

Curriculum Vitae

Shao-yun YANG

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Pronouns: He/him/his

Nationality: Singapore citizen; US permanent resident

EMPLOYMENT

Denison University	Associate Professor of History	2020–present
Denison University	Assistant Professor of History	2014–2020

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	University of California, Berkeley	History	2014
M.A.	University of California, Berkeley	History	2009
M.A.	National University of Singapore	History	2007
B.A. (First Class Hons.)	National University of Singapore	History	2005

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Intellectual and cultural history of imperial China, especially relating to ideas about empire, ethnicity, and foreign relations

LANGUAGES

Languages spoken: English (native proficiency), Mandarin Chinese (native proficiency)

Reading/research languages: Chinese (classical and modern), Japanese (modern), French

CURRENT PROJECTS

Sinocentrism: A History of Ethnicity and Empire in the Chinese World

Ethnic Identity in Imperial China: A Sourcebook

Co-editing, with Don Wyatt, a volume on *Ethnicity and Race in Inner and East Asia* for the new Bloomsbury series *The Medieval World*

PRINT PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Way of the Barbarians: Redrawing Ethnic Boundaries in Tang and Song China (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2019) [Chinese translation by Li Hongbin 李鴻賓 and Liang Min 梁民 forthcoming from Social Sciences Academic Press 社會科學文獻出版社 in 2023]

Cambridge Elements

[*Early Tang China and the World, 618–750 CE*](#) (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023)

[*Late Tang China and the World, 750–907 CE*](#) (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023)

Co-authored translations

With Ruth Dunnell and Stephen H. West, *Daoist Master Changchun's Journey to the West* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming) [a new full translation of the *Changchun zhenren xiyouji* 長春真人西游記; manuscript completed and scheduled for publication in October 2023]

Peer-reviewed journal articles

“Tang ‘Cosmopolitanism’: Toward a Critical and Holistic Approach,” *Modern Asian Studies* (forthcoming).

“Unauthorized Exchanges: Restrictions on Foreign Trade and Intermarriage in the Tang and Northern Song Empires,” *T'oung Pao* 108 (2022), 588–645.

“Shi Xiaozhang’s Spirit Road Stele and the Rhetorical ‘Barbarization’ of Late Tang Hebei.” *Tang Studies* 36 (2018), 57–81.

“Letting the Troops Loose: Pillage, Massacres, and Enslavement in Early Tang Warfare.” *Journal of Chinese Military History* 6.1 (2017), 1–52. [Awarded the inaugural Edward L. Dreyer Prize for best article in Chinese military history by an early-career scholar]

“‘Stubbornly Chinese?’ Clothing Styles and the Question of Tang Loyalty in Ninth-Century Dunhuang.” *International Journal of Eurasian Studies* 歐亞學刊 5 (2016), 152–187.

“What Do Barbarians Know of Gratitude? — The Stereotype of Barbarian Perfidy and its Uses in Tang Foreign Policy Rhetoric.” *Tang Studies* 31 (2013), 28–74.

Chapters in edited volumes

“The Song-Jurchen Conflict in Chinese Intellectual History.” In *War and Collective Identifications in the Middle Ages: East, West, and Beyond*, ed. Yannis Stouraitis (Leeds: ARC Humanities Press, 2023), 169–190.

“‘Their Lands are Peripheral and Their *Qi* is Blocked Up’: The Uses of Environmental Determinism in Han and Tang Chinese Interpretations of the ‘Barbarians.’” In *The Routledge Handbook of Identity and the Environment in the Classical and Medieval Worlds*, eds. Rebecca Futo Kennedy and Molly Jones-Lewis (New York: Routledge, 2016), 390–412.

“The Politics of Omenology in Chengdi’s Reign.” In *Chang’an 26 BCE: An Augustan Age in China*, eds. Michael Nylan and Griet Vankeerberghen (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2015), 323–346.

“*Fan* and *Han*: The Origins and Uses of a Conceptual Dichotomy in Mid-Imperial China, 500–1200.” In *Political Strategies of Identity-building in Non-Han Empires in China*, eds. Francesca Fiaschetti and Julia Schneider (Wiesbaden: Harrasowitz Verlag, 2014), 9–35. [Chinese translation by Feng Lijun 冯立君 in *Ouya yicong* 歐亞譯叢 (Collected Translations in Eurasian Studies) Vol. 5 (2020): 蕃與漢：帝制中國中期（約 500—1200 年）一個概念二分法的起源和使用]

Book reviews

Review of D. Jonathan Felt, *Patterns of the Earth: Metageographies of Early Medieval China* (2021). *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* (forthcoming).

Review of Randolph B. Ford, *Rome, China, and the Barbarians: Ethnographic Traditions and the Transformation of Empires* (2020). *Journal of Asian Studies* 80.3 (2021), 824–827.

Featured review of BuYun Chen, *Empire of Style: Silk and Fashion in Tang China* (2019). *China Review International* 24.4 (2017-19), 255–266.

Review of Hyun Jin Kim, *Ethnicity and Foreigners in Ancient Greece and China* (2009). *The Classical Review*, Vol. 61 no. 1 (2011), 181–184.

Academic translations from Chinese

English translation of Ge Chengyong, “Lighting Lamps to Pray for Blessings While Western Music Plays: New Insight Into the Art of the High Tang Buddhist ‘Praise of a Stone Lamp Stand’ in the Collection of the Stele Forest Museum in Xi’an” [Randeng qifu Hu jiyue: Xi’an Beilin cang Shengtang Fojiao ‘Randeng shitai zan’ yishu xinzhi 燃燈祈福胡伎樂：西安碑林藏盛唐佛教“燃燈石臺讚”藝術新知]. *Chinese Cultural Relics* (issue no. 1–4, 2017), 214–237.

DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS

ArcGIS StoryMaps projects

[“The Travels of Qiu Chuji”](#) (2023)

[“Frontiers of the Tang and Song empires: A Digital Map Project”](#) (2020)

[“A Chinese Gazetteer of Foreign Lands: A New Translation of Part 1 of the *Zhufan zhi* 諸蕃志 \(1225\)”](#) (2020)

[“Journeys to the West: Kitan and Jurchen Travelers in Thirteenth-Century Central Asia”](#) (2018)

CONFERENCE PAPERS

2022: March 18–21, “Rethinking Ethnicity and Race in Imperial China,” plenary session on “Ethnicity, Race, and Caste,” American Oriental Society (AOS) annual meeting, Boston; June 2, “Monstrous Islands in the Tang-Song Maritime Imaginary,” *The Margins of the Human in Medieval China*, Harvard-Yale Symposium Series on Middle-Period China (via Zoom).

2021: March 21–26, “Unauthorized Exchanges: Restrictions on Foreign Trade and Intermarriage in Tang and Northern Song China,” Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Virtual Annual Conference (via Zoom); June 19, “Tang ‘Cosmopolitanism’: Toward a Critical and Non-Sinocentric Approach,” *Cosmopolitan Pasts of China and the Eurasian World*, LMU Munich (via Zoom); October 19, “‘Not Our Kin and Kind’: The Problem of Mongolophobia in Ming China,” *RaceB4Race: Region and Enmity*, Rutgers University (via Zoom); November 15, “Chinese Supremacism and the Civilization-State Discourse in Ming Neo-Confucian Thought,” *The Other in Chinese History and Thought*, Ghent University (via Zoom).

2020: October 14, “Race and Censorship in the *Siku quanshu* Project,” Primary Source Symposium on Race in the Archives, Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Stanford University (via Zoom).

2018: “Southern Song Assessments of the Northern Dynasties: A Comparison of Three Statecraft Thinkers,” May 24–26, Fifth Young Scholars’ Forum in Chinese Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong; August 29–September 1, 22nd Biennial Conference of the European Association for Chinese Studies (EACS), University of Glasgow.

2016: March 17–20, “The Uses of Environmental Determinism and Geographical Boundaries in Han and Tang Interpretations of the ‘Barbarians,’” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Annual Meeting, Harvard University; March 31–April 3, “‘Stubbornly Chinese?’ Clothing Styles and the Question of Tang Loyalty in Ninth-Century Dunhuang,” Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, Seattle; November 10–12, “Letting the Troops Loose: Massacres, Pillage, and Enslavement in Early Tang Warfare,” *Making Connections: Contemporary Approaches to the Tang Dynasty*, Sarasota, FL.

2015: June 22–24, “Facing West to Worship Heaven: ‘Confucianizing’ Representations of Islam in Yuan and Ming Literati Writings,” second AAS-in-Asia Annual Conference, Academia Sinica, Taipei.

2014: March 27–30, “The Universalist’s Dilemma: Rereading Some Southern Song Reinterpretations of the Chinese-Barbarian Dichotomy,” Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, Philadelphia; June 5–7, “‘Before We All Become Barbarians’: Han Yu’s Rhetoric of Barbarization and the (Accidental) Invention of ‘Culturalism,’” International Interdisciplinary Conference on Middle Period China (800–1400), Harvard University.

INVITED TALKS

2023: February 2, invited speaker, Premodern Encounters colloquium on “Premodern Takes on Race,” University of Virginia.

2022: May 19, “Tang ‘Cosmopolitanism’: Toward a Critical and Global Approach,” University of Chicago; December 9, “The Song-Jurchen Conflict in Chinese Intellectual History,” Brown University.

2021: May 27, “Thinking about Race and Ethnicity in Imperial China,” UC Santa Barbara; October 29 (via Zoom), “Rethinking Race and Ethnicity in Imperial China,” University of Southern California (via Zoom); December 15, “Tang ‘Cosmopolitanism’: Toward a Critical and Non-Sinocentric Approach,” FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg (via Zoom).

2019: April 4, “‘Sinicization’ and Chinese Supremacism in Southern Song Historiography on the Northern Dynasties,” University of Pennsylvania.

2017: November 2, “On Being a Barbarian in Ancient China,” Kenyon College.

2015: February 27, “‘Their Lands are Peripheral and Their *Qi* is Blocked Up’: The Uses of Environmental Determinism in Han and Tang Chinese Interpretations of the ‘Barbarians,’” The Ohio State University; September 14, “The Way of the Barbarians: Reinterpreting Chineseness and Barbarism in Tang and Song China, 800–1200 CE,” Harvard University.

OTHER TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

2019: February 12 and April 29, “Was Confucius a Bigot? Ethnic Prejudice as a Philosophical Problem in Medieval China,” Faculty Research Dinner (Feb.) and Global Studies Seminar (Apr.), Denison University.

2016: February 22, “Islam and Muslims Through Medieval and Early Modern Chinese Eyes,” Global Studies Seminar, Denison University; July 20, “China’s Rise and Taiwan’s Choice: Why the Rapprochement of 2008–2015 Didn’t Last,” Speakers Series of Kendal at Granville; September 26, “Five Notes on Traditional Chinese Music,” Global Studies Seminar, Denison University; September 30, “The Historian and the Vigilante: Sima Qian on the *xia*,” *When East Meets West: The Role of the Citizen and the Role of the State*, Columbus State Community College.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Co-organizer, “After the Heavenly Qaghans: Multi-ethnic Approaches to the Tang-Song Transition,” a panel scheduled for the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Virtual Annual Conference, March 21–26, **2021** [panel sponsored by the Tang Studies Society]

Co-organizer, “After the Heavenly Qaghans: Multi-ethnic Approaches to the Tang-Song Transition,” a panel originally scheduled for the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, Boston, March 19–22, **2020** [conference was cancelled due to COVID-19].

Participant, “Race and Ethnicity in the Teaching of Premodern East Asian Literature,” a roundtable at the Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention, Seattle, January 9–12, **2020**.

Participant, Kitan language workshop with Professor Daniel Kane, Yale University, May 11–19, **2016**.

Organizer, “After the Tang, Before the Tanguts: Diplomacy, Religion, and Culture Along the Gansu Corridor in 800–1030 CE,” a panel at the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, Seattle, March 31–April 3, **2016**.

Lead discussant (with Liao Yi-fang), “Historical memory,” a seminar at the ACLS-funded workshop “Memory and Text and Premodern East Asia: Concepts, Theories, and Methods,” The Ohio State University, October 1–3, **2015**.

Organizer, “The Reception and Localization of Foreign Religions in Yuan and Ming China,” a panel at the second AAS-in-Asia Annual Conference, Academia Sinica (Taipei), June 22–24, **2015**.

Co-organizer, “Connected Worlds: New Approaches across Pre-Modern Studies,” a multidisciplinary conference on interconnectedness in the pre-modern world, UC Berkeley, January 24–26, **2013**.

Co-leader, “The World Before Print: A Comparative Approach to Elites and Empires,” a multidisciplinary graduate student working group funded by the Haas Junior Scholars Program for Doctoral Candidates at the Institute of East Asian Studies, UC Berkeley, **2011–2012**.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2023–present: John and Heath Faraci Endowed Professorship, Denison University

2018: Publication Subsidy Grant of US\$5,000, Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange

2017: Edward L. Dreyer Prize, *Journal of Chinese Military History*

2013: History Department Dissertation Year Fellowship, UC Berkeley

2012: Center for Chinese Studies Conference Travel Grant, UC Berkeley

2011–2012: Dean’s Normative Time Fellowship, UC Berkeley

2010: Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley

2008: History Department Heller Seminar Paper Prize, UC Berkeley

2007–2011: History Department and Institute of East Asian Studies Fellowship, UC Berkeley

2007: Graduate Division Power Award, UC Berkeley

2005–2007: M.A. Research Scholarship, National University of Singapore

2005: Shell History Medal for first place in the History Honors examination, National University of Singapore

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

2023–present: Studium Faculty Network

2023–present: Member, Campus Climate and Student Impact Response Team

2022–present: Exordium Faculty Network

2022–present: Co-organizer, annual Asia Film Festival

2022: Search committee for an Assistant Professor of the history of medicine, health, and healing

2021–present: Senior Administrative Review Committee (SARC)

2021–present: Director of the East Asian Studies program

September 2020: Moderator for a faculty panel, “International faculty perspectives on the 2020 election”

2019–present: Faculty co-advisor to the History Club

2019–present: Faculty advisor to Global China Connection (GCC)

2019–2020, 2021–2022: SERC representative to the University Council

2019–2022: Student Enrolment and Retention Committee (SERC)

December 2019: Moderator for a roundtable discussion, “What is Happening in Hong Kong?”

June 2019, June 2020, June 2021: June Orientation advisor

May 2019, May 2021: Selection committee, William T. Utter Memorial Prize, Department of History

2019–2020: Advisory Group, Center for Learning and Teaching

2018–present: Advisory Committee, Global Commerce program

2017–present: Faculty advisor, Presbyterians@Denison

2017: Search committee for a Visiting Assistant Professor of medieval European history

2016–2017: Writing Committee

2015–present: Advisory Board, Center for Religious and Spiritual Life

COURSES TAUGHT

Denison University, Department of History and East Asian Studies Program

Traditional East Asian Civilization

Modern East Asian Civilization

Doing History: The Boxer Uprising

Ancient Chinese Civilization

Chineseness: The Intellectual History of an Identity

The History of Chinese Political Culture: From Confucianism to the “Chinese Dream”

Modern East Asia at War (1937–1953)

Global Maritime History

China's Golden Age? The Tang Dynasty

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Nominating committee for Board of Directors election, Tang Studies Society, 2020

Book manuscript reviewer

Hackett Publishing

Article manuscript reviewer

American Historical Review

Annali di Ca'Foscari (Italy)

Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies

Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Asian Interactions

Early Medieval China

East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine (EAST)

Journal of Asian Studies

Journal of Chinese History

Journal of Military History

Journal of Song-Yuan Studies

Journal of Southeast Asian Studies

Journal of the American Oriental Society

The Historian

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The American Historical Association (AHA)

The Association for Asian Studies (AAS)

The Chinese Military History Society

The Early Medieval China Group

The Society for Song, Yuan, and Conquest Dynasties Studies

The Tang Studies Society