

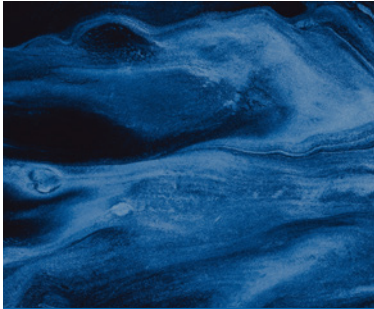


2020 ANNUAL REPORT

A Special Year

北京大学博古睿
研究中心

Berggruen Research Center
Peking University



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The Center and COVID-19

When COVID-19 first hit China, our staff were in different parts of China and the world. We received strong support from Peking University, Berggruen Institute, and from each other. COVID-19 has changed how we live, how we communicate, and how we work.

	<p>February 3</p> <p>Berggruen China Center donates CNY 180,000 to WISCO General Hospital in Wuhan to fight COVID-19</p>	 <p>February 3</p> <p>Staff starts working from home</p>
		
<p>March 30</p> <p>The Center shares safety tips for quarantine with Berggruen Los Angeles team when California goes on lockdown</p>	<p>April 6</p> <p>Berggruen Institute's 21st Century Council issues call to the G20 for global coordination in battling COVID-19</p>	
<p>Early April</p> <p>The Center sends masks to Berggruen Fellows around the world</p>	<p>April 14</p> <p>First livestream event features <i>Intelligence and Wisdom: AI Meets Chinese Philosophers</i>, in collaboration with Yi Cai Media. All further events are moved online</p>	
<p>May 18</p> <p>The Center introduces the Berggruen LA team to China's health code system</p>		<p>July 6</p> <p>We are back in the office!</p>

2020 A Special Year

China Center donates
CNY 180,000 to WISCO
General Hospital in Wuhan
to fight COVID-19



February

21st Century Council issues
call to the G20 for global
coordination in battling
COVID-19



April 14

First Global Thinkers series
event with *Caixin* Media,
featuring Jared Diamond and
his book *Upheaval*



July 12

Berggruen's Bilibili
account is launched



September 27

Team starts working with the
Beijing Social Work
Development Center for
Facilitators' migrant children
program



November 14

Workshop "AI Narratives in
Contemporary Chinese Science
Fiction", second in the "AI
Narratives in China" series
with Cambridge University's
Leverhulme Center



February 3



Intelligence and Wisdom: AI Meets Chinese Philosophers is published in China by CITIC Press Group. More than 6300 copies have been sold

April 6



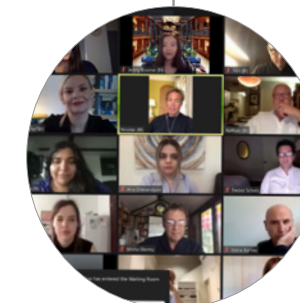
China Center's first livestream event, featuring *Intelligence and Wisdom: AI Meets Chinese Philosophers*, in collaboration with Yi Cai Media

July 2



The first online Berggruen Seminar, with Professor Roger Ames on "Confucian Common Sense Meets the AI Revolution"

July 14



2020-2021 class of Berggruen Fellows is announced

October 30



Fellows' Retreat focusing on research themes and collaboration

November 17

Letter from the Chairs



In December 2018, the Berggruen Research Center (the Center) at Peking University (PKU) transitioned from an exciting vision to a concrete reality. The year 2019 passed quickly, as the Center moved ahead with its best efforts to realize an institution reflecting an administrative and research symmetry between the Berggruen Institute and Peking University. During this year, the core staff was expanded, and research fellowships were awarded to several distinguished scholars who advanced the Center's research agenda.

In the fall of 2019, the Center's Academic Advisory Council (Wang Bo, Vice President, PKU; Yuan Ming, Dean, Yenching Academy, PKU; Shang Xinjian, Professor of Philosophy, PKU) convened a meeting with co-directors Song Bing and Liu Zhe, then Chief Operations Officer Li Xiaojiao, and the rest of the team to greet the 2019 Fellows and to receive a report on the Center's activities and its vision for the future. We were all delighted to hear that the renovation of the office building was in the planning stages, with permit applications and an architectural firm in place. On this occasion, the Academic Advisory Council unanimously expressed its full support for the research initiatives and the direction that the Center had taken during its inaugural year of operations.

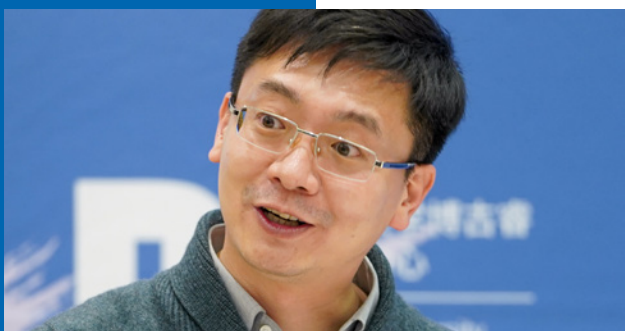
In spite of the difficulties brought by the coronavirus, the Center has witnessed continued growth in its second year. In November 2020, the Academic Advisory Council received a detailed working report on the Center's research initiatives, online conferences, recent publications and continuing projects, the Berggruen Seminar series, staff appointments, and continuing community service initiatives related to the pandemic. Of particular note is the effort being made to extend the reach and influence of the Center's initiatives by joining public platforms that serve the academic and research communities. Under the difficult shared circumstances, the Center continues to make substantial advances on the themes of how artificial intelligence and new biotechnologies will alter the human experience and how global cultural resources can be drawn upon to shape a new geopolitical order.

Sincerely,

LIN JIANHUA
*Co-Chair, Academic Advisory Council,
Berggruen Research Center, Peking University*

ROGER T. AMES
*Co-Chair, Academic Advisory Council,
Berggruen Research Center, Peking University*

Letter from the Directors



We are witnessing a critical moment of global transformation. 2020, the year of *gengzi* in the Chinese sexagenary cycle, was widely projected by Chinese astrologers to be a year of calamity and upheaval, following the misfortunes of its past years of 1960, 1900, and 1840. Indeed, the forecasts have proven true, with the global pandemic of COVID-19, the worsening relationship between China and the West over trade, investment, technology, and political values, and polarizing and divisive political and social landscapes in the US and Europe.

In this turbulent environment, the Berggruen Institute's work is more relevant than ever, as we are committed to fostering new foundational thinking and bringing together the intellectual resources of the East and West for addressing global challenges.

Amidst worldwide lockdowns and social distancing policies, we promptly moved the Center's activities online in March this year to keep our planned programs on track. So far, we have conducted five workshops for our "Privacy and Facial Recognition" and "Global AI Narratives" programs and hosted four online Berggruen seminars: "Confucian Common Sense Meets the AI Revolution", "What Should Care Robots Care About?", "Digital Personality", and "AI, Emotion, and Ethics".

The silver lining of the pandemic is an amplified global online connectivity. Recognizing this trend, we worked closely with the social platform Bilibili and began live broadcasting many of our events. We also launched a new online public program, Global Thinkers series featuring Jared Diamond at its inaugural event on risk management in coping with the global pandemic. Our programs have been well-received, with some even attracting nearly 25,000 viewers online.

Meanwhile, the Center's first book, *Intelligence and Wisdom: AI Meets Chinese Philosophers* (edited by Song Bing), was published by CITIC Press Group in February and has sold over 6300 copies. The editor and a few contributors have been interviewed by *The Beijing News*, *The Paper*, *Jiefang Daily* and CITIC Readers' Club. Our second publication, *What is Tianxia? The East Asian Context* (edited by Roger Ames and Gan Chunsong), is set to be printed this year. In October, the Center also launched a new online product, *Ruiⁿ*, which features both translated articles from *Noema*, an online and offline journal published by the Berggruen Institute, and original contributions sourced locally. We hope that *Ruiⁿ* becomes a public square for creative thinkers where innovative ideas are recognized, debated, enriched, and propagated. Our goal is to produce regular print versions of *Ruiⁿ* next year in partnership with local publishers.

The Center also welcomed a new cohort of fellows this year: Bai Shunong, Professor of Biology at Peking University; Duan Weiwen, Professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; Hao Jingfang, science fiction author and researcher; and Lu Qiaoying and Sebastian Sunday Grève, Assistant Professors at the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Peking University. We have also for the first time hired a researcher, Dr. Zhan Yiwen, who helps us with program design and intellectual engagement with fellows and other thinkers.

Over the past year, in connection with our research programs, we have developed close partnerships with a number of institutions, including Cambridge University's Leverhulme Center, Microsoft China, Caixin, CITIC Press Group, and various schools and centers at Peking University.

Last, but not least, the Center has been actively involved in community engagement and philanthropic programs, including donations to Wuhan hospitals in support of Wuhan's fight against COVID-19 and active participation in the Beijing Social Work Development Center for Facilitators' educational programs designed for underserved communities in Beijing.

In a nutshell, we have managed to "ride the storm" and stay the course. Here, we would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to members of the Academic Advisory Council, the hardworking and ingenious staff of the Center, our partner institutions, and many other institutions and individuals for the confidence, support, and feedback which they have generously shared with us in the past year.

We look forward to charging into a fruitful Year of the Bull!

SONG BING
Co-Director,
Berggruen Research Center, Peking University

LIU ZHE
Co-Director,
Berggruen Research Center, Peking University



Programs

Frontier Technologies and Society
Digital Governance
Globalization and Geopolitics

1 Frontier Technologies and Society



“Here arises two questions: are AI principles proposed thus far reflective of the disruptive and transformative nature of frontier technologies? Core values of modernity may have served us well in the past, but at the juncture of rethinking globalization and global values, are they the right set of foundational values for building an inclusive normative framework for AI, the future of humanity, and other beings?”

- *Intelligence and Wisdom*, 2020



PROJECT

AI Meets Chinese Philosophers

How do views on the ethical implications of the rise of AI differ in the East and the West? How will we define the relationship between humanity and machines as they draw ever closer? This project brings together AI scientists and Chinese philosophers to answer these questions. A collection of their views was captured in the book *Intelligence and Wisdom: AI Meets Chinese Philosophers*, published in February 2020 by CITIC Press Group. Another series of cross-cultural dialogues is scheduled for 2021.



Intelligence and Wisdom was published in February 2020

AI Narratives in China

Artificial intelligence is set to have an unprecedented global impact, and public perceptions will shape much of it, affecting how the technology is developed, adopted, and regulated. But different cultures see AI through very different lenses. Diverse religious, linguistic, philosophical, literary, and cinematic traditions have led to diverging concepts of what intelligent machines can and should be.

As part of a collaborative initiative with the Leverhulme Center for the Future of Intelligence at the University of Cambridge, we explore what local culture and historical narratives can tell us about AI's reception in China.

We held two workshops in 2020, “Chinese Classics and Folk Stories and Their Impact on AI Narratives” and “AI Narratives in Contemporary Chinese Science Fiction”. Together with participation from influential researchers, the project will enter 2021 with two books planned to be published in the UK and China.



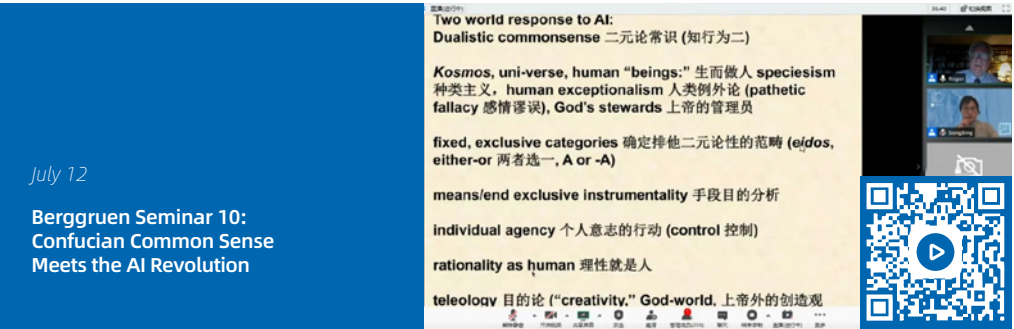
Wu Yan introduces “Chinese AI Science Fiction in the Early Period of Reform and Opening-up (1978-1983)” at the second workshop, November 17



Zhang Baichun discusses “The Attitude and Influence of Pre-Qin Thinkers on Mechanical Invention” at the first workshop, August 18



Artist Qiu Anxiong presents “New Classic of Mountains and Seas” at the first workshop, August 18



Other projects

2 Digital Governance

PROJECT

Facial Recognition and Privacy

Facial recognition technology has attracted heated debate since before the COVID-19 pandemic. This project gathers philosophers, sociologists, legal experts, and researchers from leading AI enterprises to work out how facial recognition policies can best reflect cultural values and social practices. Three closed-door workshops were held in 2020.



3 Globalization and Geopolitics

PROJECT

What is *Tianxia*?

"*Tianxia*" (all under heaven) is a worldview with roots in Chinese philosophy and history that proposes inclusiveness, mutuality, interdependence, and relationality in global affairs. In this project, we explore whether the *Tianxia* system is viable as a framework for thinking about a new and evolving world order and a new model of world governance. A book from Berggruen's 2018 conference "What is *Tianxia*? The East Asian Context" will be published by CITIC Press Group.

All Under Heaven: The Tianxia System for a Possible World Order by Zhao Tingyang has been translated into English and will be published by University of California Press in June 2021.



Impact

In this year of unprecedented challenges, we worked to create strong online and offline platforms to grow the Center's influence. The first book in the Berggruen Book Series was published by CITIC Press Group, attracting broad media coverage. Working with independent media outlet *Caixin*, we started the Global Thinkers series and invited Professor Jared Diamond as its first speaker. The series is set to enter 2021 with an impressive lineup of global thinkers. The year also saw the Center's fellows and co-directors invited to participate in influential domestic and international discussions on technology and society. Finally, the Center joined streaming site Bilibili and reactivated its Weibo and WeChat accounts, which, together with our new content platform *Rui*ⁿ, are spaces for exploring global transformations and the future of humanity.

IMPACT

Books

Intelligence and Wisdom: AI Meets Chinese Philosophers was published in February 2020 by CITIC Press Group. As of December 20, more than 6300 copies had been sold. The book's release was widely discussed in China, and the editor and authors were interviewed by key Chinese media outlets including *Jiefang Daily*, *The Beijing News*, and *The Paper*, among others.



Jiefang Daily interviews chief editor Song Bing



The Beijing News interviews He Huaihong and Song Bing



The Paper interviews chief editor Song Bing



IMPACT

Global Thinkers Series with Caixin Media

In a global pandemic, cross-cultural communication is more important than ever. Together with Caixin Media, we invite world class thinkers to share their thoughts in the Global Thinkers series.

On July 2, Professor Jared Diamond, author of the popular books *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* and *Upheaval: Turning Points for Nations in Crisis*, kicked the series off as its first speaker. Diamond offered suggestions on the COVID-19 crisis, and the event attracted widespread attention both inside and outside China. The series will continue in 2021.



世界思想家系列 | Global Thinkers Series

Dialogue with Jared Diamond
Global Pandemic and Crisis Management

对话贾雷德·戴蒙德 全球疫情和危机管理

贾雷德·戴蒙德
Jared Diamond

加利福尼亚大学洛杉矶分校地理学教授
(《枪、细菌与钢铁》、《崩溃》作者)
Author of *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* and *Upheaval: Turning Points for Nations in Crisis*

宋冰
Song Bing

博古睿研究院副院长
中国中心主任
在线身份认同委员会成员
Vice President, Berggruen Institute
Director, Berggruen China Center

李昕
Li Xin

财经传媒总编
新闻国际事务总经理
Vice President, Caixin Media
Managing Director, Caixin Global

July 2, Dialogue with Jared Diamond, "Global Pandemic and Crisis Management"

IMPACT

Directors and Fellows Activities

November 9

A senior policy advisor on frontier technologies and ethics, Berggruen Fellow Duan Weiwen discusses his survey "The Ethical Issues in Sciences and Technology Development that Most Concern Scholars" at the 2nd World Science and Technology Development Forum.



October 1

Center co-director Song Bing speaks at the "POLITICO AI Summit 2020". The event, which focused on AI in global and local governance, had 1620 registered attendees and 23,715 unique viewers.



January 28

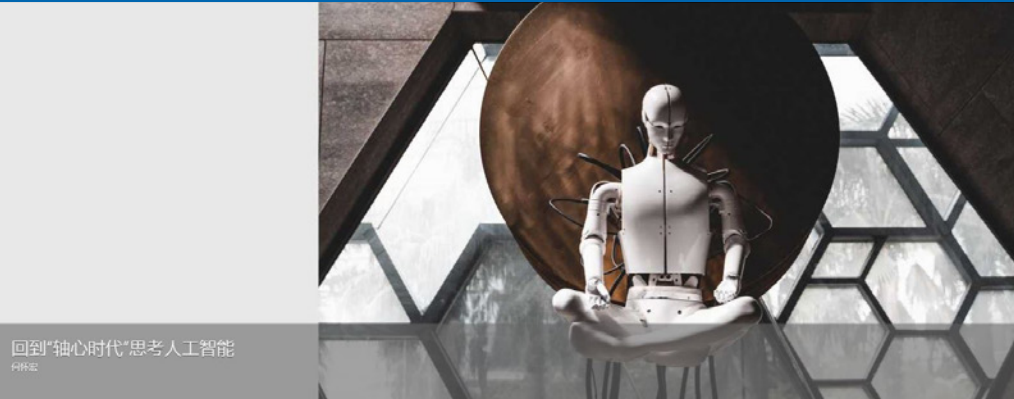
Center co-director Liu Zhe speaks at the "A Roadmap for AI towards SDGs" session at the 2020 World Economic Forum.





Ruiⁿ, New Content Platform Launched

Launched in October, *Ruiⁿ* is an online content platform that bridges the gap between traditional academic journals and fragmented new media content. Focusing on “ideas for a changing world”, it covers topics from philosophy, culture, and art, to climate change and geo-civilization. Featuring both translated articles from *Noema*, an online and offline journal published by the Berggruen Institute, and original contributions sourced locally, *Ruiⁿ* aims to create a public square for creative thinkers where innovative ideas are recognized, debated, enriched, and propagated.



回到“轴心时代”思考人工智能
何林宏



Berggruen Fellow alumnus Zhao Tingyang's article received over 3000 views on *Ruiⁿ* WeChat



Article by 2020-2021 Berggruen Fellow Bai Shunong on “How Human Survived before the Axial Age”

WeChat account



Website



Strong Growth of Online Platforms

Our newly created Bilibili account is attracting key audience groups, with more than 70 short and long videos posted so far. The Center's first three online events streamed on Bilibili drew an audience of 40,000 viewers.

Bilibili: @博古睿研究院



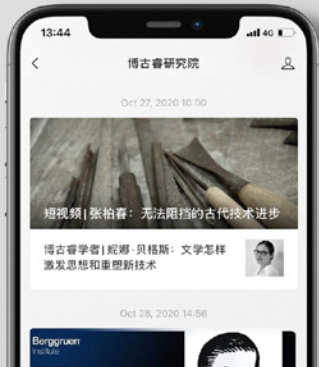
Our Weibo account was reactivated in September, and our follower count has since grown three-fold.

Weibo: @博古睿研究院BI



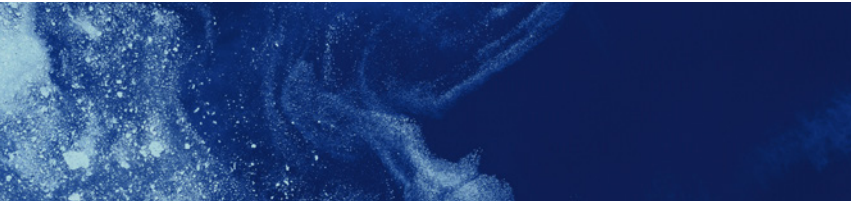
WeChat serves as our primary platform for sharing information, with a loyal group of over 4,000 subscribers.

WeChat



Community Engagement Program to Help Underserved Communities

We work with the Beijing Social Work Development Center for Facilitators to help children from migrant worker families. Berggruen China staff visited the charity in October and have been offering classes to the children. Our goal is to inspire them by sharing stories and opening a window to the outside world. Center co-director Song Bing serves on the charity's board.



Fellows

In alphabetical order

Current Fellows

BAI SHUNONG

Biologist, 2020-2021 Berggruen China Center Fellow



Bai Shunong is Professor of Plant Biology at School of Life Science, Peking University. He has worked on plant developmental biology since 1983. Following his empirical investigation on plant development, he developed an alternative perspective reviving the classical view treating plants as colonies of individuals, rather than as individuals.



HAO JINGFANG

Author, Researcher, 2020-2021 Berggruen China Center Fellow

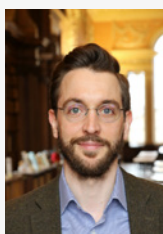


Hao Jingfang is an author and researcher. Hao graduated from Tsinghua University with an undergraduate degree in physics, and she later gained her PhD degree in Economics and Management from the same university. Hao started to write novels in 2006, and she won "The Best Novelette" for her short story *Folding Beijing* at the 74th World Science Fiction Convention.



SEBASTIAN SUNDAY GRÈVE

Philosopher, 2020-2021 Berggruen China Center Fellow



Sebastian Sunday Grève is a German philosopher and Assistant Professor at Peking University. His 2015 essay "The Importance of Understanding Each Other in Philosophy" was awarded the Annual Essay Prize of the Royal Institute of Philosophy and has since been published in *Philosophy*. In his doctoral thesis "Skill and Scepticism", he developed a new theory of intuitive skill, which serves to demonstrate the importance of attaining what might be called 'true' philosophical skill in order to unlock the unique potential of highly intelligent agency in both humans and artificial systems alike.



DUAN WEIWEN

Philosopher, 2020-2021 Berggruen China Center Fellow



Duan Weiwen is the Director and Professor at the Department of Philosophy of Science and Technology in the Institute of Philosophy, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He specializes in philosophy of science and philosophy of information technology. His recent focus is on the philosophical, ethical, and social implications of big data and AI.



LU QIAOYING

Philosopher, 2020-2021 Berggruen China Center Fellow



Lu Qiaoying is Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy, Peking University. She works on the philosophy of epigenetics, especially on the concept of the gene in evolutionary theory. Her paper with Dr. Pierrick Bourrat "The Evolutionary Gene and the Extended Evolutionary Synthesis", published in the *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, investigates challenges from epigenetic inheritance to the Modern Synthesis.



Fellow Alumni

2019-2020 HE HUAHONG

Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Peking University

2019-2020 WANG YANGMING

Principal Investigator, the Laboratory of Stem Cells and Noncoding RNAs, Peking University

2019-2020 WU TIANYUE

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Peking University

2018-2020 ZENG YI

Professor and Deputy Director, the Research Center for Brain-Inspired Intelligence, Chinese Academy of Sciences

2018-2019 ZHAO TINGYANG

Professor and Member, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

2018-2019 GAN CHUNSONG

Professor and Deputy Director, Confucianism Research Center, Peking University

2017-2018 PETER HERSHOCK

Director, the East-West Center, the University of Hawaii

2016-2018 VIREN MURTHY

Associate Professor of History, the University of Wisconsin-Madison

2016-2018 ROGER T. AMES

Humanities Chair Professor, Peking University

2016-2018 BAI TONGDONG

Dongfang Chair Professor of Philosophy, Fudan University

2016-2017 STEPHEN ANGLE

Mansfield Freeman Professor, East Asian Studies, Wesleyan University

2016-2017 RAJEEV BHARGAVA

Director, the Institute of Indian Thought at the Center for the Study of Developing Societies











2015-2017 LI JIN

Professor of Education and Human Development, Brown University

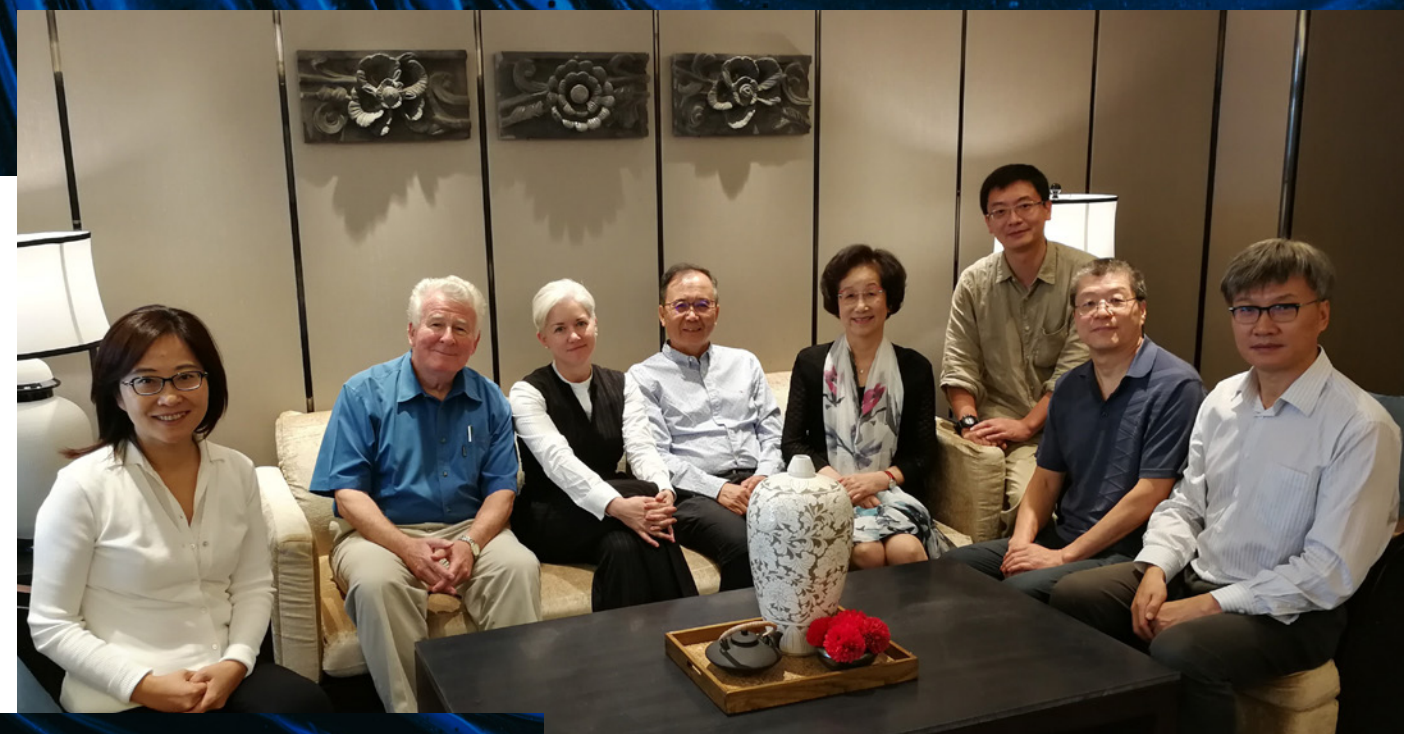
2015-2017 ANNA SUN

Associate Professor of Sociology and Asian Studies, Kenyon College

Team

 <p>ROGER T. AMES <i>Senior Academic Advisor</i></p>	 <p>SONG BING <i>Co-Director</i></p>	 <p>LIU ZHE <i>Co-Director</i></p>	 <p>SHELLEY HU <i>Senior Program & Communications Coordinator</i></p>	 <p>TIAN XINYUAN <i>Program Coordinator</i></p>
 <p>LI HE <i>Chief Content Officer</i></p>	 <p>XIANG QUN <i>Office Manager</i></p>	 <p>ZHAN YIWEN <i>Researcher</i></p>	 <p>JENNIFER BOURNE <i>Associate Director</i></p>	 <p>LI XIAOQIAO <i>Associate Director Communications</i></p>





Academic Advisory Council

LIN JIANHUA

*Co-Chair, Former President,
Peking University*

ROGER T. AMES

*Co-Chair, Senior Academic Advisor,
Berggruen Institute*

WANG BO

*Vice President,
Peking University*

YUAN MING

*Dean, Yenching Academy,
Peking University*

SHANG XINJIAN

*Professor of Philosophy,
Peking University*



OUR MISSION



The Berggruen Institute was established in 2010 with a mission to develop foundational ideas, and through them, shape political and social institutions for the 21st century.

In this age of technology and globalization, it is essential that we critically analyze our systems and the beliefs upon which they are founded.

As an international “think and act” network, we seek to bring together the best minds and most authoritative voices from across cultural and political boundaries to address the core challenges of our era—from global governance to what it means to be human in a technological age.



The Berggruen Research Center at Peking University was established on December 19, 2018. Located at the heart of Peking University, the Center engages China’s most outstanding thinkers to examine, share, and develop ideas to address global challenges.

Intellectual themes for research programs are focused on frontier technologies and society, as well as issues involving digital governance and globalization. The Berggruen Institute has committed USD 22.5 million to the Center, which funds a fellowship program, supports publications that feature the Center’s major research focuses, hosts program activities such as lectures, workshops, and symposia, and produces multi-media outreach programs.



北京大学博古睿
研究中心

Berggruen Research Center
Peking University

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