

Lawrence L. C. Zhang 張樂翔

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor	2016 – Jul 2022
Associate Professor	Jul 2022 – Present

Division of Humanities
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Hong Kong, China

Post-Doctoral Fellow	2013 – 2016
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Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences
The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China

Visiting Assistant Professor	2011 – 2012
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Chinese Civilisation Centre
City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China

Assistant Professor	2010 – 2011
Instructor	2009 – 2010

History Department and Asian Studies Program
Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, USA

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Ph.D in History and East Asian Languages, Harvard University	2010
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Dissertation Title: Power for a Price: Office Purchase and State Elite Relations in Qing China

B.A. in Economics and History with honors, Oberlin College	2001
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RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

“*Shangyu tiaoli* and the Study of Qing Central Government Legislative Agenda.” Co-authored with Li Chong, *Late Imperial China* 44:2, (Dec 2023), pp. 1-23.

Power for a Price: The Purchase of Government Appointments in Qing China. Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, 2022.

Honorable mention – Joseph Levenson Prize (pre-1900) from Association for Asian Studies

“Locating Meritocracy in Early Modern Asia: Qing China and Mughal India.” Co-authored with Sudev Sheth in *Making Meritocracy in China and India*, eds. Michael Szonyi and Tarun Khanna. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.

“Becoming Healthy: Changing Perception of Tea’s Health Benefits.” In *Moral Foods: The Construction of Nutrition and Health in Modern Asia*, edited by Angela K. C. Leung and Melissa L. Caldwell. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press, 2019.

“A Foreign Infusion: The Forgotten Legacy of Japanese *chadō* in Modern Chinese Tea Arts.” *Gastronomica: The Journal of Critical Food Studies* 16:1 (Spring 2016), pp. 53-62.

“The Legacy of Success: Office Purchase and State-Elite Relationship in Qing China.” *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 73:2, (Dec 2013), pp. 259-97.

BOOK REVIEWS

R. Kent Guy, *Three Impeachments: guo Xiu and the Kangxi Court* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2024), *Journal of Chinese History* (Nov 2025).

En Li, *Betting on the Civil Service Examinations: The Lottery in Late Qing China* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2023), *Journal of Asian Studies* 81:1 (Spring 2025), pp. 538-39.

Markman Ellis, Richard Coulton, and Matthew Mauger, *Empire of Tea: The Asian Leaf that Conquered the World* (London: Reaktion Books, 2015), *Gastronomica: The Journal of Critical Food Studies* 17:3 (Fall 2017), pp. 108-09.

Alexander Woodside, *Lost Modernities: China, Vietnam, Korea, and the Hazards of World History* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006), *Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies* 26.4 (2007): 52-53.

EXTERNAL GRANTS

PI: General Research Fund #16602123: “Neither Green nor Black: The History of the Tea Industry in Taiwan”, HKD \$360,000, Research Grants Council, Hong Kong, 2023.

PI: General Research Fund #16602118: “Money and Politics in Late Imperial China: Office purchase and career entry, promotion, and exit in the Qing civil service”, HKD \$363,400, Research Grants Council, Hong Kong, 2018.

PI: General Research Fund – ECS #26600717: “Marriage Patterns and National Networks of Chinese Elites in the Qing dynasty,” HKD \$366,000, Research Grants Council, Hong Kong, 2017.

Co-I: CRF #C7011-16G “Making Modernity in East Asia – Technologies of Everyday Life, 19th – 21st Centuries,” PC Angela K. C. Leung, HKD \$6,626,216, Research Grants Council, Hong Kong, 2017.

PRESENTATIONS/MEDIA APPEARANCES

“Planting New Roots: Making Black Tea in Colonial Taiwan.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting 2026, Vancouver BC. 15th March, 2026.

“Outsourcing War: Kangxi Period office purchase and the financing of conquest”, *Strange Synchronicities and Familiar Parallels in Asia, 1600-1800: Joseph Fletcher’s Plane Ride Revisited*, Conference 2, Empires in Practice. UCLA. 6th March, 2026.

“外包的戰爭：康熙年間的捐納制度與軍事融資機制”, International Conference on Ming-Qing Studies, Academia Sinica, 10-12th December, 2025.

“《上諭條例》與清代的立法議程”, Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, 26th June, 2025.

“清代捐納制度的「任官惟賢」”, Central Chinese Normal University, 31st July, 2024.

“Money Talks: Records of Income of Late Qing Official Wang Wenshao”, Annual Meeting for the Association for Asian Studies, March 16th, 2024.

“Teaching Farmers How to Farm: Taiwan and Tea Production in the 20th Century,” *Tea in and After Empire* virtual workshop. 12th January, 2024.

“Power for a Price: The Purchase of Official Appointments in Qing China”, New Books Network, Dec 4th 2023. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/power-for-a-price>

“王有齡與胡雪巖的官商合作：清代捐納制度”, RTHK Radio 1, September 23rd 2023.

“任官惟賢與近代中國”, Institute for History and Philology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Republic of China, 24th July 2023.

“Power for a Price: The Purchase of Official Appointments in Qing China”, East Asian Program, Princeton University, May 8th 2023.

“Meritocracy and Early Modern China”, China and the World: Undergraduate Research Conference, Duke Kunshan University, April 28-29th 2023.

“Tea Stories”, Department of Modern and Classical Languages, George Mason University, March 8th, 2023.

“Lawrence Zhang on Ping-ti Ho, *The Ladder of Success in Imperial China: Aspects of Social Mobility, 1368-1911*” on Old China Books Podcast with Micah Muscolino.

“A Foreign Infusion: The Forgotten Japanese Legacy in Chinese Tea Arts”, Royal Asiatic Society, Shanghai, 24th August 2021.

“Teaching Farmers How to Farm: Skills and Knowledge in the Taiwan Tea Industry in the 20th Century,” Modern Chinese Foodways Conference, Emory University, April 22-25, 2021.

“We are All a Family: Elite Marriages in the Late Qing,” in organized panel “Branching Out: Studying Social Networks in Qing China and Chosun Korea.” Annual Meeting for the Association for Asian Studies, March 2021.

“飲譽全球最工夫”，《歷史係咁話》 featured guest, RTHK Television, 20th October, 2020.

“When Smallholders Meet Plantations: Response to Foreign Competition in the East Asian Tea Industry,” Tea Culture(s): International Colloquium 2019, Ca’Foscari University of Venice, 8 November, 2019.

“When Smallholders Compete with Tea Estates: the Cases of pre-1945 China and Taiwan,” Making East Asian Foods: Technologies and Values, 19th to 20th Centuries, HKIHSS, University of Hong Kong, 30-31 May, 2019.

“科目能堪值幾錢”，《歷史係咁話》 featured guest, RTHK Television, 28th August, 2018.

“The Politics of Office Purchase and Status Inheritance in Qing China,” RC28, International Sociological Association Meeting, Seoul, Korea, 27 May 2018.

“The Meaning of Merit: Civil Service Examination and Office Purchase in Qing China,” HKUST Public Humanities Lecture Series, Museum of History, Hong Kong, 8 April, 2018.

“十九世紀初進士與捐納官員仕途初探”，中國人民大學 “縉紳錄” 學術工作坊, 13 January, 2018.

“十九世紀初進士與捐納官員仕途初探”，2017 中央研究院明清研究國際學術研討會, Taipei, Republic of China, 18 Dec, 2017.

“Comparison of Careers of Qing *jinshi* degree holders and office purchasers in early 19th century,” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, 2 Nov, 2017.

“Marriage Alliances and Betrothal Patterns in Qing Changshu,” Association for Asian Studies in Asia Meeting, Seoul, South Korea, June 26, 2017.

“Comparison of Careers of Qing *jinshi* Degree Holders and Office Purchasers in Early 19th Century,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Toronto, March 16, 2017.

“*Chayi* and *chadō*: Invention and Tradition in Modern Chinese Tea Practice,” HKUST Public Humanities Lecture Series, Museum of History, Hong Kong, November 6, 2016.

“Becoming Healthy: Changing Views on Tea in East Asia,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Seattle, April 1, 2016.

Paper discussant, International Conference on Traditional Chinese Coastal Cities and their Modern Transformations, Department of Chinese and History, City University of Hong Kong, June 16-17, 2015.

“The Toxic Infusion: The Ills of Drinking Tea,” International Conference on Food and Health, Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, The University of Hong Kong, December 15-16, 2014.

Chair and discussant of panel on “Institutions and Performance,” International Symposium on Law and Social Change in Ming-Qing China, Chinese University of Hong Kong, September 5-6, 2014.

“Reading Tea Leaves: How Taiwan and Fujian Tea Production Diverged in the Early 20th Century,” 2nd International Conference on East Asian Culture and International Relations, Hong Kong Baptist University, April 17, 2014.

“捐納制度與明清社會” Department of History, National Taiwan University, December 16, 2013.

“Multiple Ladders of Success: Office Purchase and Social Mobility during Late Imperial China,” Departmental Seminar, Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, The University of Hong Kong, December 11, 2013.

“Drink this, it’s good for you! The Historical Image of Tea as a Beneficial Drink,” European Society for Environmental History biannual conference, Ludwig-Maximilians University, August 21, 2013.

“Pass Me the Cup: Taiwan as Conduit in the Transmission of Tea Practices in East Asia,” China Interdisciplinary Lunchtime Seminar, Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, The University of Hong Kong, May 7, 2013.

“A Tea with Many Makers: Colonial Taiwanese Tea Industry and the Creation of Oriental Beauty Tea,” The 3rd International Symposium in Sinicization, Barbarization, Westernization, Hong Kong Baptist University, December 6, 2012.

“A Quintessential Invention: Genesis of a Cultural Orthodoxy in East Asian Tea Appreciation,” Symposium on “Rethinking Asia in the Age of Globalization, Hong Kong Baptist University, December 2, 2011.

“Examinations, Titles, and Wealth: New Perspectives on Meritocracy in Qing China,” Asian New Humanities Net Ninth Annual Meeting, Shanghai Jiaotong University, October 15, 2011.

《文化超現代》, RTHK Putonghua Radio, 18 September, 2011.

“Inheriting Wealth and Status: Sale of Offices and Elite Families in Qing China,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, March 27, 2010.

“Purchases of Public Offices by Elite Families in Changshu County of Jiangsu Province,” Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, April 25, 2009.

“官場中的商場與士大夫的抉擇,” Center for Chinese Studies, National Central Library, Taipei, Taiwan, December 17, 2007.

OTHER FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Co-I: Hsu Long-sing Research Fund, HKU	2015
Hang Seng Bank Golden Jubilee Fund for Research, HKU	2015
Hang Seng Bank Golden Jubilee Fund for Research, HKU	2014
Hang Seng Bank Golden Jubilee Fund for Research, HKU	2013
Small Project Funding, HKU	2013
Central Research Grant, City University of Hong Kong	2012
Start-up Grant for New Faculty, City University of Hong Kong	2012
Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University	2008 – 2009
Center for Chinese Studies Research Grant, National Central Library, Taiwan	2007
Shum Fellowship, Fairbank Center for East Asian Research, Harvard University	2006 – 2007
Fairbank Center Director’s Graduate Student Travel Fund, Harvard University	2005
Graduate Society Summer School Tuition Fellowship, Harvard University	2004

SELECTED COURSES TAUGHT

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

HUMA1000 – Cultures and Values

HUMA1440 – Modern China

HUMA2520 – History of Tea in East Asia

HUMA5510 – Pre-Modern Chinese History

HMMA5001 – Fundamentals of Chinese Culture

The University of Hong Kong

SINO2004 – Research Methods for China Studies

City University of Hong Kong

GE1501 – Chinese Civilisation: History and Philosophy

Bowdoin College

Asian Studies 028/History 028 – First-year seminar: History of Tea in East Asia

Asian Studies 273/History 277 – Hong Kong and Taiwan's Colonial Pasts

Asian Studies 274/History 274 – Painters, Philosophers, and Politicians: The Chinese Literati

Asian Studies 279/History 279 – Rebellions and Revolutions in China

Asian Studies 276/History 276 – Origins of Imperial China: Antiquity to the Tang Dynasty

Asian Studies 275/History 275 – The Making of Modern China

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

Visiting Scholar

2007

Center for Chinese Studies, National Central Library, Taipei, Taiwan

Visiting Scholar

2006 - 2007

Institute of History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing, China

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

EXCO Committee, Division of Humanities

2019-Present

Selection Committee on Michael Gale Teaching Award

2018

Bowdoin College

Working group on academic honesty and citation

2010 - 2011

Faculty search committee, China politics

2010 - 2011