

**Vincent Brussee, Leiden University:  
“The King is Dead, Long Live the King”: The  
Emergence, Death, and Afterlives of China’s  
Social Credit System**

China’s Social Credit System has redefined global debates on surveillance. Touted as an all-encompassing surveillance tool in hundreds of media headlines, it triggered the European Union and the United Nations to adopt legislation banning social scoring. Yet, within China, reality proved far more complex. Even after twenty-five years of development, China’s government continues to grapple with the system as it struggles to bring it to life. As a result, authorities have recently pulled the plug on the system’s most recognizable elements. This talk unpacks how the infamous Social Credit System emerged, why it derailed, and how its remnants continue to shape governance in China today. It thereby provides a corrective to popular narratives while offering a deeper window into Chinese governance.

***Vincent Brussee** is the author of the book “Social Credit” (Palgrave Macmillan 2023), which provides a comprehensive analysis of China’s Social Credit System. He is currently a PhD Candidate at Leiden University. Previously, he was an Analyst at MERICS, Europe’s premier think tank on contemporary China.*

**DATE:** Thursday, May 15, 2025

**TIME:** 15:00

**Location:** **Hörsaal 1, Hauptgebäude Uni Wien**

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