Call for Papers: Workshop on “International Leadership”
June 19, 2017 | Fudan University, Shanghai

The School of International Relations and Public Affairs (SIRPA) of Fudan University, working with its partner institutions and the journal of Chinese Political Science Review, extends an invitation for the submission of papers to the workshop on “International Leadership,” to be held June 19, 2017 in Shanghai.


Since the 2008-2009 economic crisis, the economic balance of power has shifted away from Western centers of power. In the following decade, it has become gradually clearer that Western great powers are increasingly turning inward and are neither willing nor able to bear the burdens of global leadership. The election of U.S. President Donald Trump, Brexit and uncertainties over the future of the European Union and NATO are symptoms that we are entering a new era of world politics. For the first time since WWII, the U.S. seems to be abandoning its internationalist vision and global leadership role, instead turning inward if not isolationist. Meanwhile, global governance challenges are on the rise, from climate change, terrorism, migration, nuclear proliferation and cybersecurity to economic inequality, development, finance and trade. The world demands more international leadership. At the same time, it seems leadership is not sufficiently supplied and may face a further shortage.

This workshop intends to address key issues of coming international leadership challenges. What are the theoretical debates on international leadership? What does the new foreign policy orientation of the Trump administration imply for the future of international leadership? Are we witnessing a leadership transition where China and emerging powers provide more international leadership or rather moving into a leaderless G-Zero world? Will we see a more selective and ad hoc leadership (e.g., China on climate and trade and the U.S. on terrorism)? Can existing institutions ensure meaningful global governance in these different issue areas? If collective leadership shall be the new normal in the new world, how can effective leadership be orchestrated collectively? Alternatively, are we moving toward a more regionalized kind of leadership and, if so, what will be the leadership landscapes in different regions of the world?

We welcome paper abstracts—both theoretical and empirical—that can contribute to the discussion of “International Leadership” as aforementioned. Priority will be given, but not limited, to papers focusing on the themes listed below:

- Theories of international leadership
- Trump government and international leadership
- China and international leadership
- Other major powers and international leadership
- Soft power and international leadership
- International organizations and global leadership
- Regional leadership and international leadership
- International leadership and global governance (in areas of environmental issues, transnational crimes, terrorism, refugees, cybersecurity, nuclear security, etc.)

Workshop and output:
No later than March 20, please submit paper proposals of approximately 300 words along with a brief, one-page English CV to Ms. Pippa Morgan at 15110170041@fudan.edu.cn. Organizers extend workshop invites to select authors in the beginning of April, economic airfares will be covered by SIRPA or partner institutions. SIRPA will cover two to three nights of local accommodations in Shanghai. Contributors are expected to submit 6,000-word papers by June 6 or earlier. The best contributed papers could be selected for a special issue in the Chinese Political Science Review, a journal in English edited by SIRPA colleagues and published by the Springer.