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Register HK Event: The One and Many Silk Roads: The Art of Imagining a Common Future (Feb 20)



**The One and Many Silk Roads:
The Art of Imagining a Common Future**

February 20, 2025 | 6:30 pm

Speaker: Marina Jose Kaneti
National University of Singapore

Interlocutors: Richard Payne
The University of Chicago

Enze Han
The University of Hong Kong

Logos: THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, NEUBAUER COLLEGIUM FOR CULTURE & SOCIETY, China on the move

The Belt Road Initiative is often dubbed the 21st Century Silk Road, inspired by the "spirit of the ancient Silk Road" and the vision of a "shared past and common future." Taking a cue from the ancient Silk Road in constructing an agenda for collective development has brought in a new wave of interest in the Silk Road itself.

But "the" Silk Road was never just about China's past connections and presence in the world. Other cultures and communities can similarly stake Silk Road claims. What are some of the other stories about the Silk Road? How do they differ and how are they accommodated into the 21st century vision of shared past and common future?"

Professor Richard Payne of the University of Chicago has curated the mini-series "*Silk Road Imaginaries*" and brought together scholars of the politics and cultures traditionally associated with the Silk Road in order to theorize premodern representations of the circulation

of commodities and concepts within cosmopolitan economies.

At this talk, International Relations scholar [Marina Jose Kaneti](#) from the National University of Singapore will argue that the art of imagining a common future entails the validation and endorsement of competing and dissonant tales of the past. Kaneti will draw on the visual displays and narratives of the Silk Road staged as part of the Sharing a Common Future exhibition in Beijing in 2019 in order to interrogate the complementary and competing imaginaries of the Silk Road past. Richard Payne and [Enze Han](#) from the University of Hong Kong will serve as interlocutors.

Organized by the [Silk Road Imaginaries](#) research project at the Neubauer Collegium in partnership with the University of Chicago Campus in Hong Kong.

REGISTER IN-PERSON EVENT



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