

Transnational Asia

Speaker Series

A Qing Scholar's Chronicle of Shipwreck and Travel in 1830s Vietnam



NEW DATE: Friday, January 27, 2023 @ 4 PM CST

Sewall Hall, Room 309

Also online via Zoom ([registration required](#))

In 1835, the Qing dynasty scholar Cai Tinglan was blown off course in a typhoon while sailing between Jinmen Island and the Penghu Islands in the Taiwan Strait. Cai, his brother, and their shipmates spent a harrowing week at sea before drifting to the coast of central Vietnam. After Nguyễn dynasty officials verified his self-proclaimed identity as a scholar by giving him a mock civil service examination, the Minh Mạng emperor of Vietnam permitted Cai to return to Fujian Province overland with an escort of Vietnamese soldiers. Cai Tinglan's account of his time at sea and in Vietnam, published in 1837 as *Miscellany of the South Seas*, is a precious record of Vietnamese society in the first half of the nineteenth century. It contains valuable information about the overseas Chinese community in Vietnam, the functioning of the Vietnamese government, and everyday life in Vietnam. It is also a story of friendship: once Cai Tinglan landed on solid ground, he found fellowship with Vietnamese scholars and Fujianese merchants. His chronicle serves as a counterpoint to contemporary American accounts of naval misadventures in Vietnam.



KATHLENE BALDANZA is Associate Professor of History and Asian Studies at Pennsylvania State University. She is the author of *Ming China and Vietnam: Negotiating Borders in Early Modern Asia* (Cambridge, 2016).

FACULTY HOST: Jaymin Kim

COVID-19 POLICY: While masks are no longer required on the Rice campus, we encourage our in-person guests to wear one and have selected a venue to facilitate social distancing during the event.



RICE HUMANITIES

Chao Center for Asian Studies

The Transnational Asia Speaker Series is made possible through the generosity of the Ting Tsung and Wei Fong Chao Foundation.

Register at ow.ly/azvi50MhoL7
or scan the QR code above.