Pacific Narratives of Chinese and American female Intellectuals in the First Half of 20th Century

A talk by

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1025 BROWN HALL (Film Auditorium)

Dr. Lijuan Huang (黄丽娟) is a professor of English and comparative literature at the International Institute of Chinese Culture, Beijing Foreign Studies University, China. She earned her PhD in English literature and completed her Postdoc in Comparative Literature from Beijing Foreign Studies University. Now she’s a Fulbright awardee at Yale University. Her research interests cover Anglophone travel literature, critical theory, gender study and Sino-Western cultural contact.

Early 20th century saw the first important wave of transpacific flow of both the American and Chinese female intellectuals to the reciprocal countries, who recorded their experience in their travel writing including biographies, travelogues, poems, and novels. This talk intends to concentrate on female intellectuals’ engagement with reciprocal alien culture, and a reflection of how female identity and cultural identity are reformed and reconstructed when confronting these cultures. Owing to the variety of topics in their writing, a multitude of subjects will be addressed, including the history of Chinese education, women in modernity, American female intellectuals’ interests in Chinese politics, involvement of male intellectual circles of Shanghai, heir concept of Yin-Yang and sympathy for Chinese women with bound feet.