

Visiting Speaker Series 2018-19 Term 1

Postwar Urban Reconstruction in China, 1938 - 1958

Toby LINCOLN

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14 Nov 2018 (Wednesday)

4:00 – 5:30pm

Room 1118, 11/F,

Yasumoto International Academic Park



ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Toby Lincoln is Associate Professor in Chinese urban history at the University of Leicester. After obtaining a PhD at Oxford, he spent a year as a postdoctoral associate at the Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University. He has published widely on urbanization in 20th century China, including his first monograph *Urbanizing China in War and Peace the Case of Wuxi County* (University of Hawaii Press, 2015) and a co-edited volume *The Habitable City in China Urban History in the Twentieth Century* (Palgrave, 2017). He is currently working on a new project entitled Postwar Urban Reconstruction in China 1938-1958, and writing for Cambridge University Press's New Approaches to Asian History series on Chinese urbanization from its origins to the present.

ABOUT THE TALK

This talk takes a comparative approach to explore how cities in China experienced different historical trajectories of change throughout the wartime and post-war period. It explains how urban reconstruction laid the foundation for the country to become the world's largest urban society. In focusing on the war as a transformative period in the development of China's cities, instead of the Communist Revolution, this talk writes the country into the global history of urban change throughout the 20th century. It will review the extent of wartime urban destruction in different parts of China, before focusing on how the Nationalist Government was able to establish institutions to direct urban planning and reconstruction during and after the war. Throughout this period, officials at central and local government attempted to put into practice some of the latest global ideas on urban change, which were then circulating around China. At the same time urban inhabitants worked hard to rebuild their cities, often in very difficult circumstances.

Free Admission

The seminar is conducted in English

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