

# Performing PostSOCIALISM

## PERFORMING POSTSOCIALISM

### CULTURES OF PERFORMANCE-MAKING IN TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY CHINA

9-10 April 2026

Department of East Asian Studies (Sinology)  
University of Vienna, Austria



This symposium is part of the research project *Performing Postsocialism in Twenty-First-Century China*, funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) | PI: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Rossella Ferrari | Grant DOI 10.55776/PAT9791923 | <https://performingpostsocialism.univie.ac.at/>

#### Venues

Symposium (9-10 April) | Jura Soyfer Saal, Hofburg, Batthyanystrasse, 1010 Vienna

Artistic Programme (10 April) | BEK Forum, Schleifmühlgasse 6, 1040 Vienna

**FWF** Austrian  
Science Fund



# PROGRAMME

**DAY ONE | THURSDAY 9 APRIL 2026**

**09:00 – 09:15 | ARRIVAL**

**09:15 – 09:30 | WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

**09:30 – 10:30 | KEYNOTE**

Chair: Rossella Ferrari

SHELDON LU *University of California, Davis*

History, Memory, Temporality in Postsocialist Performance in 21st-Century China

**10:45 – 12:15 | PANEL 1 | MAKING POSTSOCIALIST AFFECT**

**History, Embodiment, and Emotion**

Chair: Fabrizio Massini

10:45 – 11:15 FREDERIK SCHMITZ *University of Bonn*

Performing Red – Interactive Theatres and Party History in China

11:15 – 11:45 EMILY WILCOX *William & Mary*

Choreographing (Post-)Revolutionary Passion: Embodiments of Socialist History  
in 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Chinese National Dance Dramas

11:45 – 12:15 Discussion

**12:30 – 13:45 | LUNCH | Labstelle (*for participants only*)**

**14:00 – 15:30 | PANEL 2 | MAKING POSTSOCIALIST AGENCY**  
**Transcultural Collaboration and Performative Resistance**

Chair: Zhang Ting

14:00 – 14:30 KAI TUCHMANN *Independent theatre practitioner (Berlin)*  
*On Their Feet: Performing History through Transcultural Resonance*

14:30 – 15:00 NANCY P. LIN *Cornell University*  
Performative Silence and Enunciation: Lin Yilin's *The Front* (2023)

15:00 – 15:30 Discussion

**15:30 – 16:00 | COFFEE BREAK**

**16:00 – 17:30 | PANEL 3 | MAKING POSTSOCIALIST RITUAL**  
**Spirituality, Activism, and Urban Cultures**

Chair: Li Yizhuo

16:00 – 16:30 BURONG ZENG *Independent live art practitioner-researcher (London/Beijing)*  
*Towards Trance: Club Culture, Spiritual Activism and Nihilism*  
in Postsocialist China

16:30 – 17:00 GERDA WIELANDER *University of Westminster*  
Performing the Spirit: Chinese Urban Visuals as Ritual Performance

17:00 – 17:30 Discussion

**17:30 – 17:45 | CLOSING REMARKS**

**19:00 | DINNER | Feinkosterei Neuer Markt (*for participants only*)**

**DAY TWO | FRIDAY 10 APRIL 2026**

**09:00 – 10:30 | PANEL 4 | MAKING POSTSOCIALIST POLICY**

**Diplomacy, Spectacle, and Cultural Governance**

Chair: Gerda Wielander

09:00 – 09:30 ÁGOTA RÉVÉSZ *Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary*  
Performing Foreign Policy – The New Silk Road as Staged Narrative

09:30 – 10:00 LU ZIHUI *Shanghai International Studies University*  
Policy and Popular Theatre: Cultural Space, IP Performance, and the Making  
of Postsocialist Spectacle in Shanghai

10:00 – 10:30 Discussion

**10:30 – 11:00 | COFFEE BREAK**

**11:00 – 12:30 | PANEL 5 | MAKING POSTSOCIALIST (ECO)SYSTEMS**

**Institutions, Infrastructures, and Performance Ecologies**

Chair: Emily Wilcox

11:00 – 11:30 LI XUNNAN *University of Leeds*  
Xiao Juchang Xiqu Theatre Festival as Key Site for the Performance  
of Chinese Postsocialism

11:30 – 12:00 FABRIZIO MASSINI *University of Vienna*  
Inside Looking Out: Changing Systems of Performance-Making  
in Postmillennial China

12:00 – 12:30 Discussion

**12:45 – 14:15 | LUNCH | Labstelle (*for participants only*)**

**14:30 – 16:00 | PANEL 6 | MAKING POSTSOCIALIST FUTURES  
Bodies, Technologies, and Artistic Labour**

Chair: Sheldon Lu

14:30 – 15:00 LI YIZHUO *University of Vienna*  
On *Tizhi* in Postsocialist Chinese Art: Two Systems and a Body

15:00 – 15:30 TARRYN LI-MIN CHUN *University of Notre Dame*  
From *Lying Flat* to Upbeat Dancing: Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and Artistic  
Labour in Postsocialist Chinese Performance

15:30 – 16:00 Discussion

**16:00 – 16:30 | CLOSING REMARKS & PUBLICATION PLANS**

**16:45** | Transfer to BEK Forum

**17:30 – 19:30 | ARTISTIC PROGRAMME**

QU CHANG AND YE HUI | *Linger In Sounds: The (For)getaway*

HOTPOTPOSSE | DJ Set

**– END –**

## ORGANIZERS

### **The *Performing Postsocialism* Project Team**

Department of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna

#### **Principal Investigator**

Rossella Ferrari

#### **Co-Investigators**

Fabrizio Massini

Li Yizhuo

Zhang Ting

#### **Project Administration & Event Coordination**

Vivien Song Xinyi

#### **Symposium Assistance**

Lu Wenxuan, Liu Wan-yi | Predoctoral Assistants

Department of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna

#### **Administrative & Technical Assistance**

Katinka Kraxner, Lisa Scheidl, Manfred Jessner | Secretariat

Philipp Unterköfler | IT Representative

Department of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna