



Dr. Hanchao Lu 卢汉超

Professor of History  
Georgia Institute of Technology

**TIMOTHY LIGHT  
LECTURE SERIES  
ON CHINA**

**4:30 p.m., Thursday, September 21, 2017  
1028 Brown Hall**

**“To the People, Food is Heaven:  
Politics and Quotidian Life in Recent Chinese History”**

Open to the public free of charge.

Hanchao Lu is Professor of History at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Director of the China Research Center in Atlanta. A specialist in socioeconomic history, his recent work has focused on everyday life and grassroots society in China's turbulent modern era. He is the author of three award-winning books: *Beyond the Neon Lights*, *Street Criers*, and *The Birth of A Republic*, and he serves as editor-in-chief of the peer-reviewed journal, *Chinese Historical Review* and editor of a 16-volume series, *The Culture and Customs of Asia*.

This lecture looks at the various food-related metaphors that Mao used as a political instrument for numerous mass mobilizations and national campaigns during his reign. Although on the surface the people he ruled dutifully revered his “food language” as “supreme instructions,” they also manipulated them for their own purposes, not necessarily following the Chairman's real intentions. In the end, the various political and social exercises centered on Mao's penchant for certain foods reveal that Maoism, in spite of being dressed in Marxist and revolutionary apparel, was deeply rooted in Chinese culture.

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For more information call:

(269) 387-3951

Email: [hige-light@wmich.edu](mailto:hige-light@wmich.edu)

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