

# Transnational Asia

## *Speaker Series*



RICE

Chao Center  
for Asian Studies

## “Young Diva, Go East”

### The Making of an Operatic Tradition in China

国家大剧院原创与制作剧目海报 2008-2016



In drawing on evidence from some 150 years of operatic exchanges between China and the Western world, this talk traces when and how the performance of European-style classical opera has been introduced to China, what its function has been, and how it has been understood over time. The paper shows that the performance of European opera in China was never an innocent act and continues not to be so. Political as well as commercial motivations inevitably played into the production of European opera in China. In trying to understand the complexities and many different levels of European opera's reception in China, its interpolations and interactions with Chinese operatic traditions, and, in turn, the reception of Chinese opera in the Western world, this talk also deliberates the transcultural qualities and possibilities of music and music-making between China and the West in the long 20th century.

**Faculty Host: Shih-Hui Chen**

**Tuesday, October 3, 2017 @ 9:25 AM - 10:40 AM**

**Shepherd School of Music 1404**

Free and open to the public.

## BARBARA MITTLER

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Barbara Mittler holds a Chair in Chinese Studies at the Institute of Chinese Studies, University of Heidelberg and is Co-Director at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (Cluster of Excellence “Asia and Europe in a Global Context”). She began her studies of Sinology at the University of Oxford (MA Oxon 1990), and has spent research periods in Taiwan, the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong and at Harvard and Stanford Universities. Her PhD (1994) and her habilitation (post-doctoral thesis, 1998) are both from Heidelberg. Her recent study, *A Continuous Revolution: Rethinking Cultural Revolution Culture* (Harvard 2012) won the John King Fairbank Prize 2013.

*This event is part of programming supported by a grant from the US Department of Education, Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages (UISFL) program <Grant ID # P016A 160003>.*

