Interdisciplinary Faculty Dialogue: Peng Xu in conversation with Shana Brown  
co-sponsored by the UH Departments of Theatre & Dance and History

“Meiren tu: The Double Life of the Courtesan's Portrait in Late Ming  Theater”

Peng Xu is an assistant professor in Chinese theatre at UHM. A Fulbright fellow this year, she explores innovative ways to engage the vast amount of late imperial dramatic texts as well as the sonic, visual, and material dimensions of Chinese theatre in different historical periods. Her articles appear in the Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies, T'oungpao, Late Imperial China, and CHINOPERL: Chinese Oral and Performing Literature. She is the co-editor of a special issue of CHINOPERL, entitled “Chinese Opera, Xiqu and New Media, 1890s–1950s.” She is working on two books, one entitled “The Courtesan’s Drama: Women and Chinese Elite Theater, 1550s–1644,” the other “Kunqu Theatre: An Introduction” (Bloomsbury).

Shana Brown is an associate professor of history at UHM, focusing on the intellectual and cultural history of 20th-century China. Her book Pastimes: From Art & Antiquarianism to Modern Chinese Historiography was published by the University of Hawaii Press.