



India International Centre, NYU Shanghai and Ashoka University  
In Collaboration with the Institute of Chinese Studies

**SYMPOSIUM ON**  
**INTERDISCIPLINARY**  
**PERSPECTIVES ON CHINA**  
**NEW RESEARCH AND METHODS**

Programme

Venue: Conference Room II,  
India International Centre,  
Main Building

4 - 5 October 2024  
10 am to 5 pm



**Session I: Inaugural Session**

Chair: Nayan Chanda, Associate Professor, Ashoka University

- 10.00 am-  
10:15 am **Welcome Remarks**  
By Shyam Saran, President, IIC
- 10.15 am-  
10.30 am **Introduction to the Symposium**  
By Tansen Sen, NYU Shanghai

**Session II: Chinese Buddhist Art**

Chair: Upinder Singh, Professor, Ashoka University

- 10.30 am-  
11.00 am **Jinchao Zhao, Assistant Professor, Tongji University**  
*On the Patronage of Miniature Stone Pagodas in Sixth-century China: Dedication, Organization, and Migration*
- 11.00 am-  
11.30 am **Coffee Break**

**Session III: The Buddhist World between India and China**

Chair: Upinder Singh, Professor, Ashoka University

- 11.30 am-  
12.00 pm **Eloise Wright, Assistant Professor, Ashoka University**  
*Gateway to the Buddhist World: Representations of India in Temple Inscriptions from Yuan-Ming Yunnan*
- 12.00 pm-  
12.45 pm **Q&A and Discussion on Studying Buddhist Interactions between India and China**

**Lunch**

12.45 pm - 2.00 pm

**Session IV: Chinese Fiction Writing**

Chair: Projit Bihari Mukharji, Professor, Ashoka University

- 2.00 pm-  
2.30 pm **Mengdie Zhao, Assistant Professor of Global China Studies, NYU Shanghai**  
*Forbidden Romance: Love and the Law in Early Chinese Detective Fiction*
- 2.30 pm-  
3.30 pm **Coffee Break**

## Session V: The Sinophone World

Chair: Projit Bihari Mukharji, Professor, Ashoka University

3.30 pm-  
4.00 pm

**Yushu Geng, Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Global Asia, NYU Shanghai**  
*Obscene Publications and "Immoral" Modernities in Shanghai and Colonial Singapore, 1920s–1930s*

4.00 pm-  
5:00 pm

**Q&A and Discussion on Studying Qing and Early Republican China**

Day 2

Saturday, 5 October 2024

## Session VI: The Qing Frontier

Chair: Nayan Chanda, Associate Professor, Ashoka University

10.00 am-  
10:30 pm

**Sayantani Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Ashoka University**  
*Follow the River: Discovering "Traditional" Borders in Late-Qing Frontier Management*

10:30 am-  
11:00 am

**Coffee Break**

## Session VII: Writing History in the PRC

Chair: Nayan Chanda, Associate Professor, Ashoka University

11.00 am-  
11.30 am

**Tansen Sen, Professor of History, NYU Shanghai**  
*The Politics of Constructing the History of China's Foreign Relations in the PRC*

11.30 am-  
12.15 pm

**Q&A and Discussion on Studying the History of China's Foreign Relations**

Lunch

12.15 pm – 1.15 pm

## Session VIII: Urban Spaces and Planning in the PRC

Chair: Mukta Naik, Fellow, Centre for Policy Research

1.15 pm-  
1.45 pm

**ChengHe Guan, Assistant Professor of Urban Science and Policy, NYU Shanghai**  
*Multiscale Spatial Analytics of Urban Block Forms in Megacities: Rank-size, Route Choice, and De-specialization*

1.45 pm-  
2.15 pm

**Coffee Break**

**Chair: BR Deepak, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University**

- 2.15 pm- 2.45 pm **Anna Greenspan, Associate Professor of Contemporary Global Media, NYU Shanghai**  
*China and the Wireless Wave*
- 2.45 pm- 3.15 pm **Q&A and Discussion on Studying Contemporary China**
- 3.15 pm- 3.30 pm **Coffee Break**

## Session X: The BRI and South Asia

**Chair: Rajiv Ranjan, Associate Professor, Delhi University**

- 3.30 pm- 4.00 pm **Bhagya Seneratne, Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Global Asia, NYU Shanghai**  
*BRI Infrastructure in Sri Lanka: Examining the Vernacular*
- 4.00 pm- 4.15 pm **Q&A and Discussion on Studying BRI from Outside China**

## Session XI Roundtable on the State of China Studies

4.15 pm – 4.45 pm

## Session XII: Closing Remarks

**Ashok K. Kantha,**  
**Honorary Fellow and Former Director, Institute of Chinese Studies**

4.45 pm – 5.00 pm

## List of Participants

Nayan Chanda, Ashoka University  
BR Deepak, Jawaharlal Nehru University  
Yushu Geng, NYU Shanghai  
Anna Greenspan, NYU Shanghai  
ChengHe Guan, NYU Shanghai  
Ashok K. Kantha, Institute of Chinese Studies  
Projit Bihari Mukharji, Ashoka University  
Sayantani Mukherjee, Ashoka University  
Mukta Naik, Centre for Policy Research

Rajiv Ranjan, Delhi University  
Shyam Saran, India International Centre  
Tansen Sen, NYU Shanghai  
Bhagya Seneratne, NYU Shanghai  
Upinder Singh, Ashoka University  
Eloise Wright, Ashoka University  
Jinchao Zhao, Tongji University  
Mengdie Zhao, NYU Shanghai