

Final Report: Junior Research Stay at the University of Beijing

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The Chinese State's perception of International Monetary Order

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As a member of the Free University of Berlin, I am privileged by our university's program, University Alliance for Sustainability, dedicated for promoting international exchanges between institutions, scholars, and students for the general purpose of raising scholarly attention on the topic of sustainability. Thanks to the UAS program, I got the opportunity of conducting my own research project in the University of Beijing, which is located in the capital of China. The research stay is a beneficial journey for me regarding my study object in the field of political economy.

Political economy, by its origin and meaning, has a strong implication with the concept of *sustainability*. And the concept of sustainability is deeply related to another important concept, *order*. Any form of society is founded on the basis of a particular pattern of order which can be evaluated in terms of sustainability. My research object therefore is to evaluate the perceived sustainability of the international political and economic governance, especially of its monetary dimension, from the perspective of the Chinese State. As perception is the primary cause of action, my study would contribute to the understanding of the Chinese governmental behavior by attempting to grasp its essence through the approaches other than those privileged by the rationalist paradigm. Then, a research stay near the locus of China's central authority will be very interesting and necessary for me and my study. Under such premise, I have chosen the university of Beijing as the destination of my research stay for a duration of two months. Mr. CHEN Wei is in charge of managing my stay in the university campus and I appreciate his aid very much. Prof. Mr. XUE is the host in the school of government of the university of Beijing, where a place is generously offered in the bureau of his team.

During my research stay, I became an affiliated member of the school of government of the university of Beijing. It allowed me to use all facilities in the campus, such as library, bureau, and data banks etc. and to partake in a series of conferences and workshops held in the school and university, such as the modernization of spatio-economy, the progressing Chinese governance paradigm for 'one belt one road', the digitalization of state governance, the Chinese political economy from an American

perspective etc. By joining these academic activities, I have gained a lot of valuable experiences and insights, and more interestingly, the information concerning the Chinese state's perception of the present state of the art regarding sustainability and the international political and economic order.

On one hand, it was proved again that the international environment has a significant impact on the domestic environment. All the unexpected changes since the election of Trump have created a very difficult state of affairs for the State to sustain the willful order at the domestic level. On the other hand, my experiences in Beijing confirmed one theory of my study: How the State perceives the world shapes the most fundamental causal structure of all its possible subsequent actions. Therefore, sustainability is in this sense an intersubjective product within the authoritarian communities both governmental and scientific interwoven with one another in the country. It is noteworthy that the cycles within these scientific or governmental communities are narrowing and sometimes confined within the area of the capital. It is suggestive of the excessive densification of the networks between geo-economic strategists and the other agencies that overly reaccredit one doctrine. The effect could be translated into a misrepresented image of the international order amounting to unwilful and unsustainable social costs in the end.

Apart from the activities in the University of Beijing, I have also been invited by Non-UAS members to join a round discussion with experts and researchers from the other institutions on the subject of Sino-European relations. I have delivered a short presentation on these topics in the course of exchanges.

After all, I have deepened my understanding of sustainability and its relations with political economy through my exchanges with the Professors, experts, and students. The relationship between sustainability and order is the fundamental question to answer in the field of international political economy. I have also collected materials, such as documents, journal articles through the facilities offered by the university and its partner. These are essential to my further research.

Meanwhile, Beijing is a cold (in winter) and fast expanding mega-city. Air pollution, as a consequence, is a non-negligible problem for people who wish to stay there. And, the cost of living is significantly increased. Everything gets much more expensive than several years ago. But transportation is much more improved. For example, from Beijing to Tianjin (or Tientsin, the grand metropolis and international port near the Bohai bay), it takes only 25 minutes.

Grosso modo, the research stay in Beijing is a fruitful journey for me to gain insights into China's academic network and working, and to deepening my comprehension of the intersubjective elements in the conception of sustainability, especially in China's special social background.