

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Sheryl Wudunn to give free public lecture at UCSD Oct. 18 on "The Awakening of China"

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PULITZER PRIZE WINNING JOURNALIST SHERYL WUDUNN TO GIVE FREE PUBLIC LECTURE AT UCSD OCT. 18 ON "THE AWAKENING OF CHINA"

Sheryl WuDunn, the former New York Times correspondent in Beijing who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1990, with her husband journalist Nicholas Kristof, for international news coverage of the Tiananmen Square massacre, will visit the University of California, San Diego Oct. 18, to discuss her experiences in China, detailed in her new book.

WuDunn and Kristof are the authors of *China Wakes: The Struggle for the Soul of a Rising Power*, which describes the leadership of this country of nearly 1 billion people as a "noxious regime presiding over an explosion in living standards." The public is invited to come hear WuDunn's free lecture, "The Awakening of China," Oct. 18 at 4:30 p.m. in Conference Room 111-A in the Chancellor's Complex. WuDunn's visit is being sponsored by UCSD's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS) and the Chinese Studies Program. Due to limited seating, advance reservations are recommended.

WuDunn joined The New York Times as a correspondent in the Beijing bureau in 1989. She and Kristof, who served as The Times bureau chief, were in Beijing until Oct. 1993. Their book explores the paradoxical nature of China, a country with an authoritarian and often brutal regime that has managed to dramatically enhance the economic well being and lifestyle of 900 million peasants, and a nation which boasts the world's largest army as well as the fastest-growing economy.

China Wakes also contains a number of shocking revelations about life in China. The book describes a Communist party human flesh-eating ritual -- possibly the largest incident of cannibalism in modern times -- which allegedly took place during the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and in which approximately one thousand Communist party members are thought to have participated to prove their undying loyalty to the cause.

The authors also reveal the details of a brutal beating of a mentally retarded man by the police on the eve of a visit by the International Olympic Committee. Apparently, Chinese authorities who had hoped to host the Olympics, were worried that the presence of mentally retarded people would cast a negative light on Beijing's image. These incidents, as well as others in the book, display a regime with astonishing and frequently brutal disregard for the human rights of its citizens.

"Unfortunately," according to WuDunn, "China can improve for many years to come and remain a pretty brutal place. People can stand up for their principles and become dissidents, but if so then they risk destroying not only themselves, but also their families."

To reserve seating please call (619) 534-6477 by Oct. 14.

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