

**8th Annual
University of Wisconsin-Peking University
Workshop on Higher Education**

THEME:

- Academic Internationalism in Turbulent Times

DATES:

- May 17-20, 2026

LOCATION:

- University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA

Hotel: Fluno Center, 601 University Avenue
<https://fluno.com/>

Workshop location: Wisconsin Idea Room, 159 Education Building, Bascom Mall

PROGRAM:

Sunday, May 17:

International visitors arrive; check in at the Fluno Center: 601 University Avenue

5:30pm Informal dinner for international visitors
Meet students in the Fluno Center lobby to walk to the Memorial Union Terrace
(will move indoors in case of rain)

7:30pm Return to Fluno Center

DAY 1: Monday, May 18: *All events take place in the Wisconsin Idea Room, 159 Education Building*

* Guests at Fluno Center:

7:00am Breakfast available in the Fluno Center, lobby level

8:15am Meet students in the Fluno Center lobby to walk to the Wisconsin Idea Room in the
Education Building

* All participants:

9:00am **Welcome Remarks**

Adam NELSON, UW-Madison
Fran VAVRUS, Dean and Vice Provost, International Studies, UW-Madison

9:30am *Tea break/get settled*

I. PASTS

Chair: Judd Kinzley, UW-Madison

9:45am **Paper 1:** Adam Nelson, UW-Madison

Excerpt from Chapter 10 of book manuscript-in-progress: *American Cosmos: Science, Empire, and Higher Education in the Early Republic*

Discussant: WANG Chen, Beijing Normal University

10:45am *Tea break*

11:00am **Paper 2:** WANG Liping and ZHANG Zhentao, Peking University

“Interdisciplinarity in Transition: The Formation and Transformation of the Committee on Human Development, 1930s-1950s”

Discussant: LI Yang, UW-Madison

12:00pm *LUNCH*

II. PATHWAYS

Chair: Ran LIU, UW-Madison

1:30pm **Paper 3:** SHEN Wenqin, Peking University (with WANG Jialu and LIN Fengyi)

“Shifting Geographies of Choice: Chinese International Student Mobility in a Changing Geopolitical Context and Global Knowledge Space”

Discussant: WEI Lina, Hangzhou Normal University

2:30pm *Tea break*

2:45pm **Paper 4:** ZHA Qiang, York University (and WANG Zha Xuan, non-attendee)

“Detecting the Potential Impact of Public Sentiments on Policy Changes Towards International Students in Canada: Using LLM to Analyze Social Media Tweets.”

Discussant: WEN Wen, Tsinghua University

3:45pm *Tea break*

4:00pm GROUP PHOTO

4:30pm *Adjourn/Rest/Campus Tours*

5:30pm Dinner for international visitors at Ichiban’s Restaurant, 610 South Park Street; meet students in the Fluno Center lobby to walk to restaurant; *dinner begins at 6:00pm*

DAY 2: Tuesday, May 19: *All events take place in the Wisconsin Idea Room, 159 Education Building*

*** Guests at Fluno Center:**

7:00am Breakfast available in the Fluno Center, lobby level

9:00am Meet students in lobby to walk to the Wisconsin Idea Room in the Education Building

*** All participants:**

9:30am **Welcome Remarks**

Adam NELSON, UW-Madison

III. PEOPLE

Chair: LIU Qing, St. Xavier University

9:45am **Paper 5:** HUANG Futao, Hiroshima University

“Geopolitics in Everyday Academic Life: Lived Experiences of Faculty and Graduate Students in U.S. Universities”

Discussant: SHEN Wenqin, Peking University

10:45am *Tea break*

11:00am **Paper 6:** ZHENG Lei, Peking University

[VIRTUAL PRESENTATION VIA ZOOM: <https://uwmadison.zoom.us/j/2574760892>]

“When Excellence Becomes Proof: Legitimation, Classification, and the Costs of Talent Cultivation in China’s Higher Education”

Discussant: ZHU Hong, Peking University

12:00pm *LUNCH*

IV. POWER

Chair: Taylor ODLE, UW-Madison

1:30pm **Paper 7:** Jingjing LOU, Beloit College

“Whose Knowledge? Whose Power? African Students and Chinese Education Diplomacy in a Multipolar World”

Discussant: LIU Qing, St. Xavier University

- 2:30pm *Tea break*
- 2:45pm **Paper 8:** XIE Ailei and LI Tianshu, South China Normal University; Jingran Yu, Xiamen University (non-attendant)
- “Geopolitically Assembled Employability: African and Asian International Students in Chinese Vocational Universities”
- Discussant: Chris Kirchgasler, UW-Madison
- 3:45pm *Tea break*
- 4:00pm *Adjourn/Rest/Terrace*
- 6:00pm Dinner for all workshop participants at Pyle Center Rooftop Terrace, 702 Langdon Street

DAY 3: Wednesday, May 20

* Guests at Fluno Center:

- 8:00am Breakfast available in Fluno Center, lobby level
- 12:00pm Check-out time