

Abstract

Borders and Critical Scholarship: A Case Study from the Sino-Tibetan Border

This lecture will introduce a critical approach to borderlands or marginal societies, based on field research conducted on the Sino-Tibetan borderlands. Professor Jinba will explore the following questions: can we look at these borderland societies as self-sustained centers rather than “doomed” margins? Could a marginal status possibly serve, rather than undermine, the interests of peripheral populations? Is the center-periphery paradigm sufficient enough to identify the complexity and agency in such societies? Finally, Professor Jinba will invite the audience to join the discussion on whether such perspectives can be broadened to understand various types of borders and marginalities in the global, regional and national political arenas, such as the role of Hong Kong in relation to the East and the West.