That extra something: Chinese IR or another cultural turn?
Paper draft: ISA 2017, HongKong–
Josie-Marie Perkuhn, Juni 2017
Draft v1 11.06.17
This is a draft version: Please do not quote or cite without author's permission!

That Extra Something: Chinese IR or Another Cultural Turn?

Josie-Marie Perkuhn,
Heidelberg University

Working Paper submitted for ISA panel A20
“Culture and International Relations”,
HK, Spring 2017

Please contact the Author directly for a soft copy of this paper.

Josie-Marie Perkuhn M.A.
Institute of Political Science
Heidelberg University
69115 Heidelberg
E-Mail: Josie-Marie.perkuhn@ipw.uni-heidelberg.de

Currently being a Fellow with the Taiwan Fellowship hosted by NCCU
That extra something: Chinese IR or another cultural turn?

Paper draft: ISA 2017, HongKong–Josie-Marie Perkuhn, Juni 2017
Draft v1 11.06.17

This is a draft version: Please do not quote or cite without author's permission!

That Extra Something: Chinese IRT or Another Cultural Turn?

Abstract

Given the fact that there is no such a thing as the one IR-Theory but many theoretical approaches within the discipline of IR; are the multiple turns really that much of a curiosity? In fact, it is fair to assume that these turns rather resemble the specification of a certain perspective, in which the added value is expected. Meaning, ‘turn’ actually just signalizes that a new focus lies at the basis of the research, ‘turn’ simply indicates that specific focus of analysis or that explanatory factor within the analysis. From the beginning of the discipline, the study of international relations was influenced by sub-disciplines of the field, which resulted in the differentiation in at least three main theoretical approaches, i.e. realism, liberalism, (social) constructivism. These mainstream theories function as frames that seek for specification in application. Especially with the turn towards multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary approaches, the study of IR focused on certain regions or fields of expertise in particular. Based on this understanding, this paper argues that each of the multiple turns resemble the selective specification of that theoretical approach in the context it is applied in. This paper examines several scholars of Chinese IR Theory. It questions if and to what extent the cultural turn is a basis of their approach that resembles the respective specification in that particular case rather than it is an enhancement of the theory itself.
That extra something: Chinese IR or another cultural turn?

Paper draft: ISA 2017, HongKong –
Josie-Marie Perkuhn, Juni 2017

Draft v1 11.06.17

This is a draft version: Please do not quote or cite without author's permission!