

Call for Contribution

Chinese Diasporas in the COVID-19 Pandemic

Volume coedited by Dr. Simeng WANG and Dr. Thais FRANCA

To be submitted to Brill, *Chinese Overseas Book Series*

The COVID-19 pandemic has been declared by many as a defining event of our era. It has had an impact on all areas - health, political and economic - of social life. International lockdowns, border closures, rising levels of nationalism and economic difficulties are some of the consequences that go beyond the immediate health crises and the catastrophic loss of human lives. Because its diffusion started in a Chinese city, China and Chinese people have been deemed “responsible” for the spread of the virus, and consequently for the crisis. Anti-Chinese racism and xenophobia towards Chinese people saw a rapid rise in Europe and beyond (Adja and al., 2020; Pang, 2020; Wang et al., 2021; Ma & Zhan, 2020; Yao & Mwangi, 2022).

Even before the pandemic, China’s relations with Western countries were becoming more complex and contested, as China became a stronger international player. If the pandemic intensified Sino-US competition as well as Sino-European fragmentation (Seaman, 2020), it also allowed for the increase of China’s influence in the Global South. Thus, China’s role in international geopolitics became even more intricate (Cabestan, 2022). The intertwined nature of top-down and bottom-up mobilization of the Chinese diaspora in reaction to the pandemic is noteworthy. Thanks to the extensive use of Chinese social media, mostly WeChat, China’s diasporic governance exposed a new and strong extraterritorial capacity (Ceccagno & Thuno, 2022) as part of China’s transnational nation-building.

The edited volume aims to analyze the continuities and transformation in the experience of Chinese diasporas in Europe and elsewhere, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, exploring the different drivers, domains encompassed and their consequences. It looks at how Chinese living in Europe and other continents during the health crisis were affected, particularly the perception of their migration experiences, the construction of their identity and sense of belonging, their transnational relations to China and other Chinese. Additionally, it pays special attention to how political dynamics and problematics between the host countries and China have unfolded in this context. The pandemic is an unprecedented event, yet it takes place in an existing and controversial background regarding Chinese migrants and diplomatic relations with China. Many of the challenges observed today are not entirely new; some were concealed before, others consequences of existing political and economic arrangements.

We are looking for chapters that respond to the following questions:

1. How are the daily lives of Chinese diasporas impacted by the pandemic globally?
2. How do nationalisms develop in the context of pandemic racialization and anti-Chinese racism?
3. What are the novelties in the relations between Chinese diasporas and the Chinese state?

Please submit your **chapter proposal (250-300 words)** with the research question, methodology and data, and your main conclusions, along with a **short bio of maximum 150 words** to: simeng.wang@cnrs.fr and thais.francas@iscte-iul.pt by **December 30, 2022**.

Below is our planned timeline for this book project:

15 January 2023: Confirmation sending by editors to authors

February 2023: Online workshop among authors for discussing outlines or drafts of chapters

31 March 2023: Reception of full papers

April-August 2023: feedbacks and revisions of chapters

30 September 2023: Submission of manuscript to Brill

Fall 2024: Expected launch of the book

Chapters are expected to be 7000-8000 words long including references and footnotes.

The manuscript will be double blind peer-reviewed.

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