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## 1<sup>st</sup> Forum on Cultural Misunderstandings EU-China

### INTRODUCTION OF AUTHORS, FACILITATORS and STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

#### **H.E., Nicolas Chapuis, Ambassador of the EU to the People's Republic of China**

Nicolas Chapuis (1957-) is the EU Ambassador to China since September 2018. Educated in Chinese and Mongol studies, he is a French diplomat whose career has seen him posted 6 times in China, as well as assignments in Singapore and London. He served as French Ambassador to Mongolia (2003-2005) and to Canada (2015-2017). His published works include a study on Chinese classical poetics and a commented translation of the Chinese Tang Dynasty Poet Du Fu.

#### **Professor Nikolas Århem**

Author, Keyword: 礼 / norm, ritual

Professor Nikolas Århem is a cultural anthropologist and a visual anthropologist. His Ph.D. project was an exposé of various political ecology-related issues facing the Katu people of Central Vietnam. From 2017 to 2019 he was involved in a project about the West African Ebola outbreak, conspiracy theories and witchcraft accusations. He has also worked with museums and exhibitions as a visual anthropologist and as a consultant for WWF and other organisations.

#### **Professor BAI Gang (白钢)**

Author, Keyword: 自由 / liberty, freedom

Professor Bai Gang is an associated professor of the Department of Chinese Language and Literature of Fudan University, Shanghai and Secretary General of the Intellectual History Research Centre of that university. After studies in philosophy at the Universität Trier, Germany, he obtained his PhD in historical linguistics at the Freie Universität Berlin. Professor Bai's research includes the cultural relations between early Greece and nationalities in the Near East and Middle East, the early languages of the Indo-European language family, Homer's epic and Greek lyric poetry as well as the reconstruction of Nostratic languages.

He masters numerous languages, including English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Greek, Sanskrit and Pali. He is said to be the scholar who masters most classical languages in the world.

#### **Professor Dr. CHEN Bisheng (陈壁生)**

Author, Keyword: 礼 / norm, ritual

Chen Bisheng was born in Chaoyang, Guangdong Province. He received his Ph.D. in philosophy from Sun Yat-Sen University. He is now a tenure professor and a doctoral supervisor in the Department of Philosophy at Tsing Hua University. His major research covers study of Chinese classics, philosophy of Han dynasty and modern Chinese philosophy. He has published monographs including Confucian Classics, Political System and Life, The Collapse of Confucian Classics, Study on the History of Classic of Filial Piety and New Interpretation of Classic of Filial Piety. He is also a main editor of the periodical Research on Confucian Classics.

## **Mr. CHEN Ping**

Facilitator

Mr. Chen Ping is the Counsellor for Culture at the Chinese Embassy in Vienna.

Chen Ping studied German language and literature at Beijing Foreign Studies University in the early 1980s and began his career at the Chinese Ministry of Culture immediately after graduating. For many years, he has been responsible for cultural relations between China and Western European countries, especially German-speaking countries and headed the corresponding departments. He has worked for 20 years at the Chinese embassies in Switzerland, Germany and Austria. Recently, he has co-curated and organised many major festivals of Chinese culture in Europe, including "China Fest" as part of the Asia-Pacific Weeks in Berlin (2001), "CinaVicina" in Auditorium di Roma (2008), "Europalia China Festival" in Belgium (2009), "Culture Scapes China Festival" in Switzerland (2010), Cultural Year of China in Italy (2010-2011), Cultural Year of China in Germany (2012) and the German-Chinese Cultural Programme 2017.

Chen Ping is a theatre enthusiast and an important promoter of Sino-German theatre exchange. During his tenure as minister counsellor of culture at the Chinese Embassy in Berlin, he introduced and recommended a large number of Chinese and German theatre productions for festivals or tours in the other country. He promoted several literary, philosophical and theatrical publishing projects and was editor of "Mittendrin - Neue Theaterstücke aus China" (2016) and "Theater der Zeit Spezial" (2015).

Chen Ping is a connoisseur of both cultures and a passionate supporter of cultural exchange in both directions. He received the Honorary Award of the Republic of Italy in 2008 and was honoured as a "Goethe Cultural Ambassador" by the Goethe-Institut Beijing in the same year.

## **Dr. Gerald Cipriani**

Author, Keyword: 人情 / **human (personal) debt, debt of gratitude**

Dr. Gerald Cipriani teaches philosophy at National University of Ireland Galway and is also currently Honorary Professor to the UNESCO Chair in Comparative Studies of Spiritual Traditions, their Specific Cultures and Interreligious Dialogue, based at the D.S.Likhachev Russian Research Institute of Cultural and Natural Heritage (Moscow). He studied Western aesthetics in Leeds (LMU) with full doctoral scholarship and East Asian philosophy in London (SOAS). He has taught the philosophy of art and culture for more than twenty-five years in Europe and East Asia. His previous positions include Senior Lecturer in Philosophy at the Birmingham Institute of Art & Design; British Academy Fellow at Kyoto University; Visiting Professor at National Taiwan University of Arts; Visiting Scholar at the University of Helsinki; and Professor at Kyushu University, Japan. He is the recipient of several study and research awards, including from the Chinese Fund for the Humanities and Social Sciences (2012-2015), The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation (2006), The British Academy (2006), The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (2004), and The Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust (1993). He has been for several years consultant, editor and reviewer for various academic institutions and publishers, including the French Agence Nationale de la Recherche, Palgrave Macmillan, Springer and Edinburgh University Press. Professor Cipriani is also the founding chair of the International Research Group for Culture and Dialogue, editor in chief of the peer-reviewed journals of humanities Culture and Dialogue (Brill) and the Journal of Aesthetics and Phenomenology (Routledge). He has edited around twenty-eight titles in philosophy and the arts. His current research focuses on dialogical aesthetics with forthcoming monographs on Zen Buddhism, Personalism and the Ethics of Globalisation and Art and Sense.

## **Professor Stefano Della Torre**

Author, Keyword: 心 / **heart**

Stefano Della Torre graduated at Politecnico di Milano, in Civil Engineering, Structural section, in 1980 and in Architecture in 1986. He has been assistant professor of restoration at Politecnico di Milano in 1984, then in 1992 associate professor of Restoration, at first at the University of Brescia, and since 1998 at Politecnico di Milano, Faculty of Architecture, where he became full professor in March 2001. In 2011 Professor Della Torre was appointed as the Director of the Department of Building & Environment Science and Technologies in Politecnico di Milano. Since 2013 he serves as the Director of the Department of Architecture, Built Environment and Construction Engineering.

## **Professor Michel Espagne**

Author, Keyword: 己 / individual

Professor Espagne, born 1952, is a Germanist and historian of culture. He was student at the Ecole Normale supérieure in Paris and subsequently at the universities Tübingen, Köln. He is currently research director at the French National Centre for Scientific Research. His fields of inquiry are history of German literature and culture, the work of Heinrich Heine, the history of human sciences and intercultural transfers. He has been director of different research teams focusing on the question of interweavings between cultural areas since 1985. He applied this research model to the exchanges between Germany and France, then to Russia, central Asia and Asian countries. He got the Humboldt-prize award 2011. He serve as director of the labex (excellence cluster) Transfers at the Ecole Normale Supérieure (Paris) from 2011 to 2019. He is responsible for a research and formation programme between ENS-Paris and Fudan University.

## **Mr. Hans-Peter Freymann**

Author, Keyword: 法治 / rule of law

Hans-Peter Freymann is President of the Saarbrücken Regional Court and Chairman of an Appeals Chamber specialising in civil traffic law. With regard to traffic law, he has appeared as a co-author in "Der Haftpflichtprozess", and with articles on traffic and damage law issues in specialist journals.

Since 2009, he has regularly held seminars for the Saarland Bar Association on the current development of traffic and compensation law. In addition, he is active as a lecturer on traffic law topics - including as a speaker at the Traffic Court Day 2013 - and on the subject of mediation, recently also in the teaching assignment of Saarland University.

## **Professor Thomas Gergen**

Author, Keyword: 私产 / private property

Thomas Gergen (PhD, HDR) is a Professor at the Higher Institute of Economics, ISEC University of Luxemburg, where he holds the Chair of International and Private Comparative Law commercial and intellectual property law. He is also a legal consultant for private international law, a mediator, a translator and an interpreter in the courts and the notaries' chamber, admitted to the Saarbrücken Court for the French and Spanish languages; co-director of the EIKV, European Institute of Knowledge and Value Management, Luxembourg. In addition, he is the author or co-author of more than 15 books and more than 200 articles in national and international journals.

## **Dr. Erik Guignard**

Author, Keyword: 自由 / liberty, freedom

Dr. Erik Guignard graduated from the renowned Ecole Polytechnique in 1960. He studied physics at the University of California, Berkeley, USA and became an engineer in Marine Engineering in 1964. In 1973, he received his doctorate in ethnology with Dr. Germaine Tillion of the Institute of Higher Education and the Orientalist Professor Paul Mus of Collège de France. His thesis is entitled "The Belly and the Back".

Dr. Guignard started his career as an engineer in Indret and became project manager of the Foresight and Evaluation Centre of the Ministry of Defence of France. From 1975 to 1984 he held various posts including seconded consultant to the Minister of Industrial Development and Environment of Senegal, managing industrial projects in liaison with international financial organisations (World Bank, EIB, Caisse Centrale etc.). Later he was Director seconded to the Regional Guarantee Fund of West African Countries (Council of the Entente, ECOWAS, ECOWAS). From 1984 to 1989 he was Director of Economic Affairs at the Delegation for International Relations of the Ministry of Defence. From 1989 to 1992 he was Director of Acquisitions and Information Processing then Head of the International Markets and Competition Department under the Director-General of Thomson-CSF International (THALES). From 1992 to 1997 he was in charge of the national network "Management of Technological Resources". He is the co-founder and Chief Representative of Renewable Energy Alliance (SER), president of SECEM, which is an energy and management consulting company.

## **Professor François Hartog**

Author, Keyword: **历史 / history**

Professor Hartog is a French historian. He is professor emeritus at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Administrator of Ecole Normale Supérieure and a Member of the Scientific Council of Transculturala (President for Europe area).

One of the best European historians, François Hartog is an Alumnus of the École normale supérieure, he holds the chair of ancient and modern historiography at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) and is a member of the Louis Gernet Center for Comparative Research on Ancient Societies and an associate member of the Center for Historical Research (CRH). In 1997, he was one of the 60 founding members of the Association des Historiens.

His work closely combines the intellectual history of Ancient Greece, historiography and the study of historical forms of temporalisation (his most recent work). He has made a major contribution to the formation and diffusion of the concept of the "regime of historicity", which he defines as "the modes of articulation of the three categories of the past, present and future, speaking in terms of categories, not of the content given to each of the categories, but of the categories themselves, and of the way in which their articulations have varied according to place and time". According to Professor Hartog, this regime of historicity is currently marked by presentism, which privileges memory (traces left in the present by successive pasts) over history (reconstruction and distancing of these pasts). His books have been translated and published in China.

## **Professor HUANG Ping (黄平)**

Steering Committee Member and author for Keywords: **进步 / progress** and **国 / nation, state** (together with Professor LAU Kinchi)

Professor HUANG is a leading member of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and a member of the Steering Committee of the "EU-China Forum on Cultural Misunderstandings".

He studied Sociology at the London School of Economics where he also received his Ph.D. degree. He has been a researcher at CASS for 30 years, including at the Institute of Sociology, as well as the institutes of European and American studies. Since 2019 he is the executive president of the Chinese Institute of Hong Kong.

## **Mr. Michael Kahn-Ackermann**

Author, Keyword: **进步 / progress**

Mr. Kahn Ackermann studied Sinology in Germany and was the founding director of the Goethe-Institute in Beijing. He currently works as a consultant and translator in Berlin. Among other works, he has translated Zhao TingYang's book on "TianXia", which was published by one of the leading German publishers. In 1979 he published a book about the intercultural communication challenges he faced living in China. His special interests are theory and practice of intercultural exchange, China's contemporary culture and art, especially contemporary Chinese ink-art, where he has curated several exhibitions in China and abroad.

He proposed the idea of the "benefit of misunderstanding", at a seminar on contemporary Chinese literature in 1986. Between the two types of misunderstanding - the stereotypical and the creative - he says the latter is not detrimental. "China's assimilation of Western culture is mostly a process of misunderstanding, and vice versa."

## **Professor LAU Kinchi (刘健芝)**

Author, Keywords: **进步 / progress** and **国 / nation, state** (together with Professor HUANG Ping)

Professor LAU Kin-chi is Coordinator, Programme on Cultures of Sustainability, Centre for Cultural Research and Development, as well as Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University, Hong Kong, China. She has taught in Lingnan University for 35 years. She is one of the Founding Members of Global University for Sustainability and Board Member of PeaceWomen Across the Globe

## **Professor Alain Le Pichon**

Steering Committee Member

Dr. Alain Le Pichon is a French anthropologist and co-founder of Transcultura. As a member of the Steering Committee of the "EU-China Forum on Cultural Misunderstandings", Professor Le Pichon worked on the keyword "天下 / empire". He is also the scientific editor of Encyclopédie transculturelle des mots et concepts clés.

## **Professor LU Jiande**

Facilitator

Professor LU Jiande is the Director of Comparative Literature and Cross-Cultural Research Centre at Xiamen University. He Specialises in the studies and research of the Romantics, Anglo-American Modernism, Comparative Literature and cross-cultural research in comparative literature. He received his Ph.D. at the English Faculty of the University of Cambridge, with a thesis titled "F. R. Leavis, His Criticism in Relation to Romanticism".

## **Professor Roland Marti**

Facilitator

Born 1953 in Geneva (Switzerland), Roland Marti studied Slavonic, German and oriental philology in Basel (Switzerland) and Moscow. He earned a Ph.D. from Basel University in 1980. He taught at Basel University as assistant professor (and later intermittently as guest professor from 2000-2016) and at the University of Bamberg (Germany) as associate professor. He has been chair of Slavonic philology at Saarland University (Saarbrücken, Germany) since 1989 as full professor and head of the department until retirement in 2019. He was dean of the Faculty of Philosophy 1998-2000, 2012-2014, and 2016-2018. He is responsible for the co-operation of Saarland University with East European universities and teaches regularly at the INALCO (Université Sorbonne Paris Cité).

Professor Marti received an honorary diploma of the Bulgarian Academy of Science and the honorary medal of the University of Sofia on a blue ribbon (2003), an honorary degree (Dr. h.c.) of the same university (2012), and the Order of SS. Cyril and Methodius (first class) of the Republic Bulgaria (2013).

His areas of research include historical linguistics, OCS and Church Slavonic language and literature, Slavonic palaeography, minority languages, Sorbian language and literature. He has published five monographs, numerous articles and reviews and edited several books.

## **Mr. Jean-Luc Mathon**

Author, Keyword: 约 / contract

Mr. Mathon graduated with a master's degree in Intellectual Property Law and is a holder of the Paris Law School Diploma and two Paris bar association certificates in Economics and Business Law. He is specialised in collective insolvency proceedings as a controller, international trading proceedings, authentication of artworks and author's rights. He is a member of the French/Chinese Association for Economic Rights (AFCDE), representing the Paris Bar Association at the Euro-Chinese Forum in Canton «China new economic prospects» (1996), and a member of the Paris Bar Association Delegation at the Shanghai 1997 International Exhibition. He has been the lawyer for Transcultura International Institute since 1995 and Treasurer for the Euro-Chinese Entrepreneurs Club (1998-2002). He organised the partnership between Transcultura and MAD Paris (Musée des Arts Décoratifs) during the Louvre Forum in 2012 and was the legal and commercial manager for «Euro-Chinese Arts de Vivre» Company between 2013 and 2017. He has been an administrator for Transcultura International Institute since 2016 and co-author, with Alain Le Pichon, of the Transcultura Scientific and Cultural Museum Project in 2017. He writes protocols of understanding, preliminary contracts and contracts in the field of Cultural Engineering: Paris Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Venise Museums, Shanghai Yang Yang Culture (Shanghai Tower). He gives lectures on the Right to one's Image, on the Moral Rights and responsibility of Authors of Catalogues Raisonnés, and on the sales original works of art.

### **Professor Matthias Middell**

Author, Keyword: 国 / nation, state

Professor Middell, professor of cultural history at Leipzig University, earned his PhD in 1989 with a study on French counter-revolution at the end of the 18th century. His habilitation (2002) dealt with World History writing during the 20th century.

He is director of both the Global and European Studies Institute and the Graduate School Global and Area Studies at Leipzig University. As spokesperson of the Collaborative Research Centre (SFB 1199) he coordinates interdisciplinary work on processes of respatialisation under the global condition and integrates research units dealing with individual world regions in a larger research programme devoted to the analysis of projects of globalisation.

In 2007 he was the Fulbright Distinguished Professor in Transnational History at Duke University and in 2011 a Fellow of the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study. Since 2015 is a member of the Board of the Comité International des Sciences Historiques. Since 1991 he serves as editor of the Comparative Journal of Global History.

His main research interests include global and transregional histories with emphasis on spatial configurations, the history of revolutions and the history of intercultural transfers as well as the history of historiography in the 19th and 20th century.

### **Professor Dr. PAN Wei (潘维)**

Author, Keyword: 法治 / rule of law

Professor Pan Wei has been a professor for comparative politics and China studies at Peking University as well as a researcher at a researcher at CASS and UC Berkeley in the United States. One of his numerous publications is "Rule of law and democratic superstition -- China's modernization and world order in the eyes of a legalist", which was published by Hkss Press.

### **Professor Carlo Ratti**

Author, Keyword: 和 / harmony

An architect and engineer by training, Professor Ratti teaches at MIT, where he directs the Senseable City Lab. He is a founding partner of the international design and innovation office Carlo Ratti Associati.

He graduated from the Politecnico di Torino and the École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées in Paris, later earning his MPhil and PhD at the University of Cambridge, UK. In the last decade, Professor Ratti has given talks around the world on the theme of Smart Cities, while his work has been exhibited in international venues including the Venice Biennale, New York's MoMA, London's Science Museum and Barcelona's Design Museum. Two of his projects – the Digital Water Pavilion and the Copenhagen Wheel – were hailed by Time Magazine as "Best Inventions of the Year". He has been included in Blueprint Magazine's "25 People who will Change the World of Design" and in Wired Magazine's "Smart List: 50 people who will change the world." He was curator for the Future Food District at Expo Milano 2015, and is currently serving as co-chair of the World Economic Forum Global Council on the Future of Cities and Urbanization.

### **Professor Tinka Reichmann**

Steering Committee Member and Facilitator

Tinka Reichmann is Professor for Transation Science at the Institute for Applied Linguistics and Translatology at Leipzig University, Germany. Her work focuses on interpretation and the science of interpretation as well as legal translation and interpretation.

Professor Reichmann is a member of the Steering Committee of the "EU-China Forum on Cultural Misunderstandings".

### **Professor Dr. SUN Xiangchen (孙向晨)**

Author, Keywords: 己 / individual and 心 / heart

Sun Xiangchen is professor and the dean of the School of Philosophy at Fudan University in Shanghai. He is the Vice-President of the Chinese Society for the History of Foreign Philosophy and a board member of the

World Sinology Conference. He taught Chinese philosophy at the Philosophy Department of the Free University of Berlin, Germany and published books on the concept of "family".

### **Professor WENG Naiqun (翁乃群)**

Author, Keyword: 人情 / human (personal) debt, debt of gratitude

Before retirement in 2010, Weng Naiqun was a professor in the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. He received his MA & Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Rochester in 1987 and 1993, respectively. His doctoral dissertation is about the house society, symbolism and practice of gender among the Na Ze, an ethnic group in the border area between Sichuan and Yunnan in Southwest China. His anthropological research covered various topics including the Nan-Kun (南昆) railway construction and its social-culture impact to the ethnic minority villages along the line, the reconstruction of the rural health care system and HIV/AIDS prevention in Yunnan Province, socio-cultural construction of rural education in Southwest China and the reproduction of ethnic socio-culture in the contexts of tourism and globalisation, among others.

### **Professor ZHAO Tingyang (赵汀阳)**

Steering Committee Member and author for Keywords: 和 / harmony and 历史 / history

Professor Zhao TingYang is a leading member of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). He is an academician and professor with major research areas including political philosophy, metaphysics and moral philosophy. He works on theories such as the Tianxia system (all-under-heaven system), the ontology of coexistence, and a theory of credit human rights. As a member of the Steering Committee of the "EU-China Forum on Cultural Misunderstandings", Professor ZHAO also worked on the keyword "天下 / empire".

### **Professor Dr. ZHU Andong (朱安东)**

Author, Keywords: 私产 / private property and 约 / contract

Professor Zhu Andong is Associate Professor at the School of Marxism of Tsinghua University. He has done research on political economy for more than 25 years and has taught the subject for more than 15 years.