

RESEARCH PRESENTATION

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

PARIS UNDER WATER: HOW THE CITY OF LIGHT SURVIVED THE GREAT FLOOD OF 1910



Professor Jeffrey Jackson

Associate Professor of History,
Director, Environmental Studies and Sciences Program,
Rhodes College

Date: 10 October 2011 (Monday)
Time: 4:30 - 6:00 pm
Venue: GEG01, G/F, B.Y. Lam Building
Language: English

Abstract: At the turn of the twentieth century, Parisians believed they lived in the greatest city in the world. But Paris came to a halt in January 1910 when the river that provided much of the city's life quickly became an instrument of destruction. Following weeks of torrential rainfall, the Seine overflowed its banks flooding thousands of homes and sending hundreds of thousands of people fleeing for safety and higher ground. This most modern of cities seemed to have lost its battle with the elements. But in the midst of the disaster, despite decades of political division, scandal, and deep tensions between social classes, Parisians rallied to help one another and rebuild. Leaders and people answered the call to action in the city's hour of need. This newfound ability to work together proved crucial just four years later when France was plunged into the depths of World War I.

Biography: Professor Jeffrey Jackson was named a "Top Young Historian" by the History News Network in the U.S. in 2007 for his brilliant research work. He has published numerous articles and several books including the latest one *Paris Under Water* (2010), *Music and History* (2005) and *Making Jazz French* (2003). He has been in residence at the Columbia University Institutes for Scholars at Reid Hall in Paris, where he began the book *Paris Under Water* in 2005. In 2002, one of his articles won the inaugural prize from the New York State Association of European Historians. In 2011, Professor Jackson won the prestigious Clarence Day Award for Outstanding Research from Rhodes College, the institution's highest honor for faculty.

All are welcome!

Enquiry: Ms. Connie Cheng Tel: 2616 7686