

# COLLOQUIUM BY TOBY LINCOLN

*RUBBLE AND REBUILDING: WORLD WAR TWO AND CHINESE CITIES*

TIME: 5:00-6:00 PM, MONDAY, 15 OCT 2018

VENUE: ACADEMIC BUILDING 1079

*Rubble and Rebuilding: World War Two and Chinese Cities*

**Speaker:** Dr. Toby Lincoln, Postgraduate Research Director, School of History, Politics and International Relations, University of Leicester

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## ABSTRACT:

This talk introduces the impact of World War Two (WWII) on cities in China. For eight years from 1937 until 1945, cities across the country were devastated by mechanized warfare. For example, air raids raised buildings to the ground and forced urban citizens to hide in hastily constructed shelters. The ebb and flow of battle created millions of refugees, who left behind cities sometimes emptied of human life to find an often-precarious existence far from home. However, during and after the war, urban planners dreamed of new cities rising from the ashes, and government officials, social organizations, and charities worked hard to manage the impact of war. Slowly, and often with great difficulty, Chinese cities were reconstructed. This process of urban reconstruction laid the foundation for the development of socialist cities after 1949. A discussion of the history of cities in the 20th century in any other country affected by WWII would be unthinkable without investigating the impact of war on urban development. Yet, in China scholars have not considered the relationship between war and the emergence of socialist cities. This talk therefore writes the history of Chinese cities into the global explanation of how we now live in a planetary urban society.

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## BIO:

Dr Tony Lincoln studies modern Chinese urban history, concentrating on the twentieth century. He is particularly concerned with urban morphology, the changing rural-urban relationship and daily life in different environments. Additionally, he works on the relationship between war and the city and how ideas about cities have and are being disseminated across East Asia.

Dr Tony is Associate Professor in Chinese Urban History in the University of Leicester. Before he joined the University of Leicester in 2010, he was a postdoctoral associate at the Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University. Dr Lincoln earned his B.S. degree from University of Birmingham, and Ph.D. at the University of Oxford.

This event is open to all. For any queries email [yg73@duke.edu](mailto:yg73@duke.edu) or call 3665 7149.