“Maoism as a Way of Life”  
A Workshop on Research, Resources  
and Sources on the Social History of China,  
1949–1979

February 21–23, 2013
Lund University  
Centre for Languages and Literature  
Helgonanbacken 12, Lund/Sweden

Note: This workshop is bilingual (English and Chinese): no interpreter/translator will be provided. Each two hour session includes a presentation, a coffee break, and ample time for discussion and commentary. Graduate students are welcome to attend (please contact michael.schoenhals@ostas.lu.se in advance). The aim of the workshop is to critique and revise a set of papers for publication and, more importantly, to lay the groundwork for an international collaborative website serving the needs of advanced students and teachers researching the social history of the People’s Republic of China.

Thursday, February 21  
Room: Fakultetsklubben
10:00  Welcome and Opening Remarks

10:00–12:00 How to Read and Interpret Cold War-Era PRC Public Security Records of Domestic Agent Operations. Professor Michael Schoenhals, Lund University

12:00–14:00 Lunch Break

14:00–16:00 一个工人造反派的“文革”记录：从叶昌明的《工作笔记》看“工总司”。上海复旦大学，金光耀教授

16:00–18:00 On the Correct Handling of Contradictions in the Archives: Case Studies of Mao-Era Accidents. Professor Jeremy Brown, Simon Fraser University

Friday, February 22  
Room: A333
10:00–12:00 《“非常”年代的“金钱观”》——以上海为中心，上海社科院历史研究所，金大陆教授

12:00–14:00 Lunch Break

14:00–16:00 Confessions and Letters: Exploring the Historical Value of Judicial Ego-Documents. Professor Daniel Leese, Albert-Ludwigs Universität Freiburg

16:00–18:00 文革群众出版物的史料价值与辨析，北京大学，印红标教授

Saturday, February 23  
Room: Fakultetsklubben
9:00–11:00 A comparison of access to archives on the history of the Soviet Union and the history of the People’s Republic of China. Professor Stephen Smith, European University Institute, Florence, and All Souls College, Oxford

11:00– Concluding discussion, including on practical website-related issues

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Program and abstracts

Paper Abstracts

How to Read and Interpret Cold War-Era PRC Public Security Records of Domestic Agent Operations. MICHAEL SCHOENHALS, Lund University (michael.schoenhals@ostas.lu.se)

"Chaos comes with the immense advantages of chaos," Mao Zedong once observed. Just how this principle has impacted on the management of archives in China is not always appreciated by historians. Whereas those who study Sweden's intelligence and security services after WW2 are barred altogether from access to classified operational-level data thanks to an absence of chaos in the management of the relevant archives, historians of the domestic operations of China's public security organs during the Cold War face a comparatively easier task. The chaos in many of China's archives during the weeding of files that accompanied the post-Mao review of so-called "unjust, wrong, and false cases" between 1978 and 1987, for example, has since the 1990s resulted in the sporadic arrival in the public realm (e.g. urban flea markets) of unique primary sources of a kind that historians of the intelligence and security services of other states can only dream of ever laying their hands on. I intend to discuss and analyse with respect to form and content a selection of these now five, six decades-old operational documents that illustrate how Mao's China managed the domestic recruitment and running of public security agents (fengqing renyuan). I will furthermore suggest ways in which documents such as these may throw light on hitherto hidden dimensions of social control.

一个工人造反派的“文革”记录：从叶昌明的《工作笔记》看“工总司”。上海复旦大学，金光耀 (jinguangyao@fudan.edu.cn)

“上海工人革命造反总司令部”（以下简称“工总司”）是“文化大革命”中影响最大的工人造反组织，迄今对“工总司”的研究有一些成果，这些成果主要依据两类资料：一类是“文革”时期的传单和报纸，另一类是“文革”后当事人的交代材料。这两类材料虽然十分重要，但又有着明显的缺陷，显然，这两类材料都有着强烈的时代特征和主观色彩，带有明显的偏向性，因此，对“工总司”的进一步研究，发掘这两类资料之外的新资料就显得十分必要了。这里要介绍的“工总司”主要负责人叶昌明的工作笔记就是研究“文革”初期的“工总司”十分重要的新史料，叶昌明有工作笔记，现有五本存世，这五本工作笔记在时间上前后相连，最早自1966年11月12日，第五本止于1967年7月24日，涵盖近八个半月的时间，总字约13万字，《工作笔记》提供了许多第一手的重要材料，其中有不少为现有的历史叙述中未提及或叙述有误，因此为我们了解“文革”初期的上海政治运动尤其是工人运动打开了一扇新的窗口。

On the Correct Handling of Contradictions in the Archives: Case Studies of Mao-Era Accidents. JEREMY BROWN, Simon Fraser University (jeremy_brown@sfu.ca)

One of the main tasks facing historians of the Mao period is to figure out “what happened.” Scholars hoping that increased access to PRC archives might provide a straightforward narrative, however, will be disappointed. The archives tell us that many serious accidents occurred during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, but files about
individual crashes and explosions often include competing, even contradictory, versions of how events unfolded. What, for example, caused the explosion that destroyed the *Fonglei* ship at the Shanghai shipyard in August 1979, killing nineteen and wounding hundreds? One report blames class enemies for intentionally sabotaging construction, while another document points to a single worker's gross negligence. I will draw on this and other case studies of accidents to discuss how to read seemingly contradictory reports and to ask what conclusions we can draw from them.

Confessions and Letters: Exploring the Historical Value of Judicial Ego-Documents, DANIEL LESE, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
(daniel.lesse@sinologie.uni-freiburg.de)

This paper centers on exploring the value of "confession materials" (jiuodai cailliao) as a source for writing a social history of the Maoist era. Confessions were a crucial instrument in the attempt to mold the new communist citizen from less than ideal raw materials. Millions were forced to read past deeds and to, often repeatedly, craft a meaningful narrative corresponding to current party doctrines. By examining repeated confessions of, among others, Miao Peisheng, a mid-level rebel leader at Beijing Capital Steel Factory, this paper explores both methodological questions of how to deal with "forcefully mandated" ego-documents as a specific source type, and tries to answer questions of how local and national history can meaningfully be linked through a case study approach. The time period mainly covers the Cultural Revolutionary period but extends until the early 1980s, when past history and narratives were reviewed once more.
A comparison of access to archives on the history of the Soviet Union and the history of the People's Republic of China. Stephen Smith, European University Institute, Florence, and All Souls College, Oxford (Stephen.Smith@EUI.eu)

My presentation will begin with a general comparison of archival access in the Russian Federation compared with access in China, focussing on differences in the organization of archives in the two countries and on the broad types of material that are currently available to scholars. I will consider more specifically the kinds of materials I was able to gather for my project comparing state policy towards popular religion and 斯大林 信 in the Soviet Union in the 1920s and 1930s and in the People's Republic of China in the 1950s and 1960s. In particular, I will discuss the problems of finding appropriate material to examine the ways that ordinary people (mainly but not exclusively in the countryside) used religious/magical idioms and practices to make sense of the state-induced transformations that swept their lives, following land reform, collectivization, famine and so on. In the second and shorter half of my presentation I shall discuss the two-volume collection of documents that was published in 2009 by the Russian Academy of Sciences and the State Archive Administration, entitled The People's Republic of China in the 1950s (in Russian), which draws on materials on China in in the Russian archives, and which runs to more than 800 pages. The first volume consists of essays written in the 1950s by Russian and Chinese scholars on their impressions of the situation in China (mainly experts sent to China, quite a few of them scientists), while the second consists of documents from the federal archives on different aspects of Sino-Soviet cooperation.