In this lecture, Professor Antonia Finnane talks about history and propaganda in contemporary China, taking her point of departure from Chairman Xi Jinping’s visit to the history exhibit, “Road to Revival,” in the National Museum of China in November 2012. Widely reported in the Chinese press, that visit provided the occasion for the Communist Party’s new leader to describe his dream of a rejuvenated China. What did the exhibit tell him about China’s past? And what does it tell us about China today?

Professor Antonia Finnane is a historian of China, with interests in social and cultural change from early modern to contemporary times. She graduated with a PhD from the Department of Far Eastern History at the ANU in 1985, accepting a fractional position in the History Department at the University of Melbourne in the same year. Her publications include Far From Where? Jewish Journeys from Shanghai to Australia (Melbourne University Press, 1999), Speaking of Yangzhou: A Chinese City, 1550-1850 (Harvard University East Asia Series, 2004), and Changing Clothes in China (Columbia University Press, 2008).

In 2006 she won the Joseph Levenson Award for a work on pre-1900 China, awarded by the Association of Asian Studies (USA), and in 2007 the Woodward Medal for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Melbourne. She has recently returned to Melbourne from a period of residence in Beijing, during which she taught in the Yale - Peking University joint undergraduate program while undertaking research on Beijing in the early 1950s.

Thursday, 16 May 2013
6.30pm – 7.30pm
Theatre A
Elisabeth Murdoch Building
The University of Melbourne
PARKVILLE VIC 3010

Admission is free.
Bookings are required.
Seating is limited.

To register visit: http://alumni.online.unimelb.edu.au/antoniafinnane

For further information please contact rochelle.sullivan@unimelb.edu.au or phone 9035 8358.