Soy and soy products have become controversial figures in nutritional thinking. As a phytoestrogen, soy is often thought to have healthy effects. But soy is also classified as an endocrine disruptor, with potentially negative impacts on reproductive and developmental health. This paper does not attempt to end such debate, but instead to show how toxicologists in China think through the effects of soy on the male reproductive body in a context where soy consumption and “soy milk sentiment” are common. Through an analysis of toxicology, I show how ideas of Chinese metabolism, ethnicity and masculinity come into being in studies of soy.

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Monday
October 28th, 3:30 - 5:00 PM
Building 50, 51A

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