

## **New leisure cities, new leisure citizens: the urban revolution in China**

**Speaker:** Tim Oakes

Center for Asian Studies at the University of Colorado  
Boulder

**Chair:** Jamie Gillen, Department of Geography, NUS

**Date/Time:** Friday, 17 January 2014, 3.30 pm – 5.00 pm

**Place:** Earth Lab (AS2 02-03), Department of Geography, NUS

### **Abstract**

China's rapidly transforming cityscapes are spectacular 'landscapes of power' that can easily be viewed as reinforcing state and corporate agendas. Yet while it is tempting to see in China's new hyper-commercialized and monumentalized public spaces a totalizing form of ideological power that interpellates residents into a consumer-citizen subjectivity, these are nevertheless incomplete, ambivalent and, indeed, contested spaces. This paper explores the role of leisure as both discourse and practice in the socio-spatial projects of urban governance and citizenship in contemporary China.

### **About the Speaker**



Tim Oakes is Professor of Geography and Director of the Center for Asian Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder. He also holds visiting professor positions at Wageningen University, Netherlands, and Guizhou Minzu University, China. His work focuses on the uses of culture and heritage as governance and development strategies in both rural and urban China. Recent publications include articles in *Modern China*, *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, *Environment and Planning D: Society & Space*, as well as the co-edited volumes *Faiths on Display* and *Real Tourism*.

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Winston Chow