



# Lecture

## **ANN ANAGNOST** Anthropology, University of Washington

**Monday, April 16, 2007**  
**3:30 pm**  
**Denny 401**

### **Embodiments of Value in China's Economic Reform**

The notion of "quality," or *suzhi*, has become a cultural determination of the value form of labor in China's economic reforms, marking the divide between manual and mental labor. As a specifically Chinese articulation of the concept of human capital, *suzhi* must be understood within the frame of the global economy. However, its workings in the context of China offers a critical perspective on new conceptions of value circulating more globally as the "immaterial labor" of the "knowledge economy."

**Ann Anagnost** is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Washington. She is the author of *National Pastimes: Narrative, Representation, and Power in Modern China* (1997). Her presentation is drawn from her current project entitled *Embodiments of Value in China's Economic Reform* (forthcoming).

This talk is part of the *Global Futures* project sponsored by the Simpson Center for the Humanities. The core theme of this project explores how youth are linked to converging crises in public life around education, labor, militarization, criminalization, and technology and how global processes affecting young people are playing out in different locations, with particular emphases on Africa, East Asia, and South Asia.

Sponsored by the Simpson Center for the Humanities, the Institute for Transnational Studies, and the South Asia Center.

The University of Washington is committed to providing access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. To request disability accommodation contact the Disability Services Office at least ten days in advance at: 206.543.6450/V, 206.543.6452/TTY, 206.685.7264 (FAX), or e-mail at [dso@u.washington.edu](mailto:dso@u.washington.edu).