

Material Contradictions in Maoist China

- Workshop organised by Jennifer Altehenger (KCL) and Denise Y. Ho (Yale), King's College London, 17-18 May 2019 -



Conference description

Both within China and around the world, the history of the People's Republic of China under the rule of Mao Zedong (1949-1976) is often represented through its material culture. But the seeming familiarity with objects from the Mao era – from propaganda materials and objects to washbasins, bicycles, or ration coupons – obscures the larger socio-cultural, economic, and political history of material culture as it was designed and planned, produced and distributed, consumed and reused. Bringing together scholars working in the fields of history and cultural studies, art and architecture, cinema and dance, this conference – the second following a first conference at Yale University in 2018 sponsored by the Council on East Asian Studies – reveals a complex material culture that included a wide range of materials, things, and practices. Taken together, they made up the fabric of everyday life

under Mao. Examining how materials and things in Maoist China were both products and producers of contradiction, the papers shed new light on modern China. It also opens up new perspectives on the global history of material modernity, consumer cultures, science and technology, and everyday material practices.

Schedule and venue

Friday, 17 May 9.00am-6.00pm, King's College London, Strand Campus, K2.29

Saturday, 18 May 9.00am-6pm, King's College London, Strand Campus, K2.29

Please see the [preliminary program](https://2019mcmc2home.files.wordpress.com/2019/05/program-mcmc2-london.pdf) for full details

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Abstracts

Conference abstracts (<https://2019mcmc2home.files.wordpress.com/2019/05/materialcontradictionsmaoistchina-workshopabstracts-may2019.pdf>) **DOWNLOAD**
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Inquiries and registration

A limited amount of spaces is available for guests to join on Saturday, 18 May. If you would like to register, or for any other inquiries, please contact Ms Katrin Heilmann ([katrin.heilmann\[at\]kcl.ac.uk](mailto:katrin.heilmann@kcl.ac.uk)).

Speakers and discussants

Jennifer Altehenger, King's College London

Chris Berry, King's College London

Paul Betts, University of Oxford

Craig Clunas, University of Oxford

Laurence Coderre, New York University

Madeleine Y. Dong, University of Washington, Seattle

David Edgerton, King's College London

Harriet Evans, University of Westminster, LSE

Jacob Eyferth, University of Chicago

Anne Gerritsen, University of Warwick

Karl Gerth, University of California, San Diego

Christine Ho, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Denise Ho, Yale University

Jie Li, Harvard University

Covell Meyskens, Naval Postgraduate School

Weilin Pan, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

Cole Roskam, Hong Kong University

Michael Schoenhals, Lund University

Sarah Teasley, Royal College of Art

Helen Wang, British Museum

Emily Wilcox, University of Michigan



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