Research Seminar

‘Tales from a politics of passion’.

By: Professor Michael Dutton – Research Chair, Professor of Political Cultures, Griffith Asia Institute

Beginning with Mao Zedong’s Selected Works, the paper begins with the question that was fundamental to the Chinese revolutionary process: ‘Who are our enemies, who are our friends’. In this paper, however, this becomes more than a Chinese revolutionary question, it is one of relevance to all forms of politics that require strong commitment.

Given recent events, such as 9/11, the London bombings of 7 July and the war in Iraq, this question takes on new salience. Through examples from China, the paper explores this ‘passion of politics’, which is something, that the West may have lost the capacity to fully understand.

Professor Dutton’s research is characterized by a strong interest in contemporary social and cultural theory wed to a specific ‘archive’ called China. This has led to a range of rather disparate set of issues that quite often move his work out of the specifics of China. Professor Dutton’s current interests include an investigation of the passion and commitment generated by the gift like quality of certain forms of politics, a study of the friend/enemy distinction, and an appreciation of the importance of everyday life in the flow of politics.


Thursday 5 March 2009
N16 Room -1.22
Nathan campus
12.30 -1.50pm

To RSVP, please contact Natasha Vary on (07) 3735 5322 or n.vary@griffith.edu.au no later than 5.00pm Tuesday 3 March 2009.