March 13, 2018

**Curating Revolution: Politics on Display in Mao's China**

**Speaker:** Denise Ho

Assistant Professor of History, Yale University

**Time:** 4:30 pm-5:30 pm, Thursday April 19

**Place:** International Room, Sterling Memorial Library
How did China’s Communist revolution transform the nation’s political culture? In this rich and vivid history of the
Mao period (1949–1976), Denise Y. Ho examines the relationship between its exhibitions and its political
movements. Case studies from Shanghai show how revolution was curated: museum workers collected cultural
and revolutionary relics; neighborhoods, schools, and work units mounted and narrated local displays; and exhibits
provided ritual space for ideological lessons and political campaigns. Using archival sources, ephemera, interviews,
and other materials, Ho traces the process by which exhibitions were developed, presented, and received.
Examples under analysis range from the First Party Congress Site and the Shanghai Museum to the ‘class
education’ and Red Guard exhibits that accompanied the Socialist Education Movement and the Cultural
Revolution. Operating in two modes - that of a state in power and that of a state in revolution - Mao
era exhibitionary culture remains part of China’s revolutionary legacy.

Denise Y. Ho is an historian of modern China, with a particular focus on the social and cultural history of the Mao
period (1949-1976). She is also interested in urban history, the study of information and propaganda, and the
history of memory. Ho teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on modern and contemporary China, the
history of Shanghai, the uses of the past in modern China, and the historiography of the Republican era and the
P.R.C.

Denise Y. Ho received her B.A. in history from Yale College and an A.M. and Ph.D. in history from Harvard
University.

Read more about Professor Ho’s new book: Curating Revolution: Politics on Display in Mao’s China [1]

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