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America Seen through Chinese Lenses

Online talk by
Dr. Wang Xi
Professor of History
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

10 a.m. Friday, March 19, 2021

Abstract: How has American studies evolved as an academic field in China? How has its development been shaped by China’s domestic politics, as well as the China-US relations? What role did China’s Americanists play in helping forge popular understandings of the United States in different periods? How would the current uncertainty of the US-China relationship impact on the future of the field? The talk will review the evolution of American studies in the People’s Republic of China from its founding (1949) to the present, with a focus on how Chinese Americanists had constructed three perspectives — “the arch enemy,” “a model of modernization,” and “a nation among nations” — to guide their interpretations of American history and how different forces, including the opening-up of China, the scholarly exchange between China and US, and the coming of digital age, had shaped the course of the field.