Informal lunchtime talks by
Human Rights academics, practitioners, and students

Thursday, 12 March 2009, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Room 1105, 11/F KK Leung Building, HKU

Human Rights in China
after the Olympics

Roseann Rife
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Despite promises from authorities in the bidding process for the Beijing Olympics, the human rights situation in China saw little improvement in 2008. China’s hosting of the Olympics instead brought heightened repression throughout the country as the authorities tightened control over human rights activists, religious practitioners, ethnic minorities, lawyers and journalists. The beginning of 2009 has already seen further attention to human rights beginning with calls for reform in the form of Charter 08; an imminent first ever National Human Rights Action Plan and China’s first Universal Periodic Review before the UN Human Rights Council. No doubt this important year that includes the 50th anniversary of the 1959 uprising in Tibet, the 30th anniversary of the Democracy Wall movement, the 20th anniversary of the crackdown of the 1989 pro-democracy protests on Tiananmen Square, and the 60th anniversary of the People’s Republic of China will continue to see human rights headlining the news.

Roseann Rife is a Deputy Program Director for Asia-Pacific with Amnesty International. Amnesty International is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights to be respected and protected for everyone. The organization’s mission is to conduct research and generate action to prevent and end grave abuses of human rights and to demand justice for those whose rights have been violated. Amnesty International has more than 2.2 million members and subscribers in more than 150 countries and regions and coordinates this support to act for justice on a wide range of issues. In addition to Amnesty International, Ms. Rife has worked with several Non-Governmental Organizations in the field of human rights and international law and is an alumnus of HKU’s LLM in Human Rights programme.

ALL ARE WELCOME!