

Three ways to be uncivilized in China: The language, policy, and consequences of ethnicity

CHINA Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections

CHINA Town Hall is a national day of programming on China involving 70 cities throughout the United States.



Rian Thum

Department of History
Loyola University New Orleans

Monday, October 5, 2015
Rian Thum: 6:00—6:50 pm
Webcast: 7:00—8:30 pm
120 Mershon Center
1501 Neil Avenue

Rian Thum is a specialist in the history of Islam in China, Uyghurs, and Chinese money. His book, *The Sacred Routes of Uyghur History* (Harvard University Press, 2014), argues that the Uyghurs - and their place in China today - can only be understood in the light of longstanding traditions of local pilgrimage and manuscript culture. He is currently preparing a study of the role Islamic networks have played in connecting China to India. As an assistant professor of history at Loyola University New Orleans, he teaches classes on global and Chinese history, revolution in China, money, and historical anthropology.

Free and open to the public

Contact: Danielle Cooke | cooke.71@osu.edu | 614-247-6839 | East Asian Studies Center | easc.osu.edu

PROGRAM: At The Ohio State University, the evening's program commences at 6:00 pm with our local speaker, Professor Rian Thum (Loyola University New Orleans), followed by a one-hour, live, national webcast beginning at 7:00 pm.

CHINA TOWN HALL
Local Connections, National Reflections

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON
U.S. CHINA RELATIONS



Abstract: The concept of "minorities" (少数民族) is a pillar of China's current ethnic policy. Beneath this concept's sheen of mathematical impartiality, diasporas and colonies become indistinguishable, while state policies toward "minorities" veer from assimilation to benign neglect without any sign of contradiction. Rian Thum outlines the origins of this powerful term and its relation to earlier Chinese ways understanding difference. He then analyzes its effects on various peoples who have been labeled minorities, focusing on the Uyghurs and comparing them to the Hui, Miao, and others.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE FOR CHINESE STUDIES

National Sponsor:

National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, New York, NY

Local Sponsor:

Institute for Chinese Studies, East Asian Studies Center, OSU

Local Co-sponsor:

Mershon center for International Security Studies, OSU