

DISCOURSE POWER: THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY'S ATTEMPT TO CONTROL ACADEMIC DEBATES ON A GLOBAL SCALE

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on Zoom

In late March, the Chinese government announced sanctions against several European academics and research institutions in retaliation for the EU's sanctions against four officials and one entity in Xinjiang. In recent years, conversations about "Chinese influence" in academia have often centered on the role of Confucius Institutes and whether they are a threat to academic freedom. However, this relatively narrow focus fails to accurately describe the ambitions of the Chinese Communist Party to play a more dominant role in shaping global academic debates, nor does it capture the full toolbox the Party employs to do so. Mareike Ohlberg will examine the CCP's understanding of "discourse power," including and explain why it has been defined as essential to national security. She will also introduce various instruments used by the Party to insert its voice into academia outside of China as well as to punish those whose research it wants to shut down and make some suggestions for how to deal collectively with the growing pressure on the field.



Zoom Link: <https://uni-freiburg.zoom.us/j/61612811567> Code: DSGQd435j