



MULTICENTRALITY

Across Asia and Beyond

7th Young Scholars Symposium

Room E904
New Bund Campus | NYU Shanghai

Program

Day 1, Thursday, April 2

**Panel 1: Inner, Outer,
and Media**

Chair: Junnan Chen

Panel 2: Infrastructural Ecology

Chair: Sangeeta Banerji

Panel 3: Visualizing Frontiers

Chair: Hyoungee Kong

Day 2, Friday, April 3

**Panel 4: Transnationalism
and Environmental
Knowledge Practices**

Chair: Jiayong Liang

**Panel 5: Ritual and
Alternative Ontologies**

Chair: Fernando Romero

**Panel 6: Reciprocity
and Boundaries**

Chair: Tansen Sen

Day 3, Saturday, April 4

**Panel 7: Historical
Sociolinguistics across Asia**

Chair: Mohamed Yunus Rafiq

**Panel 8: Gender and the
Contested Center**

Chair: Mengdie Zhao

**Panel 9: Traveling
Art Histories**

Chair: Minhao Zhai

Keynote Address: April 2 (17:30–19:00)

Public Ethnography and Economies of Care in Tokyo's Neighborhood Restaurants
James Farrer (Sophia University)



Overview

The Young Scholars Symposium is an annual event organized by the Center for Global Asia and the Global Perspectives on Society program, NYU Shanghai. It brings together doctoral and postdoctoral fellows at NYU Shanghai and universities across China to share insights into issues pertaining to Asia in a global context. The symposium is open to early career scholars (doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows) working on Asia-related topics, especially those who explore transregional connections, disconnections, and comparisons.

This year's theme is "Multicentrality across Asia and beyond." The term "multicentrality" invites us to rethink how "centers" are made, recognized, and contested, rather than treating "center" and "periphery" as self-evident labels. What qualifies as a center, for whom, and under what conditions? If centers are often defined by political authority and economic infrastructure, can they be constituted differently based on cultural prestige or reciprocal exchange? Can centers be temporary, mobile, or situational—emerging around a port season, a pilgrimage circuit, a publishing network, a diasporic institution, a platform, or an archive? Where center-periphery models have been widely used, this theme foregrounds different kinds of relationships: ones that coexist without a stable hierarchy, overlap without predictable outcomes, and connect without being reducible to rivalry or domination. "Multicentrality" also asks what kinds of forces organize historical and contemporary worlds. Power and coercion are not the only engines of centralization. Other binding energies, such as care, attention, wonder, hope, and curiosity, may also act as serious historical and analytical categories.

The 7th CGA/GPS Young Scholars Symposium Planning Committee

Organizing Committee

Tenggeer Hao
Tianyun Hua
Yutong Li
Manimporok
Asif Mehmood
Tansen Sen

Administrative Support

Minghui Li
Wenqian Li
Yiming Yu
Zhuoyue Zhang

Design

Wenqian Li
Yihao (Rayna) Li
Yutong Li
Kalyani Madhura Ramachandran

- 9:00-9:15 **Welcome Coffee and Registration**
- 9:15-9:30 **Opening Remarks by Provost Bei Wu (NYU Shanghai)**
- 9:30-9:45 **Symposium Overview by Tansen Sen (NYU Shanghai)**

Panel 1: Inner, Outer, and Media

Chair: Junnan Chen (NYU Shanghai)

- 9:45-10:00 **Tenggeer Hao (NYU Shanghai)**
Celestial Realism: Yijing Philosophy of Change and Jia Zhangke's Realist Cinema
- 10:00-10:15 **Siqi Liu (King's College London)**
Reframing Multicentrality Through the Daoist Pivot: Towards a Comparative Film and Media Theorisation
- 10:15-10:30 **Hongliang Zhou (Changsha University of Science and Technology)**
The Robot That Wanted to Be Central: Staging Posthuman Desire in East Asian Performance
- 10:30-10:45 **Pei Shu (Wuhan University)**
Abwesen: Byung-Chul Han's Construction of East Asian Aesthetics and His Creative Misreading
- 10:45-11:00 **Michael Bruckner (NYU Shanghai)**
Confucianism, Aristotelianism, and Character Manifestation
- 11:00-11:50 **Discussion**

Lunch

11:50-13:20

Panel 2: Infrastructural Ecology

Chair: Sangeeta Banerji (NYU Shanghai)

- 13:20-13:35 **Shishav Parajuli (NYU Shanghai)**
Politics in the Time of Malaria: On Immunity against / Community with Nonhuman Others
- 13:35-13:50 **Yiran Zhao (Xiamen University)**
Commodity Circuits and Multicentral Port Systems in the Straits of Malacca, 1500-1700

- 13:50-14:05 Solveig Qu Suess (University of Basel/NYU Shanghai)**
Rhythms of the Energetic: Hydropower, Temporal Alignment, and Multicentrality in the Mekong Basin
- 14:05-14:20 Congzhi Zhang (The University of Hong Kong)**
Soft Infrastructures: Rice Noodle Circuits and the Spatial Production of Wet Asia
- 14:20-15:00 Discussion**
- 15:00-15:20 Coffee/Tea Break**

Panel 3: Visualizing Frontiers

Chair: Hyoungge Kong (NYU Shanghai)

- 15:20-15:35 Yutong Li (NYU Shanghai)**
The Menacing Border: "Barbarians Rise in Rebellion" as a Narrative Catalyst in Early Qing Suzhou Prints
- 15:35-15:50 Tiancheng Chen (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)**
Displaced Centre: Presentation of Asia between Sacred Origin and Orientalist Anxiety in Tiepolo's Würzburg Treppenhaus
- 15:50-16:05 Xueyan Cheng (National University of Singapore)**
Cinematic Multicentrality in Making: Inter-Asian Mobility and Transborder Filmmaking in Midi Z's Cinema
- 16:05-16:20 Lu Dai (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)**
Centers of Visibility and Embodied Spectatorship: Dulong Representation from Qing Albums to Short Video Platforms
- 16:20-17:00 Discussion**

Keynote Address

- 17:30-19:00 James Farrer (Professor of Sociology and Global Studies, Sophia University) (Hybrid)**
Public Ethnography and Economies of Care in Tokyo's Neighborhood Restaurants

Introduction: Anna Greenspan (Director of the Center for Artificial Intelligence and Culture, Associate Professor of Contemporary Global Media, NYU Shanghai)

Discussants: Ka Lee Wong (Assistant Professor of Global China Studies, NYU Shanghai);

Tong Jin (Director of Academic Resources; Liaison with the Moses Center for Accessibility and Inclusive Culture)

Zoom Webinar ID: 972 4154 4274

Dinner

19:30

9:30-10:00 Coffee/Tea

Panel 4: Transnationalism and Environmental Knowledge Practices

Chair: Jiayong Liang (NYU Shanghai)

10:00-10:15 **Jaeyoung Ha (Tsinghua University)**

"A Good Tree is a Fast-Growing Tree": Interregional Ecology Making in East Asia and South Korea's Reforestation in the 1950s

10:15-10:30 **Pengfei Jiang (Kunming Municipal Committee of the China Democratic League)**

Soilution as Method: Multicentrality, Landscape Pedagogy, and Environmental Knowledge across Asia

10:30-10:45 **Feiqian Xu (Zhejiang University)**

"When Opel coughs, Rüsselsheim catches a cold": Angst and Hope in a German Automotive City amid the Global "Rise of the East, Decline of the West" in the Automotive Industry

10:45-11:00 **Zhijian Sun (National University of Singapore)**

Multicentrality of Afro-Asian Tropicality: Climatic Techno-Science and Chinese Infrastructural Reconstruction in Socialist Dar es Salaam and Canton

11:00-11:15 **Asif Mehmood (NYU Shanghai)**

Centering the Community Voice in the Global Corridors: BRI, Coal Power and Everyday Science Communication in Sahiwal, Pakistan

11:15-12:05 **Discussion**

Lunch

12:05-13:35

Panel 5: Ritual and Alternative Ontologies

Chair: Fernando Romero (NYU Shanghai)

13:35-13:50 **Sirithorn (Ing) Siriwan (NYU Shanghai)**

Animist Kins and Klans: Rice Women and Other-than-human Intimacy in Northern Thai Rice Culture

13:50-14:05 **Xiangjun Feng (University of Toronto)**

Centering Peripheral Knowledge and Peripheral Communities: Mesmerism in Sinophone Diasporas in the Early Twentieth Century

14:05-14:20 **Rupeng Chen (University of Edinburgh)**
Remaindered Words of Fire: Mahua Modernism and Queer Regional Imaginaries in the Pyro-scenes

14:20-14:35 **Runzhou Xu (University of Munich) (Online)**
Who is the River God? Institutionalizing the Multi-centrality of Heshen Cult in Late Imperial China

14:35-15:15 **Discussion**

15:15-15:30 **Coffee/Tea Break**

Panel 6: Reciprocity and Boundaries

Chair: Tansen Sen (NYU Shanghai)

15:30-15:45 **Benjamin Gallant (NYU Shanghai)**
Gifts of State: The Domestic and International Politics of Gift-Giving in Early China

15:45-16:00 **Jingyi Lin (Nanjing University)**
Networks of Authority: Huaya Seals and Multicentrality in Song–Yuan Asia

16:00-16:15 **Yiwen Qiao (University of Macau)**
Growing Centrality of Netherworld in Ancient China: A Study of Youming Lu 幽明录

16:15-16:45 **Discussion**

Dinner

18:00

Day 3

Saturday 4 April

9:30-10:00 **Coffee/Tea**

Panel 7: Historical Sociolinguistics across Asia

Chair: Mohamed Yunus Rafiq (NYU Shanghai)

10:00-10:15 **Manimporok (NYU Shanghai)**
Re-evaluating the 1679 Minahasa Treaty: How Critical Indigenous History Can Revitalize Language Revitalization in Southeast Asia (and Elsewhere?)

10:15-10:30 **Xi Ji (Zhejiang University)**
Multicentrality in the Third Space: Language Identity Construction by Two Female CSL Sojourners in China

10:30-10:45 **Yiming Liu (Fudan University)**
Modernization and the Reconfiguration of Moral Order: A Comparative Analysis of English, German, and Chinese Corpora (1800–2000)

10:45-11:00 **Peng Ai (Xiamen University)**
Green Star over Thailand: Esperanto and Leftist Internationalism in the Thai Chinese Community During the 1930s

11:00-11:40 **Discussion**

Lunch

11:40-13:10

Panel 8: Gender and the Contested Center

Chair: Mengdie Zhao (NYU Shanghai)

13:10-13:25 **Leyan Wang (Chinese University of Hong Kong)**
Zichao Wang (Chinese University of Hong Kong) (Online)
Agency Must Change Side: The Shifting Gender Center in Spiritual Texts

13:25-13:40 **Shao Shao (University of Amsterdam)**
Lianmai (连麦) Counseling Livestreams on Douyin and the Fleeting Centrality of Rural Women's Voices in Digital China

13:40-13:55 **Wen Gu (Shanghai Gench University)**
Let Desta Kyi Lead: Relational Leadership and Collaborative Production Culture in Tibetan Nomadic New Wave Cinema

13:55-14:10 **Fuyun Wei (Zhejiang University)**
Who Defines "Proper Culture"? Multicentrality and Gendered Authority in China's Hanfu Revival

14:10-14:50 **Discussion**

14:50-15:10 **Coffee/Tea Break**

Panel 9: Traveling Art Histories

Chair: Minhao Zhai (NYU Shanghai)

15:10-15:25 **Kalyani Madhura Ramachandran (NYU Shanghai)**
Figural Style in the Early Buddhist Art of the Deccan

15:25-15:40 **Shujun Chen (Central Academy of Fine Arts)**
Cross-Regional Mobility and Multiple Centers of Meaning — A Reinterpretation of a Song-Yuan Ding-Shaped Mirror and Enkan Images

15:40-15:55 **Tingcong Lin (Jinan University)**
An Arhat Marco Polo: Distance as Discursive Strategy and Transcultural (Re)Productions of A (Hi)story In Between

15:55-16:25 **Discussion**

Roundtable

16:45-17:15



List of Participants

(alphabetical order by surname)

Peng Ai, Xiamen University

Sangeeta Banerji, NYU Shanghai

Michael Bruckner, NYU Shanghai

Junnan Chen, NYU Shanghai

Rupeng Chen, University of Edinburgh

Shujun Chen, Central Academy of Fine Arts

Tiancheng Chen, Ludwig-Maximilians-

Universität München

Xueyan Cheng, National University of Singapore

Lu Dai, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

James Farrer, Sophia University

Xiangjun Feng, University of Toronto

Benjamin Gallant, NYU Shanghai

Anna Greenspan, NYU Shanghai

Wen Gu, Shanghai Gench University

Jaeyoung Ha, Tsinghua University

Tenggeer Hao, NYU Shanghai

Xi Ji, Zhejiang University

Pengfei Jiang, Kunming Municipal

Committee of the China Democratic League

Tong Jin, NYU Shanghai

Hyounghee Kong, NYU Shanghai

Yutong Li, NYU Shanghai

Jiayong Liang, NYU Shanghai

Jingyi Lin, Nanjing University

Tingcong Lin, Jinan University

Siqi Liu, King's College London

Yiming Liu, Fudan University

Manimporok, NYU Shanghai

Asif Mehmood, NYU Shanghai

Shishav Parajuli, NYU Shanghai

Yiwen Qiao, University of Macau

Mohamed Yunus Rafiq, NYU Shanghai

Kalyani Madhura Ramachandran, NYU Shanghai

Fernando Romero, NYU Shanghai

Tansen Sen, NYU Shanghai

Shao Shao, University of Amsterdam

Pei Shu, Wuhan University

Sirithorn Siriwan, NYU Shanghai

Solveig Qu Suess, University of Basel

Zhijian Sun, National University of Singapore

Leyan Wang, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Zichao Wang, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Fuyun Wei, Zhejiang University

Ka Lee Wong, NYU Shanghai

Bei Wu, NYU Shanghai

Feiqian Xu, Zhejiang University

Runzhou Xu, University of Munich

Minhao Zhai, NYU Shanghai

Congzhi Zhang, The University of Hong Kong

Mengdie Zhao, NYU Shanghai

Yiran Zhao, Xiamen University

Hongliang Zhou, Changsha University of

Science and Technology

Co-organized by NYU Shanghai Reads, Center for Global Asia
and Global Perspectives on Society Program



KEYNOTE

PUBLIC ETHNOGRAPHY AND ECONOMIES OF CARE

**in Tokyo's Neighborhood
Restaurants**



RSVP

Zoom: 972 4154 4274

Speaker

James Farrer

**Professor of Sociology
and Global Studies,
Sophia University**



Introduction

Anna Greenspan

**Director of the Center for Artificial Intelligence and Culture,
Associate Professor of Contemporary Global Media,
NYU Shanghai**



April 2, 2026



17:30-19:00



**E904, NYU Shanghai
New Bund Campus**



**Center for Global Asia
环球亚洲研究中心**



Global Perspectives on Society Program

Venue Map & Directions



地址：上海市浦东新区杨思西路567号W822室
 邮箱地址：shanghai.cga@nyu.edu
 网站：cga.shanghai.nyu.edu
 微信：NYUSH_CGA (上纽大环球亚洲研究中心)

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Address: Room W822, 567 West Yangsi Rd, Pudong, Shanghai, China
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GARDEN, LABYRINTH, RUIN

The Jesuits in the Qing Court

Professor Andrew Hui received his PhD at Princeton University in the Department of Comparative Literature. A literary scholar and cultural historian working at Yale-NUS College in Singapore since 2012, he was a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies last year, where he researched and wrote on the new project titled "Confucius in the Stone: The Encounter between Chinese and Western Philology in the Global Renaissance." This forthcoming book will investigate the knowledge transfers and cultural exchanges between European Jesuit missionaries and the Chinese imperial court in the 17th and 18th centuries.

In his talk, Professor Hui will analyze the textual construction of garden spaces in Wanning Nian as a gift for the Qing Emperor and discuss the ways that the motif and the garden serve as metaphors for the cultural encounters between China and Europe in the eighteenth century.

Andrew Hui
Associate Professor of Humanities at Yale-NUS College, Singapore

23 SEPT 2024
5:15 PM
Room N20B
NYU Shanghai New Bund Campus

INTRODUCTION BY Duane Corpis

TRANSFORMING "OLD" BUILDINGS INTO CULTURAL HERITAGE

Cases from Shanghai, Hong Kong (and Singapore)

Speaker: Ying Zhou
Associate Professor, Faculty of Architecture, The University of Hong Kong

Thursday, Oct 17, 2024
17:15 PM - 18:30 PM
Room N20B, NYU Shanghai

INTRODUCTION BY Lena Scheen
Director of the Center for Global Asia, Associate Professor, NYU Shanghai

WRITING AND TRANSLATING CHINESE ARCHITECTURE

CGA-DHL Heritage Lecture Series
PRIP-MÜLLER & BAOHUASHAN HUI JUSUI

SPEAKER
Liu Yan
Associate Professor, Kunming University of Science and Technology

Thursday, Oct 24, 2024
17:15 PM - 18:30 PM
Room N20B, NYU Shanghai New Bund Campus

The Rise of Trust Assessment Regimes in Europe and China -- Strengthening or Weakening the Law?

SPEAKER
Marianne von Blomberg
Doctoral candidate, Zhejiang University Law School and College University Chair of Chinese Legal Culture

INTRODUCTION BY
Lena Scheen
Director of the Center for Global Asia, Associate Professor of Global China Studies, NYU Shanghai

Friday, October 25, 2024
3:15 - 4:30 PM
Room N601, NYU Shanghai New Bund Campus

Re-Approaching the Origin of Waterfront Public Space on the Historic Bund of Shanghai

CGA-DHL HERITAGE LECTURE SERIES

SPEAKER
Yingchun Li
Associate Professor, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Fudan University

INTRODUCTION BY
Lala Zuo
Director of Digital Heritage Lab, Associate Professor, NYU Shanghai

COMMENTATOR
Lena Scheen
Director of the Center for Global Asia, Associate Professor, NYU Shanghai

Thursday, November 7, 2024
17:15 PM - 18:30 PM
Room N20B, NYU Shanghai New Bund Campus

THRIVING HERITAGIZATION AND ITS DECLINE

CGA-DHL Heritage Lecture Series
Shanghai's Trajectory of Urban Regeneration in the Name of Conservation

SPEAKER
Kaiyi Zhu
Professor, Chair of History of Architecture & Urban Planning, Faculty of Architecture and Built Environment, TU Delft, UNESCO Chair, Water, Ports and Historic Cities

INTRODUCTION BY
Lena Scheen
Director of the Center for Global Asia, Associate Professor, NYU Shanghai

COMMENTATOR
Lala Zuo
Director of Digital Heritage Lab, Associate Professor, NYU Shanghai

Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024
17:15 PM - 18:30 PM
Room N20B, NYU Shanghai New Bund Campus

Lotus, Peach, and Wall:

OR IS THERE VIRTUAL REALITY IN EARLY MODERN CHINA?

SPEAKER
Jiayi Chen
Assistant Professor of East Asian Studies, Washington University in St. Louis

INTRODUCTION BY
Lena Scheen
Director of the Center for Global Asia, Associate Professor of Global China Studies, NYU Shanghai

COMMENTATOR
Zhenhua Zhang
Associate Professor of Chinese Studies, NYU Shanghai

Thursday, Nov. 21
Room N20B
5:15pm-6:30pm

HIATUS OF POWER

The Collapse of Imperialism and the Rise of a New Asia, 1945 - 1949

SPEAKER
Hans van de Ven
Distinguished Professor of History, Cornell University

INTRODUCTION BY
Joanna Waley-Cohen
Professor and Distinguished Professor of History, NYU Shanghai

DEC. 9, 2024 | 12:00 PM | E302

WE DO NOT PART

TRANSLATING HISTORY, TRAUMA, AND CONNECTEDNESS

SPEAKER
Paige Aniyah Morris
Co-translator of We Do Not Part (Feb. 2025, Penguin Random House) by Han Kang, winner of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature

INTRODUCTION BY
Myunggeun King
Associate Professor of NY History, NYU Shanghai

QA SESSION MODERATOR
Alan Young
Associate Professor of World Languages, NYU Shanghai

FEB 18, 17:15-18:30, ROOM E302

DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY IN THE BRICS COUNTRIES

CGA-DHL HERITAGE LECTURE SERIES

Speaker
Wen Jin
Professor of Digital Heritage Lab, Associate Professor, NYU Shanghai

Anti-Systematic Aesthetics in Chinoiserie and Turquerie

CGA-DHL HERITAGE LECTURE SERIES

Speaker
Wen Jin
Professor of Digital Heritage Lab, Associate Professor, NYU Shanghai

From UKRAINE to PALESTINE

Fieldwork Insights into Contemporary Wars

What can we learn by being there? In this talk, Dr. Lu Xiaoyu will reflect on his ethnographic research in active conflict zones, exploring how participant observation uncovers the often-overlooked human stories behind geopolitical crises. He will also share experiences inspired by his field trips.

Speaker
Lu Xiaoyu
Associate Professor of Anthropology, NYU Shanghai

Center for Global Asia, NYU Shanghai

The Center for Global Asia at NYU Shanghai serves as the hub within the NYU Global Network University system to promote the study of Asian interactions and comparisons, both historical and contemporary. The overall objective of the Center is to provide global societies with information on the contexts for the reemerging connections between the various parts of Asia through research and teaching. This includes exploring how the politics and societies of Asia have interacted over time and are now beginning to interact again on broad fronts. The Center also encourages the examination of Asia's connections with the wider world, focusing specifically on how these connections have in the past and at present impact Asian societies.

Structural Stages in the Biography of an Indian Ocean Island Hub (Mauritius)

Speaker
BURKHARD SCHNEPEL
Faculty of the University of Halle and the French Institute

INTRODUCTION BY
TANSEN SEN
Professor of History, Director of History and Anthropology, NYU Shanghai

Room E30A, New Bund Campus, NYU Shanghai
via Zoom Webinar: 944 124 1103
JUN 06 2025 | 17:15-18:45

A Constable's List

Speaker
NIRA WICKRAMASINGHE
Chair Professor of Indian South Asia Studies, NYU Shanghai

INTRODUCTION BY
GIORGIO RIELLO
Professor of Early Modern Global History, NYU Shanghai

Room E30A, New Bund Campus, NYU Shanghai
via Zoom Webinar: 944 124 1103 | 17:15-18:45

Small Island, Large Issues

Speaker
Wen Jin
Professor of Digital Heritage Lab, Associate Professor, NYU Shanghai

Room E30A, New Bund Campus, NYU Shanghai
via Zoom Webinar: 944 124 1103 | 17:15-18:30

Structural Stages in the Biography of an Indian Ocean Island Hub (Mauritius)

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BURKHARD SCHNEPEL
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Professor of History, Director of History and Anthropology, NYU Shanghai

A Constable's List

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Chair Professor of Indian South Asia Studies, NYU Shanghai

INTRODUCTION BY
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Small Island, Large Issues

Speaker
Wen Jin
Professor of Digital Heritage Lab, Associate Professor, NYU Shanghai



Ten Years of CGA

Innovative, Interdisciplinary, and Collaborative Research on Asia (2015-2025)

International Funding

Early Career Fellowship from the Henry Luce Foundation/ACLS Program in China Studies

Global Research Initiatives (GRI), NYU

Henry Luce Foundation

Mega-Grants Initiative, NYU

National Endowment for the Humanities

The British Academy

The Global Opportunity Grants (GOG), NYU

Volkswagen Foundation

Academic Achievements

Journals:

“China Connections,” Special Section of the *IIAS Newsletter*

Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Asian Interactions, Brill

International Journal of Asian Studies, vol.19.2: Special issue on “Methods in China-India Studies,” Cambridge University Press

Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies, McGill University

Kuawenhua duihua (Dialogue Transcultural), vol.52: Special issue on “Tagore and China,” Shangwu yinshuguan (The Commercial Press)

Digital Projects:

Asian Studies in China Database

Belt and Road Initiative Database

China-India Studies Database

“Flowers on One Stalk” VR Gallery

Kolkata Chinatown 360 Virtual Tours

Intellectual Contributions

16 Conferences

10 Symposia

6 Workshops

2 Colloquiums

129 Lectures

Capacity Building

3 Doctoral Fellows

22 Postdoctoral Fellows

47 Interns from NYU Shanghai and Local Universities

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