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# HUMAN- MACAQUE COEXISTENCE

Case studies from China and Bhutan

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**4:30-6:00pm**

**WEDNESDAY, Jan 29, 2020**

**Large Conference Room**

**Graduate School of Letters**

### ABSTRACT

COEXISTENCE WITH WILDLIFE IS A CHALLENGE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOODS, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING CAN BE NEGATIVELY AFFECTED BY CONTACT WITH ANIMALS. HUMAN POPULATION GROWTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE ARE PREDICTED TO ACCELERATE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT BECAUSE PEOPLE WILL INCREASINGLY ENCROACH ON ANIMALS' HABITAT. CLIMATE CHANGE ALTERS HABITAT DISTRIBUTION AS WELL AS HUMAN LAND USE PATTERNS, SUCH AS THE CROPS BEING GROWN, AND THESE CHANGES CAN ALSO ESCALATE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS. IS PEACEFUL INTERSPECIES COEXISTENCE POSSIBLE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES? MACAQUES (MACACA) ARE A WIDESPREAD, ADAPTABLE MONKEY GENUS OF PROFOUND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE IN ASIA. SOME POPULATIONS THRIVE AMONGST PEOPLE, AND MONKEYS' MENTAL AND PHYSICAL AGILITY UNDERMINE PEOPLES' ABILITY TO DEVISE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES. I WILL DESCRIBE TWO EXAMPLES OF HUMAN COEXISTENCE WITH MACAQUES. IN CHINA, TIBETAN MACAQUES (M. THIBETANA) LIVING AT A TOURIST SITE SUPPORT THE LOCAL ECONOMY, BUT I ARGUE THAT THIS ECONOMICALLY GROUNDED CONSERVATION APPROACH IS UNSTABLE. IN BHUTAN, PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE IS POLITICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY EMBEDDED IN BHUTANESE CULTURE, THEREBY PROVIDING A MORE STABLE CONSERVATION ETHOS FOR THE COUNTRY'S RHESUS (M. MULATTA) AND ASSAMESE (M. ASSAMENSIS) MACAQUES, BUT THE DURABILITY OF THIS SYSTEM IS AND WILL BE CHALLENGED BY EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE BHUTAN.

