

# 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, comparative history, bureaucracy, communication, information, archives, cultural history of books

## 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.

## Selected Research Presentations (R indicates refereed)

- 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  
(R) Bureaucracy," Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. 29 Mar 2015.
- 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  
(R) Age," Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia. 28 Mar 2014.

- 2013 (R) "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.
- 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 Activities

- 2020 "Sakai Checklists: A Simple Solution to So Many Problems," Teaching at CMC: Excellence, Innovation, and Technology. 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)
- Murder and Mayhem in Imperial China (2018S, 2018F; 2019F; 2020F; 2021F)
- Pseudohistory (2017F; 2018S, 2019S; 2020S)
- Modern Chinese History (2017S, 2017F)

## Service to the Academic Community

- 2019- 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

- 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
- 2009 J.H. Stewart Reid Prize in Honours History, University of British Columbia

## Languages

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