

**Confucius Institute of Rutgers University (CIRU)
Distinguished Lecture Series Spring 2014**

**“China’s Urbanization:
Implications for Food Security and Rural Well Being”**

**Ann Anagnost
University of Washington**

**Thursday, April 24, 4:30 pm
Pane Room, Alexander Library**



Ann Anagnost (Ph.D. University of Michigan) is Professor of Anthropology and Chinese Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle. Her research has explored shifts in conceptions of citizenship and human worth in the context of China’s economic reforms. She is the author of *National Past-Times: Narrative, Representation, and Power in Modern China* (Duke University Press, 1987) and *Embodiments of Value: The Politics of Quality in China’s Reform* (forthcoming). She is co-editor (with Andrea G. Arai and Hai Ren) of *Global Futures in East Asia* (Stanford University Press 2013). Her current research interests are focused on ethics of self-care in late capitalism through food and eating.

Abstract: China’s new policy target to move 250 million peasants to newly constructed urban centers by 2020 has raised concerns about China’s future food security and loss of livelihood for rural people. Consolidation of rural land would allow for the technical rationalities of industrialized agriculture but this is realized only as a productivity increase in terms of unit of labor, not in terms of unit of land. Meanwhile, two important studies published by the UN on the future of food, the IAASTD Report (International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science, and Technology for Development) published in 2008 and a new study entitled *Wake Up Before It’s Too Late*, published by the UN Trade and Environment Review last year, argue for small-scale sustainable agriculture as the only way forward for “feeding the world.” This paper will use perspectives from these studies to reflect on the implications of a new great leap forward in urbanization for China’s food security and rural well-being.

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