



## PhD Program between the Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) and the China Scholarship Council (CSC)

### Open PhD position at FUB for CSC scholarship candidates 2018

*Please note: the PhD position is only offered to Chinese PhD candidates for application in the framework of the FUB-CSC PhD Program.*

<b><u>Department/Institute:</u></b>	Department of History and Cultural Studies / Institute of Sinology/Chinese Studies
<b><u>Subject area:</u></b>	Chinese Studies
<b><u>Name of Supervisor:</u></b>	Prof. Dr. Genia Kostka
<b><u>Number of open PhD positions:</u></b>	1
<b><u>Type of the PhD Study:</u></b>	Full-time
<b><u>Project title:</u></b>	Data, Technology and Digitalization & Environmental Governance in China

#### **PhD Project description:**

In China, environmental challenges remain manifold. Among the most widely discussed issues are the availability, reliability, and indeed ownership and regulation of environmental data, all of which are crucial for decision-making, policy evaluation, and understanding relative efficacy of the diverse array of environmental policies.

The use of software-based technology and mobile applications are of special interest within this debate. Different actors (state, society, international actors) have increasingly started to use big data, advanced technologies and digital information to influence the way environmental governance is shaped in China. Examples are software-based pollution forecast tools used by some municipal governments and interaction between the Environmental Protection Bureaus and concerned citizens via Weibo – an online micro-blogging service similar to WeChat. Non-governmental actors such as the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs (IPE) in Beijing have built databases to disseminate official pollution information in order to increase data transparency, which is important for citizens and regulators alike to monitor, improve and enforce compliance with environmental regulations. A number of regulatory changes concerning information disclosure such as the Regulations on Open Government Information (2007) and the Environmental Information Disclosure Law (2008) have accelerated these developments as social actors are increasingly empowered with a “powerful rights-based way [...] to frame their actions” (Wang 2017, i).

As research on this newly emerging – yet critically important—topic has been scarce so far, this PhD project will aim study different aspects of the transformative power of big data, technology and digitalization in environmental governance in China. Using both quantitative and qualitative methods, the project will address questions about the opportunities and risks of new technological, juridical and political approaches in China’s environmental governance – and their global implications.

#### **Language requirements:**

IELTS: 6.5 or TOEFL: 95 ibt.

#### **Academic requirements:**

MA students with background in political science, economics, or environmental sciences

#### **Information of the professor or research group leader:**

Genia Kostka is a Professor of Chinese Politics at the Free University of Berlin. Her research and teaching interests are in China’s energy governance, environmental politics and political economy. Previously, she was a Professor of Governance of Energy and Infrastructure at the Hertie School of Governance (where she remains a Fellow), an assistant professor at the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management and a

strategic management consultant for McKinsey & Company. She has a PhD in Development Studies from the University of Oxford, an MA with specializations in International Economics and International Development from SAIS Johns Hopkins University and a BSc in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her work has appeared in leading area studies and social science journals including Comparative Political Studies, Regulation & Governance, The China Quarterly, The China Journal and Modern China. Alongside her academic work, she regularly consults for international organizations, including the World Bank, OECD, AusAID, GIZ, and Oxfam.

Additional Information:

[http://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/e/oas/sinologie/institut/mitarbeiter/1\\_professoren/Kostka.html](http://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/e/oas/sinologie/institut/mitarbeiter/1_professoren/Kostka.html)

**Please note:** In a first step, the complete application must be submitted to the Beijing Office for evaluation by January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Please do not contact the professor before. He/She will get in contact with you after having received the complete application via the Beijing Office in January.