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## **Teach Mob – Visiting Professors**

### **Academic year 2016/2017**

2 <sup>nd</sup> Term
<b>COURSE TITLE</b> Social Transformations in Contemporary China
<b>Scientific area</b> SPS/07
<b>Department of Cultures, Politics and Society</b>
<b>Language used to teach: English</b>
<b>Teaching Commitment: 54 hours</b>
<p><b>Course summary</b></p> <p>The temporal landscape of this course is contemporary China (1976-2016), from the formal end of High Maoism to the rise and epogée of Xi Jinping, China's current <i>primus inter inferiores</i>. Social transformations in China are part of what key Chinese sociologists have identified as an “ultra-stable system”, which - underpinned by traditional modalities - sees economics, politics, culture/ideology and social being (class, gender, community, etc.) in a complex interaction modulated by the one-party state. This course will cover the fundamental political, economic, social and ideological/ cultural transformations that reflect the rejuvenated party-state under the Communists in the context of global neo-liberal economics and revived elements of state Confucianism and Neo-nationalism. Key themes will focus on the contestation over economics and ideas in the 1980s; the “de-politicisation” of the 1990s, the national revivalism and Party-middle class compact of the 2000s and then the rise of Xi Jinping in which Official China and The Other China (of social change, new and emergent forces and interests) vie in the rising regional power and world power of the Chinese People's Republic.</p>
<p><b>Learning objectives</b></p> <p>The aim of this course is to equip students with advanced interpretative tools to make sense of the complex background of contemporary Chinese reality; to provide students with the intellectual capacity to understand China today on the basis of a solid understanding of the politics, economic changes, social upheavals, ideas, cultural and international forces that have shaped - and continue to shape - the People's Republic, and that are relevant to understanding the “Chinese Commonwealth” including Taiwan and Hong Kong.</p>
<p><b>Tutorship activities</b></p> <p>Site visit to MAO, the Museum of Oriental Art of Torino, and running commentary on the collection with reference to the relevance of the past in today's China's identity, that will feed into course content.</p>
<p><b>Lab activities</b></p> <p>Film, TV and web material screenings as part of the audio-visual component of the course.</p>
<p><b>Other activities besides the course: i.e. seminars and conferences addressed to PhD students and research fellows, dissemination conferences</b></p> <p>Two open documentary projections in which original documentary film work from 1990-2003 is discussed in the context of the rise of independent documentary work in the People's Republic. One conference discussing the evolution of China studies internationally, with particular reference to the debate on New Sinology.</p>

**Visiting Professor Profile**

The selected scholar should have outstanding knowledge of contemporary Chinese society and history, as well as solid Mandarin language skills. Evidence of intense engagement with relevant intellectual milieus and debates in China and the wider Sinophone world is essential, coupled with academic seniority within his/her home institution and a minimum of 20 years of research and teaching experience. The ideal candidate should have acquired tangible experience in lecturing international classes.

**Contact person at the Department**

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