



Da An Plaza 7A East Tower
Yan An Zhong Lu 829
200040 Shanghai / PR China
Tel.: 0086.21.6247-2870
Fax: 0086.21.6279-1297
www.fes-china.org



上海行政学院
Shanghai Administration Institute

200 Hongcao Nan Road
200233 Shanghai / PR China
Tel.: 0086.21.6436-5267
Fax: 0086.21.6470-0603
www.sdx.sh.cn

SAI-FES International Symposium

国际研讨会

“Transforming Societies – Transforming Political Parties”

社会转型 — 政党转型

Shanghai, 23-24 September 2014

Venue:

Shanghai Administration Institute
Auditorium 201, Hai Xing Classroom Building
200 Hongcao Nan Road
虹漕南路 200 号, 上海行政学院海兴教学楼 201 会议室

Background

Societies have been changing rapidly and radically in the last two decades - both, in China and the West: Ageing populations, changes in information and communication technology worldwide as well as rapid urbanization, a rising level of education and the irrepressible rise of a new middle class and a more complex society in China are among these trends, to name just a few.

How do parties react to these social changes? Do these trends have an impact on party organizational structures? How do parties answer requests for more participation from their own members and from civil society and interest groups? And how do new media and forms of modern communication change relations within parties and between parties and society at large? These are only some of the many questions that arise when looking at modern societies and their political parties.

When it comes to Western parties, it doesn't look too good: A sample of 25 countries mainly from Europe and the Americas showed that less than 20% of the respondents expressed 'quite a lot' or 'a great deal' of confidence in political parties (www.worldvaluessurvey.org). Manifestations of citizens' low confidence in parties are growing electoral volatility, electoral abstention and party membership decline. It is important for parties therefore, to react to this "unfriendly climate" and adapt to or even make use of the above mentioned social trends. Above all, it is important to counter the often lamented crisis of participation parties face both within their organization and in terms of party-society relations.

Almost all European parties have worked on organizational reforms to foster inner party democracy in recent years, among them the German Social Democrats' membership ballot on the question of a possible grand coalition with the German Christian Democrats last December and the Dutch liberal VVD who leave their members vote not only for leading candidates but also for the position of all candidates on the party list since 2006. Being mainly considered as promising experiments, it still has to be seen if these ideas lead to more participation, more party entrances and further forms of inner-party democracy in the long run. As falling membership figures are among the most significant problems for parties, suitable recruitment strategies – in ageing societies especially recruitment of young potentials – is another big concern for most Western parties.

While CPC currently does not have a problem with membership recruitment or a shortage of young members, fostering intra-party democracy is also on its agenda and has been largely promoted during the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee last November. Besides, since Xi Jinping's assumption of office continuous efforts have been made to fight corruption and lavishness within the party and strengthen honesty of politicians and transparency in party matters. The internet and new media can be relevant instruments to help foster both: intra-party democracy and transparency.

The say of interest groups and civil society organizations is different according to the political system they are operating in. But they all have one thing in common: they want to be heard and influence the political process within their countries to a certain extent. In China alone, there are more than 500,000 registered NGOs and they are growing in number and influence. They work on issues such as social welfare, environmental protection, health and education - just as their counterparts in the West. It is therefore important for both, state and political parties, to make use of the enormous energy and resources from civil society and find ways to include them into the policy making process.

The international symposium “Transforming Societies – Transforming Political Parties” is jointly hosted by the Shanghai Administration Institute and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Shanghai Office. It seeks to offer a platform for scholars and officials from both inside and outside of China to exchange ideas and experience on the above mentioned trends and questions. By presenting best practice examples of different parties and countries, we want to encourage the debate about successful forms of inner party democracy and beneficial state-society-relations.

Note to speakers:

- The working language of the symposium will be **English and Chinese with simultaneous translation.**
- Presentations should be limited to 20 minutes (except Keynotes).
- All speakers are advised to use Power Point for presentation (PPT). Please hand in your PPT latest on **September 3**, because the PPTs need to be translated into Chinese

Program

Monday, 22 September 2014

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| All day | Arrival of participants |
| 18:00 | Pls. meet in the hotel lobby for departure to restaurant |
| 18:30 | Informal welcome dinner for speakers and invited guests
Venue: Ye Shanghai, No 338 Huang Pi Nan Road, Xintiandi, Shanghai |

Tuesday, 23 September 2014

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| 08:00 | Pls. meet in the hotel lobby for departure to the conference venue |
| 08:30 - 08:45 | Registration at the conference venue |
| 08:50 | Group Photo |

09:00 - 09:10 Opening Session

Moderator: **LIU Zonghong**, Professor, Director of the Institute for Political Parties, Shanghai Administration Institute

5 min. Welcome Remarks by **WANG Guoping**, Professor, Executive Vice President, Shanghai Administration Institute

5 min. Welcome Remarks by **Catrina SCHLÄGER**, Resident Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Shanghai

09:10- 10:45 Session I: Social Changes, Technical Innovation and Party-Identification – Recent Trends in China and the West

Issues to be discussed, among others:

- What are fundamental changes in Chinese and Western societies over the last two decades?
- How do these changes influence parties, landscapes of political parties and political systems?
- How does the internet (and social media) change political actors and political agendas?
- Is there a connection between the trend from class party to catch-all party and the digital era?

Moderator: **LIU Zonghong**, Professor, Director of the Institute for Political Parties, Shanghai Administration Institute

20 min. **Keynote 1: LIU Honglin**, Professor, Institute for Political Parties, Shanghai Administration Institute

“IT Development, Social Change and Political Party Reform - Case Study of Mainland China”

30 min. **Keynote 2: Rachel GIBSON**, Professor of Politics, Cathie March Institute for Social Research / Political Science, University of Manchester

“Social and Technological Trends and their Effects on Parties in the Western World”

8 min. **Commentator: HE Mingsheng**, Professor, Director of School for Social Development, East China University of Political Science and Law, Shanghai

8 min. **Commentator: ZHOU Shuzhen**, Professor, School of International Studies at Renmin University of China, Beijing

30 min. Q&A and Discussion

10:45 - 11:00 Tea/Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30 Session II: Transforming Political Communication: Medialization and New Forms of Public Relations

Issues to be discussed, among others:

- Personalization and Medialization of politics: how do these trends effect the relation between politicians/ parties and the public?
- Image-building and public relations of politicians: Sustainable effort or waste of effort? How do politicians use new media for image-building?
- Is the use of ICT (Websites, Emails, Social Networks) an efficient way to improve communication with citizens and receive input from the public?
- What limits the successful use of ICT?
- How can political parties gather public opinions?

Moderator: **Catrina SCHLÄGER**, Resident Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Shanghai

20 min. **Presentation 3: WANG Jianhua**, Professor, Deputy Dean at the School of Marxism, Nanjing University

“Political Parties & Social Interactions in the Internet Era - Observation of Reality & Theoretical Thinking in the Context of China”

20 min. **Presentation 4: Maurice VERGEER**, Assistant Professor at the department of Communication, Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands

“New Media - New Engaging Politics? Personalization and Mediatization in Politics”

8 min. **Commentator: HUANG Jinhui**, Professor, School of Political Science, Sichuan University

8 min. **Commentator: WU Gang**, Vice President and Senior Editor of Chinese Radio Network

30 min. Q&A and Discussion

12:30 - 13:45 Lunch Break: Haixing Building, 3rd floor

13:45 - 15:10 Session III: Transformation of Internal Party Structures

Issues to be discussed, among others:

- Which new forms of intra-party democracy have been emerging?
- How does new media influence intra-party processes?
- Overageing of parties – which strategies do parties use to recruit young party members?
- ICT as an effective means to reach out to young people?
- Participation patterns of the young generation: What can political parties learn from Civil Society Organizations and Single Issue Groups in terms of membership mobilization?
- What is the potential of internet-based anti-corruption campaigns to foster integrity and discipline of party members?
- Which opportunities does Web 2.0 offer to foster transparency within parties?

Moderator: **SUN Zhanyuan**, Professor, Deputy Director of the Party School of Shandong Province

20 min. **Presentation 5: LIU Zonghong**, Professor, Director of the Institute for Political Parties, Shanghai Administration Institute
"Party Members' Ballots and Intra-Party Democracy"

20 min. **Presentation 6: Giulia SANDRI**, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the European School of Political Science, Catholic University of Lille
"Strengthening the voice of party members: New Forms of intra-party democracy and member participation in Western political parties"

8 min. **Commentator: LU Xianfu**, Professor, Vice President of the National Institute for Party Building Studies

8 min. **Commentator: Kurt Richard LUTHER**, Professor of Comparative Politics, Keele University

30 min. Q&A and Discussion

15:10 - 15:30 Tea/Coffee Break

15:30 - 16:55 Session III: Transformation of Internal Party Structures (cont.)

Moderator: **LIU Honglin**, Professor, Institute for Political Parties, Shanghai Administration Institute

20 min. **Presentation 7: YUAN Feng**, Professor, Department of Political Science, Shanghai Administration Institute
"Intra-Party Supervision, Self-discipline and Anti-corruption"

20 min. **Presentation 8: Volker BEST**, Research Fellow, Institute for Political Sciences and Sociology, University of Bonn
"Recruitment of party members: Modern strategies to recruit young potentials and become a party for the new generation"

8 min. **Commentator: ZHOU Shuzhen**, Professor, School of International Studies at Renmin University of China, Beijing

8 min. **Commentator: SHANG Hongri**, Professor, Law and Politics College, Shanghai Normal University

30 min. Q&A and Discussion

17:00 - 19:00 Dinner: Hai Xing Building, 3rd floor, hosted by SAI

Wednesday, 24 September 2014

08:15 Pls. meet in the hotel lobby for departure to the conference venue

09:00 - 10:45 Session IV: Transformation of Party-State-Society Relations

Issues to be discussed, among others:

- How do different political systems differ in their party-state-society relations? Which role do interest groups and civil society organizations play?
- How can diverse and competing interests be incorporated into the political process?
- What relationship have parties of different political systems established with civil society and interest groups?
- Changes of the civil society- party/ state relations and drivers of these changes over time?
- How important is the cooperation between civil society and political parties for effective and legitimate governance?
- How to use the energy and resources of civil society?
- How does civil society use social media and what can parties learn from it?

Moderator: **Judith CHRIST**, Program Manager, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Shanghai

- 20 min. **Presentation 9: Jan TUROWSKI**, Associated Professor, Southeast University, Nanjing
“Different Political Systems – Different Party-State-Society Relations: A theoretical overview of different Western political systems and their ways to incorporate competing interests into the political process”
- 20 min. **Presentation 10: DENG Weizhi**, Professor at Shanghai University, Member of the Association for Science and Technology, Shanghai
“Ruling Parties and Social Organizations”
- 20 min. **Presentation 11: Thomas POGUNTKE**, Professor of Comparative Politics, Director of the Düsseldorf Party Research Institute, Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf
“Changing Relation between Parties and Civil Society: The Erosion of Linkage?”
- 8 min. **Commentator: XI Jieren**, Professor, Vice President of China Institute for Leadership Science; President of Shanghai Leadership Association
- 8 min. **Commentator: Sylvia PANNOWITSCH**, Research Assistant at Institute for Political Science, TU Darmstadt
- 30 min. Q&A and Discussion

10:45 - 11:00 Tea/Coffee Break

11:00- 12:30 Session IV: Transformation of Party-State-Society Relations (cont.)

Moderator: **ZHAO Gangyin**, Associate Professor, Deputy Director of the Institute for Political Parties, Shanghai Administration Institute

20 min. **Presentation 12: LIN Deshan**, Professor, Director of Division for Political Parties, Research Department of Marxism, Compilation and Translation Bureau of the CPC, Beijing
“Ruling and the Role of Parties: Reflections on the Ruling of Social Democratic Parties in Europe”

20 min. **Presentation 13: XU Shicheng**, Professor, Institute of Latin American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing
“History of United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV): Challenges & Solutions”

8 min. **Commentator: YAO Huan**, Professor, Beijing Administration Institute; Research Fellow, Chinese Research Institute for Party Building and Party Research Center of Peking University

8 min. **Commentator: Adams OLOO**, Head of Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Nairobi

30 min. Q&A and Discussion

12:30 - 12:40 Closing Session

5 min. Closing Remarks by **ZHOU Jingqing**, Professor, Deputy Director of the Institute for Political Parties, Shanghai Administration Institute

5 min. Closing Remarks by **Catrina SCHLÄGER**, Resident Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Shanghai

12:40 - 13:30 Lunch: Hai Xing Building, 3rd floor

Afternoon Political excursion for participants

18:30 Farewell dinner for speakers and invited guests
Venue: *Lost Heaven on the Bund, No. 17 Yan'an Dong Road*