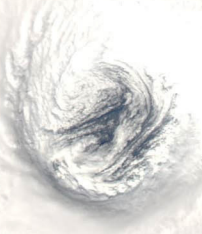
IN-EAST
INSTITUTE OF
EAST ASIAN STUDIES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST ASIAN STATECRAFT UNDER PRESSURE: RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION BETWEEN DOMESTIC CHALLENGES AND GLOBAL FORCES



Wed/Thu, November 11–12, 2026

University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany,
Institute of East Asian Studies (IN-EAST)

Venue: College for Social Sciences and Humanities
Lindenallee 39–41, 45127 Essen

UNIVERSITÄT
DUISBURG
ESSEN

Offen im Denken

International Conference

EAST ASIAN STATECRAFT UNDER PRESSURE: RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION BETWEEN DOMESTIC CHALLENGES AND GLOBAL FORCES

November 11–12, 2026

Venue: College for Social Sciences and Humanities, Lindenallee 39–41, 45127 Essen

University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany
Institute of East Asian Studies (IN-EAST)

East Asia is experiencing one of the most consequential periods of transformation in decades. Global power shifts, the second Trump administration, China's rise to superpower status, and Russia's military and strategic aggression have put tremendous stress on the region, affecting its geopolitics, internal politics, economy, and society. At the same time, East Asia and the wider Asia-Pacific/Indo-Pacific region have become sites of global importance, increasingly shaping global power structures, conflicts, and recalibrations. How East Asian democracies and autocratic states deal with external and internal stress, pressure, and threats will have different effects and repercussions that will affect the rest of the world in the medium and long term. This conference seeks to shed light on the rapidly evolving dynamics of destabilization, strategic adjustments, and resilience in China, Japan, Korea, and beyond by bringing together diverse perspectives and disciplines.

Please note that the schedule may change and check regularly for updates!

Wednesday, November 11, 2026

College for Social Sciences and Humanities, Essen

9:30 Welcome and Registration

10:00 Welcome Addresses and Introduction

10:15 Panel I: Climate Change and Energy Politics

Chair: **Markus Taube** *IN-EAST*

Andreas Löschel *Ruhr University Bochum*
Energy Security as a Driver of Energy and Climate Policy in China

Eva Sternfeld *Sino-German Agricultural Centre, Beijing (formerly)*
Black Cats – Green Mountains. Energy Security, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change: Challenges for Sustainable Development in China

Miranda Schreurs *Technical University of Munich*
tba

12:00 Lunch break

13:00 Panel II: Securitization in the Asia-pacific and beyond

Chair: **Nele Noesselt** *IN-EAST*

Zhao Suisheng *University of Denver*
China as a Rule-maker amid the Crisis of the Post-WWII World Order

Hyung-Gu Lynn *University of British Columbia, Vancouver*
The Cubist State: Multi-Planar Sovereignty and North Korean Foreign Policy

Obert Hodzi *University of Liverpool*
Bandung 2.0? Asymmetric Solidarity and Strategic Autonomy in a Fractured Global Order

Guo Xiaoli *IN-EAST*
Enacting Responsibility and Unsettling Expectations in China's Great-Power Conduct

15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 Panel III: Democracies under Pressure

Chair: **Hannes Mosler** *IN-EAST*

Guibourg Delamotte *French Institute of Oriental Studies (inalco), Paris*
Challenges to and Resilience of Democracy in Japan

Myungji Yang *University of Hawai'i, Honolulu*
South Korea's Reactionary Turn: Evangelicals, Seniors, and Young Men on the Right

17:15 Short Break

17:30 Keynote Lecture

Kerry Brown *King's College London*
tba

18:30 Wrap-up Day one

Thursday, November 12, 2026

College for Social Sciences and Humanities, Essen

9:30 Welcome and Registration

10.00 Panel IV: Statecraft and Labour Markets

Chair: **Axel Klein** *IN-EAST*

Stefan Heeb *IN-EAST*
Social Status Attribution Regimes in East Asia: Institutional Sorting, Legitimation Narratives, and the Vocational/Academic Divide

Monika Arnoštová *IN-EAST*
Mediating Crisis: The Role of Family, Gender, and State in Shaping Youth Futures in China

Georg Blind *IN-EAST*
Upgrade or Headhunt: The Unlikely Rebound of Regular Employment in Japan

Ardita Osmani *IN-EAST*
Selective Regulation in Cross-Border Labour Markets. The Case of Chinese Labour Migration to Italy

12.00 Lunch break

13:00 Panel V: Demographic Changes and Migration

Chair: **Judith Purkarthofer** *University of Duisburg-Essen*

Gracia Liu-Farrer *Waseda University, Tokyo*
Recruiting Workers, Restricting Settlers: Japan's Migration Policy Transition and Its Consequences

Myung Jin Hwang *Korea University, Seoul*
tba

Rachel Murphy *University of Oxford*
China's Care Challenges and Multi-layered Patchwork Improvisations under Accelerated Population Decline

Hyun Bang Shin *London School of Economics*
From Growth to Inheritance: Rethinking Gentrification under Demographic Shift in East Asia

15.30 Coffee break

16.00 Roundtable Discussion: Changing International Order

Eric Ballbach *Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), Berlin*
Alexandra Sakaki *SWP Berlin*
Jörn-Carsten Gottwald *Ruhr University Bochum*
Moderator: Anna Shpakovskaya *IN-EAST Associate*

17.00 Farewell