



The Hopkins China Forum and



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Stories of Hope and Death: Refugees and the Rise of Emotional Politics in Europe

Maximilian Mayer

Research Professor
Tongji University German Studies Center

Thursday, July 14th, 2016 19:15pm –20:30 pm



9 Qinghai Lu (just to the South of Nanjing West Road) 青海路 9 号, 近南京西路, 地铁二号线南京西路站

19:00 - Doors Open

19:15 - Lecture

20:00 - Q&A

20:30 - Mixer/Drinks/Dinner

Over the last three years, millions of refugees are both being welcomed and feared in European countries. Powerful stories at the core of the "emotional politics" brought on by the crisis show Europe at its best and worst. Adding to Europe's multiple financial, economic, and institutional crises, the response to refugee crisis touches upon a deep layer of politics that has emerged to dominate political discourse, daily concerns, and social activism across European publics. While millions of citizens enthusiastically support refugees coming ashore, growing populist-right wing movements and parties thrive on the fear of cultural annihilation. As thousands are dying in the deserts and seas of European borderlands, death has returned as a maker of the body politic in its symbolic and actual form. This ambiguous mix of hope and misery not only requires new methodologies to understand its evolving dynamics; emotional politics are also poised to shape, and arguably essentially transform European politics far beyond the immediate future.

Dr. Maximilian Mayer is a Research Professor at the German Studies Center of Tongji University. He holds a master's degree from Ruhr University Bochum. His dissertation on *How IR Might Overcome its "Lightness" - Technological Innovations, Creative Destruction, and Explorative Realism* achieved the highest grade ("summa cum laude"). He has received scholarships from the German National Academic Foundation twice from 2004 to 2007 and 2008 to 2009. His research interests and expertise include the global politics of science, innovation, and technology; China studies (foreign, energy and environmental policy); global energy and climate politics; International Relations theories. He is co-editor of the two-volume **The Global Politics of Science and Technology** (2014) and **Art and Sovereignty in Global Politics** (forthcoming), was a visiting scholar at the Harvard Kennedy School's Program on Science, Technology and Society, and is co-chair of STAIR (Science, Technology, Arts and international relations) section of the International Studies Association.

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