



2010-2011 Klopsteg Lecture Series in **SCIENCE AND HUMAN CULTURE** presents:



Monday, Oct. 11th, 4-5:30 pm, University Hall 201

Translating **Early Modern China**

a lecture by **Carla Nappi** Assistant Professor of History
University of British Columbia

ABSTRACT OF TALK:

China changed dramatically in the early modern period, and Chinese natural history and medicine transformed along with the boundaries of the empire. Naturalists struggled to cope with a pharmacy's worth of new and unfamiliar substances, texts, and terms, as plants, animals, and the drugs made from them traveled into China across land and sea. Translation was a powerful linguistic and textual technology that shaped medical and natural history exchange across the imperial borderlands. Using the College as a case study through which to explore the institutional, textual, and social history of translation in early modern China, my talk will introduce the production, readership, and history of the bilingual texts produced at the College, as well as the lives and work of the translators employed there.

SPEAKER'S BIO:

Carla Nappi is Assistant Professor of History at the University of British Columbia. Her recent book, *The Monkey and the Inkpot: Natural History and its Transformations in Early Modern China* (Harvard University Press, 2009) treats the construction of belief in early modern Chinese natural history through the lens of the *Bencao gangmu* (1596), a compendium of materia medica. Her current research focuses on the history of science, medicine, and knowledge-making in the context of translation and multilingualism in China from the fifteenth through eighteenth centuries.