

Tamara T. Chin

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Employment

2014- Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, Brown University
2018-2021 Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and East Asian Studies, Brown University
2006-13 Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Literature, University of Chicago

Education

1998-2005 PhD University of California, Berkeley, Comparative Literature, May 2005 (classical Chinese, Greek, Latin) with a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender and Sexuality
1993-7 BA Harvard College, Classics and Literature, *magna cum laude*, June 1997 with a *summa cum laude* recommendation in Literature

Publications

Books

The Silk Road Idea: Ancient Contact in the Modern Human Sciences, 1870-1970 (forthcoming with University of Chicago Press, Fall 2026)

Savage Exchange: Han Imperialism, Chinese Literary Style, and the Economic Imagination (Harvard University Press, 2014; pbk 2020)

Chinese translation by Wu Dongming 吴冬明 with new preface: 《野蛮交换：汉帝国的扩张、文学风格与经济想象》 (forthcoming with Horizon Books 世纪文景 2026)

Review article in *Journal of China Studies* 61 (July 2015): 325-340;
Reviews in *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 135.2 (April–June 2015): 414-417;
Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies 78.3 (October 2015): 646 – 648;
Journal of Asian Studies 75.3 (August 2016): pp. 806-807.
ACLA Harry Levin Prize; AAS Joseph Levenson Pre-1900 Book Prize Honorable Mention; ICAS Book Prize 2017 Ground-Breaking Subject Matter Accolade

Peer-reviewed Articles

“The Afro-Asian Silk Road: Chinese Experiments in Postcolonial Premodernity.” *PMLA* 136.1 (January 2021): 17-38.

- “Anti-Colonial Metrics: Homeric Time in an Indian Prison, ca. 1909.” *English Literary History* 81.3 (Fall 2014): 1029-1053. Internet republication (2019) in “Prosody: Alternative Histories,” Stanford ARCADE Project, curated by Natalie Gerber and Eric Weiskott.
- “The Invention of the Silk Road, 1877.” *Critical Inquiry* 40, no.1 (Autumn 2013): 194–219.
- “Defamiliarizing the Foreigner: Sima Qian’s Ethnography and Han-Xiongnu Marriage Diplomacy.” *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 70.2 (December 2010): 311–54.
[Translation into Turkish by Turkish Historical Society in progress]
- “Orienting Mimesis: Marriage and the Book of Songs.” *Representations* 94.1, Special Issue: *Mimesis East and West*, edited by Victoria Kahn (Spring 2006): 53–79.

Peer-reviewed Book Chapters

- “Colonization, Sinicization, and the Polyscriptic Northwest.” In *Oxford Handbook of Classical Chinese Literature (1000 BCE-900 CE)*, edited by Wiebke Denecke, Wai-ye Li and Xiaofei Tian, 477–493. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.
- “What is Imperial Cosmopolitanism? Revisiting *kosmopolitēs* and *mundanus*.” In *Cosmopolitanism and Empire: Universal Rulers, Local Elites and Cultural Integration in the Ancient Near East and Mediterranean*, edited by Myles Lavan, Richard Payne and John Weisweiler, 129–151. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.
- “Antiquarian as Ethnographer: Han Ethnicity in Early China Studies.” In *Critical Han Studies: The History, Representation, and Identity of China’s Majority*, edited by Thomas Mullaney, James Patrick Leibold, Stéphane Gros, and Eric Armand Vanden Bussche, 128–46; 287–299. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012.

Short articles, Commentaries, Reviews

- “Ptolemy and Richthofen.” In *Silk Roads: Peoples, Cultures, Landscapes*. Edited by Susan Whitfield. London: Thames and Hudson, 2019. Translated into French, German, Italian, Korean, Spanish, Finnish.
- “Review of Selçuk Esenbel, ed., *Japan on the Silk Road: Encounters and Perspectives of Politics and Culture in Eurasia*.” *Journal of Japanese Studies* 45, no. 2 (Summer 2019): 423-426.
- “Commentary on [A. Azfar] Moin: Eurasian History, Comparative Literature, Haptology.” *Fragments: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Ancient and Medieval Pasts* Volume 3 (2013-14): 30-36.

Media

- “History of the Silk Road,” The Forum, BBC World Service radio interview, July 3, 2017.
- “Why does China want to revive the Silk Road?” The Inquiry, BBC World Service interview, June 22, 2017.
- “One Belt, One Road: A Convergence of Civilizations? Insights from Tamara Chin.” Interview article with Mercy A. Kuo in *The Diplomat* (Asia-Pacific current affairs magazine), May 24, 2017
- “A German imperialist paved the way for China to revive the ‘Silk Road’” by Ilaria Maria Sala in Quartz (digital news), May 13, 2017
- “History of the Silk Road,” Talking History on Newstalk fm radio podcast discussion, Ireland, April 2017
- “Savage Exchange book interview.” *New Books Network* podcast w/Carla Nappi, January 2015

Works in Progress

Stop Motion Philology and the Silk Road Text (multimodal book monograph)

Invited lectures and keynotes (since fall 2014)

- “Contact Philology,” Hong Kong University, Center for the Study of Globalization and Cultures, Hong Kong, March 2026
- “Contact Philology,” NYU Shanghai, China, March 2026
- “Contact Philology,” University of Toronto, Department of East Asian studies, Canada, March 2026
- “Contact Philology,” Princeton University, Department of Comparative Literature, March 2026
- “How to Do Things with Loanwords: Premodern Sino-Xenic Language Contact in Modern Philology, Linguistics, and Politics, 1870-1970.” China Humanities Seminar, Harvard University, April 2025
- “The Climate of Silk Road Studies,” keynote lecture, The Lahore Biennale Climate Congress, Pakistan, November 2024
- “The Rhetoric of Connected History,” Neubauer Collegium lecture, University of Chicago, May 2024; commentary by Prof. Prasenjit Duara
- “Contact Philology,” Program in World Philology, co-sponsored by the Critical Chinese Humanities Colloquium, Columbia University, November 2023
- “Loanwords in an Age of Grammar,” Department of Comparative Literature, New York University, November 2021
- “Dunhuang and the Modern Study of Ancient Language Contact (ca. 1870-ca. 1970),” Dunhuang and Silk Road Seminar series, University of Cambridge, UK (online), May 2021
- Keynote Dialogue invited speaker for Harvard East Asia Society graduate conference *Moving Bodies: Mobility and Control Across East Asia* (online), February 2021
- “The Silk Road Idea,” Institute for Advanced Studies Trustees, Princeton, October 2019
- “The Invention of the Silk Road,” University of Trento, Italy, June 2019
- “The Silk Road Idea,” Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi, India, May 2019
- “The Afro-Asian Silk Road,” Department of Comparative Literature and East Asian Studies, University of Oregon, May 2019
- “The Afro-Asian Silk Road,” By Faculty For Faculty Provost’s Office series, Brown University, April 2019
- “Zheng He in Mogadishu,” Ifriqiyya Colloquium, Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African studies (MESAAS), Columbia University, September 2018
- “The Afro-Asian ‘Silk Road’ and the Rhetoric of Connected History,” Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Program in Chinese Literature and Culture, and the Center for the Study of Social Difference, Columbia University, April 2018
- “*Homo Geoeconomicus* and the Silk Road Spirit,” English Department, University of Toronto, March 2018
- “Rethinking Cosmopolitanism in the Greco-Roman Mediterranean and Han China,” Global Antiquities series, McGill University, Canada, February 2017
- “The Politics of Greek Meter in Modern Asia,” Classics Department, University of Washington, Seattle, November 2017

- “Gender and Economic Productivity in Han China,” Columbia University Early China Seminar lecture series, April 2017
- “A Political History of the Silk Road Idea,” Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, Rutgers University, October 2016
- “A Short History of the Silk Road Idea,” Inner Asian and Altaic Studies Lecture Series, Harvard University, September 2016
- “A Short History of the Silk Road Idea,” Center for Global Asia, NYU-Shanghai, China, December 2016
- “The Afterlives of Han Historiography,” Classical Ideals and Historical Realities: Approaches to Chinese Pasts and Present Taiwan Studies Lectureship series, UCLA, October 2015
- “Inventing Silk Road Studies,” East Asian Studies Colloquium series, New York University, April 2015
- “Inventing Silk Road Studies,” Silk Road series for general public, Stanford University, April 2015
- “Inventing Silk Road Studies,” Center for China Studies, UC Berkeley, April 2015
- “On Inventing Silk Road Studies,” Critical Silk Road Studies series, Mellon Foundation John E. Sawyer Seminar, Georgetown University, December 2014

Conference and workshop papers since fall 2014

- TBA Craven Seminar on China and the Mediterranean (by invitation), Faculty of Classics, Cambridge University, UK, June 2027
- “Gendered Violence and Non-Violence in Early Chinese Imperial Thought,” Association for Asian Studies Conference in Lahore, Pakistan, September 2026 (pending)
- “The Stark Impossibility of Greece-China Contact,” Cultural Poetics in Ancient Greece: New Approaches Conference (by invitation), UC Berkeley, September 2024
- “Shouwen and the Embodied Alphabet,” Colloquium on Literacies across East Asia (by invitation), Princeton University, May 2024
- “The Soundscape of Contact: Linguistics, Phonology, and East Asia’s Sanskrit Syllable,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston, March 2023
- “Loanword Lists,” Translingual Practice 25th Anniversary Workshop for Lydia Liu (online), Columbia University, December 2020
- “China’s Afro-Asian Philology (ca. 1955-65),” East Asian History seminar, Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, October 2019
- “Homo Geoeconomicus,” Political Concepts, Brown University, December 2018
- “The Modern Idea of an Afro-Asian ‘Silk Road’ (1955-71),” “Africa-Asia, A New Axis of Knowledge” conference, co-organized by University of Dar es Salaam, International Convention of Asia Scholars, Association for Asian Studies in Africa, Tanzania, September 2018
- “*Homo Geoeconomicus* and the Silk Road Spirit,” “Borders, Mobilities and New Infrastructures in an Age of Shifting Power Configurations” workshop (by invitation), National University of Singapore, Asia Research Institute, and Max Weber Foundation, Singapore, January 2018
- “*Homo Geoeconomicus* and the Silk Road Spirit,” “Globalizations, Global, and World: History, Literary Criticism, and Spaces of the Present” conference (by invitation), Northwestern University, Chicago, October 2017

“One Belt, One Road: China’s Indian Ocean World”; “Travelling Pasts: The Politics of Cultural Heritage in the Indian Ocean World” conference (by invitation), Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany, May 2017

“Contact,” Mellon-Sawyer Workshop on Political Concepts on Displacement at Brown University, September 2016

“The Silk Road Idea: The First Hundred Years (1877-1980),” “The Silk Road Legacy in Asia’s Imagined Futures” conference (by invitation), University of Nottingham and Durham University, UK, May 2015

“Money-like Objects in the Han,” Qin-Han dynasty currency workshop (by invitation), British Museum, May 2015

“Women’s Work,” East Asian Studies book colloquium on *Savage Exchange*, Brown University, April 2015

“Afterlife Economies: Archaeological and Literary Contexts of Money in Early China,” Brown bag talk, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World, Brown University, April 2015

“Sinicization and Colonization,” “Oxford Handbook of Classical Chinese Literature Workshop,” Harvard University, December 2014

Organization of workshops, seminars, panels (since 2014)

Roundtable organizer and participant, “Framing Contact: Roundtable on Disciplines, Methods, and Archives for Research on Premodern Asian Connections,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Vancouver, March 2026

Conference panel organizer and Chair, “Silk Roadology and Comparative Philology,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston, March 2023

Symposium co-organizer of “Worlds of Economic Thinking,” two-part comparative symposium on recent scholarship in Chinese economic history and thought, February & March 2017

Workshop co-organizer of “Killer Images,” two-day series of workshops, classes, & film screenings (related to “The Act of Killing”) with director Joshua Oppenheimer, November 2016

Conference panel organizer and Commentator, “Timescales of Displacement.” Mellon-Sawyer Workshop on Displacement at Brown University, April 2016

Workshop co-organizer, Environmental Humanities faculty workshop, Brown University (w/ Hannah Freed-Thall), Spring 2015

Invited class talks and responses (since 2014)

Discussant, panel on “Forms of Enquiry: Experiments in Border Crossing,” Association of Asian Studies Conference in Lahore, Pakistan, September 2026 (pending)

Discussant, panel on “Information Empire: Notation, Transmission, Translation, and Knowledge Production in Early China,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Vancouver, March 2026

Discussion panel, Lei Lei, “Love is Stronger Than Witchcraft,” MCM/EAS, Brown University, March 2025

“What is Silk Road Literature?” East Asian studies class talk for Prof. Hasan Karrar, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), Pakistan, November 2024

“In Which Disciplines Does Greco-Rome Meet China?” Classics and Comparative Literature graduate student lunchtime talk, Brown University, April 2024

Respondent, “Dreaming of the Silk Road: Narrative Conversations,” Asian and Asian-American Classical Studies Caucus panel (by invitation), Society for Classical Studies Annual Conference, January 2023

“Thinking Contact: Poetry, Archaeology, and the Han Dynasty Silk Road,” East Asian Art History class for Prof. Wang Cheng-hua and Chao-Hui Jenny Liu, Princeton University, September 2022

Seminar for graduate students on “Archives,” Department of Comparative Literature and East Asian Studies, University of Oregon, May 2019

Respondent, Nayanjot Lahiri, “Are Archaeological Discoveries like Scientific Discoveries? The Curious Case of the Indus Civilization.” Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University, May 2017

Respondent, “Indian Ocean studies/Silk Road studies: A Response to Sunil Amrith’s *Crossing the Bay of Bengal*,” Mellon-Sawyer workshop on Displacement at Brown University, November 2016

Panel chair and commentator, “Translation and Chinese Literature in a Globalized Chinese World,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Chicago, March 2015

Respondent, Louisa Wei on Jessey Tsang’s *Flowing Stories*, Chinese Women’s Documentary Festival, Brown University, October 2014

Lectures and conference papers before 2014

“The Afterlife Economy,” invited conference paper, “Old Society, New Faith: Religious Transformation of China and Rome, ca. 100-600 CE” at Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), June 2014

“The Silk Road Cave and the Tower of Babel,” invited conference paper, “Crossing Worlds: Translation, Eventfulness, and the Political,” co-organized by the Barnard Center for Translation Studies, Columbia University’s Institute of Comparative Literature and Society and Tsinghua University, May 2014

“Empire, Ethics, and the Afterlife Economy,” invited conference paper, “Empire, Ethics, and Tradition: An International Conference on the Han Dynasty,” University of Pittsburgh, May 2014

“On Quantification,” invited conference paper, “Thinking, Minting, and Counterfeiting Money in Late Imperial China,” Harvard University, April 2014

“Monetary Inscription and Otherworld Economies,” AAS Annual Conference talk, Philadelphia, March 2014; “The Matter of Money: Coins, Silk, Digital Money, and the Politics of Chinese Foreign Exchange (200 BCE-2014 CE),” panel organizer, Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Philadelphia, March 2014

“The *Fu*’s Things,” invited talk, Columbia University, EALC department, December 2014

“The Invention of the Silk Road,” invited talk, Brown University, Comparative Literature, December 2014

“A Counterhistory of Chinese Money,” invited talk, UCLA, Center for Chinese Studies, December 2013

“How to become an unproductive wife,” invited talk, Cornell University, Asian Studies Department, November 2013

“Money in the Guanzi’s *Qingzhong* chapters,” Society for the Study of Early China Annual Conference, San Diego, March 2013

“Abstraction,” class talk for Prof. Michael Bourdaghs’ graduate seminar “Philosophy of Money in Japanese Literature,” March 2013
 “Market and Genre,” invited talk, NYU-Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, February 2013
 “Richthofen’s Silk Road,” invited paper, Workshop on Re-enacting the Silk Road, sponsored by the Royal Geographical Society and the Department of Geography, Nottingham University, UK, February 2013
 “The Han *fu* and the Material Politics of Sound,” invited talk, Cornell University Department of Comparative Literature, January 2013
 “Silk Road Contact & Exchange,” invited workshop talk, Yale-NUS, Singapore, January 2013
 “Chronology in Greece-China Studies,” response paper on Author meets Critics panel,
 “Pushing the Geographical Boundaries of the Classics,” American Philological Association Annual Conference, Seattle, January 2013 (read by chair)
 “Economics and Literary Form,” invited participant at “China After Comparison Workshop,” Penn State University, September 2012
 “Ptolemy’s *Geography*, the *Hanshu*, and the Invention of the Silk Road 1877-1936,” invited participant at “Western Classics in Modern China” conference, Chicago Center in Beijing, May 2012
 “Money and the Morality of Exchange in the Han dynasty,” invited talk, Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, February 2012
 “The Invention of the Silk Road,” invited Horizons of Knowledge Lecture, Indiana University, January 2012
 “The *fu* and the marketplace,” Historical Poetics Conference, University of Chicago, May 2011
 “Marriage in Han-Xiongnu Marriage Diplomacy,” invited talk sponsored by the China Humanities Seminar and Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University, Nov 2010
 “The Silk Road and the Stereoscope,” invited participant at Workshop on Making Meaning Through Myth East and West, Cornell University, July 2010
 Respondent for Shigehisa Kuriyama’s paper “Probing the Archaeology of Tension” at Anthropology workshop (University of Chicago), May 2010
 “Richthofen’s Silk Road,” invited talk sponsored by the Department of Modern Languages & Cultures, University of Rochester, December 2009
 “Re-reading Sima Qian’s ‘Account of the Xiongnu,’” University of Chicago, China Before Print Workshop, May 2008
 “Before Han Ethnography,” pre-modern panel-organizer and presenter, Critical Han Studies conference, Stanford University, April 2008
 “Ethnography as Literary Artifact,” paper presenter and panel co-chair, Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, April 2008
 “The Invention of the Silk Road, 1877,” Yale University, invited talk sponsored by the Council on East Asian Studies, February 2008
 “Money and the Construction of the Silk Road,” Columbia University, invited class talk co-sponsored by the History department and the Silk Road Foundation, March 2007
 “Foreign Exchange: Silk Road Money and its Meanings,” University of Chicago Alumni Day public talk, February 2007
 “‘Barbarous Greek’ in Early China,” The Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago, January 2007

International Conference on Silk Road Coins (invited participant), Shanghai Museum, P.R. China, December 2006

“Anti-Expansionist Protest in the Han Dynasty,” Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, University of Michigan, September 2006

“Rethinking Repression in *Book of Songs* Studies,” Pleasure and Passion in Chinese Literature Conference, University of Chicago, May 2006

“Barbarian Commerce: Rethinking Han and Non-Han in the Han Empire,” East Asian Studies Department, New York University, March 2006

“The Problem of a Han Barbarian,” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Princeton University, February 2006

“Sima Xiangru and the Poetics of Colonization,” American Oriental Society, Seattle, WA, February 2006

“Transnationalism and Queer Chinese Politics,” international two-day conference co-organizer, UC Berkeley, April 2005 (participants from Hong Kong, Taiwan, P.R. China, UK, US)

“Compulsory Heterotextuality: Sappho 31 meets *Shijing* 1,” John J. Winkler Memorial Prize Talk, Oberlin College, 2002

“Authenticating Desires -- of Sappho (31), *Shijing* (1) and Difference,” *Authenticities East and West Conference*, Princeton University, 2001

“Mapping the Nomads,” Columbia University Graduate Conference in Greek and Roman Ethnography, 1998

“The Translation History of Plato’s *Symposium*,” Outwrite Gay and Lesbian Writers’ Conference, Boston, 1996

Academic Honors and Fellowships

2019-20	ACLS Frederick Burkhardt Fellowship for residence at the Institute for Advanced Studies, School of Historical Studies, Princeton Institute for Advanced Studies, School of Historical Studies Fellowship (Fall 2019, declined)
Spring 2018	Brown University Faculty Fellowship at the Cogut Center for the Humanities (non-sabbatical teaching fellowship)
2017	International Convention of Asia Scholars Book Prize Ground-Breaking Subject Matter Accolade (biennial Asia Humanities competition)
2016	American Comparative Literature Association Harry Levin Prize (best first book) Association of Asian Studies Joseph Levenson Pre-1900 China Book Prize Honorable Mention
7/2011-2/12	American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship Affiliated Fellow of Franke Institute, University of Chicago Franke Fellowship (declined)
Fall 2008	Visiting Scholar, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University
2005-6	(Teaching) Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of East Asian Studies, New York University University of Michigan Society of Fellows (2005-8, declined)
2003-4	University of California Dissertation-Year Award

	Doreen B. Townsend Center Fellowship, UC Berkeley (declined)
2002	John J. Winkler Memorial Essay Prize in Classics (national graduate prize)
1999-2002	UC Regents Intern Fellowship
1998-9	Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies
1997	John J. Winkler Memorial Essay Prize in Classics (national undergraduate prize)
1997	Harvard College Classics Prize

Service to the department (at Brown)

Fall 2025	Graduate committee
2025	Colie Prize thesis committee
2023-24	Chair of search committee for Comparative Literature Modern China junior position
2021-22	Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan Committee
2018-19	East Asia Colloquium Coordinator
2018-19	Member of search committee for Comparative Literature Modern Asia junior position
2016-19	Comparative Literature graduate committee member
2017-18	Director of Graduate Studies, Comparative Literature
2017-18	Chair of ad hoc committee to review Comparative Literature Graduate Program
2016	Member of ad hoc committee member for Comparative Literature Internal Review

Service to the university (at Brown)

2025-26	Junior faculty mentor
2021-22; 2023-25	First and Second Year Adviser
2022-25	Cogut Institute governing board member
2024-25	Program on Early Cultures board member
2018	Department of History junior faculty manuscript workshop participant
2016-17	Steering Committee for Mellon Sawyer Seminar on Displacement
2014-5	Nanjing-Brown Joint Program in Gender Studies board member

Service to the profession

2024-	Editorial Board Member, <i>Comparative Literature</i>
2018-present	Reviewer for Fellowships and Prizes: ACLS Fellowships (2024; 2025) National Humanities Center Fellowships (2020-25) Leibniz Prize Competition, Germany (2018)
2023; 24	Chair (2024) and committee member (2023) of Association of Asian Studies Joseph Levenson Pre-1900 China Book Prize
2017-2020	American Comparative Literature Association Presidential Undergraduate and Masters Theses Prize Committee (2020 chair)

- 2015-present Referee for tenure and promotion files:
University of Toronto; The Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica (Taiwan); University of Minnesota; Tufts University, University of Oregon, University of Miami, NYU-Shanghai
- 2014-present Referee for book manuscripts:
University of Hawai'i Press, University of Michigan Press, Routledge
Referee for journal article manuscripts:
Early China; PMLA; positions: asia critique; Comparative Literature; T'oung Pao; Asia Major; Journal of the American Oriental Society; Journal of the Social and Economic History of the Orient; Journal of Chinese History; Archaeological Research in Asia; Studies in History (Delhi); Institute for the Study of the Ancient World Papers (NYU)
- 2008; 2009 Committee member, John J. Winkler Memorial Essay Prize in Classics in undergraduate and graduate divisions

Teaching (at Brown since 2014)

Undergraduate classes

Writing and Power in China's Early Empires (w/ Brian Lander)
Silk Road Fictions
Literature of Empires (w/Joseph Reed [Classics])
Chinese Empire and Literature
Soil: The Earth and Environmental Writing

Graduate seminars

Between Philology and Machine Learning (w/Jinying Li)
Collaborative Humanities Project Development Workshop (w/Amanda Anderson)
Thinking through Comparison: Han and Roman Empires (w/Amy Russell)
Frameworks of Antiquity: Disciplines, Discourses, Politics (w/Adi Ophir)
Approaches to the Han Dynasty
Critical Approaches to China (w/ Lingzhen Wang)
Comparative Literature Proseminar (w/ Emily Drumsta)
Scales of Historiography (w/Rebecca Nedostup)
Historical Form
Culture and Economy

PhD dissertation and graduate exam committees (at Brown)

Tianren Luo (Comparative Literature dept. exams), 2025-
Sunshine Wu (Religious studies dept. dissertation), 2025-
Lucas Joshi (Comparative Literature dept. exams), 2024-
Daisy Yuk Ping Wang (History exams, dissertation), "Sociopolitical Ecology of Hunan in the Early Imperial period, c. 223 BCE-280 CE," 2021-
Baoli Yang (Comparative Literature dept. exams, dissertation), "Literary Strata of Imperial Borders: Sinoscript Culture and its Encounters in the 7th Century," PhD 2025
Kelly Nguyen, "Vercingetorix in Vietnam: Classical Inheritance and Vietnamese Ambivalence" (Classics dept. dissertation), PhD 2021

MJ Cunniff (English dept. exams)

External PhD dissertation committees

Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (NYU):

Emily Everest-Phillips, “Echoes of Entanglement Historical and Historiographical identities of transcultural elites, medieval Eurasia (6th-9th centuries CE),” 2023-

UC Santa Barbara, History Department:

Yacong Qiu, “Order and Discontents: Power Negotiations in Expanding Han and Roman Borderlands,” 2025-

At University of Chicago: Smadar Winter (“Motherhood in Early China” PhD 2013);

Tristan Bates, Shengyu Wang, Thomas Kelly (PhD exams)

BA theses at Brown

Katherine Xiong, “Embodied Networks, Network Embodiment: Potential Readings of the Asian/Female In/Human in Queer Sinophone Speculative Fiction” (Complit 2023)

Justin Han (RISD-Brown capstone project 2022)

Nicholas Quah, “The Singaporean idiom rehabilitating and contesting the postcolonial nation” (Comp. Lit, 2018)

Matteo Cavalier Riccardi, “Dreaming with the Helmsman: Negotiating Representations of Socialist China in Two Italian Travel Narratives” (Comp. Lit, 2017)

(Reader) Bailey Hu, “Han Shaogong and the Roots of Chinese Literature: Exploring the Fantastic and Regional Space in the Context of Modern History” (EALC 2015)

Independent Study

Nicole Wei, “Malay history-telling” (History, 2021);

Alex Rongjun Zhu, “Chinese literature and the Tanguts” (Comp. Lit., 2016)