

# Participant Intoxication and Social Drinking : Reflections on Wa Rice Beer

Date: 24 April, 2012 (Tuesday)

Time: 12:00-13:00

Venue: Room 3362, Academic Building, HKUST

Language: English



## Speaker: Professor Magnus Fiskesjö Cornell University

Magnus Fiskesjö is an anthropologist, archaeologist and museums scholar who was educated first in his native Sweden, then in China, and at the University of Chicago where he obtained a joint PhD in Anthropology and in East Asian Languages & Civilizations. In 2000-2005 he was director of the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities, Stockholm. Since 2005, he teaches anthropology and Asian studies at Cornell University.

This presentation is a discussion of Wa rice beer and its social significance, including in inter-ethnic relations. This also includes relations with outside ethnographers for whom the method of participant intoxication is necessary, not just participant observation. Wa identity and xenology is formed in the act of social drinking of rice beer, the sharing of which is governed by intricate rules that define insiders and outsiders, as well as other social positions. This rice beer sharing will also be compared with the anthropology of drinking elsewhere in the world, and with local betel chewing and tobacco smoking. It will also contrast home-produced rice beer with commodified Chinese liquor, in terms of their place in social life and ethnic interaction in the Wa lands at the China-Burma frontier.

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### Organizer:

South China Research Centre, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

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