

Visiting Speaker Series 2018-19 Term 1

# *Consumption and Contested Memory: Chairman Mao as Commodity*

**QIAN Licheng**

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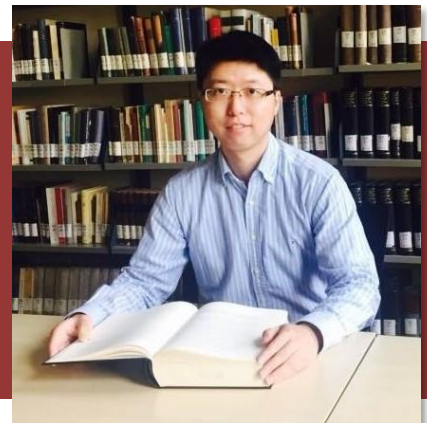
**4:30 – 6:00pm**

**Room 1118, 11/F,**

**Yasumoto International Academic Park**

## **ABOUT THE SPEAKER**

Licheng Qian received his PhD from the University of Virginia, and is currently Assistant Professor of Sociology at Zhejiang University in China. His research interests include cultural sociology, historical sociology, and particularly memory studies. His articles have been published in both China studies and sociological journals, such as the *Journal of Contemporary China* (in English) and *Sociological Studies* (in Chinese).



## **ABOUT THE TALK**

What does consumption of the Chairman Mao imagery mean in a Post-Mao context? What role does mnemonic consumption play in commemorating a “difficult past” not fully acknowledged by the state? Based on the interviews and participant observations in Shanghai, Beijing, and Hunan, I argue that through the generational mechanisms of denial and diversion, the consumption of difficult past with “imposed discursive ambiguity” might contribute more to collective forgetting than remembering. This paper not only helps us better understand the political culture in contemporary China, but also contributes to the memory studies by developing a displacement theory on remembering and forgetting.

**Free Admission**

**The seminar is conducted in English**

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