

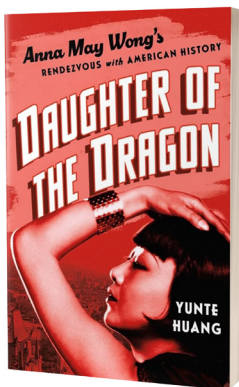
THE INTERDISCIPLINARY HUMANITIES CENTER SERIES:

HUMANITIES DECANTED

PRESENTING NEW PUBLICATIONS AND CREATIVE PROJECTS BY HFA FACULTY

Join us for a dialogue between **Yunte Huang** (English) and **Constance Penley** (Film and Media Studies) about Huang's new book, *Daughter of the Dragon: Anna May Wong's Rendezvous with American History*. Refreshments will be served.

Tuesday, October 24 | 4:00 pm
McCune Conference Room, 6020 HSSB



YUNTE HUANG

Daughter of the Dragon: Anna May Wong's Rendezvous with American History

(Liverlight: August 2023)

Daughter of the Dragon is a trenchant reclamation of the Chinese American movie star, whose battles against cinematic exploitation and endemic racism are set against the currents of twentieth-century history. Born into the steam and starch of a Chinese laundry, Anna May Wong (1905–1961) emerged from turn-of-the-century Los Angeles to become Old Hollywood's most famous Chinese American actress, a screen siren who captivated global audiences and signed her publicity photos—with a touch of defiance—"Orientially yours." Now, more than a century after her birth, Yunte Huang narrates Wong's tragic life story, retracing her journey from Chinatown to silent-era Hollywood, and from Weimar Berlin to decadent, prewar Shanghai, and capturing American television in its infancy. As Huang shows, Wong's rendezvous with history features a remarkable parade of characters, including a smitten Walter Benjamin and (an equally smitten) Marlene Dietrich. Challenging the parodically racist perceptions of Wong as a "Dragon Lady," "Madame Butterfly," or "China Doll," Huang's biography becomes a truly resonant work of history that reflects the raging anti-Chinese xenophobia, unabashed sexism, and ageism toward women that defined both Hollywood and America in Wong's all-too-brief fifty-six years on earth.



Yunte Huang is Distinguished Professor of English at UC Santa Barbara and is the author, most recently, of *Inseparable: The Original Siamese Twins and Their Rendezvous with American History* and *Charlie Chan: The Untold Story of the Honorable Detective and His Rendezvous with American History*.

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