In recent years old certainties have given way to new questions. The death of Area Studies, including China Studies, has been repeatedly announced. The burial, though, has not yet taken place and some remain committed practitioners. Much has been said about, and claimed for, World History, the New Qing History, the New Sinology, and Sinophone Studies. If not quite a hundred certainly many schools are now contending for our attention. This roundtable seeks to take stock of the discussion about how we position ourselves and what we should be doing, and cast a glance at where we might be going.

This is a roundtable debate so there will be no formal papers. We hope that there will be a wide-ranging discussion in which all will participate. However, to start us off, there will be short introductions by:

**Jeffrey Wasserstrom**, Chancellor’s Professor UC Irvine. Professor Wasserstrom’s most recent publications are *The Oxford Illustrated History of Modern China* and *Eight Juxtapositions: China through Imperfect Analogies from Mark Twain to Manchukuo.*

**Rachel Leow**, Lecturer in Modern East Asian Historian, Cambridge University. Dr Leow’s *Taming Babel: Language in the Making of Malaysia* will be published by Cambridge University Press in September this year.

**Hans van de Ven**, Professor of Modern Chinese History, Cambridge University. His most recent publications are *Breaking with the Past: The Chinese Maritime Customs Service and the Global Origins of Modernity in China* and *Negotiating China’s Destiny in World War II.*

**Time:** Friday May 27, 4 pm – 6 pm  
**Place:** Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Room 8/9