

China Research Colloquium 2018-19 Term 2

To buy or not to buy— Study on the luxury consumption in Sichuan during the Cultural Revolution

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25 Jan 2019 (Friday)

4:30 – 6:00pm

Room 1118, 11/F,

Yasumoto International Academic Park

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Tang Sanjiao is a PhD student in The University of Auckland. Supervised by Professor Paul Clark, Sanjiao's research topic is about people's everyday life in Sichuan area during the Cultural Revolution. From the bottom-up perspective, he intends to approach the life experiences at grassroots during that politicized era. Being interested in the regional history of China, Sanjiao also aims to put his study in the local context of Sichuan area.

ABOUT THE TALK

It is popularly assumed that most Chinese people during the Cultural Revolution maintained quite a low living standard, due to the politicized environment and poor economy. However, the real situations may not be so monolithic as normal imagination. According to relevant materials in Hechuan, a typical county of Sichuan Basin, residents' consuming level increased continuously during the ten-year period, including consumption of some expensive and durable products, such as sewing machines, wrist watches, and radios, all of which could be viewed as luxury items in that period. My talk will discuss this phenomenon, also attempt to explore the possible reasons behind, based on the general background all over the country at that time, as well as the specific context of local Sichuan. It can provide a valuable angle to approach the various reality of people's everyday experiences during the politicized era.



手表



自行车



缝纫机



收音机

Free Admission

The colloquium is conducted in English

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