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The Hopkins China Forum and



The Harvard Club of Shanghai

cordially invite you to:

Shanghai Homes: Private Life, Memories, and Spatial Intimacy

Li Jie

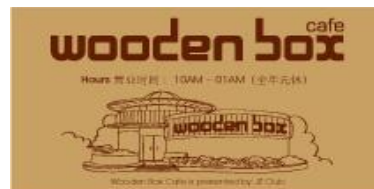
Assistant Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations
Harvard University

Supported by

Young China Watchers

Monday, December 15th, 2014

19:15pm – 20:30 pm



9 Qinghai Lu (just to the South of Nanjing West Road)
青海路 9 号, 近南京西路, 地铁二号线南京西路站

19:00 – Doors Open
19:15 – Lecture
20:00 – Q&A
20:30 – Mixer/Drinks/Dinner
21:30 – Live music at the Wooden Box

Please RSVP to Frank Tsai of Hopkins China Forum by writing to editor@shanghai-review.org.

What does it mean to call Shanghai home? In [Shanghai Homes: Palimpsests of Private Life](#) —part micro-history, part memoir—native daughter Jie Li salvages intimate recollections by successive generations of inhabitants of two vibrant, culturally mixed Shanghai *lilong* alleyways from the Republican, Maoist, and post-Mao eras. Exploring three dimensions of private life—territories, artifacts, and gossip—Li re-creates the sounds, smells, look, and feel of home over a tumultuous century. First built by British and Japanese companies in 1915 and 1927, the two homes at the center of this narrative were located near Yangshupu district, in an industrial part of the former International Settlement. Before their recent demolition, they were nestled in Shanghai’s labyrinthine *lilongs*, which housed more than half of the city’s population from the Sino-Japanese War to the Cultural Revolution. Through interviews with her own family members as well as their neighbors, classmates, and co-workers, Li weaves a complex social tapestry reflecting the lived experiences of ordinary people struggling to absorb and adapt to major historical change. These voices include workers, intellectuals, Communists, Nationalists, foreigners, compradors, wives, concubines, and children who all fought for a foothold and haven in this city, witnessing spectacles so full of farce and pathos they could only be whispered as secret histories.

[Li Jie](#) is an Assistant Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilization at Harvard University. As a scholar of literary, film, and cultural studies, Li Jie’s research interests center on the mediation of memories in modern China. Her first book, [Shanghai Homes: Palimpsests of Private Life](#) (2014) excavates a century of memories embedded in two Shanghai alleyway neighborhoods destined for demolition. Her current book project, *Utopian Ruins: A Memory Museum of the Mao Era*, explores contemporary cultural memories of the 1950s to the 1970s through textual, audiovisual, and material artifacts, including police files, photographs, documentary films, and museums. Li has also co-edited *Red Legacies: Cultural Afterlives of the Communist Revolution* (Harvard Asia Center). Two ongoing research projects deal with the transnational cinematic history of Manchuria and mobile movie projection units from the 1930s to the 1990s. Li’s recent publications in journals and edited volumes include: “Discolored Vestiges of History: Black-and-White in the Age of Color Cinema” (*Journal of Chinese Cinemas*, 2012), “A National Cinema for a Puppet State: The Manchurian Motion Picture Association” (*Oxford Handbook of Chinese Cinemas*, 2013), “Phantasmagoric Manchukuo: Documentaries Produced by the South Manchurian Railway Company, 1932-1940” (*Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique*, 2014), and “From Landlord Manor to Red Memorabilia: Reincarnations of a Chinese Museum Town” (*Modern China*, forthcoming). Li earned an A.B. in East Asian Studies at Harvard, and studied English literature at the University of Cambridge and German literature at the University of Heidelberg before returning to Harvard for a Ph.D., earned in 2010 in modern Chinese literature and film studies. In 2012-2013 she was a postdoctoral fellow at Princeton’s Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts. Li teaches on East Asian Cinema and on Chinese media cultures.

About Hopkins China Forum: Hopkins China Forum events are organized under the auspices of The Johns Hopkins University and its affiliated alumni associations worldwide. For more information on Hopkins events in Shanghai, please contact Frank Tsai at the Johns Hopkins University Alumni Association – Shanghai at editor@shanghai-review.org.

About Young China Watchers: Young China Watchers is an informal group of professionals living in and working on China. Through regular roundtables and talks, it provides a chance for dynamic individuals of all nationalities and employment backgrounds to interact, broaden their professional networks, and discuss the most pressing political, economic, and foreign policy issues relevant to China today. Please contact youngchinawatchers@gmail.com.