In China's late-socialist period, economic reforms increasingly aim to integrate the rural livelihoods of Tibetans into a national economic landscape where they are structurally disadvantaged and marginalized. Particularly in the last decade, intensified urban-centered development is experienced by Tibetans as thwarted socioeconomic mobility as well as cultural loss. In this context, Tibetans largely draw on frameworks of ethnicity, home places, local forms of social organization, and history to reaffirm social relations within Tibetan communities. Noticeably, the framework of indigeneity has not been widely adopted by Tibetans, for reasons I explore in this talk. This talk critically engages with the concept of indigeneity to explore how it intersects with ethnicity, multiculturalism, citizenship, and membership. Finally, I examine the concept of indigeneity and its value and limitations specific to Tibetan communities on the Tibetan Plateau, but from a global perspective of indigeneity in other parts of the world.

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