

# Liberal Script(s) – Asian Versions and Contestations of a Concept

The Lalit, Barakhamba Avenue, Connaught Place, New Delhi  
Hybrid (Sessions via WebEx; links below)



28 November 2022 | Day 1

Delhi 12:00-19:30 | Berlin 07:30-15:00 | Tokyo 15:30-23:00 | Peking, Singapore 14:30-22:00 | Ithaca, Toronto 01:30-09:00

12:00–12:15

## Welcome and opening of the workshop

Amrita Narlikar and Michael Zürn, Cluster of Excellence “Contestations of the Liberal Scripts” (SCRIPTS)

12:15–12:30

## Welcome note

Prof. Amitabh Mattoo, Jawaharlal Nehru University

12:30–13:30

## Framework Paper: Ownership, Rejection and Reclaiming: Liberal Scripts in Asia (Amrita Narlikar, [online](#)/Michael Zürn)

Discussant: Tanja Börzel

Discussant: Raja Mohan

13:30–14:30

## Lunch

14:30–16:30

**Paper (Working title): Liberal Components and Traditions in India (Amitabh Mattoo/Abhishek Srivastava/Chetan Rana)** Discussant: Tobias Berger  
Discussant: Thomas Risse

**Paper (Working title): What is different about the Chinese Script? (Ling Wei, [online](#))**

Discussant: Jiwei Ci ([online](#))

Discussant: Genia Kostka ([online](#))

Coffee Break

16:30–17:30

**Paper (working title): The Role of Marxist Scripts in Asia (Jiwei Ci)**

17:30–19:30

Discussant: Yasemin Soysal

Discussant: Michael Zürn

**Paper: Membership and its Benefits: Vote Shares in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (Sooyeon Kim/Jesslene Lee, [online](#))**

Discussant: Peter Katzenstein ([online](#))

Discussant: Hidetoschi Nakamura ([online](#))

## 29 November 2022 | Day 2

Delhi 09:30-15:30 | Berlin 05:00-11:00 | Tokyo 13:00-19:00 | Peking, Singapore 12:00-18:00 | Ithaca, Toronto 23:00-05:00

- 09:30–10:30 **Paper: India and the Liberal International Order: From the Power of the Idea to the Idea of Power (Salma Bava)**  
Discussant: Tobias Berger  
Discussant: Tanja Börzel
- 10:30–11:30 Coffee Break
- 11:30–13:30 **Paper: The Japanese script for building the ‘Indo-Pacific’ region: liberal or geopolitical? (Hidetoshi Nakamura)**  
Discussant: Amrita Narlikar  
Discussant: Tanja Börzel
- Paper: Social credit in China and South East Asia (Genia Kosta/Wiebke Rabe, online)**  
Discussant: Thomas Risse  
Discussant: Yasemin Soysal
- 13:30–14:30 Lunch
- 14:30–15:30 **Paper: From Europe to Asia? Post-Crisis Shifts in the Global Financial System (Johannes Petry)**  
Discussant: Mark Hallerberg (online)  
Discussant: Thomas Risse

## 30 November 2022 | Day 3

Delhi 09:30-14:45 | Berlin 05:00-10:15 | Tokyo 13:00-18:15 | Peking, Singapore 12:00-17:15 | Ithaca, Toronto 23:00-04:15

- 09:30–10:30 **Paper (Working title): Secularism as a liberal component in Asia (Tobias Berger/ Sushmita Nath)**  
Discussant: Amitabh Mattoo Discussant: Yasemin Soysal
- 10:30–11:30 Coffee Break
- 11:30–13:30 **Paper: Competition and interaction between European, Chinese and Japanese connectivity scripts (Paul Bacon, online)**  
Discussant: Ling Wei (online)  
Discussant: Amrita Narlikar (online)
- Paper: Colliding Scripts in Asia? Comparing China’s Belt and Road Initiative and the EU’ Global Gateway Strategy (Tanja Börzel/Luting Wu)** Discussant: Abhisthek Srivastava  
Discussant: Johannes Petry
- 13:30–13:45 **Next steps**  
Amrita Narlikar and Michael Zürn, Cluster of Excellence “Contestations of the Liberal Scripts” (SCRIPTS)
- 13:45–14:45 Lunch

# Liberal Script(s) – Asian Versions and Contestations of a Concept



## Abstract

The conference addresses the broad theme of Asian scripts (liberal or not) and asks how Asian states organize themselves and ally/partner with each other based on these scripts' political/ economic features. It is conceptualized amidst the changing balance of power and the changing narratives about emerging power configurations and aims to explore the extent to which the rise of alternative models presents a challenge to the liberal script and how other regional actors respond to "original" liberal scripts and the challenges. While the notion of the "Asian way" served for some time to counter American and thus liberal hegemony, it is now, to some extent, liberal visions of the society that serve as a counter-hegemonic script to Chinese dominance. Questions within this broad rubric have both theoretical and empirical import. Theoretically, the conference takes us into a rich (but still under-researched) terrain of traditional world views and historical experiences of Asian countries and how these shape strategies, reactions, and counterreactions in modern-day politics and international relations. Empirically too, western theorizing often underplays the differences within Asia. The planned publication wants to flesh out the (oft-ignored) differences and nuances and invite researchers to investigate the impact that changing ground realities are having on what they make of similarities and differences among and within national jurisdictions.

All sessions will take place online. Here is the link to the WebEx sessions:

### 28 November 2022 | Day 1

Delhi 12:00-19:30 | Berlin 07:30-15:00 | Tokyo 15:30-23:00 | Peking, Singapore 14:30-22:00 | Ithaca, Toronto 01:30-09:00  
<https://fu-berlin.webex.com/fu-berlin/j.php?MTID=m034268148ecce0eee2efe12fcb262a58>  
Meeting ID: 2733 163 1188  
Password: MMu6zPAQv37

### 29 November 2022 | Day 2

Delhi 09:30-15:30 | Berlin 05:00-11:00 | Tokyo 13:00-19:00 | Peking, Singapore 12:00-18:00 | Ithaca, Toronto 23:00-05:00  
<https://fu-berlin.webex.com/fu-berlin/j.php?MTID=m9ea54f390c44b2ddcddb94012ac6c8e>  
Meeting ID: 2734 512 1799  
Password: Je4SWTh2p4s

### 30 November 2022 | Day 3

Delhi 09:30-14:45 | Berlin 05:00-10:15 | Tokyo 13:00-18:15 | Peking, Singapore 12:00-17:15 | Ithaca, Toronto 23:00-04:15  
<https://fu-berlin.webex.com/fu-berlin/j.php?MTID=m7f063b4a9b543261da88bbd037ab2fc6>  
Meeting ID: 2732 815 1240  
Password: iwDEGBVc345

### Organizational Team:

Katinka von Kovatsits (SCRIPTS): +49 171480985 (katinka.kovatsits@wzb.eu)  
Chetan Rana (JNU): + 91 9560252173 (chetan.rana96@gmail.com)  
Julia Kramer (GIGA): (julia.kramer@giga-hamburg.de)