



Photo: Pexels

Nordic Centre Newsletter Yuletide 2018

Another busy season is coming to an end in Shanghai. We have hosted our biannual conference on the Belt and Road Initiative, which you can read about inside, and have just sent out a call for applications for the next one, scheduled for 2020. We have had the pleasure of working with many different visiting scholars — one of whom you can read a Q&A with inside — and some of whom have taken part as teachers in our Nordic Studies course, which this semester had 50 students. We now look forward to launching a new course with the Finnish co-creation platform Demola for the spring semester, and to receiving more scholars, students, and applications (!) in the months to come. Enjoy the holidays!

- The Nordic Centre team at Fudan University

Inside

OsloMet & council meeting.....	2
Belt & Road Initiative conference ...	4
Demola deal signed	5
Yangpu library and presentation.....	6
Interview Harriet Lonka.....	7
Two-day business course.....	8
Q&A with Wen Liu.....	9
Quiz night.....	10
Christmas party.....	11
Activities at NC.....	12

About

- Nordic Centre at Fudan University is a platform for academic collaboration between the five Nordic countries and China
- If you wish to subscribe to the Nordic Centre newsletter, which is published four times yearly, please go to

nordiccentre.net



Masthead

Contributors

Jeppe Stromseng
Magnus Jorem
Wen Liu

All photos

Are either taken by our staff
or associates, or found as creative
commons on flickr.com

Address

Nordic Centre
Fudan University
220 Handan Road
200433 Shanghai
P.R. China
nordiccentre.net

Oslo Metropolitan University joins Nordic Centre

Nordic Centre is proud to announce Oslo Metropolitan University (OsloMet) as our newest member university. OsloMet, previously named Oslo and Akershus University College, focuses on professionally and vocationally relevant research and education, cooperating closely with partners in the private and public sectors. It has around 1,400 academic employees (of which over 150 re professors/ research professors), around 20,000 students, and around 800 administrative support staff. The university conducts research in a variety of topics within health, development of professions, society, technology, art, and design.

Nordic Centre is happy to have Oslo Metropolitan University as a member and looking forward to cooperating with them on their outreach to and collaboration with China, both in educational and research-based activities.

Minister of Education Torbjørn Røe Isaksen, middle, were present at the opening of the new university in January 2018



Council meeting and workshop on Nordic Centre's new strategy



Council meeting October 23

The second annual council meeting was, as always, held at Nordic Centre in late October. The most important issue of the meeting was to vote for a new member university. Among other decisions, the council unanimously voted to welcome OsloMet to the network.

Nordic Centre has put down a strategy working group to develop a new strategy for the network and its work. To get inputs for the working group, the Secretariat has conducted a survey among the member universities, and in addition, we hosted a workshop in connection with the council meeting to get ideas from researchers, students, and administrators involved in Nordic Centre.

BIANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020 FUNDING **APPLY NOW**

NORDIC CENTRE
FUDAN UNIVERSITY
SHANGHAI, CHINA



Host a conference in any
academic field in Shanghai in
2020

Get 20,000 euros in support
plus local assistance

Researchers from member
universities of Nordic Centre
are eligible to apply

20,000
euros

Deadline
March 20
2019

nordiccentre.net





Bi-annual Conference of Nordic Centre

Belt & Road Initiative, Sustainable Development and Law: Sino-Nordic Perspectives

Fudan University, Shanghai Oct 29-30, 2018



On October 29-30, Nordic Centre hosted its biannual conference, this time co-organized by the University of Oslo, Lund University, Tsinghua University, and Fudan University, with participants from many other member universities. The topic was an exploration and discussions on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) — President Xi Jinping's signature foreign policy, one that aims to connect the world more closely through maritime infrastructure, land routes, and other kinds of investments — through the lenses of law and sustainable development:

What are the legal challenges of BRI-related projects e.g. in terms of e-commerce and trade law, pilot free-trade zones, public procurement practices, and cross-border legal risks? And how can the BRI be united with such internationally agreed-on targets as the UN Sustainable Development Goals? The papers presented were primarily within legal studies, and explored a wide range of areas of national and international law, with some angles of political science and sociology also included to highlight the topic from other disciplinary perspectives.

We would like to thank every paper presenter and audience participant for taking part in lively discussions on this very important topic.



Co-coreation course with Demola formalized

The collaboration between Demola and Fudan University via Nordic Centre has now been formalized and signed into agreement. The course will be available to your exchange students and local students, who will team up with managers from companies to work on cases where they create and develop ideas with potential applicability to real-life business -- a kind of co-creation process where Demola supplies a facilitator to assist with structured innovation. The course will launch in early March for the 2019 spring semester. More information will be sent to your international offices very soon.



Sino-Finnish career night

October was a month with great variety at Nordic Centre varying from council meeting to Finnish career night organized by the Finnish National Agency for Education EDUFI.

The event presented Finnish companies operating in China and the opportunities they had to offer such as traineeship, thesis topics and job offers. The participants got a chance to hear testimonials of experts working in Finnish companies in China.

The night was opened by the Finnish consulate general, Jan Wahlberg, who talked about Finnish-Chinese relationship. It was followed by company presentation from Finnair, Kisakallio, Lappset and many more which gave interesting talks of possibilities and future career prospects for young adults. The evening was wrapped up with networking and lottery where the winners received Finnish chocolate and goodie bags.



Yangpu library opening and private tour with the curator

From once being a part of the Shanghai Ghetto, our district is in a rapid change. The Yangpu district has increasingly developed from an area of labor-intensive industry towards commerce and high technology. With such rapid development comes also new building like the brand new Yangpu library which Nordic Centre was lucky enough to be a part of the opening ceremony and given a private tour.



Nordic Centre staff outside new Yangpu library

The former Shanghai library was first constructed in the early 1930's holding more than 20 000 books. However, the new library has over 600,000 books and has seating space for 650 people. Another highlight is the renovated "Peacock iron gate" in the main hall which was originally built in 1934 with rivets and iron mortise. The renovated library is a great symbol of Yangpu's historical past and the new, fast moving development.

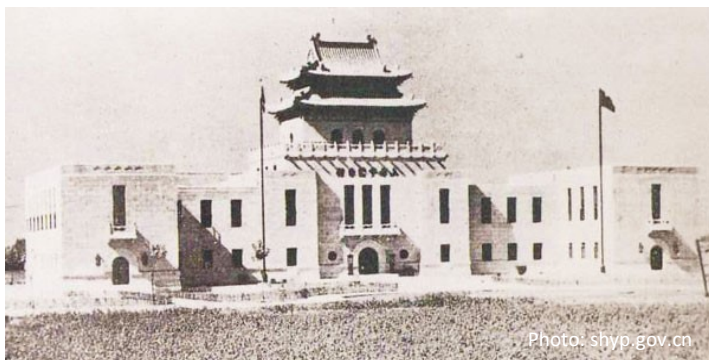


Photo: shyp.gov.cn

Old Yangpu library

First non-Chinese to give a presentation at Yangpu library

As the first non-Chinese presenter to speak at Yangpu Library, on December 9 program manager Magnus Jorem gave a one-hour lecture in Chinese about Danish lifestyle in relation to sustainability.



Photo: Balance Zhang

Magnus giving the lecture on Denmark

Denmark is known for being an environmentally friendly country which emphasizes on recycling and sustainability. In 2014, Copenhagen was appointed European Green Capital – with the goal of becoming the world's first CO2 neutral capital by 2025. The 200 people in the audience were impressed by the Danish green way of thinking.



Photo: Balance Zhang

Lecture hall inside new Yangpu library

Interview with Harriet Lonka:

China: a relationship that keeps growing

Nordic Centre has had the pleasure of hosting many visiting scholars this semester, staying for various durations and representing different academic disciplines. Some stay for a week or two while others stay for half a year. Harriet Lonka has stayed with us for nearly a month and also presented at our Belt and Road Initiative conference. She is post-doctor researcher at the University of East Finland working in a team of legislative studies and has a long relationship with China.

“I have a ten years relationship with China such as business development. I was working in Gaia Consulting and I worked with a Chinese family company which had to do with renewable energy and the focus was in creating a joint venture producing bio-gas household’s reactors. I believe that is still an important issue in China to convert the old-fashion smoke house types on the country side to have these kinds of bio-gas reactor for cooking and lightning.”

However, despite her long relationship with China, it is only in the last couple of years has been able to make China a part of her research work.

“The last two years I have followed the food export issues from Finland to China, but now my interest is the Chinese Food Safety regulation. The Food Safety Law was issued in 2009 and amended in 2015. It has its background in China’s WTO membership and its demands it comes with. In many ways, it is in harmony with the European legislations as they share similar features. This I find it very interesting.”

Harriet was one of the speakers for our conference *Belt & Road Initiative, Sustainable Development and Law* where the topic of her and Susanna Wähä’s was legal requirements for cross boarder infrastructure projects in the Finnish context.

“Third part of me which is my geology background, I have been doing with resource efficient aggregate management, from there I have my colleague whom I co-authored our paper which we presented together at the conference. Our paper focuses on the large infrastructure project such as the Helsinki Tallinn railroad tunnel and what kinds of legislative challenges it represents.”



“Everyone is talking about the concept and vision of the Belt and Road initiative, but to foresee and understand the practicalities of the initiative can be difficult. However, our main point in our presentation was that whenever Finland build or construct something, we need to take in consideration the environmental and sustainable impact and that it is done in line with Finnish legislation.”

China is not the only country Harriet has worked and lived in. From January 2010 to summer of 2011, Harriet worked in Budapest, Hungary.

“After I had worked with consulting, I was eager to find new paths so I applied and luckily I got the job as a director for the Finnagora which is a Centre for Culture, Science and Economy for Finland in Hungary. I was then also appointed as a cultural attaché of The Embassy for Finland in Budapest. Activities in Nordic Centre remind me of the work I did in Budapest as you arrange social events, do networking, serving different stakeholders so I feel very much like home here at Nordic Centre.”

“I also find China and Hungary very similar such as finding people to talk to, like here in China as in Hungary I need an interpreter which brings a certain dynamic to the discussions. In both in China and Hungary I feel like a guest and have to behave like that. You have to be a bit humble.”

Two-day course for Norwegian business students



In the middle of November, Bi Norwegian Business School held the course *Business in China* at Nordic Centre, in which the students were exposed to a variety of perspectives by business people and scholars on the business environment in China.

The Norwegian students were introduced to cultural difference that affect Sino-Nordic work collaboration by program manager Magnus Jorem, after which the General Manager of Yara in China. Florence from China Skinny talked more about what entrepreneurs should think of when they brand a new concept in China and the differences between the regions. Many of the students had never been to China and were amazed by the cultural differences and how different businesses have to think compare to Norway. Some of the students have had various working experiences, but China is different in many ways when it comes to cultural differences in the working environment which was highlighted by the representatives from Yarra and China Skinny. The last day of their intensive China trip went to Volkswagen factory and to the water town of Suzhou.

If you would like to organize a an academic event at Nordic Centre or elsewhere at Fudan University, please write to magnus@nordiccentre.net

Remember that you can also apply for Nordic Centre funding for holding such events. You can also apply for funding for shorter research stays through the Research Platform. Read more at nordiccentre.net

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FUNDING FOR ACADEMIC EVENTS IN SHANGHAI

NORDIC CENTRE
FUDAN UNIVERSITY
SHANGHAI, CHINA



Apply for up to 7,000 euros to organize a workshop, course, or other academic event at Nordic Centre in Shanghai

Get local organizing assistance and venue without fee

Researchers from member universities of Nordic Centre are eligible to apply

Apply for
2,000-
7,000
euros

Deadline
March 20
2019

nordiccentre.net



Questions for program officer

Wen Liu

How did you come to work at Nordic Centre?

I actually graduated from Fudan University and have been to activities organized by the Nordic Centre before. I studied abroad for two years before I went back to China. I read the job post from WeChat this April while working in an online education company for year and a half. I sent out my application and happily got the offer.

You are an ex-student of EU's Erasmus program, where did you go and how did the European countries differ from China?

I studied in University of Vienna for one year, and had an exchange term in University of California, Santa Barbara, then finished my study in Leipzig University with a Master of Global Studies. European countries differ from each other, not just only from China. China alone is much bigger than all the countries combined in the European Union.

What was the difference between living in America than Europe ?

It is very shocking to find out that in the US, it's impossible to move around without a car. In Europe, especially in Austria and Germany, public transportation is probably the best in the whole world. However, the weather in Southern California is amazing.

When you lived abroad, what did you miss most about China?

Chinese food, of course! Also the opening hours of shopping malls are much longer in China and the convenient stores are everywhere. I love the buzz of big cities and that there is always something going on, just like in Shanghai.



How many places did you go to and which country stroked you the most?

I went to 30 countries, if Vatican also counts. Each country is very unique and stroked me in different ways. My favorite place to visit was Lisbon. Wonderful city with fantastic history, close to the beach and welcoming people. I would love to go and explore a new country sometime soon.

If you had to choose which Nordic country would you rather live in and why?

Probably Denmark. I love their pastry and fairytales.

What do you miss about living abroad?

The architecture, museums, experiencing different cultures and the great people I met.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? Still in Shanghai or have you moved back to your home province?

I really love Shanghai and would love to work and live here longer. But China is developing too fast for anyone to predict the future. I would love to try living in different cities or even some more countries while I'm still young.

Nordic and Chinese students test their knowledge about each other

As the days are getting shorter and the temperature decreasing, nothing is better than go inside for a social and fun quiz night. On November 12, Nordic Centre arranged its semester quiz where the participants' knowledge about the Nordic region and China was tested. The winning team consisted of two local Chinese and two students from two different Nordic countries made them the perfect team. Under are some of the questions from the quiz. Can you answer them? Test yourself, friends, family or your colleagues! Answers are on the last page.

1) In 1995, Finland and Sweden became members of the European Union. In 2002 the EU introduces Euro's as common currency its member states. Sweden, however, decided to not use European Euros, but Finland did. Question: What was the name of Finland's former currency?

2) In 1936, the American fashion designer and socialite, Ruth Harkness travelled to China and brought back the first live panda to the United States - not in a cage, or on a leash, but wrapped in her arms. This was the first panda to leave China. Since then, China uses giant pandas as diplomatic gifts to other countries and its called panda diplomacy. Which Nordic country was the first to receive a panda?

3) In the 80's early 90's Norwegian black metal bands such as Mayhem, Immortal and Darkthrone started to emerge and they have been associated Satanic and anti-Christ music. They were notorious for being extreme such as putting the picture of Mayhem's singer, Dead (Per Yngve Ohlin), after his suicide in April 1991 on the front cover of their live bootleg *Dawn of the Black Hearts*. However, some of them such as, Varg Vikereus, were charged for setting fire on different churches around Norway. Which of these churches did he set fire on?

A) Old Aker Church, B) Holmenkollen Chapel, C) Bygdøy Church, D) The Royal Palace Chapel

4) In February we will have Chinese New Year. In China, each year is represented by one animal. The former Norwegian Prime Minister, Gro Harlem Brundtland, who opened Nordic Centre in 1995, was born in April 1939. What zodiac animal is Gro?

The winning team (left) and the participants before the quiz started (right)



The Grinch never came but Santa did!

The semester is soon over and Christmas is upon us. Many will go home and celebrate with their friends and families in their home countries. However, not everyone is able to do so because of exams and other commitments. On 14th December, Nordic, Chinese and international students came to Nordic Centre to celebrate a traditional Nordic Christmas. Co-organized with Association for Norwegian Students Abroad, ANSA, we opened our doors for a Nordic Christmas celebration where glogg, lusekattar, cinnamon rolls and ginger breads were served.

The highlight of the evening was when Santa Claus came and delivered out a present to those who had brought one to the party. Some had wrapped up a box of chocolate and went home with a hand cream. After Santa had emptied his bags, he made the participants sing carols where the last song was Wham's classic, Last Christmas. With over 150 people present at the event, the building was shaking when everyone sang together.

ANSA and Nordic Centre wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Activities since October 2018

October 18: Visit from the Danish Ministry of Education

October 23: Council meeting

October 24: Strategy workshop

October 25: Finnish career night

October 29-30: Bi-annual Conference of Nordic Centre: Belt & Road Initiative, Sustainable Development and Law

October 29: PART I: The Legal and Sustainability Significance of the Belt Road Initiative.

PART II: National, Regional and Global Dimensions.

October 30: PART III: Fields of Law and Sustainability.

PART IV: Concluding Round Table.

November 12-15: BI Norwegian Business School lectures

November 12: Quiz night

November 26: Visit and presentation to students from University of Turku

November 27: University of Gothenburg lecture

December 4: University of Gothenburg lecture

December 9: Lecture on Danish lifestyle and sustainability at Yangpu Library

December 14: Christmas party

December 18: Female entrepreneurship event

Weekly every Tuesday at lunch: Discussions on gender and sexuality with student society ZhiHeShe

Weekly every Tuesday evening: Nordic Studies class

Answers to the quiz on page 10

1) Markka 2) Finland 3) Holmenkollen Chapel 4) Rabbit