APSI 2019 Spring Speaker Series Presents:

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University of Arizona

The City as a Creative Object: Aesthetics, Urbanism, and Contemporary Art in China

Thursday, March 28 | 4:30 p.m.
Carpenter Room (Rubenstein Library, room 249)
Duke University, West Campus

UNESCO calls upon cities around the world to make “culture” and “creativity” a driving force to confront the challenges of war, financial crisis, global warming, environmental degradation, poverty, and social inequality. In the context of “the creative city,” especially in light of the accelerated development of artificial intelligence technologies, the concept of “art intelligence” may help address the current challenges in the cosmopolis, defined as a cosmological, post-anthropocentric, creative city. This talk explores ethnographic examples of artistic practices in Southwestern China, especially the work of the artists Cao Minghao and Chen Jianjun, their shanshui-oriented art projects that focus on issues of environment (water in particular), memories (social and historical ones), and production (material and immaterial labor, epistemology) in the cosmopolis of Chengdu.

Hai Ren (任海) is an Associate Professor of East Asian Studies and Anthropology, an affiliated faculty in Gender and Women’s Studies, and Social, Cultural & Critical Theory at the University of Arizona. He is also a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Sculpture at Sichuan Fine Arts Institution in Chongqing, a top-ranking sculpture program in China. He has written two books on social and cultural transformations of contemporary China: Neoliberalism and Culture in China and Hong Kong: The Countdown of Time (2010) and The Middle Class in Neoliberal China: Governing Risk, Life-Building, and Themed Spaces (2013).

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