented. This brochure provides background information on the programme design of the Research Training Group, on its recent activities, and on its participants.

To sum up the RTG's activities so far, based on advertisements found at East Asian locations: Jointly writing, the EAF future lab aims at forging sustainable insights for clarifying the hiding places of future conceptions in East Asia.

Bochum and Duisburg in June 2024

The EAF Speakers

Christine MOLL-MURATA and Markus TAUBE



Top left: Tainan, National Museum of Taiwan Literature; right: Taipei, IT Department store; middle: Hong Kong, Kai Tak Airport; bottom: Tokyo, Ueno National Museum of Western Art, March 2024 © RUB, Moll-Murata

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Workshop programme

Thursday, June 13, 2024

Gerhard-Mercator-Haus, Lotharstraße 57, 47057 Duisburg

09:30 Opening Message

Prof. Dr. Hannes MOSLER, Director of In-East, University of Duisburg-Essen

09:40 Words of Introduction

Prof. Dr. Christine MOLL-MURATA, Speaker, Ruhr-University Bochum

Prof. Dr. Markus TAUBE, Co-Speaker, University of Duisburg-Essen

09:50 Buyun GONG, M.A.

Scientific Management in Republican China: How the Future is Made Plannable
(Comments by Prof. Lin-Chun WU, PhD, National Taiwan Normal University)

10:30 Pao-wen HUANG, M.A.

Accounting and Future Anticipation: Customs Policies and Practices in Taiwan, 1850–1990 (Comments by Prof. Lin-Chun WU, PhD)

11:10 Coffee Break

11:20 Eetu LAUSTELA, M.A.

Post-socialist Utopias – North Korean Media Depictions of Progress and the Future
(Comments by Prof. Hyung-Gu LYNN, PhD, University of British Columbia)

12:00 Minkyun PARK, M.A.

Ontological Insecurity in South Korea and its Relations to Japan
(Comments by Prof. Hyung-Gu LYNN, PhD)

12:40 Lunch Break

14:00 Mingfeng WU, M.A.

Engaging the Secular in a Shared Future: The Confucian-Buddhist Debate and Modern Chinese Buddhist Thought (Comments by Prof. Lin-Chun WU, PhD)

14:40 Kohei MATSUURA, M.A.

The Future of Cultural Policy in East Asia - the Discourse on Classical Music from a Postcolonial Perspective (Comments by Prof. Hyung-Gu LYNN, PhD)

15:20 Coffee Break

15:30 Igor SEVENARD, M.A.

The Genesis of a Global 'Community of Common Destiny' – A Conceptualization of Chinese Worldmaking (Comments by Prof. em. Brantly WOMACK, PhD, University of Virginia)

16:10 Concluding discussion of the first day / Poster show**18:00 Networking / Dinner****Friday, June 14, 2024**

Gerhard-Mercator-Haus, Lotharstraße 57, 47057 Duisburg

09:00 Youlim KIM, M.A.

Transformation and Construction of Social Discourse on Unmarried Mothers in South Korea (Comments by Prof. Kaori HAYASHI, PhD, University of Tokyo)

09:40 Anna-Maria RAU, M.A.

Modern Chinese Music and the Nation
(Comments by Prof. em. Brantly WOMACK, PhD)

10:20 Nora WÖLFING, M.A.

Visions of Futurity in Contemporary Art from the Sinophone Region
(Comments by Prof. em. Brantly WOMACK, PhD)

11:00 Coffee Break

11:20 Dr. des. Aya HINO (Postdoc)

An Imagined Future, Disappearing Futures: 'Nihon-gaku' and Colonial, Internal, and Imperial Differences within the Japanese Nation-Empire

12:00 Dr. Martin GEHLMANN (Postdoc)

A Confucian Future for the Country East of the Sea

12:40 Lunch Break

13:40 Dr. Monika ARNOŠTOVÁ (Postdoc)

Current State and Future Projections of the Work Environment for Young Professionals in Urban Areas of Mainland China, Taiwan, and Japan

14:20 Dr. Qinqin PENG (Postdoc)

The Concept of 'Change' in Chinese Buddhism and Its Modern Transformation

15:00 Coffee Break

15:10 General Discussion / Poster show**16:30 Meeting of the Advisory Board**

18:00 Dinner

Saturday, June 15, 2024

11:00 Visit of the Museum DKM, Güntherstr. 13–15, 47051 Duisburg

Project outline

Short synopses in English, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese may be found below.

Introduction

The Research Training Group GRK 2833 "East Asian Futures: Visions and Realizations on National, Transregional and Global Scales" (EAF), directed by Prof. Dr. Christine MOLL-MURATA and Prof. Dr. Markus TAUBE, aims to train doctoral researchers about conceptions relating to the future in East Asia. It is based at the **Faculty of East Asian Studies** of Ruhr University Bochum and at the **Institute of East Asian Studies** of the University of Duisburg-Essen, at the two big research centres for East Asian Studies in North-Rhine Westphalia in Germany, joined together in the research initiative **Alliance for Research on East Asia (AREA) Ruhr**.

The programme develops and applies an analytical model of conceptions of the future, complementing research in the humanities (history, linguistics, philology, religious studies) with research in the social sciences (economics, political science, sociology).

Doctoral dissertations in this research training group study and explain how projections and conceptions of the future have emerged, on what premises they are based, and how they have been and continue to be applied to the paradigmatic fields of (1) language, religion, and ideology, (2) self and society, (3) resources and technology, and (4) sovereignty and governance.

Research focuses on the period between 1850 and the present, with recourse to earlier intellectual heritage where necessary. The analyses include projections of the future by East Asian states and polities (China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan) in relation to each other, to Europe, and the world.

The programme opens up a new field of research in East Asian area studies, combining a macro-regional perspective with a focus on the modern and contemporary periods.

The support of the German Research Foundation DFG is gratefully acknowledged.

Research

Core Research Idea and Main Topic

The research training group GRK 2833 “East Asian Futures” proposes the study, analysis, and explanation of the **conceptions of future in East Asia**.

Taking a **chronological view**, East Asia has experienced epistemological change through confrontation with Western ideas and political, economic, and military dominance of the West since the mid-nineteenth century. The period before these interactions can be designated as **tradition**, or heritage.

The period between 1850 and 1950 constitutes an era of **transformation**, during which the ideational, political, and economic foundations for global interconnections evolved.

After 1950, new regimes, political systems and ideologies used projections of the future in ways previously unheard of. This tendency of **realization** made the People’s Republic of China, Japan, North and South Korea, and Taiwan coalesce with and compete against each other due to ideological opposition during the Cold War and also against the backdrop of global threats.

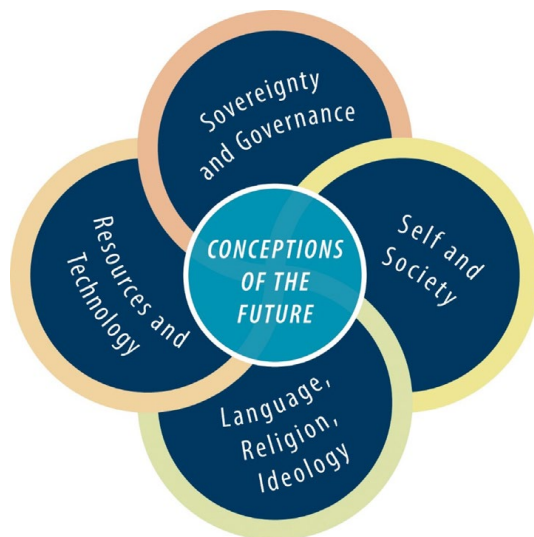
Yet with intensifying **globalization** and the rise of the East Asian economies, a new phase began in the 1980s. This period has lasted until today, even if in view of the recent crises some voices predict the end of this macro-trend.

Geographically, the East Asian perspective taken by our group includes the two large polities China and Japan, with Korea and Taiwan constituting smaller entities with colonial pasts. We will reflect on the projections of the future within East Asian states and polities, and in relation to each other, Europe, and the world.

The innovative potential of the programme lies in the application of an analytical model of approaches to the conceptions of future as a tool that connects the group across the humanities and the social sciences. In all these fields conceptualizations of the future lie at the core of legitimation and self-assertion, from the level of the individual to supra-state entities.

Thematic Areas and Typology of Approaches to the Future

The project covers **four thematic areas**. Starting out from the perspective of the future as a term and notion, our group identified **Language, Religion, and Ideology**, **Self and Society**, **Resources and Technology** and **Sovereignty and Governance** as the fields most relevant for future themes.



Thematic areas of the project

The project applies a typology that was inspired by a model for conceptualizations of the future developed by the contemporary historians GRAF and HERZOG (2016) which we adapted to fit the East Asian context. Graf and Herzog's categories of analysis include the following modes:

The "anticipation of the inevitable" or **future of expectation** appears in the form of religious, philosophical, and ideological outlines, prognoses, and instructions. In pre-twentieth century East Asia, this pertains especially to Confucian and Buddhist thought. The expectation of modernisation according to the Euro-American model emerged in the second half of the nineteenth century. In the twentieth century, socialist concepts based on the premise of an inexorable course of history also belong in this category,

as do responses to globalization that emphasize continuities in East Asian divergences from (neo-)liberal market transformations.

The mode **future of planning** refers to an active attitude towards future concerns, realized or to be realized in politics, economics, science, and technology. In East Asia, the fields in which conceptions of the future of this type occur are phases of socialist planned economies, but also Japan's colonial policies between 1895 and 1945, and thereafter, the 'developmental state' involvement in industrial policy. It also relates to modern state-business connections that combine top-down planning with bottom-up market structures. An example of this mode of planning is to be found in urbanism, where urban planning is often based on utopian concepts of society and technology.

The dystopian **future of risk** relates to the experience of cataclysms, especially of technological warfare. This type of approach to the future aims to cope with the unexpected and guard against the dangerous and undesired by means of scenarios. During the encroachments on China's sovereignty in the first half of the twentieth century, warfare in WWII and the Korean War, the nuclear threat and system competition in the Cold War, and unresolved issues of unification or independence until now, the awareness of risk and a potentially disastrous future has been and is present.

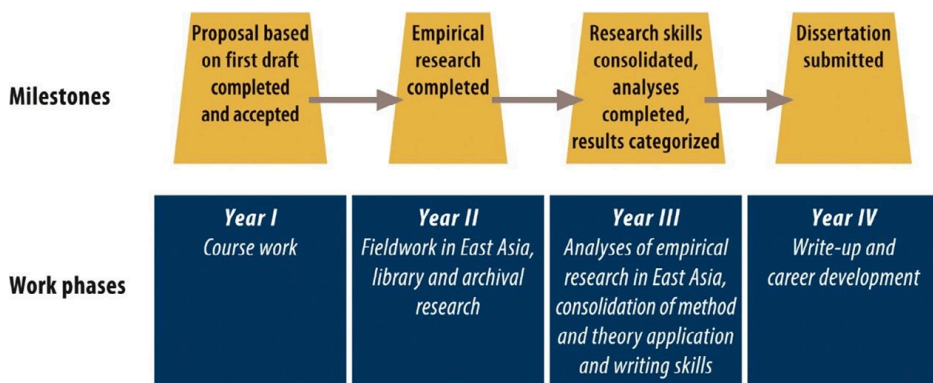
The **future of preservation** represents the notion that natural resources may not be available in unlimited quantities, and that cultural heritage may fall into oblivion. "Future of preservation" reflects the intention to protect the desirable, in the awareness that environmental deterioration might be irreversible, and especially with respect to securing both the ecosphere and cultural heritage in the interest of intergenerational justice. This projection of the future is also relevant for imagining social protection in the face of economic globalization, and for addressing the challenges posed by demographic changes that threaten reproduction in the populations of East Asia.

Didactic Goals

Doctoral researchers will acquire a qualification in East Asian regional studies and in one of the disciplines in the humanities (history, philology, linguistics, religious studies) or the social sciences (sociology, political science, economics) included in the programme, with an emphasis on advanced theories and methodologies.

The central aim of the qualification programme is to develop the specific profile of language- and discipline-based area studies research. This concept is operationalized through the establishment of a specific course programme and methodological training at the RUB, UDE and other institutions in Germany and East Asia. Career development measures complete the programme, to ensure that graduates are well prepared for entering international research careers.

The **curriculum** of the doctoral research programme is designed to run for four years. During their first year, participants will take classes on theories and methods, where they will receive coaching for their specific topics early on. The second year mainly consists of a period of fieldwork (6–12 months) and/or archival/library research. In the third year, the doctoral researchers will analyse and present the first results of their field and archival or library work to a larger academic audience apart from their colleagues and supervisors in the research training group. The final year will focus on the write-up of their dissertations and preparation for career development.



Work phases and milestones of the doctoral research programme

Postdoctoral researchers engage in a similarly structured programme that spans over 5 years and incorporates two short-term fieldwork phases. They also conduct peer teaching of the doctoral researchers, organise joint events with the doctoral researchers, and are offered opportunities to present their research at RUB and UDE events as well as those organised by the research training group itself.

Synopsis in English

Research Training Group (RTG) East Asian Futures: Visions and Realizations on National, Transregional and Global Scales

The RTG “East Asian Futures” provides doctoral researchers with training in concepts about the future in East Asia. It is based at the Faculty of East Asian Studies of the Ruhr University Bochum and at the Institute of East Asian Studies of the University of Duisburg-Essen. These are two big research centres for East Asian Studies in Germany, joined together in the Alliance for Research on East Asia (AREA) Ruhr.

The RTG was launched in October 2023 and to date includes nine doctoral researchers, four postdocs, and four qualifying M.A. students. The programme is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

Next call for applications for doctoral researchers: January to March 2025

Core research ideas

The programme develops and applies an analytical model of conceptions of the future, complementing research in the humanities with research in the social sciences.

Doctoral dissertations study and explain how projections and conceptions of the future have emerged, on what premises they are based, and how they have been and continue to be applied to four paradigmatic fields.

The time focus is on the period between 1850 and the present, with recourse to earlier intellectual heritage. The analyses include projections of the future by the East Asian states and polities, China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan, in relation to each other, to Europe, and the world.

Didactic goals

Doctoral researchers of the RTG “East Asian Futures” will acquire a qualification in East Asian regional studies and in one of the disciplines in the humanities (history, philology, linguistics, religious studies) or the social sciences (sociology, political science, economics) included in the programme, with an emphasis on advanced theories and methodologies.

The central aim of the qualification programme is to develop the specific profile of language- and discipline-based area studies research. This concept is operationalized through the establishment of a specific course programme and methodological training at the RUB, UDE and other institutions in Germany and East Asia. Career development measures complete the programme, to ensure that graduates are well prepared for entering international research careers.

Curriculum

Year 1: classes on theories and methods coach graduate researchers for their specific topics early on

Year 2: fieldwork and/or archival/library research

Year 3: analysis and presentation of the first results of fieldwork and archival/library research to a larger academic audience

Year 4: write-up and preparation for career development

A series of milestones, at which doctoral researchers complete specific steps toward the completion of their dissertation, is set up to ensure timely work procedures.

Synopsis in Chinese

“东亚与未来”课题组（RTG）： 国家、跨地区和全球范围的愿景与实践

“东亚与未来”课题组提供与未来观念相关的专题博士课程。它由波鸿鲁尔大学东亚研究学院和杜伊斯堡-埃森大学东亚研究所联合创办。这两所在德国颇具规模的东亚研究中心组成了鲁尔区东亚研究联盟（AREA Ruhr）。

本课题组于 2023 年 10 月正式启动，迄今已有 9 名博士生、4 名博士后和 4 名硕士生参与其中。项目资金来自于德国研究基金会（DFG）。

下一批博士生申请日期：2025 年 1 月至 3 月

核心研究理念

本课题组旨在构建并应用与未来概念相关的分析模型，综合人文和社会科学的研究方法。

选题方面，博士论文应能解释未来观念与预测是如何出现的，它们基于什么样的前提假设，以及它们是如何在四个范式领域中运作的。

研究的时间跨度聚焦 1850 年至今，也回溯更早期的知识脉络。分析对象包括东亚国家和政体（中国、日本、韩国和台湾）的未来观念，这些观念之间的关系，以及它们和欧洲还有世界的关系。

教学目标

“东亚与未来”博士生将在东亚区域研究和人文学科（历史学、语文学、语言学、宗教研究）或社会科学（社会学、政治学、经济学）领域进行学术训练（侧重深化理论和方法论）并获得相关资格认证。

本项目的核心目标是培养以语言和学科为基础的区域研究能力。参与机构包括波鸿大学、杜伊斯堡-埃森大学以及在德国和东亚的其他相关研究所。本项目亦注重博士生的职业生涯发展，以期未来具备立足国际学界的能力。

课程设置

“东亚与未来”课程设立了一系列目标里程碑，循序渐进，确保博士生在既定时间内完成论文。

第 1 年：理论和方法课程，协助硕博研究人员尽早开展专题研究

第 2 年：田野工作和档案/图书馆研究阶段

第 3 年：分析并介绍田野研究和档案/图书馆研究的初步成果，将面对除研究培训小组同事和导师外的更多学界人士

第 4 年：撰写论文并为职业发展做准备

Synopsis in Korean

동아시아 미래 연구(RTG): 국가적, 초국가적, 그리고 글로벌 규모의 비전과 실현

"동아시아 미래 연구"는 박사 과정 연구자들이 동아시아 맥락에서의 미래 개념에 관한 이해를 높일 수 있는 기회를 제공합니다. 본 그룹은 보훔 루르대학교 동아시아학부와 뒤스부르크-에센대학교 동아시아 연구소에 기초하고 있습니다. 해당 기관은 독일 내 동아시아 연구의 중요한 거점으로서, 루르 동아시아 연구 연합 (AREA) 으로 소속되어 있습니다.

RTG 는 2023 년 10 월 출범 이후 현재까지 박사과정 연구원 9 인, 박사 후 연구원 4 인, 석사 과정생 4 인으로 구성되어 있습니다. 해당 프로그램은 독일 연구위원회 (DFG)의 지원을 받습니다.

다음 예상 지원자 모집기간: 2025 년 1 월 - 3 월

핵심 연구 주제

"동아시아 미래 연구" 프로그램은 미래 개념에 대한 분석 모델을 개발, 적용하며 인문학과 사회과학적 연구를 진행합니다.

해당 프로그램에서 진행되는 박사 학위 논문은 네 가지 패러다임 차원에서의 미래 개념과 예측의 발전과정 그리고 이를 위한 전제조건에 중점을 둔 연구를 진행합니다.

1850 년부터 현재까지의 지적사료를 바탕으로 진행되는 해당 연구들은 중국, 일본, 한국, 대만 등 동아시아 국가와 정체(政體)의 상호간 혹은 유럽 및 세계와의 관계 속에 진행되는 미래 상을 분석합니다.

교육목표

"동아시아 미래"의 박사과정 연구자는 동아시아 지역 연구와 더불어 인문학 (역사학, 문헌학, 언어학, 종교학) 또는 사회과학 (사회학, 정치학, 경제학) 분야 내에서 이론과 방법론을 배우게 됩니다.

프로그램의 핵심 목표는 연구자로서의 언어 및 학문 기반 지역학 연구를 구체적으로 개발하는 것입니다. 이를 위하여 보훔 루르 대학교와 뒤스부르크-에센, 독일 내 기타 연구기관과 동아시아 기관의 프로그램과 방법론적 훈련이 협력 운영되고 있습니다. 또한 진행되는 커리어 개발 프로그램은 박사과정 학생들이 국제 연구자로 발돋움하는데 기여하게 됩니다.

커리큘럼

1 년차: 이론과 방법 수업, 개별 연구 주제에 대한 초기 코칭

2 년차: 현장 조사 및/또는 아카이브/문헌 조사 기간

3 년차: 필드워크 및 문헌연구의 첫번째 결과물을 지도교수와 동료 박사과정생 외의 더 많은 연구자들에게 발표

4 년차: 논문작성 및 커리어 개발

박사 과정 연구자가 학위 취득을 위해 밟게 되는 각각의 단계를 시기별로 조정하여 일련의 이정표를 제공합니다.

Synopsis in Japanese

リサーチトレーニンググループ「東アジアの未来」 国家、地域、グローバルなビジョンとその実現

リサーチトレーニンググループ（RTG）「東アジアの未来」は、東アジアにおける多種多様な未来に関する概念に焦点を当て、博士課程研究生を育成するものです。本プログラムはルール大学ボーフム東アジア学部（RUB）とデュースブルク・エッセン大学東アジア研究所（UDE）を拠点としています。ともにドイツにおける東アジア研究を牽引する研究機関であり、ルール東アジア研究同盟（AREA）の加盟機関でもあります。

RTG は 2023 年 10 月に発足し、現在 9 名の博士研究生、4 名のポスドク、4 名の修士課程の学生を擁しています。このプログラムはドイツ研究振興協会 (DFG) の助成を受けています。

次回の博士研究生募集：2025年1月～3月

核となる研究アイデア

本プログラムは、「未来」概念を研究の核にすえ、その分析モデルの構築・適用を通して社会科学研究と人文科学研究を相互補完を目指しています。

博士論文では、未来に関する予測や概念がどのように生み出され、どのような前提に基づいているのか、またそれらが 4 つのパラダイム分野にどのように適用され、現在も適用され続けているのかを研究・分析します。

1850 年から現在までの期間に焦点をあて、知的遺産にも言及しつつ、中国、日本、韓国、台湾という東アジアの国家及び政治実体が相互関

係、また欧州・世界との関係においていかなる未来を予測してきたか、予測しているのかを分析します。

教育目標

RTG「東アジアの未来」通して、博士課程研究者は東アジア地域研究に精通するだけでなく、人文科学（歴史学、言語学、宗教学）または社会科学（社会学、政治学、経済学）のいずれかの分野の高度な理論・方法論を取得することができます。

このプログラムの主目的は、研究対象地域の言語と専門分野の枠組み双方を基礎とした地域研究を構築することです。このコンセプトは、RUB、UDE、その他ドイツや東アジアの研究機関におけるプログラムや方法論的トレーニングの確立を通じて実践されています。同時に、本プログラムの卒業生が国際的な研究キャリアを築いていくためのキャリア開発プログラムも用意されています。

カリキュラム

1 年次：理論と方法についての授業、早い段階から特定のテーマについて博士研究生の指導開始

2 年次：フィールドワークおよび／またはアーカイブ・図書館での調査

3 年次：フィールドワークとアーカイブ・図書館での調査結果の分析、プログラム内外において調査分析結果の発表

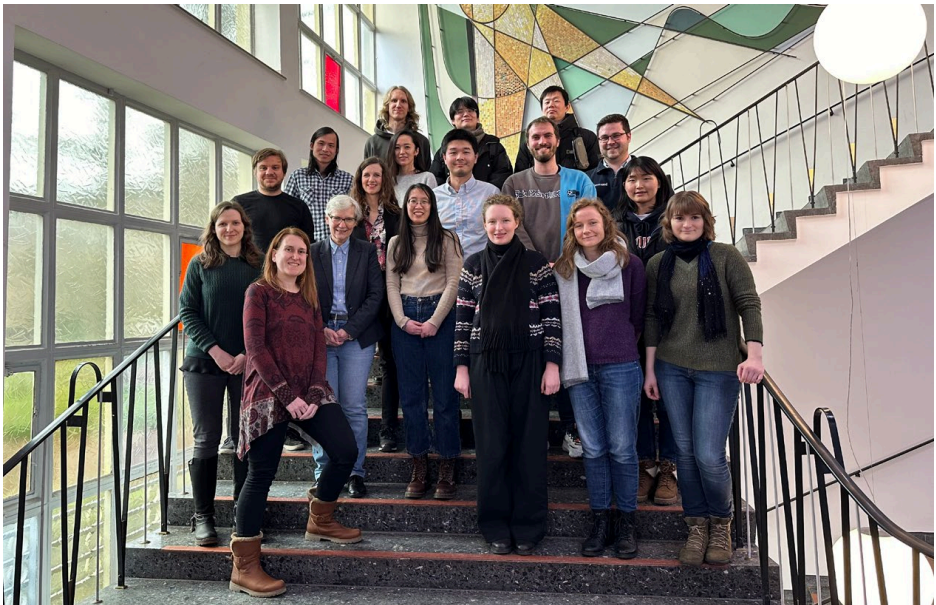
4 年次：論文執筆とキャリア形成

博士号取得までのステップを明確化したマイルストーンは、課程終了・学位取得のために必要な事項を逐次・適時行うことができるよう設定されています。

Project activities

On October 9, 2023, the research training group was introduced to the University Alliance Ruhr at the Ruhr University Bochum with an **inaugural event**. The collaborative project of the research association Alliance for Research on East Asia (AREA) Ruhr hosted about 60 guests, among them RUB chancellor Christina Rheinhardt, at the restaurant Beckmanns Hof on the campus of the Ruhr University. After an opening message held by Prof. Dr. Denise MANAHAN-VAUGHAN, Vice-Rector for Structure, Strategy and Planning (RUB), speaker Prof. Dr. Christine MOLL-MURATA and co-speaker Prof. Dr. Markus TAUBE then gave an introduction into the event. The historian Prof. Dr. Rüdiger GRAF from the Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam and the sociologist Dr. Lisa SUCKERT from the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies Cologne outlined the challenges of this approach respectively from a historical and a social science perspective and discussed them with the audience. The event was also displayed as a video conference. Afterwards, the participants embarked on a tour through the Chinese Garden of the Ruhr University and engaged in lively discussions during the buffet in the evening.

Starting in October 2023, the **seminar “Conceptions of the Future in East Asia: Perspectives on Theories and Methods”** was held once per week in winter term of 2023/2024, with each session being chaired by one of the principal investigators or participating researchers. Via relevant literature in their respective fields of study, the participants were introduced to the four thematic research areas the research training group’s scope encompasses and discussed how to further incorporate the relevant discourse on East Asian conceptions of future into their own research projects. The seminar was concluded with two sessions chaired by the project’s four postdoctoral researchers. During the summer term of 2024, the **seminar “Peer Teaching on Fieldwork, Archival and Library Research”** is held once a month. Hosted once more by the project’s postdoctoral researchers, the participants are lectured in methodology and fundamentals of empirical research in preparation for their fieldwork which is scheduled to be carried out during their second year. The first two sessions were held on April 11 and May 8, 2024, with two further sessions coming up in June and July.



Participants of the winter term seminar, January 29, 2024
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In light of the research training group's endeavour to integrate talented researchers into the academic and educational spheres regardless of gender, socioeconomic background, and ethnicity, and to create a research environment of equal opportunities, it encourages its participants to take part in events raising awareness on equal opportunity issues offered at the Ruhr University Bochum and the University of Duisburg-Essen, and furthermore organises such events for its participants as well. On December 14 and 15, 2023, the research training group's first **gender workshop** took place in Düsseldorf. After a welcoming speech and a round of introduction, both chaired by Prof. Karen A. SHIRE, PhD (Comparative Sociology and Japanese Society, UDE), on the first day the participants heard a talk by Stephanie SERA, M.A. (Science Support Center, UDE) on special features of the German academic system and career support to women researchers at the University of Duisburg-Essen and the Ruhr University Bochum. Following a break, Dr. Maren A. JOCHIMSEN (Essen College of Gender Research, UDE) gave insight into resources in gender research at both universities and perspectives after the PhD. The workshop's second day consisted of a podium discussion on gender research in East Asian Futures with Prof. em. Dr. Ilse LENZ (Sociology / Social Inequality and Gender, RUB), Prof. SHIRE, and Dr. Ami KOBAYASHI (Historical Education Research, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf), chaired by Prof. Dr. Christine MOLL-MURATA (History of China, RUB). Both days were concluded with sessions for feedback and further planning, headed by Prof. SHIRE, PhD, and Prof. Dr. MOLL-MURATA, respectively.

On May 21, 2024, researchers and qualifying fellows participated in the RTG-organised **workshop "Discrimination, diversity and inclusiveness: awareness training for academia"**, held online by Prof. Dr. Matteo GARAVOGLIA (Department of International Relations, Tsinghua University) as part of the academic training and consulting network ImpulsPlus. After a general introduction to different grounds and types of discrimination, participants identified situations characterized by structural discrimination both within and outside their academic context, discussed the reasons why such situations have emerged as well as the specific role they could play in valuing diversity and, finally, explored how a more inclusive environment can be nurtured.

Apart from activities catered only towards its participants, the research training group also hosts an **online colloquium series** for a general academic audience where external researchers are invited to hold lectures on their respective fields of research that pertain to East Asian conceptions of future. The first colloquium was held on November 11, 2023, and featured science fiction writer and literature critic Hsin-Hui LIN (Taiwanese Literature, National Chengchi University). Her lecture, titled “Beyond Boundaries, Into Diverse Futurities: My Journey as a Female Sci-Fi Writer in Taiwan”, gave an outline of the development of sci-fi in Taiwan and an overview of Japanese and Korean sci-fi and explained how all three of them can form diverse discourses on futurities. On January 24, 2024, Derek KRAMER, PhD (School of East Asian Studies, University of Sheffield) held a lecture on “Flagging the Future: Science, Symbolism, and Sovereignty in Post-Liberation Korea, 1945–1950” in which he examined the introduction of North Korea’s Republican Flag to underscore the role of science in the marshalling of postcolonial political authority.

For the summer term of 2024, five more researchers are invited to present their research in the series. On April 25, Prof. Dr. Björn ALPERMANN (Contemporary Chinese Studies, University of Würzburg) held a lecture titled “‘Ethnic Blending’ (*minzu jiaorong*): The Chinese Communist Party’s Vision for the Future of Ethnic Relations”. The following session on May 2 hosted Asst. Prof. Subodhana WIJEYERATHNE, PhD (College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University) with a lecture on “The Sun and the Stars: Sino-Japanese Space Cooperation, 1950–2000”. Three further lectures are slated to take place in June and July: Prof. Dr. Kevin Gray (University of Sussex) will hold a lecture on “North Korean Political Economy: Historical Lineages and Future Developments on June 27, 2024; Prof. Dr. Karl Gustafsson (Stockholm University) will speak on “Non-traditional deterrence in East Asia” on July 5, 2024; and Prof. Dr. Jana S. Rošker (University of Ljubljana) will give a lecture titled “From Non-Reality to Possibility: Sublating the Conceptions of the Future in St. Augustine and the Later Mohist Cannon” on July 25, 2024.

Researchers & Staff

Doctoral Researchers (Cohort I)

Buyun GONG

Scientific Management in Republican China: How the Future was Made Plannable

Focusing on the history of Taylorism in Republican China from the 1910s to 1940s, this planned dissertation seeks to understand how the future was made plannable in the workplace and in larger economic and societal contexts. This question will be organized to investigate three main areas:

1. Historical conditions. Under which historical conditions (including forms of knowledge and power relations) was Taylorism introduced and practised in Republican China? To which problems was Taylorism a solution?
2. Emergence of a plannable future. How was the future *made* plannable through scientific management? This question is to be approached with empirical case studies at different levels from work planning over welfare system to macro-economic planning.
3. Sociopolitical Effects. How did Taylorist style of work system shape the temporality of work-place and of worker's body? How did it influence work-related welfare system and labour policies in general?

A central methodological premise underlying the proposed dissertation is a hypothesis of 'doing future'. From a perspective of practice theory, the future is neither an objective 'thing' out there, nor a subjective perception in individuals' minds. Instead, the future, as a lived temporality, is always enacted in doing. Another premise is that planning practices have constituted prevalent future-making practices since Western modernity. In the Chinese context, Republican China witnessed a similar temporal shift from an expectable future to a plannable future. Based on these two premises, the planned dissertation seeks to broaden the analytical focus from future conceptions to heterogeneous future-making practices. It attempts to untangle the discursive, bodily, affective and material dimensions of how the future was made plannable.



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Pao-wen HUANG

Accounting and Future Anticipation: Customs Policies and Practices in Taiwan, 1850–1990

The Chinese maritime customs, established in the latter half of the 19th century, developed a management method containing modern statistical and accounting concepts with the help of foreign experts. This led to an increase in customs revenues, but China did not entirely adopt Western financial management methods. As a result, two different management methods co-existed both in China and Taiwan.

After the opening of ports in the 1860s, Taiwan gradually gained independence from Fujian Province with the support of tariff revenue and was eventually declared a province in 1885. The cession of Taiwan to Japan by the Qing dynasty in 1895 resulted in the termination of the previous customs system. However, after Taiwan came under the control of the Republic of China in 1945, the customs administration experienced a revival until 1991.

Once a symbol of progress during the Qing Dynasty, it became a vestige of the past during the Republic of China's rule in Taiwan. The differing attitudes of the Kuomintang and the Communist Party towards this institution had direct impact on the different economic and trade development in present-day Taiwan and China.

My research will focus on ideas of future and modernity in fiscal and economic policies influenced by the West and the clash with the traditional Chinese fiscal systems and shed light on the factors that have contributed to the gradual socioeconomic divergence between Taiwan and China.



Pao-wen HUANG
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Youlim KIM (affiliated researcher)

Transformation and Construction of Social Discourse on Unmarried Mothers in South Korea

There has been a pervasive social discourse of stigmatising unmarried mothers in South Korea (Korea, hereafter). Sexual immorality is a prominent stigma that unmarried mothers are accused of and they have had to put great effort to erase the stigma. However, the personal experience of unmarried mothers in South Korea is not merely their individual stories, but the reflected history of colonial, post-colonial, nationalistic and patriarchal society.

The term *Mihonmo* (unmarried mother, 未婚母) first appeared in print media in the late 60s and early 70s. Since then, the media has consolidated its way of describing unmarried mothers using repetitive language and symbols. Likewise, Korean novels after the Korean War occasionally depicted unmarried mothers; they were sometimes portrayed as poor war widows, indiscriminately sexually active figures, such as *yanggongju* (western princess), or mentally unstable, or disabled women. Various legislative measures from the 1950s also contained many discriminative elements against unmarried mothers and served as a means to restrain their bodies, sexuality, and motherhood.

This study examines articulations on unmarried mothers in the media and literary texts, and legal measures that influenced unwed mothers' legal status from the 60s to understand the development of social discourse on unwed mothers in Korea. Therefore, the interplay of fields of politics, media and literature which forms a dynamic triangular relationship is mainly explored. Moreover, unmarried mothers' projection for the future is analysed in relationship to their societal experience and pursuit of their agency.

This research project proposes that the field of literature tends to generate more liberating and challenging discourse on gendered norms, compared to the media. Furthermore, by delving into unwed mothers' hopes, desires, and aspirations for the future, this study ensures that the voices of unmarried mothers are not silenced but, instead, can be empowered by the literature.



Youlim KIM
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Eetu LAUSTELA

Post-socialist Utopias – North Korean Media Depictions of Progress and the Future

North Korea (officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) is stereotypically described as a relic of a bygone era or a state stuck in time. These labels carry ideas about its backwardness economically, but also about its stagnation in terms of ideological development: a Stalinist curiosity. In reality, North Korea has seen major changes both in its economic structure and in its ideology during the first decades of the 21st century. As ideology changes, so change the visions about the future. Promises given about the times ahead are a key factor in ensuring regime legitimacy, and as such have to be adjusted with the changing conditions to remain attractive and believable: this is true in North Korea as much as anywhere else.

This research focuses on the North Korean conceptions of progress and future. My understanding of North Korea highlights its origins as a part of the wider global socialist bloc, with a Marxist worldview that was initially largely inherited from the Soviet Union and China. At the same time, I want to focus on the unique changes that have been built on top of those foundations ever since the 1950s, and especially after the crisis experienced in the 1990s. In other words, I see North Korea as a post-socialist state, both in its economy and its ideology: the original socialist worldview has had a large influence on its development over the years, but it has since gone beyond it.



Eetu LAUSTELA
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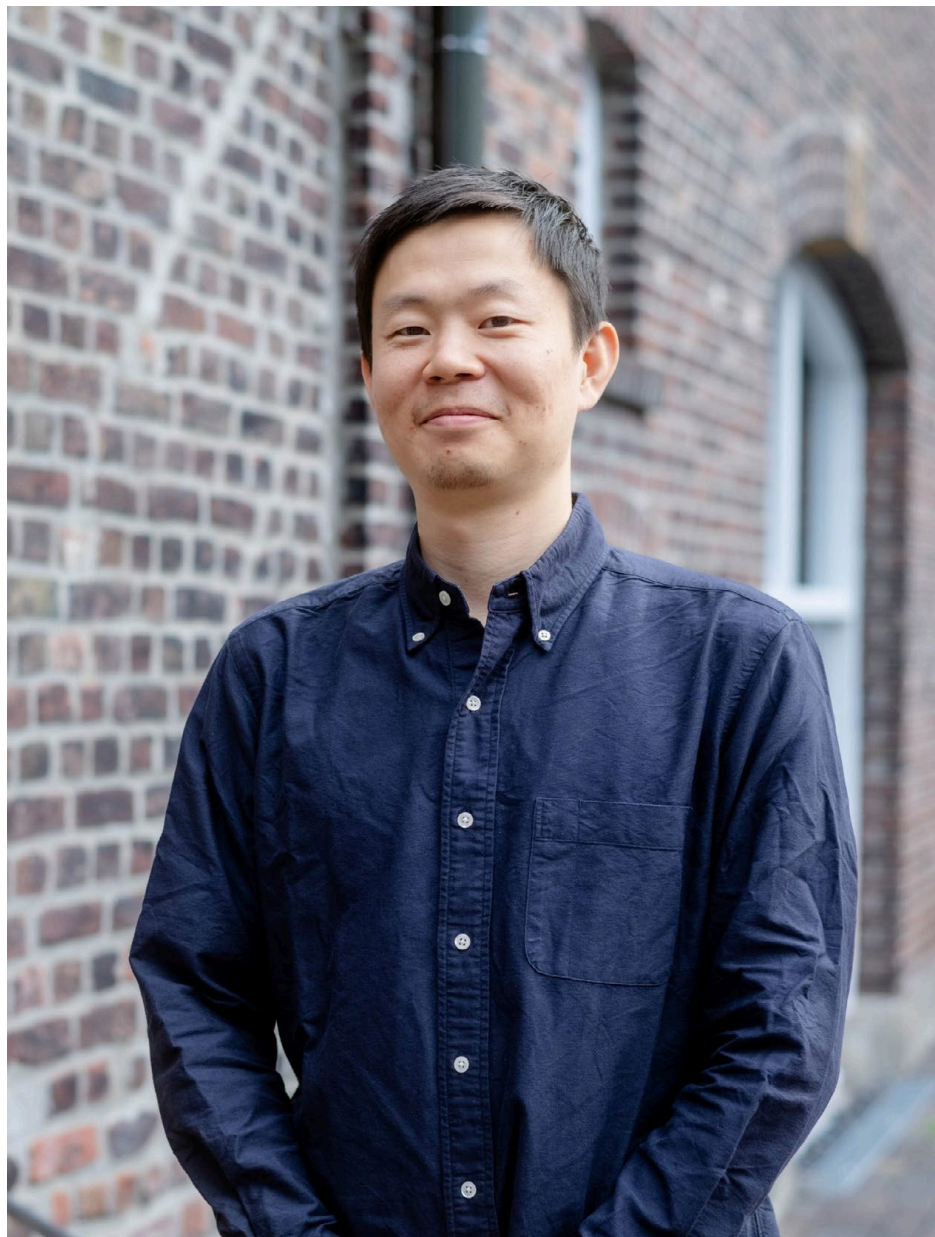
Kohei MATSUURA

The Future of Cultural Policy in East Asia – the Discourse on Classical Music from a Postcolonial Perspective

Cultural policy has to do with the self-understanding of the people of a region and their regional and national identity. Contrary to its universal image, classical music has been found to be associated with nationality and social class. German music, seen as universal, was linked to German national identity in the 19th and 20th centuries; Vienna's identity as a musical city was constructed in order to demonstrate Austrian cultural hegemony.

Postcolonial theories analyse the history, process, and impact of European colonialism; this also includes the various counter-reactions of colonized people against colonialism. Their focus is primarily on the effects of European imperialism on forms of perception, including perceptions of the future, and ways of knowing within non-European countries, as an expression of Western domination. Under this imperialism, non-Westerners also take Western perspectives to understand and represent themselves as well as their society. Non-Western artists and authors experience and discursively negotiate art and cultural politics from a Eurocentric point of view. Furthermore, civic political participation in cultural policy is an important topic, not only in East Asia, but globally.

The future of the arts, which have received policy support, is an important example of cultural policy and civic political culture. In fact, far from the image of a dichotomy between "Western" and "traditional", there were historical examples of the fusion of Western and indigenous music that are very suggestive for the future of cultural policy in East Asia. The aim of the proposed dissertation project is therefore to create a basic understanding of the influence of Eurocentric thinking on a global scale and to deepen possibilities of decolonial thinking.



Kohei MATSUURA

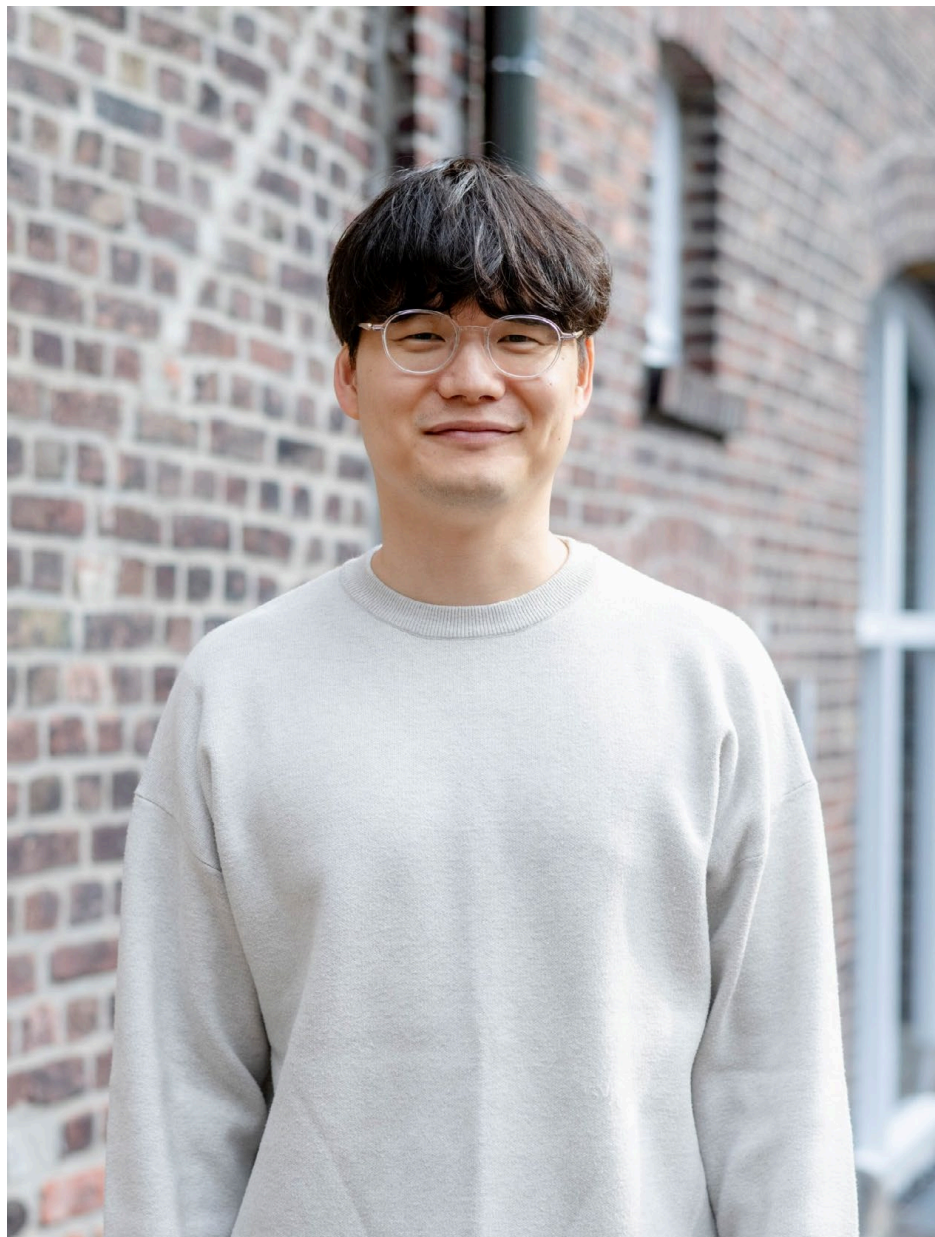
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Minkyun PARK

Ontological Insecurity in South Korea and its Relations to Japan

South Korea (Korea) has long been regarded as a shrimp between two whales – China and Japan. Due to its dramatic economic growth, democratization and recent K-pop fever around the globe, it starts to be recognized as a shrimp that turned in to a whale. What is puzzling, however, is that it seems to still struggle between China and Japan with regard to its identity, resulting in an insecure shrimp inside.

South Korea presents a unique case for ontological security perspectives or identity perspective in general. Its modern history is full of identity shifts. Before Japanese colonialism in 1910, it was regarded as a subordinate state under Chinese empire. Then under Japanese colonialism, Korea was branded with colonial identity. During the Cold War, anti-communism was staged by the state as the core of its identity due to the Korean War. My assumption is that identity was rather given or forced to South Korea before its democratization in 1987 either through China, Japan, the U.S. and/or its own dictators. And it was only after 1987 that as a democracy, there has been a rise of politics of Korean Identities and Selves, including perceptions of a self-assertive future. Since democratization there have been often shifts of governments between progressives and conservatives, which hold different views on what it means to be Korean and towards its neighbouring countries – China and Japan. Its enduring problems with these relationships will be analysed in this study with a view of the impact of future perceptions for ontological security and insecurity.



Minkyun PARK
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Anna-Maria RAU (affiliated researcher)

Modern Chinese Music and the Nation

In the wake of the Republican Period (1912–1949) the contact with European, or more broadly, Western music began to increase and with its growing presence musicians in the Chinese cultural context began to incorporate and infuse those foreign styles with elements of Chinese culture. This in turn brought up questions about the place of foreign, native and fused forms of music in the Chinese cultural sphere and made room for discussions on new Chinese music.

Therefore, it is of interest to examine which ideas of political, ideological or artistic nature were expressed in the writings of members within music circles. The regional focus will be on the cities Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong as these were the major cities in which the examined phenomena of music occurred and discourse took place. Examining this should give answers to why this synthesis was created, as well as provide helpful insights to the following questions: Why was it deemed necessary to modernise this area of culture within national music circles and how did they argue in favour of these changes? What were the intentions, how were they realised and how did professional circles respond? Were there any counter currents?

To further discuss and answer these questions a selection of primary sources will be examined. The sources for this study can be divided into four categories, namely newspapers and magazines, texts from and about influential figures, texts from and about institutions of the music industry, and records of music. Especially journals specialised on music allow tracing strands of arguments within the discourse.

Further sources are biographies and collected writings (such as reports, prose works, diaries, and letters) by the discourse's participants. The participants in question were not only notable figures working in the creation and reproduction of music, but also working in distributive and commercial functions in the music industry. Thereby the dissertation will offer new perspectives on the art of sound and meanings attached to it in times of competing political stances.



Anna-Maria RAU
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Igor SEVENARD

**The Genesis of a Global “Community of Common Destiny” –
A Conceptualization of Chinese Worldmaking**

The concept of a ‘Community of Common Destiny’ has emerged in the Chinese discourse and created conceptions of the future as well as worlds of imagination (Vorstellungswelten) as this concept does not yet reflect global reality. Further research on the subject may help elucidate how discourse worlds (Diskurswelten), transnationally networked social actors, and specific contexts in different localities shape conceptions of future and world order. Being deeply integrated within global structures since China’s reform and opening period, China has developed significant discourse power at home and abroad.

This project asks the questions of how Chinese diplomacy has created the concept of a ‘Community with a Shared Future for Mankind’, which purposes it serves, and which developments in meaning this term has seen in China and abroad. The project will argue, that while the ‘Community of Common Destiny’ is a global concept applicable to the whole of humanity, it is of imagination and not of reality. Rather than fixed development paths, it constitutes a rewriting of world order. In particular, the concept of ‘Community of Common Destiny’ has a significant impact on China’s approach towards climate change and its stance on environmental sustainability as well as Global Health through the implementation of the Belt and Road initiative. The project thus aims to investigate the role of the concept in shaping China’s approach to global governance and its interactions with other nations, examining the influence of China’s governance model on other regions.



Igor SEVENARD
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Nora WÖLFING (affiliated researcher)

Visions of Futurity in Contemporary Art from the Sinophone Region

Since the 2010s, depictions of the future have been an important part of contemporary art from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the Chinese-speaking diaspora. In the portrayal of the future, the artworks of numerous artists contain comparable narratives and images, with digital techniques frequently used for execution. These artworks visually and narratively recur to aspects or moments of Chinese history. This dissertation examines the historical references and political entanglements within the works and their positioning in the global art discourse in the context of solo and group exhibitions. Special focus is given to modes of narrativity within the artworks and the exhibitions, as well as different modes of temporality that come to play within the artworks as well as in the exhibition setting.

The growing international interest and reputation of Chinese science fiction literature is a parallel development to the emergence of the body of artworks that chose science fiction narrative modes for their artistic storytelling. The specific interest in history and appeal to traditional visuality constructs multitemporal narration and blurs preconceived “temporal registers” (Assmann 2020), which gives the artworks the potential to broaden the discourse about futurity, the construction of history and linear perception of time. Moreover, the artworks highlight the importance that storytelling and fiction (Wang 2020) have in contemporary China. Here the artworks function as highly volatile vehicles for storytelling within the contemporary *exhibitionism* (Bal 2021) and the exhibitionary complex (Bennett 1994) and positions them at the intersection of presentation of individual articulation and representation of what Jane Chin Davidson referred to as “Staging Chineseness” (Davidson 2020).



Nora WÖLFING
© Photo: Lukas Pürmayr

Mingfeng WU

Engaging the Secular in a Shared Future: The Confucian-Buddhist Debate and Modern Chinese Buddhist Thought

This project aims to contribute to the EAF program's objectives by examining the Confucian-Buddhist debate and modern Chinese Buddhist thought in the context of the conceptions of the future in East Asia. Specifically, this study will explore how the Confucian-Buddhist debate has shaped modern Buddhist writing in China, influencing scholars' thinking about self and society, the relationship between Buddhism and modern society, and the interpretation of Buddhist texts. Modern Buddhist writings from the 20th century often feature comparisons between Confucianism and Buddhism, as well as integrations of their respective ideologies. Through these efforts, Buddhists have sought to offer a path towards enlightenment that is applicable to a secular society. Hence, to understand how Buddhist scholars view the relationship between individuals and society in modern times, we must examine the ideological context of the Confucian-Buddhist controversy.

The views about and conceptualizations of the future at personal, national, and global levels will be analysed through the lenses of language, religion, and ideology, and the carriers of future conceptions, including individuals, groups, and larger collectives. Through this research, I aim to contribute to a better understanding of the evolution of ideas of political participation, nationalism, and egalitarianism in East Asia over the twentieth century, and demonstrate how self-identity and social class influenced views of the future and informed the role of Buddhism in shaping the future.



Mingfeng WU
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Postdoctoral Researchers

Dr. des. Aya HINO

An Imagined Future, Disappearing Futures: 'Nihon-gaku' and Colonial, Internal, and Imperial Differences within the Japanese Nation-Empire

This postdoctoral research project addresses the attempts to reconstitute a discursive network of colonial, internal, and imperial differences that discursively sustained and legitimated the future of the Japanese empire envisioned by the Japanese political and intellectual elites. More concretely, the project identifies three loci crucial for such attempts, which together constituted a liminal space, or a transformative threshold, to reiterate those differences. The first is the semantic and conceptual shift from 'shukan' (the observing subject) to 'shutai' (the acting subject) we see in the early 20th century, which, as the primary cognitive apparatus, re-enacted the boundaries of 'Japan' and 'Japanese' as the modern subject, as collective self-consciousness, vis-à-vis the internal and external other of the Japanese empire. The second is what I term here as 'the grammar of teikoku (empire)', which offered a discursive disguise for the hierarchised scale of differences established by 'shutai'.

My engagement with 'shutai' and 'the grammar of teikoku' will constitute a conceptual and analytical backdrop for the third and main locus of research, that is the field of knowledge called 'nihon-gaku' (studies of Japan) developed at imperial universities as a site of self-knowledge production and dissemination for the 'Japanese' students and scholars to reiterate the scale of differences, and as a mode of cultural assimilation of colonial subjects into imperial subjects. By critically engaging with these loci, this postdoctoral project seeks to understand contestations and negotiations built into a discursive network of colonial, internal, and imperial differences, and to account for the ways in which a specific future of Japan and East Asia was articulated in a liminal space between epistemology (cognitive practices mediated by the idea of 'shutai'), politics (the Japanese empire instituted and legitimated through the grammar of teikoku), and cultural production (knowledge production and dissemination through nihon-gaku).



Dr. des. Aya HINO
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Dr. Monika ARNOŠTOVÁ (affiliated researcher)

Current State and Future Projections of the Work Environment for Young Professionals in Urban Areas of Mainland China, Taiwan, and Japan

China, Taiwan and Japan are notoriously known for their culture of long working hours which was widely accepted by millennials and earlier generations but not as enthusiastically welcomed by generation Z or younger millennials. Each of these three regions has specific job market conditions for young professionals and the protest actions and ways of refusal of dire working conditions also vary. This prospective study aims at understanding the nature of protests young people adopt in their bargaining power in shaping the overall working conditions for all young workforce. Due to geographical and cultural vicinity, mainland China, Taiwan, and Japan are expected to demonstrate a certain degree of convergence and divergence. The aim of this research is therefore to identify the shared tendencies toward more healthy work arrangements and to offer predictions on how might these shape the overall working conditions for the whole young workforce in this region.

The youth in mainland China, Taiwan, and Japan feel a certain degree of disillusionment and disenchantment with the rat race that should ensure them a bright future. Interestingly enough, the trend of 'lying flat' seems to be a common denominator that occurs in various forms in all three societies. As the three societies find themselves in different stages of social and economical development, divergencies are also expected to emerge. Overtime culture and striving for material wealth do not seem to appeal to all young workforce anymore and our study could shed more light on what kind of countercultures are emerging among young people as a result, what is their take on work-life balance and what kind of work arrangements they might be willing to adopt. Understanding the attitudes of this young minority could help us to foresee how their take on work and life could possibly change the future of the working environment in all three East Asian societies.



Dr. Monika ARNOŠTOVÁ
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Dr. Martin GEHLMANN (affiliated researcher)

A Confucian Future for the Country East of the Sea

The second half of the 19th century brought enormous changes and new challenges to the Korean peninsula. The Chosŏn state, already beset by numerous domestic issues, faced encroachment by Western imperialist powers and under Japanese pressure was forced to reevaluate its relationship with the Qing empire. Korean Confucian thinkers instinctively looked to the past for solutions on how to deal with the looming problems. However, their understanding of that ideal Confucian past reflected current events and discourse. So, by the end of the 19th century, well-established Confucian concepts and ideas were reinterpreted as values and thought fit to build a modern Confucian nation, able to deal with the challenges of an imperialist world.

One example of such an attempt to shape a Korean-centred Confucian tradition for the development of a Korean Confucian nation state can be found in the *Continued Elementary Learning of East of the Sea*, edited by Pak Chaehyŏng (1838–1900) in 1884. Pak's work provides valuable insights into the understanding of Confucianism and Korea's place in its tradition in the late 19th century, as well as a quite particular and never realized concept for a Korean Confucian future. This research project analyses the historical context of Confucianism in Korea and its evolution over time, and it will contribute to ongoing discussions of the present and future of Confucianism in Korea by looking at its historical potential to adapt to modern challenges.



Dr. Martin GEHLMANN

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Dr. Qinqin PENG (affiliated researcher)

The Concept of “Change” in Chinese Buddhism and Its Modern Transformation

In premodern Chinese thought, change — “bian” — is understood as the fundamental state of the world and the inescapable situation of life. It has long been a central theme in Chinese philosophy, historiography, and religious writings. Rather than positing an external source for motion and order, Chinese cosmology interprets dynamic organization as implicit in the very nature of beings; it is one facet of the status of individualized things and is also embedded in the relationship between the patterns of nature and specifically human values.

On the one hand, the changes caused by modernity, such as industrialization, urbanization, globalization, and secularization, began to reshape China at both institutional and conceptual levels. On the other hand, modernity is also loaded with new theories, which are mostly universal, linear, normative, and secular, to explain and control change. New intellectual tools, such as science, became powerful, if not dominant, in dealing with changes.

The concept of change is deeply linked with people’s idea of time and their understanding of the past, the present, and the future. In particular, the future, due to its unknowable and unpredictable nature, often maintained a religious orientation. The Buddhist community’s imagination, judgment, and understanding of the future is an example that contributes to a further reflection on how a sustained manner of coping with negative changes has taken shape between secular forces and religious beliefs in early twentieth century China.



Dr. Qinqin PENG
© RUB, Marquard

Principal Investigators

Speaker and Co-speaker



*Speaker Prof. Dr. Christine MOLL-MURATA (right) and
Co-speaker Prof. Dr. Markus Taube (left)*

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Speaker Prof. Dr. Christine MOLL-MURATA holds the chair of the History of China at the Faculty of East Asian Studies, Ruhr University Bochum. She specialises in the socioeconomic history of China, especially from the Song dynasty to the Republic, as well as the history of Taiwan.

Co-speaker Prof. Dr. Markus TAUBE (co-speaker) holds the Chair of East Asian Economic Studies / China at the Institute of East Asian Studies and the Mercator School of Management, Faculty of Business Administration, University of Duisburg-Essen. He specialises in institutional economics (state-business nexus, industrial policy, informal networks), institutional transfers and policy.

Participating Researchers

Prof. Dr. Marion EGGERT

Chair Korean Studies (Korean Language and Culture), Faculty of East Asian Studies, Ruhr University Bochum

Specialisation: Korean history of ideas, esp. of Chosŏn times; Korean hanmun literature; Modern Korean literature, esp. poetry; Korean-Chinese cultural connections

Prof. Dr. Carmen MEINERT

Chair Central Asian Religions, Center for Religious Studies (CERES) and Faculty of East Asian Studies, Ruhr University Bochum

Specialisation: Transfer of Buddhism in Central Asia, Tibet and China; Cultural perspectives on environmental and climate change; Buddhism and Human Rights

Prof. Dr. Hannes MOSLER

Professor for Social Science of East Asia – Korean Society and Politics, Institute of East Asian Studies and Institute of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Duisburg-Essen

Specialisation: South Korean politics; political systems; political parties; electoral institutions; comparative constitutional law; memory politics; civic education

Prof. Dr. Dr. Nele NOESSELT

Professor for Political Science with a special focus on East Asia / China, Institute of East Asian Studies and Institute of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Duisburg-Essen

Specialisation: Chinese foreign relations; EU-China relations; Chinese International Relations theory; Governance in China; Transformation / transition of socialist systems

Prof. Dr. Katja SCHMIDTPOTT

Chair Japanese History, Faculty of East Asian Studies, Ruhr University Bochum

Specialisation: Modern Japanese History (19th / 20th centuries), esp. social and economic history; German-Japanese economic relations; Urban & architectural history; Rationalisation of everyday life.

Prof. Dr. Christian SCHWERMANN

Chair Chinese Language and Literature, Faculty of East Asian Studies, Ruhr University Bochum

Specialisation: Didactics, grammar, rhetoric of classical Chinese; Historical semantics and conceptual history; Ancient economic theory; Institutional history, Antiquity to the Middle Ages

Prof. Karen A. SHIRE, PhD

Chair Comparative Sociology and Japanese Society, Institute of East Asian Studies and Institute of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, and Director, Essen College for Gender Research, University of Duisburg-Essen

Specialisation: Social institutions; Work and employment; Gender-based inequalities; Economic sociology; Transnational labour markets; Japanese society

Mercator Fellows

Prof. Kaori HAYASHI, PhD

University of Tokyo, Tokyo
Japan

Kaori HAYASHI holds the position of Professor of Media and Journalism Studies at the Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies of the University of Tokyo. Since 2021, she is Executive Vice President of the University of Tokyo in charge of diversity and global affairs, as well as Director of the B'AI Global Forum. Prior to her academic career, she worked as the Tokyo correspondent for Reuters, and is a contributor and columnist for a variety of media including Asahi Shimbun.



Prof. Kaori HAYASHI, PhD
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She specialises in media and journalism studies and in international comparative research on the digitalization of media and the transformation of journalism. Furthermore, her research includes the status of women in journalism, the representation of women in media, and gender justice in the world of media. More recently, her research interests turned towards the just use of AI for the future of digital society.

Her publications include *Media fushin. Nani ga towarete iru no ka* (Tokyo: Iwanami shinsho 2017). Among her recent English publications are “The Silent Public in a Liberal State: Challenges for Japan’s Journalism in the Age of the Internet” in the edited volume *The Crisis of Liberal Internationalism. Japan and the World Order*, edited by Yoichi Funabashi and G. John Ikenberry, Brookings Institution Press 2020, and “Gendered power relations in the digital age: An analysis of Japanese women’s media choice and use within a global context”, published in 2023 in *Feminist Media Studies*.

Prof. Hyung-Gu LYNN, PhD

University of British Columbia, Vancouver
Canada

Hyung-Gu LYNN has largely lived and worked in Canada, South Korea, Japan, and the United States during his career. He teaches as the AECL/KEPCO Chair in Korean research in the Department of Asian Studies, the University of British Columbia, in Vancouver, Canada, and was the Editor-in-Chief of the multi-disciplinary journal *Pacific Affairs* from 2008 to 2023. Receiving his PhD from Harvard University, he held positions at Hitotsubashi University and Hanyang University before assuming his current position, and has been a visiting scholar at Kyushu University and Seoul National University.

His areas of expertise are Korean and Japanese research, in particular colonialism, migration, popular culture, politics, international relations, and business history.

Among his publications is his monograph *Bipolar Orders: The Two Koreas Since 1989*, which was published in English by Zed Books (London 2007) and in Italian by EDT (Roma 2009). He also edited the 4 volumes of *Critical Readings on the Colonial Period of Korea, 1910–1945* (Leiden: Brill 2012).



Prof. Hyung-Gu LYNN, PhD

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Prof. em. Brantly WOMACK, PhD

University of Virginia, Charlottesville
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Brantly WOMACK is Senior Faculty Fellow at the Miller Center of University of Virginia and Professor of Foreign Affairs emeritus of UVA's Department of Politics. From February to April 2023, he taught in Beijing as the Boeing Visiting Faculty Chair in International Relations of Schwarzman College, in Tsinghua University.

His book, *Recentring Pacific Asia: Regional China and World Order*, was published by Cambridge University Press in August 2023.

Previous books include *Asymmetry and International Relationships* (Cambridge 2016), *China Among Unequals: Asymmetric International Relationships in Asia* (World Scientific Press 2010), and *China and Vietnam: The Politics of Asymmetry* (Cambridge 2006).

He co-edited with Yuk Wah Chan *Borderlands in East and Southeast Asia* (Routledge 2017), with Hao Yufan *Rethinking the Triangle: Washington, Beijing, Taipei* (University of Macau Press and World Scientific Press, 2016), edited *China's Rise in Historical Perspective* (Rowman and Littlefield 2010) and *Contemporary Chinese Politics in Historical Perspective* (Cambridge 1991).

Professor WOMACK has visited all thirty-one Chinese provinces, and in 2011 he was given the China Friendship Award for his work with Chinese universities.



Prof. Brantly WOMACK, PhD

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Prof. Lin-Chun WU, PhD

National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei
Taiwan

Lin-Chun WU is currently a professor of history at Taiwan Normal University. Her primary interest is modern China history and the postwar Taiwan-U.S. relations. She has been a visiting scholar in Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University and a Fulbright Scholar at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University.



Prof. Lin-Chun WU, PhD
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Her newly published book *Meiguo ren weijing de Zhongguo meng: Qiye, jishu yu guanxi wang* (America's Unfinished China Dream: Business, Technology and Networks), Taipei: Lian Jing, 2020, won the 10th Academia Sinica Scholarly Monograph Award in Humanities and Social Sciences. Other published books include *Kuaguo jiaozhi xia de diguo mingyun: Jindai shi* (The Fate of Empires under the Intertwining of Nations: Late Qing), Taipei: Lian Jing, 2024; *Meiguo da qiye yu jindai Zhongguo de guoji hua* (American Big Business and China's Internationalization), Taipei: Lian Jing, 2012; *Meifu shiyou gongsi zai Zhongguo, 1870–1933* (Standard Oil Company in China, 1870–1933), Xinbei: Dao Xiang, 2001 (revised simplified version, 2017); *Lishi jiaoxue lilun yu shiwu* (Theory and Practice of Teaching History), Taipei: Wu-Nan, 2003; and *Meiguo yu Zhongguo zhengzhi: Yi nanbei fenlie zhengju wei zhongxin de tantao, 1917–1928* (American and Chinese Politics: A Study Centered on the North-South Division, 1917–1928), Taipei: Dong Da, 1996.

Her articles in English have appeared in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, the *Journal of American-East Asian Relations* and others.

Qualifying Fellowships (2023/2024)



Estella GREEN, Maria FROLOVA, Erik RIEN, and Lea WALLRAFF (left to right)

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Partner institutions

China

- 1) East China Normal University, Faculty of History, Shanghai
- 2) Jilin University, School of Economics, Changchun
- 3) Nankai University, School of Economics, Laboratory for Economic Behavior and Policy Simulation, Centre for Transnational Studies, Tianjin
- 4) Shandong University Institute of International Studies and School of North East Asia Studies, Weihai

Taiwan

- 5) National Taiwan Normal University, College of Liberal Arts, Taipei

Japan

- 6) Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien, Tokyo
- 7) The University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies, Tokyo
- 8) Hitotsubashi University, Graduate School of Economics, Tokyo
- 9) Kyushu University, Faculty of Humanities, Japanese History and History of Ideas, Fukuoka

South Korea

- 10) Sungkyunkwan University, Department of Korean Language and Literature, Humanities, Seoul
- 11) Seoul National University, Institute for Korean Political Studies, Seoul

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