

Zhiwen Hu

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EDUCATION

University of Georgia

Ph.D., Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies

Athens, USA

May 2024

Dissertation: *Cofutures of Creativity: Posthuman Creation in Science Fiction*

Committee: Prof. Thomas Cerbu (Chair); Prof. Isiah Lavender III; Prof. Dezso Benedek

Beijing Language and Culture University

M.A., English Language and Literature

Beijing, China

July 2015

Thesis: "Dispelling Claustrophobia: John Fowles's Deconstruction of Metaphorical Space in *The Magus*"

Hunan University of Commerce

B. A., English

Changsha, China

June 2012

RESEARCH/TEACHING INTERESTS

Comparative Science Fiction; Posthumanism; Contemporary Chinese Literature; Asian American Literature; Afrofuturism; African American Literature; Environmental Humanities; Science and Literature

AWARDS/GRANTS/HONORS

Nominated for The Excellence in Teaching Award (UGA), university-wide award for teaching excellence (2022)

UGA Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (2021)

Identified as an instructor who has contributed greatly to students' career development and success by UGA Career Center (2021)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Lecturer II)

Hong Kong, China (2026.09 - Present)

Chinese Literary History (HMMA 5003)

Asian Cinema, Global Cinema (HUMA 2205)

Chinese and Global Futures: Comparative Perspectives on Chinese Speculative Fiction (HUMA 6001C)

Colgate University (Visiting Assistant Professor of Chinese)

Hamilton, NY (2024.07 – 2026.06)

Elementary Chinese & Intermediate Chinese (CHIN 122 & CHIN 201)

China through Literature and Film (CHIN 222)

Chinese Films and Media (CHIN 303 A Films and Media)

Introduction to Chinese Civilization (CORE C165 China)

University of Georgia (TA and Instructor of Record)

Athens, GA (2018.08 – 2024.05)

Elementary to Advanced Levels of Chinese (Instructor of Record)

- Taught all levels of Chinese at UGA
- Interviewed students for Chinese placement
- Helped to coordinate the Chinese program at UGA

UGA Writing Intensive Program (Teaching Assistant)

- Attended training workshops offered by UGA Writing Intensive Program on a weekly basis
- Designed writing assignments and activities with instructors of writing intensive courses

Literature and Medicine (Instructor of Record)

This course investigates the representations of medicine, disease, and medical science in speculative fiction. Through a comparative study of literary texts from various cultures, it aims to reveal the heterogeneity in the medical discourse. From Afrofuturistic stories like Octavia Butler's "Speech Sound" to Chinese science fiction like Xia Jia's "Tongtong's Summer," the texts chosen for this course guide students to embrace literary diversity and inclusivity.

Children's Literature (Instructor of Record)

From a transnational and multi-ethnic perspective, this course explores issues like gender identity, ableism, and cultural hybridity to show the diversity of children's literatures from different cultures. Many of the texts in this course have been adapted for Disney films (for example, *Mulan*), so it is also a case study of how Disney uses and abuses children's literature to commercialize diversity.

East Asian Civilization II (Instructor of Record)

This course is an introduction to East Asian popular culture. Students will have a panoramic view of the contemporary culture in China, Japan and South Korea through literature, films, animations, music videos, and social media. Moreover, this course expects students to draw on the knowledge of their own culture to conduct comparative study of cultural differences, which will be conducive to improving cultural literacy and intercultural communications.

Science Fiction and Fantasy (Instructor of Record)

This course focuses on science fiction and fantasy written by authors from various cultural backgrounds in different time periods, exploring topics like speculative temporality, posthuman bodies, queer Afrofuturism, and technological filial piety and so on. Students are expected to develop a general understanding of this literary genre after reading their works.

Publications

Hu, Zhiwen. "The Future Hijacked by Capital: Posthuman Exploitation in Science Fiction." (资本绑架的未来: 科幻小说中的后人类剥削). *World Science Fiction Frontier* [世界科幻动态]. (2025 third issue).

Hu, Zhiwen. Review of *Chinese Thirdspace: The Paradox of Moderate Politics, 1946–2020*, by Jianmei Liu. *Chinese Literature and Thought Today*. (2026 summer issue)

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

"The Futurity of Transhuman Surgery: Medical Technologies of Mind-Uploading/Downloading in *Pantheon*," at Science Fiction Research Association (SFRA) Annual Conference (2026.06)

"From *Liezi* to the Spring Festival Gala: The Fictionality and Reality of Robot Dancers in China" at New York Conference on Asian Studies (2025.10)

"AI and Solarpunk Utopia: Biocomputing in 'Wan Li in the Peng Cheng City'" at Speculative Fiction Across Media Conference (2025.09)

"The Poetics of Futuristic Caring: Filial Piety, Senior Care and Digital Parenting in Chinese and Sinophone Science Fiction" Invited guest lecturer at the University of Houston, hosted by Melody Li (2024.10).

"Authentic Paternity and Affected Affection: Simulated Childrearing in Zhao Haihong's 'Baby, Baby, I Love You'" at "Freedom and Authenticity" 5th International Interdisciplinary Conference (2023.08)

"Technology as the Rein: Control Mechanism and Posthuman Contingency in Science Fiction" at Northeast Popular Culture Association 2023 Virtual Conference (2023.10)

"Problematizing the Boundary of the Body: Posthuman Body, Transhuman Ambition and the Future of Humanity" on the webinar "International Science Day at Cherkassy National University" (2022.10)

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Tongfang Knowledge Network Technology Co., Ltd.

Academic Editor (English)

Beijing, China

2015.06 – 2016.06

LANGUAGES

Chinese (native); English (near native); French (intermediate); German (intermediate)

SKILLS

Social media management (Channels on YouTube, Tiktok & Red Book); Online teaching; Video editing.