



University of
Zurich^{UZH}

Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies / Chinese Studies



Residual Futures: Rethinking Utopianism in Modern China

International Exchange Workshop
University of Zurich & Villa Garbald, Castasegna

In this workshop we address the current turn of academic discourse and cultural representations towards residual futures - which we propose as a conceptual figure that renounces the totalizing utopian imaginations of the previous century. We aim to study past and present cultural representations by asking how they circulate, and whether they support, supplement, or challenge the current official futurology as propagated in the Belt and Road and China Dream narratives.

3, October 2018

9:30 **Registration**

10:00 **Welcome and Introduction**

Prof. Dr. Klaus Jonas, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
(University of Zurich)

Prof. Dr. Andrea Riemenschneider, Deputy Director of the Institute of
Asian and Oriental Studies (University of Zurich)

Section I **Keynote Lecture**

10:30 **Wendy Larson (University of Oregon)**

Liu Cixin's The Poetry Cloud and the Utopian Role of Literature

12:00 *Lunch*

13:00 *Transfer to Villa Garbald*

19:00 *Dinner*

4, October 2018

Session I Sovereignty and Identity

9:00 Ralph Weber (University of Basel)

Stray Dogs or Guard Dogs? Liu Xiaobo between
Utopianism and Political Realism

9:45 Nele Noesselt (University of Duisburg)

Re-Imaginations of Utopian Socialism: Political
Communication and Strategic Legitimation under Xi Jinping

10:30 *Coffee break*

11:00 Qian Cui (University of Zurich)

Bildung, Utopia, and Multi-temporality in Ge Fei's *Peach Blossom Beauty*

11:45 Alvin Wong (University of Hong Kong)

Beyond the Chinese Dream: Hong Kong and the
Unbecoming of Chineseness

12:30 *Lunch*

Session II Body, Gender and Space

14:00 Justyna Jaguscik (University of Zurich)

'*Nong Kongjian*' or Doing Spaces and the Search for the
New Commons in Chinese Cities

14:45 Paola Iovene (University of Chicago)

Migrant Workers' Literary Practices in Contemporary China:
Evictions, the Picun Writers, and the Legacy of Socialist Humanism

15:30 *Coffee break*

16:00 Shuang Xu (Paris Diderot)

Women Utopian Imaginaries in Chinese Internet Literature – a

Case Study of Matriarchal Fiction

16:45 Paper by Zhao Kun (University of Qingdao)

The Disappearance of Female Gender Identity: ‘Procreation
Troubles’ in the Literature of the Great Leap Forward

18:30 *Dinner*



5, October 2018

Session III **Dreams and Transgressions**

9:00 **Daria Berg & Giorgio Strafella (University of St. Gallen)**
Ruins in the Post-Humanist Wilderness: Dystopian
Landscapes from the Intellectual Crisis of the 1990s to the Utopian
Team

9:45 **Carlos Rojas (Duke University)**
Ou Ning's Bishan Collective, and the Rural Reconstruction
Movement

10:30 *Coffee break*

11:00 **Helena Wu (University of Zurich)**
Aspiration and Dystopia: Youth Representation in Hong
Kong's Documentary Films

11:45 **Kiu-wai Chu (Western Sydney University)**
Conflicting Utopianism: Posthumanist Urbanscapes in
Contemporary Chinese Science Fiction

12:30 *Lunch*

Session IV **Posthumanism and the Environment**

14:00 **Jessica Imbach (University of Zurich)**
To Arcadia and Beyond: Ecology in Chinese Science Fiction

14:45 **Andrea Riemenschitter (University of Zurich)**
Postutopian Returns: The Peach Blossom Spring in
Contemporary Fiction and Landscape Aesthetics

15:30 *Coffee break*

16:00 **William Callahan (LSE International Relations)**
Cultivating Utopia: Ideology and Affect in Chinese Gardens

16:45 **Roundtable Discussion with Papers by**

Chen Xiaoming (Peking University)
Post-revolutionary Heterotopias: Absurdity and Mythological Realism in Yan Lianke's *Lenin's Kisses*

Zhang Qinghua (Beijing Normal University)
Ge Fei's *Jiangnan* Trilogy

18:30 *Dinner*

6, October 2018

10:00 **Return Transfer to Zurich**

General Information

Date

October 3–6, 2018

Venues

University of Zurich
Room 416
Zürichbergstrasse 4
CH-8032 Zurich

Villa Garbald
Seminarzentrum
CH-7608 Castasegna

Organization

Prof. Dr. Andrea Riemenschnitter

Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zurich

Dr. Jessica Imbach

Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zurich

Dr. Justyna Jaguscik

Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zurich

Contact

Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies

Zürichbergstrasse 4

CH-8032 Zurich

Email: justyna.jaguscik@aoi.uzh.ch

Phone: +41 44 634 31 83