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Socialist Cosmopolitanism: China Beat Event

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On Wednesday, April 7, the China Beat was pleased to co-host (with the Humanities Collective) a talk at UCI by Nicolai Volland, who teaches Chinese Studies at National University of Singapore. Volland spoke on "Socialist Cosmopolitanism: China’s Other ‘Age of Openness’ in the 1950s.”

Referencing Frank Dikötter’s recent book on Republican China, The Age of Openness: China Before Mao, Volland argued that 1950s China can also be seen as “open,” if not to the U.S. and Western Europe. Volland explored cultural exchanges within the socialist world to provide evidence of China’s continued international engagement during the early Mao years. Interested readers can check out Volland’s presentation of this argument in a recent article in Twentieth-Century China, “Translating the Socialist State: Cultural Exchange, National Identity, and the Socialist World in the Early PRC” (33.2, April 2008: 51-72) (available through Project MUSE at subscribing institutions).
Respondent Catherine Liu shares her thoughts while Volland listens.

Audience listens.