



# Lecture

## Uyghur identity narratives in the reform era

by  
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Since the 1980s Chinese power holders have pursued diverse strategies, ranging from privileges and economic development to extreme repression, to bind the Uyghur population closer to Beijing. Although historical writings contesting the main tenets of the official historiography were banned in the early 1990s, an extraordinary outpouring of regional and sub-regional histories in Uyghur continued until the mid-2010s, comprising a substantial component of indigenous knowledge production in this period.

Using selected works by Uyghur authors writing in their mother tongue for local consumption, the paper probes the textual strategies employed to depict the chosen locality, its history and its peoples. The paper demonstrates how these texts, peppered with moral evaluations of the past with implications for the future, have contributed to Uyghur identity construction and how they reflect the increasing political restrictions. The articulation of the past and sub-national identities in these texts is embedded in the political context in which they were produced, at the intersections of knowledge and power.

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Ildiko Beller-Hann has published extensively on the culture, history and society of Uyghurs and Xinjiang, her second field of expertise being Turkey. One of her recent monographs, published in 2015, is “Negotiating Identities: Work, Religion, Gender, and the Mobilisation of Tradition among the Uyghur in the 1990s”.

**Ort:** Invalidenstraße 118, Raum 507  
**Zeit:** Mittwoch, 8. Januar 2020, 18 Uhr ct

The lecture is designed for students and the interested public. Guests welcome!