

Trying History in China

Professor Haiyan LEE (Stanford University)



2pm, 17 February (Thursday), 2022

On-line seminar

Register: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJercu6oqjguGdGTZe8hxmWvCXtk4j9ZT7fO>

Abstract

In this talk, I contend that political (show) trials are a basic medium of transitional justice in the People's Republic of China. I consider two examples that exemplify the two junctures of transitional justice (1950s and 1980s): "The Bloody Shirt" and "The Second Encounter." My goal is to understand how the political-legal tradition is reshaped through the weaponization of shame and the ritual exercise of denunciation, apology, and forgiveness.

Speaker

Haiyan Lee is the Walter A. Haas Professor of Chinese and comparative literature at Stanford University. She is the author of *Revolution of the Heart: A Genealogy of Love in China, 1900-1950* (2007), winner of the 2009 Joseph Levenson Prize from the Association for Asian Studies, and *The Stranger and the Chinese Moral Imagination* (2014). Her new book, *A Certain Justice: Toward an Ecology of the Chinese Legal Imagination*, is forthcoming from the University of Chicago Press.