



Worlds of Economic Thinking in 20th Century China

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This talk will take up three decades of debate when “the economic” as a category of social activity and disciplinary knowledge was heavily contested: the 1930s, in the context of global financial crisis; the 1940s, in the context of total global war; and the 1950s, in the context of China's transition to socialism. By examining how “the economic” is conceptualized flexibly in proximate albeit very differently-situated historical moments, the project engages in a critique of the universal stability of social scientific/economic categories across time and space, while also introducing a set of important Chinese intellectuals whose deep engagement with capitalism, in China and as a global structure, should be more widely known. This project bridges intellectual histories of China, Europe, economics, social science, Marxism, and the mid-twentieth century world.

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3:30-5:00 pm

131 Mendenhall Lab



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