

Resisting Spirits:

Drama Reform & Cultural Transformation in the People's Republic of China

A Lecture with Dr. Maggie Greene (Montana State University)

Tuesday, May 26, 2020, 12pm,

Zoom at this link <https://csusb.zoom.us/j/388207496>



IN THIS TALK, Greene will discuss her recent monograph, a study of the role of traditional culture and cultural reform in Maoist China. Combining archival documents with a variety of rare manuscript materials, *Resisting Spirits* explores the debates over the role of traditional Chinese theatre (*xiqu*), particularly the celebrated genre of ghost opera. Challenging perceptions of what cultural production in the high socialist period looked like, *Resisting Spirits* shows the lengths to which artists and writers went in trying to reform beloved popular culture for new political contexts, as well as the political ramifications of artistic experimentation and debate. Greene also shows how integral the debate over ghosts was to shifting political tides, particularly the lead-up to the Cultural Revolution. Greene will also discuss the relevance of Mao-era cultural regulation and reform to the contemporary PRC.

MAGGIE GREENE is an Assistant Professor of History at Montana State University. She is the author of *Resisting Spirits: Drama Reform and Cultural Transformation in the People's Republic of China* (University of Michigan Press, 2019). Her research explores cultural transformation in China across time and space, and the relationship of cultural production to politics. She has published articles on subjects ranging from opera, to mahjong in the late Qing and Republican periods, to the cultural and political “performance” of Chinese expeditions to Mt. Everest in the high socialist period. Her second project considers the role of global popular culture, from American children’s books to Japanese videogames, in post-Mao China, and the ways in which cultural workers and fans have reworked and reused global pop culture within a Chinese context.

Co-Sponsors: CSUSB History Department, Economics Department, History Club/Phi Alpha Theta, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, the College of Extended and Global Education, the Center for Global Management/College of Business and Public Administration, Pfau Library, and Dr. Margaret Hill and the World Affairs Council of Inland Southern California. Thanks also to Pamela Crosson (History), Cassandra Walls (Faculty Center for Excellence), Alan Llavore (Strategic Communications), and James Trotter (ATI).

Please contact Jeremy Murray (History) with questions at jmurray@csusb.edu.