

# Protecting *the Weak*

Entangled Processes of Framing, Mobilization and Institutionalization in East Asia

## Humanitarian Purges: Revolutionary Memory and Northwest China's Great Gansu Earthquake of 1920

**Dr. Pierre Fuller, University of Manchester**

Humanitarian history is surprisingly ideological, a fact this presentation examines through the great Gansu earthquake of 1920, an enormous yet still obscure catastrophe during a watershed moment in Chinese cultural and political history. The talk has three aims: it pieces together the earthquake as an historical event, shedding light on issues related to relief and reconstruction in particular using the fragmentary evidence available; it places the relief effort in both the wider context of the north China famine affecting the country that same year and the changes to relief policies and practices over the 1920s into the Nationalist period; and, third, it explores the politics of remembrance by examining the treatment of disaster and humanitarian events by revolutionary programs and considers the effect this has had on historical understanding generally.

**Wednesday, June 10, 2015, 6:00 pm (c. t.)  
Campus Westend, PEG, room 1.G 165**

This lecture is part of our Wednesday Lecture Series within the IZO's research project "Protecting the Weak. Entangled Processes of Framing, Institutionalization and Mobilization in East Asia" funded by the Volkswagen Foundation.

**Pierre Fuller** is Assistant Professor at the History Department, School of Arts, Languages & Cultures at the University of Manchester. He holds a Ph.D. in East Asian & World History from the University of California, Irvine and a B.A. from Georgetown University. His research focuses on the responses to droughts and disasters in Warlord China. He is currently preparing a book on Warlord Relief in 1920s China.

Contact person: Prof. Heike Holbig, Faculty 03, Institute for Political Science,  
Email: [holbig@soz.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:holbig@soz.uni-frankfurt.de)

For further information: [www.protectingtheweak.uni-frankfurt.de](http://www.protectingtheweak.uni-frankfurt.de)