



**Oriental Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
and the Institute of South and Central Asia, Charles University**
cordially invite you to a lecture

Infrastructure, Tourism and Rural Development in Western China: Opportunity or Challenge?

delivered by **Andreas Gruschke**

Since the turn of the millennium, the national strategy of Western China Development (*Xibu Kaifa*) has focused on massive investment and infrastructure building in China's hinterland, entailing enormous transformations notably in rural areas. Ever since, tourism development schemes have become ubiquitous in both public discourse and plans for the development of ever more rural areas all over China. The role of tourism in China's ethnic regions, which constitute two thirds of her overall territory, is also very much associated with the aim of facilitating local economic growth, improving the infrastructure system, poverty alleviation, and further improving rural livelihoods. On examples from Tibetan areas in Qinghai and Sichuan as well as the region of Fanjing Shan in northeastern Guizhou, the talk intends to offer perspectives for a critical assessment of the role of infrastructure and tourism development for rural livelihoods in China and also discuss the potential for the protection of, or threat to rural landscape and cultural heritage resources.

Andreas Gruschke is a professor at the Institute of Social Development & Western China Development Studies, Sichuan University.

When: Wednesday, December 17, from 14:10

Where: FF UK, Nám. J. Palacha 1/2, room no. 225V

