

How Not to Write History:

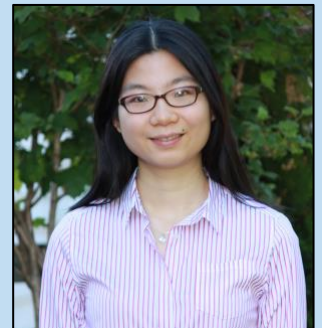
Teaching Methodology through Aliens, Conspiracies, and the Chinese Discovery of America

A Lecture with Dr. Chelsea Zi Wang (Claremont McKenna)

Friday, April 19, 2019, 12pm
PL-4005, Pfau Library

Talk Description: The speaker will share her experience teaching what she calls pseudohistory—sensational arguments about the past that have been widely discredited by professional historians. This introductory undergraduate course is premised on the belief that each member of society can and should develop the skills needed to distinguish between reliable and unreliable accounts of the past. The talk will present examples of case studies, assignments, and discussion strategies adopted in the course, illustrating how the study of negative examples can help us define and analyze the basic elements of historical writing that make an argument trustworthy.

Speaker Bio: Chelsea Zi Wang is an assistant professor of history at Claremont McKenna College. Her research, focused on the interplay between communication and bureaucracy in Ming China (1368-1644), examines how technological limitations framed the Ming approach to common problems of governance such as paperwork, movement, oversight, and accountability. In addition to teaching survey and topical courses on Chinese and East Asian history, she has been teaching “Pseudohistory” since 2017.



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.