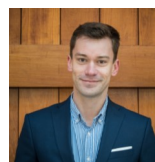




Nordic Centre Newsletter *Summer 2018 issue*

In recent months, Nordic Centre has hosted and organized a range of research workshops that reflects the rich disciplinary variety of our member institutions, and their researchers' interests in Sino-Nordic collaboration within their field. In late March, we hosted a seminar initiated by Umeå University that explored a variety of interactions between humankind and animals through historical and contemporary lenses, with a focus on the role of technology. The month of April was particularly busy, with a workshop on gender equality in relation to welfare solutions and entrepreneurship led by NIAS—Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, one on nutrition and eating in ageing societies organized by Aalborg University, one on welfare challenges organized by the University of Bergen, and a seminar on the Arctic held at and organized by Umeå University in connection to the biannual Council Meeting. Meanwhile, we have also received the Norwegian Minister of Higher Education and Research and a delegation of over 200 persons from Norwegian universities, and organized numerous social and cultural events bringing exchange students closer to the locals. Read about some of these activities and upcoming ones in this issue of our newsletter.

We are also very pleased to welcome our newest affiliate member Duke Kunshan University — our first member in China besides Fudan University. Duke Kunshan University is a Sino-American partnership initiated by Duke University and Wuhan University, located in Kunshan, just outside Shanghai. We look forward to working with them and assisting their research collaborations with our member institutions in the Nordic Region.



Magnus Jorem
Program Manager
Nordic Centre

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About

- Nordic Centre at Fudan University is a platform for academic collaboration between the five Nordic countries and China
- If you wish to subscribe to the Nordic Centre newsletter, which is published four times yearly, please go to

nordiccentre.net

Belt & Road Initiative

OCT 29
/
OCT 30
2018

Sustainable Development and Law: China-Nordic Perspectives

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS:

JUNE 11

READ MORE AT

NORDICCENTRE.NET

/THE PROGRAM/

29/10/2018 MONDAY

09:00-10:00

Welcome - Introduction to Conference
Chinese and Nordic Organizers

10:00-12:00

PART I: Legal and Sustainability
Significance of the BRI

12:00-14:00

Lunch

14:00-17:30

PART II: National Regional
and Global Dimensions

30/10/2018 TUESDAY

09:00-12:00

PART III: Specific Fields of
Law and Sustainability

12:00-14:00

Lunch

14:00-16:00

PART IV: Practitioners' Legal
Perspectives: Projects and Cases

16:00-17:00

Concluding Round Table

Main organizer: University of Oslo, with Nordic Centre at Fudan University



look for more info: <http://www.nordiccentre.net/bri-conference/>

Masthead

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All photos

Are either taken by our staff
or associates, or found as
creative commons on flickr.com

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New episode of Nordic Centre Podcast

Ep 10: Remote sensing technologies in the Arctic This episode features an interview with Ding Tao, Associate Professor at the School of Information and Science at Fudan University, who researches remote sensing in the Arctic. Navigating through the iceberg-filled Arctic Sea Route is dangerous without advanced data and imaging technology. This episode is part of our series on the Arctic region and China's role in its development.

Green light for new courses

At April's meeting in Umeå, Sweden, the Council Members gave the go-ahead for two new courses at Nordic Centre. One will be in collaboration with the co-creation platform Demola, a semester-long innovation process involving students and business managers. The other, initiated by the University of Bergen, will be an intensive spring course lasting a few days, on the subject of Sino-Nordic relations, for students from Nordic Centre member universities currently on exchange in China, and local students. More details to come!



L-R: Students partaking in a traditional tea ceremony led by Fudan's Tea Society; Hanken EMBA students on a site visit to Rhizome Consulting.

New Affiliate Member: Duke Kunshan University

This spring we welcomed a new Chinese affiliate member university to our list, Duke Kunshan University. Duke Kunshan University is a liberal arts and research institution that was founded in 2013 as a partnership between Duke University in the US and Wuhan University in China. They emphasize global collaboration and creating a multicultural learning environment. The university has attracted students from over 80 countries. With a focus on research, the campus is host to two research centers: Global Health Research Center and Environmental Health Research Center.

Nordic Centre is very pleased to include Duke Kunshan University as a member because of the increased opportunities for collaboration between Nordic and Chinese researchers that this new partnership allows.



The multidisciplinary of the Arctic

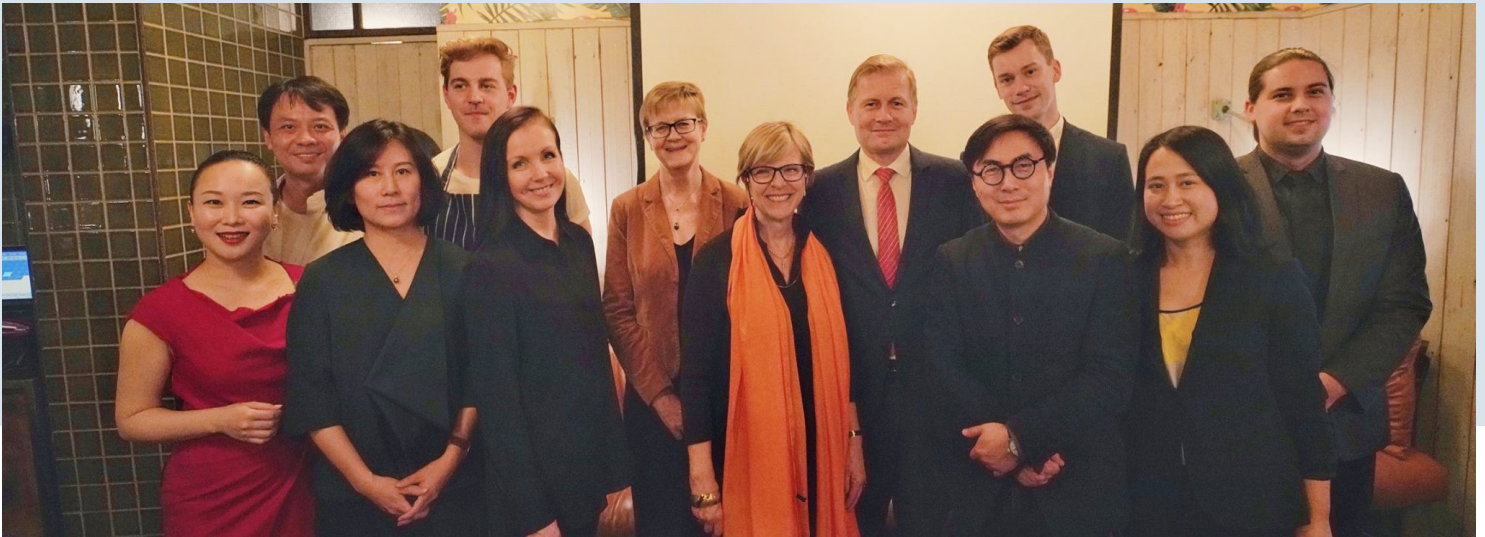
In connection with the Nordic Centre Council Meeting this April, in Umeå, Sweden, Nordic Centre and Umeå University organized a full-day seminar on contemporary Arctic research. The disciplines and topics presented were wide-ranging: from biology to remote-sensing to linguistics to political science, demonstrating the many different lenses one can take on this increasingly important, and rapidly changing, region. The audience was also given an introduction to the research profile of Umeå University, which is particularly strong in Arctic-related topics, and a talk by Senior Arctic Official in Finland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs René Söderman on the country's chairmanship of the Arctic Council, which runs from 2017-2019.



Workshop and lectures on gender equality

NIAS - Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, the University of Copenhagen, Fudan University, Nordic Centre and researchers from member universities collaborated on a workshop and lecture series focused on gender equality April 16-17. The event's aim was to bring together Nordic and Chinese scholars to present their work and discuss gender and welfare. The workshop served as a platform for potential collaboration between researchers and was led by Cecilia Milwertz, Katrine Herold, and Shen Yifei.

For the lectures, researchers Anna Karlsdottir, Desirée Enlund, Hanne Marlene Dahl, and Lene Myong presented on politics and policies of gender equality in the Nordic countries. The lectures were well attended and attracted a full room of students from Fudan University.



Nordic Knowledge Tourism

Programme manager Magnus Jorem represented Norway (and Nordic Centre) at an event titled “Nordic Knowledge Tourism” organized by the Consulates General of Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden in Shanghai. Magnus spoke to the audience of various Chinese media and tourist industry representatives of the Norwegian outdoor culture at the event, which was held at the Nordic restaurant Pelikan. Speakers from IKEA, Tongji University, and Pelikan presented other reasons to visit the Nordic region, focused on the areas of design, food, and innovation.



Visiting scholar workshop featuring Niels Christian Mossfeldt Nickelson

Nordic Centre visiting scholar Niels Christian Mossfeldt Nickelson spoke at the Fudan Qualitative Research Workshop on April 9, 2018, in a talk titled “Reflections on an ethnographic study of an intimate technology: Feeding assistive robotics in care for the disabled.”

Niels is an associate professor at School of Education, Aarhus University, and is researching healthcare technology.



Interview with Ding Tao: Remote sensing technologies in the Arctic



In March 2018, Nordic Centre interviewed Ding Tao, Associate Professor, School of Information Science and Technology at Fudan University. Dr. Tao researches remote sensing in the Arctic, and the interview was part of our series on the Arctic region and China's role in its development. The full interview can be listened to on The Nordic Centre podcast (episode 10). Excerpts are included below:

Q: Can you start by explaining what you do here at Fudan?

My job here is to develop technology for the arctic related research projects for arctic sea route navigation. I'm working with remote sensing data mainly about SAR, which is a radar image, so we try to gather information from the data as much as possible and try to transform it to a way that people can understand it better. Before I joined Fudan I was in the Nordic countries to study about remote sensing, and radar remote sensing related topics, so my background is mainly about image processing, data processing, and information extraction and related projects.

Q: In the field of Arctic Sea route navigation, what are some of the challenges currently being faced?

It's quite complicated and there are many points of view to handle this. We can talk about the difficulties; so basically we can start from user or we can start from researcher. There are two different sides. What we try to do is to help the people on the ship to have a safe trip through the arctic region. Because we know that the arctic sea route is open not only in summer, but in the winter sometimes also sometimes you can go through it much better, and much faster, but we still have sea ice in the area and we still have very difficult weather conditions so as a scientist we try to handle those things using remote sensing data. But when you talk about difficulties I think I will start from the user end, from the ship. So if right now we want to ship something through the Arctic, the first thing you are facing is communication difficulties because on the ship the communication device is not really good so they are limited to very slow internet service, especially to the very high arctic region. If you want to transfer information and talk to the boat you usually wait longer, especially when you are handling big data, like high resolution images. You need to give this information to the boat, the boat needs to receive it and that takes a very long time.

Even though they can receive the information they still need to handle it on board so you need some system to handle the data. If you want to handle it on board you need to upgrade their system and teach their staff to use the system. If you handle it on shore at a station and send them the results, usually the results lag behind. So the ship captain sees a different view compared to what you send. At the moment it is very difficult to handle this time lag. The captains usually look at the results, the map contains the sea ice charting and possible navigation routes but the captain will usually look and see, ok it's totally different compared to what I see right now, so this is just useless. This is what we are facing right now. But with better communication equipment we can transform larger amount of data to the ship. And then help the captain and crew members to navigate the difficult sea route better, so this is from the user end. But from the other end we need to handle the data better. So now more and more satellites are sent to the orbit, especially focused on the arctic region. We gather a lot of data, so we need a better system to handle this data. And when you come to data handling and management there already is an issue we're facing as a scientist also as a private company.

Q: Would real time results allow them to have an extended shipping season?

Exactly. It is very complicated dealing with sea ice especially along the Nordic sea route, so the captains usually don't find the data they have useful. They rely heavily on the sensors they have on board. They have a ship radar on their boat so they can see a limited area around them, but the power of remote sensing is that the satellite can see farther away, can see basically through time because it's a prediction, you can go this way, not that way so the captain should have that information for them. They can see there is a storm coming, an iceberg coming so we should try to avoid it and stay longer and safer. So this will be really helpful if the system can be ready now.



Ministerial visit with multi-university delegation

Norway’s Minister for Science and Higher Education, Iselin Nybø, visited Shanghai on April 19-20, including a half-day visit to Fudan University and Nordic Centre on the second day. And she did not exactly come alone.



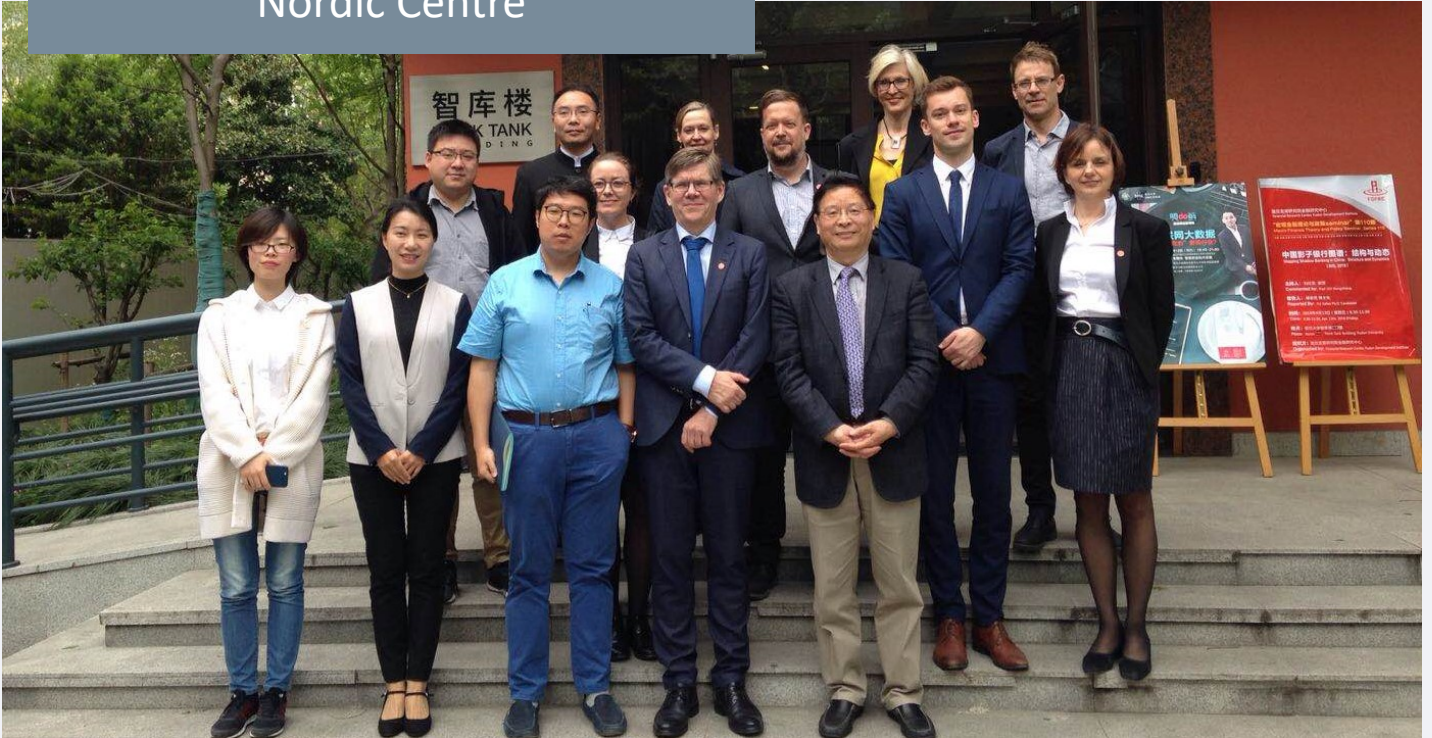
Well over 200 faculty and staff from different Norwegian universities — including Nordic Centre member universities, and some potential members — took part in the delegation, which besides attending a ceremony highlighting the important links between Chinese and Norwegian academics, particularly at Fudan University, took part in thematic workshops, one on the Arctic and one on welfare challenges, held at Nordic Centre and organized with the SNoW network.



The visit was the first of its kind since Norway and China normalized ties in late 2016. Nordic Centre worked closely with the Norwegian Embassy and Consulate in planning the very successful visit.



University of Oslo delegation visits Nordic Centre



On April 12, a delegation from member University of Oslo, led by Rector Stølen, visited Nordic Centre and Fudan University as part of a ministerial visit to China. Members from the fields of natural and social sciences toured the campus and met with their counterparts at Fudan University.

During the trip, they visited Fudan Development Institute (FDDI) and Nordic Centre and met with Fudan's President Xu. The evening concluded at Nordic Centre with a gathering of University of Oslo alumni in Shanghai and current exchange students from the University of Oslo.





United by waffles

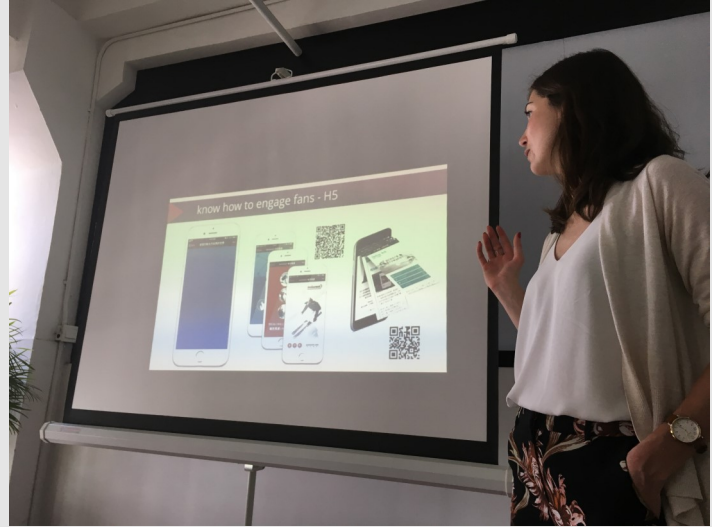
Monthly *hygge* cafes at Nordic Centre

During the spring semester, Nordic Centre was filled with 'hygge' through events designed to introduce both Chinese students studying about the Nordic countries and Nordic students studying at Fudan University. Over 60 students attended the first student mixer in March and were introduced to the Nordic Centre staff and learned about the opportunities available to them at the Centre.

The monthly student café held on the first Thursday of the month brought students together to drink coffee and taste traditional Norwegian waffles. For the first event in April, a rainy, cold day was the perfect contrast to the cozy, atmosphere of candles, waffles, and conversation. Students studying Swedish and Danish were able to practice their language skills with Nordic students. Student volunteers helped to make and serve waffles to the guests.



Lund University Program: International economics with focus on China



Masters students from Lund University took part in a one-week introduction to international economics in China organized by Nordic Centre back in March 2018. Highlights from the week included a visit to Danish pump company, Grundfos where students toured the concept store and were treated to Danish hot dogs; a visit to Tencent Incubator to hear presentations from startups in China; a visit to Rhizome Consulting to learn about trends in Chinese society and markets; a visit to Brandigo to learn about marketing in China; and a visit to NHack, a Nordic incubator that introduces Nordic companies to the Chinese market. In addition to the company visits, the students attended lectures on China's consumer culture, Scandinavian approaches to doing business in China, and IKEA China's contribution to China's society development.

Student Philipp Ludwig, said of the program, "The week at the Nordic Centre presented a unique opportunity to augment our theoretical understanding of China's economic development with hands-on experience from agents in the field. The well-designed program which consisted of interesting lectures and company visits certainly delivered in this regard. Especially the discussions with local researchers and entrepreneurs proved to be highly insightful as they offered a very personal glimpse into the challenges arising from China's ongoing transformation."

Upcoming summer courses

Chinese Politics and Society, June 28 – July 11

Main instructor, 2018: Kaisa Kantola,
University of Helsinki

The annual summer course Chinese Politics and Society gives an intensive introduction to contemporary China, exploring such topics as the Party State, social and environmental issues, and Beijing's international relations. Besides attending lectures by Nordic and Chinese researchers on these topics, the participating students from our member universities go on a variety of visits, including to the Nordic Consulates in Shanghai, the Propaganda Poster Museum, the nearby city of Suzhou, and more. They also get introduced to Chinese culture with an optional crash course in Chinese and a lesson in Taichi (see above).



[Watch a short video about the course here.](#)



Business and Innovation in China, July 13 – July 26

Main instructor, 2018: Dmitrij Slepnirov, Aalborg University

In this two-week program, students from our member universities learn about the challenges of doing business in China through attending lectures and interacting with a range of business people and academics. Additionally, they will go on excursions to company headquarters and startup accelerators. The course highlights the competitive and innovative nature of the contemporary Chinese business environment, and how it is rapidly evolving.

[Watch a short video about the course here.](#)

From Sichuan to Shanghai via Tampere

Interview with Nancy Lai, Programme Officer at Nordic Centre

What is your role at Nordic Centre and what are some projects you are currently working on?

I work here as a program officer, so basically – I help the manager planning and organizing the courses, seminars, conference and cultural events, also promoting them by creating content at Nordic Centre’s website and social media accounts. Also, I enable the communication with Nordic member universities, consulates and receiving scholars, government officials, representatives from Nordic countries and cooperate with student societies at Fudan University and other universities in Shanghai area.

Currently I am working on booking speakers, company visits, and excursions for the two summer courses. I am also helping several member universities promoting their programs on to Chinese students on our WeChat account. And next Thursday, for example, we are hosting our monthly “hygge” café — so I am coordinating with some students, who will take care of some of the practical arrangements.



What did you study prior to working at Nordic Centre?

I studied at the Erasmus+ joint master program, Master of Research and Innovation in Higher Education Management (MaRIHE), which enabled me to study in four different countries — Austria, Finland, China, and Germany — with 19 students from 14 different countries. So, I had studied in University of Tampere, Finland for one semester during winter time. It was unforgettable.

Which is your favorite Nordic country and why?

Well, I have only been to Finland and Sweden. I like them both! I love Finland because it was my first time to really live in a Nordic country, to experience sauna by the iced lake (and jump into the iced lake afterwards)! It was a wonderland to me, and Finnish are so shy, so helpful when I had troubles, so I decided to be an ambassador for the city of Tampere, promoting it to every Chinese friend who have never heard of it. But I love Happy Socks from Sweden, too. Huge fan, haha.

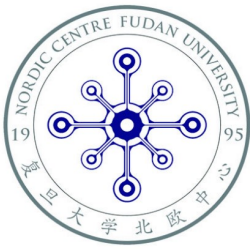


Violin concert

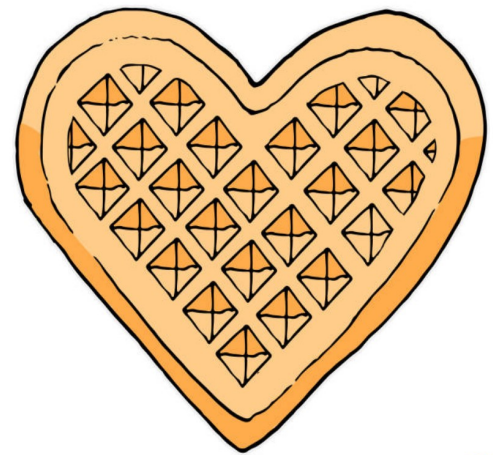
On April 21, Nordic Centre and BI Norwegian Business School co-hosted a classical concert with world-renowned violinist Eszter Haffner from the Royal Danish Academy of Music and three students from the Shanghai Music Conservatory. The four played an assortment of classical European pieces by the likes of Brahms and Mozart for an audience of Nordic and Chinese researchers and students.

A big thank you to the Royal Danish Academy of Music, and to the four excellent musicians!





'HYGGE' STUDENT CAFE



COME JOIN US FOR
WAFFLES AND COFFEE

Thursday, June 7, 2018
3:00 - 5:00 pm.

Nordic Centre
Room 208

**FIRST THURSDAY
OF EVERY MONTH**

Hygge
[hue -guh] noun

is the Danish word for the atmosphere of warmth, wellbeing, and cosiness and the concept of enjoying the good things in life.