

“Bombard the Headquarters”

An Exhibition and Symposium to mark the 50th Anniversary of China's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution

4-6 August 2016, University of Melbourne

Yasuko Hiraoka Myer Room, Sidney Myer Asia Centre

Programme & Associated Events

Coordinators: Professor Antonia Finnane (SHAPS)

Associate Professor Zhu Jianfei (ABP)

CHINA'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION: PERSPECTIVES AFTER FIFTY YEARS



In August 2016, scholars from the Faculties of Arts and Architecture at the University of Melbourne are holding a symposium to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of China's Cultural Revolution. In addition to cross-disciplinary academic papers, the symposium will include a community forum, at which Chinese Australians will talk about memories and knowledge of the Cultural Revolution, and an exhibition of material from the Baillieu Library, including handwritten diaries, posters, and other ephemera. International participants include established scholars, early career researchers, and also collectors of diaries.

Programme: Thursday 4 August

3:00-5:15pm: Pre-conference film viewing

A 2014 documentary focusing on twenty people in Zhejiang province who were found guilty of counter-revolutionary crimes during the Cultural Revolution Crime Summary (Zuixing zhaiyao 罪行摘要) (dir. Xu Xing), 2014.

5:15-6:00pm: Reception

6:00-6:15pm: Welcome and Chair: Professor Antonia Finnane, School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, University of Melbourne

Exhibition Launch:

Professor Christine Wong, Director, Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies, University of Melbourne

6:15-7:30pm:

Keynote Lecture

—**Professor Barbara Mittler (University of Heidelberg)**, author of *A Continuous Revolution: Making Sense of Cultural Revolution Culture* (Harvard, 2012)



Living the Cultural Revolution: Impact, Events and the Making of Cultural Memory

Why is it that for a while in the early 2000s, Mao's portrait dangled in almost every taxi and that it is to be found everywhere today, in high-market as well as popular accessories? Why are there numerous Chinese websites featuring memories of producing and consuming Maoist propaganda art? Why do people get married in "Cultural Revolution Style" today? Why are the model works and revolutionary songs most prominent during the Cultural Revolution popularly reproduced in never-ending varieties of pop, rock and jazz covers in contemporary China, even in Karaoke Bars, and on Home-Videos? Why, in short, do people appreciate the products stemming from of a period in Chinese history which has been known for its radical politics and the horrors it inflicted on so many?

These are some of the questions Mittler's talk will attempt to address. She will argue that the Cultural Revolution was an impact event that did not only touch those who have written about it—the intellectuals, the well-off, the middle class—but that it went all the way, down to the peasants and workers. The Cultural Revolution was there for (or against) everyone, as two recent films, fiction and documentary, *Bloody Snow* by Peng Tao and *Crime Summary* by Xu Xing illustrate very effectively, deliberating how, in many different and even counterintuitive ways, the Cultural Revolution and its political hysterics reached out even to those in the most remote corners of a vast country.

Mittler will attempt to explain how the expansive and all-encompassing experience of living the Cultural Revolution and the impact this had plays in the making of cultural memory in China (and elsewhere).

Welcome dinner for chairs and speakers

Programme: Friday 5 August

9:00-9:15am: Morning Tea

9:15-10:30am: Panel 1: State projects/propaganda/education

Chair: Professor Antonia Finnane

Xiaohong Xu (National University of Singapore): *The Great Leader Who Was Not: An Interactionalist Approach to the Rise of China's Cultural Revolution*

Lewis Mayo (Asia Institute, University of Melbourne): *Philology, Economics and the Everyday History of the Cultural Revolution*

Dayton Lekner (Asia Institute, University of Melbourne): "What's in a Metaphor? Mao's 'Hundred Flowers', Fei Xiaotong's 'Early Spring' and the Anti-Rightist Campaign of 1957"

10:45am-12:00pm: Panel 2: Struggles

Chair: Professor Zhu Jianfei

Cai Chen (Postgrad, King's College London): *'Great Battles' in Science and Politics: Marine Science in Qingdao City During the Cultural Revolution*

Ming Wu (ABP) Shanghai People's Square of the Mao Era: *A Space of Ideological Framing and Radical Social Practice*

Anmol Mukhia (Postgrad, Jilin University, PRC): *Impact of Chinese Revolutionary Opera on North Korea*

1:00-2:15pm:

Welcome and introduction: Associate Professor Zhu Jianfei, School of Architecture, Building and Planning, University of Melbourne

Keynote/public lecture

- **Professor Li Baihao**, Southeast University (Nanjing), historian of architecture and urban planning



Socialist town planning in the Maoist era

From the birth of the PRC through Socialist Transformation, the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution to Mao's death in 1976, while China was under the leadership of Mao Zedong, city planning and building was socialist in inspiration. Designing a socialist capital in Beijing, undertaken with Soviet aid, gave rise to the famous "Liang-Chen plan" and set in motion planning for a socialist industrial city, the model for which was designed on Soviet lines. From the late 50s, in the period from the historically unprecedented People's Communes movement to the Cultural Revolution, Mao's government, wanting to accelerate the realization of socialist ideals, launched the Third Front construction movement. This established the foundations for modern city planning in China, simultaneously giving expression to the interaction between the spatial understanding of the governing authorities and the designs of professionals engaged in the undertaking. This lecture takes a new look at these developments from a cultural perspective.

2:15-3:00pm:

Panel 3: Buildings, space and cultural heritage

Chair: Dr Lewis Mayo

Professor Zhu Jianfei (ABP, University of Melbourne): *Building the Yangtze River Bridge*

Ke Song (Postgrad, ABP, University of Melbourne): *Architectural Modernism in the Cultural Revolution: Western Knowledge and Chinese Identity*

Qihe Yu: *The Protection of Cultural Relics and Destruction in China's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution*

3:45-5:00pm

Panel 4: Remains of the time

Chair: Professor Barbara Mittler

Speakers:

Minerva Inwald (Postgrad, University of Sydney): *Thousands upon Thousands of Authors: Understanding Cultural Revolution Art through Material Culture*

Carol Yinghua Lu (Postgrad, University of Melbourne): *Long Live the Glorious May 7 Directive*

Professor Ann McLaren (University of Melbourne): *The Cultural Revolution: Sent Down Youth Remember*

Programme: Saturday 6 August

9:00am

Panel 1: Reading and Writing

Chair: Professor Anne McLaren

Speakers:

Associate Professor Peidong Sun (Fudan University, China): Secret Zhiqing Reading

Shan Windscrip (Postgrad, SHAPS, University of Melbourne): Diary writing and the imagination of rural and urban

Guo Wu (Associate Professor, History, Allegheny College, USA): Inside the Cowshed: Ritual, Reading, and Violence during the Cultural Revolution

10:30am – 12:00pm

Community Roundtable with panel of Chinese Australians (sponsored by the Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies)

Speakers include:

Participants of the Cultural Revolution: Jin Yi, Wu Junyi, Wang Shijing, Sun Dannian, Next-generation: Bei-en Zou, Richard Liu, Chen Chen, Shan Windscrip

12:00pm – 1:00pm

Closing Remarks and lunch

Authorised by Professor Antonia Finnane (School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, The University of Melbourne), Chair, coordinating committee: a.finnane@unimelb.edu.au

For further details contact Shan Windscrip: shan.windscrip@unimelb.edu.au

Admission is free

Bookings are required

Seating is limited

To register visit: <http://alumni.online.unimelb.edu.au/Bombard>