



Hi Wo building in Benson, courtesy Li Yang.



Wo family, c.1902. L to R : Felicitas/Felicia, Soledad (baby), Emeteria (seated), Hi Wo (in back), José/Joe. Wo Family Collection, TCCC



Kee Wee Kwon in Tucson, Chinese Manuscript Collection, 1913-1968, Special Collections, The University of Arizona

HISTORY & IMPACT OF CHINESE ENTREPRENEURS

JOIN US FOR A TWO-PART ZOOM TALK SERIES

Multiculturalism in the Borderlands: The Wo Family of Benson

TUESDAY, MAY 11 | 4:00 PM AZ TIME

A presentation by **Tucson Chinese Cultural Center** and
Dr. Katherine Benton-Cohen, Georgetown University

Recently the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center acquired a large collection of documents and artifacts of the Wo family, who ran a mercantile store in Benson for a century. This Chinese-Mexican family's saga, told through objects, highlights their importance in a Southern Arizona community throughout the 20th Century and even today. TCCC will show two short films it produced about the family based on the artifacts.



Katherine Benton-Cohen

Dr. Katherine Benton-Cohen will respond to the films, adding context to the experiences of residents of the multicultural communities of the southern Arizona borderlands. Benton-Cohen is professor of history at Georgetown University. Her books include *Inventing the Immigration Problem: The Dillingham Commission and Its Legacy* (Harvard, 2018) and *Borderline Americans: Racial Division and Labor War in the Arizona Borderlands* (Harvard 2009). She served as advisor on the 2018 film *Bisbee '17*.

Pershing's Chinese: Asylum Seekers amid Chinese Exclusion

TUESDAY, MAY 25 | 4:00 PM AZ TIME

A presentation by **Dr. Li Yang**, Arizona State University

In 1917, General John J. Pershing brought 527 Chinese refugees from Mexico. These men had been involved with the punitive expedition against the Mexican revolutionary leader Francisco "Pancho" Villa. Pershing requested official permission to grant asylum to the Chinese. The majority of the Pershing's Chinese refugees were sent to Fort Sam Houston in Texas to serve the war effort. Released in 1921, a few made their way to Arizona. Lee Wee Kwon (1878-1965) was one of the Arizona-bound Chinese immigrants. He settled in Arizona and played a significant role in the development and growth of Chinese enterprise in Tucson.



Dr. Li Yang

Dr. Yang is currently a faculty associate at Arizona State University, and has taught at Pima Community College and Embrey-Riddle Aeronautical University. A recipient of the C. L. Sonnichsen Award for best article in *The Journal of Arizona History* in 2011, her writings, concerning topics ranging from Chinese history to Chinese-American history, have also appeared in major magazines and newspapers in both Taiwan and mainland China.

FREE. Pre-registration required: <https://statemuseum.arizona.edu/events/program/may-talks>

Grades K-12 teachers can earn professional development hours for attending. Pre-registration is required. Questions, contact **Lisa Falk**, falk@arizona.edu

www.statemuseum.arizona.edu/events



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