

# DAS INSTITUT FÜR OSTASIENWISSENSCHAFTEN/ SINOLOGIE

The Department of East Asian Studies/Chinese Studies is pleased to invite to the lecture of



**Prof. Elizabeth Plantan**  
Stetson University

維也納大學漢學系

## Authoritarian Politics and INGO Adaptation in China and Russia

Recent studies document a rise in laws restricting foreign aid to civil society around the world. Authoritarian regimes like China and Russia have been at the forefront of this trend. In China, the 2017 Overseas NGO Law increased regulations on overseas organizations that operate in mainland China. In Russia, the 2012 “foreign agent” law and 2015 “undesirable” organization law stigmatized foreign funding and banned many international donors from operating in Russia. These laws – which control the operations of foreign foundations, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and their grantees – have changed the atmosphere for international philanthropy in both countries. While some international groups are able to adapt to maintain their in-country operations, others have been pushed out or have pivoted their efforts elsewhere.

These developments raise several interrelated questions. First, how has international support of civil society in China and Russia changed over time? From a historical perspective, how have international groups altered their activities in response to autocratic constraints? In addition, do Chinese and Russian officials learn from one another in regulating this sector? Relatedly, do INGOs and foundations learn from each other – even across country offices – to adapt to these contexts? This talk addresses these questions through the use of in- depth interviews and historical archival materials to trace the evolution of international support of civil society – and the regime’s response – in China and Russia over time. The findings contribute to literature on international philanthropy, authoritarian governance, and civil society under authoritarianism.

**Elizabeth Plantan** is an assistant professor of political science at Stetson University and a 2022-2023 Wilson China Fellow at the Wilson Center in Washington, DC. Her research interests encompass the global study of civil society, authoritarian regimes, and environmental affairs, with a focus on the comparative and international politics of China and Russia. Previously, she was a 2018-2020 China Public Policy Postdoctoral Fellow at the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School. Her research is published or forthcoming in *Comparative Politics*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, *Post-Soviet Affairs*, *Russian Politics*, among other venues. She has also published op-eds and public-facing scholarship in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *ChinaFile*, *Russian Analytical Digest*, and elsewhere. She holds an M.A. & Ph.D. in Government from Cornell University.

Please register your participation: <https://bit.ly/3O2hsna>



**DATE:** Monday, June 12, 2023

**TIME:** 18:30 – 20:00

**LOCATION:** SIN 1, at the Department for East Asian Studies/Chinese Studies, Altes AKH, Campus, Spitalgasse 2, Yard 2, Entrance 2.3

