
Resilience as co-creation or

Psychological and transcultural aspects
of the German China Strategy and
China Competence

Lecture at the 7th World Conference of
Chinese Studies
Germany, Poland, China
August 2023

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In the process, **countries** are looking at themselves and their own interests and differentiating themselves from others.

At the same time, it is about finding a **new fit with each other**
and the interests of others.

Politics therefore is always **bridging the cultures**

Agenda

- German China strategy and China Competence
- Value based strategy
- Correspondent modes
- Psychological and transcultural perspective
- Possible areas of tension
- Open questions

German China Strategy

- National **Security Policy**
- **All** ministries involved
- Partner, competitor and systemic rival
- **De-risking** versus decoupling
- Focus on economy market access, fair competition **In line with EU policy**
- **New ways of cooperation with China**
- **Cooperation** on climate and international issues
- One big aim is the **resilience of society** in changing times
- **Liberal democratic way of life**, sovereignty, prosperity and security
- **Respect for human rights**

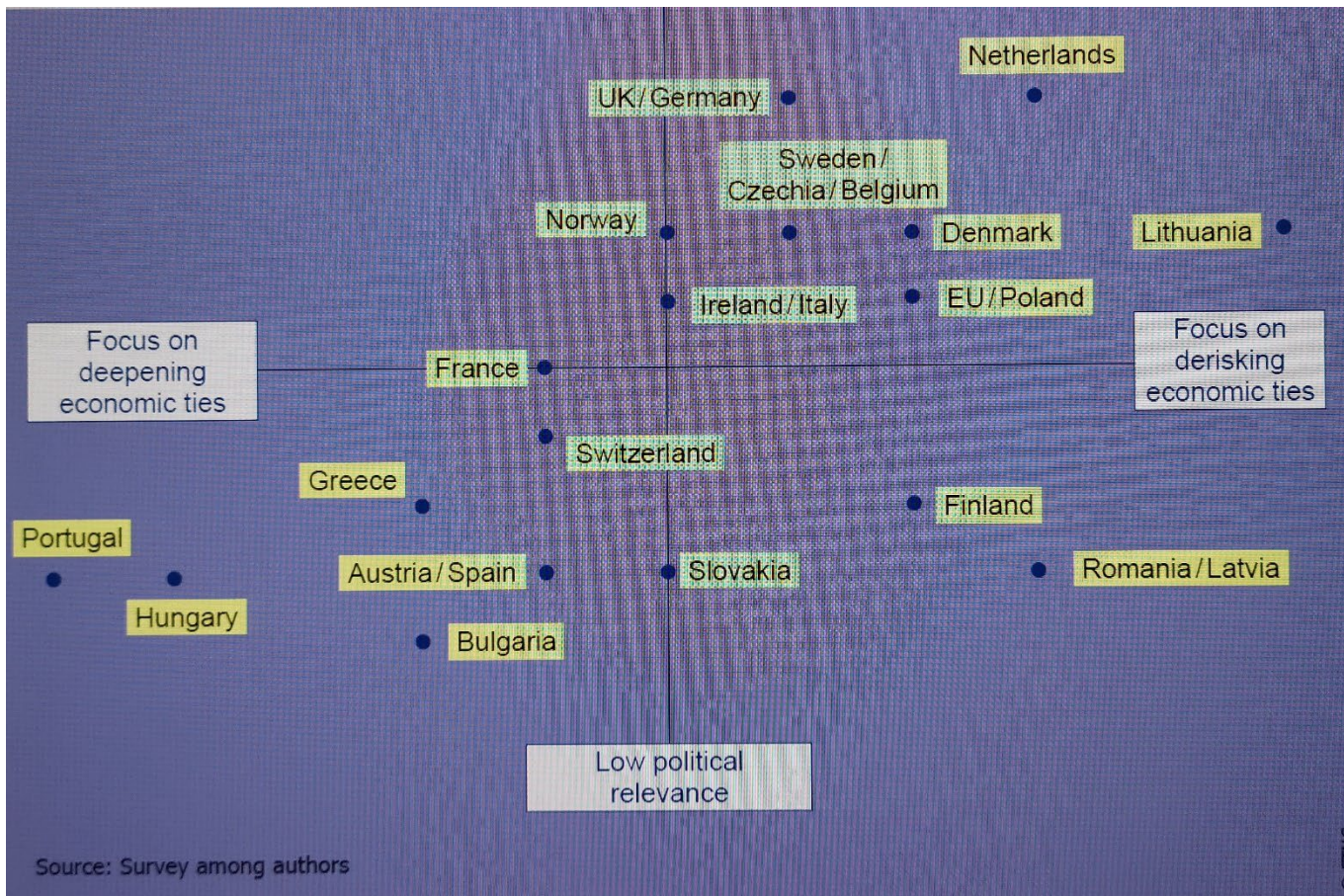
First comments

- Clear statement of **self-positioning**
- Finally done and **opens** up a more general and specific **discussion**
- It is a basic compromise of different ressorts
- Underlying **discrepancy** between Chancellor and ministry of foreign affairs
- **No reference to strategic management and strategic control**
- Does not specifically refer to the necessity of **strategy communication**
- Reference to **China Competence only** on the last page
- **Resilience** is a political, social **and** psychological **need**
- **Official press communication** via Merics (Mercator Institute for China Studies)
- **No specific reference to psychological and cultural perspective** (only intercultural perspective mentioned as being relevant)

China Strategy in the EU

- There is **not yet** a EU-Strategy
- The different strategies **vary considerably**
- Discussions on China in all European countries have **matured**
- Only a **minority** of European countries has published an official China strategy
- **Risk analysis:** an approach in the making

Source: From a China strategy to no strategy at all
Exploring the diversity of European approaches
A report by the European Think-tank
Network on China (ETNC)
July 2023



Value-based strategy

- **Values** serve good social interaction.
- **Values** embody both: rights and duties
- They reflect the cultivated, respectful and considerate coexistence.
- **Ethics** critically examine, formulate and justify values.
- **Morals** show how a society lives these values in a binding way.
- **Ethos** reflects the personal conviction in this respect.
- **Values always** mirror the interplay between society and political power
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China too

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People-to-people-communication and

A humanistic encounter:

This is true for Germany and China as well

Correspondent modes (f.e. economy, psychology)

There are models of action and behaviour / psychological aspects that can be helpful in a comparative view

- Management of **mergers** and fusions
- **Resonance and solution-oriented approach**
- "both / and" **instead** of "either / or"
- "Active" listening in the sense of "**Humble Inquiry**"
- "I see what you do not see and vice versa" (**blind spot**)
- "It`s hard to kiss another system"
- "It takes always two to dance **Tango**"
- **Ambiguity tolerance**
- **Juxtaposition**

Cultural perspectives

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- **Multicultural**

it is about cultural perception, cultural rules, patterns and psychological identity, solution-oriented

- **Transcultural**

It is about cultural co-designing, cohesion, emotional resonance and hybrid identity

Transcultural communication

In short words, it means:

mutual and reciprocal communication between the two cultures,

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Transcultural perspective

...practically seen:

To put it briefly,
this is about the interplay of: listening –
experiencing this also as an emotional and cultural resonance –
being carried by this to respond in speech –
feeling the resonance of the other person and culture –
Listening to / understanding his or her words in return and also sensing this
as an expression of an emotional as well cultural resonance

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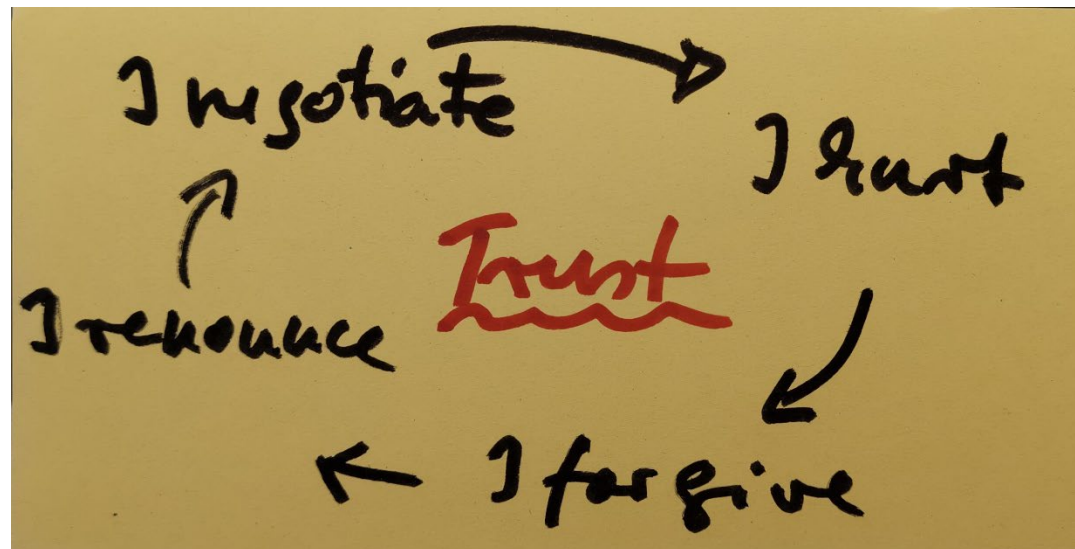
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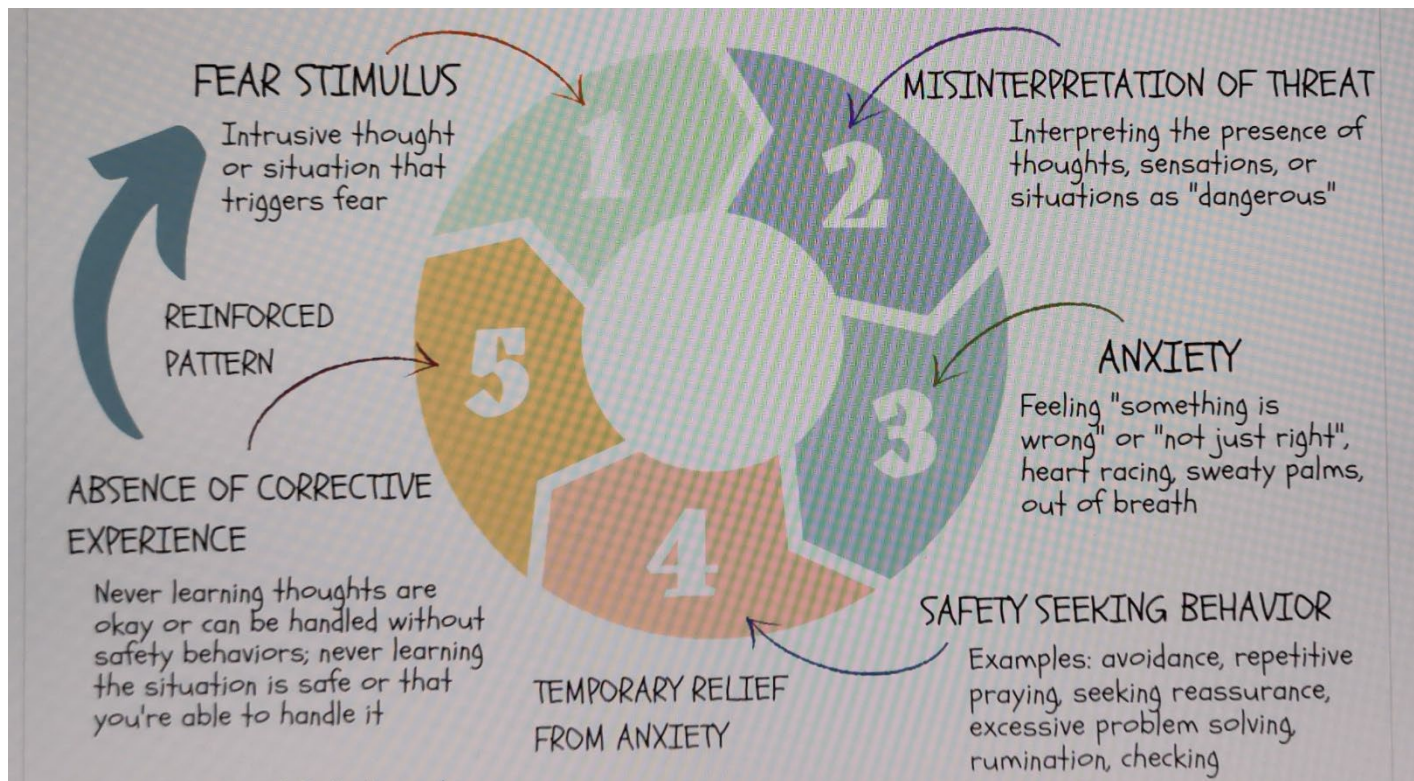
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Possible areas of tension

- **Interplay** between current geopolitical necessities, cultural behaviour patterns and political strategy
- Regulation of proximity and distance in the sense of re-globalisation as an expression of respect for **identity and commonality**
- **Both cultures own the same respect**
- Communication of political strategy faces and / or takes advantage out of **(polarising) media communication**
- Despite all political dissent and media polarisation, people long for "**people-to-people diplomacy**"





Trust

is the coin of realm

Or: “people-to-people-diplomacy”

This means:

Let`s talk about how you and I understand

i.e. trust, dialogue

And what / how are the differences

Or:

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i.e. trust, dialogue

And what / how are the differences

Or:

How can somebody else very concretely sense and realise
that you offer trust **and** I offer trust?

Resilience as co-creation (some questions)

- How can **transcultural communication** in relation to intercultural and multicultural communication be reinforced?
- How can one remain culturally "**true**" to **oneself and** at the same time be able to **connect** with China?
- How can this be understood and transferred as a **co-creation-process**?
- How can **polarisation in the media** be counteracted?
- What is the effect of encounters in China under a **psychological view**?
- How can **low-threshold activities and projects** be revived in addition to "big" politics?
- For example: How can a support programme for **Chinese students** in Germany be developed in line with their psychological condition?

"Not (only) the foreigner is foreign,
but
I am also foreign (to myself)"

**Content analysis of the experience reports of
Chinese students after their return to China**

Ulrich Sollmann (Bochum), Huijing Chen
(Shanghai), Jiajia Wu (Shanghai),
Yuqi Wang (Hangzhou), Muyu Lin
(Haikou City), Zhao Xudong (Shanghai)

<https://api.china-bw.net/uploads/cnbw-web/originals/7fb57158-48d2-4c88-b8c5-214e7995de85.pdf>

And

<https://ijbmc.org/index.php/ijbmc/article/view/383/283>

Or

**A transcultural view on ambivalence and ambiguity –
“Don’t push the river, it flows by itself”**

(in: Conference Booklet of the Intern Conference of Chinese Studies)

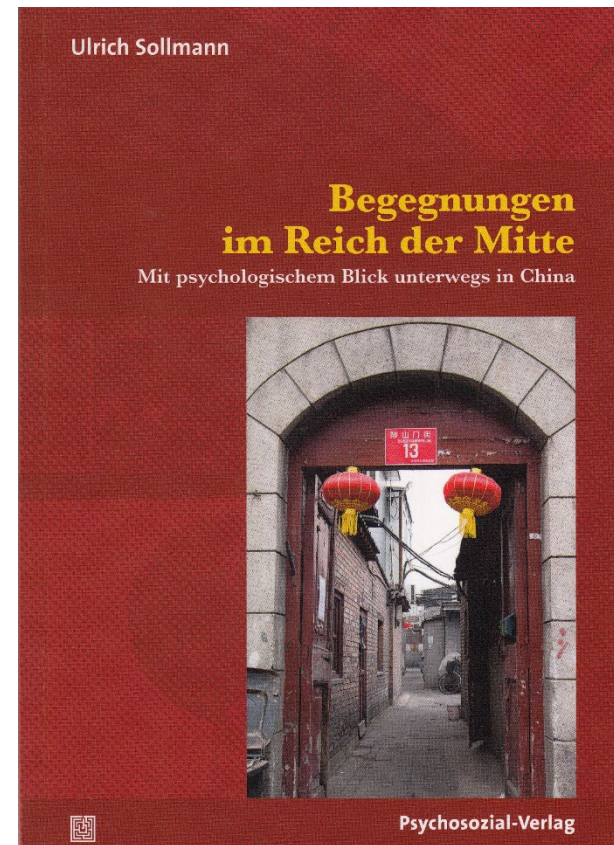
If you are interested in my psychological view
on China just have a look into my book (in German).

If you are interested to get a brief introduction in
English or Chinese, just send me a message.

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Or

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Thanks for listening
and your
attention



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3 Approaches for Working with Cultures*

Perspectives	Intercultural	Multicultural	Transcultural
Culture appears as...	Challenge for intercultural learning	Part-system, interference in the expectations	Undetected prerequisites for interaction and identity
Culture concept	Essentialist: Countries, nation states	Systemic: Game rules, patterns	Cohesive: Differences and diversity
Methods	Teaching, advising, training ► Apply and adapt	Use of models for the reflection and detection of values ► Reflect and test	Deconstruction of all preconceptions, images of normality and power asymmetries ► Consider cultural and diversity factors on all levels of activity
Intercultural competence encompasses	Knowledge and techniques	Ability to reflect and flexibility	Competences and personality development
Advantages	Recognition of cultural factors	Multiple perspectives	Essentially difference and equality oriented
Role and particular competences of the expert	Promotes intercultural competence as cultural expert; trains and recommends	Broadens perspectives, choices and options for actions, provokes and intervenes	Assesses collaboratively which identity factors and boundaries are relevant
Challenges	Overestimation of cultural factors	Lack of (inter) cultural expertise	Limited reach of individual influence