

DAS INSTITUT FÜR OSTASIENWISSENSCHAFTEN/ SINOLOGIE

The Department of East Asian Studies/Chinese Studies is pleased to invite to the lecture of



Dr. Andrew W. MacDONALD
Duke Kunshan University, Jiangsu, PRC

維也納大學漢學系

Learning to love big brother: Chinese attitudes toward online privacy after the pandemic

In this event, Andrew MacDonald discusses his work in a two-wave survey regarding online privacy conducted in China before and after the 2022 zero covid lockdowns. The results of the survey strongly suggest that, despite all of the invasive government monitoring used to attempt to control the spread of Covid, respondents were generally supportive of government invasions of their privacy. These findings cast doubt on the long-term impact of the White Paper movement protests and connect to a larger body of literature on why surveys of Chinese citizens indicate high levels of trust in their government.

In particular, the findings suggest that, whatever a citizen's view of the government's performance during zero covid, few seemed to question the essential government role of monitoring citizen activity using technological means. In contrast, and similar with previous findings, Chinese citizens are much more concerned with the activities of private corporations. Finally, the demographic breakdown of results of the two survey waves offers an interesting look into the important role age, education, and location factor into these attitudes.

Andrew W. MacDonald is an Assistant Professor of Social Science at Duke Kunshan University. His research interest is primarily focused on Chinese public opinion. In particular, he is keenly interested in the growing generational changes in China and the role of technology, social media, and education plays on core attitudes about the role of the state and social issues. He received his PhD from University of Oxford and previously worked as a Postdoctoral Associate at the University Louisville's Center for Asian Democracy.



DATE: Wednesday, October 11, 2023

TIME: 18:30 – 20:00

LOCATION: SIN 1, at the Department for East Asian Studies/Chinese Studies, Altes AKH, Campus, Spitalgasse 2, Yard 2, Entrance 2.3

