Past Lectures

1993 DAVID N. CANNADINE
The Rise and Fall of Class in Britain, 1700-2000

1994 CHARLES E. LARMORE
The Romantic Legacy

1995 SASKIA SASSEN
Governing the Global Economy

1996 KENNETH T. JACKSON
Gentleman’s Agreement: Political Balkanization and Social Inequality in America

1997 IRA KATZNELSON
Desolation and Enlightenment: Political Knowledge After the Holocaust, Totalitarianism, and Total War

1998 CAROL GLUCK
Past Obsessions: War and Memory in the Twentieth Century

1999 ROBERT POLLACK
The Faith of Biology and the Biology of Faith

2000 LISA ANDERSON
The Scholar and the Practitioner: Perspectives on Social Science and Public Policy

2001 PARTHA CHATTERJEE
The Politics of the Governed

2002 – DAVID ROSAND
The Invention of Painting in America

2003 GEORGE RUPP
Globalization Challenged: Conviction, Conflict, Community

2004 LESLEY A. SHARP
Bodies, Commodities, and Biotechnologies

2005 ROBERT W. HANNING
Serious Play: Crises of Desire and Authority in the Poetry of Ovid, Chaucer, and Ariosto

2006 BORIS GASPAROV
The Early Romantic Roots of Theoretical Linguistics: Friedrich Schlegel, Novalis, and Ferdinand De Saussure on Sign and Meaning

2007 DOUGLAS CHALMERS
Representative Government without Representatives: Seven Reasons to Think Beyond Electing Executives and Lawmakers

2009 PHILIP KITCHER
Deaths in Venice: The Case(s) of Gustav (Von) Aschenbach

2010 ALAN BRINKLEY (Fall)
Seeing The Great Depression

2010 JEAN E. HOWARD (Spring)
Staging History: Imagining The Nation

2011 ROBERT L. BELKNAP
Plot

2012 HERBERT TERRACE
Why Two Minds are Better than One: The Evolution of Words

2013 PAIGE WEST
Accumulation by Dispossession?: Loss, Change, and the Future of the Melanesian Pacific

2014 ANNETTE INSDORF
Coherence and Resonance: How To Read Film Openings

2015 ROBERT E. REMEZ
The Good Listener: Behavioral Neuroscience Considers the Perception of Speech

2016 ROBERT G. O’MEALLY
“Fancy Sticks”: The Action-Art of Toni Morrison, Romare Bearden, and Jazz

2017 EDWARD MENDELSON
Medicine, Empire, Love: The Inner Life of Mrs. Dalloway

2018 FRED LERDAHL
Reflections on Music and Language
CHINA SEMI-INCORPORATED: THE BATTLE FOR A CHINESE LEGAL MODERNITY IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2019, 8 PM
I: The “Company” Will Save Us: Utopian Visions of the Corporation in Late Qing China

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019, 8 PM
II: Local Knowledge, Legal Transplants and the Struggle over Limited Liability

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2019, 8 PM
III: What is Law when East meets West: The Lessons of the Ming Sung Umbrella Factory Case in the Shanghai International Mixed Court

Law was central to China’s early twentieth century transformation from empire to republic. This transformation not only uprooted the foundations of political life. It demanded the fashioning of a new and uniquely Chinese legal modernity in the shadow of Western extraterritorial privilege. In order to understand the ways in which law developed on contested ground in places like early twentieth century China, it may be useful to look at seemingly small struggles that reveal the larger processes at work. In these three lectures we will examine just such a struggle. In the first lecture we will see how the idea of the company was naturalized within a Chinese moral universe and came to represent law as the source of western power. In the second, we will trace the resurrection of the customary realm as it challenged the hegemony of law on the books and the notion that before the arrival of Europeans China had no private law. Finally, in the third lecture we will take a position as observers to the struggle between Chinese custom and the arrogance of Western legal universality at extraterritorialy’s premier forum, the Shanghai International Mixed Court.

Cover image: Shanghai Nanjing Road, 1930s

Madeleine Zelin is Dean Lung Professor of Chinese Studies and Professor of History and East Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia University. Beginning with her first book, The Magistrates Tael, Zelin’s work has focused on the intersection of formal and informal institutions in the economic, political and legal development of China. The Merchants of Zigong: Industrial Enterprise in Early Modern China was awarded the 2006 Allan Sharlin Memorial Prize of the Social Science History Association, the 2006 Fairbank Prize of the Association for Asian Studies and the 2007 Humanities Book Prize of the International Convention on Asian Studies. Zelin served many years as director of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute and as Director of Columbia University’s East Asian National Resource Center. Outside the university she has worked to promote understanding of China in the US and as an integral part of teaching and research in the social sciences, in roles including Co-Director of the Luce Foundation-AAS Project on Emerging Fields in Asian Studies-Economic History, and as a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Committee for US China Relations. She is an avid New York amateur flutist.

LECTURES ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
All lectures are held in Faculty House, 64 Morningside Drive
Reception immediately following each lecture

Madeleine Zelin, Morningside Campus

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