Martha J. Cutter

Translating Across the Borders: Sui Sin Far and Other Interethnic Subjects

In 1890, Sui Sin Far—one of the earliest Asian/American/European authors—wrote: “I give my right hand to the Occidentals and my left to the Orientals, hoping that between them they will not utterly destroy the insignificant ‘connecting link.’” The child of a British man and a Chinese woman, Sui Sin Far envisions the mixed-race subject as a productive but problematic space for intercultural contact. This talk analyzes mixed-race identity in Sui Sin Far’s writing and considers the figure of the “tragic Eurasian” in contemporary novels by Asian American authors.

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