The Chinese Quest for Modernity Series presents

David Atwill
speaking on

Islamic Shangri-La: Tibetan Muslims and the Emergence of Modern Tibet

October 27, 2016
5PM - 6PM in Rush Rhees 442

Professor David Atwill will explore the roots of Tibetan Muslims in Tibet as well as offer an overview of their central role in the 1959 diplomatic tensions between India and China in 1960. Few people realize that in the wake of the Dalai Lama’s departure in 1959, a heated dispute between China and India erupted over whether or not the Tibetan Muslims living in Lhasa could claim Indian citizenship despite having lived in Tibet for centuries. The eventual diplomatic solution brings into sharp relief the complex fragility of transnational groups with repercussions that resonate to the present day. Utilizing archival resources in five languages and carrying out field research across five continents, Professor Atwill’s research sheds new light on this little known topic.

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