

Liz P.Y. Chee
Assistant Professor

Education

2016 PhD. STS/History, Edinburgh University-NUS Joint PhD Program
2005 M.A. History, National University of Singapore
2002 B.A.(Honors), Japanese Studies, National University of Singapore

Scholarships and Awards

2011-13 MOE Graduate Student Fellowship (under Tier 2 Grant “Asian Biopoleis”)
2002-2003 NUS Graduate Research Scholarship
1998-1999 Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) Singapore Foundation One-Year General Study Scholarship, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
1997 Dean’s List, FASS, NUS
1997 Special Book Prize in Japanese Studies, NUS

Employment History (Present and Recent)

July 2023- Assistant Professor, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology (HKUST)
Jan 2022-June 2023 Senior Research Fellow, Asia Research Institute (ARI)
July 2018-June 2023 Lecturer, Tembusu College, NUS
July 2018-June 2020 Residential Fellow, Tembusu College, NUS
2018-2021 Research Fellow, Asia Research Institute (ARI), NUS
2016-2017 Post-Doctoral Fellow, Asia Research Institute (ARI) and Fellow, Tembusu College, NUS
2015 Research Associate, Asia Research Institute (ARI) and Tembusu College NUS
2011-2014 Graduate Fellow, Tembusu College at NUS
2009-2010 Teaching and Research Assistant, Dept. of History, NUS
2007-2009 Reporter, Asahi Shimbun Singapore Bureau

Research Area/Topic/Discipline

History & Anthropology, STS, Chinese Medicine Studies, Animal Studies, Food Studies, History of Home Technologies

Publications

Book (Monograph)

1. Mao’s Bestiary: Medicinal Animals and Modern China (Durham: Duke University Press, 2021).

IRJ Articles and Conference Proceedings

2. “Re-Inventing Dogs as Medicinal Food in Post-Mao China”, Asian Medicine Journal, forthcoming (January 2026).
3. “Drinking Antelopes: The Medicalization and De-Medicalization of Saiga Antelope Horns in China and Southeast Asia”, The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology (under review).
4. “Traditionality and Lab-Work: Chinese Anti-Cancer Drug Research and the Cultural Revolution” [first author, with Gregory Clancey], Bulletin of the History of Medicine, forthcoming.
5. “Heat, Cold, and Climatic Determinism in China’s Urban Epidemics” [first author, with Dongxin Zou and Gregory Clancey], Urban Studies, Vol. 61, Issue 15, (first published online October 31, 2022).

6. “Singapore’s Cold War Kitchen: Women, Technology and Consumerism in a Landlord State”, Technology and Culture (*preliminarily accepted and under revision*).
7. “To Cure a Hundred Diseases: Animal Blood Therapies in Mao’s China”, Science, Technology & Society 23:2 (2018): 195-213.
8. “The Human Proteome and the Chinese Liver” [first author, with Gregory Clancey], Science, Technology & Society 18:3 (2013): 307-319.
9. ““Down with Shark Fin!”: The Politics of Eating Shark Fin and Its Shifting Nationality in Republican China”, in Eric Olmedo, et.al. (Eds.) Consuming. Eating. Well-being: Proceedings of the 2016 Food and Society Conference (Bangi: KITA-UKM Press, 2018), 21-27.

Edited Journal Special Issue

10. Editorial Introduction (Guest Editorship) Special Issue on Heat and the City: Thermal Control, Governance and Health in Urban Asia, Urban Studies, Vol. 61, No. 15 (first published online November 5, 2024)
11. Editorial Introduction (Guest Editorship) Special Issue on Asian Medicine, Science, Technology & Society 23:2 (2018): 189-194.

Book Chapters

12. “Animals and the History of Medicine and Health”. In Oxford Bibliographies in Environmental History. Ed. Lisa Brady. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.
13. “The Use of Animal-Based Drugs in Chinese Medicine: The Case of Bear Bile”, in Frédéric Keck and Felipe Vander Velden, eds., Animal Markets and Wildlife Trafficking: Anthropological Perspectives (Paris National Museum of Natural History Press), forthcoming (January 2026).
14. “Deer Antler Production at State-Owned Deer Farms in the Communist Period”, in Brian Lander and Peter Lavelle, eds., Sourcebook on China’s Environmental History (Columbia University Press) (accepted).
15. “Accounting for the Animals: Faunal Medicalization in Modern China”, in Séagh Kehoe and Gerda Wielander, eds., Cultural China 2021: The Contemporary China Centre Review (University of Westminster Press, 2022), Issue Eight, pp. 16-18.
16. “Formulating “New Drugs” within Traditional Chinese Medicine: Inside Guangzhou Huahai Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd” in Stephan Kloos and Calum Blakie, Asian Medical Industries: Contemporary Perspectives on Traditional Pharmaceuticals (London: Routledge, 2022).
17. ““Health Products’ and the Boundary between Food and Pharmaceuticals: The Case of Fish Liver Oil”, in Céline Coderey and Laurent Pordié, eds., Governance and Circulation of Asian Medicines (London: Routledge, 2020), pp. 103-117.

Academic Presentations (Selected)

1. “Yangsheng, Dietetics and ‘Traditional’ Chinese Medicine in the PRC”, Double Tenth – Joint Conference of IASTAM and ASHM, Taipei, 20-24 Jun. 2024.
2. “Introducing Mao’s Bestiary”, Visions of Microbial Health: A Conversation between Biologists, Anthropologists and Artists, SUTD (Singapore University of Technology and Design), Dec 12-13, 2023
3. “Drinking Antelopes: The Medicalization and De-Medicalization of Saiga Antelope Horns in China and Southeast Asia”, Medicinal Animals and Asia: Faunal Medicalization in an Era of Mass Extinction and Zoonotic Disease, ARI, May 11-12, 2023.
4. "Traditionality and Lab-Work: Chinese Anti-Cancer Drug Research and the Cultural Revolution", Health Infrastructures Conference, ARI, April 13-14, 2022.
5. “Mao’s Bestiary: Medicinal Animals and Modern China”, for “Animal Markets and Wildlife Trafficking: Anthropological Perspectives”, Online Workshop organized by research group “Anthropology of Zoonoses” [Frédéric Keck, Arnaud Morvan and Felipe F. Vander Velden], Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), Paris, Dec. 6, 2021.

6. “Mao’s Bestiary: Medicinal Animals and Modern China” for STS Seminar Series, Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University, USA, Oct. 29, 2021.
7. “Heat, Cold, and Climatic Determinism in China’s Urban Epidemics” [with Dongxin Zou and Gregory Clancey] at conference “Heat and Urban Asia: Past, Present, and Future”, Asia Research Institute, April 21-23, 2021.
8. “Formulating “New Drugs” within Traditional Chinese Medicine: Inside Guangzhou Huahai Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd.” “Sociotechnical Systems of Pharmacotherapy in Modern East Asia, 1800-2020” workshop, University of Hong Kong, 23-24 Jun. 2018.
9. “Discovering New Drugs in Traditional Chinese Medicine: Inside Guangzhou Huahai Pharmaceuticals Co., Ltd.” ICTAM IX, Kiel, Germany, 6-12 Aug. 2017.
10. “Down With Shark Fin!: The Politics of Eating Shark Fin And Its Shifting Nationality in Republican China” Food & Society Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18-20 Nov. 2016.
11. “重建中医：药品，动物药对中医的影响（1950-1990” Chinese Academy of Sciences, Institute for the History of Natural Science, 13 September 2016.
12. “Shark Liver Oil and Bear Bile Tea: ‘Health Products’ and the Boundary Between Food and Pharmaceuticals” Governance and Circulation of Asian Medicines Workshop jointly organized by Asia Research Institute and Research Centre on Science, Medicine and Society, 22-23 Sept. 2015.
13. “Re-formulations: How Pharmaceuticals and Animal-Based Drugs Changed Chinese Medicine, 1950-1990”, D. Kim Foundation Workshop on the History and Social Study of Science, Technology and Medicine in Asia, 5 January 2015.
14. “To Cure a Hundred Diseases: The Curious Case of Chicken Blood Therapy” Third Asian Biopoleis Workshop, 16-17 July 2013.
15. “From Bear to Bile: The Commodification of Animals in Chinese Medicine” ARI/NRI (Needham Research Institute) Joint Workshop, Cambridge, UK, 26-27 February 2013.
16. “From Bear to Bile: The Commodification of Animals in Chinese Medicine” ‘Animals in Asian Society, History and Thought’ conference, Manchester, UK, 24-26 January 2013.
17. “The Human Proteome and the Chinese Liver” Second Asian Biopoleis Workshop, ‘Crossing Boundaries’, 26-27 July 2012.

Symposium Organised

1. “Navigating Food Studies in East and Southeast Asia”, NUS, 15-16 March 2017.

Grants and Distinctions

1. 2025- Principal Investigator, Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC) ECS Grant “The History of the Use and Trade of Animal-Based Pharmaceuticals in Hong Kong”.
2. 2023- Member of the Advisory Committee for the USFWS project ‘Reducing demand for saiga horn medicine products in Singapore and Japan’.
3. 2023- Member of the Advisory Board of the new journal Animal History (University of California Press).
4. 2023- Co-Principal Investigator. MOE Tier 2 grant “History and Sustainability of Animal-Based Drugs in Asian Traditional Medicines”[co-wrote successful grant application]
5. 2019-2022 Collaborator, MOE Tier 2 grant “Heat in Urban Asia: Past, Present, and Future”.

Courses Designed and Taught

1. 2025 – “Modern Chinese History” (HMMA5005), Division of Humanities (HUMA), HKUST.
2. 2024 - “Science, Technology and Society: Historical and Cultural Approaches” (HUMA 1622), Division of Humanities (HUMA), HKUST.
3. 2023 - “Animals and Society: Biodiversity, Conservation, and Ethics” (HUMA 5697), Division of Humanities (HUMA), HKUST.
4. 2021 “Animals and the City” Tembusu College Senior Seminar, NUS.

5. 2015-2023 “From the Fire to the Frying Pan: Cooking and Eating in Human Culture(s)” Tembusu College Junior Seminar, NUS.
6. 2016-2017 “Animals and the City”. International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) Global Summer Programme.

Out-of-Classroom Teaching

1. Apr 2025 Old City in Guancheng subdistrict and Opium War Museum, Dongguan, China (“Modern Chinese History”), HKUST.
2. Mar 2025 Ping Shan Heritage Trail and Kowloon Walled City Park (“Modern Chinese History”), HKUST
3. Nov 2024 Hiking from Mui Wo Island to Discovery Bay (“Animals and Society: Biodiversity, Conservation, and Ethics”), HKUST.
4. Nov 2023 Sai Kung Stray Friends and Yim Tin Tsai (“Animals and Society: Biodiversity, Conservation, and Ethics”), HKUST.
5. 2019-2022 Yoga [Certified Yoga Teacher], Tembusu College, NUS.
6. 2016-2019 Advisor, Tembusu Wildlife Association, Tembusu College, NUS.
7. 2016-2017 Founder and Coordinator, tTales (events organized around books), Tembusu College, NUS.
8. 2013 Singapore Farm Tours, Tembusu College, NUS.

Languages

English (native); Mandarin (native); Cantonese (native); Japanese (working); French (some working)