



# March 2025

## Circle 19 newsletter

Issue n°3

Welcome to this monthly newsletter that presents Circle 19's latest productions and provides insights about the right to information in the People's Republic of China.

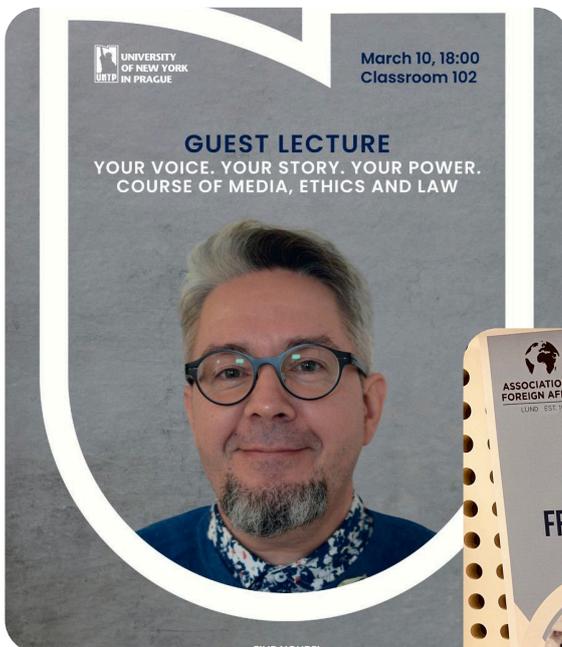
### ► WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEBSITE



**The investigation that exposed the criminal malpractice of the cooking oil industry.**  
**Beijing News: Han Futao, Zhang Xinhui, and Hao Zhelin (2024).**

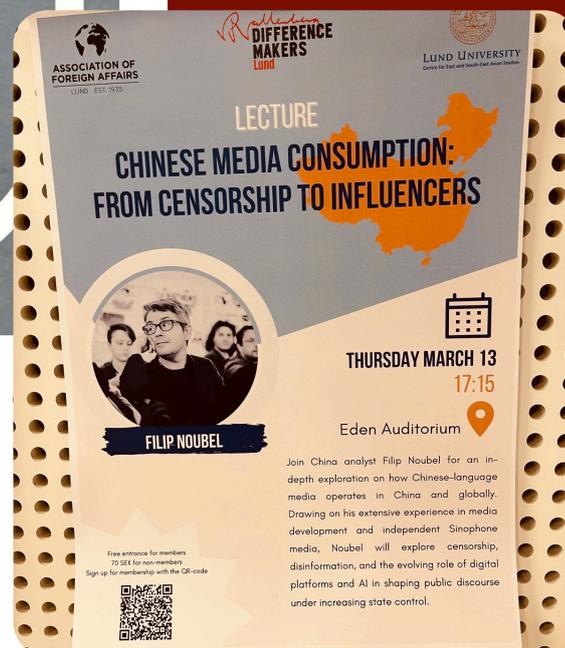
Only last year, a Beijing News investigation exposed a shocking industry secret: tanker trucks transporting cooking oil were also used to carry industrial chemicals without proper cleaning, putting millions at risk.

### ► CIRCLE 19 IN EVENTS



**Circle 19 spokesperson Filip Noubel gave two lectures centred around media ethics, censorship and disinformation,**

on 10 March at the University of New York in Prague, Czech Republic, and on 13 March at Lund University in Sweden.



During his lectures, Filip Noubel presented Circle 19 and its online resources to the students.



## ► CIRCLE 19 IN THE MEDIA



**“Expert Blog: Understanding China on Its Own Terms - Human Rights, Tianxia, and Religious Perspectives,”**

**Nottingham Trent University blog,  
Dr. Zhang Tao**

This article supports a nuanced approach to understand China's historical narratives and concepts such as “tianxia” and how they are used in the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)'s governance, while also reconsidering “Western secular assumptions.”

## ► CIRCLE 19 PARTICIPANTS' WORK



**Report: “Frustrated middle-aged people,’ social grievances, ‘speedy prosecution’ and the death penalty”**

**WhyNot, Liu Yi, Wu Shi**

This data report examines the rise in indiscriminate killings in China from 2000 to 2024, exploring the societal factors behind these incidents, such as the frustrations of middle-aged men facing economic hardships, the impact of social exclusion, and the potential triggers like unemployment, family breakdown, and government dissatisfaction. Due to Chinese media censorship, large time spans and other factors, the actual figures may be higher than the 141 cases found in the report.

**Article: “Canada task force says ex-Finance Minister Freeland target of China-linked campaign”**

**Reuters, Ismail Shakil**

A Canadian task force revealed that multiple articles circulating on Chinese social media platform WeChat targeted Chrystia Freeland as she campaigns to replace Prime Minister Trudeau, amid growing concerns over Chinese interference in Canadian politics.





## Analysis: "Leaked data exposes a Chinese AI censorship machine"

**TechCrunch, Charles Rollet**

Leak data reveals that China has developed an AI-powered system to enhance its censorship efforts online by automatically flagging sensitive content related to political, social, and military issues that go far beyond the traditional taboos.

## PORTRAIT OF THE MONTH



Artist: Ka Zhang

My name is Chang Ping (長平). I have been a journalist for over 30 years and have written columns on current affairs and cultural commentary for more than a dozen media outlets in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Germany and the United States. I was previously news director of Southern Weekend (南方周末) in Guangzhou and editor-in-chief of iSun Affairs (陽光時務) in Hong Kong. I am currently a columnist for Deutsche Welle (德國之聲), the Chinese editor-in-chief of China Digital Times (中國數字時代), and the chief curator of the June 4th Memory & Human Rights Museum (六四記憶-人權博物館).



For more than 20 years, China Digital Times has been collecting and archiving articles and online voices that have been censored and deleted by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)'s propaganda apparatus. We document and expose distorted information and propaganda tactics, revealing the persistent and resilient resistance of the Chinese people and their extraordinary contribution to the global struggle for freedom of expression. Our work is centred on our website, using text, podcasts, images and video across multiple media platforms. We have also run a unique wiki site, China Digital Space.

I write two columns for Deutsche Welle: Chang Ping Observation and Chang Ping Wandering. The former provides commentary on news and current events in China and around the world, with a particular focus on the CCP's suppression of free speech and human rights, and its erosion of democracy and freedom worldwide. The latter chronicles my experiences, readings and reflections after going into exile in the West.

The June 4th Memory & Human Rights Museum was one of the last acts of resistance by the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China before its dissolution. As a digital exhibition created after the forced closure of the Hong Kong 4 June Museum, it documents the Tiananmen protests and the CCP's brutal crackdown within the broader history of global human rights movements. It also comprehensively documents the CCP's devastation of Chinese society since its rise to power.

You can find out more about my work here:

<https://linktr.ee/changping> My work email is

[changping201801@gmail.com](mailto:changping201801@gmail.com). I appreciate your support - thank you very much!