Universität Zürich[UZH]

Institute of Education

Chair of History of Education and Education Policy Analysis

Public guest lecture

Tuesday, November 10, 2026 - 16:30 – 18:00, KOL-G-209
University of Zurich, Main Building, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zürich

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Can Interdisciplinarity Be Governed? China's Push for Cutting-Edge Research and Its Dilemmas

The global academic community is paying increasing attention to interdisciplinary approaches in university teaching and research, progressively moving beyond the constraints of traditional disciplines. While China is also vigorously promoting interdisciplinary research, accelerating the goal of establishing world-class universities with a particular focus on dismantling traditional disciplinary barriers.

The emphasis lies in exploring the cultivation of exceptional, innovative talents through cross-departmental, interdisciplinary, and cross-professional approaches, thereby expediting the integration of disciplines and proposing solutions to interdisciplinary scientific challenges—an endeavor of considerable significance. However, genuine multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary methods cannot be engendered through institutional coercion, and achieving authentic interdisciplinary studies remains challenging in current practice.

Consequently, several questions arise: Is interdisciplinary research imperative? How can the development of interdisciplinary studies be advanced? What opportunities and challenges exist? And what institutional pitfalls hinder interdisciplinary development? This research attempts to adopt a qualitative approach, employing in-depth interviews with researchers and administrators actively involved in interdisciplinary research initiatives.

Students, colleagues, and other interested individuals are cordially invited to attend this event. We look forward to welcoming you!



Dan Zhang is an Associate Professor of Sociology of Education and the Director of the Global Center for Inclusive Education at **East China Normal University**, a leading institution in education in China. She has a long-term research interest in educational equity and gender socialization.