

Research workshop

EMERGING CIVIL SOCIETY IN ASIA: THE CASE OF CHINA

Barcelona, 2-3 October, 2007
CIDOB Foundation
Elisabets 12, 08001 Barcelona

With a regime such as that of the Communist Party, China lacks a civil society comparable with that of Western countries. Nevertheless, certain spaces separated from the established power exist that are used by non-official social movements which possess great strength. It is these spaces that some intellectuals view as being linked with the idea of democracy from a Chinese perspective. Intellectuals who themselves possess a certain capacity for influencing the ruling class, and which could thus be viewed as a certain type of civil society. At a time when China has become one of the main world laboratories with respect to political innovation (and one which gives us the opportunity to reflect upon our own models in the West), the objective of this seminar is to analyse the emergence of this phenomenon.

Tentative programme

Tuesday, 2 October

10.00h Inauguration

Josep Ribera. Director of the CIDOB Foundation
Sean Golden. Director, Institute for International & Intercultural Studies (Autonomous University of Barcelona), Asia Programme CIDOB

Opening conference
The 'public sphere' and the problem of governance in China
Joseph Fewsmith. Director, East Asia Interdisciplinary Studies, Boston University

11.00h Coffe break

11.30h Session I: New social demands, new political actors

Public interest litigation and political activism in China
Lu Yiyi. Research Fellow, China Policy Institute, University of Nottingham

Feminism, cultural industry and the political agenda
Dai Jinhua. Professor, Research Institute for Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies, Peking University

12.30h Round table

State-Society relations in China: is there a civil society emerging?

14.00h Lunch

16.00h Session II: Intellectuals in China today

Chair: Xavier Batalla. Diplomatic correspondent, *La Vanguardia*

Civil society 'by default': epistemic and interpretative communities
Seán Golden. Director, Institute for International & Intercultural Studies (Autonomous University of Barcelona), Asia Programme CIDOB

The role of Intellectuals in the "emerging civil society" of China
Jean-Philippe Béja. Director of research, Centre d'Études et de Recherches Internationales, Centre National de la Recherche scientifique, France

17.00h Round table

Would the emergence of civil society drive to a more open, pluralistic and competitive political system? What kind of 'political innovations' could China adopt in the years ahead?

14.00h End of the session

Wednesday, 3 October

09.30h Session III: Migrations and the organization of civil society

Chair: **Joaquín Beltrán**. Professor, Institute for International & Intercultural Studies (Autonomous University of Barcelona) and coordinator of the Research Network on Asian Communities in Spain (RICA_CIDOB)

The Chinese immigrants in the political arena

Chloé Froissart. Professor, National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations (INALCO), France

Creating Civil Society Structures Top-Down?

Thomas Heberer. Professor, Institute of East Asian Studies, Universität Duisburg-Essen

10.30h Round table

How can the civil society in China contribute to economic development and social and political stability? What benefits could China obtain from the development of civil society?

11.30h Coffee break

12.00h Session IV: Civil society and transnationalism

Chair: **Louis Lemkow**. Director, Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Autonomous University of Barcelona

Grassroots organisations and their role in the transformation of China

Ma Qiusha. Associate Professor, Oberlin College, United States

The influence of international civil society in China

Dora Martins. Lecturer, Technical University of Lisbon

13.00h Round table

In which fields could be mostly enhanced the connection between Chinese and western civil societies? Which aspects of globalisation is civil society introducing in China?

14.00h End of the workshop

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Organized by:

CIDOB Foundation

Institute for International & Intercultural Studies
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Working languages:

English and Spanish, with simultaneous translation

Registration:

Free attendance with limited seating

Attendance must be confirmed through the CIDOB web page

http://www.cidob.org/en/actividades/asia/sociedad_civil_emergente_en_asia_el_caso_de_china