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Hunger in the Making of a Modern Sino-Tibetan Borderland

Multiple Chinese regimes attempted to develop a province in eastern Tibet during the early twentieth century, always with underwhelming results. Leading accounts have emphasized political explanations for these projects and their outcomes, including inter-ethnic conflict and Chinese internal strife. This talk argues that frequent hunger among Chinese soldiers and settlers on the Tibetan plateau both stimulated and constrained state-building efforts there. The desire for familiar grain among Han communities was a driving force in regional politics, reshaping the map and redistributing the settler population. The embodied experience of hunger defies neat political or material explanations; this talk instead articulates it as the convergence of certain political, environmental, and cultural forces in Chinese bodies on the Tibetan plateau.

Thursday, November 29, 2018 12:00-1:30 PM

**LUCY ELLIS LOUNGE, 1080 Foreign Languages Building,
707 S. Mathews Ave, Urbana, IL**

Free pizza provided with registration:

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