China’s exercise of sovereignty is often maligned as anathema to the progressive development of international law and the stability of the international system. Such a view stems from Western-centric approaches to international law. It fails to understand China’s historical experience with international law and its evolving approach to the current international legal order. In this seminar, Phil will explain that China has in fact engaged with international law, on matters of human rights, democracy, self-determination, and international peace and security, in ways that are positive for the development and legitimacy of international law and the maintenance of the current international order as one underlain and governed by the international rule of law. The symbiotic relationship between China’s exercise of sovereignty and the international legal order in turn informs our understanding of international law and the current international legal order, including the locus in which State sovereignty resides and its continuing significance and implications.