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**From Chinatown to Every Town:  
How Chinese Immigrant Entrepreneurs Have Expanded  
Restaurant Business in the United States**

Guest Lecture by

**Dr. Zai Liang**

State University of New York at Albany

**3:30 - 5 p.m. EST, Wednesday, February 22, 2023  
2130 Sangren Hall**



Dr. Zai Liang is Professor of Sociology at State University of New York at Albany. He is the former chair of Asia and Asian American section of the American Sociological Association and was a visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York City during 2014-2015. He is the recipient of the 2017-2018 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Research and Creative Activities and the 2020 Louis Wirth Best Paper Award from the American Sociological Association. Dr. Liang's research has been supported by many

foundations including the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, the Ford Foundation, and Spencer Foundation among others. Since 2004, he has been serving as Director and Co-Director of Urban China Research Network. His main research interests are migration/immigration, urbanization, and urban sociology.

**Abstract:** Based on Dr. Liang's new book, this presentation explores the recent history of Chinese immigration within the United States and the fundamental changes in spatial settlement that have relocated many low-skilled Chinese immigrants from New York City's Chinatown to new immigrant destinations. Using a mixed-method approach over a decade in Chinatown and six destination states, sociologist Zai Liang specifically examines how the expansion and growing popularity of Chinese restaurants has shifted settlement to more rural and faraway areas. Liang's study demonstrates that key players such as employment agencies, Chinatown buses, and restaurant supply shops facilitate the spatial dispersion of immigrants while simultaneously maintaining vital links between Chinatown in Manhattan and new immigrant destinations.

