



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE FOR CHINESE STUDIES

ICS presents the "Re-Imagining China's Past and Present" Lecture Series

How and Where to Rest My Body and Spirit? Aged Women in Buddhist Temple Retreats in China

Thursday, November 16, 2017

4:00-5:30 pm

Hopkins Hall 250

128 N Oval Mall

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Literary Anthropology

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Abstract: How do older Chinese women in an era of social change and an "aging society" maintain their health and spirit? The economic boom and rapid advances in health care have created new social conditions in China. By 2020 the population of persons over 65 is expected to reach 11.8%, and the largest proportion will be women. The situation presents many urgent social problems which must be addressed, especially in a country with over 1.3 billion people. This talk will focus on groups women in Sichuan province who have very different answers to questions about health and spirit. The first part will highlight women utilizing public squares and parks in Chengdu, Sichuan province, for group dancing and other activities. The major part will focus on women who remove themselves from society to sojourn in a Buddhist temple retreat. This talk, based on initial fieldwork conducted earlier this year, will use images and women's own voices to engage with women who have made these different life choices and discuss implications for the present and future.

Bio: Luo Anping is an Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Journalism, and Literary Anthropology at the Southwest University for Nationalities (Xinan minzu daxue) in Chengdu, Sichuan province, China. Her recent publications include a book entitled *Rhododendron and Cross-bow: Images of Southwest China in National Geographic in the National Period* (Taipei: Huamulan wenhua chubanshe, 2016), and articles on media representation of rural Han and ethnic minority people. Prof. Luo is presently a visiting scholar at the OSU Center for Folklore Studies and is working on a project concerning cell phone use in the creation of communities of ethnic minority migrants to urban areas in Sichuan.

**Free and Open
to the Public**

This event made possible in part by OSU's Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures and by a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant to The Ohio State University East Asian Studies Center.

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