

Huan Jin

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Harvard University: Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations
Dissertation: *When Heaven Collapsed: Writing the Taiping Civil War (1851-1864)*

M.A. Washington University in St. Louis: Department of Asian & Near Eastern Languages and Literatures
Thesis: *Envisioning Morality in Times of Dynastic Change: A Study of Pipa Ji and Taohua Shan*

B.A. (Hons.) Fudan University: Department of Chinese Literature and Language

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Late Imperial Chinese literature (1400-1911CE) with special focuses on time and narrative, poetics of space, imagination and experience, cultural identities and memories, literary adaptations and reinventions, the history of the book, media studies, and Digital Humanities

PUBLICATIONS

Book

2024 *The Collapse of Heaven: The Taiping Civil War (1851-1864) and Chinese Literature and Culture (1850-1880)*, Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, March 2024

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

2025 "Global Ambitions and Local Water: A Study of *All Sounds Are Still*." *Literature and Modern China* (forthcoming).

2024 "Possibilities at the Formative Stage of the Vernacular Chinese Novel: A Study of *San Sui pingyao zhuan* 三遂平妖傳 (*Three Sui Quelling the Demon's Revolt*)," *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, January 2024

2021 "Duochong tazhe: Taiping tianguo shiqi de shenfen zhengzhi" 多重它者：太平天國時期的身份政治. *Lingnan Journal of Chinese Studies* 嶺南學報 13 (2021): 1-18.

2020 "The Multitude of Otherness During the Taiping Civil War." *Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture* 7.1 (April 2020): 215-31.

- 2019 “Stitching Words to Suture Wounds: A Manuscript Diary from the Taiping Civil War (1851–1864).” *Late Imperial China* 40.2 (December 2019): 141–82.
- 2018 “Authenticating the Renewed Heavenly Vision: *The Taiping Heavenly Chronicle (Taiping tianri)*.” *Frontiers of History in China* 13.2 (July 2018): 173–92.
- “Violence and the Evolving Face of *Yao* in Taiping Propaganda,” *Journal of Religion and Violence* 6.1 (May 2018): 127–44.

Book Chapters

- 2024 “Simi shuxie” 私密書寫 (Private Writings). In *Jin sanbai nian zhongguo wenxue shi* (Chinese Literary History in the Past Three Hundred Years), invited submission by Academia Sinica, in Chinese), forthcoming.
- 2017 “A Chinese Utopia Called the Heavenly Kingdom.” In *Harvard New Literary History of Modern China*, edited by David Der-Wei Wang, 79–85. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2017.

Book Review

- 2025 Review of Haun Saussy, *The Making of Barbarians: Chinese Literature and Multilingual Asia*. Princeton: University Press, 2022, *Bulletin of the Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy Academia Sinica*, forthcoming.

Digital Project

- 2023 “A Study of “Zheng He’s Voyages to the Western Sea” [Link: <https://digitalhumanities.hkust.edu.hk/sanbao-zhenghe-voyages/>]

Manuscripts in Preparation

- In Progress “The Liminality of Xu Wei’s *Bense* in Drama Theory and Practice” (article for peer-reviewed journal)
- In Progress “Technologies and Poetics of Late Imperial Chinese Epistolary Culture” (article for peer-reviewed journal)
- In Progress “Seaborne Visions: Early Nineteenth-Century Missionary Publications in Chinese” (article for peer-reviewed journal)
- In Progress “Buddhist Influences on the Linguistic Style of Early Chinese Novel: A Study of *Zheng He’s Voyages to the Western Sea*” (article based on digital humanities project for peer-reviewed journal)

SELECTED GRANTS AND HONORS

- 2023 General Research Fund
Hong Kong Research Grants Council
- Digital Humanities Seed Fund
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- 2021 China-US Scholars Program (declined)
Carnegie Corporation of New York, Ford Foundation, Harvard-Yenching Institute, Henry Luce Foundation, and Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- 2019 Early Career Scheme
Hong Kong Research Grants Council
- 2017 New Faculty Start-up Grant
City University of Hong Kong
- Grants for Cultural Exchanges with Italy
Italian Cultural Institute
- 2016 Research Grant (Nanjing) Summer
The Asia Center, Harvard University
- Graduate Student Council Conference Grant
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University
- 2015 Dissertation Completion Fellowship 2015–2016
Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University
- Pre-dissertation Summer Travel Grant (declined)
Henry Luce Foundation/ACLS Program in China Studies
- Summer Research Grant (Taipei) 2015
The Fairbank Center, Harvard University
- Summer Research Grant (Japan) 2015
The Asia Center, Harvard University
- 2014 Summer Research Grant (Nanjing) 2014
The Fairbank Center, Harvard University
- 2013 Yun-Cheng Sa Memorial Fellowship 2013
Harvard University
- 2006 Chun Tsung Undergraduate Research Endowment Grant 2006
Fudan University

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2024 “*The Collapse of Heaven: The Taiping Civil War (1851–1864) and Chinese Literature and Culture (1850–1880)*”
University of Hawai‘i at Manoa (November)
- “*The Collapse of Heaven: The Taiping Civil War (1851–1864) and Chinese Literature and Culture (1850–1880)*”
New York University Shanghai (May)
- “Lishi feixu zhi shang de ziwo yu shibian xiangxiang: Taiping tianguo zhanzheng yu *Hua yue hen*” (in Chinese)
Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (May)
- 2023 “Flights of Fancy on the Taiping War (1851–1864)”
Arizona State University, Phoenix (April)
- 2018 “Phantasmagoric Escapades in Strange Tales of the Nineteenth Century” (in Chinese)
Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (December)
- “Everyday Violence in the 19th Century’s Greatest Civil War: A Diarist’s Perspective on the Taiping Conflict”
Dartmouth College, New Hampshire (March)

Conferences, Panels, and Talks Organized

- 2024 “Rereading Su Dongpo, Thirty Years Later”
By Ronald Egan (Harvard University), HKUST (November)
- “The Confucius Chronicles”
By Wai-yee Li (Harvard University), HKUST (November)
- “Letter-Writing Guides in Modern China”
By Cai Danni (Hangzhou Normal University), HKUST (October)
- “Networks of Poems and Books: Leveraging Network Analysis for Studying Premodern Chinese Poetry Anthologies”
By Chen Jing (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University), HKUST (July)
- “Dang Huanghe fanlan shi” (in Chinese)
By Hsu Hui-lin (Chinese University of Hong Kong), HKUST (April)
- “The Literary Lives of Yakshas in Pre-modern Chinese Literature” (in Chinese)
By Liu Chiung-yun (Academia Sinica), HKUST (May)

Behold the Human
Biennial Annual Conference of Association of Chinese and Comparative Literature, Hong Kong (June)

2021 The Meaning of Text(s)
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Virtual Conference), Hong Kong (May)

2015 “Ways of Writing the Taiping Civil War”
Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference (AAS), Chicago, Illinois (March)

Forming and Redefining Belles-Lettres
Harvard Graduate Student Conference on Pre-modern Chinese Literature, Cambridge, Massachusetts (March)

2014 Oxford Handbook of Classical Chinese Literature, 1000 BCE-900 CE, Workshop
Harvard University (December)

2013 Peripheral Vision in Chinese Literature and Drama Conference in Honor of Professor Wilt L. Idema
Harvard University (November)

Conference Presentations

2025 “Modularized Interpersonal Letters: A Study of *The Brocade Sack of Letters*”
Annual Conference of Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Columbus, Ohio (March)

2024 “*Hua yue hen zhong de shi yu shi*” (in Chinese)
International Conference on Chinese Literature of Archaic Style, Hong Kong (December)

“The Liminality of Xu Wei’s ‘Bense’ Theory”
Theories of Ming-Qing Performance, Beijing (December)

“Possibilities at the Formative Stage of the Vernacular Chinese Novel” (in Chinese)
Conference on Vernacular Chinese Literature, Guangzhou (October)

“Cong lishi dao jingdian de kenengxing” (in Chinese)
Conference on History and Canon in Nanjing University, Nanjing (October)

“*Hua yue hen zhongde xugou yu xianshi*” (in Chinese)
Conference on Things and Meaning in Traditional Chinese Literature, Hong Kong (June)

“Zha tie yu dayi: wan Ming xiaoshuo zhong de shuxin wenhua” (in Chinese)
Biennial Conference of Association of Chinese and Comparative Literature, Hong Kong (June)

“Possibilities at the Formative Stage of the Vernacular Chinese Novel” (in Chinese)

Conference on History and Memories, Beijing (June)

“Movable Formulas’ and Household Encyclopedias in Late Imperial China”

Workshop at Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany (April)

“Markets, Media, and Mayhem: New Directions in Late Imperial Chinese Literature”
(roundtable discussion)

Annual Conference of Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Seattle, Washington (March)

2023 “Jianlou yu fanzhou: wan Ming wenren de qingdong kongjian jiangou” (in Chinese)
Academia Sinica, Taipei (December)

“The Death of My Talented Sister: Family Loss in Personal Accounts during the Taiping War (1851–1864)”

Workshop on Personal and Family Narratives in Late Imperial China, Hong Kong (June)

“Simi shuxie” (in Chinese)

Academia Sinica, Taipei (June)

2022 “The Death of My Talented Sister: Family Loss in Personal Accounts during the Taiping War (1851–1864)”

Annual Conference of Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Honolulu, Hawaii (March)

2021 “Private Writings”

Conference on Material Mediation of Emotions and Thoughts in Early Modern China, Hong Kong (May)

“Possibilities at the Formative Stage of Vernacular Chinese Novel: A Study of *San Sui pingyao zhuan*”

Zoom Conference on Meaning of Text(s), Hong Kong (May)

2019 “Admonishing the Age: Good Words Imported”

Conference on Indigeneity, Nationhood, and Migrations of the Book, Amherst, Massachusetts (July)

“*Bikou riji*: A Manuscript of Personal Accounts from the Taiping Civil War (1851–1864)”

Conference on New Cultural History and Chinese Literary Studies, Hong Kong (May)

“Emulation, Rejuvenation, and Canonization: Mass Dissemination of Stories about the Strange”

Conference on Understanding Media, Ann Arbor, Michigan (April)

2018 “The Historical Burden of Phantoms”

Conference on Literary Fantasy and Its Discontents, Taipei, Taiwan (November)

“Reinventing the Taiping: A Veteran’s Fantastic Visions”

Annual Conference of Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Washington, D.C. (March)

- 2017 “Revisiting the Wreckage from Everyday Violence: The Taiping Civil War and *Diary on Escape from the Bandits*”
Conference on Weaponry and War, Taipei, Taiwan (November)
- “Fantasy Disseminated: The Drama of Politics and Religion in the Taiping Rebellion,”
Annual Conference for American Academy of Religion (AAR), Boston, Massachusetts (November)
- “Authorship and the Implosion of Late Imperial Propaganda”
Conference on The Author—Wanted, Dead or Alive, Florence, Italy (June)
- 2016 “Karmic Ties in a Dream: Poeticizing the Disintegration of an Empire”
Annual Meeting of American Oriental Society Western Branch, Portland, Oregon (October)
- “Malleable Qing Propaganda and the Taiping Civil War: A Study of Miracle Revelation of Imperial Instruction”
Institute of Chinese Studies Young Scholars Forum, Hong Kong (May)
- “Arguing for a Renewed Heavenly Vision: The Taiping Heavenly Chronicle”
Harvard-Yale Conference in Book History, New Haven, Connecticut (April)
- 2015 “Ordering Time in *The Taiping Heavenly Chronicle*”
Annual Conference of Association for Asian Studies (AAS), Chicago, Illinois (March)
- “Constructing an Ironic Epic in the Ruins of History—A Case Study of Chapter 48 in *Hua yue hen*”
Graduate Student Conference on Forming and Redefining Belles-Lettres, Cambridge, Massachusetts (March)
- 2014 “Authorizing the Taiping War”
New England Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, Storrs, Connecticut (October)
- 2013 “What Was a Seventeenth-Century Author?”
Peripheral Vision Conference, Cambridge, Massachusetts (November)
- 2011 “Recycling History—The Legend of Peach Blossom Fan (*Taohua Shan*)”
Chinese Cinema Today Conference, New York (October)

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER/ RADIO INTERVIEWS

- 2024 “The Collapse of Heaven: the Taiping Civil War and Chinese Literature and Culture, 1850-1880.” <https://newbooksnetwork.com/the-collapse-of-heaven-2>
Interview for New Book Network Channel (June)

2022 “Bikou riji: Taiping tianguo zhanzheng yu riji shougao” (in Chinese)
Hong Kong Education Bureau, Hong Kong (January)