

REALITY CHECK CHINA: FROM THE POLITICAL TO THE PERSONAL

This two-day workshop co-hosted by **Middlesex Community College** and the **Asian Studies Development Program** at the East-West Center will explore the plural nature of contemporary China and its place in the multiplex world of the 21st century. The program is **free and open to all**.

February 1, 2024

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Dr. Christopher A. McNally
Chaminade University
Sino-capitalism: Can China's Economic Juggernaut Continue?

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM Dr. John Osburg
University of Rochester
China's Spiritual Crisis: Religious Revival and the Search for Meaning in Urban China

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM Dr. Peter D. Hershock
East-West Center
US/China AI and Data Governance Competition: Going Beyond the Arms Race Framing

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM Reception

February 2, 2024

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Dr. Kun Qian
University of Pittsburgh
Economics of Desire: Literature and Economics in Modern China

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Panel Discussion

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Lunch

LOCATION:

Middlesex Community College
Lowell Campus
Assembly Room, Federal Building
50 Kearney Square
Lowell, Massachusetts

To attend, contact

Professor Dona Cady at

cadyd@middlesex.mass.edu



Asian Studies Development Program



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WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

PETER D. HERSHOCK

Peter D. Hershock is Director of the Asian Studies Development Program and Coordinator of the Humane AI Initiative at the East-West Center in Honolulu. His philosophical work makes use of Buddhist conceptual resources to address contemporary issues of global concern. He has authored or edited more than a dozen books on Buddhism, Asian philosophy and contemporary issues, including *Reinventing the Wheel: A Buddhist Response to the Information Age*; *Buddhism in the Public Sphere: Reorienting Global Interdependence*; *Valuing Diversity: Buddhist Reflection on Realizing a More Equitable Global Future*; and *Buddhism and Intelligent Technology: Toward a More Humane Future*. His most recent book is *Consciousness Mattering: A Buddhist Synthesis*.

CHRISTOPHER A. MCNALLY

Christopher A. McNally is a Professor of Political Economy at Chaminade University and Adjunct Senior Fellow at the East-West Center in Honolulu, USA. His research focuses on comparative capitalisms, especially the nature and logic of Sino-Capitalism. He is currently researching the implications of China's international reemergence on the global order. He has held fellowships conducting fieldwork and research at the Asia Research Centre in West Australia, the Institute of Asia Pacific Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. He has edited four books, including an examination of China's political economy: *China's Emergent Political Economy – Capitalism in the Dragon's Lair* (Routledge, 2008). He also has authored numerous book chapters, policy analyses, editorials, and articles in journals such as *Business and Politics*, *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, *International Politics*, *Review of International Political Economy*, and *World Politics*.

JOHN OSBURG

John Osburg is Associate Professor and Chair of Anthropology at the University of Rochester. Since the early 2000s, Dr. Osburg has conducted several years of ethnographic field research in China and is the author of *Anxious Wealth: Money and Morality Among China's New Rich*, which examines the impact of China's market reforms on the local moral worlds and social networks of entrepreneurs and government officials in the southwest city of Chengdu. He has published several articles on topics including corruption and anti-corruption, changing norms of gender and sexuality in post-Mao China, and the tensions inherent in China's state capitalist system. In 2018, he was awarded an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship to support research examining new forms of spirituality and religious practice among China's urban middle class. He is currently finishing up the resulting monograph, tentatively titled, *Consuming Belief: Tibetan Buddhism and the Search for Meaning in Urban China*.

KUN QIAN

Kun Qian is Associate Professor of Chinese Literature and Film at the University of Pittsburgh. She is the author of *Imperial-Time-Order: Literature, Intellectual History, and China's Road to Empire* (Brill, 2016), was Associate Director of the oral-history based documentary, *The Revolution They Remember*, a film on the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Her publications have covered a variety of topics ranging from traumatic memory, representations of empire, time-image, to ecocinema. Her current research deals with the discourse of economics and the portrayal of desire in modern China. She is also working on a collaborative project on the metaverse and digital privacy.

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