



A Frenchman's View of Chinese Opera, Circa 1900

A Lecture with Dr. Andrea Goldman (UCLA)
Tuesday, November 28, 2017, 12pm, UH-106

TOPIC: FRENCHMAN GEORGE SOULIE (1878-1955) was an interpreter of China to the west. He arrived in Beijing in 1901 to work as a translator for the Chinese Railway Association. Soulié returned to Paris a decade later but, as his publishing record shows, he retained a passion for China. Among the more curious of Soulié's writings is his 1925 adaptation of Chen Sen's novel, *Pinhua baojian* (1849). Chen's novel provides an important window onto the male-male sex trade in the Qing capital. This talk traces the circuitous route by which the homoeroticism of the original was refracted through a sympathetic but Orientalist filter in Soulié's remake and then was suppressed in a "sexual modernization" of China post-1900.

SPEAKER: ANDREA S. GOLDMAN specializes in the cultural and social history of early modern and modern China, with particular emphasis on the subfields of urban history, performance, the politics of aesthetics, and gender studies. Her first book, *Opera and the City: The Politics of Culture in Beijing, 1770-1900*, uses opera as a lens through which to observe court and city dynamics in Qing dynasty Beijing. She is currently working on two new projects: the first is a transnational look at the transformation of the ancillary commercial sex culture surrounding Chinese opera performance circa 1900; the second is a history of gossip from roughly 1750-1850. Goldman toured Taiwan with a semi-professional xiangsheng (Chinese comedy) troupe; and while conducting her dissertation research in China, after archive hours, she apprenticed with a professional xiangsheng master in Beijing.

Co-Sponsors: CSUSB History Department, History Club/Phi Alpha Theta, the College of Arts and Letters, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, the College of Extended Learning, the Center for Global Management/College of Business and Public Administration, Pfau Library, and the Intellectual Life Fund. Thanks also to Pamela Crosson (History), Alan Llavore (Strategic Communications), and James Trotter (ATI). Please contact Jeremy Murray (History) with questions at jmurray@csusb.edu.