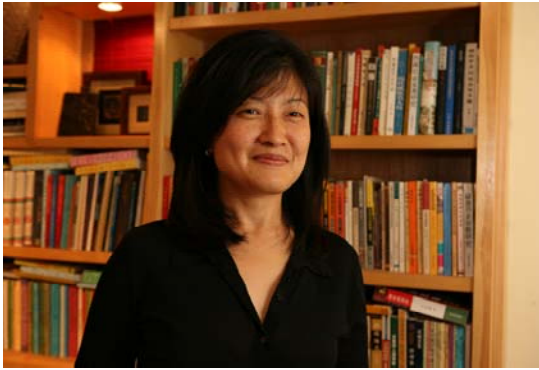


Tashi Rabgey

Lecturer and Director, UVa Contemporary Tibetan Studies Initiative



Tashi Rabgey is a lecturer and director of the UVa Contemporary Tibetan Studies Initiative. Her research on Tibet is grounded in a cross-disciplinary study of law, culture and power in late liberalism. Drawing on contemporary political and legal thought as well as critical perspectives in anthropology, she takes a comparative approach to the ethnographic study of concepts such as sovereignty and autonomy. In addition to ongoing work on the Tibetan plateau, she has also conducted research on legal recognition and the effects of liberal multiculturalism on the adjudication of subjectivity and in the regulation of cultural difference in post-martial law Taiwan. Her doctoral work examines the effects of Chinese constitutionalism and minority laws and policies in mediating modes of citizenship and exclusion in the Sino-Tibetan encounter. Underlying this study of legal and cultural pluralism is a broader theoretical project that seeks to resituate the discourse of sovereignty outside liberal accounts of power, opening a space for critical reflection on the practice of framing social justice claims in the analytical vocabulary of rights.

Tashi Rabgey studied law at Oxford as a Rhodes scholar and holds an LL.M. from the University of Cambridge where she specialized in critical international legal theory and completed a thesis on China's compliance with the international legal regime on women's rights. She spent a further year pursuing advanced studies in comparative Chinese law at the Center for Asian Legal Studies at the University of British Columbia before undertaking a Ph.D. in anthropology and Tibetan studies at Harvard University. She has received numerous academic awards and fellowships, including the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) IDRf Doctoral Research Fellowship and the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Canada Doctoral Fellowship.

Her current research focus is on law and governance on the Tibetan plateau, with a particular emphasis on rural education and language protection; conservation, land-use and resource management; and the protection of biological and cultural diversity. The broader framework for this research is an inquiry into formation of legal institutions, norms, subjects and consciousness within the context of competing local, national and global legal regimes and transnational normative processes.

The UVa Contemporary Tibetan Studies Initiative seeks to develop policy research in areas that promote sustainable communities on the Tibetan plateau. In partnership with Machik (www.machik.org), the Initiative will co-host two intensive workshops on tourism and sustainable livelihoods in the spring semester of 2008. One will bring together tourism officials and policymakers from the Tibetan region to discuss geotourism as a community-based policy alternative to existing standards of the industry. The second workshop will convene senior Tibetan scholars and academics from across the plateau to establish a consultative framework for the launch of the new Tibetan Digital Library (TDL). Jointly developed by UVa and Machik, the new TDL will draw on the innovative integration of technology and tools of UVa's Tibetan and Himalayan Digital Library (THDL) to become the first digital library and online resource developed exclusively for Tibetan-language usership.