Lecture 1: July 15, 9:00-10:00 am

Presenter: Tony D. Qian

Title: “Intimate Partner Homicide in Premodern and Contemporary China”

Abstract: This lecture explores how Chinese courts have ruled on intimate partner homicide cases from the premodern period to the present day. Intimate partner homicide is defined as a homicide where the victim and offender have a current or former intimate relationship. Many of these cases are characterized by an offender who acted out of a sudden emotional impulse or provocation. In this lecture, I examine several cases from the ninth to the twenty-first century that fit into this category, and the laws that governed in each case. I discuss the problems and solutions that have been considered by Chinese judges in dealing with such crimes, and the impact of a Confucian legal framework on their decisions.

Bio: Tony Qian received his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2013 and Ph.D. in comparative literature at Harvard in 2017 with a dissertation on law and rhetoric in the Roman empire and the Tang dynasty. His current research focuses on the relationship between literati and legal culture in the Chinese late imperial period and the late Chosŏn. He has taught at both Harvard and Tufts University, and is currently a visiting scholar at SNUAC on a Fulbright scholarship. He has also been awarded research grants from the American Council of Learned Societies (for research beginning Sept 2021), the Korea Foundation (beginning Oct 2021), and the American Philosophical Society (beginning Dec 2021).