



Alexander von
HUMBOLDT
STIFTUNG



GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN
IN PUBLICA COMMODO
SEIT 1737

Conference Program

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

10:00 – 18:30



DIE HISTORISCHE STERNWARTE
© Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

Location

Historische Sternwarte (Geismar Landstraße 11, 37083 Göttingen)

Online Option: YouTube Livestream

<https://www.youtube.com/@centreformoderneastasianst8840>

Identity, Ignorance, and the Politics of the Self

Wednesday, May 21, 2025:

10:00 – 10:15

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Dominic Sachsenmaier (Göttingen University)

10:15 – 11:15

Keynote Presentation

Chair: Viren Murthy (University of Wisconsin–Madison)

Wang Hui (Tsinghua University)
Survivors and Traces of Civilization

11:15 – 12:45

The Politics of the Self: Facets, Dynamics, Tensions

Chair: Sebastian Conrad (Free University of Berlin)

Klaus Mülhahn (ZU Friedrichshafen/FU Berlin)
On “Being Wrong” as a Lens on Our Time

Lydia He Liu (Columbia University)
Who Owns Great Ideas in a Multipolar World?

Hans van Ess (LMU Munich)
What Are Our Values, “Western Values” and “Chinese Values”?

Discussion

12:45 – 14:00

LUNCH

14:00 – 15:30

Global Dynamics of Ignorance and the Politics of the Self

Chair: Poo Mu-chou (Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Selçuk Esenbel (Boğaziçi University)
An Attempt at Self-Reflection from Istanbul in Times of Uncertainty

Christian Sorace (University of Cambridge)
Historical Nihilism as Global Phenomena

Srirupa Roy (Göttingen University)
Contemporary Indian Civilizationisms and Their Global Contexts

Discussion

15:30 – 16:00

BREAK

16:30 – 18:30

China as a Contested Object of Thought

Chair: Axel Schneider (Göttingen University)

Rebecca Karl (New York University)
The Future of China Studies in the US – In Light of the Current US-China Hostilities

Sally Chengji Xing (Nankai University)
Chinese Exclusionism – Now and Then

Hsiung Ping-chen (CIPSH)
Chinese Humanities: Institutional Developments

Henrike Rudolph (Göttingen University)
From Self-Confidence Towards a “Culturally Strong China”

Discussion