

The Department of East Asian Studies/Chinese Studies is pleased to invite to the lecture of



Associate Professor
Yang SU

Department of Sociology
University of California, Irvine



維也納大學漢學系

China's Leadership Transitions in the Reform Era

Abstract

For last three decades China has enjoyed a series of peaceful leadership transitions, including those from Deng Xiaoping to Jiang Zemin (1992), from Jiang to Hu Jintao (2002), and from Hu to Xi Jinping (2012). A review of this history calls for two differing considerations. Some may call it a success, one that is remarkable in comparison with the chaotic time under Mao or the initial years under Deng. To appreciate the change—hence the success—is to appreciate what I call the “Deng Factor.” Others may be wary of the limitation. It is unclear if Deng’s design could work in a long run. Will his script survive his passing and the decline of his posthumous influence? Is it an institutional asset that portends peaceful transitions to come?

Yang Su is an associate professor of UC Irvine. A political sociologist specializing in social movements, he is author of *Collective Killings in Rural China during the Cultural Revolution* (Cambridge University Press 2011). His latest research paper studies labor disputes in Western China, forthcoming at the *Law & Society Review*. He is currently completing a book project on elite politics and its impact on popular protest. A native of Guangdong, he studied in Beijing before he moved to the United States on a scholarship. He obtained his Ph.D. degree in sociology from Stanford University.

Date: Thursday, May 30, 2019

Time: 16:30-18:00

Location: **SIN 2**, at the Department for East Asian Studies/Chinese Studies, Altes AKH, Campus, Spitalgasse 2, yard 2, entrance 2.3