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Gastvortrag einladen zu dürfen:



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## Agrarian Politics and the Future of Agriculture in China

One of the most fascinating current debates on the Chinese countryside concerns the potential structure of agriculture in the future. Some scholars, for example, have suggested a resilience of peasant farming. Here a group of distinct peasants would continue to tend rather small plots, and important sections of agriculture would remain outside of market-based relations. Others are not opposed to market-integration per se but favor a return to more collective forms of agrarian production. Most of these groups are united in their opposition to the state's tendency to support a reorganization of agriculture into medium- to large-sized enterprises, allegedly warranted by the need to increase scale, investment and technical know-how. Not without reason, they are afraid that such a structural change in agriculture and the official primacy of increasing rural incomes may drive peasants from the land. Statistical data and empirical fieldwork appear to confirm their fears and point to an agriculture increasingly in line with the state's vision. This presentation introduces key controversies in the field and provides arguments on how the structural reorganization of agriculture and the Chinese countryside is managed in the age of Xi Jinping's Rural Revitalization.

**René Trappel** is a comparative political scientist and Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Chinese Studies at the University of Freiburg. His current research focuses on agrarian change, urbanisation, local governance, and the effects of developmental projects on state-society relations in China.

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