From Young Pioneers to Little Red Soldiers: Internationalism and the Making of Mao’s Children

The early People's Republic of China (PRC) period saw an upsurge in the number of transnational exchanges between Chinese children and the children of other countries. By examining the trope of “international correspondence” between children in 1950s films and the visual imaginings of Chinese children on the covers of children’s magazines (for instance, the journal *The Little Red Soldier* during the Cultural Revolution), this talk aims to recast the complex relationship between the cultural and ideological engineering of children in the first decade of the PRC regime and the radical political developments in the 1960s. It shows how the Mao cult became an effective pedagogical tool to train children to be strong successors of both the Chinese revolution and the world revolution.

by A/P Xu Lanjun
Associate Professor, Department of Chinese Studies, NUS
PhD, East Asian Studies, Princeton University, 2007

XU Lanjun is Associate Professor of Chinese Studies at National University of Singapore. Her research interests include modern Chinese literature and culture, cultural history of children and youth in modern China, cold war politics and Chinese cinema. She is the author of *Chinese Children and War: Education, Nation and Popular Culture* (Peking University Press, 2015). She has recently completed an English book manuscript titled, *The Child and Chinese Modernity: Culture, Nation and Technologies of Childhood in Modern China*. Currently, she has been working on a new project titled, *Sinophone Childhoods and the Chinese Cold War in Asia (1940s – 1960s)* under the support of HSS Seed Fund.

**Chaired by:** Dr HU Shu, Research Fellow, ARI and CFPR, NUS

**Date:** 21 April 2017, Friday  |  **Time:** 12.00nn - 1.30pm

All are Welcome! Refreshments will be served. Registration is required.

Register at: [https://tinyurl.com/zsxbx5h](https://tinyurl.com/zsxbx5h) by 20 April 2017