



# THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

## INSTITUTE FOR CHINESE STUDIES

ICS presents this inaugural ICS/OCAPA lecture as part of the "China in Transition" Lecture Series

### How Maps Turn World History Upside Down A Critical Analysis of World Maps and 600 Years of World Exploration

Friday, October 7, 2016

4:00-5:30 pm

Page Hall 020

1810 College Rd N

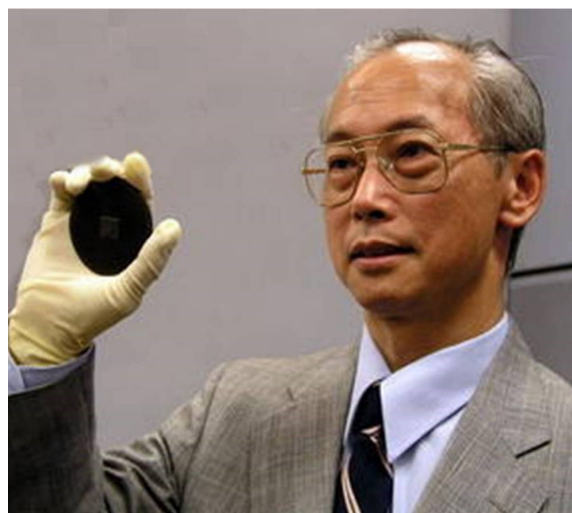
#### Dr. Siu-Leung Lee

President

Zheng He Society of the Americas

**Abstract:** For the past 400 years, the 1602 Chinese world map (*Kunyu Wanguo Quantu*) has been believed to be the work of Matteo Ricci translating from works of European cartographers. However, as the nickname "The Impossible Black Tulip" indicates, the map is incompatible with such authorship. Using a forensic approach, detailed analysis of more than 600 maps from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century as well as original records of explorers reveals that the map is in fact completed before 1430 by Chinese explorers, overturning the history of the Age of Exploration. This discovery has profound implications on American history.

**Bio:** Born in Hong Kong and graduated from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Dr. Lee obtained his PhD from Purdue University with an academic and industrial career in biochemistry



and biotechnology at Yale University, Texas A&M University, Corning Corp, and Battelle Memorial Institute. He pioneered in enzymatic biosynthesis of natural products. Upon retirement from his position as associate director of Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology, he returned to US and picked up his earlier interest in arts and history. For the last 10 years, he has focused on pre-colonial history of America. He has given more than 30 lectures at major universities and higher education institutes in mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and US. Dr. Lee's interest in history began with a Ming medallion found in the Appalachian Mountains. His curiosity led to a 10-year pursuit of the lost history of Ming Chinese in America, which is the subject of his two books. Dr. Lee is the president of Zheng He Society of the Americas, based in Washington DC.

*This event is sponsored in part by the Ohio Chinese American Professional Association (OCAPA) Lecture Fund, the National East Asian Languages Resource Center (NEALRC), and a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant to The Ohio State University East Asian Studies Center. It is free and open to the public.*

**Contact:** Nathan Lancaster | East Asian Studies Center | [lancaster.102@osu.edu](mailto:lancaster.102@osu.edu) | <http://easc.osu.edu>