

Zach Smith, Ph.D.

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2021 – Present: Associate Professor of History, University of Central Arkansas
2015 – 2021: Assistant Professor of History, University of Central Arkansas
2013 – 2015: Instructor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2009 – 2013: Teaching Assistant, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

EDUCATION

The University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
MA, PhD in Asian History (May 2015)

Dissertation: “Reading Citizens: Popular Education Programs and the Construction of the Chinese Political Subject, 1904 - 1937”

The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

B.A. in Honors Interdisciplinary Studies: Chinese Studies, *summa cum laude*, May 2007

Language Skills: Proficiency in modern Mandarin Chinese, translation skill in classical Chinese, basic translation skill in Latin and French

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

“Equity and Belonging in Community Archiving: The Arkansas Chinese Heritage Project.”

Coauthored with Emerald J Dunn. In *Equitable Community Engagement with Colleges and Universities: Exploring Equity in Community-Campus Relationships*, edited by Sara Moore, et al. New York: Routledge. Forthcoming, 2026

“From Bookworms to Scholar-Farmers: Tao Xingzhi and Changing Understandings of Literacy in the Chinese Rural Reconstruction Movement, 1926 – 1934.” In *The Edinburgh History of Reading: Common Readers*, edited by Jonathan Rose, 238 – 257. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2020.

“Reading Pingmin: Popular Education and the Democratic Ideal in Republican Beijing, 1917-1924.” *Twentieth Century China* 43, no. 1 (January 2018): 3 – 23.

Book Reviews

Review of *Going to the Countryside: The Rural in the Modern Chinese Imagination, 1915 – 1965*. By Yu Zhang. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2020. In *The English Historical Review* 138, no. 594-595 (December 2023).

Review of *Protest! A History of Social and Political Protest Graphics*. By Liz McQuiston. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2019. In *Material Culture* 53, no. 1 (Spring 2021).

Review of *China's Conservative Revolution: The Quest for a New Order, 1927 – 1949*. By Brian Tsui. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018. In *The Journal of Asian Studies* 79, no. 1 (February 2020).

Review of *Panda Nation: The Construction and Conservation of China's Modern Icon*. By E Elena Songster. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. In *Agricultural History* 92, no. 3 (Fall 2018).

Review of *Educating China: Knowledge, Society, and Textbooks in a Modernizing World, 1902 – 1937*. By Peter Zarrow. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015. In *Twentieth-Century China* 43, no. 1 (January 2018): E-3 – E-4.

Review of *China's Twentieth Century: Revolution, Retreat, and the Road to Equality*. By Wang Hui. New York: Verso, 2016. In *Education About Asia* 22, no. 2 (Fall 2017): 71-72.

Digital Humanities Projects

The Arkansas Chinese Heritage Project (Director and Lead Historian):
www.arkansaschineseheritage.org

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2020 - 2025: National Consortium for Teaching about Asia Grant (Freeman Foundation)
2024: Diversity, Belonging, Inclusion, and Equity Award (UCA)
ASIANetwork AAPI Voices and Stories Grant (Mellon Foundation)
2022: Artist in Residency Grant (College of Arts Humanities and Social Sciences, UCA)
2021 – 2022: Council of Conferences Outreach Grant (Assoc. for Asian Studies)
2019: NEAC Distinguished Speaker Grant (Assoc. for Asian Studies / Korea Foundation)
Institutional Diversity and Inclusion Grant (Office of Institutional Diversity, UCA)
Faculty Development Grant (Center for Teaching Excellence, UCA)
2018: Service-Learning Faculty Fellowship (College of Liberal Arts, UCA)
2017: Summer Stipend Research Grant (University Research Council, UCA)
2016: Faculty Research Grant (University Research Council, UCA)
Faculty Development Grant (Center for Teaching Excellence, UCA)
2014: Peter Filene Award for Creative Teaching (Dept. of History, UNC – Chapel Hill)
Phillips Ambassador Graduate Fellowship (UNC – Chapel Hill)
2013: Columbia University Libraries Research Award (Columbia University)
2011 – 2012: Fulbright Research Fellowship (Fulbright U.S. Student Program)
2011: Clein Research Fellowship (Dept. of History, UNC – Chapel Hill)
2010: Summer Research Fellowship (Dept. of History, UNC – Chapel Hill)
2009: Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (UNC Center for Global Initiatives)
Summer Research Fellowship (Dept. of History, UNC – Chapel Hill)
2003 – 2007: Foundation Fellowship (University of Georgia)

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Department of History, University of Central Arkansas

Undergraduate Courses Taught:

HIST 1320: From Galileo to Gandhi: World History from the Early Modern Period to the Present

HIST 1375: First Year Seminar: Diversity in World Cultures- The Global History of Student Protest

HIST 2310: Introduction to Asian History

HIST 3383: Modern China

HIST3384: Modern Japan

HIST4372: Asian American History in the South

HIST4395: Postwar Japan through Film

HIST 4398: Gender and Sexuality in Modern East Asia

HIST 4344: History of Globalization, 1300 – Present

HIST 4344: Gender and Society in Imperial China

HIST 4V91: Material Culture in Early Modern China

Graduate Courses Taught:

HIST5344: Postwar Japan through Film

HIST5484: Modern Japan

HIST 5v91: Independent Study – Late Imperial China

HIST 6305: Topics in Non-Western History: Contemporary Global History

HIST 6399: Independent Study in Asian History

Department of History, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

Courses Taught as Instructor:

Twentieth-Century China, Spring 2015

Introduction to Chinese History, Summer 2013

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Chinese American Networks of Belonging in Rural Arkansas.” Southwest Conference on Asian Studies Annual Meeting. Nacogdoches, Texas. November 2024.

“Archive Making from the Margins: The Arkansas Chinese Heritage Project.” 1882 Foundation Conference on Rural Chinatowns and Hidden Sites. June 2024.

“Global Asia(s), Southern Voices: The Chinese in Arkansas.” ASIANetwork Annual Conference. April 2024.

“Chinese Foodways and the American South: Service and Community-Based Learning in the Southern Asian Studies Classroom.” ASIANetwork Annual Conference. Columbus, OH. April 2023

“Seeing Korea Beyond the Curriculum: Partnerships, Programming, and Professional Development.” ASIANetwork Annual Conference. Columbus, Ohio. April 2021

“DIY Citizenship: Zine-making for Civically Engaged Learning.” Co-presented with Dr. Leah Horton. National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Meeting. Virtual. October 2020.

“Great Mass Education as National Liberation: Professional Educators as Marxist Radicals in the Nanjing Decade, 1927 – 1937.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts. March 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19).

“Literacy, Party, and the Masses in the Chinese Soviet Republic, 1931 – 1934.” Southwest Conference on Asian Studies Annual Meeting. Austin, Texas. October 2019.

“The Chinese Modern Girl as Image, Text and Method: Integrating Gender and Asian Studies Across the History Curriculum.” ASIANetwork Annual Conference. San Diego, California. April 2019.

“Strengthening the National Body: Calisthenics and Military Citizenship in Hypocolonial China.” Asian Studies Development Program Annual Conference. Nashville, Tennessee. March 2019.

“Teaching the ‘Great Masses’: Liberal Visions of State and Society among Chinese Communist Education Reformers, 1930 – 1937.” Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies. Memphis, Tennessee. January 2019.

“Awakening the Masses: National and Class Identity Formation in Early Twentieth-Century Chinese Popular Literacy Textbooks.” Asian Studies Development Program Annual Conference. Portland, Oregon. March 2017.

“From ‘Bookworms’ to ‘Scholar-Farmers’: Tao Xingzhi and Changing Understandings of Literacy in the Chinese Rural Reconstruction Movement, 1927-1934.” American Historical Association Annual Meeting. Denver, Colorado. January 2017.

“Reading Class out of the Masses: The Rebranding of Popular Education in the Nanjing Decade.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting. Seattle, Washington. March 2016.

“Commoners’ Education or Democratic Education: Popular Literacy, Democracy, and Colonial Modernity in May Fourth Era China, 1917-1925.” New York Conference on Asian Studies Annual Meeting. Poughkeepsie, New York. October 2015.

“从早期《教育杂志》看晚清国民概念” [Examining Late Qing Notions of Citizenship in Early Issues of *The Educational Review*]. International Colloquium on Intellectual and Institutional Change in East Asia. Nanjing, China. November 2011.

“Waving the Banner of Simple and Easy: Popular Education and Abortive Visions of Citizenship in Late Qing China.” Comparative and International Education Society Annual Conference. Montreal, Quebec. May 2011.

INVITED TALKS

“Building a Digital Archive of Chinese American Heritage” UALR Public History Graduate Program. November 2024.

“Exploring Chinese Heritage in Arkansas.” Central Arkansas Library System Legacies and Lunch Series. June 2024.

“The Uyghur Crisis in Xinjiang: What Everyone Needs to Know.” Madina Institute Islamic Community Center. April 2021.

“Is There a Chinese Citizen? Theorizing *Guomin* 国民 in Early Twentieth-Century China.” UCA Confucius Salon. University of Central Arkansas. Conway, Arkansas. March 10, 2020.

“Everyday Propaganda: Teachers, Textbooks, and Identity in Early Twentieth-Century China.” Interdisciplinary Asian Studies Speaker Series. University of Arkansas. Fayetteville, Arkansas. October 2017.

“从平民到民众: 上世纪二三十年代通俗教育资料中的过敏意识和阶级意识” [From Commoners to Masses: Citizen Identity and Class Identity in Early Twentieth-Century Popular Education Materials]. Visiting Lecture Series. East China Normal University, Shanghai, China, May 2017

“To Learn from Living Books: Literacy and Ecological Citizenship in the Chinese Rural Reconstruction Movement, 1927 – 1934.” UCA – ECNU Symposium: Humans and Nature in the Era of Globalization. Conway, Arkansas. April 2016.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Director, Arkansas Division of the National Consortium for Teaching About Asia (2020 – Present)

Director, Arkansas Chinese Heritage Project (2023 – Present)

President, Southwest Conference on Asian Studies (2021 – 2022)

Board Member, Southwest Conference on Asian Studies (2019 – 2023)

Journal Referee, *Twentieth-Century China* (John Hopkins University Press)

Journal Referee, *Modern Intellectual History* (Cambridge University Press)

UNIVERSITY/ COLLEGE / DEPARTMENT SERVICE

University of Central Arkansas

Coordinator of the Interdisciplinary Asian Studies Minor Program (2016 – Present)

Assistant Director of the Center for Asian Languages and Cultures (2025 – Present)

Faculty Senator for the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (2023 – 2024)

Foundation Scholarship Committee, University of Central Arkansas (2017 – 2021)
Core Curriculum Council, University of Central Arkansas (2017 – 2020)

College of Liberal Arts EDGE Committee (2018 – 2021)
College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee (2021 – 2023)
Co-Organizer, CLA Fall Outreach Series on Immigration in America (2017)

Concurrent Enrollment Liaison, Department of History (2017 – Present)
History Department Curriculum Committee (2021 – 2023)
Graduate Education Committee, Department of History (2017 – 2021)
Faculty Affairs Committee, Department of History (2015 – 2017)
Social Media Committee, Department of History (2015 – 2017)

Graduate Examination Committee for Ms. Heather Reinold (2021)
Graduate Examination Committee for Ms. Jess Hill (2020)
Graduate Examination Committee for Mr. David Harris (2018)
Undergraduate Thesis Advisor for Mr. Colton Schlesinger (2020 – Present)
Undergraduate Thesis Advisor for Ms. Daniella Seng (2019 – Present)
Undergraduate Thesis Advisor for Mr. Ian Smith (2017 – 2019)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Committee on Teaching, Department of History (2014 – 2015)
Graduate Working Group on Teaching, Department of History (2014 – 2015)

MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Historical Association
ASIANetwork
Association for Asian Studies
History of Education Society
Historical Society for Twentieth-Century China