

SHELLEN XIAO WU
Department of History

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2019 – **University of Tennessee**, Knoxville, *Chair of Asian Studies Program*
2016 – Present **University of Tennessee**, Knoxville, *Associate Professor*, History
2011 – 2016 **UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE**, Knoxville, *Assistant Professor*, History
2010 – 2011 **BATES COLLEGE**, Lewiston, Maine
Visiting Assistant Professor, History

EDUCATION

Sept. 2010 **PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**, Princeton, New Jersey
Ph.D., Department of History
Dissertation Title: “Underground Empires: German Imperialism and the
Introduction of Modern Geology in China, 1860-1919.”
Academic Advisor: Benjamin Elman
Dissertation Committee: Susan Naquin, Anson Rabinbach &
Harold James
Outside Examiner: Fa-ti Fan (SUNY Binghamton)

May 2005 **PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**, Princeton, New Jersey
M.A., Department of History

May 2002 **HARVARD COLLEGE**, Cambridge, Massachusetts
B.A., magna cum laude, History & Literature

FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS

2016—2018 Fifth Cohort of the **Public Intellectual Program**, National Committee on US-
China Relations.

2016 – 2017 **National Humanities Center**, Residential Fellowship, Research Triangle, NC

December 2014 **Convocation Award for New Research in the Arts and Humanities**,
University of Tennessee

2013 – 2014 **Henry Luce Foundation/ American Council of Learned Societies Program in
China Studies** postdoctoral fellowship

2013 **ACLS / AMERICAN RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES IN CHINA**, DECLINED.

Summer 2012 **Professional Development Award, University of Tennessee**

2008 – 2009 **HAROLD W. DODDS FELLOWSHIP, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**

2007 – 2008 **FULBRIGHT IIE FELLOWSHIP** for research in China

June 2005 **GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE**, Two-week summer seminar in Germany:
Introduction to archives and paleography

2003 – 2004 **MELLON FELLOWSHIP** for Graduate Studies

BOOK PROJECTS

Empires of Coal: Fueling China's Entry into the Modern World Order, 1860-1919 (Weatherhead East
Asian Institute Publication series, Stanford University Press, 2015).

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“Global Frontiers and the Making of Modern China,” current book project.

“The Science of Annihilation: A Global History of Military Science,” tentative title for second new book project.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“The Search for Coal in the Age of Empires: Ferdinand von Richthofen’s Odyssey in China, 1860-1920,” *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 119, No. 2 (April 2014), 339-362.

“Mining the Way to Wealth and Power: The Late Qing Reforms of Mining Law, 1895-1911,” *The International History Review*, Vol. 32, Issue 3 (September 2012), 581-599.

“Xing An: A Contested Borderland,” module for the digital humanities project *Bodies and Structures* <https://scalar.chass.ncsu.edu/bodies-and-structures/shing-an-tunken-landing-page>

“From Berlin to Chongqing: *Geopolitik* in the Age of Global War,” Joanne Cho and David Crowe ed., *Germany and China: Transnational Encounters since the Eighteenth Century* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).

With Fa-ti Fan, “Modern Science in China” Chapter in *Cambridge History of Science*, Vol. 8, *Modern Science in National, Transnational, and Global Context*. Forthcoming.

“History Matters: Contingency in the Creation of Ecologically Unequal Exchange,” *Ecologically Unequal Exchange: Environmental Injustice in Comparative and Historical Perspective*, R. Scott Frey, Paul Gellert, and Harry Dahms eds. (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), Chapter 9.

“Engineering Empire: German Influence on Chinese Industrialization, 1880-1925,” Chapter 6 in *Explorations and Entanglements: Germans in Pacific Worlds from the Early Modern Period to World War I*, Frank Biess, Ulrike Strasser, and Hartmut Berghoff eds., Berghahn Press, 2018.

“Geography and the Reshaping of the Modern Chinese Empire.” Chapter 7 in *Empire and Social Sciences: Global Histories of Knowledge*. Jeremy Adelman ed. Bloomsbury Press, 2019.

Review Essay: “Science for the People: Science in the Making of Modern China,” *Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review*. (Dec., 2016): 173-185.

Review Essay: “The Silent Half Speaks: Women in the Making of Chinese Modernity,” *Journal of Chinese History*, Vol. 2, No.1 (Jan. 2018), 203-210.

RECENT CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Jul. 2019 “全球视野下的屯垦” paper delivered in Chinese for 近代中国的民众、民生与民风暨第八届中国近代社会史国际学术研讨会, Taiyuan, Shanxi, China.

Nov. 2018 “Letters from the Edge: How Geographers Won the War and Lost the Struggle,” paper for *How Maoism was Made* International Conference hosted by the British Academy in London.

Jul. 2018 圖 workshop at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science.

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- Mar. 2018 Annual Association of Asian Studies Conference in Washington, D.C., presentation on “*Kaifa, Kaiken, Kaifang: Nature and Development on the Frontiers in Republican China.*”
- Apr. 2017 Workshop on “Knowledge Production in Twentieth Century China and Beyond,” Columbia University, presentation on “Cultivating Agricultural Knowledge on the Frontiers, 1920-1960.”
- Mar. 2017 Global Asias 4 Conference, Penn State University, presentation on “The Geopolitical Making of Modern China.”
- Mar. 2017 Invited Talk at Fairbank Center for China Studies, Harvard University, Modern China Lecture Series, “The Significance of the Frontier in Twentieth Century China.”
- Oct. 2016 Invited Talk at Northwestern University, Science in Human Culture Seminar Series, “The Endless Frontiers of Science in Twentieth Century China.”
- Aug. 2016 Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Historical Society for Twentieth Century China joint conference on “Modern China in World Affairs: Interaction and Mutual Influence” in Beijing, China, presentation on “WWII in Asia and the Fashioning of a Chinese Geopolitical View.”
- Mar. 2016 Annual Association of Asian Studies Conference in Seattle, Presenter and Panel Organizer, “Cultivating the Frontiers: Agricultural Knowledge, Modernization, and the State in Western China, 1800-1960.”
- Mar. 2016 Invited Talk at Johns Hopkins University, Department of History of Science and Technology, pre-circulated paper, “Geography at the Frontiers of Science: Geopolitics in Twentieth Century China.”

COURSES TAUGHT

- Hist 499: Coal, Dams, and the Atom: Powering the Modern World (Senior Research Seminar)
- Hist 390: History of China from 1600 to the Present
- Hist 391: Modern Chinese Intellectual History: In Search of China’s Place in the World
- Hist 373: East Asian Modern: Creating New Identities in the Twentieth Century (Topics Course, Fall 2011)
- Hist 373: The Making of Modern China on Film (Topics Course, Fall 2012)
- Hist 262: World History from 1400: Science and Technology in the Making of the Modern World
- Hist 511: Teaching World History (graduate level)
- Hist 562: Transnational Currents in 20th Century Chinese History (graduate level)
- Hist 562: Modern Chinese History—State Formation (graduate level)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Manuscript reviewer for University of Chicago Press, Columbia University Press, Stanford University Press, *American Historical Review*, *Journal of Chinese History*, *Science in Context*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, *Modern China*, *Twentieth Century China*, *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*, *Harvard Journal of*

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Asiatic Studies, the Diplomatic History Review, Journal of Agricultural History, and Frontiers of History.

- 2014 – Co-founder of professional networking group for women in Asian Studies: Gender Equality in Asian Studies
- 2012 – 2014 Treasurer / Secretary for the Historical Society for Twentieth Century China

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2017—2018 UTK Faculty Senate senator and member of Research Council
- 2017—2018 Head Advisory Committee, History Department
- 2015—2016 UTK Faculty Senate senator and member of Research Council
- 2015—2016 Graduate Committee, History Department
- 2014—2015 Graduate Committee, History Department
- 2014—2015 Head Advisory Committee, History Department
- 2012 – 2013 Department Head Search Committee, History Department, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- 2012 – 2013 Member of Search Committee for Pre-modern Chinese History position, University of Tennessee
- 2012 – 2013 Graduate Committee

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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- Chinese
 - Japanese
 - Classical Chinese
 - Reading knowledge of French
 - German
 - Beginner’s Russian

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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- American Historical Association
 - History of Science Society
 - Association for Asian Studies
 - German Studies Association