



Building the Marital Bond in Qing Dynasty China (1644-1911), with Dr. Weijing Lu (UC San Diego) Thursday, May 17, 2018, 12pm, PL-4005

IT IS WIDELY ASSUMED THAT LOVE and arranged marriage were incompatible. Personal writings of men and women from the Qing, however, show the assertion is deeply flawed. What was the role of love played in arranged marriage? How did husband and wife express their feelings in private and public? How did they forge relationship between them? How was that process shaped by gender values, cultural norms, and social and economic conditions under which they lived? How was love critiqued in moral discourses on marriage and represented in literary traditions? Centered on these questions, we will explore the rich sources married couples left behind about their own lives, including biographies, poems, and memoirs, to discuss the ideas and practices of marriage and the process of building the marital bond in the context of the patriarchal family system.

WEIJING LU IS ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR of history at the University of California, San Diego. She is the author of *True to Her Word: The Faithful Maiden Cult in Late Imperial China* (Stanford 2008, winner of Berkshire Conference of Women Historians 2008 First Book Prize) and guest editor of a special issue on China for the *Journal of the History of Sexuality* (May 2013). Her research focuses on late imperial gender, social and cultural history. She is current completing a book, *Marriage and Intimacy in Qing Dynasty China*.

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.