



INVITATION TO THE WORKSHOP

HISTORY, MORALITY AND POLITICAL THOUGHT IN CONTEMPORARY CHINA

ORGANIZATION: DR. FABIAN HEUBEL AND PROF. DR. THOMAS FRÖHLICH

SATURDAY, 12. JULY 2014

PARTICIPANTS:

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HISTORY, MORALITY AND POLITICAL THOUGHT IN CONTEMPORARY CHINA

Workshop at the Institute for Social Research, Frankfurt am Main, July 12, 2014

Since the military crackdown on the democracy movement on June 4, 1989, the one-party rule of the Chinese Communist Party has managed to defuse the crisis of legitimacy thus created through the enforcement of an economic-technocratic modernization program, nationalist campaigns and massive political repression. The nervousness, however, with which the regime responds to voices that demand for the end of Communist Party rule, or only break the taboo of speaking in public about the events surrounding June 4 raise serious doubts on its alleged stability. But what prospects are emerging on the horizon of China's political development?

The contemporary debates on the crisis of the party-state and the collapse of a historical teleology dominating the discourse on China's modernization since 1949 are characterized by a pluralism of theoretical perspectives that struggle about the historical, normative and political reinterpretation of modernity in China. In some fundamental respects, these controversial reflections hark back to theoretical positions that emerged in Chinese debates on modernization prior to 1949. Thus, a complex and contradictory intellectual dynamics has been set free, in which mainly Sino-Marxist, liberal-democratic, authoritarian and Confucian currents in the broadest sense are involved.

The contributions to this workshop will try to shed light on some aspects of this dynamics and thereby may benefit the intercultural discourse of Critical Theory.

9:30-9:45 Opening and Introduction

Axel HONNETH (Institute for Social Research, Frankfurt am Main), Christoph MENKE (Goethe-University, Frankfurt am Main, Thomas FRÖHLICH (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg), Fabian HEUBEL (Academia Sinica, Taipei)

9:45-11:15

Heiner ROETZ (Ruhr-University, Bochum): Chinese Modernity or Modernity in China? Reflections on Wolfgang Franke and Oskar Negt

Fabian HEUBEL (Academia Sinica, Taipei): Hybrid Modernization and Chinese Revolutions

11:15-11:30 Break

11:30-13:00

Thomas FRÖHLICH (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg): Optimism regarding Progress – a Paradigm of Political Thought in Modern China

Kai MARCHAL (Soochow University, Taipei): The Return of Morality? Wang Hui and the Ethos of Chinese Modernity

13:00-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00

PENG Guoxiang (Zhejiang University, Hangzhou): Preliminary Reflections on Maoism in Post-Maoist China

LIU Tsang-long (National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei): Reflections on the Birth of the Republic of China

16:15-16:30 Break

16:30-18:00

Ralph WEBER (University of Zurich): Contemporary Confucian Political Philosophy for Non-Confucians

Philippe BRUNOZZI (University of Kassel): A First Step towards a First-Person Plural Account of Moral Justification