European Studies in China

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Definition

• When we talk about European Studies we use the same definition as the European one, i.e. EU and European related studies, excluding institutions on member states studies.

• EU member states studies is also very popular in China since late 1990's.

(This definition discussion is based on “European Model” by Prof. Song Xinning)
European Studies Begins in China since 1960's

• In 1960s suggested by Primier Zhou Enlai, and China established division of labour for international studies: Renmin University of China was pointed mainly to focus on developing nations, Soviet Union and Eastern European; Beijing University on Western Asian and Africa; Fudan University on Western European; and Wuhan University on North American, Nankai University focus on MNCs, Jilin University on Japan, Sichuan University on Southern Asian especially on India. Traditionally, Fudan was strong on European Studies, and Renmin had some European Studies related on the aid to developing world by European economies.

• Total number of researchers around one hundred less.
Development of European Studies in China

• Since later 1990s, European Studies in China developed very rapidly. In 1996 there were only six centres or institutes for European Studies in China (Fudan University, Renmin University of China, Nankai University, Wuhan University, Sichuan University and Institute of European Studies at Chinese Academy of Social Sciences).

• Nowadays, there are more than 60 universities having international Studies, including European Studies programmes at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels, there have been 30 centres or institutes for European Studies in China, and around 1000 professors and researchers. There are about 500 courses offered in Chinese universities related to European Studies.

• Today there are three Chinese universities having Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence (Renmin, Fudan and Sichuan),
9 Universities with 16 Jean Monnet Chair

- Renmin University of China: 2 (one is Jean Monnet ad Personam)
- Fudan University: 3 (one is Jean Monnet ad Personam)
- Sichuan University: 4
- Qinghua University: 1 (From Renmin transfer to Qinghua)
- China University of Political Science and Law: 1
- Wuhan University: 1 (used to be 3, one passed away, another one is out for unqualified teaching and research report)
- Nankai University: 2
- Hebei University: 1
- Comunication University southwest: 1
Main topics of EU studies in China

• 1. European Economic and political integration development
• 2. The European Law system
• 3. The European social policy and social security system
• 4. The European public administration and party politics
• 5. The European history, culture, the spirits of humanity and civilization.
• 6. The European environmental policy and climate change
• 7. The European regional policy and urbanization
• 8. The European religions and effective multilateralism
• 9. The peaceful rise of Europe after WWII
• 10. European neighbourhood policy, policy to Developing countries, etc
Three reasons why European Studies in China is so popular

(I) 

• Firstly, the development of EU-China relations: 

• China established formal diplomatic relationship with EEC in 1975. Since then the EU-China relationship is one of the best bilateral relations of China. Especially after 1995 when the EU published its first China policy paper, the EU-China relations had a 10-year fast track development.
Three reasons why European Studies in China is so popular (II)

• Secondly, the relevance of European Studies to China’s domestic development and external relations: European integration and the development of European Union is regarded by Chinese as a good models or examples for China’s domestic development and participate the regional integration process.
Three reasons why European Studies in China is so popular

• Thirdly, support from European institutions, i.e. the EU-China cooperation programmes: Since 1995, The EU has started to provide funding to different kinds of EU-China Cooperation programme. Of them six projects are very important.

• 1. The EU-China high education cooperation programme from 1997-2001
• 2. The EU-China European Studies Centre programme from 2005-2008
• 3. The EU-China Public Administration Programme from 2006-2014
• 4. The EU-China Law School since 2008
• 5. Jean Monnet Project. So far Chinese universities has got funding for 50 projects from JM Project, and 16 Jean Monnet Chairs established.
• 6. Erasmus Mundus Project for exchange of students and scholars.
EU-China: a new type of strategic partnership

• EU studies in China would serve for the development of the new type of strategic partnership, i.e. the partnership for peace and security, partnership for growth and development, partnership for reform and governance, partnership for civilization and culture.

• Suggestion: the China Studies in Europe is still quite weak, many European universities are still focusing the traditional Chinese studies, i.e. sinology studies, instead of contemporary China studies. And, there have been more than 150 Confucius institutes in Europe, and most of them also focus on Chinese language and traditional culture. Hope Chinese universities could work with European partners and try to do more on Contemporary China Studies.
Some efforts made

• Besides 150 or more Confusion Institutes established, Fudan University established a China Centre with Copenhagen University in Demark. RUC， Sichuan and Fudan have worked with Free University Brussels (VUB) and established a Brussels Academy for China and European Studies (BACES) in 2014 during Xi Jinping’s visit to Europe, and with funding from Chinese private companies.

• Hope the European Union and EU member states will provide more support on China Studies in Europe, and combine the European Studies and China Studies together to make the EU-China high level people to people dialogue more effective.
Q & A : DISCUSSION

• THANKS,
• COMMENTS?
• DISCUSSION?
• SUGGESTION?
• AND ...?

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