ZHONGTIAN HAN

Curriculum Vitae

Department of History
Southern Methodist University
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Department of History, The George Washington University, Washington, DC, 2023

M.Sc. Department of International History, London School of Economics, London, 2015

B.A. Department of International Politics, Peking University, Beijing, 2014

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

2025–present Visiting Lecturer, Department of History, Southern Methodist University

2024–2025 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Trinity University

2023–2024 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, University at Buffalo

PUBLICATIONS

Books

In progress *Institutionalization in Revolution: The Chinese Communist Party's Radio Communications and Reconnaissance, 1927–1953*

Journal Articles

2025 "Institutionalization within Revolutionary Crisis: The Chinese Communist Party's Radio Communications and Reconnaissance, 1933–1936." *Modern China*, 51/2: 177–204.

2025 "Information Culture and Technological Competition: The Chinese Communist Party's Radio Communications and Reconnaissance, 1947." *American Journal of Chinese Studies*, 32/1: 19–35.

2021 "Strategic Culture and Intelligence Failure: British Intelligence on Japan before the Imphal-Kohima Battle, 1943–1944." *War in History*, 28/4: 889–907.

Book Reviews

2025 Review of Joseph W. Esherick. *Accidental Holy Land: The Communist Revolution in Northwest China*. Oakland, California: University of California Press, 2022. xxvii + 314 pp. *American Historical Review*, 130/1: 406–7.

2024 Review of Ying Qian. *Revolutionary Becomings: Documentary Media in Twentieth-Century China*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2024. xiii + 305 pp. *China Studies International*.

2022 Review of Ying Jia Tan. *Recharging China in War and Revolution, 1882–1955*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2021. xvii + 257 pp. *Journal of Military History*, 86/4: 1008–9.

2019 Review of Yan Xu. *The Soldier Image and State-Building in Modern China, 1924–1945*, Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 2019. viii + 238 pp. *American Journal of Chinese Studies*, 26/2: 158–59.

Other Publications

2021 "Doing Research on Asia during the Pandemic, Part I: Digital Archives." *Asia on E Street Blog*, August 25, 2021.

2021 "Doing Research on Asia during the Pandemic, Part II: Online Databases." *Asia on E Street Blog*, August 25, 2021.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2025 Travel Grant, History of Science Society

2024 Hoover Institution Scholar Research Support Grant, Stanford University

2024 United University Professions Individual Development Award, UB

2023 Travel Grant, Society for the History of Technology

2023 George and May Shiers Memorial Fund Fellowship, GWU

2022 Hans J. Morgenthau Fellowship of Grand Strategy, University of Notre Dame

2022 Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship, GWU

2022 Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (declined)

2022 World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship, Smith Richardson Foundation

2022 Russell F. Weigley Graduate Travel Grant Award, Society for Military History

2020 Asian Studies Summer Research Travel Grant, GWU

2020 Micro Grant, Society for Military History

2019 Cosmos Scholar Award, Cosmos Club Foundation

2018 Selective Excellence Asian Studies Graduate Research Assistantship, GWU

2018 Asian Studies Summer Research Travel Grant, GWU

2018 Howard M. Sachar Prize for Best History Graduate Research Paper, GWU

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

2025 Technology Transfer in Twentieth-Century China, Society for the History of Technology, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg, October 10.

2025 Cultures of Information in Twentieth-Century China, American Historical Association, New York, NY, January 4.

2024 Internationalizing Knowledge in Twentieth-Century China: Culture, Institution, and Technology, Historical Society for Twentieth Century China, Bethlehem, PA, September 14.

Papers

2026 "Secret Communications and Political Networks for Women in the Chinese Communist Party, 1920–1933." Historical Society for Twentieth-Century China and the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Republic of China, August 5 (virtual).

2026 "Secret Communications and Political Networks for Women in the Chinese Communist Party, 1920–1933." Chinese Military History Society, Arlington, VA, March 26.

2025 "Institutionalization within Revolutionary Crisis: The Chinese Communist Forces' Radio Communications, 1932–1936." The History of Science Society, New Orleans, LA, November 13.

2025 "Secret Communications and Political Networks for Women in the Chinese Communist Party, 1920–1933." Southwest Conference on Asian Studies, TX, San Antonio, November 8.

2025 "Hybrid Institutions: The Chinese Communist Party's Radio Communications and Reconnaissance, 1927–1934." Society for the History of Technology, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg, October 10 (virtual).

2025 "Transnational History of Science and Technology in Asia," ASIANetwork 2025 Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX, March 29.

2025 "Information Culture and Institutionalization in Revolution: The Chinese Communist Party's Radio Communications and Reconnaissance, 1928–1934," American Historical Association, New York, NY, January 4.

2024 "Information Culture and Institutionalization in Revolution: The Chinese Communist Party's Radio Communications and Reconnaissance, 1927–1945," Trinity-University of Texas San Antonio-Texas A&M University San Antonio History Faculty Research Workshop, Trinity University, December 12.

2024 "Women in Sciences and Technology Sector in Contemporary China," Being Young in Asia Series, Trinity University, November 7.

2024 "Information Culture and Gendered Institutionalization: Women in the Chinese Communist Party's Secret Communications Services, 1921–1933," Kansas State University Department of History Symposium on War and Technology, Manhattan, KS, October 19.

2024 "Information Culture and the Chinese Communist Party's Radio Communications and Reconnaissance, 1927–1934," Historical Society for Twentieth Century China, Bethlehem, PA, September 14.

2024 "Gendering Institutions in Revolution: Women in the Chinese Communist Party's Communications Services, 1925–1930," Chinese Military History Society, Arlington, VA, April 18.

2023 "Institutionalization within Revolution: The Chinese Communist Forces' Radio Communications, 1932–1936," Society for the History of Technology, Los Angeles, CA, October 28.

2023 "Institutionalization within Revolution: The Chinese Communist Party's Radio Communications, 1938–1942," Asia at Noon Series, University at Buffalo, October 13.

2023 "Gendering the Culture of Secrecy: Women and the Chinese Communist Party's Communications Services, 1925–1930," Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Champaign, IL, September 30.

2023 "Chinese Technological Inferiority?: Chinese Radio Communications and Reconnaissance in the Korean War, 1950–1953," North American Society for Intelligence History, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, July 21 (virtual).

2023 "Playing the Dragon against the Eagle: Soviet Policy towards China during the Armistice Negotiations of the Korean War, 1951–1953," Chinese Military History Society, in conjunction with The Society for Military History, San Diego, CA, March 23, 2023.

2023 "Communications Intelligence, Deception, and Mao's Campaign in Guizhou, Yunnan and Sichuan, January–May 1935," Texas A&M University History Graduate Student Organization Conference, College Station, TX, February 17.

2023 "Communications Intelligence and the Rise of Mao: The Long March (1934–1936) and the Korean War (1950–1953)," North American Society for Intelligence History virtual brown bags, January 31 (virtual).

2022 "Signals Intelligence and the Rise of Mao on the Long March, 1934–1936," Chinese Military History Society Annual Conference, Fort Worth, TX, April 28.

2021 "The Chinese People's Liberation Army's Signals Intelligence and Communications Security, 1930s–1950s: A Preliminary Investigation," Chair of War Studies research colloquium, University of Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany, January 18 (virtual).

2020 "The Chinese People's Liberation Army's Communications Security in the Korean War, 1950–1953," Association for Asian Studies, Kobe, Japan, September 4 (virtual).

2020 "Testing Adaptation: China's Conduct of Naval-Air Campaign in East Zhejiang, 1954–1955," Chinese Military History Society, April 30, 2020 (virtual).

2018 "Recruiting from the Enemy: The Chinese Communist Party's Handling of Guomindang Prisoners of War during the Chinese Civil War, 1946–1949," Historical Society for Twentieth-Century China, Arlington, VA, August 3.

2018 "British Intelligence before the Imphal-Kohima Battle, 1943–1944: A Case for Intelligence and Surprise at Theatre Level," GWU Department of History Second-Year PhD Student research symposium, Washington, DC, April 20, 2018.

2017 "Primary Sources for the History of the Chinese People's Liberation Army," Woodrow Wilson Centre Summer Institute on Conducting Archival Research, Washington, DC, May 31, 2017.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Southern Methodist University, Department of History, Visiting Lecturer

Indian Civilization (fall 2026).

China before 1850 (fall 2025, fall 2026).

Modern East Asia (summer 2025).

Modern Japan (fall 2025, fall 2026).

China in Revolution (fall 2025, spring 2027).

China and the World (spring 2026, spring 2027).

History of Korea (spring 2026, spring 2027).

East Asian Science and Technology (spring 2026).

Trinity University, Department of History, Visiting Assistant Professor

Modern East Asia (fall 2024, spring 2025).

Science, Technology, and the Making of Modern China (spring 2025).

University at Buffalo, Department of History, Visiting Assistant Professor

Asian Civilization I (fall 2023).

Asian Civilization II (spring 2024).

China and the World (fall 2023).

Twentieth-Century China Politics (spring 2024).

University of Maryland, College Park, Department of History, Adjunct Professor

East Asian Civilization II (spring 2023).

From Divided State to World Power: History of Republican China and the People's Republic of China (spring 2023).

University of Pennsylvania, Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies, Adjunct Professor

East and Southeast Asia Regional History (graduate course, summer 2022, 2023).

George Washington University, Department of History, Graduate Teaching Assistant

The World History, 1500–Present (fall 2016–spring 2018).

US Diplomatic History (fall 2019, spring 2021–spring 2022).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Anonymous article reviewer. *War in History* (2025) and *American Journal of Chinese Studies* (2025).

Graduate student representative. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Department of History, George Washington University, 2022–2023.

Chair. "Was Frank Yee a Secret Agent?" North American Society for Intelligence History virtual brown bags series, February 14, 2023.

Chair. "'Tell the Consul-General, I Can Give You Everything that is Interesting': China's Use of Switzerland as an Intelligence Hub in the Cold War." NASIH virtual brown bags. October 11, 2022.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association, 2019–present

Association for Asian Studies, 2019–present

Historical Society for Twentieth-Century China, 2018–present

Society for Military History, 2019–present

Society for the History of Technology, 2022–present

LANGUAGES

Chinese: Native

Japanese: Advanced

Russian: Basic

REFERENCES

Edward McCord, Professor Emeritus
Department of History, George Washington University
+1 240-393-9785, mccord@gwu.edu

Eric Schluessel, Associate Professor
Faculty of History, University of Oxford
eric.schluessel@keble.ox.ac.uk

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Department of History, Southern Methodist University
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Department of History, Trinity University
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