



Annual Pierre du Bois Doctoral Workshop:

Across the Bamboo Curtain: Economic, Political, and Technological Exchanges Between East and West During the Cold War

28-29 May, 2026 CEST

Organizer: LIU Yi and YANG Ziru (Geneva Graduate Institute), Dr. Severyan Dyakonov (SNSF, University of Fribourg), Karina Khasnulina (Leipzig University).

Venue: Geneva Graduate Institute, Maison de la Paix, Petal 2, A2

Thursday May 28th

Welcome and Introduction

14:00-14:30

Panel 1: Asian Agency in the Cold War: Diplomacy, Alignment, and Global Economic Integration

14:30-16:00

The Sino-Soviet Split and the Early Adjustment of China-Western Europe Relations
JIN Zhixia, Peking University

Weaponizing "Asian Identity": Japan's Strategic Alignment with China and ASEAN during the INF Crisis (1981–1987)
Lai Ching LI, Peking University

The Forgotten History of Structural Adjustment: China and the IMF during the Early Reform and Opening Up
Federico Pachetti, Corvinus University of Budapest

Discussant: Prof. Jussi M. Hanhimaki, Geneva Graduate Institute

Break

16:00-16:30

Keynote Speech

Professor Valeria Zanier, University of Bologna
Professor Wu Bohao, Peking University

16:30-18:00

Friday May 29th

Panel 2: Trading Across the Bamboo Curtain: Firms, Institutions, and Export Controls in Cold War East Asia

9:30-11:00



An Uneven Curtain: Export Control Regimes and Sino–West German Cross-Bloc Trade in the 1950s
LIU Yi, Ruhr University Bochum

Between Empire and Republic: Jardine Matheson and the Adaptation of British Colonial Merchant Capital to Cold War China, 1952–1967
LIU Yi, Geneva Graduate Institute

Engineering Regulated Interdependence: Maoist Economic Statecraft and Institutional Platforms in Sino-Western Trade, 1950s–1970s.
ZHANG Zhen, University of Edinburgh

Discussant: Prof. Valeria Zanier, University of Bologna

Break **11:00-11:15**

Panel 3: Representing Socialist Asia: Propaganda, Media, and Transnational Perceptions in the Cold War
11:15-12:45

Culture as Propaganda: State-Sponsored Performances at the Canton Fair under China’s Planned Economy, 1957–1991
GUO Jingxuan, University of Hong Kong

Between Propaganda and Utopia: *Report from China* (『夜明けの国』) and the Japanese Gaze on Socialist China
HONG Pang, University of Tokyo.

Exporting Memories: Witnessing the Turbulence Transnationally
YANG Ziru, Geneva Graduate Institute

Discussant: Prof. Jan Kiely, Geneva Graduate Institute

Panel 4: Material Networks Across the Bamboo Curtain: Resources, Technology, and Commodities in Cold War Asia
14:00-16:00

Growing Socialist Rubber: The Operation of PRC’s Rubber Institute and Its Engagements with International Rubber Science during the Cold War
ZHOU Wenyu, University of Macau

Gold Across the Bamboo Curtain: The Interplay of Informal Finances and Global Capitalism of



Hong Kong

Ka Shing SO, Binghamton University, State University of New York

Assemblages of Oil: the Techno-Politics of Socialist Self-Reliance and China's Cold War Petroleum Exchanges (1960s-80s)

XIAO Zhongxian, Georgia Institute of Technology.

Beyond Autarky: Equipment Introduction in China's Third Front Construction (1966-1980)

WU Chenyong, Fudan University

Discussant: Prof. Bernard Keo, Geneva Graduate Institute and Prof. Wu Bohao, Peking University

Concluding Remarks

16:00-16:30