



LABORATOIRE INTERDISCIPLINAIRE  
D'ÉTUDE DU POLITIQUE HANNAH ARENDT

Sous la co-tutelle de:  
UNIVERSITÉ GUSTAVE EIFFEL  
UPEC - UNIVERSITÉ PARIS-EST CRÉTEIL



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO

Center in Paris

## Understanding China, understanding the world

8 April 2021

Ecole internationale d'Études Politiques, Université Paris Est Créteil/LIPHA

University of Chicago - Center in Paris

China scholars have long worked in a closed circuit and China studies have rarely been able to have a disciplinary impact beyond their field. After 1978's Open and reform policy, Chinese scholars have intensely striven to catch up with Western concepts and theories and have, along with foreign China scholars, tried to apply them to Chinese contexts. Since the 2010s and China's greater rise and confidence, academia has also engaged in indigenization (*bentuhua*), and some researchers have tried to build and use local concepts presumably better suited to China's conditions<sup>1</sup>.

China being a "limit case", some analyses however manage to enlighten cases beyond China's borders. As David Ownby said, Chinese intellectuals "speak to the world"<sup>2</sup> and it is high time Chinese studies, and more specifically political science and sociology in our case, speak to the academic community at large.

This workshop organized by the Ecole internationale d'Études politiques (EEP) and the Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire d'Étude du Politique Hannah Arendt (LIPHA) of the Université Paris Est Créteil and the University of Chicago in Paris specifically focuses on the relevance of contemporary social and political studies of contemporary China for the general fields of political science, sociology, communication studies and so on.

Each paper will present an analysis of Chinese society, local and national politics as well as national discourse. **The originality of our workshop is that these papers will be discussed by researchers with no expertise on contemporary China and the emphasis will be for the paper givers to explain the relevance of their empirical research findings, the concepts used and coined and methodology beyond China studies. This will precisely be the focus of discussions.**

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<sup>1</sup> Emilie Frenkiel, *Conditional Democracy, the Intellectual Debate on Political Reform in China*, ECPR press 2015

<sup>2</sup> David Ownby, « Chinese Intellectuals Speak to the World », *Books and Ideas*, 9 March 2020  
: <https://booksandideas.net/Chinese-Intellectuals-Speak-to-the-World.html>

**9 am:** Welcoming participants and introducing the workshop (Emilie Frenkiel, LIPHA, UPEC)

**9:15-12:30: Morning session**

“The imaginaries of China’s emerging middle classes” (Jean-Louis ROCCA, Sciences Po Paris)  
Discussant: Nabila ABBAS, UPEC

“Coalition-Based Gender Lobbying: Revisiting Women’s Substantive Representation in China’s Authoritarian Governance” (Xinhui JIANG, Freie Universität Berlin & Yunyun ZHOU, Oslo University)

Discussants: Yves de CURRAIZE, LIPHA, UPEC (in French with translation) and Raphaëlle PARIZET, LIPHA, UPEC (in French with translation)

“Chinese grassroots governance and Covid 19” (Ming ZHUANG, Chengdu Academy of Social Sciences, China & Su Yun WOO, Institute of Political Science, University of Zurich)

Discussant: Yves Sintomer, Paris Lumière,

“Is *Xieshang Minzhu* consultative democracy or deliberative democracy” (Emilie FRENKIEL, UPEC, Rongxin LI, Paris Lumière, Yves SINTOMER, Paris 8)

Discussants: David SMADJA, LIPHA, UGE (in French with translation)

*Lunch break*

**2- 4:30 pm: Afternoon session**

“Connective representation” (Anna SHPAKOVSKAYA, Frankfurt University)

Discussant: Stéphanie WOJCIK, UPEC, CEDITEC (in French with translation)

“Working under the pandemics” (Ye GUO & Renyou HOU & Manon LAURENT & Jun LI & Anne-Valérie RUINET & Gilles GUIHEUX, Université de Paris)

Discussants: Francesco SERGI, LIPHA, UPEC et Sylvie THORON, LIPHA, UPEC

“Leading with hearts and minds: Broadcasters, emotion initiators, and emotion brokers in emotion contagion in China’s online activism” (Jun LIU, University of Copenhagen & Nian LIU, Capital University of Economics and Business)

Discussants: Baptiste KOTRAS, INRAE, LISIS, UGE et Ziyang WANG, LIPHA

**Concluding remarks**

Yi ZENG, Sichuan University, China & Emilie Frenkiel UPEC, LIPHA