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Prof.ssa **Anna Greenspan**
New York University Shanghai

Wireless China and Wave Philosophy

13 May 2025, 10.30 AM CEST
Ca' Bottacin, Aula B

In this talk, Anna Greenspan will focus on her recent monograph: *China and the Wireless Undertow. Media as Wave Philosophy*, which was published in the *Technicities Series* at University of Edinburgh Press, 2023. Greenspan will offer an introduction to the book, using the idea or figure of the wave to reimagine the relationship between China and wirelessness. The book examines waves of various scales, from the long slow rhythms of techno-cultural history to the high-speed frequencies of electromagnetic machines. It re-imagines the relationship between China and wirelessness by synthesizes contemporary media theory with modern Chinese thought, focusing specifically on the work of three critical figures: Tan Sitong 譚嗣同 (1865–1898), Xiong Shili 熊十力 (1885–1968) and Mou Zongsan 牟宗三 (1909–1995). In doing so, *China and the Wireless Undertow* offers a new theoretical framework – focused upon a philosophy of the wave – with which to understand China's intimate involvement with our current wireless age.

Anna Greenspan is an Associate Professor of Contemporary Global Media at NYU Shanghai. She also co-directs the Centre for AI and Culture. Her research focuses on urban futures and emerging media. Anna is the author of *Shanghai Future: Modernity Remade* (Oxford University Press 2014). Her latest book is *China and the Wireless Undertow: Media as Wave Philosophy*, (University of Edinburgh Press, 2023). Together with Benjamin Bratton, Amy Ireland and Bogna Konior she has edited the volume *Machine Decision is Not Final: China and the History and Future of AI* (Urbanomic: Forthcoming).

