

Eintritt Frei

SINOLOGISCHE VORTRAGSREIHE: "Der junge Blick nach China"

MO, 03. Januar 2020, 18.00 Uhr

Economic Engagement in Sino-Cerman Relations (1920s-1930s)



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After the first world war German diplomatic circles sought to reestablish relations with Chinese elites. But, the terms of trade had changed. Even though China was interested in short-term contracts for the import of industrial goods, its long-term interest lay in acquiring the knowledge behind the technology. German descriptions and practical instructions had become influential Chinese discourses on education since the late nineteenth century. German public and private initiatives thus tried to make use of the Chinese admiration for German models of vocational training and experimental learning. Thus skills and know-how became a bargaining chip in transnational contracts. This talk draws on several case studies to illustrate the growing importance of knowledge and skills in the diplomatic arena, but also in individual career choices. It bridges the micro and macro level of Sino-German relations in the Republican era and offers historical perspectives on current debates of technology theft and the "rise of China."

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