



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE FOR CHINESE STUDIES

ICS presents the "Re-Imagining China's Past and Present" Lecture Series

Becoming Masters of their Own Homes

The United Front, Socialist Transformation and
Rebellion on the Sino-Tibetan Frontier (1949-1958)

Friday, October 20, 2017

4:00-5:30 pm

Orton Hall 110

155 S Oval Mall

Benno Weiner

Assistant Professor

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Abstract: In this talk, Benno Weiner explores efforts by the Chinese Communist Party to absorb a portion of the Sino-Tibetan frontier into the newly established People's Republic of China. Promising to make minority communities "masters of their own homes," for much of the 1950s the Communist Party employed a strategy referred to as the United Front as a means to "gradually," "voluntarily," and "organically" transform the Sino-Tibetan frontier into a component part of the unitary, socialist state. However, the United Front ultimately lost out to revolutionary impatience, leading in 1958 to communization, large-scale rebellion, and a brutal pacification campaign. In its wake, Dr. Weiner argues, the state has been unable to erase the memory of that violence, leaving China's Tibetan population unevenly absorbed into the modern Chinese nation.

Bio: Benno Weiner is Assistant Professor of Modern Chinese and Tibetan History at Carnegie Mellon University. His research revolves around the processes and problematics of twentieth-century state- and nation-building within China's ethnic minority regions. Dr. Weiner is currently completing the manuscript for his first book, *The Chinese Revolution on the Tibetan Frontier: National Integration, Socialist Transformation and Rebellion on the Ethnic Margins of Maoist China*.

**Free and Open
to the Public**

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