# Conference "Popular Memory of the Mao Era and its Impact on History" 研讨会: 毛时代的民间记忆及其对历史学的影响

# Organizer

French Centre for Research on Contemporary China in the framework of the ANR-RGC collaborative project "New Approaches to the Mao Era" (CEFC-HKU) 主办单位: 法国现代中国研究中心

**Dates:** 15-16 December 2014 日期: 2014年12月15-16日

**Venue:** Maison Suger (Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, FMSH), and Centre d'études et de recherches internationales (CERI, Sciences-Po), Paris. 地点: 巴黎人文之家基金会Suger楼: 法国国际研究中心

**Languages:** English and Mandarin with consecutive translation 语言: 中英文(设现场翻译)

# **Argument:**

Since the 1990s, a series of remarkable forms expressing the collective memory of the Mao era has appeared in China, against a background of amnesia and explicit restrictions in the official media, academia, and public commemoration. While some of its expressions may seem anecdotal, it has also produced a crop of unofficial testimonies and investigative studies, on the margins of official channels. Some are about the Educated Youth movement during the Cultural Revolution, others pertain to the political movements of the 1950s, such as the Anti-Rightist movement and the Great Leap Forward (Yang Jisheng). In a similar way, literature has played a key role in documenting alternative views of everyday life in the Maoist era. While writers of the "scar literature" school of the 1980s were easily co-opted into official narratives of the Cultural Revolution, in recent years more radical works have appeared, documenting the 1950s and the Cultural Revolution (Yan Lianke, Yang Xianhui). Unofficial journals like Lao Zhaopian (Old Photographs, edited by Ding Dong), Jiyi (Memory, edited by Wu Di), Kan Lishi (Looking at History, edited by Yang Xiaodong) or *Hei wulei* (The Five black categories, edited by Jiao Guobiao) are disseminated via the internet. The last 15 years have seen an outpour of independent documentary films, made by ordinary individuals thanks to cheap equipment, documenting family histories and personal memories of various moments in the Mao era, from collectivization to the Cultural Revolution (Hu Jie, Ai Xiaoming). These literary or filmic works, made by ordinary citizens, and published or disseminated through various channels including the internet, also contribute to challenging the existing historiography.

This challenge to history has deep-reaching consequences for a regime whose legitimacy is grounded in the "correct" understanding of history. Since 1981, when the Party put an end to historical debates previously encouraged by Deng, by adopting a resolution "On several points in the history of our Party," the Party's monopoly on historiography has remained massive. In this perspective, the struggle for the interpretation of history has potentially major implications for the relations between society and the Chinese Party-state.

By offering an opportunity to present findings from recent fieldwork on various forms of unofficial or popular memory of the Mao Era (social organizations, unofficial journals, literary reportage and documentary film, oral history), this conference proposes to discuss how these various forms of memory can transform our understanding of Chinese history and perhaps Chinese historiography itself.

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CERI

http://www.sciencespo.fr/ceri/en 56, rue Jacob, 75006 Paris

#### 15 December, Maison Suger (FMSH)

第一天: 十二月15号,Maison Suger (人文之家基金会Suger楼)

# 9:30-12:30 The Institutionalization of *minjian* (popular) memory 民间记忆的制度化

#### Discussant 评论人: Patricia Thornton (Oxford University 牛津大学)

#### Kirk Denton (Ohio State University 美国俄亥俄州立大学 )

Do Private Museums Offer Space for Alternative History in China? The Jianchuan Museum Cluster, Anren, Sichuan

民办博物馆是否为非主流中国历史提供了空间? - 四川安仁,建川博物馆聚落

#### Daniel Leese (Universität Freiburg 弗莱堡大学)

Redressing Past Injustices in the People's Republic of China: The Case of Beijing Fengtai District, 1978-79

纠正中华人民共和国过去的不公正:北京丰台区实例1978-79

#### Wu Si 吴思

On the collective memory of the Mao era: the case of the journal *Annals of the Yellow Emperor* 关于毛泽东时代的集体记忆: 以炎黄春秋为例

# 14:30 - 17:00 Vectors of popular memory 民间记忆的载体

#### Discussant 评论人: Luba Jurgenson (University of Paris-Sorbonne 巴黎索邦大学)

Judith Pernin 朱迪 (CEFC, IHTP 法国现代中国研究中心,现代历史研究所)
Recording and staging memory – Two independent films about the rightist Zhang Xianchi 记录和重现记忆—右派人士张先痴的两部独立电影

# Sebastian Veg 魏简 (CEFC, EHESS 法国现代中国研究中心, 法国高等社会科学院) Fictional and documentary writing about the Mao Years in the 21st century: Yang Xianhui, Yang Jisheng, Yan Lianke

21世纪关于毛泽东时代的虚构和纪实文学:杨显慧,杨继绳,阎连科

# 17:30-19:00 Film Screening 电影放映

Presented by Anne Kerlan (CNRS, Institut d'Histoire du Temps Présent), filmmaker Hu Jie 柯安娜(法国国家科学研究中心,现代历史研究所)和导演胡杰主讲

*Spark* (*Xinghuo*, documentary, Hu Jie,, 2013, 100 min.), followed by Q&A with the filmmaker. 《星火》, 胡杰导演,纪录片, 2013,100分钟. 随后安排 与导演胡杰问答交流

Trailer and info on the website of the Taiwan International Documentary Film Festival: <a href="http://www.tidf.org.tw/en/films/846">http://www.tidf.org.tw/en/films/846</a>

请点击台湾国际纪录片电影节官方网站的联接欣赏电影预告以及了解更多信息 http://www.tidf.org.tw/zh-hant/films/232

# 16 December, CERI, Salle de conferences

第二天: 十二月16号, 法国国际研究中心, 会议室

# 9:30-12:30 Reconsidering history: Grassroots Resistance 反思**历**史:草根抵抗运**动**

## Discussant 评论人: Lucien Bianco 毕仰高 (EHESS 法国高等 社会科学院)

# Jean-Philippe Béja 白夏 (CNRS 法国国家科学研究中心)

Resistance against Mao's transformation of society before the Cultural Revolution: opposition organizations in activists' autobiographies

文革前对于毛泽东社会转型的抵抗运动:积极分子自传里的反对派组织

## Frank Dikötter 冯客 (HKU 香港大学)

The Silent Revolution 无声革命

This presentation will use fresh archival evidence to look at the many ways in which ordinary people in the countryside relentlessly pursued their own interests, regardless of all the efforts made by Beijing to lock them into a planned economy.

#### Wang Aihe 王爱和 (HKU 香港大学)

Apolitical Art, Private Experience, and Alternative Subjectivity in China's Cultural Revolution 文革中的非政治艺术,个人经历和另类主体

# 14:30-17:30 Popular history's contribution to historiography 民间历史对历史学的贡献

#### Discussant 评论人: Nicolas Werth (CNRS 法国国家科学研究中心 )

#### Michel Bonnin 潘鸣啸 (EHESS 法国高等社会科学院 )

How to understand the sudden end of the rusticated youth movement and how to explain the Xinjiang exception? The contribution of popular history and memories on this topic.

如何理解知青下乡运动的突然结束以及如何解释新疆的特例?民间历史及记忆在这一课题上的贡献

#### Ding Dong 丁东

Oral History and reflecting on the Mao era 口述历史与毛时代的反思

# Wu Di 吳迪

The common memories of the Mao era and their influence on history: the two narratives in oral history

毛时代的公共记忆及其历史影响——口述历史中的两个文本