This lecture suggests an alternative approach to how we theorize urbanization in China, calling for an analytical distinction between the city as a technology of socialist party-state planning and urbanization as a messy social process over which the state struggles for control. It proposes a recognition of the ways that ideology itself has shifted dramatically in China, away from the Mao-era centrality and coherence of class struggle (阶级斗争) and its overriding goal of proletarianization. As a new space of luxury housing, shopping malls, pedestrian streets, ‘green’ and ‘smart’ infrastructures, and well-behaved people of high quality, ‘the city’ has become the epitomized landscape of post-reform ‘stability’ (维稳). And yet, this landscape of stability is continuously undermined by unruly processes of urbanization. The talk considers the film “24 City,” directed by Jia Zhangke, as an ambivalent meditation on urban ideology, followed by an exploration of urban spaces—new towns, special economic zones and new areas—to tease out their complex and contradictory ideological renderings.

In connection with Oakes’ talk, there will be a film screening of “24 City” (二十四城记) on Thursday, February 27, 2020, 07:45pm - 09:45pm, in Rutgers Academic Building Room 4225 (AB 4225), on College Avenue Campus.

**Co-Sponsors:**
Department of Geography and Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

**Details:**
Friday, February 28, 2020
5:00 - 6:30pm
Teleconference Room (4th floor)
Alexander Library
169 College Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901