

The pandemic, travel restrictions, and political ossification in China have all disrupted communications between Chinese scholars in the humanities and social sciences and their counterparts overseas. For this reason, there is a need to reengage with academic and intellectual trends in contemporary China. Taking inspiration from new methods in intellectual history and sociology of knowledge, we propose to focus specifically on the question of public knowledge.

In the context of a global crisis of public scholarship, how do academic and other knowledge discourses circulate globally and locally? How do scholars in different disciplines within the humanities and social sciences connect their academic inquiries and public interventions? How does government censorship operate in direct and indirect ways, and how does it influence knowledge production in China? What kind of strategies do scholars or publication spaces develop to circumvent various types of censorship? Can we talk about a singular public or is the public domain fragmented? Are there spheres in which certain kinds of discourse can circulate in a limited way? Yet how relevant are writings if they cannot circulate publicly?

The conference will bring together a groups of scholars, including historians, social scientists and independent critics who, from a variety of geographical and disciplinary vantage points, are all engaged in observing and studying academic and intellectual trends in contemporary China.

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Knowledge, Ideology and Public Discourse in contemporary China

Savoirs, idéologies et discours publics en Chine contemporaine



13 -14 June 2024

**EHESS & FMSH
54, bd Raspail
75006 Paris**

The conference is organized by EHESS & the Centre de Recherches Historiques,
in collaboration with Academia sinica & the Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme.
It is supported by a conference grant from the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation

Jeudi 13 juin 2024 / Thursday, June 13th

9.00 - 13.00

EHESS (Salle BS1_28) – 54 boulevard Raspail

Introduction

Sebastian VEG (EHESS)

Public interventions and public scholarship in contemporary China: some methodological considerations

Geremie R. BARME (China Heritage) (by video link)

From the Dustheap of History — a further rumination on thinking in and about Xi Jinping's China

Scholars and their publics in historical perspective

Joan JUDGE (York University)

Republican Remnants: The Politics of Common Reading in the PRC

Timothy CHEEK (UBC)

Rectifying the People in Xi's China: Public Discourse on Party, People, and Pariahs

Yao LIN 林垚 (NYU Shanghai)

Doing Public Scholarship Amid the Autocratic Turn

14.30 - 18.00

Transnational platforms

Ya-Wen LEI (Harvard University)

Beyond Borders: How Overseas Chinese-Language Podcasts Shape Narratives and Knowledge about China

Els van DONGEN (Nanyang Technological University)

Knowledge, Ideology, and Chinese Intellectuals Outside the PRC

Conceptual circulations

Kuan-Min HUANG 黃冠閔 (Academia Sinica ICLP)

The critique of Tianxia System as New World Order

Daniel LEESE (University of Freiburg)

The Hermes Translation Series and the Politics of Studying Western Classics in China

Vendredi 14 juin 2024 / Friday, June 14th

9.30 - 13.00

EHESS (Salle BS1_28) – 54 boulevard Raspail

Historians in the public forum

Max Ko-Wu HUANG 黃克武 (Academia Sinica IMH)

Combating "Historical Nihilism": The Relationship between Historical Knowledge and Political Control in Contemporary China

Michel BONNIN (EHESS)

Minjian historians: What do they do and what does it mean socially, politically and historically?

Vernacular Knowledge

Eugenia LEAN (Columbia University)

Vernacular Ways of Knowing: Rogue Production, Markets and a Historical Perspective

Isabelle THIREAU (EHESS)

Tianjin Remembered 天津記憶 (2008-2012): Connecting with academic knowledge from the grassroots

14.30 - 17.30

FMSH (Le Comptoir des mots, 1st floor) – 54 boulevard Raspail

Creative interventions and strategies

Koon-chung CHAN 陳冠中 (writer and critic)

Producing Public Knowledge with the Elephant in the Room: Public Intellectuals' Plastic Public Sphere and Critical Creatives' Shifting Public Sites in China Now

Barbara MITTLER (University of Heidelberg)

Creative Butterflies? Wild histories? Artistic Traditions of Protest in China

Wu Qi 吳琦 (writer and editor)

Struggles of culture workers in contemporary China: a practical and personal perspective

Wrap-up Discussion