



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EAST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

21
MARCH

**2023 THE INSTITUTE FOR CHINESE
STUDIES AND DEPARTMENT
OF HISTORY PRESENT:**

Tuesday
4:00-5:30
Derby Hall 29

**"UYGHUR POETS AND THE MAKING OF A
COLD WAR DIASPORA"**

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The far-flung Uyghur diaspora responded to China's Communist revolution in widely varying ways, but these responses shared one characteristic feature of Uyghur culture: they were often expressed in verse. Drawing on contemporary publications, this paper explores how diaspora Uyghur poets grappled in verse with the Maoist project, in the process helping to situate their communities along both sides of emerging Cold War fault lines. In Soviet Central Asia, Uyghur poets welcomed the advent of Communist rule in their ancestral homeland, while nationalist Uyghur intellectuals who had fled into exile dispatched fiery anti-Communist verses from Turkey and Taiwan. Meanwhile, Xinjiang's Uyghur poets responded with verse affirming the revolution and its allies. By analyzing Uyghur diaspora poets' intersections with Maoist Xinjiang across borders and decades, this paper demonstrates that the cross-border connections of minority communities helped link Mao's China to a literary world stretching beyond the cramped borders of the Cold War.



Free and open to the public

<https://easc.osu.edu/events/ics-lecture-joshua-l.-freeman>

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