Daniel C. Lynch (Ph.D., University of Michigan, 1996) is Associate Professor of International Relations at the University of Southern California. He is the author of three monographs: After the Propaganda State (1999), Rising China and Asian Democratization: Socialization to "Global Culture" in the Political Transformations of Thailand, China, and Taiwan (2008), and China’s Futures (2015). In addition to his scholarly work, Professor Lynch also writes on Chinese current affairs for a more general audience in popular publications such as the The Diplomat and other news magazines.

Abstract: In this talk, Professor Lynch will analyze the apparent contradiction between China’s “new assertiveness” in foreign policy matters, especially evident in China’s territorial claims in the South China Sea, and the challenges the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) faces in the domestic realm, especially in regard to the rather sudden slowdown of GDP growth earlier this year and the repercussions of a shrinking workforce and rapidly aging population for the economic development and social stability of the country. After offering his own observations, Professor Lynch will open the floor to invite all in attendance to join together in thinking through the implications of these puzzling developments and what they suggest about where China and its rise might be headed from here.

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