

## Open Seminar

# War and Ecology in China: Henan, the Yellow River and Beyond, 1938-1950

## Micah S. Muscolino

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University of Oxford

**11 Jan 2016 (Monday)**

**4:30 – 6:30pm**

**Room 221A, 2/F,  
Fung King Hey Building**

Before moving to Oxford in 2015, Micah Muscolino taught at Georgetown University, where he taught late imperial and modern Chinese history, East Asian environmental history, and world history. He spent 2010-2011 as a member of the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ thanks to a Mellon Fellowship for Assistant Professors and the National Endowment for the Humanities and 2012-2013 as Visiting Associate Professor at Harvard University. He is the author of *The Ecology of War in China: Henan Province, the Yellow River, and Beyond, 1938-1950* (Cambridge University Press, 2015) and *Fishing Wars and Environmental Change in Late Imperial and Modern China* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2009), as well as numerous articles and book chapters.

### ABOUT THE SEMINAR

This seminar will explore the interplay between war and the environment in Henan Province, a hotly contested frontline territory that endured massive environmental destruction and human disruption during the conflict between China and Japan that raged during World War II. In a desperate attempt to block Japan's military advance, Chinese Nationalist armies under Chiang Kai-shek broke the Yellow River's dikes in Henan in June 1938, leading to devastating floods that persisted until after the war's end. Greater catastrophe struck Henan in 1942-1943, when famine took some two million lives and displaced millions more. Focusing on these war-induced disasters and their aftermath, this talk, like the book on which it is based, conceptualizes the ecology of war in terms of energy flows through and between militaries, societies, and environments. Ultimately, it shows that efforts to procure and exploit nature's energy in various forms shaped the choices of generals, the fates of communities, and the trajectory of environmental change in North China.



**Free Admission**

**The seminar is conducted in English**

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