

New Silk Road-Project

Trilateral Approach - Call for Paper

Initiated by the Freie Universität Berlin, Universität Potsdam, Zhejiang University / Hangzhou, VR China, and the Shahid Beheshti University and Tehran University, Tehran, the aim is to organize a trilateral, cultural exchange program in the field of humanities, which will include central Iranian universities; central to this will be three conferences: “Philosophie und Weisheit [Philosophy and Wisdom]” (Tehran, April 2019), “Gastfreundschaft [Hospitality]” (Berlin, October 2019), and “Philosophie des Lebens [Philosophy of Life]” / “Hermeneutik des Übersetzens [Hermeneutics of Translation]” (Hangzhou, April 2020). As for China, the project will be incorporated into the governmentally funded “One Belt, One Road” initiative (Chinese Silk Road: One Road Economy). The Iranian part of the project will be supported by the Iran National Science Foundation (INSF), while the German side is funded through the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). The organizational and administrative structures of the project are located at the Institut für Philosophie of Freie Universität Berlin, which also serves as the structural body for the area of study “Global Philosophy.”

Aim of the three conferences is to establish relationships with central Iranian universities in order to encourage interested colleagues from various humanistic backgrounds to join such an international cultural exchange program. The German part of the project will include the areas of German philology, cultural studies, philosophy, religious studies as well as general and comparative literary studies. Partners on the Chinese side are the Center for German Studies as well as the Schools of Philosophy of the most important universities of China. Cultural globalization reveals the underlying problems and opportunities of world’s literature, cosmopolitanism, and global philosophy, thus precisely those internationalization processes, which shape our lives today; furthermore, these processes emerge and manifest themselves first and foremost through the globalization of the financial and commodity markets and their newly extrapolated connections and dependencies. Central themes of the three conferences are the drastic shifts of cultural orientation systems, their values and symbols, through which humans, groups and organizations, yes, even the humanities align themselves with. The question is: which role and function have myth, religion or ideology for such cultural identity-shaping processes? What role plays relativization when individuals of certain cultural backgrounds encounter others? With which metaphysical requirements and perspective does the

West, and its scientific and technical-based rationality, address the creation of a global civilization? These themes can touch on philosophical as well as on political civil law-related or ethnic questions. Yet, the focus, here, is restricted to intercultural processes of globalization, which emerged through the opening up towards pluralistic societies, and are aimed at reviewing normative perspectives.

Partner Institutes

1. Germany

Freie Universität Berlin

- Institut für Philosophie
- Institut für Deutsche Philologie

Universität Potsdam

- Institut für Religionswissenschaft

2. Iran

Shahid Beheshti University

- Faculty of Letter and Humanities

Tehran University

- Research Institute of Language and Culture
- Faculty of World Studies

Iranian Institute of Philosophy

3. China

Zhejiang University / Hangzhou

- Institut für Deutschlandstudien
- Center for China Studies

Planned Conferences

“Philosophie und Weisheit” [Philosophy and Wisdom] (Tehran, April 2019)

“Gastfreundschaft” [Hospitality] (Berlin, October 2019)

“Philosophie des Lebens” [Philosophy of Life] (Hangzhou, April 2020)