

NEWS RELEASE

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HALL CENTER WELCOMES JOURNALIST PETER HESSLER

LAWRENCE – Freelance journalist and writer Peter Hessler will present a lecture, “Factory Town: Portraits from a Chinese City” on November 12, at 3:30 p.m. in the Hall Center for the Humanities’ Conference Hall. The event, co-sponsored by the Center for East Asian Studies, is free and open to the public.

Over a period of two years, Hessler researched development in Lishui, a city in the Zhejiang province of China that was in the process of establishing a new development zone. He observed the owners of one factory establish the place, hire workers, and interact with their employees.

Hessler is renowned for his two books on China. *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze* (2001) is a Kiriya Prize-winning book about his experiences as a Peace Corps volunteer in China. He also wrote a collection of articles about ordinary people’s lives, *Oracle Bones: A Journey Between China’s Past and Present* (2006), while living in Beijing. He is a staff writer at *The New Yorker*, and also a contributing writer for *National Geographic Magazine*.

A native of Missouri, Hessler studied English and creative writing at Princeton. In 1992, he won a Rhodes Scholarship to study English at Oxford, and joined the Peace Corps in 1996. After living in China for more than a decade, Hessler is now based in Colorado.

The Hall Center for the Humanities is a research center with the primary focus of stimulating and supporting research in the humanities, arts and social sciences, especially of an interdisciplinary kind, at the University of Kansas. The Hall Center serves the KU and Lawrence communities through an array of lectures and workshops, as well as with grant development assistance and fellowships for faculty and graduate students. For more information, please contact the Hall Center at hallcenter@ku.edu or call (785) 864-4798.

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