

TELLOS PAUL PICCONE INSTITUTE

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN
AMERICAN INSTITUTE, QUEENS COLLEGE/CUNY, PRESENTS

CHINA KEYWORDS

中国关键词

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, TO SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2025

NEW YORK CITY

THE "CHINA KEYWORDS" CONFERENCE OF THE TELOS-PAUL
PICCONE INSTITUTE EXPLORES KEY TERMS IN CONTEMPORARY
CHINESE POLITICAL THOUGHT AND TESTS THEIR CRITICAL
RESOURCES FOR THE THEORIZATION OF POLITICS AND SOCIETY
TODAY, IN BOTH CHINA AND THE WEST.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

Keynote Speaker: Huimin Jin

STEPHEN ANGLE · JOSEPH W. BENDERSKY · ERIC HENDRIKS

CHIAHAO HSU · CHIA-YU LIANG · NATHAN LEVINE

DAVID OWNBY · ADRIAN PABST · DAVID PAN

KIRON SKINNER · TONY SPANAKOS · QI ZHENG · SIKONG ZHAO

CONFERENCE LOCATION: The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

25 West 43rd Street, 17th Floor · New York, NY 10036

FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT WWW.TELOSINSTITUTE.NET



The 2025 Telos-Paul Piccone Institute Conference

March 21 to 22, 2025

New York, NY

China Keywords / 中国关键词

Co-sponsored by the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
Queens College/CUNY

As part of our five-year China Initiative, the Telos-Paul Piccone Institute seeks to foster a mutually enriching encounter between Chinese and Western critical thinkers parallel to that which we fostered with Soviet-bloc intellectuals during the Cold War.

Although the public sphere in the West is deeply concerned with China's material might, it pays scant attention to Chinese social and political ideas. This is dangerously one-sided, spurring a sense of rivalry blind to motivating principles. In the face of the dangerous possibilities that confront the world today, both between and within our respective nations, it is vital that critical thinkers in the West form intellectual bridges with critical thinkers in China. This encounter is important not only in strategic terms, but also for the possibilities that it offers for the development of engaged theorizing in the tradition of the Telos circle.

In that spirit, “China Keywords” explores key terms in contemporary Chinese political thought and tests their resources for the theorization of Chinese and Western politics and society. What critical potential do concepts like *tianxia*, *wangdao*, *daobi*, *nei-wai*, and *tianren heyi* carry—in both China and the West? What are their implicit assumptions? Where do they challenge ideological dogmas? Where do they ground them? How do they challenge or disrupt bureaucratized power? Likewise, how do Chinese and Western political traditions speak to each other? How do Chinese thinkers interpret both Western liberalism and thinkers critical of liberalism such as Leo Strauss and Carl Schmitt? How can an intellectual encounter between Chinese and Western thought help advance democratic political development? And how can TPPI foster an encounter between Chinese and Western political thinking similar to that which the Telos circle advanced during the 1970s and 1980s, when we helped bring Marxism and phenomenology into conversation?

Our twenty-five speakers include Huimin Jin of Sichuan University, who will be delivering a keynote address about the concepts of “cultural subjectivity” and the “cultural subject” in contemporary China. The talks, though philosophically ambitious, will be accessible beyond the circles of East Asia specialists.

Conference Location

The conference will be held at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute at 25 West 43rd St., 17th Floor, New York, NY 10036. The Calandra Institute is located in midtown Manhattan and is close to major subway stops. It is three blocks from Grand Central Station, two blocks from the Bryant Park subway stop, and three blocks from the Seventh Avenue/42nd Street subway stops. For more information about the Calandra Institute, visit their website at <https://calandrainstitute.org>.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, March 21, 2025

Registration

8:45 AM to 9:00 AM

Welcome

9:00 AM to 9:15 AM

David Pan, University of California, Irvine, and Editor, *Telos*

Eric Hendriks, Director of TPPI's China Initiative and Fellow at the Danube Institute

Frank H. Wu, President, Queens College, The City University of New York

Keynote Address

9:15 AM to 10:45 AM

Chair: HENDRIKS, Eric · *Danube Institute*

“A Reconceptualization of ‘Cultural Subject’ and ‘Cultural Subjectivity’ in the Context of Present-Day China”

JIN, Huimin · *Professor of Literary and Cultural Theory, School of Literature and Journalism, Sichuan University*

Coffee Break

10:45 AM to 11:00 AM

Panel 1: *Tianxia*: A New Perspective on Globalization

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Moderator: PAN, David · *University of California, Irvine*

TIANXIA: “On *Tianxia*”

OWNBY, David · *University of Montreal*

JIANGHU: “*Tianxia*? *Jianghu*! Rethinking Resistance from a Chinese Concept”

LIANG, Chia-Yu · *University of Sussex*

CHINESE EXCEPTIONALISM: “*Tianxia* and the China-World Problem”

HENDRIKS, Eric · *Danube Institute*

Lunch

12:30 PM to 1:30 PM

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, March 21, 2025

Panel 2: Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for the New Era

1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

Moderator: OWNBY, David · *University of Montreal*

COMMUNITY OF COMMON DESTINY: “On the Community of Common Destiny”

HSU, Chiahao · *National Sun Yat-Sen University, Taiwan*

DAOBI: “*Daobi* and Its Use on the Chinese Path to Modernization”

ZHAO, Sikong · *Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences*

THE NEW HARMONY: “The ‘New Harmony’: The Revival of Confucian-Legalist Legal Ethos in Xi’s ‘New Era’”

WANG, Peter · *SUNY Buffalo School of Law*

Coffee Break

3:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Panel 3: Bridges: Chinese Views of Western Thought

3:30 PM to 5:15 PM

Moderator: JIN, Huimin · *Sichuan University*

SCHMITT IN CHINA: “Intellectual ‘Schmitt Fever’ or Ideological Instrumentalization of Schmitt by Ideological and Political Elites”

BENDERSKY, Joseph W. · *Virginia Commonwealth University*

CHINESE LIBERALISM: “Contemporary Chinese Liberal Intellectuals: Their Perceptions of the West and the Failed Fight”

ZHENG, Qi · *East China University of Political Science and Law, Shanghai*

STRAUSS IN CHINA: “An Intellectual Biography of a Chinese Straussian: Liu Xiaofeng”

DEAN, Matthew · *Tulane University*

CIVILIZATION: “Chinese Perspectives on the American Culture War”

LEVINE, Nathan · *Danube Institute*

Dinner

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Kellari Taverna

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New York, NY 10036

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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 22, 2025

Panel 4, Part 1: Ancient Thought in Contemporary Politics

9:00 AM to 10:45 AM

Moderator: ZHENG, Qi · *East China University of Political Science and Law, Shanghai*

NEI-WAI: “Citizenship: A Confucian Nei-Wai Approach”

ANGLE, Stephen · *Wesleyan University*

NEW CONFUCIANISM: “On New Confucianism”

JIANG, Dongxian · *Fordham University*

DUJING: “What’s Radical about Grassroots Confucianism?”

ZENG, Yukun · *University of Michigan*

MORALIZED POWER: “Reasons Beyond Maintaining Despotism: Why Does Confucianism Consider Obedience a Moral Virtue”

PEI, Yu · *Peking University*

Intermezzo

10:45 AM to 11:00 AM

Panel 4, Part 2: Ancient Thought in Contemporary Politics

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Moderator: SPANAKOS, Tony · *Montclair State University*

HEAVEN-HUMAN HARMONY: “Heaven-Human Harmony in China’s Environmental Ideologies”

ZHU, Kefu · *LYX Foundation*

COSMOPOLITANISM: “Zhang Junmai’s Cosmopolitan Ideal and His Nationalism”

WANG, Shengshuang · *Johns Hopkins University*

GUOXUE: “The Rise of Country and Region Studies in China”

ZHOU, Min · *The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Lunch

12:30 PM to 1:30 PM

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 22, 2025

Panel 5: Technocracy

1:30 PM to 2:30 PM

Moderator: BIELEK, Julius · *University of Potsdam*

DEPOLITICIZATION: “On Depoliticization 去政治化”

CONROY, Peter · *Tsinghua University*

SOEs: “State-Owned Enterprises and the Trades-Offs of the Party State”

SCHNEIDER, Henrike · *Independent Scholar*

Coffee Break

2:30 PM to 2:45 PM

Panel 6: China-World Connectivity

2:45 PM to 4:00 PM

Moderator: PABST, Adrian · *University of Kent*

BELT AND ROAD: “How to Walk on the New Silk Road: History, Context, and Dilemma of Sino-European Relations”

SÁNDOR, Lénárd · *Mathias Corvinus Collegium*

THE NEW ERA: “The Sovereignist Zeitgeist that Binds Beijing, Budapest, and America First”

HENDRIKS, Eric · *Danube Institute*

DISCURSIVE PARADIGMS: “On Discursive Paradigms in Chinese Literature and Culture”

YI, Xiaoming · *Capital Normal University*

Coffee Break

4:00 PM to 4:15 PM

Panel 7: Telos Perspectives

4:15 PM to 6:00 PM

Moderator: HENDRIKS, Eric · *Danube Institute*

ACADEMIC FREEDOM: “Academic Freedom 学术自由 in China and the United States”

PAN, David · *University of California, Irvine*

CIVILIZATIONAL STATE: “Beyond Socialism and Capitalism? China’s Civilizational State-Market”

PABST, Adrian · *University of Kent*

CIVILIZATIONAL CHALLENGE: “Why China Matters as a Civilizational and Cultural Challenge”

SKINNER, Kiron · *Hoover Institution and Pepperdine University*

EMPIRE: “Can East Asian ‘Empires’ Clarify What Empires Are?”

SPANAKOS, Tony · *Montclair State University*