

# DAS INSTITUT FÜR OSTASIENWISSENSCHAFTEN/ SINOLOGIE

Die *Sinologie* des Instituts für Ostasienwissenschaften freut sich, Sie zu folgendem  
**ONLINE-Gastvortrag** einladen zu dürfen:



**Prof. Dr. Rebecca E. Karl**  
*New York University*



維也納大學漢學系

## **Writing an unBiography: Mao Zedong and China in the Twentieth-Century World**

This talk will take up the genre of what I call an "unBiography." I consider my 2010 book on Mao Zedong (*Mao Zedong and China in the Twentieth Century World: A Concise History*, Duke University Press) to be exemplary of such a genre. That book is not a biography insofar as it does not either mine a new archive or try to explain or explore Mao and his motivations through his life story. Nevertheless, it does take the conditions of Mao's life as the historical context through which we understand his philosophies and his engagements with China and the world in socialist terms. Thus, the book treats Mao singularly and yet also as a product of his local and global moment. It asks: how could Mao be possible in 20<sup>th</sup> century China, and how could Chinese socialism in Maoist terms become not only important in China but globally as well. The volume strives for a unity of thought and practice.

**Rebecca E. Karl** teaches history and social theory at New York University, in New York. She is the author most recently of: *The Magic of Concepts: History and the Economic in Twentieth-Century China* (Duke 2017); and of *China's Revolutions in the Modern World: A Brief Interpretive History* (Verso 2020). Her previous books address earlier twentieth-century Chinese nationalism, early Chinese anarcho-feminism, and other topics; she also is a frequent translator from the Chinese. During this past pandemic year, she has helped found and launch the collaborative collective project [positionspolitics.org](http://positionspolitics.org) (an online website attached to the journal *positions*); and she is a founding member of the organization, Critical China Scholars, which offers leftist analysis of contemporary and historical issues through global webinars and political education in the US, UK, Hong Kong, and Australia.

**Datum:** Mittwoch, 12.05.2021

**Zeit:** 16:00 Uhr

**Ort:** ONLINE

<https://univienne.zoom.us/j/93626821598?pwd=eIFKRG05cUZJZjdDWG5mQzBSOVV5QT09>