

East Asian Studies

Fall 2024

Program and Department Newsletter

New Graduate Students

Suna Cha (EAS) 차선아 is a PhD student in Korean literature and cultural studies. Her current interests center on the intersection of aesthetics, gender, and language, as well as their roles in constructing notions of (pre)modernity. Prior to joining Princeton, Suna received her MA from the Regional-Studies East Asia program at Harvard University, where she wrote her thesis on Kim Hyang-an (1916-2004), a Korean writer, painter, and museum founder.

Alexander Chen (SOC) PhD student in Sociology. He graduated with an AB in Mathematics and minor in Computer Science from Princeton University and an MS in Financial Engineering from Columbia University. He has previously worked as a data scientist at Morgan Stanley in the machine learning group. His research interests include the sociology of science, the impact of AI on society, and Asian Americans.

Anne Lheem (ANT) earned her BA in Anthropology at Harvard and an MPhil in Gender Studies at Cambridge University. She is interested in questions of selfhood making, social belonging, bio-/body politics, and nation building through the usage of body modification practices, particularly within the South Korean and broader East Asian context.

Annie Li (REL) is a first-year Religion doctoral student. Her research interests include race, religion, and social movements in 20th-century Asian American communities. In particular, she studies Chinese American Presbyterians from San Francisco's Chinatown, who mobilized in the Civil Rights and Asian American Movements. Before Princeton, Annie earned an MPhil in Theology at the University of Oxford on the Marshall Scholarship.

Annie Liu (MUS) is a PhD student in musicology at Princeton University. Her research interests include Chinese music, timbre, music cognition, new media, and public musicology. She is especially interested in the intersections between politics, mass media, voice, and timbre in Chinese popular music of the twentieth century. She received her MA in Musicology, MM in Bassoon Performance, and a Certificate in New Media and Culture from the University of Oregon in 2024

Yuchen Cao (POL) is interested in Chinese political communication and political behavior. Prior to Princeton, he spent the past two years at the University of Oxford reading an MPhil degree in International Relations.

Yingjie Fan (POL) is a PhD candidate of Comparative Politics. She is a co-author of *Strategies of Chinese State Media on Twitter* (Taylor & Francis, 2023).

Xinran Ge (REL) earned her bachelor's degree in Japanese from Zhejiang University, China. She continued her studies at Zhejiang University, completing an MA in Buddhism. Her current research delves into Japanese Buddhism, where she combines textual and visual materials to explore how Buddhism shaped the lives of ordinary women in premodern Japan. Xinran is committed to uncovering and narrating the long-lost stories of the so-called daughters, wives, and mothers, bringing their voices and experiences to light.

Andrew Nguy (REL) joined the doctoral program in Asian Religions in 2024 and is exploring the factors that induce change in Chinese Buddhist liturgies, particularly in the late-imperial period (1368–1911). This project seeks to explain the ways in which transmissions of ritual learning occur. When he is taking a break from studying rituals, he enjoys perusing Buddhist exegeses and translating scriptures. A Portland, OR native, Andrew holds a BA in Asian Studies from Pomona College and a MA in East Asian Studies from Yale University, where he spearheaded interest groups in East Asian calligraphy and tea.

Hal Olsen (HIS) is a graduate student in the History Department working on 20th-Century China. He is especially interested in writing system reform, the history of linguistics in East Asia, and nation building. He has a BA in Chinese and History from Williams College and worked in public history for two years before coming to Princeton. He is from Atlanta, Georgia.

Joshua Ralston (EAS) is a PhD student in medieval Chinese history. His interests broadly consist of the history of imperial examinations and education, kinship relations, and geographies of political influence in middle-period China. At

UC Berkeley, his BA thesis examined regional participation in the 進士 *jinshi* exams and how regional exam success related to the attainment of high office in the Song political system. At Princeton, he hopes to build upon the digital humanities techniques found in his earlier research and find innovative ways to incorporate modern methodologies with traditional text-based analysis.

Ying Xing (HIS) is a first-year PhD student in the History Department. She got her BA in French Language and Literature at Sun Yat-sen University and MA in European and Russian Studies at Yale University. Her research interests cover modern European intellectual history, transnational history, and postcolonial theory.

Yuchen Wang (A&A) at Princeton University, focusing on Chinese art. His research spans material culture, the history of books, and literary studies. Currently, he is exploring the intermediality and materiality of painting, printmaking, and writing in 17th- and 18th-century China.

Shu-Ting Wu (POL) holds a BA in Economics and Political Science and an MA in Political Science, both from National Taiwan University. Her research interests include the study of political elites' decision-making processes and international political economy. She is also interested in historical political economy, particularly in China and Taiwan.

Oscar Zhenhao Yu (EAS) is a PhD student in Chinese history. His research focuses on late nineteenth-century charitable organizations led by disabled people, Western missionaries, and Qing officials. Oscar also searches for descriptions of disability in Chinese literature before the nineteenth century. Lately, he has found a chapter in the Chinese classic *Zhuangzi* praising the wisdom of being disabled. This leads Oscar to question if disability had different definitions and how they converged to an ableist narrative in late imperial China.

Liangyuan Zeng (POL) is a PhD student in the Department of Politics at Princeton University. He holds a BA in Political Science from Fudan University and an MA in International and Regional Studies from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Zichen Zhou 周祉晨 (EAS) is a PhD student in medieval Chinese history. She is primarily interested in political loyalty and cultural identity in frontier society. In addition, her extensive use of manuscripts in her research led to her interest in the fluid nature of texts in the manuscript era. Her MA thesis at UGent explores the identity crisis of Dunhuang elites living in the 8th and 9th centuries and their responses to establish the identity of the “Dunhuang People.”

New Faculty & Curator

Kit Brooks (PUAM) is Curator of Asian Art at the Princeton University Art Museum, joining the team in May 2024. Earning their PhD from Harvard University (2017), Kit has previously held positions at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Asian Art and the British Museum. Kit’s recent projects include the exhibitions *Staging the Supernatural: Ghosts and the Theater in Japanese Prints* (2024) and *Ay-Ō’s Happy Rainbow Hell* (2023), the first US museum exhibition dedicated to the psychedelic Japanese Fluxus artist Ay-Ō (b. 1931).

Sara Kang (SOF) is a new member of Princeton’s Society of Fellows and historian of gender and sexuality in modern Japan, Korea, and the Asia-Pacific. She holds a PhD in History from Harvard University, and her research investigates histories of sexual exploitation and violence under overlapping Japanese and American imperial formations. At Princeton, she is offering HIS/EAS 486 “Women and War in Asia/America” this Fall and “Japan in Korea, Korea in Japan” in Spring 2025.

Rachel Saunders (A&A) is assistant professor of Japanese art history and joins Princeton this fall. She was previously Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Curator of Asian Art at the Harvard Art Museums where she curated several notable research-based exhibitions and taught cross-disciplinary courses with colleagues in Art Conservation, Conservation Science, and from the Arnold Arboretum. Her research interests range from medieval sculpture and narrative painting to “eco-Edo” and contemporary photography. Saunders is currently at work on a manuscript that investigates sacred materiality in medieval Japan through a spectacular 200 meter-long illustrated life of the celebrated Buddhist pilgrim Xuanzang (d. 664), which remained sequestered at the heart of monastic Nara for over 700 hundred years.

Paul Vierthaler (EAS) is an assistant professor of Chinese literature and interdisciplinary data science in the Department of East Asian Studies. His research focuses on applying natural language processing and machine learning to late imperial Chinese literature and print history. Prior to arriving at Princeton, Paul taught Chinese Studies at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA from 2019 to 2024. He also taught the digital humanities at Leiden University in Leiden, Netherlands from 2016 to 2019. While there, he also helped found the Leiden University Centre for Digital Humanities.

Ding Wang-Bramlett (EAS) was reappointed as a Chinese lecturer in 2016. She previously taught as a Chinese lecturer at Princeton University from 2011 to 2014. Wang also taught at Princeton in Beijing in 2011 and 2013. Wang’s research interests include

language and social interaction, Chinese tutoring sessions, and technology in language teaching and learning.

New Staff

Celine Li (CCC) is the new manager of the Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China.

Jackie Tsang (CCC) joined the Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China in 2024. Before joining the Center, she worked at Mathematica Policy Research, Harris Interactive and the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center in NYC Chinatown. She graduated with a BA from Stanford University.

Visitors

T. C. Burnham (CCC) is a former lecturer with the University of Exeter Department of Languages, Cultures, and Visual Studies and is currently a Postdoctoral Research Associate with the Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China.

Hannes Gohli (CCC) is a postdoctoral researcher studying Chinese industrial policies, data economy, digital development and political steering. He is particularly interested in the changing relationship, dependencies and power dynamics between the Chinese state and the country’s big tech enterprises.

Guangzhao Jin 金光照 (CCC) is a visiting PhD student in population economics from Renmin University of China. His research focuses on the fertility transition and digital divides among older adults in China. He explores the temporal trends and rural-urban/regional differences in China’s fertility rate, delving into influential factors such as family planning policies and socioeconomic development. His work has appeared in *Chinese Journal of Sociology*, *Population Research* (Chinese), *Population Journal* (Chinese), etc.

Jiaqi Liu (CCC) is an assistant professor of Sociology at Singapore Management University. His research lies at the intersection of political sociology, international migration, law, human rights, and digital technologies. In an ongoing book project, “Geopolitics from Below: The Social and Diasporic Origins of Global China,” Liu examines how Chinese migrants navigate the rising political tensions between their homeland and host countries in the context of China’s global rise. His work has been recognised with five Best Article Awards from the American Sociological Association.

Raven Witherspoon (SGS) is a predoctoral fellow in the Program on Science and Global Security. Raven was a Schwarzman Scholar at Tsinghua University, Beijing, receiving a master’s degree in global affairs in 2022, and studying Mandarin Chinese as a Blakemore-Freeman Fellow.

Christina J. Wu (PIIRS) is Lecturer in Contemporary Asian History at the Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, and a Fung Global Fellow for 2024-2025. She is a historian of empires, colonialism, and post-colonialism, with a regional focus on Southeast Asia.

Jiachi Zhuang (CCC) is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at Central University of Finance and Economics. Her research interests include the sociology of labor society and finance. She is currently a visiting scholar at the Center for Chinese Studies at Princeton University for one year.

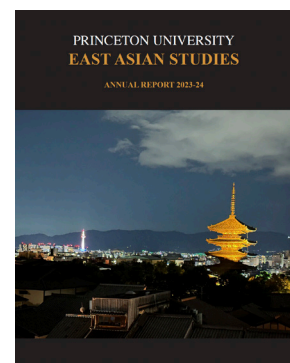
Visiting Students and VSRC’s

Yao Pu (EAS) is a Visiting Student Research Collaborator (VSRC) in the Department of East Asian Studies. Her research explores the transformation of Chinese fiction in late Qing and early Republican China, with a focus on the intersection of narrative genres. Using translation as a lens, she examines the development of Chinese literature. Yao received her BA in Chinese literature from Nanjing University and is currently pursuing a PhD in Chinese Literature there, concentrating on the formation of modern Chinese literature through the frameworks of translation and genre studies.

Xiaojie Shen (CCC) is a PhD candidate in Sociology at Peking University and a visiting student at the Paul and Marcia Wythes Center on Contemporary China, Princeton University. He received his BA in Public Management with a concentration on demography from Renmin University of China. His research interests intersect family demography and social stratification. His work has appeared in *China Population and Development Studies*, *Population Research* (Chinese), and the *Chinese Journal of Population Science* (Chinese).

Liyang Wang (EAS) is a visiting PhD student from the Graduate School of Humanities, Osaka University. Her research interest is non-Disney Mulan adaptations. Before coming to Osaka, she studied at the University of Tokyo and Yunnan University in China. She likes snowboarding, anime, and K-pop.

For the digital *East Asian Studies Annual Report 2023-24*, see <https://eap.princeton.edu/reports-newsletters>.



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.