

Postgraduate Details

Name: Dean Phelan

Contact Details: dean.phelan.2010@nuim.ie

(PhD) Research working title: Making Hui: the minoritisation, territoriality and performance of Islam in contemporary China.

Supervisor(s): Prof. Mark Boyle and Prof. Gerry Kearns.

Research interests (please include a paragraph summarizing your PhD project): My research interests lie at the intersection of political and cultural geography, with a particular focus on contemporary Chinese and Islam studies.

My PhD research project is concerned with how the Chinese State co-created the ethnicity and territoriality of the Hui, China's largest Islamic minority group, and how this ethnic and territorial demarcation and minoritisation is used as form of organising and managing these Chinese Muslims. Attention will be focussed not upon the production of minoritisation but upon its existential and lived experience, negotiation and contestation. How Hui youths in particular identify themselves with, or against, the potentially conflicting narratives of Chinese nationalism and global Islam will be examined, with specific reference to Hui food cultures. These distinctive food cultures provide an analytically useful and empirically accessible route into wider reflections on how Hui perform their identities by constructing, claiming, and negotiating practices, places, identities, and subjectivities.

Publications:

Conference/Workshop Presentations:

Funding: Irish Research Council Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship and the Collins Kitchin Fund.