



CHINA CROSSROADS

China Crossroads and



The University of Texas Alumni Club

cordially invite you to:

Red China's Green Revolution

Joshua Eisenman

**Assistant Professor of Public Policy
University of Texas at Austin**

Saturday, November 3rd, 2018

16:15pm – 17:30pm

cafésambal authentic malaysian
cuisine & bar

**259 Jiashan Lu, Jiashan Market, Block A, No 37, near Jianguo Xi Lu
嘉善路 259 弄 37 号嘉善老市 A 栋, 近建国西路, 地铁九号线嘉善路站**

Admission: 100RMB for one drink

16:00 – Doors Open

16:15 – Lecture

17:00 – Q&A

17:30 – Mixer

RSVP to Frank Tsai of China Crossroads at editor@shanghai-review.org.



China's dismantling of the Mao-era rural commune system and return to individual household farming under Deng Xiaoping has been seen as a successful turn away from a misguided social experiment and a rejection of the disastrous policies that produced widespread famine. In tonight's talk, [Red China's Green Revolution](#) Eisenman marshals previously inaccessible data to overturn this narrative, showing that the commune modernized agriculture, increased productivity, and spurred an agricultural green revolution that laid the foundation for China's future rapid growth. He tells the story of the commune's origins, evolution, and downfall, demonstrating its role in China's economic ascendance. After 1970, the commune emerged as a hybrid institution, including both collective and private elements, with a high degree of local control over economic decision but almost no say over political ones. It had an integrated agricultural research and extension system that promoted agricultural modernization and collectively owned local enterprises and small factories that spread rural industrialization. The commune transmitted Mao's collectivist ideology and enforced collective isolation so it could overwork and underpay its households. Eisenman argues that the commune was eliminated not because it was unproductive, but because it was politically undesirable: it was the post-Mao leadership led by Deng Xiaoping—not rural residents—who chose to abandon the commune in order to consolidate their control over China. Based on detailed and systematic national, provincial, and county-level data, as well as interviews with agricultural experts and former commune members, his book, [Red China's Green Revolution](#) is a comprehensive historical and social scientific analysis that challenges our understanding of recent Chinese economic history.

[Joshua Eisenman](#) is Assistant Professor at the University of Texas' LBJ School for Public Policy and Senior Fellow for China Studies at the American Foreign Policy Council in Washington, D.C. Eisenman is co-author of [China and Africa: A Century of Engagement](#) (2012) as well as [China Steps Out: Beijing's Major Power Engagement toward the Developing World](#) (2018), and is the author of [Red China's Green Revolution: Technological Innovation, Institutional Change, and Economic Development Under the Commune](#) (2018). He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles, an M.A. in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

[China Crossroads](#) hosts lectures and panels on all topics related to China, including foreign policy, business, and society, as well as those on other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a "crossroads" of the world and itself at a "crossroads" in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.