

MEARC Lecture 'Nationalism Series'

Cultural Governance and Identity Politics in East Asia

Professor William Callahan
University of Manchester

Tuesday September 15th 2009
15.00 - 17.00

Academy Building, Small Auditorium
Rapenburg 73, Leiden



Abstract

This lecture will introduce the concept of cultural governance, and discuss how it reformulates our approach to nationalism and identity politics in East Asia. It will use examples from the region - including beauty pageants, maps and historiography - to explore how state-led cultural governance seeks to define national identity. Since cultural governance often produces resistance in non-state and informal spaces, the lecture will consider how governance and resistance are linked in a dynamic structure of feeling that weaves together foreign and domestic policies, as well as elite and mass groups.

The lecture will conclude with an analysis of the cultural politics of gardens in China and Japan. It will show how gardens are very political spaces that not only exemplify the utopian ideals of civilizational identity, but also are key sites of governance, diplomacy, peace, and war.

William A. Callahan is Professor of International Politics and Acting Director of the Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Manchester, and Co-Director of the British Inter-university China Center, an international center of excellence based in Oxford. Callahan's forthcoming book, *China: The Pessimist Nation* (OUP), considers the dynamic of identity and security in China's domestic and international politics.



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