

“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  
Helgonabacken 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](mailto: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

Funding for this workshop is provided by the Birgit Rausing Language Program and the Société Royale des Lettres de Lund.

## 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](mailto: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 (*teqing ren yuan*). 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](mailto: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”的研究已有一些成果，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。这两类材料当然十分重要，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，带有明显的倾向性。因此，对“工总司”的进一步研究，发掘上述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。叶昌明记有工作笔记，现有五本存世。这五本工作笔记在时间上前后相连，第一本起自1966年11月12日，第五本止于1967年7月24日，涵盖几近八个半月的时间，总共约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所未提及或叙述有误，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](mailto: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 *Fenglei* ship at the Shanghai shipyard in August 1970, 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解读 seemingly contradictory reports and to ask what conclusions we can draw from them.

《“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 ([dalu\\_king@sina.com](mailto:dalu_king@sina.com))

整个文革期间的社会运转处于“非常”状态中，人们对金钱、对财富的认知和态度，在不同的时段和不同的人群中，会有不同的表达（含“隐性表达”和“显性表达”）。但基本的情况还是认同和追求“人民币”的，且从文革前期到中期再到后期，这种认同和追求越趋强烈，越趋公开。

**Confessions and Letters: Exploring the Historical Value of Judicial Ego-Documents.** DANIEL LEESE, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg  
([daniel.leese@sinologie.uni-freiburg.de](mailto:daniel.leese@sinologie.uni-freiburg.de))

This paper centers on exploring the value of “confession materials” (*jiaodai cailiao*) 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 review 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 rewardingly 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.

文革群众出版物的史料价值与辨析。北京大学，印红标 ([yinbb@pku.edu.cn](mailto:yinbb@pku.edu.cn))

文革期间，群众组织编印的出版物（俗称“红卫兵”）是重要的历史资料，除了报纸之外，还包括期刊、专辑、传单等。中央首长讲话对于群众运动具有指导意义，而记录者是现场聆听的群众，因而具有不可替代的第一手资料的价值。群众报纸刊物分为公开出版和内部出版的“动态”（刊）两种。公开报刊的侧重对外宣传，内部“动态”则提供了更丰富的群众活动和中央指示等信息，包括未证实的消息。报刊等出版物的资金来源、信息交流网络等是一个有待深入考察的问题。中央对于群众报纸的政策变迁也是重要的问题。

阅读和引用这类资料需要注意辨析。一些资料并不准确，例如，作为联动黑纲领批判，并流传很广的所谓《中央、北京党政军干部子弟[女]联合行动委员会通告》并非北京联动的文献，而是假托之作。又如一份署名“宋要武”等人的维护湖北省委的传单，是省委干部背着原作者宋彬彬等人，对原文做了重要改动

之后印发的。此类伪造或变造的文献也是一种历史资料，证实了谣言和不实之词在运动中的存在与作用。

**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](mailto: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 封建迷信 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 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.