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**The Wang Jingwei personality cult in wartime China: Collaboration and
contradistinction**

Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
January 20, 2014
17:00, Rooms 8/9

Until recently, much of the academic literature on the 'Re-organised National Government' (1940-5) of Wang Jingwei in Occupied China focused on the motivations of Chinese 'collaborators' and the repression that was administered in the RNG's name. Lately scholars have started to move beyond such questions, with more thorough analyses of RNG 'state-building' resulting in thoughtful studies of collaborationist propaganda, media and administration.

This presentation builds on such literature and examines the ways in which the RNG sought to construct a personality cult around its charismatic leader Wang Jingwei, even before the regime itself was formally inaugurated. Looking in particular at visual materials and political rituals, the talk will explore the extent to which the RNG's veneration of Wang was purely derivative of pre-existing and pre-war Nationalist Chinese traditions, or whether the unusual circumstances of occupation and collaboration resulted in something unique in the Republican Chinese history of leader veneration.

This talk represents some of the preliminary work Dr. Taylor has been conducting on RNG visual propaganda, as part of his larger project on the visual history of collaboration in wartime China.

Jeremy E. Taylor is an associate professor at the University of Nottingham's School of Contemporary Chinese Studies. He works on the modern cultural and social history of the Chinese-speaking world, and has published widely in history and area studies journals on topics ranging from propaganda to architectural preservation. He is the author of *Rethinking Transnational Chinese Cinemas: The Amoy-dialect film industry in Cold War Asia* (Routledge, 2011) and founder of the 'Enemy of the People' web site (www.hrionline.ac.uk/chiangkaishek).

This session is co-sponsored by the European Research Council-funded project directed by Dr Barak Kushner

Funding for the Japan seminars in the series has been generously provided by the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation



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