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TIMOTHY LIGHT LECTURE SERIES ON CHINA

4:00 p.m., Monday, April 10, 2017
1740 Sangren Hall

“Social Turmoil in Hong Kong: Challenging Chinese Sovereignty?”

Open to the public free of charge.

Helen F. Siu, PhD Stanford, is Professor of Anthropology at Yale University. She has conducted fieldwork in South China, exploring the cultural nexus of power, the nature of the socialist state and refashioning of identities. Lately, she explores the rural-urban divide in China, cross-border dynamics in Hong Kong, inter-Asian connections, and China-Africa encounters. She is the founding director of the Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Hong Kong, and serves in numerous research committees in Asia, the United States and Europe.

Since China claimed sovereignty over the former British colony and finance hub of Asia in 1997, Hong Kong caught world attention once again in 2014. For 79 days, the Umbrella Movement led by students and democratic sympathizers brought normal city life to a standstill. It challenged government authority, questioned the legitimacy of its China patrons, and laid bare intense power struggles among the leadership in Beijing. New cultural identities and social cleavages are crystalized, and unusual political arenas are emerging in the Greater China region as hardliners move to exert fuller control. The jury is still out.

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