Trans-border and In-between: Americans in Late 19th and Early 20th Century China

- Presenter: Professor Wang Xiaolu, Sichuan University
- Time: 4:30 pm: September 28, 2017, Thursday
- Place: LL 102, ASU Tempe Campus

This talk focuses on a major cultural encounter by tracing the activities of American missionaries, groups and individuals, in late 19th and early 20th century China. Besides religious endeavors, American missionaries engaged in medical and educational service. They established and developed schools and hospitals practicing Western learning and medicine. Since nurses and missionary school teachers were needed, more American women came to China, and were much better accepted by the Chinese. It was the women missionaries who played a major role in campaigns against customs like opium smoking and foot binding. These American women focused their efforts not only on converting Chinese women to Christianity, but also on modernization initiatives. Cultural history is always multi-dimensional and it is important to observe not only how cultural events took place but how culture was performed and cultures interacted during a given historical period.

Dr. Wang Xiaolu (王晓路博士) is Professor of Literature in the College of Literature & Journalism and College of Foreign Literature & Cultures, Sichuan University (SCU). His campus appointments include Director of the American Studies Center and Chair of the Professorship Committee of the College of Overseas Education, SCU. He is a Member of the Structures Committee, the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA), Editorial Board Member of CLCWEB of Purdue University, and Executive Editor of Comparative Literature: East & West, published by Routledge under the Taylor & Francis Group.

Since 2010, he has served as Chair Professor of Cultural Studies for the Chinese Overseas Exchange Association. His academic interests cover cultural criticism and literary studies. His recent publications include the scholarly books: Dialogues of Ideas: Between Literature and Culture (co-authored, Ba Shu, 2014); A Study of Western Marxist Cultural Criticism (Peking UP, 2012); A Study of Key Concepts in Cultural Criticism (Peking UP, 2007).

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