

The Current Situation in Xinjiang:

The Causes, Effects and Implications of Disturbances of 2009-11

Speaker: Prof. Colin Mackerras

Colin Mackerras is Professor Emeritus at Griffith University, Australia. His books include *China's Ethnic Minorities and Globalisation* (RoutledgeCurzon, 2003) and *Ethnic Minorities in Modern China, Critical Concepts in Asian Studies* (Routledge, 2011). From 2000 to 2007 he was the (founding) editor-in-chief of *Asian Ethnicity*.

Date: 11 Nov 2011

Time: 2:30pm-4:00pm

Venue: J312



Abstract:

Xinjiang is the north-westernmost province-level unit in China. The population is multiethnic, the largest single ethnic group being the Uyghurs, who are Turkic in culture and Muslim by religion.

In July 2009 there was serious ethnic rioting in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, with significant casualties. There have been several incidents since then, most notably in Hotan and Kashgar in July 2011.

The paper will look briefly at the internal and external causes of these disturbances and it will consider the effects and implications of the riots and later disturbances. It will also make some comparisons with the situation in Tibet. Some comparisons and contrasts will be made between the diaspora leaders of both ethnic groups, especially the internationally famous Tibetan Dalai Lama and the President of the World Uyghur Congress Rebiya Kadeer.