

Chelsea Zi Wang

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Employment

- 2017.7- Assistant Professor of History, Claremont McKenna College
2017.1-2017.6 Postdoctoral Fellow in History, Claremont McKenna College

Education

- 2009- **Columbia University**
2017 History/East Asian Languages and Cultures: MA, 2011; MPhil, 2012; PhD, 2017
Dissertation: "[Dilemmas of Empire: Movement, Communication, and Information Management in Ming China, 1368-1644](#)"
Dissertation Committee: Robert Hymes (sponsor), Dorothy Ko, Madeleine Zelin, David Lurie, Ann Blair (Harvard University)
- 2013- **University of Tokyo**
2015 Visiting Student, Department of Comparative Literature and Culture
- 2011 **Harvard University**
Visiting Student, Department of History
- 2004- **University of British Columbia**
2009 BA History Honours

Research Interests

Ming China (1368-1644), premodern East Asia, premodern empires, bureaucracy, communication, information management, archives, organizational theory, digital humanities, public history

Languages

Chinese (native), Japanese (native), Korean (reading for research),
Classical Chinese (advanced), Classical Japanese (reading ability in certain periods and genres)

Publications (R indicates refereed)

- 2019 "More Haste, Less Speed: Sources of Friction in the Ming Postal System," *Late Imperial China* 40.2 (2019), 89-140.
(R)
- 2019 "Taiwan kokka toshokan" [National Central Library of Taiwan], in *Sekai no toshokan kara: Ajia kenkyū no tame no toshokan, kobunshokan gaido* [From the Libraries of the World: A Guide to Libraries and Archives for Asian Studies], edited by Uehiro Project for the Asian Research Library (Tokyo: Bensei shuppan, 2019), 45-48. (Japanese)

- 2018 Review of Hilde De Weerd, *Information, Territory, and Networks: The Crisis and Maintenance of Empire in Song China*, in *East Asian Publishing and Society* 8.1 (2018), 85-90.

Public Scholarship

- 2022 "[Wang Zhi, the Chinese Japanese Pirate](#)," video created for the Humanities in Class TeacherNotes Collection, National Humanities Center.

Selected Research Presentations (R indicates refereed)

- [2024] Accepted: "The Journey of a Digital Humanities Skeptic: Why Ming Institutional History Needs Python," Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA. Mar 2024.
(R)
- 2023 "Diseconomies of Scale in Premodern Empires, or Why It Was Hard to be Humble as a Ming Official," Korea, Mongols and Ming: Integrative Histories of Early Modern Eastern Eurasia, University of California, Los Angeles. 26 May 2023.
- 2019 "Ming vs. Qing: Which State Communicated Faster, and Why?" Association for Asian
(R) Studies Annual Meeting, Denver, CO. 24 Mar 2019.
Also presented at: Workshop on Conversations in Song-Yuan-Ming History, Zhongshan University, China. 6 Dec 2020. (Chinese; online meeting.)
- 2018 "The Speed of Official Communication in Late Imperial China: A Cross-Dynastic
Analysis," Ming in Southern California Working Group, Pasadena, CA. 17 Nov 2018.
- 2018 "Transcending Bureaucratic Scale: The Immediacy of Remoteness in Ming Triennial
(R) Audiences," Scaling the Ming Conference, University of British Columbia, Canada. 18
May 2018.
- 2018 "Narrative as Dataframe: A Structural Analysis of State Communication in Late Imperial
(R) China," Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Washington DC. 23 Mar 2018.
- 2017 "Synchronizing Information in Premodern Bureaucracies: The Case of Imperial China,"
(R) Beyond Data: Knowledge Production in Bureaucracies across Science, Commerce, and the
State, German Historical Institute, Washington DC. 3 Jun 2017.
Also presented at: History of Science Workshop, University of California, Los Angeles, 6
Oct 2017.
- 2016 "Making Sense of Anachronism in Ming-Qing Gazetteers," In Song and Story: A
Symposium in Honor of Robert P. Hymes, Columbia University. 3 Jun 2016.
- 2016 "Unpacking the Layered Quotation Style in Official Documents: Bureaucratic
Communication and the Art of Redundancy," Communications in Chinese History: A
Comparative Conversation, Columbia University. 16 Apr 2016.
- 2015 "Governance by Paper: The Tools and Costs of Information Management in Ming China,"
PhD Student Event with Invited Scholar, Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia
University. 18 Nov 2015.

- 2015 "Waiting for Replacement: Official Transfers and the Paradox of Speed and Delay in Ming Bureaucracy," Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. 29 Mar 2015. (R)
- 2015 "The Benefit and Cost of Documentary Administration in Imperial China: On the Formation of the Layered Quotation Style in Official Documents," Study Group in Early Modern History, Ochanomizu University, Japan. 22 Jan 2015. (Japanese)
- 2014 "Administrative Efficiency and the Problems of Communication in Ming China," Study Group in Early Modern History, Ochanomizu University, Japan. 7 Nov 2014. (Japanese)
- 2014 "Outdated Era Names and Fractures of State Control in Ming-Qing China," Study Group in Early Modern History, Ochanomizu University, Japan. 8 May 2014. (Japanese)
- 2014 "Tracking Travel Certificates in Ming China: Synchronizing Information in a Pre-Digital Age," Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia. 28 Mar 2014. (R)
- 2013 "How Long Does It Take to Replace a Provincial Governor? — Officials in Mourning and Information Transmission in the Ming Dynasty," Conference on Ming-Qing Studies, Academia Sinica, Taiwan. 5 Dec 2013. (R)
- 2013 "A Letter by Wang Yangming to His Father," Study Group in Early Modern History, Ochanomizu University, Japan. 11 Jul 2013. (Japanese)
- 2011 "The Weight and Danger of Having Words Survive: Collected Writings of Wang Yangming (1472-1529) and Their Compilation," Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, Columbia University. 4 Feb 2011.

Teaching Presentations and Other Contributions to the Field

- 2022 "[The Ming Bureaucracy and its Practices](#)," interview with the Chinese History Podcast.
- 2022 "Research Talks in the Humanities," Summer Research Program Lunch Seminar, Claremont McKenna College, 22 Jun 2022.
- 2022 "Using the the Zettelkasten Note-Taking Method to Streamline Your Research, Writing, and Teaching," Ming in Southern California Working Group. 16 Apr 2022. (Online meeting.)
- 2021 Guest speaker and instructor, "Reading Ming Administrative Documents," Introduction to Research in the History of Late Imperial China with Prof. Mark Elliott, Harvard University. 30 Mar 2021. (Online meeting.)
- 2020 "Sakai Checklists: A Simple Solution to So Many Problems," Teaching at CMC: Excellence, Innovation, and Technology, Claremont McKenna College. 30 Oct 2020.
- 2019 "How Not to Write History: Teaching Methodology through Aliens, Conspiracies, and the Chinese Discovery of America," California State University, San Bernardino. 19 Apr 2019.
- 2017 Faculty panelist, "Living and Teaching in the United States," Claremont Colleges Chinese Students Association. 29 Nov 2017.

Courses Taught

- Civilizations of East Asia (2018F; 2019F; 2020S; 2022S; 2023S)

- Murder and Mayhem in Imperial China (2018S, 2018F; 2019F; 2020F; 2022F; 2023S)
- Pseudohistory (2017F; 2018S, 2019S; 2020S)
- Modern Chinese History (2017S, 2017F)

Service to the Academic Community

2019-21 Member of the Board of Directors, Society for Ming Studies.

- 2015 Discussant, "Rewriting a Ming Civil War in *Unofficial History of Female Immortals*," paper by Peng Liu, EALAC Dissertation Colloquium, Columbia University. 30 Sep 2015.
- 2013 Translator, "The Emergence of Military Governments in the Global South, 1945-1975," lecture by Steven Lee, Hitotsubashi University, Japan. 11 Jun 2013. (English to Japanese)
- 2013 Translator, "The Korean War and Its Legacies," lecture by Steven Lee, Hitotsubashi University, Japan. 10 Jun 2013. (English to Japanese)
- 2012 Discussant, "Space and Place in Chinese Literature," panel at Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, Columbia University. 11 Feb 2012.

Events and Panels Organized

- 2016 Co-organizer with Weiwei Luo, "Communications in Chinese History: A Comparative Conversation," workshop at Columbia University. 16 Apr 2016.
- 2015 Organizer, "Instruments of Movement and the Problem of Speed in Late Imperial China, 1368-1645," panel at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago. 29 Mar 2015.
- 2014 Organizer, "Ideals and Reality of State Communication in Late Imperial China," panel at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia. 28 Mar 2014.
- 2013 Co-organizer, "Vehicles of Social Connectivity in the Ming-Qing Period," panel at the Conference on Ming-Qing Studies, Academia Sinica, Taiwan. 5 Dec 2013.
- 2011 Co-organizer with Weiwei Luo, China Studies Research Skills Workshop, Columbia University. 12 May 2011.
- 2011 Organizing committee member, Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, Columbia University. 4-5 Feb 2011.

Fellowships, Awards, and Grants

- 2024-25 Luce/ACLS Early Career Fellowship in China Studies
- 2020-21 Faculty Student Research Program, Lowe Institute of Political Economy, Claremont McKenna College
- 2016 Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Doctoral Fellowship
- 2016 C. Martin Wilbur Fellowship, Weatherhead Institute, Columbia University
- 2015 AAS CIAC Graduate Student Best Paper Prize

- 2015 Dorothy Borg Collaborative Grant, Weatherhead Institute, Columbia University
For "Communications in Chinese History" workshop; co-applicant with Weiwei Luo.
- 2013-15 MEXT Research Student Scholarship, Japan
- 2009-13 SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, Canada