

The CSUSB Modern China Lecture Series Presents

# Policing Madness in Early Twentieth-Century Beijing

## A Guest Lecture

Thursday November 3, 2016 at 2pm in PL-4005  
4<sup>th</sup> floor of CSUSB's Pfau Library

Prior to the twentieth century, madness in China was typically managed within the home, and the state was only expected to intervene when the mentally ill individual committed a serious crime. In the first two decades of the century, however, the late Qing and early Republican governments began to adopt a more proactive stance toward the policing of madness. Under pressure from foreign missionaries, Qing authorities erected a public asylum in Beijing in 1908, which was placed under the management of the municipal police. From this point forward, the municipality began to preemptively arrest and institutionalize the insane, regardless of whether they had broken the law. This talk will examine the shift from reactive to proactive policing of madness, and will discuss why the Beijing police chose to institutionalize the individuals they did. In so doing, it will seek to shed light on the relationship between modern statecraft and shifting conceptions of madness in early twentieth-century China.



**Emily Baum is an assistant professor of modern Chinese history at UC Irvine. Her research focuses on the history of psychiatry and mental illness in early twentieth-century China.**

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