New York Conference on Asian Studies announces

Fall 2023 Book Presentation and Discussion, co-sponsored by SUNY Press

October 14, 10 am – 12:30 pm EST

Join NYCAS this fall for an online book event on Saturday, October 14th, 10 am-12:30 pm EST. The event is free, but registration is required. The book under discussion will be presented by

Albert Welter, Professor and Head of the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Arizona


The Future of China’s Past examines how China’s traditional culture is being reinvented and manipulated for political purposes. Like no time before in its recent history, and certainly at no time in the history of the People’s Republic, China is being shaped in terms of its past, but which past—Confucianism, Legalism, Daoism, Buddhism—or combination of pasts is being held up as the model? Given its growing economic, political, and cultural significance, it is incumbent upon us to take China’s rise seriously, yet perspectives involving modern and contemporary geopolitical and intrastate dynamics are insufficient, on their own, for understanding China’s rise, and the same holds true for economic analyses, however pertinent. Instead, this book looks at current engagements with models of China’s past, introducing the four traditional lenses of Chinese thought and reflecting on their potential relevance for China’s—and the world’s—future.

Dr. Welter’s presentation will be followed by a graduate student roundtable which will respond to the book, and the announcement of NYCAS’ 2023 Marleigh Grayer Ryan Student Writing Competition winners.

REGISTER FOR THE BOOK EVENT Deadline: Oct 12, 2023. Online Registration Form

Call for Graduate Student Roundtable Participation

The roundtable will consist of selected graduate students who will each prepare a 5-minute response to the book and engage in a discussion. Each student selected for the roundtable will receive a complimentary copy of the book from SUNY Press. MGR winners are highly encouraged to apply. Please submit your application here by Aug 1, 2023, to be considered for participation in this roundtable. Graduate Student Interest Form

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