



Seminar

MICHAEL J. PUETT

Non-resident Long-term Fellow for Programmes in Anthropological and
Historical Sciences and the Languages and Civilizations of East Asia, SCAS.
Walter C. Klein Professor of Chinese History and Anthropology, Harvard University

Why Do Global History?

Tuesday, 10 March 2020, 2:15 p.m.

In the Thunberg Lecture Hall
SCAS, Linneanum, Thunbergsvägen 2, Uppsala
www.swedishcollegium.se

S W E D I S H
C O L L E G I U M
for ADVANCED STUDY

ABOUT MICHAEL J. PUETT

Michael J. Puett is Walter C. Klein Professor of Chinese History and Anthropology at Harvard University. He received his Ph.D. in 1994 from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago.

Puett's interests are focused on the inter-relations between history, anthropology, philosophy, and religion, with the hope of bringing the study of China into larger historical and comparative frameworks. His books include *The Ambivalence of Creation: Debates Concerning Innovation and Artifice in Early China* (2001), in which he considers debates about the conditions under which it is acceptable for humans to create anew, and *To Become a God: Cosmology, Sacrifice, and Self-Divinization in Early China* (2002), in which he reconstructs long-running debates in early China about the proper relationship between humans and gods. He is the co-author, with Adam Seligman, Robert Weller and Bennett Simon, of *Ritual and Its Consequences: An Essay on the Limits of Sincerity* (2008). In 2016, Puett was elected foreign member of the 'Class for humanities and for outstanding services to science' of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

While at SCAS, he is completing a project on re-thinking approaches to global history.

ABSTRACT

Global history has become a hotly debated field over the past several years. This talk will discuss the strengths and possible pitfalls of global history as an approach and suggest some possible directions for the field going forward.