**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

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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 ministery 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
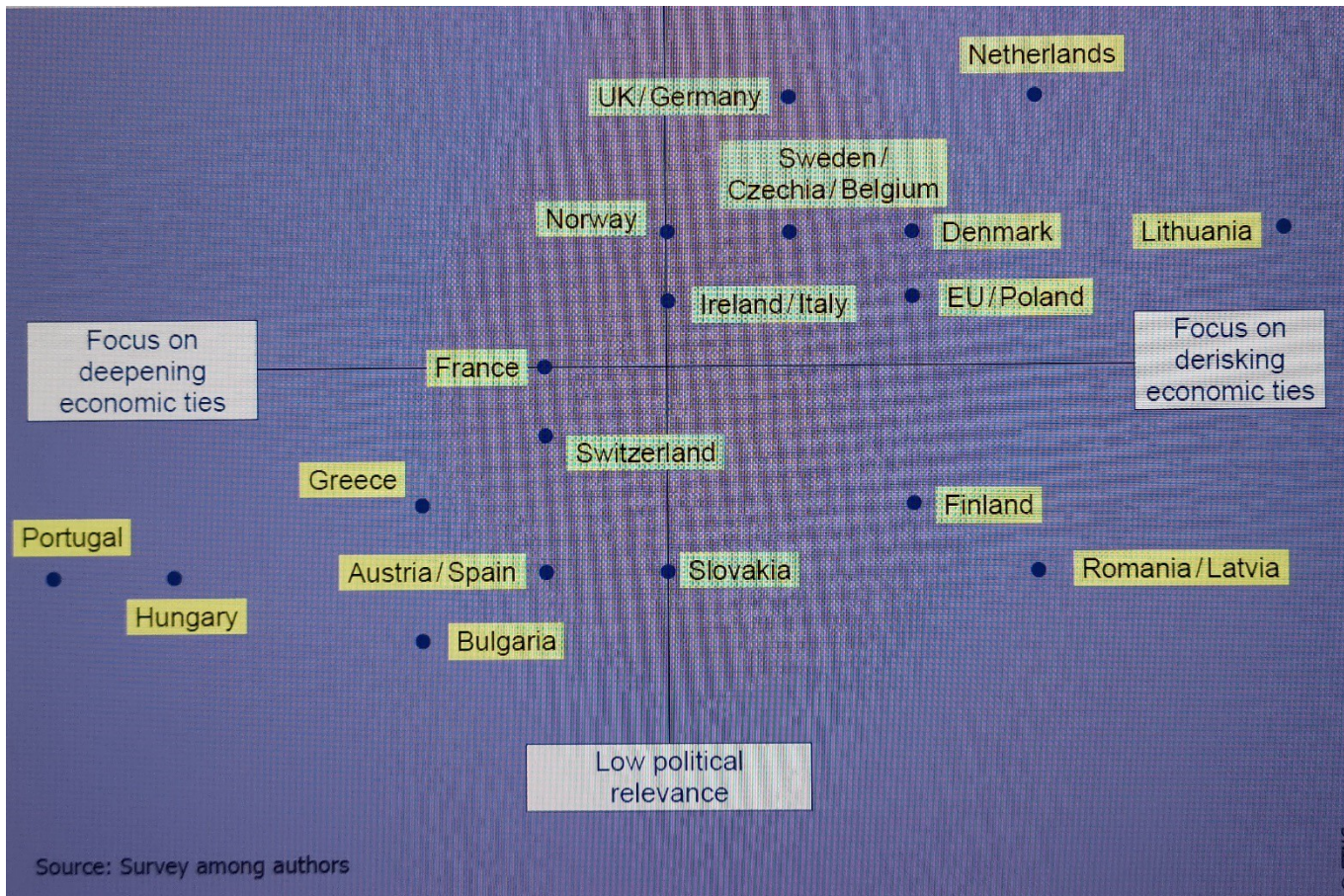
- **Risk analysis**: an approach in the making

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

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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 humanîstic encounter:

This is true for Germany and China as well

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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 verse" (**blind spot**)
- "It`s hard to kiss another system"
- "It takes always two to dance **Tango**"
- **Ambiguity tolerance**
- **Juxtapostion**

Cultural perspectives

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- **Transcultural**

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

  hybrid identity

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Transcultural communication

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as acceptance and relinquish on both sides

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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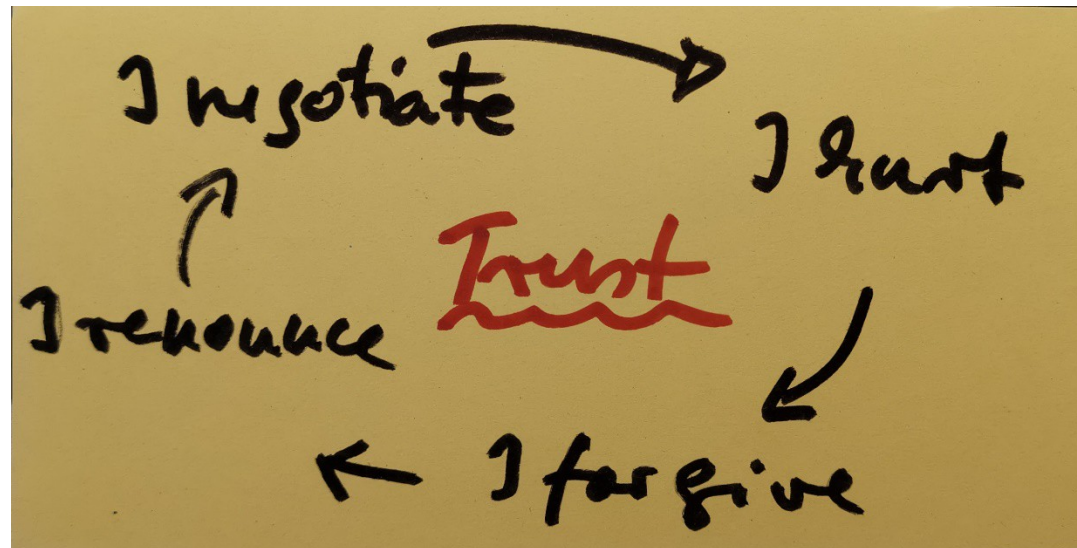feeling the resonance of the other person and culture –

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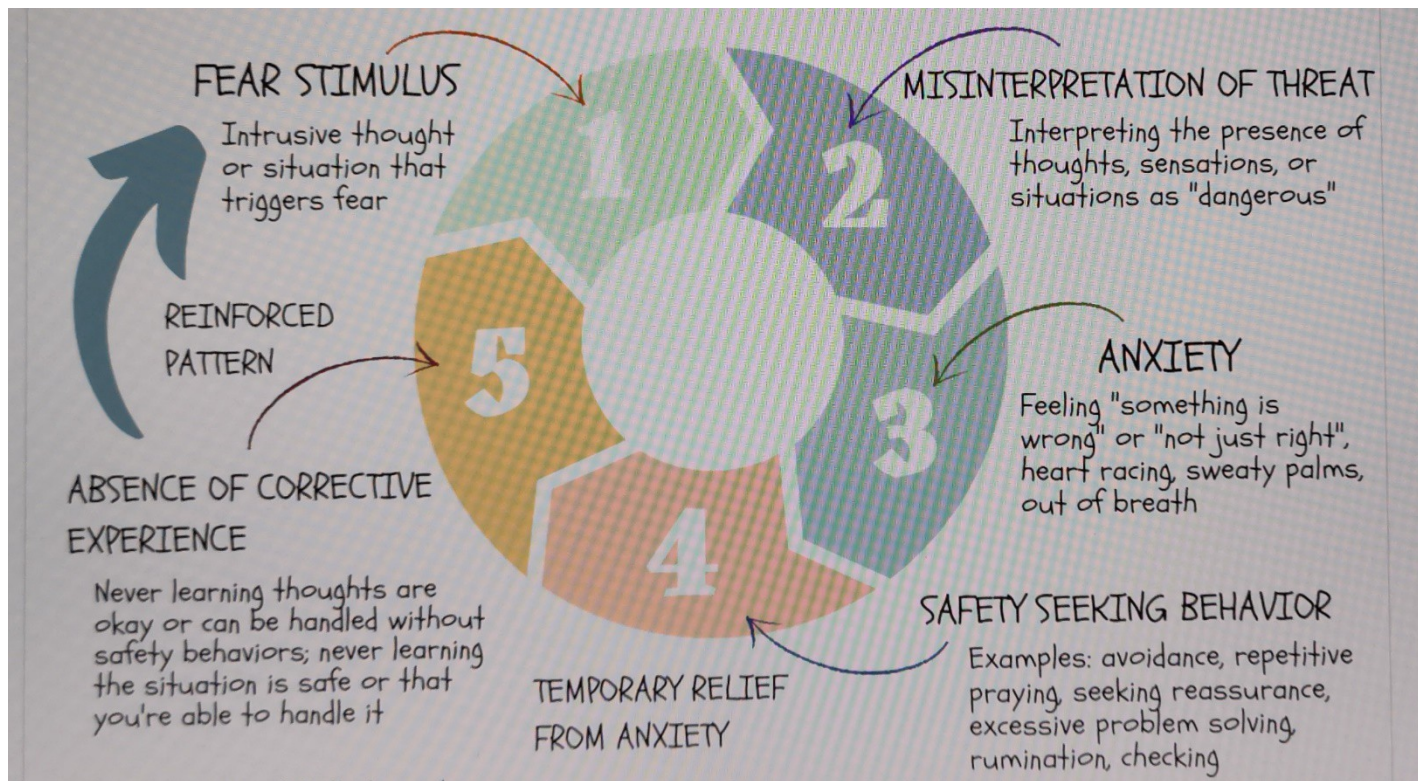as an expression of an emotional as well cultural resonance

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"**

I negotiate →

I renounce ↑

Trust

I trust

I forgive ←

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:

This means:

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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 reinvorced?

- 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)

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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.

sollmann@sollmann-online.de
Or
wechat ID us44801

Ulrich Sollmann

Begegnungen im Reich der Mitte

Mit psychologischem Blick unterwegs in China

Psychosozial-Verlag

Thanks for listening

and your

attention

Dipl. rer. soc. Ulrich Sollmann

Guest Professor at Shanghai University of

Political Science and Law (SHUPL)

Höfestr. 87

D- 44801 Bochum / Germany

+ 49 234 383828

+49 177 3838280

sollmann@sollmann-online.de

www.sollmann-online.de

Wechat: us44801

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

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[*]Source: Nazarkiewicz/Krämer (2012): Handbuch Interkulturelles Coaching. V&R.