This project explores the intersections between memory, oral history, cinematic and photographic forms of mnemonic technique, and the social, political and cultural histories of state socialism. Focusing on a single extended event—the tour of the Hungarian People’s Army Performing Arts Ensemble in the People’s Republic of China, involving 217 people and approximately 100 days during the autumn of 1956—the project explores the trans-national person-to-person, small group to small group socio-cultural linkages that were made possible within the state-socialist context. Böröcz approaches this complex history with an aim to trace ways in which such movements of peoples, cultures and ideas under the banner of ‘socialist internationalism’ were both enabling and limited, and the negotiations that individual actors were obliged to make in the process of navigating that moment. The project thus explores the complex linkages between micro and macro-historical processes in the period labeled as late Stalinism in the Soviet bloc and “let a hundred flowers bloom” in histories of China. His talk uses an extensive and unique set of cinematic, visual and documentary sources about the trip. It combines those materials with oral histories with some documentary sources about the trip. It combines those materials with oral histories with some members of the group who are still alive, as well as more conventional historical evidence gathered from the recently-opened archives, including those of the secret police and the foreign ministry of the erstwhile People’s Republic of Hungary.


JENNIFER HSU

Thursday, Oct.14, 4:30pm
Science 2, Room 143

LAYERS OF THE STATE: MIGRANT ORGANISATIONS AND THE CHINESE STATE

This talk explores the development and interactions of migrant non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with the central and local state. Case studies in Beijing and Shanghai suggest that while the central state is active in the management of NGOs through various regulations, the local state is increasingly becoming important in the effectiveness of migrant NGOs operations. In this vein, the presentation will highlight an emerging set of informal rules in local state-NGO interactions, and discusses the implications of this finding.

JENNIFER HSU is Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology.

Co-sponsors: DAAAS, Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas, and Sociology Dept.

SPRING 2010 SPEAKERS
(TALK TITLES AND VENUES TO BE ANNOUNCED)

February 3
MAHUA SARKAR, Associate Professor of Sociology, Women’s Studies, and Asian and Asian American Studies at Binghamton University
(Co-sponsors: DAAAS, Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas, and Sociology Dept.)

March 4
NAOKO SHIBUSAWA, Associate Professor of History at Brown University
(Co-sponsors: DAAAS, Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas, and History Dept.)

March 17
PHILIP KUHN, Francis Lee Higginson Professor of History and of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Emeritus at Harvard University
(Co-sponsors: DAAAS, Institute for Asia and Asian Diaspora, Sociology Dept., and History Dept.)

March 31
ANNE ANLIN CHENG, Professor of English and African American Studies, and Chair of English at Princeton University
(Co-sponsors: DAAAS, Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas, English Dept., Comparative Literature Dept., and Africana Studies Dept.)

April 8
ELEANA KIM, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Rochester
(Co-sponsors: DAAAS, Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas, and the Center for Korean Studies)

For more information, contact the Dept. of Asian and Asian American Studies
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