



ANU

China

Seminar

Series

16
Apr
2020

Thursday, 4:00–5:30pm
with 3:30pm refreshments

SEMINAR ROOM, CIW BUILDING
Australian Centre on China in the World,
Building 188, Fellows Lane
(between Law School and South Oval)

Peter Zarrow



*Professor of History at the University of
Connecticut*

National Heritage in East Asia: Reworking the Imperial Imaginary in Beijing and Tokyo

This talk focuses on two sites that function as national heritage in Beijing and Tokyo. By comparing the Forbidden City (a museum) and the Meiji Shrine (a park and Shinto shrine), I will discuss how views of the imperial house and its history have been constantly reconstructed since the time they were open to the public in the 1920s. They present how elite and popular goals differ, and how new memories and narratives have added nuance to their representation of the past.

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AUSTRALIAN CENTRE ON
CHINA IN THE WORLD

<http://ciw.anu.edu.au/events/china-seminar-series>

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The ANU China Seminar Series is the pre-eminent forum for discussion of China and the Sinophone world at the Australian National University, where over fifty senior academics as well as many post-doctoral fellows and graduate students conduct research on the region. Invited speakers come from across the full range of disciplines. They include senior scholars from in and outside the ANU, younger academics, post-doctoral research fellows, and advanced graduate students. The Seminar Series provides an arena in which to examine China in its widest sense, to acquaint people with a range of China-related research that might otherwise lie outside their scope of contact, and to offer a social setting for discussion of matters of mutual interest. It aims at a broad audience: members of academic staff from many fields; undergraduate and graduate students; policy-makers; and interested members of the public.

The seminar usually runs between 4.00pm and 5.30pm on alternate Thursdays during the University's teaching term. Exceptions will be noted on the Seminar Series' website, which is regularly updated. With the consent of speakers, seminars are recorded and made publicly available through the Seminar Series' website to build an archive of research on the Sinophone world.

BEFORE THE SEMINAR

All attendees are invited to join us in the CIW Tea House from 3.30pm for informal discussion with the guest speaker before the seminar.

The Seminar Series is supported by the China Institute and the Australian Centre on China in the World at The Australian National University's College of Asia & the Pacific.

Convenors:

Ivan Franceschini ivan.franceschini@anu.edu.au
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For further details of the series:

<http://ciw.anu.edu.au/events/china-seminar-series>

This talk focuses on two sites that function as national heritage in Beijing and Tokyo. By comparing the Forbidden City (a museum) and the Meiji Shrine (a park and Shinto shrine), I will discuss how views of the imperial house and its history have been constantly reconstructed since the time they were open to the public in the 1920s. Both sites reveal tensions between the present modern nation-state identity vis-à-vis the historic emperorship. They also presented how elite and popular goals differ, and how new memories and narratives have added nuance to their representation of the past. The Forbidden City, a site of key political, religious, and ancestral rituals since the fourteenth century, underwent a process of desacralization. It was partially open to the public in the wake of the 1911 Revolution, and officially opened as a museum in 1925. The palace has represented both feudal decadence and past glory. The Meiji Shrine, housing the kami of the Meiji Emperor and Empress, finished construction in 1920. Buildings of the Shrine combined the Japanese traditional style and Western style, and served as a venue for both political activities and religious rituals. Such arrangement embodies the contested views of identity and historicity.

PETER ZARROW is a Professor of History at the University of Connecticut, having previously worked as a Research Fellow at Academia Sinica, Taiwan. His research focuses on the intellectual and cultural history of modern China (late 19th through 20th centuries). His current research deals with the construction and consumption of heritage in comparative perspective, using key sites in China, Japan, Britain, and France as case studies.

