

YAN LIU
Department of History
State University of New York, Buffalo
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of History, SUNY Buffalo, Fall 2016-present
Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto, 2015-16

EDUCATION

Ph.D., History of Science, 2015
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
M.A., Asian Studies: China, 2009
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Ph.D., Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology, 2007
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
B.S., Neurobiology and Biophysics, 2000
University of Science & Technology of China, Hefei, P.R. China

PUBLICATIONS

Healing with Poisons: Potent Medicines in Medieval China. University of Washington Press, forthcoming.
“Fluid Being: Mercury in Chinese Medicine and Alchemy,” co-authored with Shigehisa Kuriyama, in *Fluid Matter(s): Flow and Transformation in the History of the Body*, edited by Natalie Köhle and Shigehisa Kuriyama. Asian Studies Monograph Series 14. Canberra, Australian National University Press, 2020.
“Words, Demons, and Illness: Incantatory Healing in Medieval China,” *Asian Medicine*, 14 (2019): 1-29.
“Poisonous Medicine in Ancient China,” in *History of Toxicology and Environmental Health Series: Toxicology in Antiquity*, ed. Philip Wexler, second edition (Elsevier/Academic Press, 2018), 431-39.
Book review of Shih-ch’i Chin, *Zhongguo gudai de yixue yishi yu zhengzhi* [Medicine, Medical History, and Politics in Ancient China] in *East Asian Science, Technology and Society*, 7.1 (2013): 159-63.

FELLOWSHIPS

Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Diversity and Inclusion Leave Program Award (SUNY system), Spring 2020
Humanities Institute Faculty Research Fellowship, SUNY Buffalo, Spring 2019
College of Arts and Sciences Junior Faculty Research Fellowship, SUNY Buffalo, Fall 2018
Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, Jackman Humanities Institute, University of Toronto, 2015-16
Whiting Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, 2014-15
Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship, Harvard University, 2012-13
Erwin Hiebert Fellowship, History of Science, Harvard University, summer 2012
Summer Language Study Grant, Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University, summer 2010
Hughes Award and Peking-American Fellowship Award, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, summer, 2008

INVITED TALKS

- “Dying to Live: Medicines, Alchemy, and the Body in Medieval China” Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Binghamton University, Oct. 2, 2019
- “Dealing with Poisons: The Production and Circulation of Medical Knowledge in Tang China (7th and 8th Centuries)” Program in East Asian Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Mar. 12, 2019
- “Fighting Poison with Poison: Medicine, Illness, and Society in Early Imperial China” Humanities Institute Faculty Research Fellow Talk Series, SUNY Buffalo, Feb. 1, 2019
- “The Paradox of *Du* and the Power of Poisons in Early China” Seminar series of Early Worlds Initiative in Premodern Protocluster, University of Rochester, Oct. 17, 2018
- “Transforming Poisons: Pharmaceutical Techniques in Early China” UB Humanities Institute New Faculty Seminar Series, Feb. 22, 2018
- “Spells, Demons, and Vermin: Incantatory Healing in Medieval China” Asian Studies Fall Faculty Symposium: Religion in Asia, SUNY Buffalo, Oct. 4, 2017
- “Scented Protection: A History of Saffron in Medieval China” Seminar series of Translations: Materiality and the Circulation of Ideas in the Premodern World, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Sept. 22, 2017
- “From Text to Practice: Transformation of Medical Knowledge in Medieval China” Science Studies Research Workshop, SUNY Buffalo, Apr. 27, 2017
- “Scented Protection: A History of Saffron in Medieval China” Department of East Asian Studies, University of Toronto, Mar. 23, 2016
- “Toxic Cures: Poisons and Medicines in Medieval China” Center for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto, Nov. 25, 2015
- “Poisons as Medicines: The Use of Toxic Substances in Medieval China” (in Chinese) Institute of History and Philology (IHP) of Academia Sinica, Taipei, June 4, 2013

WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

- Workshop on Clinical Practice and Drug Markets and Trade in Chinese Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, May 24-26, 2020 [Postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19]
- ACLS Program in China Studies Collaborative Reading-Workshop: The Intersection of Religion, Medicine, and Technology in Medieval Chinese Alchemy, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Honolulu, Feb. 28-Mar. 4, 2019
- Workshop on Chinese Medicine and Healing: Translating Practice, Cornell University, Ithaca, Jun. 15-18, 2018
- Symposium on Fluid Matter(s): A Cross-cultural Examination of Bodily Fluids and Drugs That Act upon Them, Australian National University, Canberra, Dec. 15-17, 2017

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Panels organized

- “Thinking with Poison: A Cross-Cultural Conversation” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Oct. 8-11, 2020 [Postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19]
- “Rethinking Experience in the History of East Asian Science and Medicine” (co-organized with Yunju Chen) Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, Denver, Mar. 21-24, 2019
- “Understanding One Thousand Golden Drugs: Transformation of Pharmaceutical Practice from Pre-modern to Contemporary China” (co-organized with Christine Yi Lai Luk and Lijing Jiang) 25th International Congress of History of Science and Technology, Rio de Janeiro, July 23-29, 2017
- “Poison or Panacea? Toxic Substances in East Asian Medicine from the Tang Dynasty to the Present” (co-organized with Christine Yi Lai Luk) Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, Toronto, Mar. 16-19, 2017

“Rethinking Hotness and Coldness of Drugs: A Cross-Cultural Conversation” American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) Annual Meeting, Chicago, May 8-11, 2014

Presentations

- “Digital Humanities and New Directions in Asian Medical History” Roundtable, International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine (IASTAM) Tenth Conference, Taipei, May 1-5, 2020 [Postponed to 2022 due to COVID-19]
- “Potent Medicines: Elixirs, Healing, and the Body in Tang China” Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, Boston, Mar. 19-22, 2020 [Cancelled due to COVID-19]
- “The Production and Circulation of Experience-based Knowledge in Tang China” Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, Denver, Mar. 21-24, 2019
- “Alluring Elixir: Ginseng in Premodern China” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Toronto, Nov. 10-12, 2017
- “Transforming Poisons: Techniques of Drug Processing in Pre-modern China” 25th International Congress of History of Science and Technology, Rio de Janeiro, July 23-29, 2017
- “How to Manage a Difficult Drug? Cold-Food Powder in Medieval China” Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, Toronto, Mar. 16-19, 2017
- “Scented Protection: A History of Saffron in Tang China” T’ang Studies Society Conference, Sarasota, Nov. 10-12, 2016
- “Distilling Experiences into Words: Producing Medical Knowledge in Traditional China” Roundtable, Association for Asian Studies in Asia (AAS-in-Asia) Conference, Kyoto, June 24-27, 2016
- “Dying to Live: Medicine and Alchemy of Tao Hongjing” International Forum on Transcendence & Body: Narratives of Daoist Praxis, Peking University, Beijing, Aug. 20-22, 2015
- “From Central to Local: Transmission and Transformation of Drug Knowledge in Tang China” International Conference on the History of Science in East Asia (ICHSEA), Paris, July 6-10, 2015
- “Dying to Live: Toxicology and Alchemy of Tao Hongjing” American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Conference, San Diego, Nov. 22-25, 2014
- “Is Poison Hot or Cold?” American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) Annual Meeting, Chicago, May 8-11, 2014
- “To Eliminate the Demons: Perception of Worms and a Miscellany of Therapies in a Medieval Daoist Text” Workshop on Daoist and Other Visualisations in Practice. University College London, London, Nov. 2, 2012
- “Worms, Demons, and Jealous Wives: Incantatory Healing in 6th-7th Century China” American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Apr. 26-29, 2012
- “Ghosts, Worms and Toxic Qi: A Study of Incantatory Healing in Tang-Song China” Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, Toronto, Mar. 15-18, 2012
- “Healing by Incantation in Medieval China” History of Science Society (HSS) Annual Meeting, Montreal, Nov. 4-7, 2010
- “Healing by Incantation in Medieval China” American Academy of Religion (AAR) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2010
- “Beyond Binaries: Textual Representations of Yi and Wu in Ancient China” The 12th Annual Harvard East Asia Society Graduate Student Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge, Feb. 27-Mar. 1, 2009

PUBLIC WRITINGS

“Understanding Efficacy (*yan*) in Tang China” *Asian Medicine Zone*, Sept. 1, 2019

“Fragrant Protection: Saffron in Medieval China” *The Recipes Project*, May 4, 2018

“Transmission of Drug Knowledge in Medieval China: A Case of Gelsemium” *The Recipes Project*, July 7, 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses

HIS 181: Asian Civilizations I

HIS 308: History of Food in China

HIS 338: History of Chinese Medicine

HIS 403: Medicines, Poisons, and Foods: Material Culture of Medicine in China and Europe

HIS 492: Poisons, Drugs, and Panaceas

HIS 507: Asian Core

HIS 544: History of the Body

Graduate Advising

M.A. mentorship

Michael Denman (M.A. in History at SUNY Buffalo, Fall 2016)

Thesis: “Swords and Stars: The Cultural Evolution of the *Jian*”

Member of Ph.D. dissertation committee

Qiong Liu (Ph.D. candidate in History at SUNY Buffalo)

Dissertation: “Passion, Class and Revolution: Women Practicing Violence in North China, 1946-1948”

Mark Dodge (Ph.D. in History at SUNY Buffalo, Dec. 2019)

Dissertation: “The Barbarian's Wife: The Taiwanese Making of George Leslie Mackay's Miracle Mission, 1872-1902”

Member of Ph.D. prospectus defense committee

Erqi Cheng (Ph.D. candidate in History at Syracuse University, Fall 2019)

Dissertation: “*Renya*o (Humans as Drugs) in Late Imperial China”

ACADEMIC SERVICE

SUNY Buffalo

History Graduate Committee (2020-21)

History Ad Hoc Recruitment and Retention Committee (2019-21)

History Executive Committee (Fall 2019; 2016-17)

History Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Russian/Eastern European History (Fall 2019)

History Speakers Committee (2019-20)

History Undergraduate Committee (2017-18)

Asian Studies Executive Committee (2017-18)

Search Committee for Clinical Assistant Professor in Chinese Language and Culture (Summer 2017)

Harvard University

Coordinator for Advanced Training Workshop on Humanities, Social Sciences and Medicine in East Asia: Interdisciplinary Approaches, Institute for Medical Humanities, Peking University, Beijing, Aug. 10-17, 2015

Graduate Student Associate, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, 2014-15

Student Organizer for the Workshop on New Horizons in the History of Modern East Asian Science and Technology, June 3-5, 2014

Student Coordinator for the History of Medicine Working Group, History of Science, Spring 2012

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Student Organizer for the Interdisciplinary China Workshop, Center for Chinese Studies, 2008-09

AWARDS

Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University, 2012

Harvard Shorts Film Festival, winner for video serials, 2012

PEER REVIEW REFEREE

T'ang Studies; Asian Medicine; Bulletin of the History of Medicine; Frontiers of History in China

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association (AHA)

Association for Asian Studies (AAS)

History of Science Society (HSS)

T'ang Studies Society

American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM)

International Society for the History of East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine (ISHEASTM)

International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine (IASTAM)

LANGUAGES

Chinese (native), English (fluent), classical Chinese (proficient), Japanese (advanced), French (advanced), German (beginning)