American Medical Missionaries in Canton, 1835-1935

Professor Xu Guangqiu

CHAIRMAN
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Abstract:
American medical missionaries’ medical work had a greater impact on the Chinese than their religious work had. They played an important role in medical modernization in China generally and in Canton particularly. They also played a part in the modern women’s rights movement, modern philanthropic movement, and modern sanitary movement in Canton, which had an effect on China. Western medicine not only helped the Cantonese, to some degree, to take new attitude toward Western leanings, but also became one of the sources to inspire the Cantonese elite, such as Sun Yat-sen, Kang Youwei, Liang Qichao, Zheng Guanying, to carry out reforms and revolutions, who helped made Canton the cradle of revolution and reform in modern China. Ironically, Western medicine also helped cultivate anti-Western nationalism among the medical elite in Canton. American medical missionaries in Canton were the agents of China’s transformation and their activities were part of the global modernization.

About the Speaker

Guangqiu Xu received his BA and MA degrees in Chinese history from Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China and obtained his Ph.D. degree in U.S. Diplomatic History from University of Maryland, USA. He has been teaching a variety of history courses at the universities in the USA and China for more than twenty years. Currently, he is professor of history at Friends University in Kansas, USA and visiting professor of Xi’an International Studies University, Xi’an, China. In the spring 2013, he is the Fulbright Visiting Professor at the Department of History, National University of Singapore. Dr Xu is the author of four scholar books and many academic articles. His third book, Congress and the U.S.-China Relationship, 1949-1979 (Akron, OH: University of Akron Press, 2007), won the 2008 Best Adult Book Award from the Chinese American Librarians Association. He received the National Endowment for the Humanities Grant in 2006 and the Fulbright-Hays Scholarship in 2009.