

Conference Venue:

IKGF Seminar Room, Building D1
(Hartmannstraße 14, 91052 Erlangen)

Different cultures have different concepts of “fate”, and hence there are different methods of prognostication. The conference seeks to address the philosophical, cultural, political, religious, or moral issues behind the human desire of a person to master his/her own fate when he/she enters into the act of prognostication. Seen in this light, fate plays a role in life because prognostication works as a result of human participation.

Both Oedipus and Macbeth are classic examples of how a human being acts as an agent in realizing a prediction, while thinking that they are the master of their fate. Human agency has a double sense of being master and being an agent of someone or something else. In the Oedipus case, Oedipus becomes the agent of fate because it is he who makes it come true. In classical as well as modern Chinese literature, there are many such stories in fiction or in drama. It is in this double sense that fate works as a paradox in life.

The modern Chinese concept of fate may be different, because it is often seen as an expansion of the traditional

concept by incorporating social and psychological elements. In the case of Lao She, he sees that the human subject is doomed because life is fated and is socially determined. Lao She does not deal with prophecy, or he does not believe in it, but he reveals that the human subject cannot transcend socially-determined fate, no matter how hard a person struggles against it. So are other modern Chinese writers, such as Eileen Chang (Zhang Ailing) and Xi Xi, who see life as predicated in fate and all struggles against fate as doomed. Instead, they depict the psychological state of fictional characters who live under the threat of a looming fate.

Conference Organizers:

Michael Lackner (IKGF, FAU)
Kwok-kan Tam (Open University of Hong Kong)
Monika Gaenssbauer (IKGF, FAU)
Terry Siu-han Yip (Hong Kong Baptist University)
Martin Kroher (IKGF, FAU)

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International Consortium for Research in the Humanities (IKGF)

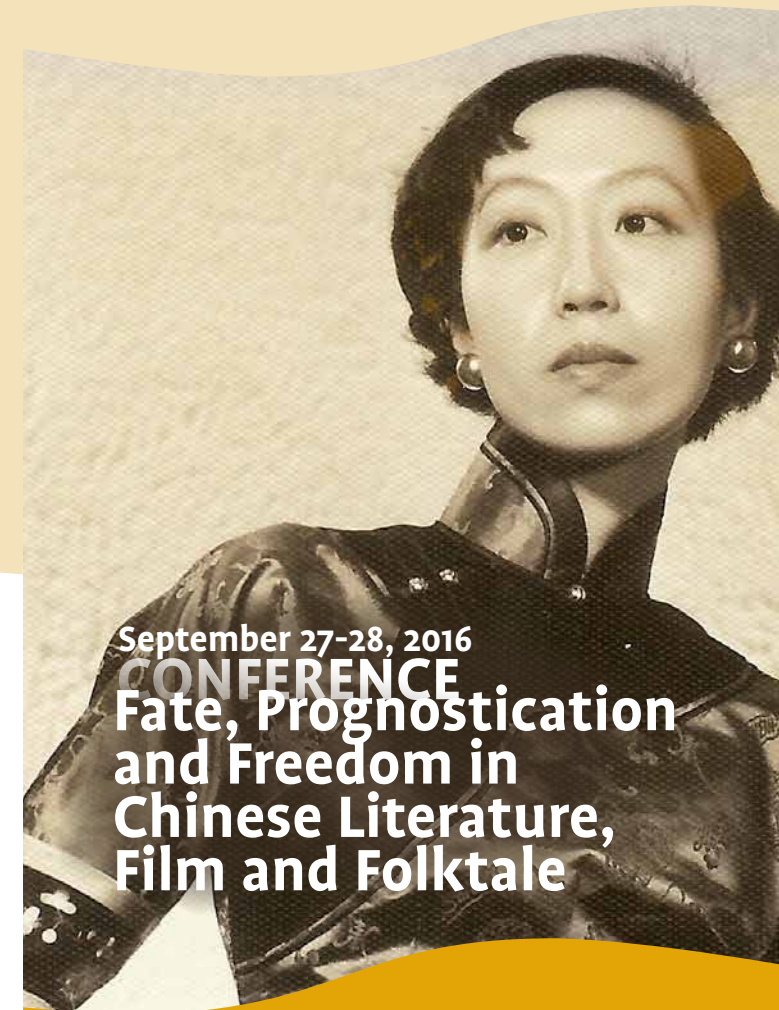
*Fate, Freedom and Prognostication.
Strategies for Coping with the Future in East Asia and Europe*

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INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM for Research in the Humanities

*Fate, Freedom and Prognostication.
Strategies for Coping with the Future in East Asia and Europe*



September 27-28, 2016
CONFERENCE
**Fate, Prognostication
and Freedom in
Chinese Literature,
Film and Folktale**

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INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM
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Tuesday, September 27, 2016

- 10:00 a.m. **Welcome Addresses – Introduction**
Michael Lackner (IKGF, FAU)
Kwok-kan Tam (Open University of Hong Kong)
- 10:30 a.m. **Psycho-Fatalism in Xi Xi's Story *A Girl Like Me***
Kwok-kan Tam (Open University of Hong Kong)
- 11:00 a.m. **Discussion**
Discussant: Monika Gaenssbauer (IKGF, FAU)
- 11:15 a.m. *Coffee Break*
- 11:45 a.m. **Dream-Scenes, Symbols and Prognostication in Wong Kar-wai's *Ashes of Time***
Monika Gaenssbauer (IKGF, FAU)
- 12:15 p.m. **Discussion**
Discussant: Nicoletta Pesaro (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
- 12:30 p.m. *Lunch Break*
- 2:30 p.m. **The Clash Between Personal Fate, Future, and Society in Ge Fei's Latest Fiction**
Nicoletta Pesaro (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
- 3:00 p.m. **The Chinese Concept of Fate in Lilian Lee's *Dumplings, The Last Piece of Chrysanthemum Jelly, and With No Reservation***
Jessica Tsui-Yan Li (York University, Toronto)
- 3:30 p.m. **Discussion**
Discussant: Anna Tso (Open University of Hong Kong)
- 4:00 p.m. *Coffee Break*
- 4:30 p.m. **Prophecy, Power and the Lost Self in the TV Drama *Legend of Miyue***
Serena Qun Xie (Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, Wuhan)
- 5:00 p.m. **Discussion**
Discussant: Roland Altenburger (University of Würzburg)

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

- 9:30 a.m. **The Recurring Fate in *Life After Life* and *The Reincarnation of Golden Lotus***
Kaby Wing-Sze Kung (Open University of Hong Kong)
- 10:00 a.m. **Fate or Destiny in *The Matrimony Inn* and Eileen Chang's *Love in a Fallen City***
Terry Siu-han Yip (Hong Kong Baptist University)
- 10:30 a.m. **Discussion**
Discussant: Christopher Lupke (Washington State University, Pullman)
- 11:00 a.m. *Coffee Break*
- 11:30 a.m. **Determinacy and Free Will in Contemporary Chinese Cinema**
Christopher Lupke (Washington State University, Pullman)
- 12:00 p.m. **Discussion**
Discussant: Carsten Storm (FAU)
- 12:15 p.m. *Lunch Break*
- 2:00 p.m. **Popular Response to Natural Disaster in 18th Century Shandong: Views from Below as Represented in Prosimetric Vernacular Narrative**
Roland Altenburger (University of Würzburg)
- 2:30 p.m. **Divination or Death Traps? The Semiotic Language in Chinese Folklore and Fortune Telling**
Anna Tso (Open University of Hong Kong)
- 3:00 p.m. **Discussion**
Discussant: Martin Kroher (IKGF, FAU)
- 3:30 p.m. *Coffee Break*
- 4:00 p.m. **Oppression versus Obsession: Dream, Fate and Prognostication in *Hongloumeng***
Kelly Kar Yue Chan (Open University of Hong Kong)
- 4:30 p.m. **Fate, Myth and the Gesture of Restoring 'Ambiguity' (歸隱) – Superhuman Force and Landscape Imagery in Late Tang and Song Poetic Works**
Frank Kraushaar (University of Latvia, Riga)
- 5:00 p.m. **Discussion and further planning**
Discussant: Kwok-kan Tam (Open University of Hong Kong)