



April 2025

Circle 19 newsletter

Issue n°4

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



How China Newsweek changed the fate of 120 million hepatitis B carriers

China Newsweek, Han Fudong (2003)

A China Newsweek investigative report exposed the widespread discrimination against hepatitis B carriers in China, challenging unjust employment policies and sparking legal and policy reforms. Not only did Han Fudong's investigation influence policy, it also inspired the film *The Best Is Yet to Come* (2020), which portrays the struggle of a young journalist uncovering systemic injustice.

► CIRCLE 19 IN EVENTS



Circle 19 at Perugia International Journalism Festival

On 11 April 2025, Circle 19 held a side-event at the Perugia International Journalism Festival, moderated by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) US Bureau Director Clayton Weimers. During this panel discussion, spokesperson Kris Cheng presented Circle 19 and how this initiative is essential in countering the Chinese regime's narrative regarding journalists and the right to information. Discussions touched upon the dire situation in China, in Hong Kong, and the challenges faced by the exiled media communities.



Circle 19 spokesperson Filip Noubel with Global Voices organised a 4-day meet-up in Kathmandu, Nepal in late April for independent sinophone journalists from China and Taiwan and journalists from francophone Africa, South Asia, Central Asia and Southeast Asia as part of the 2025 cohort of Climate Justice Fellows. The 2024-2025 project looks at the role of China in Global South countries in relation to climate justice and allows fellows to co-write stories so they can match their knowledge base, language skills and networks to produce nuanced stories using sources in different languages. The goal is to establish a network of practitioners from China, Taiwan and different parts of the world to improve the quality and independence of reporting.



► CIRCLE 19 PARTICIPANTS' WORK

报道 | 中国

长平观察：中国宣传机器也成了“甲亢哥”？



长平
评论

2025年4月17日

美国网红“iShowSpeed”（甲亢哥）结束了他的中国直播之旅，而中国宣传机器还在“甲亢哥”余波中。时事评论作家长平提出了一连串有关大外宣的疑问。



这位20岁的网红在台北小年夜（Chad Smith）在台北社交媒体平台上的粉丝数量超过一亿。中国网民称他为“甲亢哥”，因为他总是表情夸张，声音亢奋。

（德国之声中文网）上周，美国网红“iShowSpeed”结束了他的中国之旅，转道蒙古继续他的直播行程。这就更加让人觉得，中国之旅只是他的全球直播中的一个正常环节，并不值得大惊小怪。

Article: “Chang Ping’s Observations: Is China’s propaganda machine turning into ‘Hyperthyroidism Bro’ as well?” (in Chinese) Deutsche Welle (DW), Chang Ping

American streamer “iShowSpeed” (dubbed “Hyperthyroidism Bro” in China) has ended his livestream tour, but Chinese state media is still celebrating. Outlets and officials praised his “unfiltered” portrayal of China as thriving and peaceful, claiming it countered decades of negative foreign coverage. Commentator Chang Ping questions this narrative, pointing out that true unfiltered reporting isn’t possible in China—especially for foreigners. While some saw the livestream’s mishaps as proof of spontaneity, they more accurately reflect the ever-present control of censorship.



Article: "Chang Ping's Observations: The world doesn't need anyone to point the way — democracy is the way." (in Chinese)

Deutsche Welle (DW), Chang Ping

Last week, protest banners against Xi Jinping appeared on a footbridge outside Chengdu's Chadianzi Passenger Transport Station. Commentator Chang Ping sees these protests as a warning about the rise of authoritarianism worldwide. Chang believes the biggest threat to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has long been the West's promotion of democratic ideals. After Trump became president, he abandoned this effort and embraced authoritarianism, benefitting CCP propaganda. The Chinese government's robust response to Trump's tariffs bolstered Xi Jinping's image as a strongman, which many Chinese and some in the West found satisfying, increasing demand for authoritarian leadership.

长平观察：世界不需要谁指明方向，民主才是方向



长平
评论

2022年4月15日

上周在成都茶店子客运站外的一座天桥上出现抗议习近平的标语。时事评论作家长平认为，这些抗议对于警惕当今整个世界的强人政治势头都具有重要意义。

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图为成都桥事件发生的第二天（2022年10月14日），北京警方加强了各地人行天桥的看守。

图片来源: New Zealand Daily Image

（德国之声中文网）上周，在成都茶店子客运站外的一座天桥上，出现了三幅抗议标语。这是其中之一，抗议对象是中共最高领导人习近平。