

**CONTEMPORARY CHINA  
A TITLE VI UISFL CORE COURSE WORKSHOP  
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA,  
EDMOND, OK  
20-21 SEPTEMBER 2018**



**HALL OF CENTRAL HARMONY: IS IT  
POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN HARMONY IN  
CONTEMPORARY CHINA?**



Asian Studies Development Program - Enhancing Undergraduate Education

**Thursday, 20 September 2018 - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Event/Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Location</b>
Thursday 11:00am to 12:15pm	Registration and Lunch		Business 115
Thursday 12:30pm	Jessica Sheetz- Nguyen	Welcome	Troy Smith Lecture Hall Bus 113
Thursday 12:30 to 1:45 pm	Peter Hershock	<i>The Intelligence Revolution: Contemporary Buddhist Reflections on the Predicaments of Human Becoming</i>	Troy Smith Lecture Hall Bus 113
Thursday 2:00 to 3:15pm	Yan Yunxiang	<i>Doing Personhood (zuoren, 做人) in Chinese Culture: The Mechanism and Challenges in the Making of Moral Subjectivity</i>	Troy Smith Lecture Hall Bus 113
Thursday 3:30 to 4:45pm	Bonnie Cheng	<i>Zodiac Heads Across the Not-So- Calm Seas: Imperial Novelty, Loot, and National Symbols</i>	Troy Smith Lecture Hall Bus 113

**FRIDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2018 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Friday 11:00 a.m. to Noon	Lunch		Business Atrium
Friday – Noon to 3:00 p.m.	“Reflecting on Higher Education, Chinese Studies and Higher Education: Past, Present and Future” A Faculty-Student Forum – Round Table Discussion led by Peter Hershock, Yan Yunxiang, and Bonnie Cheng		Troy Smith Lecture Hall, Bus 113
Friday – 5:00 to 8:30 p.m.	Post-event gathering		

## GUEST PRESENTERS



**Bonnie Cheng** is Associate Professor of Art History and East Asian Studies at Oberlin College, where she teaches courses in premodern and modern Chinese and Japanese art. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Her research focuses on artistic exchange and the nature of tomb space in China. Her work has appeared in *Ars Orientalis*, *Archives of Asian Art*, among other journals. A recent essay in *The Medieval Globe* assesses the so-called "global turn" in Art History and its relevance for Chinese historiography.

<https://www.oberlin.edu/bonnie-cheng>

**Title:** *Zodiac Heads Across the Not-So-Calm Seas: Imperial Novelty, Loot, and National Symbols*

**Abstract:** This talk will discuss installations of Ai Weiwei's *Circle of Animals* (2011) in cities around the world and the auction of bronze heads purportedly from the Old Summer Palace that sparked Ai's sculptural creations. I will consider three moments in the lives of the animal heads: their creation in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the circumstances under which they were looted in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and their reemergence in the sphere of contemporary collecting. Questioning the notion of cultural "property," I explore how these objects have been variously understood as imperial novelty, war loot, and national symbols of China in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and how objects of the past are subject to contemporary reinterpretation.



**Yan Yunxiang** is Professor of Anthropology at University of California, Los Angeles, and holds an M.A. in Folklore and Mythology from Peking University and a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from Harvard University. Prior to coming to UCLA, he taught at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Johns Hopkins University. Unpacking and understanding the moral experiences of ordinary people in the fast-changing world today constitutes the abiding theme in his

anthropological career, and his research interests include family and kinship, economic anthropology, social change and development, cultural globalization, and the individual-society relationship. He is the author of *The Flow of Gifts: Reciprocity and Social Networks in a Chinese Village* (Stanford UP, 1996), *Private Life under Socialism: Love, Intimacy, and Family Change in a Chinese Village, 1949-1999* (Stanford UP, 2003), *The Individualization of Chinese Society* (Berg, 2009), and was a contributing author to *Deep China: The Moral Life of the Person, What Anthropology and Psychiatry Tell Us about China Today* (UC Press, 2011). <https://www.anthro.ucla.edu/faculty/yunxiang-yan>

**Title:** Doing Personhood (*zuoren*, 做人) in Chinese Culture: The Mechanism and Challenges in the Making of Moral Subjectivity

**Abstract:** In the context of the national pursuit for modernity and globalization during the last 120 years, Chinese personhood has been undergoing radical changes and human becoming today manifests itself in real life in both dynamic and plural forms. This talk will examine the desiring individual (bodily and intuitive), the moralist self (psychological and reflective), and the relational person (social and agentive) as the three interactive and interlocking components of the Chinese personhood. The fight by the moralist self against the desiring individual for the purpose of becoming a proper relational person stands out as the abiding theme of the process of constructing the Chinese personhood through self-cultivation and social engineering. Referred to as *zuoren* (to make oneself human), this struggle is a life-long process of becoming a person, instead of a given structure of being a person.

#### **UISFL PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND PRESENTER**



**Peter D. Hershock** is Director of the Asian Studies Development Program and Education Specialist at the East-West Center in Honolulu and holds a Ph.D. in Asian and Comparative Philosophy from the University of Hawai'i. His philosophical work makes use of Buddhist conceptual resources to address contemporary issues of global concern. He has authored or edited more than a dozen books on Buddhism, Asian philosophy, and contemporary issues. His

most recent books are: *Valuing Diversity: Buddhist Reflection on Realizing a More Equitable Global Future* (2012); *Public Zen, Personal Zen: A Buddhist Introduction* (2014); *Value and Values: Economics and Justice in an Age of Global Interdependence* (edited, 2015); and *Philosophies of Place: An Intercultural Conversation* (edited, forthcoming, 2018).

<https://www.eastwestcenter.org/about-ewc/directory/peter.hershock>

**Title:** *The Intelligence Revolution: Contemporary Buddhist Reflections on the Predicaments of Human Becoming*

**Abstract:** The most pressing challenges of the present and coming decades—among them, climate change; the degradation of both natural and urban environments; and rising inequalities of wealth, income, risk and opportunity—are not technical problems. They are ethical predicaments that consist in deep (and often tragic) conflicts within and among our globally dominant systems of social, cultural, economic and political values. Today, we are witnessing the early stages of perhaps the greatest of these predicaments: a transformation of the human experience by the impacts of artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data. This presentation will discuss the current state of the “intelligence revolution” and its likely future, with special reference to China, and will use Buddhist conceptual resources to make a case for resisting the displacement of intelligent human practices by “smart” services and for realizing an intercultural relational ethics of compassionate human becoming.