



China Hub

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Battle for the Future: China's Underground Historians, the Digital World, and the CCP

Newspaper headlines describe a China that is uniformly bleak: a slowing economy, tensions with the West, and a surveillance state that seems to have crushed all opposing voices. But in his new book *Sparks: China's Underground Historians and Their Battle for the Future*, Ian Johnson presents a more nuanced picture of Xi Jinping's China, one where a vibrant movement of underground filmmakers, magazine publishers, and authors challenge the Communist Party on its most important source of legitimacy: its control of history.

Join us as Ian presents his book and introduces us to China's counter-history movement, how technology enables it, and how it echoes struggles in our own countries for a more equitable and just accounting of the past.



Ian Johnson is a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, researcher, and senior fellow for Chinese studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. He lived in China for 20 years as a student, teacher, and correspondent for *The New York Times*, the *New York Review of Books*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and other publications.

Monday, November 20, 4:00pm-5:00pm
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