

Yujie Li

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

History of Modern China and East Asia; History of Technology; History of Labor; Political Economy; Material Culture.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT

Assistant Professor at the Department of History, the University of Maryland, College Park

EDUCATION

PhD, Chinese History, University of Chicago Degree Conferred: 08/2023

Dissertation: "Wheels and Sweat: Muscle-powered transportation in the everyday life of Maoist China, 1949-1979"

Committee: Jacob Eyferth (Chair), Kenneth Pomeranz, Johanna Ransmeier

Examination Fields: History of Modern China; Early Modern and Modern History of Japan; History of Technology and Material Culture

M.A., Arts Administration, Columbia University 05/2014

M.E., Fashion History, Tianjin Polytechnic University 03/2002

B.E., Textile and Fashion Engineer, Zhengzhou Textile Institute 06/1999

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- "Fixing the Huai River: Technology of Labor Formation in Maoist China, 1950-53," *Technology and Culture* 65, no.1 (2024): 177-209.
- "Birth of the phoenix: Petty capitalists in the socialist transformation of the Shanghai bicycle industry," *Twentieth-Century China* 47, no.3 (2022): 266-286.
- "From craftsmen to laborers: A history of carpet making in Republican China," *Artefact: Techniques, History and Human Sciences*, no.8 (2018): 49-67.

Book Chapter

- "Mass Labor and Tools Reform: Contradictions in Maoist Knowledge Production," in Christine Ho and Sigrid Schmalzer eds, *A Revolution Across Art and Science: Participatory Knowledge Production in China's Great Leap Forward* 藝科共躍：中國大躍進時期的參與式知識產生, under consideration at Hong Kong University Press.

Book Review

- Book Review of *Eight Outcasts: Social and Political Marginalization in China under Mao*, by Yang Kuisong, *PRC History Review*, no. 26 (June 2021)

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

- Kluge Fellowship, Library of Congress, Fall 2024
- National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant in Science, Technology, and Society, 2020
- Esherick-Ye Family Foundation Fellowship, 2019
- Northwestern University-SSRC Dissertation Proposal Development Program Travel Grant, 2019
- Henry Luce Foundation/ACLS Program in China Studies, Pre-dissertation Summer Travel Grant, 2019
- D Kim Foundation for History of Science and Technology in East Asia, Research Travel Grant, 2019
- Association of Asian Studies-China and Inner Asia Committee (AAS-CIAC) Research Grant, 2019
- United States Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS) in Japanese language study, AY 2017-2018, Summer 2018
- Lloyd and Suzanne Rudolph Field Research Award, Center for International Social Science Research, University of Chicago, 2018
- Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago, 2018

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- “The Technology of Labor Formation in Maoist China: Huai River Control as the Ground Zero,” Hoover Institution, August 2024
- “Fixing the Huai River: Engineering Designs and Earthwork Methods Across the 1949 Divide,” East Asian Studies Speaker Series, Johns Hopkins University, October 2023.

Conference Presentations

- “Earthwork Methods on the Huai River: Engineering the Waterscape and the Rise of a New Labor Regime,” paper presented at Association for Asian Studies 2022 Annual Conference, March 2022
- “Industrial Standardization in the 1950s ‘Socialist Transformation’ in the PRC,” paper presented at AAS-in-Asia, July 2019
- “The Dilemma of ‘Study and Improve’: Republican Chinese Carpet Making in the Global Hierarchy of Knowledge,” paper presented at New England Association of Asian Studies Conference, January 2017

Workshop Presentations

- “The Great Leap Forward Tools Reform: A Case Study of the Miyun Reservoir,” Participatory Knowledge Production in the Great Leap Forward Workshop, organized by University of Massachusetts Amherst online, February 2024
- “Engineering and Labor Practice Across 1949: A Challenge to the Continuity Thesis,” presented at DKim Foundation Annual Workshop at Princeton University, January 2024
- “The (Un)planned Economy: Muscle-Powered Transportation in the 1950s Beijing,” presented at Princeton University Planning and Entrepreneurialism in the 20th Century Workshop. Also served as discussant for the South Asia panel of the workshop, November 2023
- “Muscle-Powered Transportation in the Everyday Life of Maoist China,” presented at Northwestern University-SSRC Dissertation Proposal Development Program Workshop Series, June-September 2019
- “A History of the Phoenix Bicycle and the Shanghai Petty Capitalists,” presented at D. Kim Foundation for the History of Science and Technology in East Asia Inaugural Summer Workshop, June 2019
- “Bicycle and Wheelbarrows in Maoist China,” presented at “Little Technologies/Big Histories: A Workshop Exploring the Global History of Everyday Machines,” UW-Madison, November 2018
- “Birth of the Phoenix Bicycle: Socialist Firm Formation and Industrial Standardization in the Early PRC,” presented at Art and Politics of East Asia Workshop, University of Chicago, March 2018

Guest Lecture

- “Building a Socialist Economy: China in the 1950s,” in HIST 3615 History of Chinese Communism, George Washington University, Fall 2024

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, University of Maryland, College Park

State and Society in Modern China: From Opium War to the Present Spring 2024

- This course combines lectures and seminars to provide upper-level undergraduate students a comprehensive understanding of the history of modern China. It proceeds in a chronological manner to enable discussions and reflections on the historical contingency, alternatives, and intended and unintended consequences of historical events.

East Asian Civilization, 1800-present Spring 2024

- This course explores the historical trajectory of China, Japan, and Korea in the 19th and 20th centuries and the ways they shaped each other’s modern fate. The course is designed into six modules, each including multiple lectures and one discussion sessions. The course employs primary and secondary sources, including visual and cinematic materials, and diversified class activities to facilitate undergraduate’s interest of inquiries into a broad array of topics.

China's Long Twentieth Century: Economic and Social Changes Fall 2023

- A seminar course for graduate and upper-level undergraduate students. It examines modern Chinese history from the late Qing (1870-1911) to the turn of the twentieth-first century and introduces students to major historical debates that have defined the central questions of the field.

Instructor of Record, University of Chicago

Techno-Ecology: The Social life of Infrastructure Spring 2022

- I designed and taught this course for undergraduates of all levels. Format consisted of both lectures and seminar discussions. The course was awarded the 2022 Global Studies Lectureship Prize.

Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago

Introduction to Civilizations of East Asia: Korea Spring 2019

- I led weekly group discussions to help students to find their own ways to understand the primary and secondary reading material. I also delivered a lecture on the material culture and technology of colonial Korea.

Power, Identity, Resistance I & II Fall 2019-Winter 2020

- A signature course of the University of Chicago's General Education. As teaching intern, I facilitated classroom instruction, presided over office hours, and graded student papers.

Instructor of Record, Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology

Chinese Fashion History, Lecturer 2002-2007

Western Fashion History, Lecturer 2002-2007

History of Style in the 20th Century, Lecturer 2002-2007

SERVICES

- Board of Contributing Editors of *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History* 2024-2027
- NEH Summer Stipend UMD campus competition selection committee Fall 2024

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)
- Association for Asian Studies (AAS)
- Historical Society for Twentieth Century China (HSTCC)

LANGUAGES

Chinese, native.

English, fluent.

Japanese, advanced.