

Module title		Abbreviation
Research Methods in Transformation in Contemporary China		04-CS-TCC-RM-172-m01
Module coordinator		Module offered by
holder of the Chair of Contemporary Chinese Studies		Institute of East and South Asian Cultural Studies
ECTS	Method of grading	Only after succ. compl. of module(s)
5	numerical grade	--
Duration	Module level	Other prerequisites
2 semester	graduate	--
Contents		
<p>As the field of contemporary Chinese studies develops and grows, it increasingly interacts and integrates with social science disciplines. This leads to the adoption of relevant academic paradigms and theories in the study of China. Furthermore, the opening-up of fieldwork opportunities and other new data sources in the reform era have revolutionized scholarly approaches to China. Against these trends, the course addresses the following questions: How do we know what we know about China? What are the paradigms guiding our questions and research designs? What is the relationship between area studies and disciplinary social sciences? Which methods can be adopted to study China's society and how to adapt them to Chinese circumstances? Which are the most pertinent data sources? This course deals with these questions among others. It systematically introduces students to qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods research and relevant empirical research methods (observation, interviews, surveys, secondary data analysis, discourse analysis etc.). It specifically discusses the challenges of employing these standard methodologies in the Chinese political, social and cultural context.</p>		
Intended learning outcomes		
<p>Students are prepared to critically evaluate empirical research conducted by China scholars using methodological standards of the social sciences. This will provide them with guidance for writing their Master's theses. The groundwork is laid for their own (empirical) research at the M.A. level and beyond.</p>		
Courses (type, number of weekly contact hours, language – if other than German)		
S (4) Module taught in: English and Chinese		
Method of assessment (type, scope, language – if other than German, examination offered – if not every semester, information on whether module is creditable for bonus)		
<p>a) oral examination of one candidate each (approx. 15 minutes) or b) written examination (approx. 60 minutes) Language of assessment: English and Chinese creditable for bonus</p>		
Allocation of places		
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Additional information		
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Workload		
150 h		
Teaching cycle		
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Referred to in LPO I (examination regulations for teaching-degree programmes)		
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Module appears in		
Master's degree (1 major) Chinese Studies (2017)		