How Important is the Internet Satire in China?

Beginning in the late 1950s, the harshness of late Maoism brought to Chinese society a bifurcation of language—clearer and sharper than it is in most other societies—between official and unofficial language. People spoke one way at home and among friends, and another way in public contexts. Public language, right to its grammar, fit with the political interests of the ruling authority. The Internet, though, breaks this pattern. It is the first medium in PRC history in which unofficial talk is put in public and can survive there, despite efforts at repression. This important fact has implications for how people organize, how they bring pressure, and even how they conceive what it means to be a Chinese person.

Perry Link
Chancellorial Chair for Innovative Teaching, Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages, UC Riverside

2013 CEAS Distinguished East Asia Lecturer

Tuesday, October 29, 2013
4:30pm, ANNS 110