CONFERECE
The Nines: Brinks, Cusps, and Perceptions of Possibility—from 1789-2009
December 3-5, 2009
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Henderson Room, Michigan League

Conveners:
Dario Gaggio, associate professor of history and Center for European Studies-European Union Center director, U-M
Mary Gallagher, associate professor of political science and Center for Chinese Studies director, U-M
Michael D. Kennedy, Howard R. Swearer Director, Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University; and Center for Russian and East European Studies research associate, U-M
Douglas Northrop, associate professor of history and Center for Russian and East European Studies director, U-M

Thursday, December 3

Keynote lecture: China as Eurasian Subcontinent: Perspectives on the Past and Future
7:00 pm
James Millward, professor of history, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University
Rackham Amphitheatre (reception at 6:00 pm, Rackham Assembly Hall)

Friday, December 4

Welcome
9:00 am
Michael D. Kennedy

Panel I: Beginnings
9:30-11:30 am

CHAIR: Michael D. Kennedy
Donald Lopez, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and Arthur E. Link Distinguished University Professor of Buddhist & Tibetan Studies, U-M
The Year of the Earth Boar (a.k.a. 1959)
Gerard Libaridian, Alex Manoogian Visiting Professor of Modern Armenian History, U-M
James Millward
Urumchi 1759 and Urumchi 2009: China as Eurasian Empire
Farina Mir, assistant professor of history, U-M
The Decolonization of British India: Transformations of Structures in South Asia
Panel II: Symbols and Identity  
1:00-2:30 pm  
CHAIR: Dario Gaggio  
Kerstin Barndt, associate professor of Germanic languages and literatures, U-M  
*Exhibiting 1989/2009: Utopian Temporalities and the Work of Memory*  
Xiaobing Tang, Helmut F. Stern Professor and professor of Asian languages and cultures and comparative literature  
*Why Should 2009 Make a Difference? Reflections on a Chinese Blockbuster*  
Geneviève Zubrzycki, associate professor of sociology, U-M  
*1959-1969: The Death of the King, the Murder of the Saint and the Birth of Quebec*

Panel III: The Moment and the Memory  
3:00-4:30 pm  
CHAIR: Douglas Northrop  
Janet Hart, associate professor of anthropology, U-M  
*We almost forgot that it was about an American election: “Visible minorities” and the Globalization of Memory, Paris 2009*  
Daniel Herwitz, Mary Fair Croushore Professor of Humanities; professor of history of art, philosophy, and comparative literature; and professor of Art & Design, U-M  
*1999: The End of the South African Beginning*  
Jeff Wasserstrom, professor of history, University of California-Irvine  
*Remembering and Forgetting China’s 1919 and 1989*

Saturday, December 5

Panel IV: Transformations and Futures  
9:30-11:00 am  
CHAIR: Mary Gallagher  
Michael D. Kennedy  
*Institutionalizing Futures under Conditions of Uncertainty: The Polish Round Table and Elections of 1989*  
Ronald G. Suny, Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor of Social and Political History and Richard Hudson Research Professor of History, U-M  
*Years of Revolution, 1919-1989: The Frustrating Fate of Socialism*  
Wang Zheng, associate professor of women’s studies and history, U-M  
*Filmmaking in the Mao Era and Issues in China Studies*

Conference Wrap-up and Discussion  
11:15 am-12:15 pm  
Geoff Eley, Karl Pohrt Distinguished University Professor of Contemporary History, U-M