

## PUBLIC LECTURE



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Professor Robert  
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University of Bristol

**“The challenger:  
Hugh Hamilton  
Lindsay and the rise  
of British Asia,  
1830s-60s”**

**Friday 23 September 2011 at 5.30pm**

**Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre, University College London**

This lecture explores the life and activities of Hugh Hamilton Lindsay, an East India Company official, who worked at Canton from 1820. Lindsay's is a key voice in the challenge to the Company's policies in China on the cusp of the abolition of its monopoly, of British policy on the eve of the first 'Opium War', and of the empire of the Qing as it faced the British threat in the South. The talk follows Lindsay and his activities as the British fanned out from Canton into the 'treaty ports' opened after 1842, and across Britain's wider developing empire in Asia. Lindsay was never happy with the status quo: he lobbied and hectored, and in business he innovated, and pushed hard on the frontiers of British power and influence.

Robert Bickers is Professor of History at the University of Bristol, and a Co-Director of the British Inter-university China Centre. His publications include *Britain in China: Community, Culture and Colonialism* (1999), *Empire Made Me: An Englishman Adrift in Shanghai* (2003), and *The Scramble for China: Foreign devils in the Qing Empire, 1832-1914* (2011). As well as preparing a new book on events at a south China lighthouse in 1932, he directs the JISC and British Academy funded 'Visualising China' project: <http://visualisingchina.net>.