Historicizing Chinese Dance: Socialist Legacies and Contemporary Trajectories

Emily Wilcox, Assistant Professor of Modern Chinese Studies
University of Michigan

Friday, March 1 at 4:00 p.m. (Reception to Follow)

Umrah Hall, Room 140
FREE and OPEN to the public.

In this talk Wilcox will discuss her recent book, the first English-language primary source–based history of concert dance in the People’s Republic of China. Combining over a decade of ethnographic and archival research, Revolutionary Bodies analyzes major dance works by Chinese choreographers staged over an eighty-year period from 1935 to 2015. Wilcox challenges the commonly accepted view that Soviet-inspired revolutionary ballets are the primary legacy of the socialist era in China’s dance field and instead presents the contemporary practice of Chinese dance as the era’s major creative project.