We are delighted to announce the third event in the series
‘Bodies of Value’

PUBLIC LECTURE

Embodiments of Value in China’s Economic Reform

Ann Anagnost
(Anthropology, University of Washington)

Monday, 20th May, 5pm
Wolfson Research Exchange,
University of Warwick
followed by a wine reception, 6–6.30pm

ABSTRACT
The term suzhi (quality) first began to circulate the PRC in the late 1970s in relation to the problem of “population quality” in discussions of rural poverty and the unreadiness of the rural population for modernization. By the early 1990s, it had become the cultural determination of the value form of labor marking a divide between urban residents and rural migrants flowing to the cities in search of low-waged work. The “low quality” of the rural masses is what positions rural migrants as an army of reserve labor. What can we learn from how the suzhi discourse works ideologically within the Chinese context that might tell us something about the workings of the global economy more generally? I argue that we can use suzhi as a way of interrogating whether the global economy has truly entered a new phase of capitalism in which value is viewed as being “without measure” or “beyond measure” and in which so-called “immaterial labor” producing intangible intellectual products has become or is becoming the hegemonic form of value production.

Ann Anagnost’s public lecture will be preceded by a research colloquium, open to all:
‘Life-Making in Neoliberal Times’ and other work by Ann Anagnost

Monday, 20th May, 1–3pm, Wolfson Research Exchange, University of Warwick
An informal buffet lunch at 1pm will lead directly into the colloquium, chaired by Ann Anagnost.

Participants are expected to complete the following readings in advance:


Readings available from janet.smith@warwick.ac.uk

Finally, please register your intention to come to either or both events with Janet Smith (janet.smith@warwick.ac.uk) so we may order adequate refreshments!

These events are the third in a series funded by the Institute of Advanced Studies at Warwick see: http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/sociology/rsw/bodiesofvalue/