SEPTEMBER SEMINAR

Beijing 2016

Co-organized by
DFG Research Training Group 1613 Risk and East Asia,
University of Duisburg-Essen &
School of Sociology and Population Studies,
Renmin University of China, Beijing

Organizers:
Prof. Flemming Christiansen  Prof. Yu Xianyang
University of Duisburg-Essen  Renmin University of China

Prof. Tao Liu,  University of Duisburg-Essen
Prof. Liu Tao,  Renmin University of China

Prof. Tak-Wing Ngo  Prof. Markus Taube
Prof. Qin Ping  Prof. Yu Xianyang

September 26–28, 2016
Renmin University, Beijing
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
Renmin University, Cangshuguan (藏书馆) (4th floor)

8:30–9:00 Opening speech
   Prof. Yu Xianyang and Prof. Flemming Christiansen

9:00–10:00 Opening lecture (in English)
   Prof. Tak-Wing Ngo, Macau University, Macau
   Scalar Restructuring of the Chinese State

10:00–10:30 Tea break

10:30–12:10 Panel 1
   10:30 Zou Yu, PhD student, University of Duisburg-Essen
   “Decentralization and Institutionalized Cooperation and Forest Self-governance in China, Theory and Experiment”
   10:50 Commentator: Professor Qin Ping, Department of Energy Economics of School of Economics, Renmin University of China
   11:10 Discussion
   11:20 Sun Dawei, PhD student, Renmin University of China
   Booming and Fading Away of Linhu Country
   11:40 Commentator: Prof. Flemming Christiansen, University of Duisburg-Essen
   12:00 Discussion
   12:10–13:30 Lunch at Huixian Restaurant, Renmin University (central dining hall, 3rd floor)

13:30–15:10 Panel 2
   13:30 Chen Zelin, PhD student, Renmin University of China
   Structure-Mechanism-Function: The Theoretical Framework of Social Governance Studies
   13:50 Commentator: Prof. Lu Yilong, Renmin University of China
   14:10 Discussion
   14:20 Hollie Gowan, PhD student, University of Leeds
   The construction of gender roles and relationships in faith-based organisations in China: an examination of their impact upon women’s agency and social engagement.
14:40 Commentator: Prof. Liu Tao, University of Duisburg-Essen
15:00 Discussion

15:10–15:40 Tea break

15:40–17:20 Panel 3

15:40 Connor Malloy, PhD student, University of Duisburg-Essen
Urbanizing Practices: A Sociological Study of Post-Relocation Residential Spaces in Urban China

16:00 Commentator: Prof. Fan Ke, Nanjing University
16:20 Discussion

16:30 Liu Xin, PhD student, Renmin University of China
The End of Rural Postman: Emotion in Interpersonal Relationship Shift

16:50 Commentator: Prof. Yu Xianyang, Renmin University of China
17:10 Discussion

Dinner at Huixian Restaurant, Renmin University (central dining hall, 3rd floor)
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
Renmin University, Cangshuguan (藏书馆) (4th floor)

9:00–12:00  **Panel 4**

9:00  **Ge Ningjing, PhD student, University of Duisburg-Essen**
Anti-corruption effort and social values in post-transitional China

9:20  Commentator: **Professor He Zengke, Beijing University**
      **Professor Li Lulu, Renmin University of China**

9:50  Discussion

10:00  **Xu Xiangwen, PhD student, Renmin University of China**
The path of new collectivism in rural welfare governance

10:20  Commentator: **Prof. Markus Taube, University of Duisburg-Essen**

10:40  Discussion

10:50  Tea break

11:20  Final discussion

12:00  Lunch at Huixian Restaurant, Renmin University (central dining hall, 3rd floor)

18:30  Duisburg dinner at Yi He Ya Yuan Chinese Restaurant, Beijing Roast Duck
Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 28

9:00–11:30  Visit to the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI)

11:45–13:30  Lunch at Yan Fu Restaurant
Introduction of programs

Tak-Wing Ngo
Scalar Restructuring of the Chinese State

Abstract
Recent studies have re-examined the implications and conceptual limitations of the theory of state rescaling in non-Western contexts. While the reconfiguration of state spaces has taken place in many countries and regions, the forces driving a state to reconfigure its spatial power and the forms of state rescaling appear to be contingent upon specific contexts. This article analyses the driving forces behind the scalar restructuring of the Chinese state, and discusses how the logic as well as the form of rescaling differ from the post-Fordist experience of the West. Using special development zones as an example, this presentation argues that development zones in China represent new political spaces that enable local state actors to navigate between multiple scales. Local states can manipulate the costs and benefits between a zone and its hosting locale by taking advantage of their overlapping jurisdictions across different scales. Zoning has become a scaling strategy from below. Local authorities have deployed various zoning technologies to empower themselves by manipulating the existing scalar order to their own advantage.

Yu Zou
“Decentralization and Institutionalized Cooperation and Forest Self-governance in China, Theory and Experiment”

Abstract:
Since 2003 China started forest privatization reform aiming to improve the livelihood of the local residents as well as to protect the forest more efficiently. However, the reform cannot solve all the problems, such as the social conflicts and ecology destroying in forested areas. Why is privatization not a solution? In fact, forests are one of the Common-Pool Resources (CPRs), which are jointly owned by a certain number of people and it is costly to exclude potential beneficiaries obtaining benefits from the resource. The problem of governing the CPRs is how to make the people who face the
collective action dilemma to cooperate in terms of up keeping the CPRs in a sustainable way. The current literature refers some factors which have a positive impact on cooperation, for instance, communication, costly sanction, heterogeneity of the group, leadership and culture etc.

This project seeks to answer two research questions. The first asks, what factors impact the collective cooperation with regard to forest governance in China? The second considers the problem of incomplete property rights in China. This situation begs the question: what factors impact the cooperation between such users? The significant factors will be determined using experimental methods.

**Keywords:**
Collective forest reform, insecure property rights, common pool resources, self-governance

**Author:** Yu Zou is a PhD student at the Institute of East Asian Studies, University of Duisburg-Essen. She finished her Bachelor study in Finance at Jilin University, China and gained her master degree in Professional Public Decision Making at the University of Bremen. Her doctoral project’s topic is “Decentralization and Institutionalized Cooperation and Self-governance in China, Theory and Experiment”, in which she will investigate what kinds of institutional arrangements may promote a long-term cooperation in related to govern the forest in rural China through an experimental method. E-Mail: yu.zou@uni-due.de

**Sun Dawei:**
**Booming and Fading Away of Linhu Country**

**Abstract:** Rapid urbanization is happening in today’s China, as the society is advancing with the passage of time there is a boom of New town in recent years. Urbanization is bringing up profound changes in rural areas which will impress the fate of famers, the rural society and even the China’s rural economy development. This study is focusing on the social change process from traditional country to New town
during the urbanization, to display which parts of the traditional country have faded away, which parts boomed and the mechanisms of it. Specifically, during the urbanization have the elements of traditional country including the old streets, buildings, lifestyles, values and cultures faded away or transited to New town and boomed there, then what’s really causing all the changes. Taking Linhu country as an example this research has found that organized mechanism of modernization is a feasibility and applicability approach to understand the rural areas transformation basing on the market mechanism and industrialization logic.

**Keywords:** society change, rural China, organized mechanism of modernization

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**Chen Zelin**

**Structure-Mechanism-Function: The Theoretical Framework of Social Governance Studies**

**Abstract:** Nowadays Social Governance has been a popular issue in academic circle of China, yet as a whole, studies about it are obviously divided into different subjects and topics, resulting in its low theoretical level. This research explores the existing orientations and main topics during 2010 and 2015 in China, then tries to make a theoretical framework called the *Structure-Mechanism-Function Model*. And the author takes Tiancun Street, which belongs to Beijing City, as an example to explain the value of the above framework in connecting the governance theory and empirical world.

**Key Words:** Social Governance; Structure; Mechanism; Function

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Hollie Gowan

The construction of gender roles and relationships in faith-based organisations in China: an examination of their impact upon women’s agency and social engagement.

This doctoral project is concerned with the impact of Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs) upon the social engagement and agency of Chinese women and how this is connected to wider social reform in contemporary China. In the context of this project, Faith-Based Organisations are ‘non-profit associations that have faith-based motivations, hiring policies and funding sources, but do not do ‘religious work’ […] but offer social services such as education, health or charitable work’ (Hamrin, 2003) in the pursuit of a ‘harmonious society’ (McCarthy, 2013: 49). The relevance of these organisations lies not only in their role of social service to the public, but also in the new opportunities they are creating for the social engagement and agency for Chinese women. This doctoral project is a comparative ethnographic study of two organisations – one Buddhist and one Christian - with each offering a unique and different avenue from which to examine gender and development within the Chinese context. Therefore, this paper will outline the way in which ‘gender’ and ‘development’ is conceptualised, and understood, in this doctoral project; how this will impact upon the examination of gender roles and relationships in the work and rhetoric of these organisations, and the ethnographic research methods that will be employed during fieldwork. This will lead into a discussion on the concepts of ‘Transpositionality’ and ‘Transevaluation’ (Li Xiaojiang 2001) and how these will impact me as a researcher not native to the country being studied. In doing so, this paper will begin to explore how these organisations could be viewed as ‘vehicles of engagement’ in the mobilisation of Chinese women within the wider project of gender, development and women’s empowerment in contemporary China.

Key Words: Gender; Agency; Development; Social Engagement

Author: Hollie Gowan is a PhD student working under the joint supervision of Professor Emma Tomlin and Dr Caroline Fielder at the University of Leeds. She received her First Class Honours Undergraduate degree in Sociology with Theology & Religious Studies at the University of Leeds in 2012 and was awarded the Leslie
Barnard Prize for her extended dissertation. She achieved her ME.d in Educational Research & Practice at the University of Cambridge whilst working as a teacher in a secondary school in the UK. She began her PhD studies as a joint project between the East Asian Studies and the School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science at the University of Leeds in 2015. Alongside her studies, Hollie continues to work as Editorial Designer for an education journal at the University of Cambridge, as well as recently becoming a research assistant for a Development Research Cluster at the University of Leeds. E-Mail: jh09hgg@leeds.ac.uk

Connor Malloy

Urbanizing Practices: A Sociological Study of Post-Relocation Residential Spaces in Urban China

Abstract: In addition to China’s recent and continued development of spaces of globalization and elite consumption, urban spaces of differentiation and marginalization have also proliferated (Ma and Wu 2005:7). The social, economic, and physical juxtaposition of these spaces underscore development goals to modernize the cityscape as well as the citizenry through the infrastructural and social redevelopment of these spaces. The (re)development of differential and marginal spaces, and subsequent relocation of residents, entails major social, economic, and cultural shifts for the local population as they are relocated to new sociospatial and institutional contexts. As such, residential relocation as a mechanism of social development requires actors to maintain, adapt, or adopt practices and strategies, creating a reflexive relationship between actors and space, whereby the social and institutional context influences, and is influenced by, local actors. Few studies have deeply engaged China’s ongoing urbanization project in terms of the relationship between relocated residents and residential contexts, specifically in terms of shaping practices and strategies on an individual and community level. This dissertation aims to examine local social dynamics of China’s urban development and the remaking of spatial margins.

Key Words: residential relocation, urbanization, practices
Author: Connor Malloy joined the DFG Research Training group in the autumn of 2015. He received Bachelor of Arts (International Studies) from the University of Regina in 2013, after which he spent an academic year studying Chinese Language at Jilin University before getting his Master of Arts (Modern East Asian Studies) at the University of Duisburg Essen in 2015. Connor’s current research interests include China’s urbanization, the relations between urban and peri-urban space, and identity and ethnicity. In September of 2016 Connor will begin ethnographic fieldwork in post-relocation residential communities in Hohhot, China.

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Xin Liu

The End of Rural Postman: Emotion in Interpersonal Relationship Shift

Abstract: Since the reform and opening up, Chinese society has entered a period of rapid transformation, people’s life has changed dramatically. Progress of science and technology, convenient transportation, transformation of communication technology unceasingly changes people’s communication way. Letter based traditional communication media has been replaced by mobile phones, Internet and other modern communication media. The communication between people is more efficient. Modern and timely communication tools to replace the letter of this time delay communication. As a service at the grassroots level, serving a group of the public, as a connecting people and people, people and social communication media plays an important role in the society. But with the development of transportation and communication technology, great changes have taken place in society, the role of rural postman has also undergone a fundamental change. Behind this change, our concern is that changes in the role of the rural postman has changed people, the relationship between man and society strength and depth. This paper attempts to explore the technical means for the node, with traffic communication technology invention and creation of traditional society in the community of solidarity, the close relationship between the mutual attachment of the change, and through the role change of the rural postman tries to reveal the influence of the internal mechanism of interpersonal relationship in rural society.
Keywords: rural postman; interpersonal relationship; emotion

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Ningjing GE

Anti-corruption effort and social values in post-transitional China

Abstract:
“Anti-corruption” has always been a core task of the Chinese Communist Party. Since the foundation of the PRC, a rather integrated and rigorous anti-corruption system has been gradually established, after the 18th CCP National Congress, it is further refined. Meanwhile, according to the supreme prosecutor, corruption crimes show new situations and new features. So this research delves into the question “Why corruption practice is deemed ‘wrong’ by almost everyone but meanwhile widespread? How is the boundary between morality and immorality, right and wrong, acceptable and unacceptable negotiated, shaped and changed by different social agents?” Existing studies on the cause of corruption fit into either institutional or value perspective, but rarely both. In order to fill in this gap, this research attempts to construct a framework analyzing the root cause of corruption in China considering not only institutional environment but also social value system and argues that with the structural changes brought by modernization and individualization, it is necessary to explore the root of corruption with the assumption that cadres are subjects with comprehensive characters as both rational and social actors.

In the book “cadres and corruption”, Lv Xiaobo raised the idea that analyzing corruption from the perspective of organization. Beck discussed the reconfiguration of all kinds of “boundaries” of social life in his reflexive modernity theory. Inspired by their works, this research takes “how is the morality red line drawn by organizational actors” as the starting point of theoretical consideration. By analyzing different principles of moral judgment held by various subjects (especially the cadres), this research intends to detect how are the boundaries between moral and immoral, right and wrong, acceptable and unacceptable negotiated and shaped in...
contemporary China; whether reflexive modernity theory is applicable to explain China’s situation; whether the value judgments around corruption phenomenon could reveal some universal principles of human society.

This research will be built on the data mainly collected from newspapers and ethnographic fieldwork. Critical discourse analysis and institutional analysis will be adopted as methodological approaches.

Keywords:
Cadre corruption; Institutions; Values; Organizational integrity; Involution

Author: Ningjing Ge, joined the DFG Research Training Group 1613 “Risk and East Asia” as a doctoral student in May, 2015. In 2010, she gained Bachelor’s degree in Public Administration and Law at Tianjin University of Finance & Economics, China. In January, 2013, she obtained Master’s degree in Public Administration at University of Macau, China. Her Master thesis defined and discussed the mechanism of “legal but illicit practice” based on literature review and the relationship theory. Her current research focuses on the value shift and institutional changes coming along with individualization of China. E-Mail: ningjing.ge@stud.uni-due.de

Xu Xiangwen
The path of new collectivism in rural welfare governance

Abstract: China is a typical collectivistic country. The collective plays a pivotal role in the supply of rural welfare for a long time. However, the establishment of market system and the household contract responsibility system breaks the social basis of rural collective participates welfare governance, which has caused some issues of rural empty nest, discrete, depressed etc. become increasingly prominent, also has caused a high degree attention from all walks on rural welfare governance. In recent years, land-based, some regions of China are trying to re-collectivize and re-organize the rural society, and showing a significant difference in collective characteristics with the period of the planning system, that is, the new collectivism. This research is based on the practice mode of a rural village in southern Jiangsu, exploring the evolution,
features and behavior logic of new collectivism in rural welfare governance, on this basis, furtherly revealing the significance of new collectivism path to resolve the current rural welfare governance issues in China.

**Key words**: new collectivism; rural welfare; welfare governance; assets construction; developmental social welfare

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**Introduction of invited mentors**

**Prof. Dr. Fan Ke**, Professor at Research Institute of Social Anthropology, School of Social and Behavior Sciences, Nanjing University, he is also the professor at the Johns Hopkins-Nanjing Center and the Director of the Research Institute of Social Anthropology in the Nanjing University. His interest includes Ethnicity and nationalism, Political Anthropology, Identity politic, Anthropology and history, East Asian Muslims, Transnationalism and globalization. He is the member of the editorial board of the following journals: *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs, Asian Anthropology*, 《民族研究》(Ethno-National Studies), 《开放时代》(Open Times), 《中国研究》(China Studies), 《中国人类学评论》(Chinese Anthropological Review). His major publication includes: 2017 《思与行——认同政治、文化、历史》(Thinking and Practicing: Identity Politics, Culture, and History) 北京: 社科文献出版社 (Beijing: Sheke Wenxian Chubanshe ); 2015 《在野的全球化——流动、信任与认同》 (Globalization at Large: Mobility, Trust, and Identity) 北京: 知识产权出版社 (Beijing: Zhishi Chanquan Chubanshe), 288 pages. (The book was awarded as one of the best 10 books of 2016 in Social Sciences ); 2012 《他我之间——人类学语境里的“异”与“同”》 (Between Them and US: Difference and Similarity in Anthropological Perspective) 北京：中国社会科学出版社 (Beijing: Zhongguo Shehui Kexue Chubanshe), 305 pages. E-Mail: fankanthr@gmail.com


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