

Research Associates Program (RAP)  
Social Science Research Centre on Contemporary China, FSS

Luncheon Seminar Series

## The Beginning of China's Ethnicity Challenge

Date: March 16, 2016 (Wednesday)

Time: 13:00 – 14:30

Venue: E21-G002

Language: English

### Abstract

China is quietly changing its ethnicity policy. The Regional Nationality Autonomy paradigm that has defined PRC policies since 1949 is criticized for risking consolidating ethnic groups into nations, and assimilationist stance becomes increasingly popular. Instead of providing a solution, this shift could usher in the beginning of China's ethnicity challenge—challenges from widespread, identity-based societal conflicts as opposed to the earlier political contestations about territory-based entitlements. This talk examines the current condition in relation to major historical debates since the 1910s, and especially to the changing nature of the Chinese state since the 1990s.

### Speaker

**XIANG Biao** is a Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Oxford. He is the author of *The Intermediary Trap* (Princeton University Press, forthcoming); *Global "Body Shopping"* (Princeton University Press, 2007; winner of 2008 Anthony Leeds Prize; Chinese by Peking University Press 2012), *Transcending Boundaries* (Chinese by Sanlian Press, 2000; English by Brill Academic Publishers, 2005; to be reprinted as a "Chinese Sociology Classics" in 2016;) and numerous articles in both English and Chinese, including the one awarded the 2012 William L. Holland Prize for outstanding article in *Pacific Affairs*. A number of articles were translated into French, Spanish and Italian. He is also the lead editor of *Return: Nationalizing Transnational Mobility in Asia* (Duke University Press, 2013). Xiang's article on Hong Kong is the subject of a special issue of Taiwan-based *Journal of Archaeology and Anthropology* (2015, 83).



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the Tunnel!**

**All are welcome!**



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