



University
of Victoria



Christianity and Chinese Women's Social Mobility, 1880-1950

Kefen Zhou

Wednesday, May 29

5:00-6:00 p.m.

David Strong Building, Room C122

This lecture examines the ways in which late 19th and early 20th century Western Christian missions to China promoted, intentionally or otherwise, the upward social mobility of certain Chinese Christians. Based primarily on Canadian-Chinese family archives, with attention to feminist principles of historiography, this study aims to shed light on how the missionaries' emphasis on education and an expanded role for women may have influenced opportunity and social advancement among those with whom they had contact. Coming at a time of Western imperialist expansion, this effort to 'save China' had unforeseen but important implications for the social status and professional trajectories of many Chinese and Chinese Canadians.

Kefen Zhou is a PhD student in UVic's department of History. Before moving to Canada, she was a reporter, editor and award winning author in China. Her dissertation focuses on the influence of Christian missionary activity on China's social mobility patterns between 1880 and 1950.

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