

## **WORKSHOP CALL**

### **Gender and gender equality in ‘welfare solutions’ and ‘entrepreneurship and business’**

**This call for papers is addressed to PhD students and scholars working with gender perspectives and gender equality issues in relation to Nordic welfare policies and practices, as well as in relation to Nordic entrepreneurship and business.**

The workshop is inspired by the cooperation agreement between the Nordic Council of Ministers and China. This agreement emphasizes Nordic regional (rather than bilateral) cooperation with the People’s Republic of China, and was formalized at a meeting between the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, held in Beijing in May 2017. Five areas of cooperation were defined. One of these is ‘welfare solutions’, while another is ‘entrepreneurship and business’.

#### **Workshop aims:**

- To present work on gender and gender equality in welfare solutions as well as in entrepreneurship and business in the Nordic countries and China
- To highlight areas of gender and gender equality in welfare policies and practices as well as in entrepreneurship and business that are controversial or challenging
- To bring together Nordic-based gender studies scholars, working on gender and welfare as well as on entrepreneurship and business in the Nordic countries, with scholars from Fudan University, Shanghai who study these issues in the People’s Republic of China
- To explore possibilities to engage in future collaboration.

#### **Background:**

While there are differences in recognizing and addressing gendered aspects of and gender equality issues in relation to ‘welfare policies and practices’ as well as ‘entrepreneurship and business’ between individual Nordic countries and also within China, in principle both China and Nordic countries view gender equality as a social justice issue and are politically committed towards achieving gender equality nationally and internationally.

In practice recent years have seen a backlash in some Nordic countries in terms of ensuring equality and gender equality as a consequence of austerity politics. At the same time, the Nordic countries are strongly involved in the work of the United Nations on gender equality. In relation to the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women during March 2017 on the theme of “Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work”, the Nordic prime ministers offered ‘Nordic solutions to global challenges’.

China is rapidly expanding its global political and economic influence through various platforms, including its role on the UN Security Council, participation of the G20 and the G77+China, as well as bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. The creation of new financial institutions such as the Asia Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB) and new trade and investment and economic policies demonstrate China’s economic ambitions. Xi Jinping’s 2017 World Economic Forum address was seen as a defense of globalization and a decree that China is prepared to lead cooperation on international issues.

China is increasingly present in the Nordic countries in the form of exports and imports that also affect political relations. China is also in the process of linking Asia more closely to Europe with the Belt and Road Initiative. This project, which in its material form is basically a network of railroads, highways, gas and oil pipelines as well as ports, includes a 'Silk Road' that stretches from China across Central Asia, ends in Rotterdam, and will perhaps include railroads into the Nordic countries, as well as a 'Maritime Silk Road' that leads from China to Venice. While this enterprise suggests that Nordic countries have an interest in expanding their knowledge and understanding of China and China's global presence, China is interested in the specific circumstances that have formed, and despite changes and challenges continue to constitute the basis of the Nordic welfare states.

**Venue:**

The Nordic Centre Fudan, Fudan University, Shanghai

**Dates:**

Workshop – Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 April 2018

**Nordic Centre Fudan grant:**

A grant from the Nordic Centre Fudan will cover expenses related to the participation of one PhD student/scholar from each of the five Nordic countries to attend the workshop. In addition to presenting a paper at the workshop, workshop participants whose participation is covered by the grant will also be expected to give a public talk at Fudan University on Wednesday 18 April 2018. Other participants are expected to cover participation on an individual basis.

**Submission of abstracts:**

Abstracts on any aspect of gender and/or gender equality in relation to contemporary Nordic welfare solutions and/or entrepreneurship and business are welcome. Papers will be selected so as to ensure as broad a range of different perspectives on Nordic policies and practices as possible. Please submit 300 word abstracts to [milwertz@nias.ku.dk](mailto:milwertz@nias.ku.dk) together with your name, position, department and university.

Please also indicate if you would like to be considered for the grant from the Nordic Centre Fudan. Submission date: Monday 19 February

**Workshop convenors:**

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*Shen Yifei*, Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, School of Social Development and Public Policy, Department of Sociology, Fudan University, Shanghai

**Workshop managers:**

*Katrine Herold*, Project Coordinator & Centre Administrator, the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, the University of Copenhagen

*Magnus Jorem*, Programme Manager, the Nordic Centre Fudan, Fudan University, Shanghai

18 January 2018