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Beauty in East Asia

- Contemporary Body Practices in South Korea: Subjection and Agency in Late Modernity
- How Much Is My Face Worth? Neoliberal Subjectification, the Beauty Economy, and the Internet Celebrity Culture in China
- The Beautiful *Shōnen* of the Deep and Moonless Night: The Boyish Aesthetic in Modern Japan
- The Image of the Beautiful Woman: Beauty Ideals in Modern Urban China
- Sri Lanka: Rekonfiguration des Singhalesischen Nationalismus

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Workshop “Urbanizing Rural China: Challenges of Rural Governance”

Skagen, February 23–25, 2018

In February this year, twelve scholars from eight countries came together in the beautiful Klitgaarden Refugium, at the northern extremity of Denmark, to discuss early paper drafts on the recent urbanization drive in the Chinese countryside. Jesper Zeuthen (Aalborg University), René Trappel (University of Freiburg) and Elena Meyer-Clement (Freie Universität Berlin) co-organized the workshop and the Danish Social Science Research Council generously provided funding.

The first panel highlighted old and new governance tools for dealing with citizen resistance against particular urbanization policies. Eva Pils (King’s College London) discussed the eviction of citizens with rural residency status from the outskirts of Beijing and argued for conceptualizing this and similar campaigns as part of a wider pattern of segregation and fragmented governance that undermines resistance to rights violations. Lynette Ong (University of Toronto) examined more closely how local governments utilize third-party violence to evict homeowners or expropriate land from farmers. She sees such violence as an effective but politically risky way for local governments to implement unpopular or illegal policies.

The second panel focused on the “Chengdu approach” of urban–rural integration. Jesper Zeuthen (Aalborg University) analyzed the political bargaining processes surrounding land use changes in predominantly rural areas and found that, often, the real object of contestation for local cadres is access to public funding. Jessica Wilczak (University of Lausanne) focused on the capacity of village leaders to influence resettlement after the Wenchuan earthquake. Comparing reconstruction projects in three communities, she highlighted the importance of institutional histories and collective land resources for shaping these projects. Generally, she found that village leaders expected local government to play a strong role in reconstruction.

The first panel on Saturday examined the construction of rural communities as a strategy employed by urban governments to increase construction land quotas for urban expansion. Ray Yep (City University, Hong Kong) compared two different approaches in Chongqing and Nantong and found that these contributed to contrasting relocation patterns as well as variations in inter-governmental relations and local authority. Elena Meyer-Clement (Freie Universität Berlin) evaluated the policy changes under Xi Jinping that highlight the prohibition of large-scale village demolition and the protection of peasants’ land use-rights. She argued that the changes may not significantly constrain local cadres’ land grabbing behavior, but should rather be regarded as a strategy for easing the implementation of urbanization in rural areas. In the following panel, Julia Chuang (Boston College) explored the new roles that the Chinese welfare state plays in the lives of rural residents undergoing urbanization. Basing her argument on ethnographic and statistical evidence, Chuang showed that the practice of trading of rural land rights for urban social welfare has amplified the inequality among households in the same localities. Kristen Looney (Georgetown University) looked at rural governance changes within the new rural communities. She argued that by increasing state control over rural land and by changing the status of village committees, “New-Style Urbanization” and the related policy of “New Rural Community Building” have reduced village autonomy.

The last panel of the workshop focused on the future of collective land in China. Burak Gürel (Koç University) critically reviewed the academic and policy debates on rural land

tenure in China since the 1980s. He identified three strands in the debates: the dominant state-centered developmentalism, which increasingly borrows arguments from a developmentalism with welfarist characteristics that warns against the political and social risks connected with privatization of land, and a Western-inspired liberal critique of both these approaches. René Trappel (University of Freiburg) focused on the shift from smallholder to commercial farming in China under the conditions of collective land ownership. He argued that collective land ownership, in fact, enables this shift and discussed hypotheses on the structural development of Chinese agriculture. John Donaldson (Singapore Management University) continued the debate over changes in China's agricultural development and urbanization in the last decade and reinforced his earlier arguments, defending the Household Responsibility System as an institution that, among other advantages, gives Chinese farmers a choice between life in rural and urban areas.

Comments by Christian Lund (University of Copenhagen) added a further perspective from outside China, which contributed to the fruitful discussions and pleasant atmosphere of the workshop. The participants agreed that discussions on the Chinese countryside should continue within the framework of an international network to be known under the heading of "Modernizing Rural China". A follow-up workshop is planned for next year in Germany.

Elena Meyer-Clement

Policy Innovation and Governance Change under China's Fifth Generation

University of Duisburg-Essen, January 27–28, 2018

The international workshop "Policy Innovation and Governance Change under China's Fifth Generation" was prepared by Prof. Nele Noesselt (University of Duisburg-Essen) to mark the end of the DFG Project "Governance in China" which was focusing on the research of governance in China since 2011. The workshop was held in Duisburg on January 27th and January 28th 2018. Outstanding scholars and young researchers in the field of China-studies presented their research and discussed the developments and changes of the approach to governance in China under the 5th generation of leadership.

Prior to the workshop, on January 26th, the evening roundtable discussion was held where Prof. Joseph Fewsmith (Boston University), Prof. Baogang Guo (Dalton State) and Prof. Gerald Chan (University of Auckland) gave keynote speeches pointing out the essential issues and questions of the field. Joseph Fewsmith talked about the specifics and problems of governance innovation in the context of the of approaches of regional authorities. Baogang Guo focused on the impact of identity characteristics, cultural background and the use of language on perceptions and on the way in which the research is framed by the scholars from different countries. Gerald Chan addressed the international dimension and talked about the essential questions associated with the influence of the approach to governance on the foreign policy of China.

The first panel, held on January 27th, was devoted to the discussion of governance innovation in China. Prof. Hu Xiaobo (Clemson University) talked about the new developments and challenges for policy innovation in China. He especially stressed the specifics of the dynamics of the incentive structures. Dr. Yang Xuedong (Central Compilation and Translation Bureau of China) focused on the top-level design, reform pressures, and local adaptations. He interpreted the trajectory of reform since the 18th CPC Party Congress. Prof.

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