Manifesto

There are pedestrian zones in cities all over the world, but walking in a pedestrian zone in Guangzhou, for instance, gives you a different feeling than walking in the shopping lanes of Helsinki. Also in a globalized economy traditional markets seem to attract local people. By day-light Riga’s Central Market gives a splendid example of regional commercial culture in Eastern Europe and so do any of the „night-markets” of Hong Kong, Xiamen or Shanghai contribute to the preservation of traditional life-rhythms in Southern China.

In an abstract sense, change and continuity are common experiences of daily life for those living in Europe or in China; however, experience is based on individual lives and life-stories.

2012 had been announced the year of EU-China intercultural dialogue by the European Commission and the People’s Republic of China. This is an occasion for Latvia and other countries in the Baltic and Nordic region to highlight intercultural dialogue with China as a vital part of their own development at present and as history.

AsiaRes, the Baltic Research Centre for East Asian Studies at the University of Latvia in cooperation with the Confucius Institutes in Riga and Tallinn invites to an open symposium that will focus on intercultural experiences of individuals who lived or live as expatriates either in China or in the Baltics. Each of the speakers invited to participate on the podium will present his/her ongoing story of professional and personal experience with a culture that has become part of his/her own personality.

Programme

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>08.30</td>
<td>Registration of participants</td>
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| 09.00 | Welcoming addresses: Mr. Riāhrs Muciņš, Head of Second Bilateral Affairs Department of the Republic of Latvia Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Mr. FU Zhimin, Counsellor of the People’s Republic of China Embassy in the Republic of Latvia  
Prof. Indriķis Mužnieks, Vice-rector for Research, University of Latvia |
| 09.30 | Journeys to the West and to the East: Peregrine Culture as Space of Transition and Return  
Dr Frank Kraushaar, Director of AsiaRes |
| 10.00 | Experiencing China from 1980s to today: a personal story  
Mr. Pēteris Pildegovičs, Director of Confucius Institute at the University of Latvia |
| 10.30 | Keynote lecture: Baron Roger Budberg (1867–1926): his way from the Baltic world to the Chinese  
Dr Mark Gamsa, Visiting Professor of Asian Studies, University of Latvia |
| 11.15 | Coffee break                                                                             |
| 11.45 | Interactive presentation session                                                          |
| 11.45 | The ingenuity of ageing: designerly ways of living between Hong Kong, Beijing, and London  
Dr Yan-ki Lee, Architect and Participation/social designer; Visiting Fellow and PhD Supervisor, Royal College of Art |
| 12.15 | The concept of ‘face’ and fear of ‘losing face’ in Chinese culture  
Ms. Jekaterina Koort, PhD candidate, Estonian Institute of Humanities, Tallinn University |
| 12.45 | Latvian countryside: a Chinese view  
Ms. CHEN Xuemin, lecturer of Chinese language, Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences |
| 13.05 | From theory to praxis: studying China and working in China  
Ms. Irina Nekļudova, Latvia-China Business Council |
| 13.25 | Mediating Chinese investment in Europe  
Ms. CHANG Jingzhi, Sai-De International Technology Service Co. Ltd., Düsseldorf, Germany / Changsha & Hong Kong, China |
| 13.45 | Lunch break                                                                              |
| 14.30 | Podium discussion with Mark Gamsa, Pēteris Pildegovičs, Yan-ki Lee, Jekaterina Koort, CHEN Xuemin, Irina Nekļudova, and CHANG Jingzhi  
Moderated by Frank Kraushaar and Emīls Rode |
| 16.00 | Conclusion of symposium                                                                   |