

CHINA SEMINAR 43<sup>rd</sup> Year

as of 2009 a forum of FRIENDS OF EAST-WEST CENTER

Founding convener: D. W. Y. Kwok

a 501C non-profit organization

Happy New Year 恭贺新禧



Friends of East-West Center cordially invites you to the spring 2020 sessions of the



CHINA SEMINAR

Thursday, 9 January, 2020, 12 noon

at

Maple Garden Restaurant, 909 Isenberg Street, Honolulu

Topic:

Justice and Law in the (1980s) Movies

By

Alison W. Conner

During the unusually open years of 1979 to 1981 in China, films depicting the wrongs of the Cultural Revolution helped people come to terms with the tragedies they had suffered during the "eleven bad years." Few of those movies could stand up to serious viewing today, whatever they meant to audiences then, but the best examples of this "scar cinema" are powerful films worthy of continued attention. This presentation will discuss The Legend of Tianyun Mountain 天云山传奇, directed by Xie Jin (1923-2008), the greatest of China's Third-Generation filmmakers, and Evening Rain 巴山夜雨 made by Wu Yonggang (1907-1982), the brilliant Second-Generation director of the 1934 masterpiece Goddess 神女. Though very different in story and style, both films are deeply felt works of art as well as historical documents reflecting the concerns of their time—and both raise important issues of justice and accountability that remain surprisingly relevant to Chinese society today.

Alison W. Conner is Professor of Law and Carlsmith Ball Faculty Scholar at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i/Mānoa, where she teaches courses on Chinese and comparative law. She earned her PhD degree in Chinese history from Cornell and her JD degree from Harvard Law School. Before joining the University of Hawai'i in 1995, she taught law in China, Singapore and Hong Kong for twelve years; in 2004, 2014 and 2015 she also returned to teach at Tsinghua University and Tongji University. Her recent articles focus on depictions of the legal system in Chinese movies, including Courtroom Drama, Chinese Style," "Law and Justice in Evening Rain," and "Images of Justice (and Injustice) in the Movies of Xie Jin."

• The seminar is \$20.00 for Friends of the East-West Center members, EWC and UH students and \$25.00 for non-members with luncheon served after the talk. Payment may be made in advance or at the door. Checks should be made payable to Friends of the East-West Center. Seating is first-come, first-served at the Maple Garden Restaurant. No recording of any kind please.

• Please return the form below by mail or email. Reservations must reach us by noon of the day before (January 8). Changes cannot be accommodated thereafter.

• No-shows please honor your reservation with payment.

Please cut along dotted line if mailing in RSVP

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) for the January 9, 2020 meeting.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to:

China Seminar, Friends of the East-West Center  
1601 East-West Road, Honolulu, HI 96848

E-mail: [friends@eastwestcenter.org](mailto:friends@eastwestcenter.org)

For more information, call 944-7111 & speak w/ Ms. Deanna O'Brien

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian? \_\_\_ Please reserve \_\_\_ seat(s) @ the veggie table.

Wheelchair or walker? \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide email address for future notices if desired. \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_