East Asian Topologies of Power
An Interdisciplinary Cross-Currents Symposium

Geballe Room, 220 Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley
Friday, Feb. 24, 2017 • 1:30–5:30 p.m.
Free and open to the public

Wen-hsin Yeh (UC Berkeley)  Peter Perdue (Yale)  Franck Billé (UC Berkeley)
Pat Giersch (Wellesley)  Kären Wigen (Stanford)  Stéphane Gros (CNRS)
Hue-Tam Ho Tai (Harvard)

This symposium will bring into conversation the guest editors of three recent issues of the UC Berkeley-based e-journal *Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review* and three additional East Asia scholars to explore the special issues’ thematic convergence on China and its neighbors, on space, and on cartography. Rather than regarding the emergence of the state as a top-down imposition, the three issues suggest that a vast range of state, ethnic, mercantile, and affective practices cohere to reify and give solidity to the fiction of the state. Further, the articles point to: 1) forms of territorial affiliation and sovereignty that are nodular and rhizomic, rather than spatially homogeneous; and 2) to tensions between the fiction of territorial fixity and the realities of a geopolitical footprint in flux. This roundtable discussion will, therefore, focus on two primary theoretical points: the state at the margins and territorial topologies. Audience participation in the discussion is encouraged.

The special issues are accessible on the open-access Cross-Currents website:


*Cartographic Anxieties*. Vol. 21 (December 2016) explores modern nations’ desire for cartographic appropriation and the anxieties that this desire generates (https://cross-currents.berkeley.edu/e-journal/issue-21).

Sponsored by the Institute for East Asian Studies, UC Berkeley
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