

Indian Ocean World Centre

Fall **Speaker Series**

Pitfalls of Popularity: The Radicalization Dynamics of the 1989 Tiananmen Student Movement

Nov 6 - Rm 116, Peterson Hall
3:00 – 5:00, Refreshments served

This paper explores why radical mobilizational tactics failed to achieve social and political changes during the 1989 Tiananmen Student Movement. By focusing on historical archives from students, elites, and state institutions, I argued that student radicalization inadvertently strengthens the hard-liner elites, facilitating the eventual repression. However, radical repertoire and actions are political and cultural meaning-making processes that situate between economic modernization and authoritarian consolidation of Chinese society.

The overall project seeks to explore conceptual and empirical frameworks that historicize social changes after the revolutionary episodes in the 1960s and 1970s.



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