

East Asian Studies Colloquium Series. Fall 2014.

China's Future, China's Children: Meanings of "Youth" in Tiananmen Square, 1989



Dr. Fabio Lanza
2pm Wednesday, Dec. 3
The Poetry Center

This presentation explores the complex and contradictory ways in which the category of "youth" was deployed, exploited and contested at the time of the 1989 movement in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, twenty-five years ago. I examine the self-representations of the protesters, the Chinese government's official statements, and the descriptions of the movement in the Western press to show how "youth" could convey many different and often conflicting meanings and how this category affected (and still affects) our understanding of the politics of Tiananmen 1989.

Dr. Fabio Lanza is an Associate Professor in History and East Asian Studies at the University of Arizona. He is a cultural historian of twentieth-century China, with a particular focus on political activism and urban space. He is the author of *Behind the Gate: Inventing Students in Beijing 1917-1923*, and the co-editor of *De-Centering Cold War History*.