



EASC COLLOQUIUM SERIES, SP2023

MARITIME EAST ASIA

TROUBLED WATERS: SEA, LITTORAL SPACE, AND MOVEMENT IN EAST ASIA

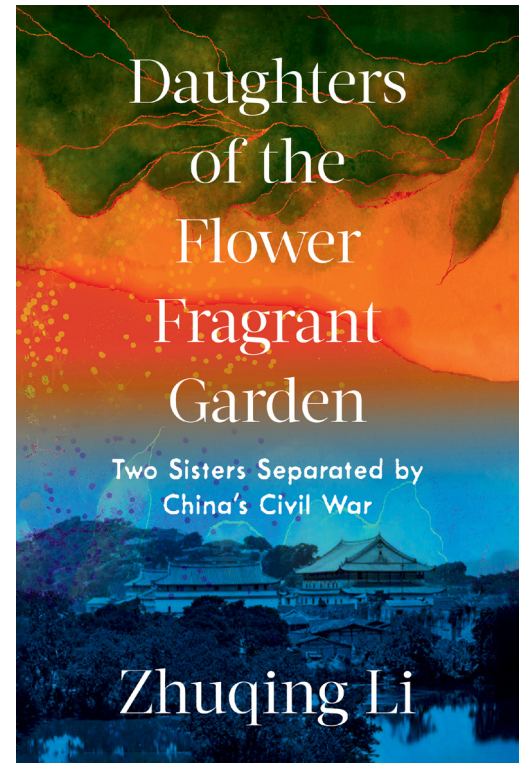
# Sisters and Enemies

Prof. Zhuqing Li (Brown University)

03/24, Friday, 1:30 - 2:45 pm  
@GA2067

\*Light refreshment will be served before the talk

**Abstract:** I'm going to share my journey in trying to understand and construct the near-century-long-lives of my two maternal aunts. Accidentally separated when China split in 1949, the two sisters, new college graduates at the time, refused to submit to the random power of history and fought their way to the elite echelons of the societies on the two sides of the split China. One led a life as a successful capitalist and a devout Christian in Taiwan and later in America, and the other as a celebrated ob-gyn doctor in mainland China and a dedicated Communist. In the end, however, the valiant efforts that had brought them success proved inadequate in finding a true reconciliation at their reunion after 33 years of complete separation.



**Bio:** Li Zhuqing is a visiting associate professor of East Asian Studies and faculty curator of East Asian Collections at the Brown University Library. Her main field of research is Chinese linguistics, especially dialectology. She has authored three academic books on Chinese linguistics and one on Chinese returnees. Her latest book, *Daughters of the Flower Fragrant Garden: Two Sisters Separated by China's Civil War*, is a memoir about her two aunts whose lives, transformed by modern Chinese history, particularly the nation's split in 1949, have come to illustrate the intricate relationship between China and Taiwan.



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