



**CONFERENCE LUNDI 24 JANVIER DE 9H A 11H30  
INALCO CENTRE DAUPHINE SALLE A 302  
(NOUVELLE AILE TROISIEME ETAGE)  
PLACE DU MARECHAL DE LATTRE DE TASSIGNY  
75116 PARIS METRO 2 PORTE DAUPHINE**

**“RECURRENT TEXTUAL FEATURES IN CHINESE  
OFFICIAL NARRATIVES  
ABOUT THE SELF AND THE OTHER”**

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**LA CONFERENCE SERA SUIVIE D’UN POT AMICAL.  
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RESERVATION SOUHAITEE AVANT LE 20 JANVIER**

**Abstract**

This seminar looks into patterns of ideological meaning construction in Chinese official discourse, as it has been disseminated in its state media since the late nineties until 2005. It shows results from a longitudinal study in progress, which maps consistencies and changes in Chinese discursive practices over the years. As to changes, new developments in media formats and TV-programming style on the Chinese continent have already been widely documented. Formal features of the traditional media have indeed undergone an unprecedented metamorphosis and, as an increasingly important participant in the global community, China has jumped on the bandwagon of new media and entered the blogging age. Ideational content has also altered gradually. More and more academic literature



confirms the rise of open public debate on internet discussion forums. More recently, one can also notice a more critical stance on issues concerning social unrest and problems of government accountability, even in the state media. Yet, discursive style and ideational content of news reports and political speeches in the official press has remained fairly constant when politically sensitive news items are concerned, especially those relating to issues of sovereignty, drawing borders between the Self and the Other.

The diachronic study consists of analyses of narratives taken from the state press with an interval of four years. The language pragmatic analyses probe into the extent to which some particular textual features form recurrent patterns generating ideological meaning on the implicit as well as explicit level. The events occurring within the sampling years were selected on the basis of the relative importance of the sovereignty issue, as they can reveal consistency or change in attitudes on political and cultural identity. Narratives on the 1997 Hong Kong handover function as anchor point for comparison with accounts on the 2001 US surveillance plane collision with a Chinese jetfighter, and on the 2005 anti-secession law. Results suggest that for the corpus until 2005 consistency in ideological orientation wins over change.

### **Bionote**

Lutgard Lams is Associate Professor in Pragmatics, Media Discourse Analysis and Intercultural Communication at the University-College Brussels (HUB) and also teaches "Language and Politics in China" at the Sinology Department of the Catholic University of Louvain (KU Leuven). Her areas of scholarly interest include political communication and the pragmatics of language and ideology in media discourse. Given her extensive teaching experience in East-Asia, she focuses her case studies on discourses in and about the greater Chinese region, for which she is currently establishing a Brussels Center on Chinese Discourse Studies. She has published various articles on identity politics and nationalism in China and Taiwan, Chinese official discourse, and cross-Strait relations as represented in Chinese/Taiwanese media discourses.