

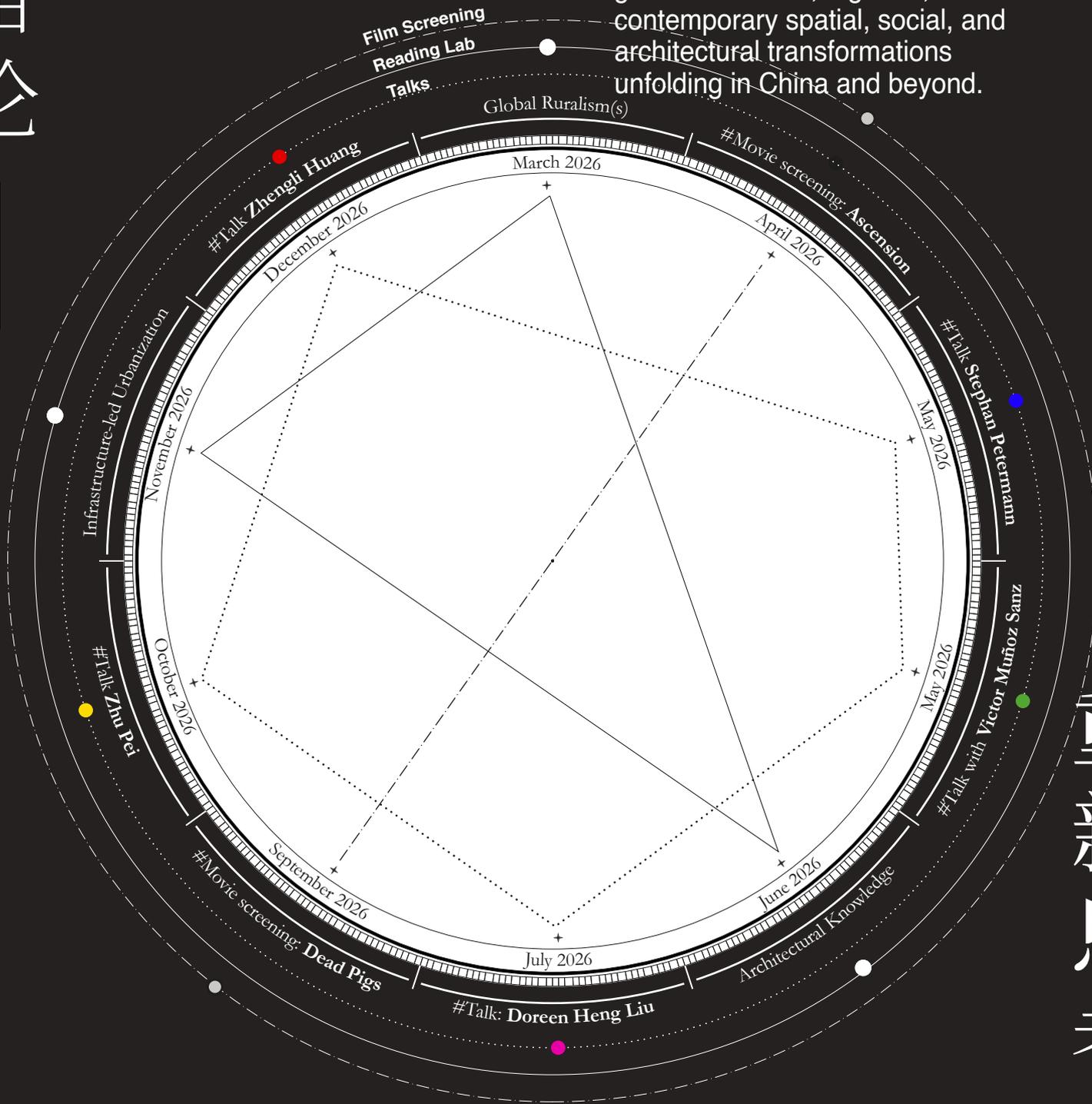
# COSMOLOGIES

## rethinking anomalies

宇宙论

**MARCH - DEC 2026**

Conceived to anticipate the #10year anniversary of **China Room**, this cycle of collective reflections invites guests to rethink, together, the contemporary spatial, social, and architectural transformations unfolding in China and beyond.



重新思考异常

**SERIES OF 10 EVENTS**

**#staytuned**

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### Rethinking Anomalies in Urban and Architectural Research on China and Beyond

Anomaly has too often been the lens through which China is read: its economic acceleration, its urbanisation, its architectures, and its institutional configurations have been framed as deviations - exceptions explainable only through the familiar formula with Chinese characteristics.

This has produced an interpretative habit rooted in a binary logic in which China is positioned as the Other of presumed universal models. Since its foundation, China Room has worked to rethink this dichotomy, insisting instead that understanding China requires abandoning the language of exception and recognising how “localised specificities surpass local transformation processes,” generating insights that extend far beyond their immediate contexts.

Cosmologies becomes an opportunity to open our research toward a broader academic community, within Politecnico and beyond, across disciplines, practices, and modes of knowledge production, in order to cultivate analytical tools capable of situating China within global processes. Resisting anomalies thus becomes a methodological stance: a way of expanding the horizons of spatial and architectural thought by refusing reductive framings and embracing the complexity of China’s entanglements with the world.

The term Cosmologies is used here not only in a metaphorical sense, but also as a critical lens. In contemporary anthropology, sociology, and critical studies, cosmologies are increasingly understood as ontological arrangements: situated ways of composing the world that define how humans, non-humans, environments, institutions, and forms of knowledge are related and made operative.

Cosmologies is employed as a critical concept referring to plural ontological frameworks through which the world is composed and understood. Rather than treating non-Western contexts as deviations from universal models, this perspective recognizes modernity itself as a historically and geographically situated cosmology, one among others, rather than a neutral or universal horizon.

Framing urban and architectural research through Cosmologies allows us to rethink anomalies not as exceptions, but as manifestations of diverse and coexisting modes of world-making, extending well beyond the case of China.

Each Cosmology, or better say each topic or event, marks a point of conjuncture within a decade-long trajectory of research: some stem from earlier projects, others signal new lines of inquiry opening within our fields.

The cycle of events will include:

- Three moments of **#Reading Labs**, critical discussions around the three main topics: **Global Ruralism(s)**, **Architectural Knowledge**, **Infrastructure-led Urbanization**;
- Five **#Talks** with international guests around the same themes, mobilizing different scales, disciplines and experiences;
- Two **#Movie screenings** to open up the discussion and academic community to the general public.

Further details regarding dates, speakers, and venues will be shared in due course.