

Re-assessing Audio Recordings in Xinjiang Province



Music Research, Archives and Ethics at a Time of Cultural Erasure in China

12:00 - 1:00 PM
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

HOAGY CARMICHAEL ROOM
MORRISON HALL 006

On November 11th, **Rachel Harris**, Professor in Ethnomusicology and Director of Research at SOAS University of London, will consider the troubling cultural erasure underway in China's Xinjiang Province and the ethical questions this action presents to ethnomusicologists.

Over the past few years, the Turkic Muslim peoples of Xinjiang in northwest China have experienced the rise of radical policies of securitization, mass incarceration and cultural assimilation. Ethnomusicologists and researchers in this region face access denied and contacts cut, the destruction and reconfiguration of communities and cultural sites, and the detention of colleagues and musicians. Harris and others recognize a particular responsibility to preserve and make accessible those recordings still available through ethical engagement with communities in the diaspora.

What forms might those engagements take? Which collections should be prioritized for archiving? This presentation begins a conversation around these and other issues by selecting example recordings from the private archive of one individual collector in Xinjiang.

