

Main Work of Confucius Institute at Geneva University in 2021 and Work Plan in 2022

1. Academic work

"Academic" is the main characteristic of the Confucius Institute of the University of Geneva. For a long time, there are two kinds of "academic activities" in our Confucius Institute. One is to organize conferences, seminars, and academic courses with the Confucius Institute as a platform; the other is to conduct independent research by setting up research projects and training doctoral students.

- ◆ Regular academic activities: PhD seminar (supervised by Director Basile.Z), translation seminar (supervised by Vice Director Grace Xie).
- ◆ During the summer, researchers from the Confucius Institute organized four academic lectures on China for students at the University of Geneva. The lectures covered topics such as population migration, religion, traditional Chinese cultural heritage, philosophy of Chinese culinary culture, etc. which helped students deepen their knowledge of China and contemporary Chinese studies.
- ◆ During the last fall semester, our Confucius Institute, in cooperation with the Institute of Sociology (IRS) of the University of Geneva and the Department of East Asian Studies, organized a weekly sociology seminar on the theme "Sociology meets Asian Studies". A total of 10 seminars were held, and Confucius Institute scholars were responsible for 5 talks, and Our director Basile Zimmerman attended the entire seminar and served as moderator for some sessions. In the last fall semester, a series of four lectures on "Regards sur la Chine" was held. For university students and the Geneva public, sinologists from Switzerland and France were invited to give speeches on topics such as medical care, education, architecture, and economy in China.
- ◆ **"China Tomorrow" lecture Series.** The Confucius Institute has designed this new lecture series as a platform for cross-cultural academic exchange, presenting and discussing all aspects related to the newest scientific development and future trends of China, and promoting mutual understanding between the West and China. The first conference in the series was held in November and was organized online. It was entitled "China's Common Prosperity: Background, Challenges and Policy Options". It was given by Yang Song, a professor in the Faculty of Economics at Renmin University of China. Jaya Krishnakumar, Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Management of the University of Geneva, participated as a discussant.

- ◆ **Seminar attended by researchers from the Confucius Institute.** On April 12, researchers from the Confucius Institute participated in the seminar on "E-commerce, Mobile Payment and Internet Finance" organized by the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), and our deputy director Chen Zhang gave a speech on "Fintech, Financial Regulation and Financial Risk". On April 24, two PhDs from the Confucius Institute, Pierrick Porchet and Pascale Bugnon, represented the Confucius Institute at the annual meeting of the Swiss Anthropological Society and presented their research results at the symposium on "The Social Structure of Traditional Chinese Culture".
- ◆ **Doctoral training and independent research.** The Confucius Institute has three doctoral students from the "New Sinology Program". Last year, their doctoral research made great progress. Among them, Ozan Sahin defended his thesis in September 2021 and was awarded his PhD, becoming the first doctor of sinology to graduate from the Confucius Institute. Pascale Bugnon defended her thesis in January 2022 and was awarded a PhD. In addition to the research of the three doctoral students, the Confucius Institute has established and continued several research projects. For example, Formulaic Language in Learning and Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, held by Dr. Grâce Poizat (XIE Honghua) and BAO Yinhui; Research on the Development of China's Social Credit System, held by Marylaure Bloch; and so on.

2. Chinese teaching

- ◆ **Chinese courses.** Chinese teaching was still affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021, even worse than in 2020. The Confucius Institute of the University of Geneva has actively responded and used various methods to do a good job despite these circumstances. Last spring semester, all classes at the University of Geneva were taught online. In this difficult period, all the teachers of our Confucius Institute continued to develop further their research on the characteristics and methods of online teaching, and strived to ensure normal teaching conditions. During the summer vacation, students and members of the public interested in learning Chinese could not travel to China. Therefore, we organized a Chinese summer school, offering two levels of Chinese courses for students and French speakers in Switzerland. The new high-level Chinese course was well received by the participants. During the last fall semester, the University of Geneva initially took over the offline teaching entirely. We focused on the quality of teaching, discussed and formulated teaching plans before the beginning of the semester, and held regular teaching seminars to come up with ideas and focus on solving the problems and difficulties encountered in the new semester. According to the information collected at the end of the semester, the students of our Chinese courses were generally satisfied with the epidemic prevention measures taken in the new semester and the teaching quality.

- ◆ Teaching and research activities and teacher training activities. In September, our Confucius Institute organized the 12th Swiss Local Chinese Teacher Training. More than 30 teachers from the University of Geneva, the University of Lausanne, the United Nations Chinese Language Center, the Chinese School of Geneva, the Foundation for Chinese Education in Geneva, the Chinese School of Bern and the International School of Geneva participated. One of our teachers participated in the special training on "Drama Teaching Method Skills and Game Design" and achieved very good results. In November, the Confucius Institute also held a seminar for Chinese teachers.
- ◆ **Participation in "Chinese Bridge" competition.** On July 11, the first round of "Chinese Bridge" 2021 Chinese proficiency contest for foreign students of middle and high schools in the Swiss pavilion was held online. Seven contestants, judges, special guests, groups of contestants' parents and friends, senior teachers, Chinese learners, and audiences were invited to participate. More than ten people participated in the online competition. Zhang Chen, as the Chinese director of the Confucius Institute, served as the judge of the contest, and Bao Yinhui, a full-time teacher, participated in the preparations for the contest. Romina vargas celi, a student of the Confucius Institute of the University of Geneva, performed well in the contest and won the second prize.
- ◆ In March 2021, the HSK exam was held and the number of participants reached a record high. More than 180 people registered, a record number during the pandemic. On March 20, under the premise of sufficient preparation, the HSK test was held at the University of Geneva in the form of an on-site online test. On that day, the test was held in 8 test rooms for 6 levels. Many local Chinese learners who participated in the test expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the Confucius Institute for its careful organization and considerate testing services during the outbreak, which established a good image of the Confucius Institute of the University of Geneva as a leader in Chinese education in the French-speaking region of Switzerland.

3. Cooperation platform between Unige & RUC

- ◆ The Confucius Institute is the result of the cooperation between Renmin University of China and the University of Geneva. It is also a platform for exchange and cooperation between the two universities.
- ◆ On April 23, the annual committee meeting of the Confucius Institute was held online. Peng Du, Vice President of Renmin University of China, and Stephane Berthet, Vice President of University of Geneva, and other board members reviewed the Confucius Institute's work report through video conferencing and provided feedback on the Confucius Institute's work.

- ◆ On November 9, the two universities jointly celebrated the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Confucius Institute of the University of Geneva. Donggang Zhang, Secretary of the Party Committee of Renmin University of China, and President Wei Liu specially sent congratulatory letters to express their congratulations on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Confucius Institute at the University of Geneva. Peng Du, vice president of Renmin University of China, and Stéphane Berthet, vice president of the University of Geneva, participated in the commemorative activities via video conference. In addition, Yang Song, Professor of the Faculty of Economics of Renmin University of China, gave the first lecture of the Confucius Institute's "Future China" lecture series, entitled "China's Common Prosperity: Background, Challenges and Policy Options", The Swiss public was briefed on the recent policies and effects of China's efforts to narrow the income and wealth gap. On November 30, the Confucius Institute received the visit of 9 exchange students from Renmin University of China and held a symposium.

4. Others

- ◆ **The Confucius Institute of the University of Geneva attaches great importance to cooperation with other international partner universities.** Director Basile Zimmermann gave an online course to Cheikh Anta Diop University in Senegal and was warmly welcomed by the local students and teachers, who emphasized the benefits of this collaboration. Vice director Grace Xie participated in a book fair organized by the Confucius Institute of Rennes University in France; vice director Zhang Chen participated in several seminars organized by Confucius Institutes in the French and German speaking regions.
- ◆ **Renovation of the office space of the Confucius Institute.** In 2021, the Confucius Institute took advantage of the relatively low activities during the epidemic to renovate the Confucius Institute office building. It mainly includes replacing the under-roof, replacing some lighting equipment and embellishment of the green plants around the building. The government of the Canton of Geneva has provided significant support for the restoration work.

5. Work plan in 2022

The Confucius Institute of the University of Geneva plans to carry out the following major works (projects) in 2022, namely:

- ◆ **Chinese teaching.** Including credit courses (public Chinese programs, GSI, GTI), continuing education courses, summer courses, HSK intensive courses, online courses, etc.

- ◆ **Chinese teaching seminars, local teacher training, translation seminars, doctoral seminars, etc.** This project is a regular work of the Confucius Institute of the University of Geneva.
- ◆ **Chinese Culture Lecture Series.** This project is a regular activity of the Confucius Institute of the University of Geneva. We organize lectures on Chinese culture, history, economy and other topics for the public. About 8 lectures are organized each year. Academics from Switzerland and France are invited to present China to the Swiss population in a comprehensive and objective way. At present, the lecture series is entitled "Regards sur la Chine". In 2022, the Confucius Institute plans to continue this project. It was held 4 times in the first half of the year.
- ◆ **"China Tomorrow" Lecture Series.** This project is a newly established lecture series by the Confucius Institute of the University of Geneva. It invites Chinese scholars to present contemporary China and China's development trend to the people of Geneva and the world in the form of lectures in English. A Swiss discussant is systematically invited to comment the presentation and ask questions. Held once during the first semester of the year.
- ◆ **Academic forums and conferences.** The academic forums and conferences currently planned mainly include: (1) academic seminars on the presentation and application of Chinese garden concepts in Switzerland. The Confucius Institute will cooperate with the EPFL, the University of Hong Kong, Renmin University of China and other institutions. This even is planned in summer 2022 and is in progress. (2) Academic Conference of Swiss Chinese Scholars. Young scholars from all over Switzerland formed an alliance of Chinese studies scholars covering all over Switzerland, and the Confucius Institute plans to support the organization to hold its first academic conference. (3) A seminar on using WeChat as an anthropological research tool will be held in October. (4) The Confucius Institute will host the "Tradition and Globalization of Wushu" forum of the International Wushu Network Organization. This forum was hold at the Confucius Institute on July 2. (5) In April, the Confucius Institute hosted one of the events of the "Printemps de la poésie" series at the University of Lausanne, with the theme: Chinese writing poetry in French.
- ◆ **HSK Examination.** The Confucius Institute of the University of Geneva organizes and conducts the HSK exam every spring. In 2022, the Confucius Institute plans to continue the project as usual (it has been organized as planned).
- ◆ **Survey on how people in Geneva perceive news reports about China.** The Confucius Institute plans to conduct this survey to find out how Genevans feel about China-related news coverage. The survey is underway.