Fate and prognostication represent universal anthropological phenomena found in all cultures and civilizations, and play an exceptionally significant role in China. There is no other civilization in which fate and prognostication – two intrinsically connected concepts – have had such prominent status as in China. Strategies of coping with individual fate in Chinese modernity are closely intertwined with questions of freedom – a topic not only important in terms of fate and predestination but also in a political context.

The topos of freedom has always been of existential interest to Gao Xingjian, an extraordinary novelist, dramatist, stage-director, and painter as well as Nobel Laureate in Literature 2000. Finding freedom and dealing with fate present important and recurrent themes in his works. Gao himself often paints the picture of a “Wanderer” in the search for the self and the pursuit of freedom. But what does the concept of freedom mean to Gao? How are questions of fate and freedom addressed in his prose and drama? Where do the quest for freedom and the self and the aspiration to reconnect with one’s fate lead the protagonist? These are but a few questions to be focused on at this conference.

Additionally, three of his cinematic works will be shown to further visualize and complement the results of the papers given at the conference.
### Monday, October 24, 2011

9:30 a.m. Welcome addresses  
Michael Lackner (Director, IKGF, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)  
Birgitt Aßmus (Mayor of Erlangen)

10:00 a.m. 自由與文學 ["Freedom and Literature"; Paper in Chinese]  
Gao Xingjian 高行健 (Nobel Laureate in Literature in 2000; Painter)

10:45 a.m. Ten Years On: Between Memory and Forgetting  
Wah Guan Lim (Cornell University)

11:30 a.m. 通往自由的美學 ["Aesthetics to Freedom"; Paper in Chinese]  
Lin Gang (Sun Yatsen University)

12:15 p.m. Lunch Break

2:00 p.m. 2000年前高行健走進國際視域的偶然性與必然性  
Liu Chunying 刘春英 (Jinan University)

2:45 p.m. The Aesthete as Revolutionary: Saving Art from Politics  
John McDonald (Art Critic for the Sydney Morning Herald)

### Tuesday, October 25, 2011

9:00 a.m. Finding Freedom and Reshaping Fate: An Exile’s Disentanglement from Obsession in Gao Xingjian’s Novels  
Lily Li (Indiana University Bloomington)

9:45 a.m. Freedom of a Wanderer. The Topos of a Journey in Gao Xingjian’s Dramas and Prose Works  
Izabella Łabedzka (Adam Mickiewicz University)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Break

10:45 a.m. 高行健之逍遙 ["The Free and Easy Wandering of Gao Xingjian"; Paper in Chinese]  
Zhang Yinde 張寅德 (Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris 3)

11:30 a.m. 高行健小說《一個人的聖經》中的“性,自由,逃亡” ["'Sex,' 'Freedom,' and 'Escape' in Gao Xingjian’s Novel One Man Bible"; Paper in Chinese]  
Noël Dutrait 杜特莱 (Université de Provence)

12:15 p.m. Lunch Break

2:00 p.m. On France and Freedom: The Five French Plays of Gao Xingjian  
Claire Concision 康開麗 (Duke University)

2:45 p.m. The Concept of Freedom in Gao Xingjian’s Autobiographical Novel One Man’s Bible  
Wang Liying 王丽颖 (IKGF, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)

3:30 p.m. Video Presentation: "La Silhouette sinon l’ombre" (90 min)