



15th East Asia Net Workshop

East Asia – Europe Interactions. Economy, History, Politics and Society.

Keynote speech by Marcin Jacoby Ph.D.

Special panel on the relations between China and Central Europe

Venue: Biedermann Palace, University of Lodz
Faculty of International and Political Studies, University of Lodz

WORKSHOP BROCHURE

15th East Asia Net Workshop

East Asia – Europe Interactions. Economy, History, Politics and Society

Organizers: Center for Asian Affairs, Department of Asian Studies at the Faculty of International and Political Studies, University of Lodz

Venue: Biedermann Palace, University of Lodz

WEDNESDAY, 12TH APRIL

14:00-14:30 Opening Remarks: Prof. Paweł Starosta, Vice-president in Charge of International Cooperation, University of Lodz, Prof. Małgorzata Pietrasiak, head, Department of Asian Studies, University of Lodz, Prof. Dominik Mierzejewski, Department of Asian Studies, University of Lodz Studies, University of Lodz, Prof. Werner Pascha, Institute of East Asian Studies and Mercator School of Management, University of Duisburg-Essen

14:30-15:45 Opening Lecture: Marcin Jacoby Ph.D., (University of Social Sciences and Humanities), Warsaw: *Tough market and big gains for cultural diplomacy. Experiences in promoting Polish culture in East Asia*

15:45-16:00 Coffee and Tea Break

16:00-18:00 Plenary Panel: East Asia Impact on Political Changes in Europe

Moderator: Werner Pascha (Professor, Institute of East Asian Studies and Mercator School of Management, University of Duisburg-Essen)

1. Sean Golden (Professor, Department of Translation and Interpretation, University of Barcelona): *A “China Model” for the “New Era”*
2. Roger Greatrex (Professor, Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University): *Entering the Age of China’s New Mode of International Relations*
3. Bartosz Kowalski (Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Asian Studies, research fellow, Center for Asian Affairs): *Sino-CEE cooperation: a testing ground for “New Type of International Relations”?*
4. Małgorzata Jakimov (Ph.D., University of Sheffield): *China as a region-maker? The securitisation/soft power dynamics in China’s BRI engagement in Central-Eastern*
5. Dominik Mierzejewski (Professor, Department of Asian Studies, chair, Center for Asian Affairs, University of Lodz): *Discussing post-socialist past in Sino-Polish relations*

Question and Answers session.

18:00-20:00 Dinner at Biedermann Palace

FRIDAY, 13TH APRIL

Venue: Faculty of International and Political Studies, University of Lodz

9:00-10:45 Culture and Politics in Contemporary Japan

Moderator: Marcin Socha (University of Lodz)

1. Mikkel Dehlholm, (Ph.D. Fellow at the Dept. of Sociology, University of Copenhagen): *Global capitalism and varieties of welfare states - Comparing the Japanese and Chinese experience*
2. Karol Żakowski (Professor, Department of Asian Studies Faculty of International and Political Studies University of Lodz): *Formation of the Core Executive in Japan under the Second Abe Administration*
3. Adrienne Sala (Ph.D. Lyons Institute of East Asian Studies (IAO), Research and Teaching Assistant at Sciences Po Lyon.): *Japanese lawyers and social movements: A comparison with Europe*
4. Marcin Socha (Ph.D. assistant professor, Department of Asian Studies, University of Lodz): *Prime Ministers and Foreign policy making in Japan: Old limitations vs. New developments*

10:45-11:00 coffee break

11:00-12:30 Ph. D. student panel

Moderator: Michael Jacobsen (Copenhagen Business School)

1. Natalie Shobana Ambrose (Ph.D. candidate, University of Coimbra): *ASEAN Security Management in Maintaining Peace in Southeast Asia: An analysis from 1999 to 2015*
2. Gu Hongfei (Ph.D. candidate, University of Lodz): *China-Central Europe Relations: an Asymmetric Perspective*
3. Joanna Jatczak (Ph.D. candidate, University of Lodz): *Determinants of South Korean nationalism: category of Other and its manifestation in film*

12:30-14:00 lunch

14:00-15:30 China-Europe political and economic encounters

Moderator: Dominik Mierzejewski (University of Lodz)

1. Paulo Duarte (Professor, School of Economics of the University of Coimbra and a Researcher at the Centre for Social Studies): *China's New Silk Road: challenges and opportunities for the European Union*
2. Joanna Ciesielska-Klikowska (Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Asian Studies Faculty of International and Political Studies, University of Lodz): *Cleavage by China?*

The German perception of the Chinese political and economical activity in the European Union

3. Yuan Li (Professor, University of Duisburg-Essen): *Estimating the Impact of New Silk Road Railways on Local Economic Development – Evidence from European Cities*
4. Yue Lin (Professor, Autonomous University of Madrid): *One road, investment in Central various hubs: China's trade and Eastern Europe*

15:30 – 15:45 – Coffee and Tea Break

15:45-17:15 third panel: **Asian-Europe Cultural Encounters and Beyond**

Moderator: Karol Żakowski (University of Lodz)

1. Marco Ceresa (Professor, Director of Department of Asia and North Africa Studies, Ca' Foscari University of Venice): *From the Son of Heaven to the Princess of Ice: China on the Italian opera stage*
2. Toshio Miyake (Ph.D., associate professor Department of Asian and North African Studies Ca' Foscari University of Venice): *Are the Japanese 'white'? Civilization, nation, and race in Fascist Italy*
3. Michał Zaręba (Ph.D. assistant professor, Department of Asian Studies, University of Lodz): *Integration over the water resources in the Mekong Basin. The role of ASEAN and China*

17:15 – 17:30 Closing Remarks

19:00 – 21.00 – Dinner in Galicja Restaurant (Manufaktura)

SATURDAY, 14TH APRIL

09:30-12:00 EAN Executive Meeting at the Faculty of International and Political Studies, Plenary Hall

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

The Department of Asian Studies (former Department of East Asia Studies (DEAS)), established in 2005, is committed to the comprehensive study and research of East Asian foreign affairs. Our group presents an interdisciplinary approach to various aspects of Asian politics, economy, culture and society. The scope of areas studied by our DEAS members range widely from the history of international relations in East Asia to the latest security threats and development issues in the region. Our interdisciplinary approach is a compound of research activities carried out by our team members, each of whom brings different research experience and perspectives. As our team grows, our areas of interest also become wider, both in terms of geographical range and the number of subjects we deal with. DAS organises an international conference, the Lodz East Asia Meeting. The conference is an annual gathering of scholars interested in Asian affairs, especially their political and economic aspects.

The Center for Asian Affairs is a think tank for local and central government authorities as well as business support institutions in Poland, Central Europe and the European Union operating in Asia. CAA is an interdisciplinary unit that brings together academics from the University of Lodz, research and teaching units at home and abroad, as well as business and political practitioners, whose research and teaching interests, combined with years of experience, mainly focus on countries located in East Asia. The Centre for Asian Affairs operates on the basis of domestic and foreign partnerships. The partners of the centre are research institutes in Poland, Europe, Asian countries and the United States. The primary objectives of CAA are: conducting research in the field of improvement and effective operation of central and local government authorities and business support institutions operating in Asia, preparing recommendations prior to visits to Asian countries and visits of Asian delegations to Poland, the preparation of studies and analyses in the following fields: trade (with particular emphasis on the promotion and export of European products to Asian markets), investment opportunities, market analyses, and the legal, cultural and political conditions in a particular country, conducting training in the fields of political activity, business, culture and education.

The Regional Center for International Debate in Łódź opened at the University of Lodz is a project co-financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The aim of the project is to promote better understanding of the priorities of Polish Foreign Policy as well as the long-term diplomatic strategy at the regional and local level. The main task of the Center is strengthening the channels of cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and units of local authorities, non- governmental organizations, educational and scientific institutions and other actors engaged in broadly defined international cooperation.

ABSTRACTS

1. Ceresa Marco (University of Venice): **From the Son of Heaven to the Princess of Ice: China on the Italian opera stage**

This paper examines the representation of China in Italian opera from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. Beginning in the eighteenth century, works set in China became very fashionable in Italian spoken and musical drama, Antonio Vivaldi's *Il Teuzzone* (1719) being one of the earliest and the most notable examples. This trend culminated in Giacomo Puccini's *Turandot* (1926), a veritable exercise in Orientalism on all levels: textual, visual and musical. This paper focuses specifically on libretti and their intertextual references to other literary works, from both Chinese and other literary traditions. Libretti, such as that to Puccini's *Turandot*, are analyzed as texts produced in a variety of interrelated cultural contexts: the general European fascination with China; the taste for exotica; the tradition of chinoiserie; Enlightenment ideologies; colonialism, nationalism, Orientalism; in addition to, of course, developments in Italian literary, theatrical, and operatic domains. Italian authors appropriated prevailing notions about China and adapted them to the conventions of a genre already well established and widely popular, at the same time deterritorializing them and often using them for local purposes, far removed from questions of contemporary China vs. the West, and from nationalist or colonialist projects.

2. Ciesielska-Klikowska Joanna (University of Lodz): **Cleavage by China? The German perception of the Chinese political and economical activity in the European Union**

Cleavage by China? The German perception of the Chinese political and economical activity in the European Union China's political and economical influence in Europe is growing and the German politicians regard this development with concern and insist that the European Union should oppose the geopolitical strategy of the Chinese by creating its own. Especially the Federal Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel (SPD) urges Europeans to adopt a common strategy towards China, claiming that if the EU fails to develop its own strategy for China, China will succeed in splitting Europe. Berlin believes, that behind the "New Silk Road" initiative, there is also a large geopolitical, cultural, economic and a military strategy that the EU has yet to counteract. German crucial fears focus on issues concerning China's possible efforts to break the EU's unity and pull countries from the euro zone, as well as on opportunities, that the leaders of the PRC look for to strengthen its position by weakening the EU. Since there are also 16 countries in Europe, including EU countries, that formed a group with China (16 plus 1 Cooperation), the German politicians suggest China is determined to dilute the project of European integrity. In the above mentioned context Berlin is increasingly aware of the need for a common EU policy towards China arguing, that China will only take the EU and its member states seriously if there is an European strategy. This should, of course, be geared to partnership with China. The paper seeks the answers to the following questions: how the Chinese involvement in building "Belt and Road Initiative" is perceived by the German top politicians? What is the main concern in terms of political and economical cooperation between Germany and China? How does Chinese activity in EU influences bilateral relations?

And what is the perspective for this relation concerning the difficult situation on the German political scene after the September 2017 elections?

3. Dehlholm Mikkel (University of Copenhagen): **Global capitalism and varieties of welfare states - Comparing the Japanese and Chinese experience**

Following up on my presentation for the 2016 EASP conference, this paper applies a novel research agenda for the study of welfare state formation in countries where the spatio-temporal (historical) conditions are disparate from those of the countries described in the literature on welfare regimes emanating from Esping-Andersen's (1990) work. The usefulness of this approach is shown through a comparative study of welfare state development in Japan in the period from 1945-1980 and in China in the reform era (1978-). It is furthermore concluded that differing spatio-temporal conditions has played a large role in conditioning the developmental models and social policy of the two countries. On this background I argue that the contemporary literature on the Chinese (and East Asian) welfare state(s) does not sufficiently address the issue of disparate spatio-temporal conditions for welfare state development and that too much emphasis is put on the 'taxonomical' dimension of welfare state studies. As an alternative a historical sociological approach is proposed, one that pays more attention to the role played by the configuration of the global economy and the position of countries in relation hereto, and to how development of welfare state institutions on the one hand, and political regimes and economic institutions on the other are interrelated.

4. Duarte Paulo (University of Coimbra): **China's New Silk Road: challenges and opportunities for the European Union**

The premise advocated here is that China's New Silk Road has an undeniable urgency and relevance, with impacts to the European Union (EU) in terms of geopolitics and geo-economics. As a privileged pole of China's New Silk Road, the EU gives it sense, and at the same time it will tend to benefit from it. Through a qualitative analysis (mainly hermeneutic), using the conceptual lenses of the School of Copenhagen, we will investigate the contours, challenges, advantages and/or disadvantages that might result from the Sino-European partnership. Why is the EU fundamental within the framework of the Chinese re-emergence? What can the EU offer to China in the context of the Chinese New Silk Road? And, vice-versa, that is, can the EU profit from the ambitious Chinese project? Which are the contexts for a Sino-European partnership, not only economic, but also political and military? Embracing China's proposal, can the EU be a (more) relevant partner in the affairs of the East? In turn, can China play a more prominent role in the affairs of the West? What convergence and synergies can be promoted in the context of a China that is heading to the West, while the EU looks for the East? Here are some of the questions that will guide this investigation whose premise is the highly promising nature (for both sides) of the cooperation between China and the EU in the geopolitical and geo-economic context. As main conclusions, it is expected that by embracing China's proposal, it will be easier for the EU to be a player in the Asia-Pacific. The New Silk Road is susceptible to reduce the asymmetry of power between Europe and the United States, making the European continent a strong(er) pole in the transatlantic relations and in the Eurasian sphere.

5. Golden Sean (University of Barcelona): **A “China Model” for the “New Era”**

Geoeconomic power tends to become geopolitical power. This is Xi Jinping’s mid- to long-term objective. The “West” characterises China as an “emerging” economy. In historical terms China is re-emerging. It is returning to the pre-eminent position it held in the world economy before being subjected to Western imperial aggression in the 19th century. This is the essence of Xi’s “China Dream”, the “rejuvenation” of China. In traditional Chinese terms, this means the consolidation of wealth and military power, two of the major themes of his political report to the 19th National Congress. The first priority is to consolidate and maintain the CPC’s control of the political system. The second is to improve the people’s standard of living. The third is to “take centre stage” in world affairs. Taking centre stage involves the “China Model” of economic development and the modernisation and the strengthening of Chinese military power. Xi’s political report clearly states his confidence in China’s ability to become the “alternative” to the Western neoliberal model in the emerging world order that China will lead in the 21st century. The fact that China and the China Model could become the alternative for the new era is a symptom of the obsolescence of the existing model – the post-World War II model based on Bretton Woods-type supranational institutions dominated by America and Europe. The Western neoliberal model was defined by the “Washington Consensus”. What Xi calls the China Model has been referred to as the “Beijing Consensus”. China’s emergence as an economic superpower has coincided with the rapidly accelerating decline of two of the imperial powers that dominated world affairs since the 18th century. The pro-Brexit vote in the UK reflects a deep-rooted, outdated and futile nostalgia for the lost British Empire. Trump’s call to “Make America Great Again” is at the same time an admission that the US is no longer great. The election of Trump reflects a deep-rooted, outdated and futile nostalgia for the lost American Empire. The rejection of free trade and the rejection of any attempt to combat climate change have isolated the US in the new world order, as has Brexit in the case of the UK (and the EU has come to realise that the loss of the UK may not be such a bad thing). China’s “Belt and Road Initiative” to build transport infrastructures across the Eurasian continent and the Indian Ocean will transform the economies of the participating countries. It will also shift the balance of power in Afro-Eurasia, displacing the role of the 7th Fleet of the US Navy as the arbiter of hard power in the region. Today, as in the past, China has opted for trade and commerce as the means to maintain a peaceful and stable world order, rather than expansionism and military dominance. The US intelligence community has recognised the decline of America’s ability to impose its will on the world or to maintain its dominance over both the Eastern and the Western hemisphere and is calling for new strategies to protect US interests in a world no longer dominated by the US. Donald Trump and his supporters are not listening. They are worried about short-term electoral results, a problem that does not impede Xi Jinping’s leadership of China’s long march to centre stage.

6. Greatrex Roger (Lund University): **Entering the Age of China’s New Mode of International Relations**

This paper takes its point of departure in the following bold assertion made in The significance of General Secretary Xi Jinping’s thought on diplomacy, which is the second section of an emphatic policy statement made by Foreign Minister Wang Yi on

September 1, 2017, titled *Forge Ahead under the Guidance of General Secretary Xi Jinping's Thought on Diplomacy*: "General Secretary Xi Jinping's thought on diplomacy [...] has made innovations on and transcended the traditional Western theories of international relations for the past 300 years." Wang Yi did not elaborate on what these innovations are, but in the light of the abandonment of the discrete mode of IR practised by China over the last decades, their thrust has taken on a definite significance. One area may be China's use of its considerable financial resources to engage in 'overseas land-based investments', to use a term proposed by Hofman and Ho (2012), and over the last decade these have increased dramatically world-wide, and have become in many instances large-scale. The term 'land grabbing' has been used frequently to describe China's actions, and recently an initiative by Chinese investors to acquire water rights in Hokkaido was described as an attempt at 'water grabbing'. The question this paper raises is whether China's new mode of international relations can be fairly said to entail 'land-grabbing' and 'water-grabbing'. The question is whether the activities of Chinese enterprises in 'overseas land-based investments' in, for example, Japan, Laos, Myanmar, and most recently Sweden, are state-sponsored, state-approved, or entrepreneurial activities without state intervention in any form. Chinese 'overseas land-based investments' have been made by Chinese national companies linked to the central government, provincial state-owned authorities, as well as by SMEs and financial institutions. Using data from the Land Matrix database, this paper argues the case of whether the new innovations may include a new, non-militarized form of colonialism predicated on overseas land acquisitions.

7. Jakimov Małgorzata (University of Sheffield): **China as a region-maker? The securitisation/soft power dynamics in China's BRI engagement in Central-Eastern Europe (CEE)**

The past five years have seen a dramatic change in the China-Central-Eastern Europe (CEE) relations. Formerly peripheral to the EU-China trade relations, the CEE countries have suddenly emerged as a centrepiece in the China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). However, while much discussion centres on economic benefits and pitfalls of China's engagement in the EU, few studies link the BRI to the wider ideational transformations taking place in China's Foreign Policy and the CEE's domestic politics and the combined impact of these dynamics on the future of the EU. This paper employs theoretical insights from the constructivist IR theories of regionalism and securitisation in its analysis of empirical data from governments' speeches, think tanks reports and leading intellectuals' writings in China and the EU. It principally enquires about the impact of the BRI on the CEE sub-regional dynamic and its meaning for the future of the European Union as a cohesive region.

In this paper I argue that the Chinese engagement in the CEE through BRI is strengthening the fragmentation dynamics within the EU's eastern periphery, but at the same time, it brings new informal sub-regional solidarity between the emerging illiberal regimes. The process of sub-regional solidarity owes much to China, because the regional actors use China's presence instrumentally as a bargaining chip in their relations with Europe. This process is conducted through the promotion of the de-securitised views of the BRI as set of purely economic investments, which endorses a positive image of China in the region. This process tells us much of the importance of understanding soft power as a 'negative' and 'co-produced', rather than positive and

simply exported phenomenon (Callahan, 2016). China's soft power is 'negative', because the regional actors co-construct China image as political and economic alternative to the EU instrumentally in their response to the EU's pressures in domestic politics, rather than of China as a positive power on its own rights. It is 'co-produced' as China's positive image in the CEE is helped by the growing European fragmentation and made possible largely because it serves the interest of the current governments in the CEE. As such, the countries of CEE use 'China image' in their resistance to the EU institutions, and boost China's de-securitized vision of BRI as primarily economic (rather than political and normative) project, this way contributing to building of China's soft power strategy. This dynamic is creating increasing EU's concern, which is expressed in securitisation of China and of the BRI. As a result, the CEE's illiberal and anti-EU turn and its growing demand for China presence create new sub-regional identities. While China skilfully utilises this dynamic in its relations with the EU so far, the unintended consequences of the CEE's co-production of the BRI's image in the region may have negative consequences for the future of the project in the EU.

8. Jateczak Joanna (University of Lodz): **Determinants of South Korean nationalism: category of Other and its manifestation in film**

Since the division of Korean Peninsula South Koreans are challenged with question "who we are"? Since the emergence of Korean nationalism distinction between "us" and "them" played significant role. When Pan-Asianism ideology was introduced as opposition to Western colonialism, Korean intellectuals were aware that imperialist invasion could come also from their neighbors. Koreans redefined their identity not in solidarity with Asian countries but as distinct from China and Japan. Division of Korean Peninsula which was a result of emerging cold war conflict between global powers was major challenge to Korean ethnic nationalism. One homogenous nation that had been built upon shared blood was divided into two. Nationalism played significant role during authoritarian regimes in South Korea. Rhee Syngman or Park Chung-hee used it to legitimize their regimes. North Korea became "the Other" but at the same time no one questioned national identity based on ethnic homogeneity. Nowadays new generation of South Koreans emerged: they do not have an experience of being part of one Korea and they consider themselves as South Koreans. Most of studies about Korean nationalism tend to be general. In my research I focus on one of the dimensions of South Korean nationalism: relations with "Others". I believe that having more specific focus is a key to better understanding of South Korean nationalism. I distinguished three categories of Others: "enemy", "brother" and "ally" who are represented by Japan, North Korea and United States of America. Moreover, I analyze how those categories are manifested in film. Media (and film) often construct "Otherness" or presents models of who "we" are. In times in which nationalist movements are on the rise and are influencing international relations it is important to study specific and uniqueness of Korean nationalism.

9. Kowalski Bartosz (University of Lodz): **Sino-CEE cooperation: a testing ground for "New Type of International Relations"?**

In the period since the establishment of "16+1" initiative as platform for economic, cultural and educational cooperation between the People's Republic of China and

post-communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe, both sides have developed unprecedented scale of political exchanges. This has been demonstrated both on multilateral level (during regular summits of “16+1” leadership), and bilateral basis (e.g. Xi Jinping’s 2016 state visits to Serbia, Czech Republic and Poland), along with countless exchanges on local government level. This produced numerous outcomes that upon closer investigation may bring analogies between China’s policy towards global South, that is, mostly post-colonial countries of Latin America, Africa Southeast and Central Asia. Notable in this regard are several explicit political pronouncements of Chinese leadership regarding CEE, demonstrating that in grander perspective Beijing’s strategy toward the region resembles its institutional, economic and political performance in the developing world. Therefore by analysing contemporary Sino-CEE relations within the framework of PRC’s engagement with the global South, the paper seeks to answer whether “16+1” initiative constitutes a testing ground for China’s “New Type of International Relations” exercised on the European continent.

10. Li Yuan (University of Duisburg-Essen): **Estimating the Impact of New Silk Road Railways on Local Economic Development – Evidence from European Cities**

One of the main focuses of the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by the Chinese government is connecting East Asia and Europe through multimodal transportation corridors. For the land route of the New Silk Road, the connection is mainly realized by railroads, especially through the China-Europe Express Railways which currently connect an increasing number of Chinese cities with cities in Europe and Asia. According to a recent development plan by the Chinese government these railway lines will triple in the next few years. The research tries to understand the implications of the prospect for a European city to open up a new railway link with China. Using a difference-in-differences analysis we study the effects of the railway links on local economic activities. We find the New Silk Road railways increase local road transportation significantly.

11. Lin Yue (Autonomous University of Madrid): **One road, investment in Central various hubs: China’s trade and Eastern Europe**

The launch of the “16+1” Cooperation Framework in 2012 enhanced economic relations between China and CEE countries, which already had craved for China’s investment to recover from the recession during 2008-2009 crisis. After six years of a high political and economic engagement, to what extent China has materialized its influence in the region? This paper compiles data from various sources and tries to update our understanding of China’s current presence and potential impacts in the CEE region through three economic interconnection channels as pronounced in the “One Road, One Belt” initiative, namely trade, investment, and infrastructure. Apparently treated as a bloc, CEE countries have diverse institutional backgrounds. China’s State-led infrastructure projects (energy and transport) were more concentrated in non-EU-member Balkan states, in contrast to the geographic distribution of direct foreign investment carried by Chinese enterprises (state-controlled and private-controlled ones), which has been accrued to the traditional attractive countries for FDI such as Visegrad countries together with Romania and Bulgaria. This discrepancy between State-pushed large scale infrastructure projects and relatively more private-led FDI from China might, on the one hand, create

competitive tensions between CEE countries; on the other hand, alter the trade pattern, which is for the moment more intensive between China and larger economies in the region.

12. Mierzejewski Dominik (University of Lodz): **Discussing post-socialist past in Sino-Polish relations**

The paper discusses the important issue of the historical memory and the historical narratives in international relations through the particular case of the relations between China and Poland. The first part touches the issue of historical memory in social sciences and elaborates the possible theoretical understanding of the research subject. In the second part the author recalls history of 1950s. and its interpretations delivered by Polish: Rowinski, Gawlikowski and Werblan and Chinese: Shen Zhihua, Li Danhui, Huan Xiaodan and Sun Daiyao scholars. The last part based on the discourse analysis of the Polish and Chinese documents shows the understanding of current interpretation of history and its role in bilateral relations. The core question places in the paper is on to what extent and how this post-socialist memory of 1950, and the recognition of being independent from Moscow might play a role in shaping relations between both countries? From this perspective the author focuses on rationale of Polish governments from boycotting China in 2008 to embracing China as strategic partner (2011 and 2016) and the pragmatic reason behind policy action towards China taken by current government in Poland. The important part of the analysis is given to discussing into details the changing perception of the role of Poland and broaden Central Europe in China's foreign policy.

13. Miyake Toshio (University of Venice): **Are the Japanese 'white'? Civilization, nation and race in Fascist Italy**

The critical insights introduced by Edward Said's Orientalism (1978) and by postcolonial studies have inspired in the last decades investigation on the modern construction, or invention, of various 'Easts' in Euro-American contexts, highlighting the hegemonic intersections between culture, identity, and power. While North American, British, German, and French Orientalisms have been widely investigated, there are still no systematic and critical studies clarifying the specificity of Italian Orientalism. Even more scarce are contributions aimed at the understanding of the Japanese 'East' in modern Italy in relation both to the construction of other Asian 'Easts' (Chinese, Indian, Korean etc.) and to Italian modern (or contemporary) identity. This talk will firstly address Orientalism of Japan in modern and Fascist Italy in order to explore its relation with the specific construction of Italian, European and 'Western' identity. Secondly, it will address the intertwined process of Occidentalism, Orientalism and self-Orientalism (A. Gramsci 1929-35, F. Coronil 1996, Miyake 2014). Particular attention will be paid to the implications of this process in terms of cumulative intersection of heterogeneous identification and othering categories: civilization ('West/East'), region ('Europe/Asia'), nation ('Italy/Japan'), race/ethnicity ('white/yellow').

The overall aim is not only to offer a contribution to a historical investigation of the socio-cultural construction of 'Japan' and the 'East' in modern Italy, but also to stimulate a more critical understanding of the theoretical and methodological assumptions naturalizing past (and present) discourses about the 'West', the 'East', 'Italy' and 'Japan'.

14. Sala Adrienne (University of Lyon): **Japanese lawyers and social movements: A comparison with Europe**

Since the 1950s and despite this unfriendly judiciary environment and its institutional context, several Japanese lawyers played a major role in public problem's construction, collective actions and legal mobilization's organization to defend the weak-interests (workers, consumers, inhabitants, victims, etc.) and obtained significant legislative changes (e.g. Kitamura, Hirano, Noguchi, Kojima, Kakita, Kuwaki 1959; Kawahito 2014). Our research questions are the following:

RQ1. How did Japanese lawyers manage to organize social movements and collective actions in a society depicted as having a low legal consciousness with a legal system that strongly used to discourage private suits (Kawashima, 1967)?

RQ2. Can we use the concept of "cause lawyering" to analyze Japanese lawyers (Sarat & Scheingold, 2004)?

RQ3. Does a rising legal and political representation of weak interests (workers, consumers, citizens, inhabitants, victims) have an impact on the process of institutional change as well as its efficiency (Streck & Thelen, 2005)?

We will focus on the role of Japanese lawyers in the case of social and legal mobilization organized to defend victims of Karôshi/Karôjisatsu (death and suicide caused by overwork / work related cerebro-cardiovascular diseases). The purpose of this research is double. First, our aim is to determine if lawyers may represent a factor of institutional change by highlighting lawyers' involvement (legal mobilization, strategy, network, resources, context, etc.). Second, we aim at evaluating the legislative and/ or institutional change's efficiency. Comparison with Western and European countries will be systematically done.

15. Shobana Ambrose Natalie (University of Coimbra): **ASEAN Security Management in Maintaining Peace in Southeast Asia: An analysis from 1999 to 2015**

This research aims is to understand how peace in Southeast Asia is constructed and maintained studying the role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in facilitating or limiting security management in the region between 1999 and 2015. The main argument rests on the premise that Southeast Asia's multiple facets of diversity renders itself vulnerable to being unstable, however the region remains relatively peaceful. The research delves into ASEAN's influence in Southeast Asia's regional security environment and the extent of importance international law, external actors, allies and the characteristics of these countries have in explaining Southeast

Asian peace. The research builds on the competing explanations of economic performance, nation building strategies, common identity and the ASEAN Way of noninterference and consensus-based decision-making, weaving bridges that connect the diverging perspectives on ASEAN's role in security management and its effectiveness in contributing to peace in Southeast Asia. The paper will examine four key areas identified by the literature which contribute to explaining peace in the region (i) interstate territorial disputes (ii) transnational threats (iii) economic-security nexus and (iv) defence build-up. The paper will unpack how international legal processes are preferred in dealing with interstate territorial disputes; how the challenge of transnational threats is addressed or not addressed; how the relationship between economic factors and security contributes to peace in the region; and what the consistent increase in military spending by these countries means to Southeast Asian peace. The paper aims to contribute to the limited explanatory work on the topic of peace in Southeast Asia. The research is also placed at a more contemporary timeframe to include recent empirical data coupled with historical understanding of the region and ASEAN. In this vein the research will use western International Relations theory coupled with non-Western International Relations theory, in particular the Chinese School of International Relations, to better understand concepts, state behaviours and interaction to answer the puzzle of why the region remains peaceful. As a result, the study will provide a Southeast Asian contribution to international relations theory through the marrying of the different theories.

16. Socha Marcin (University of Lodz): **Prime Ministers and Foreign policy making in Japan: Old limitations vs. New developments**

The aim of this paper is to evaluate the impact of the institutional and political changes introduced by the central government reforms and other attempts of strengthening the position of the prime minister in Japan's foreign policy making. One of such changes was the administrative reform, conceived and drafted by Prime Minister Hashimoto Ryutarō in 1996–1998, and implemented under the Mori Yoshirō administration in January 2001. The Author will look at the traditional limitations of the prime minister's role such as relatively weak position vis-a-vis the bureaucrats and the ruling party. Despite strong formal prerogatives, Japanese prime ministers were rarely able to exert control over the other veto players. They had to maintain harmony between various factions in the ruling party and keep balance between MOFA bureaus that were actually ruled by the bureaucrats. Moreover, the paper will also discuss the evolution of the role played by the prime minister and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) both in defining and implementing long-term diplomatic strategies as well as formulating ad hoc policies towards sudden problems and international crises. Particular emphasis will be placed on the most recent diplomatic developments under the second Abe cabinet such as: strengthening the alliance with the U.S., peace treaty negotiations with Russia and attempts of normalizing relations with PRC and South Korea.

17. Żakowski Karol (University of Lodz): **Formation of the Core Executive in Japan under the Second Abe Administration**

The aim of the paper is to analyze decision-making reforms in Japan's government under the second Abe administration since December 2012. The changes both in official institutional arrangements and unofficial decision-making practices on the governmental and ruling party levels enabled the prime minister to display stronger leadership than before. It is argued that the relative success of Prime Minister Abe's reforms lay in their gradual pace, consistent with the strength of two kinds of veto players: ministerial bureaucrats and ruling party backbenchers. While formal institutions have been to some extent circumvented through new decision-making bodies, informal decision-making rules have been gradually reinterpreted by exploiting their inherent ambiguities. These two processes led to gradual erosion of the old system and enhancement of coordination capabilities by the core executive, especially the Cabinet Secretariat.

18. Zaręba Michał (University of Lodz): **Integration over the water resources in the Mekong Basin. The role of ASEAN and China**

The Mekong is a transboundary river which runs through China and five Southeast Asian countries: Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Its significance is confirmed by the fact that over 80 million people rely on it for their livelihoods. In the lower basin water is mostly used for irrigation in agriculture however the Mekong is also a major source of drinking water. The river is one of the largest inland fisheries and an important transportation trail but it also has a huge hydropower potential. This paper will examine China's large-scale development projects related to construction of hydropower plants in the upper river basin and their political, economic and ecological implications for the other riparian countries. It will also focus on China's strategy toward the lower river basin states over water resources, including new mechanism Lancang-Mekong Cooperation, and consider Beijing as partner who is trying to solve conflicts in the region. Paper will also examine influence of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on regional hydropolitics and analyze the role of organization in strengthening integration processes in the Indochinese Peninsula.