

2019 CHINA STUDIES FORUM SERIES

SIGNS OF THE TIME

KUNMING'S STREETSIDE POLITICAL POSTERS

WITH DR. JOHN ISRAEL

3 - 4:30 PM | JAN 29

ROOM 120, C.K. CHOI



How to figure out what is going on in China? There is no substitute for reading official documents, following public media, getting to know individual Chinese, and following informed scholarship, analysis and commentary. However, any visitor equipped with some knowledge of the language or accompanied by a helpful local friend can learn quite a bit simply by walking down the street with eyes open.

Propaganda posters, a political art form inspired by the Soviet Union, enjoyed their halcyon age in China from 1949 through the 1980s. They loomed above streets and public squares, festooned bookstores, and decorated homes, offices, and commercial establishments.

In recent years, at least in some parts of China, streetside political art has seen a renaissance. John Israel's richly illustrated presentation focuses upon Kunming, a city where he has lived for periods of time over the course of nearly four decades.

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