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INSTITUT DE HAUTES
ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT
GRADUATE INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AND
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



CEAS

China and East Asia Studies Initiative
constructive dialogue

The GENEVA FORUM ON EAST ASIA

October 11th – October 15th, 2021

First Edition

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China and East Asia Studies Initiative

About us



Who we are

The China and East Asia Studies (CEAS) Initiative is a student-led association that provides an **open academic platform for research and debate** on contemporary issues about China, East Asia and the world. Engaging people from all backgrounds interested in this discipline, we strive to mobilize academic and social resources to facilitate academic activities concerning China and East Asia from an inclusive perspective. Working closely with the **Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)** of Geneva, CEAS responds to the increasing demand among its student body to make sense of the latest political, economic, and social developments of China and East Asia and their consequences for the international community. We have a **strong faith in constructive dialogues**, and we are committed to serving as an inclusive **channel for the exchange of ideas**.

What we do

The long-term vision of CEAS is to rise to the forefront of research associations on East Asian Studies within Europe. Moreover, we aim to act as a **bridge of different ideas, perspectives and cultures to build understanding, trust and friendship**. By doing so, our operation complements the mission of the Graduate Institute of Geneva — to promote academic exchange and to enable its research findings to reach out to the wider community. To this end, we organize **seminars**, hold **public talks**, and **invite research presentations** on a regular basis.

Geneva Forum on East Asia

Why does it matter?

Filling the knowledge gap

East Asia, as a geographic region, involves Greater China, Japan, Mongolia, and the Korean Peninsula. Home to some of the world's most ancient civilisations, East Asia has never been unimportant in history. Today, this region has an increasingly significant role to play in shaping the world economically, politically, and culturally. Yet, the world still lacks knowledge about the region, which may turn into an impediment to engage this region in global governance and the international development agenda more deeply and constructively. To bridge the gap, the China and East Asia Studies Initiative proposes to hold an annual forum on East Asia. The forum aims to be a platform for in-depth discussions and constructive dialogue surrounding East Asia, encouraging intellectual, professional, and cultural exchange at all levels.

A comprehensive space

The Geneva Forum on East Asia is designed to be comprehensive and consists of three pillars. The *academic forum* holds high-quality panel discussions to address major issues in the region, bringing together prominent East Asian scholars and experts from around the world. The *career forum* leverages the location of international Geneva and the massive alumni network of IHEID, providing students with useful advice and networking opportunities that can lead to an international career related to East Asia. The *social forum* serves as a place of cultural exchange, embracing diversity and creating vibrancy. The target audience of the Forum is students, scholars, and professionals with an interest in East Asia and its relationship with the world.

2021 First Edition Structure

Opening ceremony: Welcome remarks on the topic of “East Asia as part of the world”.

Ambassadors roundtable: “Europe and East Asia”

academic forum

career forum

social forum

5 thematic sessions

Environment

Security

Political Philosophy

Economic Development

Gender

2 career sessions

“Inspire Students”

Career Fair

2 social sessions

“Cultural Shocks”

Closing Celebration

Calendar

Pre-Forum

(Fri, Oct. 1)

Warm-up social session

"Cultural Shocks! East Asia, Europe, and the World"

[Online] [17:00-18:00 CET]

Geneva Forum on East Asia

Day 1 (Mon, Oct. 11)	Day 2 (Tue, Oct. 12)	Day 3 (Wed, Oct. 13)	Day 4 (Thu, Oct. 14)	Day 5 (Fri, Oct. 15)
<p>Opening Ceremony</p> <p>East Asia & the world in the 21st century</p> <p>[on-site] [18:30-20:00 CET]</p>	<p>Academic Session 1 (Environment)</p> <p>Challenges and opportunities for East Asian environmental cooperation</p> <p>[Online] [11:00-12:30 CET]</p> <p>Career session 1</p> <p>"Inspire Students" Sharing by IHEID alumni in East Asia</p> <p>[Online] [13:00-14:00 CET]</p>	<p>Academic Session 2 (Security)</p> <p>Security challenges and opportunities in the Taiwan Strait</p> <p>[Online] [10:00-11:30 CET]</p> <p>Ambassadors roundtable</p> <p>Diplomatic perspectives on Europe and East Asia</p> <p>[Online] [17:00-18:30 CET]</p>	<p>Career session 2</p> <p>"IOs in East Asia" Career Fair</p> <p>[Online] [10:00-14:00 CET]</p> <p>Academic Session 3 (Pol. Phil.)</p> <p>Confucian democracy and the politics of civil society</p> <p>[Online] [14:00-15:00 CET]</p>	<p>Academic Session 4 (Eco. Dev.)</p> <p>East Asian economic development cooperation and the struggle for international influence</p> <p>[Online] [10:00-11:30 CET]</p> <p>Academic Session 5 (Gender)</p> <p>Gender roles within the household and beyond - the incomplete gender revolution in East Asia</p> <p>[Online] [11:30-13:00 CET]</p> <p>Closing Celebration</p> <p>"Meet the participants" cocktail party</p> <p>[on-site] [19:00-23:00 CET]</p>

Warm-up social session

Cultural Shocks! East Asia, Europe and the world

Date:
Friday,
October 1st
2021

Time:
17:00-18:00 CET

Format:
Online
[Webex]

Register [here](#)

Background

Prior to the official beginning of the Forum, this social session is intended to provide a space for interaction among those who will attend the various events of the Forum. Participants will have the opportunity to get to know each other before being involved in this week-long experience. Ice-breaking activities will be organized around the theme of “cultural shocks” to share episodes on and appreciate the cultural differences and similarities of East Asia, Europe, and beyond.

Goals

- To meet the participants of the Forum, share interests and experiences with each other, and begin the Forum in a casual and informal way.
- To facilitate a discussion on the different cultural shocks students have experienced in Asia, Europe, and beyond through interactive activities;
- To provide an introduction to CEAS for students from East Asia and students with an interest in East Asian studies.

Agenda (60min)

1. Introduction of CEAS and the Forum (5min)
2. Introduction of the “cultural shocks” topic (5min)
3. Activities (TBC) (45min)
4. Closing remarks and outlook on the Forum’s events (5min)

Opening ceremony

East Asia & the world in the 21st century

Date:

Monday,
October 11th
2021

Time:

18:30-20:00 CET

Format:

On-site

Venue:

Auditorium Ivan
Pictet, IHEID
& online (Webex)

Register [here](#)

Background

The opening ceremony of the Forum is intended to provide an overview of current topics related to East Asia as well as a first taste of the Forum's other events. The central themes of this event will be multilateralism, the geopolitical framework, economic globalisation and building bridges between East Asia and the rest of the world.

Goals

- To provide a macro-level overview of key topics in the international sphere related to East Asia;
- To set the stage for the Forum (flagship event);
- To link the Institute's mission (multilateralism) with East Asia in general and East Asian geopolitics and economic standing in particular.

Agenda (90min)

1. CEAS presentation video (5min)
2. CEAS President's opening remarks (5min)
3. Welcome remarks (10min)
4. Keynote speech "East Asian and the world" (25min)
5. Keynote speech "The world and East Asia" (25min)
6. Panel discussion and audience Q&A (15min)
7. Closing remarks and outlook on the Forum (5min)

Academic session 1

Challenges and opportunities for East Asian environmental cooperation

Date:

Tuesday,
October 12th
2021

Time:

11:00-12:30 CET

Format:

Online
[Webex]

Register [here](#)

Background

East Asian countries have been significantly contributing to greenhouse gas emissions due to their rapid economic growth during the last few decades. To deal with the aftermaths of their industrial developments, each government has introduced several strategies. By discussing the differences and similarities in their approaches, this academic session will focus on seeking new ways forward for greater inter- and intra-regional cooperation on emission reduction.

Goals

- To understand how each country has contributed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- To discuss dynamics of regional cooperation and tensions among East Asian countries on mitigating climate change and reducing emissions.

Agenda (90min)

1. Introduction by the moderator (10min)
2. Dialogue based on the moderator's questions (60min)
3. Audience Q&A (20min)

Career session 1

“Inspire Students” – Sharing by IHEID alumni in East Asia

Date:

Tuesday,
October 12th
2021

Time:

13:00-14:00 CET

Format:

Online
[Webex]

Register [here](#)

Background

The Graduate Institute of Geneva has a great network of alumni, with a significant number based in East Asia and working in a variety of sectors and industries. These alumni would be our student body’s best channel to get to know East Asia and best connect to the ground, from a practical perspective. Supported by the Alumni Office and Career Services of IHEID, this “Inspire Students” session, as part of a series of monthly thematic alumni roundtables, spotlights the region of East Asia.

Goals

- To connect attendees and IHEID alumni around shared career interests in East Asia;
- To share experiences in working within different sectors in East Asia (e.g. public sector, private sector, IGOs and NGOs, academia, etc.);
- To gain knowledge about career opportunities in East Asia today;
- To gain insights into the “East Asia experience” of alumni from different backgrounds.

Agenda (60min)

1. Introduction by the moderator (5min)
2. Dialogue based on the moderator’s questions (40min)
3. Audience Q&A (15min)

Academic session 2

Security challenges and opportunities in the Taiwan Strait

Date:
Wednesday,
October 13th
2021

Time:
10:00-11:30 CET

Format:
Online
[Webex]

Register [here](#)

Background

As the Biden administration doubles down on the US commitment to Taiwan, there is a greater need than ever to understand the dynamics of one of the most potentially explosive flashpoints in the world. Where do international trends, intergovernmental institutions, and regional actors fit in this context? Is a compromise amenable to Beijing, Taipei, and Washington via multilateral or bilateral mechanisms possible? Or is Taiwan doomed to be the subject of international confrontation, hybrid warfare, and ultimately, invasion?

Goals

- To understand the sources of tension and potential confrontation in the Taiwan Strait;
- To analyse evolving risk factors in terms of domestic and international political developments;
- To assess the ability of external actors and international institutions to reduce tensions.

Agenda (90min)

1. Introduction by the moderator (10min)
2. Keynote speech 1 (15min)
3. Keynote speech 2 (15min)
4. Panel discussion facilitated by the moderator (30min)
5. Audience Q&A (20min)

Ambassadors roundtable

Diplomatic perspectives on Europe and East Asia

Date:
Wednesday,
October 13th
2021

Time:
17:00-18:30 CET

Format:
Online
[Webex]

Register [here](#)

Background

The Ambassadors roundtable is specifically designed to provide the audience with a platform to bridge the knowledge gap on European foreign policy practice with East Asian countries. In order to achieve this objective, we believe that knowledge sharing by diplomatic practitioners who have devoted their careers to addressing such issues is indeed the best practice.

Goals

- To provide an overview on the foreign policy stances towards East Asian states of individual EU member states, as well as the EU as a whole;
- To showcase the strategic interest of European states in East Asia, be it economic, political, or other forms of interest;
- To showcase the potential differences in foreign relation approaches towards China, between the EU/and its member states and Switzerland as a non-EU state;
- To provide a platform for discussion on the future of the EU as an actor in international relations in a multipolar world, especially during the current US-China confrontation.

Agenda (90min)

1. Introduction by the moderator (5min)
2. Introducing the speakers (10min)
3. Panel discussion facilitated by the moderator (50min)
4. Audience Q&A (20min)
5. Closing remarks (5min)

Career session 2

“IOs in East Asia” – Career fair

Date:

Thursday,
October 14th
2021

Time:

10:00-14:00 CET

Format:

Online
[Webex]

Register [here](#)

Background

Drawing from the increasing importance of the East Asian region in the contemporary world and the major role that this region is playing in organizations dealing with global affairs, CEAS is committed to present to students and young professionals potential career opportunities in such organizations. Covering different fields and international issues, this event aims at bringing together representatives from related institutions and connecting them with the participants, furnishing practical tips and information about what the organizations do and why they matter.

Goals

- To understand what these organizations are looking for, in terms of profile, skills, and experience;
- To explore what kinds of career path students can seek in these organizations;
- To present the recruitment process and offer tips.

4 organizations - 1 session per organization

Trilateral
Cooperation
Secretariat

Asian
Development
Bank

UN Volunteer
Program

International
Committee of the
Red Cross

Agenda per session (45min)

1. Introduction by the moderator (5min)
2. Keynote speech: organization's representative (20mins)
3. Audience Q&A (20min)

Academic session 3

Confucian democracy and the politics of civil society

Date:

Thursday,
October 14th
2021

Time:

14:00-15:00 CET

Format:

Online
[Webex]

Register [here](#)

Background

The 'Asian Values' debate, which saw figures such as Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew and South Korea's Kim Dae-jung dispute the democratic foundations of East Asian political identity, remains exceedingly relevant today. Political systems in East Asia remain extremely differentiated, while internationally democracy is experiencing backsliding and crises of confidence. In addition, the COVID pandemic has demonstrated that even in Asia's democracies, a paternalistic surveillance state continues to channel governmental authority. In this context, tracing the enduring legacy of East Asian political thought will provide an additional perspective to the state of democracy in East Asia today.

Goals

- To compare and contrast East Asian political thought with that of Europe;
- To assess the extent of East Asian political thought's influence on the region's contemporary political systems;
- To critically consider Lee Kuan Yew's 'Asian Values' thesis.

Agenda (60min)

1. Introduction by the moderator (5min)
2. Lecture (40min)
3. Audience Q&A (15min)

Academic session 4

East Asian economic development cooperation and the struggle for international influence

Date:

Friday,
October 15th
2021

Time:

10:00-11:30 CET

Format:

Online
[Webex]

Register [here](#)

Background

China, Japan, and South Korea experienced a unique domestic development that scholars refer to as ‘developmental model’, and this model showed to be very successful. Drawing from that experience, they have been playing important roles as leading donor countries in the international development cooperation regime, promoting their own development cooperation model to many developing countries across the world. However, each model has a different context, focus, rationale, motivation, and objective.

Goals

- To recognize differences and similarities between China, Japan, and South Korea regarding the “developmental state” model;
- To understand how East Asian development assistance/cooperation has been used as a tool of soft power to maintain or gain influence in developing countries and how these are different from the development assistance from EU and US.

Agenda (90min)

1. Introduction by moderator: “The politics of East Asian developmental state” (10min)
2. Keynote speech 1 (10min)
3. Keynote speech 2 (10min)
4. Keynote speech 3 (10min)
5. Panel discussion facilitated by the moderator (30min)
6. Audience Q&A (20min)

Academic session 5

Gender roles within the household and beyond - the incomplete gender revolution in East Asia

Date:

Friday,
October 15th
2021

Time:

11:30-13:00 CET

Format:

Online
[Webex]

Register [here](#)

Background

Historically, East Asian countries have followed the customs of a patriarchal society. Yet, more and more active movements and discussion against traditional gender roles in public and private discourse are found across this region nowadays. Despite the similarity in culture between East Asian societies, such movements have varied in each country and faced distinct challenges due to different religious, cultural, political and legal systems.

Goals

- To understand how different or similar are the challenges facing East Asian societies in breaking gender bias surrounding domesticity and reproductive work;
- To examine the roots of traditionalism and conservatism in East Asia on gender issues (Christianity, Confucianism etc.).

Agenda (90min)

1. Introduction by the moderator (10min)
2. Keynote speech 1 (15min)
3. Keynote speech 2 (15min)
4. Panel discussion facilitated by the moderator (30min)
5. Audience Q&A (20min)

Closing Celebration

“Meet the participants” cocktail party

Date:

Friday,
October 15th
2021

Time:

19:00-23:00 CET

Format:

On-site

Venue:

Grand Morillon
Student Residence
Rooftop

Register [here](#)

Background

This closing event constitutes the main pillar of the social forum, and will celebrate the successful completion of the Geneva Forum on East Asia. It aims at looking back on what has been accomplished, and enjoy a last bit of interaction between guests and fellow participants.

Goals

- To draw the Geneva Forum on East Asia to a successful close;
- To provide guests and participants with an opportunity to meet, interact, and share experiences;
- To enjoy cocktail drinks, food, and live music and performance in a modern and evocative location in the middle of International Geneva.

Agenda (240min)

1. Guest reception and beginning (30min)
2. Forum closing remarks by CEAS (10min)
3. Live music (50min)
4. Live Dj until the end of the event

*drink serving for the whole duration

Confirmed speakers

Opening Ceremony



Dr. Marie-Laure Salles

Director of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) since 2020.



Dr. Jean-Jacques de Dardel

Former Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to the People's Republic of China, Mongolia, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2014-2019). Distinguished Alumnus of IHEID.



Dr. Andrew Michael Ong

Director of the Division for Asia and the Pacific of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Academic session 1



Dr. Haibin Zhang

Associate Dean of the School of International Studies, Professor, Doctoral Supervisor and Dean of Department of International Organizations and International Public Policy at Peking University.



Dr. Marc Hufty

Professor and Programme Lead of the Centre for International Environmental Studies at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies of Geneva.



Dr. Giacomo Luciani

Professor at the Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po, and at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID).



Dr. Brindusa Burrows

Visiting Lecturer at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID). Co-founder and CEO of The Ground_Up Project.



Dr. Ganbold Baasanjav

Director of the United Nations ESCAP East & North Asia Office. Former Ambassador-at-large for Sustainable Development for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia

Career session 1



Yee-King Ho

International and Relief Service Officer at Hong-Kong Red Cross



Monica Ma

Development Coordinator at Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy



Tiara Lin

Political Affairs Officer at Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat



Amado Trejo

Co-founder and CEO at Free Entrepreneurs

Academic session 2



Dr. Lionel Fatton

Assistant Professor of International Relations, Webster University Geneva. Research Collaborator, Research Institute for the History of Global Arms Transfer, Meiji University, Tokyo.



Dr. Simona Grano

Senior Lecturer at the University of Zurich and Director of the Taiwan Studies Project at UZH



Dr. Chong Ja Ian

Associate Professor of Political Science at the National University of Singapore.

Ambassadors roundtable



H.E. Mr. Jari Gustafsson

Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Albania (since 2020). Former Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to Japan (2009-2013) and the People's Republic of China (2013-2015).



H.E. Mr. Michael Clauß

Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the European Union (since 2018). Former Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the People's Republic of China (2013-2018).



Dr. Jean-Jacques de Dardel

Former Ambassador of the Swiss Confederation to the People's Republic of China, Mongolia, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2014-2019). Distinguished Alumnus of IHEID.



Dr. Micheal Reiterer

Distinguished Professor at CSDS of the Brussels School of Governance; Former Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Korea (2017-2020); Deputy head of Mission/minister at the EU delegation to Japan. Distinguished Alumnus of IHEID.

Career session 2



Soojin Han

HR Planning and Development Officer at the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS).



Pierre Dyens

Senior Human Resource Specialist at the Asian Development Bank



Nan Zhang

Country Coordinator in China of the United Nations Volunteers Programme



Huixin Zhu

Talent Attraction & Employer Branding at the International Committee of the Red Cross

Academic session 3



Dr. Sungmoon Kim

Professor of Political Theory, associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and Director of the Center for East Asian and Comparative Political Philosophy at City University of Hong Kong.

Academic session 4



Dr. Giuseppe Gabusi

Assistant professor of International Political Economy and Political Economy of East Asia at the University of Torino. Head of the program Asia Prospects of the Torino World Affairs Institute (T.wai).



Dr. Xue Gong

Assistant Professor in the China Program of S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.



Dr. Jae Sung Kwak

Professor of International Development at the Graduate School of Pan-Pacific International Studies (GSP), and Director of the Institute of International Studies, Kyung Hee University.



Dr. Yasutami Shimomura

Professor Emeritus and former Dean of the Graduate School of Environmental Management at Hosei University, Japan. Former Board Member at Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Academic session 5



Upala Devi

Asia-Pacific Regional Gender Advisor at United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



Dr. Isabel Pike

Assistant professor at the Department of Anthropology and Sociology of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID). Faculty affiliate of the Gender Centre at IHEID



Dr. Sunhye Kim

Assistant Professor at the Department of Women's Studies of Ewha Womans University

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Ceas Initiative



China and East
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