



金龍博物館

National Chinese Museum of Australia Inc. T/A

**GOLDEN DRAGON MUSEUM
YI YUAN GARDENS & GUAN YIN TEMPLE**

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Very Modern Gold Rush

Do you think the days of the gold rush are long past? Think again!

**‘Transformative Encounters:
Reciprocal Flows and the
Chinese Gold Rush in Ghana.’**

Join Dr Nicholas Loubere from Lund University, Sweden, as he speaks about the current gold rush in Ghana, West Africa and learn how this current event has some deep resonances with the Victoria gold rush from the 1850s and 1860s.

Since the mid-2000s, tens of thousands of Chinese nationals have travelled to Ghana to engage in small-scale alluvial gold mining. The majority of these migrants are from Shanglin County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Shanglin has a long tradition of alluvial gold mining, and also has been a nationally designated ‘poverty-stricken county’ (pinkun xian). The Shanglin miners introduced new mechanised technology for extracting gold in Ghana, which has dramatically increased production, while producing severe environmental degradation.

In 2013, the Ghanaian government began initiating a continuing series of military-style crackdowns aimed at eliminating the Chinese presence in the country’s small-scale mining sector. In both the media and popular discourse, Chinese miners have been depicted as feeding into corruption, destroying the environment, and stealing resources from marginal sectors of Ghanaian society. However, we still do not know much about who these miners are, the factors that compel them to travel to such a distant land in the hopes of ‘striking it rich’, or how the spoils of this gold rush have been distributed.

Drawing on in-depth fieldwork, this lecture revisits this intense episode. It explores the ways in which this particular cultural encounter has shaped and transformed relationships between people, places, and the natural environment, and examines the impact that it has had on the lives of those involved, both in Ghana and China.

Dr Nicholas Loubere is an Associate Professor in the Study of Modern China at the Centre for East and South-East Asian Studies, Lund University.

He will be in Bendigo briefly to visit the Golden Dragon Museum and use their extensive Library and Archives to further his studies.

Dr Loubere's research examines socioeconomic development in rural China, with a particular focus on microcredit and migration. He co-edits the Made in China Journal.

Event details:

'Transformative Encounters: Reciprocal Flows and the Chinese Gold Rush in Ghana.'

Wednesday 8 February

5.30 – 6.30pm

La Trobe Art Institute

Tickets: Adults \$10 / Conc: \$8 via Eventbrite

Further information; www.goldendragonmuseum.org

Attached Photograph:

Caption:

Dr Nicholas Loubere, Lund University, is speaking in Bendigo on Wednesday 8 February.

Interview opportunity:

Telephone or video interviews can be arranged with Dr Loubere.

Please contact Hugo Leschen, Chief Executive Officer, Golden Dragon Museum on 5441 5044 or 0417 100 229 to set up.