

Robert Barnett

Director, Modern Tibet Studies Program; Associate research scholar; Adjunct professor of contemporary Tibetan studies

Modern Tibetan history, culture and politics; film and television in Inner Asia; nationality issues in China

Professor Barnett founded and directs the Modern Tibetan Studies Program at Columbia, the first Western teaching program in this field. From 2000 to 2005 he also ran the annual summer program for foreign students at Tibet University in Lhasa and taught there. He is a frequent commentator on Tibet and nationality issues in China for the BBC, CNN, NPR, CBS, the New York Times, the Washington Post, and other media. He runs three projects on development and education in Tibet which include training programs ecotourism and conservation. He teaches courses on Tibetan film, television, contemporary culture, biography, and other subjects.

His most recent books are *Lhasa: Streets with Memories*, published by Columbia University Press in paperback (2010) and *Tibetan Modernities: Notes from the Field on Social and Cultural Change*, an edited volume (with Ronald Schwartz, Brill 2008). Recent articles include "Politics on China's Periphery: Tibet" (in William A. Joseph (ed.), *Politics in China: An Introduction*, New York: Oxford University Press, Chapter 14 (2010), pp. 315-335), "Television Drama Series in Tibet" (in Valeria Donati (ed.), *Tibetan Cinema. Discovering A New Political And Cultural Language*, ASIA Onlus, Naples (2009), pp. 51-70), "The Tibet Protests of Spring, 2008: Conflict between the Nation and the State" (*China Perspectives*, Hong Kong, July 2009). "Ethics in China's wild west" (*British Journalism Review*, Vol. 19, No. 3, 2008, pp. 49-56), "Language and Ethnicity: Cadre-Speak in Contemporary Tibet" (*Inner Asia* 10, 1 (2008), pp. 171-205), "Thunder from Tibet" (*New York Review of Books*, May, 2008), "Tsogt Taj and the Disappearance of the Overlords" (*Inner Asia*, 2007, No.1: 41-76); "Women and Political Participation in Tibet" (in Janet Havnevik and J. Gyatso, eds., *Women in Tibet: Past and Present*, Columbia University Press, 2006).

Before joining Columbia in 1998, Professor Barnett worked as a researcher and journalist based in the United Kingdom, specializing in Tibetan issues for the BBC, the South China Morning Post, VOA, the Guardian, the Independent and other media outlets. In the 1980s he founded and ran the London-based research organization Tibet Information Network (TIN), then the leading independent source for news and analysis concerning events in Tibet.