**5th CONGRESS OF ASIAN AND THE PACIFIC STUDIES 2015**

Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales

Paris, France, September 9-11, 2015

Proposed panel

**INSIDE-OUTSIDE CHINA**

**Views from Mexico**

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Coordinator

The panel aims to offer four different complementary perspectives of contemporary China. The particular interests of the panelist as Latin American researchers mark these perspectives. The urbanization of the population as a tool to reduce social disparities is the framework of the first presentation; this one analyzes trends in the distribution of population among provinces, highlighting the transition from a rural society to a predominantly urban; on this basis, the author evaluates both the socio- economic disparities and the dimension of the challenge faced by Chinese authorities to maintain social stability.

 In the second presentation, the author takes away from the liberal view that the expansion of the market economy leads to political liberalization and gets a principle of Chinese culture that privileges the binomial "wealth and power;" economic successes and global projection of China function as factors of legitimacy of authorities, allowing to explain the political system transformations and its adaptation to changing domestic and international contexts.

 The third presentation explores the China-Japan bilateral relationship, on the basis of the legal status of Okinawa and during three historical moments. The author shows that in each of these periods, the territory of Okinawa has passed from the sovereignty of a State to another, depending not only on the balance of power between them, but also on the interplay of interests between Western powers, highlighting the United States.

 The fourth presentation analyzes the rise of China as a global power. The author considers the construction of a national identity, combined with the construction of a material power, explains the consolidation of the Chinese state; this one has established itself as a global power after going through three stages, as passive observer of the international system; as participant subject to existing international rules; as actor with the capacity to influence global rules and institutions.

 **Key words**: socio-demographic conditions, political adaptation, mediated bilateral relations, rise of a global power

**CHINA: POPULATION SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION AND POLICY CHALLENGES**

(Disciplinary field: socio-demography)

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The aim of our paper is to highlight some of the trends that mark the development of China's population and the challenges they pose to the authorities in terms of social policies.

In that sense, we analyze the effects of economic modernization on the spatial distribution of the population; the issue is crucial, to the extent that the transition from a predominantly rural population to one increasingly urban is considered by the Chinese authorities as one of the key means to reduce disparities between different sectors of the population. Our study emphasizes the differences in social change among different provinces, in order to assess the scale of the challenge faced by the authorities.

**THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF CHINA:**

**SOME CONSIDERATIONS ON ITS NATURE AND PROSPECTS**

(Disciplinary field: political science)

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A review of most of the academic positions on the political system of China indicates that the general premise of most foreign authors is that the current political system in China does not respond to the new social and economic conditions of the country, and that there is no other solution than a multiparty system. Such assumption is generally based on the axiom that market liberalization necessarily encourages or leads to political liberalization. In this text I look for analyze the political system of China and their relationships with various internal and external issues, considering the self-definition that Chinese elites have built since they were practically forced to consider their country as one more among the world. In this self-definition has been recovered the old aspiration of "wealth and power", as re-signified from an ancient moral content to a contemporary material power and people legitimacy.

**DEFINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JAPAN AND CHINA.**

**OKINAWA IN THREE DIFFERENT CONTEXTS**

(Disciplinary field: international relations)

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The tentative hypothesis underlying our work means that, today, the Japan-China bilateral relationship is defined from an old rivalry in which also participates actively United States. On that basis, the article analyzes the relationship of rivalry between Japan and China through three historical moments that has crossed Okinawa. The first one is the dominant/dominated rivalry between China and Japan existing until the nineteenth century (Sino-Japanese War) and extended until the defeat of Japan in 1945; the second moment goes from 1945-1972, while Okinawa was under US control; the third moment covers from 1972 to the present and is marked by the political disputes defining the current Japan-China relationship.

**IDENTITY, VIOLENCE, AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION:**

**CHINA AS A GLOBAL POWER**

(Disciplinary field: international relations)

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In this paper I portray how China has become a global power, arisen as a group of players with interests almost everywhere and policies for almost everything. For the purposes of my argument, China reached the status of global power around 1994, even before the official discourse called peaceful rise was coined.

From a multidimensional perspective, I contend that China is a global power because of three historical components: a) the political elite and some social groups have been able to build an identity that is malleable and that flows, at least to some extent; b) the State has resorted to violence, both at home and abroad, to draw and materialize its borders and build its sovereignty in a European political tradition; c) in the process of becoming a global power, first almost as mere observer, then as a growing active member and then as a builder of international institutions.

The paper is made of these three components that correspond to the same number of parts. Its foundation is a debate on the main theoretical issues regarding the topics analyzed here.