

Dr. Harlan David Chambers
Researcher (Third Party-Funded Project)

Harlan Chambers completed his Ph.D. in Modern Chinese Literature and Culture at Columbia University in 2022 and served as a Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Illinois Wesleyan University before joining the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Göttingen in 2024. As an interdisciplinary scholar of Chinese culture and history, as well as feminist and critical theory, his research interrogates the role of cultural practices in processes of social transformation, integrating archival research with analyses of cultural texts. He is currently developing his dissertation into a book-length project, *Revolutionary Times: Narrating the Social in China's Mass Campaigns*, examining how writers and artists forged a new politics of time amidst the revolution's history of mass campaigns.

As part of a research team exploring the history of conceptions of world order at the University of Göttingen, Harlan will interrogate internationalist cultural experiments in world-making. These include aesthetic and theoretical projects related to the League of Leftwing Writers, Sino-African relations, and cultural efforts to reimagine China's place in the world amidst crises of the 1930. Harlan is also examining internationalist aesthetic debates of the early People's Republic of China, particularly their relation to questions of socialist transition. This builds upon a series of workshops that he previously co-organized and hopes to continue developing at Göttingen, "Chinese Socialism in/as Theory: Political Economy in Revolutionary China." In addition to peer-reviewed scholarship in *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture*, he has translated or co-translated works by Wang Hui, Li Tuo, Zhang Jishun, and the contemporary artist Cao Fei, for *positions: Asia Critique*, *Modern China*, and *The South Atlantic Quarterly*.

CV

Education

- 2022 Ph.D. *with distinction*, Modern Chinese Literature and Culture, Columbia University
Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, advisor Lydia Liu
"Revolutionary Times: Temporalities of Mobilization and Narrative in China's
Revolution"
- 2015 M.A., Asian Cultures and Languages, University of Texas at Austin Department of Asian
Studies
- 2013 B.A., Chinese Language and Civilization, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations
Orientales (INALCO)
- 2008 B.A. History, B.F.A. Theater Performance, University of Minnesota, Honors College

Visiting Positions

Fall 2022 to Fall 2023 Visiting Assistant Prof. of History, Illinois Wesleyan University

Teaching Experience

Illinois Wesleyan University, Department of History

- “Asia’s Revolutions”, Visiting Assistant Professor (spring, 2022)
- “China’s Revolution”, Visiting Assistant Professor (fall, 2023)
- “Documenting Difference in Asian Cinema and Visual Culture”, Visiting Assistant Professor (spring, 2023; fall, 2023)
- “World of Ideas: Modern Era”, Visiting Assistant Professor (spring, 2023)
- “Cannibals and other Outcasts of Modern Chinese Lit.”, Visiting Assistant Professor (fall, 2022)
- “Introduction to Chinese History”, Visiting Assistant Professor (fall, 2022; fall, 2023)
- “Introduction to Japanese History”, Visiting Assistant Professor (spring, 2022)

Rutgers University, Department of East Asian Studies

- “History of East Asia II”, Part-time Lecturer in History (spring, 2022)

New York University, Department of East Asian Studies

- “Mass Culture: China”, Adjunct Assistant Professor (replacement instructor; fall, 2021)
- “Asia’s Revolutions: China/India/Vietnam”, Adjunct Instructor (spring, 2021)

Columbia University, Department of East Asian Studies

- “China in the Modern World”, Teaching Assistant (fall 2020)
- “Japanese Civilization”, Teaching Assistant (fall 2018)
- “Chinese Civilization”, Teaching Assistant (spring 2017)

Grants and Fellowships

- 2020 Henry Luce Foundation/ACLS Program in China Studies Collaborative Reading Workshop Grants 2020, Columbia University
- 2020 International Dissertation Research Fellowship, SSRC, Shanghai University and the University of Tokyo
- 2019 Fulbright Fellowship, Shanghai University, 2019-2020
- 2019 Predissertation Grant, Henry Luce Foundation/ACLS Program in China Studies
- 2018 Harriman Institute Language Fellowship, Columbia University Slavic Studies
- 2017 FLAS Full-year Fellowship, Inter-University Center for Japanese, 2017-2018
- 2017 Weatherhead Ph.D. Training Grant, Middlebury Russian Language School
- 2016 FLAS Summer Fellowship, Inter-University Program for Chinese at Tsinghua
- 2014 Mitsubishi Graduate Fellowship, University of Texas Japanese program
- 2014 Best Paper, Rice University Transnational Asia Graduate Student Conference

- 2013 Louise Faurot Memorial Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin, 2013-2014
2012 Huayu Enrichment Scholarship, ICLP National Taiwan University, 2012-2013

Languages

Mandarin Chinese: fluent reading, speaking and writing
Classical Chinese: reading proficiency
Japanese (modern): advanced reading, intermediate speaking and writing proficiency
French: fluent reading, speaking, and writing
Russian: intermediate reading, speaking, and writing

PUBLICATIONS

Ph.D. Thesis

2022, “Revolutionary Times: Temporalities of Mobilization and Narrative in China’s Revolution” Columbia University

Peer-reviewed Articles

2019 “The ‘Liang Village Series’: Postsocialist Dynamics of Liang Hong’s Rural Investigation”. *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture*. November, 2019: 249-292.

Public Articles

2021 “Revolution and its Narrative Battlefronts: a review of Brian Demare’s *Land Wars: the Story of China’s Agrarian Revolution*”. *The PRC History Review Book Review Series*. Vol. 6: 2, March, 2021: 5-9.

Translations [is it possible to add a “Translations” section? If not then perhaps include under “Public Articles”?]

2023 Li Tuo. “The Two Movements in the 1980s: Forces that Shaped Contemporary China”. *positions: Asia critique*. Forthcoming.

2021 Li, Tuo. “The Pandemic and Contemporary Capitalism: An Interview with Tuo Li”. *Boundary 2*. Online. 13 January 2021.

2020 Zhang, Jishun. “Response”. *The PRC History Review Book Review Series*. No. 24, August 2020: 4-6.

2020 Wang, Hui. "Twentieth-Century China as an Object of Thought: An Introduction, Part 1 The Birth of the Century: The Chinese Revolution and the Logic of Politics". Co-translation with Benjamin Kindler. *Modern China*. 46, no. 1. October, 2019: 1-46.

- 2020 Wang, Hui. "Twentieth-Century China as an Object of Thought: An Introduction, Part 2 The Birth of the Century: China and the Conditions of Spatial Revolution." Co-translation with Benjamin Kindler. *Modern China*. 46, no. 2. March 2020: 115–60.
- 2017 Wang, Hui. "The Prophecy and Crisis of October". Co-translation with Benjamin Kindler. *The South Atlantic Quarterly*. October 2017: 669-706.
- 2017 Wang, Hui. "After 89: Seeking a Glimmer of the Essential". Co-translation with Benjamin Kindler. *The Guggenheim Foundation*. Online. December 2017: 1-8.

Invited Talks

- 2023 "Socialist Plot and Plans: The Trouble with Narrative in Revolutionary China". History Department at Illinois Wesleyan University. Bloomington, Illinois. November 9, 2023.
- 2020 "Temporalities of revolutionary culture: investigating forms of time with Liu Qing's *The Builders*". Emerging Scholar Workshop at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York. December 4, 2020.
- 2019 "Red Star over China(s): Thinking Edgar Snow's China Today". New York University, New York. April 3, 2019.

Other Presentations and Workshops

Conferences Organized

- 2022 "Political Economy and the Cultural Revolution" New York University, New York. December 2022.
- 2022 "Chinese Socialism in/as Theory: Political Economy in Revolutionary China". Columbia University, New York. May 2022.
- 2017 26th Annual Graduate Student Conference on East Asia. Columbia University, New York. February 2017.
- 2016 "Utopia: Whither the Future". Institute for Comparative Literature and Society Graduate Student Conference, Columbia University, New York. September 2016.

Panels Organized

- 2024 "Reimagining Transition: Narrative Visions of China's Seventeen-Year Period". Association for Asian Studies 2024 Conference, Seattle, Washington. March 2024.
- 2022 "People's War: Investigating the Contradictions and Legacies of Revolutionary Practice". Association for Asian Studies 2022 Conference, Honolulu, Hawai'i. March 2022.

Papers Presented

- 2024 "Ways of Knowing the Future: Literary Challenges to the Economic Plan in China's Revolution". 2024 Modern Language Association Convention. Philadelphia, PA. January 2024.
- 2024 "Imagining Abyssinia: Ethiopia and Contradictions of Transnational Solidarity in China's Global 1930s". American Historical Association. San Francisco, CA. January 2024.

- 2023 “Revolutionary Realism at the Limits of Social Reproduction: 1958 Cultural Experiments for Henan’s Urban-Rural Hybrid Communes” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. March 2023.
- 2022 “Cooperative Fictions: Cultural Form and Social Reform in China’s Cooperative Movement”. Conference on Socialist Aspirations. Chicago University, Chicago. September–October 2022.
- 2022 “Practices of mass reform and cultural transformation in the Yan’an Border Region”. Association for Asian Studies 2022 Annual Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii. March 2022.
- 2021 “Democratizing the Day: Sun Li’s Revolutionary Mass Writing”. Marxist Literary Group Virtual Seminars, Online. 19 June 2021.
- 2020 “The Transformation of Consciousness and Cultural Creation in Modern Chinese Literary Thought”. *Translingual Practice at 25 Years: A Workshop in Celebration of the Work of Lydia H. Liu*. Online. 18 December 2020.
- 2019 (in Chinese) 合作化运动的“自愿原则”与周立波小说中的相关思想 [The Cooperative movement’s “voluntary principle” and its conceptualization in Zhou Libo’s fiction]. Conference on Zhou Libo and Modern Chinese Literature, The Hunan Literary Research Institute, Changsha. December 2019.
- 2019 (in Chinese) 新书研究讨会 Roundtable on recent scholarship by Zhang Lianhong and Zhu Yu. East China Normal University, Shanghai. 27 October 2019.
- 2019 (in Chinese) “模范”的时间性：《三里湾》中的合作化进程和生产时间 [The Temporality of the “model”: the cooperative process and production time in Sanliwan Village]. The Fifth Conference on Zhao Shuli, Taiyuan Normal University, Taiyuan. 12-15 July 2019.
- 2019 “Productive fictions: Agrarian cooperatives and the problem of synchronization in Zhao Shuli’s cultural work”. International Symposium on Conjuring the Socialist Rural, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. May 2019.
- 2019 “Fields of Desire: Reportage on the ‘rural’ in postsocialist China”. American Comparative Literature Association, Georgetown University, Washington DC. March 2019.
- 2018 “Imperial Bodies: Sino-Japanese solidarity in interwar Japan”. 23rd Annual Japan Studies Graduate Conference, University of California, Los Angeles. October 2018.
- 2018 “Fields of Desire: Reportage on the ‘rural’ in postsocialist China”. Collaborative workshop: Reading Chinese Reportage Across the Disciplines, University of Virginia, Charlottesville. October 2018.
- 2018 “For a culture as radical as reality: the legacy of China’s revolutionary cultural experiments”. Conference on Marx and the problem of politics, Marxist Literary Group, University of Albany SUNY, New York. June 2018.
- 2018 “Reimagining the rural in 1950s China with the lessons of Soviet experience”. Conference on the U.S.-Russia-China Strategic Triangle. Institute for World Economics and International Relations, Moscow, Russia. January 2018.
- 2017 Roundtable participant on the translation of Cai Xiang’s *Revolution and Its Narratives*, featuring translators, Rebecca Karl and Xueping Zhong. Columbia University, New York. February 2017.
- 2017 “Producing a new quotidian in the Yan’an border region (1941-1947)”. New England Association for Asian Studies at Boston College, Boston, Massachusetts. January 2017.
- 2016 "Portrait of an Anarchist: The Assassin as medium in late Qing discourse". Vernacular

- Practices Across East Asia Conference, University of Chicago. October 2016.
- 2016 “Revolutionary hygiene in Yan'an era cultural production”. Berkeley Stanford Graduate Student Conference in Modern Chinese Humanities, University of California, Berkeley. April 2016.
- 2016 “Models of Health at the Yan'an Base Area (1942–1946)”. Harvard East Asia Society Conference 2016, Harvard University. February 2016.
- 2014 “Necrophony: Deadly Sound in Cultural Production from China and Japan”. Sinoglossia: Taiwan, China, and Beyond, University of Texas at Austin. February 2014.
- 2014 “Killing Me (not so) Softly: Spectral Sound in Shimizu Takashi's Ju-on: The Grudge”. Transnational Asia Graduate Student Conference, Rice University. February 2014.
- 2013 “From Polemic to Performativity: Gender in the novels of Li Ang”. Eighth International Convention of Asia Scholars, Macau. June 2013.