

Rutgers IFH, Dept of History Present:

Please Don't Laugh: Learning to Speak 'Mandarin' in 1950s China

Tuesday, December 10th at 12pm

Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research
112 Paterson Street, 1st floor conference room

Janet Chen is a historian of modern China, specializing in the twentieth century. She received her Ph.D. from Yale University and a B.A. from Williams College. She joined the faculty of the Princeton History Department in 2006, and she is also a member of the East Asian Studies Department.

Professor Chen's first book, *Guilty of Indigence: The Urban Poor in China, 1900-1953* (Princeton University Press, 2012), is a study of the destitute homeless during a time of war and revolution. Focusing on Beijing and Shanghai, the book considers how the advent of workhouses and poorhouses in the early twentieth century represented a fundamental reordering of the relationship between the state, private charity, and the neediest members of society.

A new project underway, provisionally titled *The Sounds of Mandarin*, will investigate the history of China's spoken national language.



Janet Chen, PhD

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