

DESIGNING CHINA

Seminar in Experimental Critical Theory: SECT VI



August 9-22, 2009

Shanghai, China

Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences



The Seminar in Experimental Critical Theory (SECT)

is an intensive two-week summer program offered by the University of California Humanities Research Institute (UCHRI).

SECT convenes distinguished instructors with a group of approximately 60 faculty, graduate students, independent scholars, and public intellectuals from across the international community. Neither an introductory survey nor an advanced research seminar, SECT functions as a "laboratory" where participants at all levels of experience can study with scholars at the leading edge of creative theoretical thought. The hallmark of SECT is its attention to both "pure" and "applied" modes of contemporary critical theory. To date, SECT sessions have been conducted at UCHRI's facilities in Irvine, California. In August 2009, SECT VI will travel to **Shanghai** to hold an intensive two-week summer institute on "Designing China."

This seminar proposes to focus on China, not because China leads the world in the field of design, but because China today is where design issues are raised in perhaps their most problematic and provocative form. The seminar is neither a survey of design nor a training course in design fundamentals; it is not even exclusively about China. Rather, China will be taken as a case study to explore, in the spirit of "experimental critical theory," the larger issues of design in a globalizing world.

UCHRI invites applications from scholars—faculty of all ranks and graduate students—wishing to participate.



Conveners:

Ackbar Abbas, UC Irvine

David Theo Goldberg, UC Humanities Research Institute

Liu Sola, Artist, Composer, Novelist, Beijing

Presenters:

Diana Agrest, Architecture, The Cooper Union | **Ah Cheng**, Writer, Painter, Beijing | **Ai Weiwei**, Artist, Beijing | **Giuliana Bruno**, Visual and Environmental Studies, Harvard University | **Yung Ho Chang**, Architecture, MIT | **Chen Danqing**, Artist, Beijing | **Josh Comaroff**, Lekker Design, Singapore | **Mario Gandelonas**, Architecture, Princeton University | **Ge Hongbing**, Literature, Shanghai University | **Laurent Gutierrez**, Design, Hong Kong Polytechnic University | **Hung Huang**, Publisher, Beijing | **Hu Ying**, East Asian Languages and Literatures, UC Irvine | **Michael Keith**, Migration and Ethnic Studies, University of Oxford | **Leo Lee**, Literature, Harvard University | **Liao Yimei**, Screenwriter, Beijing | **Liu Dan**, Artist, Beijing | **Achille Mbembe**, WISER, University of Witwatersrand | **Meng Jinghui**, Theater Director, Beijing | **Ning Ying**, Film Director, Beijing | **Sarah Nuttall**, WISER, University of Witwatersrand | **Valerie Portefaix**, Architecture, University of Hong Kong | **Tan Ping**, School of Graphic Design, Beijing Central Academy of Art | **Anne Warr**, Architect, Architectural Historian, Shanghai | **Xu Bing**, Artist, New York

Application Fee: \$20

Extended Application Deadline: March 2, 2009
Online applications only at www.uchri.org.

Registration Fee: \$750 for students; \$1,250 for faculty
[covering tuition, accommodation, and some food]

Applicants are urged to seek funding from their home institutions. A limited number of scholarships will be available, mainly for full time registered students.



For additional information, please visit the SECT website at www.uchri.org or contact us at sect@uci.edu or 949-824-8900.
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