New Graduate Students

Nathaniel Gallant (COM) is a first year PhD student in the Department of Comparative Literature. He holds a BA in South Asian Studies and Comparative Literature, as well as an MA in Japanese Studies from the University of Michigan. His research follows the entanglement of Buddhist thought, literary discourse, and the politics of translation in East Asia. His master’s research explored the Buddhist concepts, genres, and narrative forms that shaped the emergence of the modern literary subject in Japan. His doctoral project is a multi-disciplinary exploration of karma’s afterlives across literary, philosophical, and aesthetic discourses of embodiment in East Asia—specifically, how literary forms shaped by Buddhism responded to shifting conceptions of the karmic body before and after modernity. Prior to Princeton, Nathaniel was a visiting researcher at Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan, and an editor at Penguin Random House, Kodansha, and Tricycle: a Buddhist Review.

Lauren Gatewood (EAS) is a PhD student in early modern Japanese literature. She is specifically interested in the ways authors use creative visual techniques in dialogue to represent various aspects of their characters in Edo period (1600-1868) popular fiction. Prior to joining Princeton, Lauren received a BA in Japanese Language and Literature and in Visual Art from Dartmouth College and an MS in Education from the University of Pennsylvania. She taught high school Japanese and visual art before receiving her MA in East Asian Languages and Cultures (Japanese) from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Sarah Sklar (EAS) is a PhD student in early Japanese history. She is interested in kingship and systems of succession in the Asuka and Nara periods. Prior to joining Princeton, Sarah completed an MPhil in Traditional East Asia at the University of Oxford, where she researched female succession in ancient Japan. She received her B.A. in Japanese from SOAS University of London.

Mohan Wang (EAS) or Moh-harn Wang if one is familiar with the Gwoyeu Romatzyh, Chinese: 王沐涵, is a PhD student in early Chinese literature and political culture. His research interests primarily pertain to historiographies and the presentation of ethnographic knowledge. His broader interests include historical narratives, ancient poetics, political expressions in early poetry, and, most importantly, comparative Sino-Roman antiquity. Prior to joining Princeton, Mohan received his BA in Classics from the University of California, Berkeley and his MA in Humanities from the University of Chicago, where he explored the literary world constructed by ethnographic information in the Hanshu and Pliny the Elder’s Naturalis Historia.

Dajian You’s (EAS) research interests focus on LGBTQ+ issues, social isolation, social minorities, and anything related to social problems in modern Japanese society. His MSc dissertation examined same-sex partnership certificate system in Japan to gain a deeper understanding of its implementation and corresponding social consequences to LGBTQ+ individuals in modern Japanese society.

Jiawen Zeng (EAS) research interests focus on religion, spirituality, and the peripheries in medieval ~ modern Japan. She is also interested in gender and performance in modern Japan, especially shōjo kageki. Prior to coming to Princeton, Jiawen spent two years in Kyoto conducting research on Kannon Nikki.

Ingrid Vera (REL) and Sagar Rao (REL) are both new PhD students of Asian Religions in the Department of Religion.

New Faculty

Carolyn Choi (Effron Center) joins Princeton from Northern Arizona University and UCLA’s Center for Korean Studies. She holds a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Southern California with a designated emphasis in gender and sexuality studies; an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics and Political Science in in the sociology of crime, control, and globalization; and a B.A. from the University of California-Los Angeles in sociology and comparative literature (Korean literature concentration).

Tae Na Kim (KOR) holds a PhD in Korean Education from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. She serves as Outreach Director on the Executive Board of the International Network for Korean Language and Culture. With a diverse teaching background, including Sogang University’s Language Education Center, she tailors her approach for various learners, including exchange students and immigrants. Tae Na Kim’s has also served at language education at Hankuk University and Middlebury College’s Summer Language Program.

Wei Peng (SPIA & AEE) is an assistant professor at Princeton University, with a joint appointment between the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs and the Andlinger Center for Energy and the Environment. Her research uses computational models to quantify difficult tradeoffs of climate policy across social, political, and environmental aspects. Dr. Peng currently leads two main projects: i) realistic energy transition pathways, and ii) health effects of deep decarbonization. Prior to joining Princeton, she was an assistant professor of international affairs and civil and environmental engineering at the Penn State University. She received her PhD in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy from Princeton University and her bachelor’s degree in environmental science from Peking University, China. She was also a Giorgio Ruffolo Post-Doctoral Fellow and a Research Associate at the Harvard Kennedy School.

Zheyu Su (CHI) Zheyu Su is a Lecturer at Princeton University, starting in the Fall of 2023. He is currently pursuing his PhD in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research interests encompass early Chinese history, early Chinese literature, and early Confucianism, with a particular focus on the Disciples of Confucius for his dissertation. Zheyu received his Master’s degree in Chinese Literature and Culture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his Bachelor’s Degree from Nanjing University. Prior to joining Princeton, he taught different levels of Chinese language courses and Chinese literature courses during his graduate studies. In addition to his teaching and research, Zheyu has participated in the translation of Sima Qian’s Shiji (The Grand Scribe’s Records) under the guidance of Professor William Nienhauser since 2016, contributing two chapters to the recently released volumes of this translation project.

Xiaoyu Xia (SOF) is a scholar of modern Chinese literature. Her current book
Anna Yu Wang (MUS) Anna Yu Wang is a music theorist and ethnomusicologist working to understand what it means—and what it takes—to listen across lines of difference. Her research brings music analysis, field research, and examination of historical and archival sources together to wrestle with aesthetic, sociocultural, and ideological questions that confront music studies in global contexts. Yu Wang’s current book project, More than Structure: Musicality Across Two Sinic Operas, analyzes musical sounds and listener testimonies from huangmei opera and jidaigeki (EAL) to propose that experiencing the musicality behind tonal, metric, and formal structures is none other than to learn to adopt local (and at times, paradoxical) habits of worldmaking. She is interested in charting a novel methodology for a global-facing music theory that would emulate rather than stabilize the creative tensions inherent in its objects of study.

Junko Yamazaki’s (EAS) research is broadly centered on film, media aesthetics and practices of technological and cultural mediation, especially in regard to the questions of the history and politics of sensory life. She has explored these questions by primarily examining 1950s and 1960s Japanese film aesthetics. She is particularly interested in the significance of film spectatorship in postwar Japan, which emerged as a transformative force for social change, propelled by the thorny question of reckoning with the legacies of the past in the present. Her current book project investigates postwar revival of jidaigeki, a category of film that emerged in the early 1920s and that gradually came to refer to period films set prior to Japan’s Meiji Restoration of 1868. She received her PhD in the joint-degree program in the departments of Cinema & Media Studies and East Asian Languages and Civilizations from the University of Chicago.

New Staff

Nanna Liu (EAL) and Vai Lei (EAL) have joined the East Asian Studies Library as a Language Cataloging Specialist and Senior Bibliographic Specialist, respectively.

Visitors

Chukwuemeka V. Chukwuemeka, PhD, is a Sugarmen Practitioner in Residence at the Kahneman-Treisman Center for Behavioral Science and Public Policy within the Princeton University’s School of Public and International Affairs. He is a multi-disciplinary designer and urban researcher currently investigating the implications of design on human behavior and specifically using behavioral science tools, epidemiological insights, and architectural background to reimagine the design, development, uses, and management of sanitation spaces and infrastructures in cities. Chukwuemeka obtained his Doctor of Architecture degree from KU Leuven in Belgium and a Master of Arts in Architecture degree from Hochschule Anhalt (DIA Dessau-Bauhaus), where he graduated with the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) Prize. He has also led the design and development of several projects in his native Nigeria.

Lijing Jiang (SCDC) is a Shelby Cullom Davis Center Fellow from John Hopkins. Her topic is “Fish Nations: Species, Technology, and Environments in Asia’s Aquacultural Transformation.”

Handi Li 李皓坤 (CCC) is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Princeton University. Starting in the Fall of 2024, she will join University College London as an Assistant Professor in Comparative Politics. Handi’s research focuses on information politics and state-society relationships in autocracies. Across various projects, she examines the causes and consequences of transparency and information manipulation. She is also interested in contentious politics and the political economy of development. Handi received her PhD in Political Science at Emory University.

Airan Liu 汪立坤 (CCC) is an associate professor at Center for Social Research, Guanghua School of Management, at Peking University. She received her PhD in Sociology and Public Policy and MA in Statistics from the University of Michigan, where she was also trained at the Population Studies Center. She received her BA in Sociology and Statistics from Peking University. Dr Liu’s main areas of interest are child development, inequality in early life, Asian Americans, and China. Her current work examines how culture and social psychological factors shape social stratification processes in early life and the formation of digital inequality in early life.

Jinyun Lee (EAS) is an undergraduate from Todai.

Xiaojie Shen 沈小杰 (CCC) is a visiting PhD student from Peking University. He received his BA in management with a concentration on demography from Renmin University of China. His research interests intersect family demography and social stratification. His current research project explores college students’ marriage attitudes in contemporary China. His work has appeared in Chinese journals such as Population Research and the Chinese Journal of Population Science.

Sandra Wabnitz (EAS) studied Sinology, History (BA) and Historical Research, Auxiliary Sciences of History and Archival Studies (MA) at the University of Vienna. She is currently a Pre-doctoral researcher on the ERC Synergy Grant HistoGenes at the Institute of Austrian Historical Research in Vienna. Her research project “Horse Lords of the Steppe: A Comparison of Latin, Greek, and Chinese Accounts on Steppe Peoples, 4th-9th c.” explores and compares the literary discourse on steppe peoples from ethnographic accounts regarding religious beliefs, social hierarchy, marriage customs, gender roles, etc. (9/1-11/30).

The East Asian Studies Program and Department Newsletter introduces the new members of the East Asian Studies community across campus. More details may be found on the individual’s departmental websites. We apologize if any names have been inadvertently omitted. If you would like to be on the East Asian Studies mailing list, please send an email to chaoliu@princeton.edu.