

Visiting Speaker Series 2016-17 Term 1

Borderland Citizenship: Governance of “Soviet Nationals” in Xinjiang (1949-1963)

Sheng MAO

Ph.D. candidate in Chinese History, Department of History,
University of Pennsylvania

6 Oct 2015 (Thursday)

12:30 – 2:00pm

Room 1118, 11/F,

Yasumoto International Academic Park

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Sheng MAO is a Ph.D. candidate in Chinese History at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of “Unafraid of the Ghost: Mao Zedong’s Victim Mentality and the Two Taiwan Strait Crises in the 1950s,” and his dissertation is titled “From Soviet Frontier to Chinese Frontier: Northwestern Xinjiang after the Sino-Soviet Split.”

ABOUT THE TALK

After the foundation of the PRC in 1949, a significant number of “Soviet nationals” (蘇僑) lived in China, and most of them were in Xinjiang. How to define and manage the citizenship of “Soviet nationals” was a set of important questions that both the Chinese government and its Soviet counterpart had to deal with. Who were qualified to be “Soviet nationals?” Could they keep dual citizenship or did they have to choose to become Chinese or Soviets? Which populations were willing to remain in the area, and which could be trusted to serve their government? Mr. Sheng Mao will discuss about how these two socialist states

distinguished the population of the “Soviets” from the “Chinese” in Xinjiang, how the fracture of Sino-Soviet relations affected citizenship policy, and how this demographic distinction turned Xinjiang from a transnational borderland into one of China’s anti-Soviet battlefields.



Free Admission

The seminar is conducted in English

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