



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

**Open PhD Position at Freie Universität Berlin,
offered only to Chinese CSC scholarship candidates 2025**

Department/Institute: | John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies |

Subject area: | history |

Name of Supervisor: | Jessica Gienow-Hecht, Ines Eben von Racknitz |

Number of open PhD positions: 1 (more if needed) |

Type of the PhD Study: | full-time |

Project title: | Sino-American Relations prior to the Chinese Revolution (1949) |

PhD Project description:

This project will examine Sino-American relations during the first half of the 20th Century and ask: What was the qualitative nature of the relationship and to what extent did it anticipate crucial latter-day decisions on the part of both governments?

Background: In the first half of the 20th century, as rivalries between major powers intensified, the US concentrated its overseas expansion efforts on the most promising region on the other side of the Pacific Ocean. To contain the rising power of Japan and capitalize on the Chinese market, the U.S. government devised and implemented a multifaceted strategy encompassing political, economic, and military elements to ensure its participation in China. In particular, the US had deliberately chosen, supported, and cooperated with several influential Chinese leaders to safeguard its interests.

Hypotheses: One of the most significant aspects of Sino-American relations, the Taiwan issue, can be traced back to the U.S. government's military and economic aid to support Chiang Kai-shek during China's warlordism in the 1920s. Similar political investments include but are not limited to the Wilson administration's support of Yuan Shikai as the first president of the Republic of China (1912-1949) rather than Sun Yat-sen, and the U.S. Secretary of State Robert Lansing's tolerance of Yuan's restoration of Chinese monarchy. These cases demonstrate that the continuity and dynamic adjustment of the U.S. strategy of selecting Chinese agents reflects the changes and development of U.S. interests in China.

Projected Data: National Archives, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; select Chinese newspapers; National Archives, London; private collections of individual political actors.

Language requirements:

- IELTS: 6,5 oder TOEFL: 95 ibt

Academic requirements:

The required field of expertise is history and the student should have an M.A. in history or international relations.

The student should have an understanding of early 20th century history, best North American and Chinese history

Information of the professor or research group leader (website, awards etc.):

Jessica Gienow-Hecht is professor of North American history at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies with a particular focus on diplomacy and cultural foreign relations in the 19th and 20th century

Please Note: In a first step, the complete application should be uploaded to the online portal (<https://fuberlin.moveon4.de/form/60acfece5d328710e40bdbd5/eng>) for evaluation by January 15th, 2025