

Call for Papers

For an for an international and interdisciplinary **Doctoral and Postdoctoral Colloquium** at
Villa Vigoni: German-Italian Centre For European Excellence
Deadline abstract (300 Words) 1.4.17, Date: 16.-19.5.2017

“Investigating Chinese-European Contact-Zones: Comparative perspectives on the experiences of Italian and German communities in China from the 19th to the 21st century”

Submissions are encouraged from students who have not yet received their Ph.D. degrees. The colloquium provides a forum for PhD students to present their research ideas, and interact with and receive feedback from senior members of the research community. It is an opportunity for Ph.D. students to present work and discuss the diverse aspects of Italian and German communities in China, their role in Sino-European interaction and the "cultural translation" of norms, values and social practices from the second half of the 19th Century to the beginning of the 21st century through the concept of "contact zone". A comparative approach between the Italian and the German presence in China will reveal the asymmetrical but also shifting relations of economic, political and cultural power which characterized the inner dynamics of the "Western community" in its relation to East Asia. "Contact zone" refers to a broader approach towards studying the spatial, temporal, geographic, economic, political and bodily interactions that exists between people of culturally diverse backgrounds during encounters with one another. We consider the construction and representation of "contact zone" as a result of a chain of several interlocking translation processes, the "cultural translation", which refers to "navigation" through different values, norms, ideas, perceptions, interpretations, practices, and institutional arrangements across different socio-cultural contexts. This navigation or translation is a complex process of negotiation of all actors involved, who are always in specific power relations to each other. Our dialogue shall shed light on the "translators" (actors, institutions) who each with their own interests, roles and performances move between (and therefore create) the different frames of reference within the (historical or actual) Chinese-European contact zone. By exchanging different approaches and perspectives the junior researchers and researchers have the possibility to discuss and generate different or new forms of knowledge regarding the topic. This intense dialogue will open space for creative and inspiring discussions in order to offer new perspectives with regard to content and method concerning the research field of "Chinese-European contact zone", and will open the way for further collaborate research between Italian and German scientists on this topic.

Important dates and details

Conference venue: Villa Vigoni: German-Italian Centre For European Excellence, Italy

Date 16.5. -19.5.17

Abstracts deadline (300 words): 01.04.2017, working language is English

Complete papers deadline: 28.04.2017

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Participation fee: No fee

Funding support to travel and accommodation offered: yes