

# Welcome to the **Fall 2016 Speaker Series** of the **Indian Ocean World Centre**

Speaker: Dr. Jeremy Tai  
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5:45 pm Peterson Hall Rm 116

## **Reviving the Silk Road: Spatial Fixes and the Cultural Imagination in Reform–Era China**



In recent years, the Chinese Communist Party has resurrected the ancient Silk Road to serve as the newest face of global capitalism. Chinese authorities have mobilized the romantic image of desert oases connected by caravans to forge stronger ties with countries in South Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. In the face of a new era of slow growth, the central government has envisioned transforming ancient routes of exchange and conquest into the crossroads of gas pipelines, high-speed railways, and free trade. This talk examines how the Silk Road Economic Belt (also known as One Belt, One Road) draws on decades of cultural production in China's peripheries to channel the nation's desires beyond its borders and reterritorialize strategies of accumulation. In particular, I trace the emergence of the Silk Road imaginary within the ideological and material disjunctures of postsocialist China and how it has reshaped the local built environment of Xi'an, once the imperial capital of Chang'an and the eastern terminus of the Silk Road.



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