

FALL 2015 COLLOQUIA SERIES

Date: Wednesday, October 28

Time: 3:15 – 5PM

Location: Social Sciences 1, room 261

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Patterns in the Sand: Earthy and Political Time at China's Desert Shores

In the campaign against the spread of deserts in China, sand's movements, unsettlings, and stabilizations have emerged as a temporal repertoire for a desertified future. This talk explores how as deserts encroach in space, they may also encroach on time. It follows environmental engineers, bureaucrats, and ecologists to explore sandy patternings into the political future. Sand, deserts, and dunes displace the futures of economic development in Reform China, reorganizing the horizons of environmental politics into sites of waiting, endurance, and reactivation. In the process, I gesture at ways of living and thinking politics in the backward shadow of the end of the world.