

Methodology Workshop 2026

For Early-Career Researchers in Asian Studies

📅 12–13 June 2026 📍 University of Würzburg, Germany

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Prof. Dr. Cornelia Reiher

Freie Universität Berlin · JapaneseStudies

"Two or Three Things I Know About Methods in Area Studies Research"

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Day 1

Friday, 12 June

13:30–14:00 **Registration & Welcome**

14:00–14:30 *Coffee Break*

14:00–15:30 **Keynote Lecture**
Prof. Dr. Cornelia Reiher

15:30–16:00 *Coffee Break*

16:00–17:30 **Remote Ethnography**
Prof. Dr. Björn Alpermann

18:00–20:00 *Dinner (self-paid)*

Day 2

Saturday, 13 June

09:00–10:30 **Discourse Analysis**
Prof. Dr. Cornelia Reiher

10:30–10:45 *Coffee Break*

10:45–12:15 **Academic Presentation Skills**
Dr. Hannes Gohli

12:15–13:30 *Lunch Break*

13:30–15:00 **Roadmap to a First Digital Humanities Project**
Dr. Mariana Zorkina

15:00–15:15 *Coffee Break*

15:15–16:45 **Archival Research in Asian Studies:**
Dr. Lucas Brang

16:45–17:00 *Coffee Break*

17:00–18:30 **Wrap-up & Closing**

SESSION LEADERS



Prof. Dr. Cornelia Reiher
Discourse Analysis



Prof. Dr. Björn Alpermann
Remote Ethnography



Dr. Hannes Gohli
Presentation Skills



Dr. Mariana Zorkina
Digital Humanities



Dr. Lucas Brang
Archival Research

DGA Young Scholars Group is a part of the German Association for Asian Studies (DGA), providing early-career researchers, PhD candidates, and MA students working on Asia a platform to exchange ideas, build networks, and develop methodological skills.

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Discourse Analysis

Prof. Dr. Cornelia Reiher

Prof. Dr. Cornelia Reiher is Professor of Japanese Studies at Freie Universität Berlin. Her research focuses on contemporary Japan, particularly food systems, sustainability, rural development, and social change, and she has conducted extensive fieldwork in Japan. She has also contributed to methodological discussions in Japanese and area studies, including as co-editor of the volume *Studying Japan: Handbook of Research Design, Fieldwork and Methods*.



Remote Ethnography

Prof. Dr. Björn Alpermann

Prof. Dr. Björn Alpermann is Chair of Contemporary Chinese Studies at the University of Würzburg. His research focuses on politics and social change in contemporary China, including governance, political culture, and minority regions. He is a principal investigator in the EU-funded project *Remote Ethnography of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (Remote XUAR)*, where he works with innovative remote ethnographic methods to study hard-to-access contexts. His work contributes to advancing methodological approaches to researching China under restricted fieldwork conditions.



Digital Humanities

Dr. Mariana Zorkina

Mariana Zorkina received her PhD in Chinese Studies from the University of Zurich and works at the intersection of Digital Humanities and Sinology. Her research focuses on the history and organisation of knowledge and its connection to literary thought in premodern China. Her current project centers on the quantitative analysis of category books (leishu 類書). She is the founder of the *Methods in Sinology* project and serves on the board of *Digital Orientalist*, where she promotes computational approaches in area studies.



Archival Research

Dr. Lucas Brang

Dr. Lucas Brang is a postdoctoral researcher and lecturer in Chinese Studies at the University of Freiburg. His research focuses on the international history of East Asia, in particular the role of international law and diplomacy, as well as the development of political and legal thought in modern China. In his work, he combines approaches from law, history and area studies, drawing on multilingual archival sources to analyze political and legal discourse in historical context.



Presentation Skills

Dr. Hannes Gohli

Dr. Hannes Gohli is a postdoctoral researcher at the Chair of China Business and Economics at the University of Würzburg and head of the university's China Competence Centre. His research focuses on governance, energy transition, and digital policy in contemporary China. In addition to his research, he is actively involved in teaching and academic training formats.