The recent two-decade-long march of “Global China” has left sweeping (but variegated) footprints in many parts of the world. Accompanying this is the increasing interest among Chinese political and intellectual elites in constructing a globally oriented knowledge base. In his talk, Han Cheng will discuss the coeval (re)emergence of China’s international development studies and foreign area studies. He examines the nascent phenomenon of Chinese “world-writing” and develops a critical geography of individuals, institutions, and ideologies that have shaped the spatially and politically situated processes of knowledge production. He argues that “Global China” should be understood not only as an economic and geopolitical force, but as a critical intellectual project.

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