

YASSER ALI NASSER

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Fall 2024 - Assistant Professor in Modern Chinese History
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

EDUCATION

- 2024 (exp) Ph.D. in History, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Dissertation: "Creating 'New Asia': Sino-Indian Friendship and the Promise of Asian Solidarity in the Early Cold War, 1947-1962". Defended and passed with distinction October 30, 2023.
Exam Fields: Modern China, Modern South Asian Historiography, International History of East and Southeast Asia
Committee: Kenneth Pomeranz, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Mark Bradley, Jacob Eyferth
- 2017 MPhil in Modern Chinese Studies, University of Oxford
- 2015 Bachelor of Arts in History, University of Durham

AWARDS

- 2023 Philip A Kuhn Dissertation Prize in Chinese Studies
Provost Dissertation Completion Fellowship Prize
Past & Present Postdoctoral Fellowship in History at the Institute of Historical Research (declined)

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2023 Texas A&M University History Graduate Student Organization Travel Grant
American Historical Association Bernadotte Schmitt Grant
Committee on Southern Asian Studies Graduate Student Research Fund (UChicago)
CISSR Dissertation Support Fellowship (UChicago)
China-US Scholars Program Professional Development Fund
National Endowment for the Humanities Grant [listed as collaborator]
- 2022 Association of Asian Studies East and Inner Asia Council Research Travel Grant
Council on Library and Information Resources Pocket Burgundy Award
History Department Travel Grant (UChicago)
- 2021 American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Fellowship
China-US Scholars Program Fellowship
Council of American Overseas Research Centers Multi-Country Research Fellowship
Center for East Asian Studies Pre-Dissertation Research Grant in Chinese Studies (UChicago)
Center for International Social Science Research Rudolph Field Research Award (UChicago)
Committee on Southern Asian Studies COVID-19 Supplementary Research Award (UChicago)

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Council on Advanced Studies Graduate Student Research Grant (UChicago)

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship

Von Holst Prize Lectureship (UChicago)

- 2020 Social Sciences Division Doctoral Innovation Grant (UChicago)
Stanford East Asia Library Travel Grant
FLAS Summer for Japanese
John Wyatt Award for Language Learning
Nicholson Graduate Research Fellowship (UChicago)
Social Science Research Council Dissertation Proposal Development
Center for East Asian Studies Pre-Dissertation Research Grant in Japanese Studies (UChicago)
- 2019 Nicholson Graduate Research Fellowship (UChicago)
Committee on Southern Asian Studies Pre-Dissertation Research Grant (UChicago)
FLAS Summer for Japanese
Center for East Asian Studies Professional Training Grant for Japanese (UChicago)
Sinkler Archival Travel Grant Award (UChicago)
- 2018 FLAS Summer for Chinese (declined)
- 2017 FLAS Year for Chinese
Division of Social Sciences 5-Year Fellowship (UChicago)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journals

- 2024 “Mutual Benefits: Friendship with the PRC in India, Japan, and the United Kingdom, 1949-1962”
American Historical Review (under review)
- 2023 “‘To Defend the Peace of Asia’: The Chinese Peace Committee and Visions of Asian History, 1949-60”
Cold War History [Forthcoming, available at <https://doi.org/10.1080/14682745.2023.2207012>]
- “Making Friends and Making ‘Asia’: Sino-Indian Friendship, 1947-1957.”
Past & Present 261, no. 1 (November 2023)
- 2022 “Returning to ‘Asia’: Japanese Embraces of Sino-Indian Friendship, 1953-1962.”
International Journal of Asian Studies 19, no. 3 (July 2022)
- 2021 “Finding ‘Asia’ After Imperialism: Transnational Visions of the ‘Asian Woman’ in China and India, 1949- 1955.” *Twentieth Century China* 46, no. 1 (January 2021).

Edited Collections

- 2022 “‘Asia’ as a Third Way? J.C. Kumarappa and the Problems of Asian Nationalism.” In *The Lives of Cold War Afro-Asianism*, edited by Carolien Stolte and Su Lin Lewis. Leiden: Leiden University Press, 2022
121-142.

Public Humanities

- 2023 *Pocket Burgundy: The Chinese Archive: A Pocket Manual*

Book Reviews

- 2024 Review of Viren Murthy, *Pan-Asianism and the Legacy of the Chinese Revolution* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2024), *Journal of Asian Studies* (forthcoming)
- Review of Sarvani Gooptu, *Knowing Asia, Being Asian: Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism in Bengali Periodicals* (Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2022), *Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Asian Interactions* published online ahead of print), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1163/26662523-20240012>
- Review of Elisabeth Armstrong, *Bury the Corpse of Colonialism: The Revolutionary Feminist Conference of 1949* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2023), *Asian Journal of Social Science* vol. 52, no. 1 (March 2024): 57-58.
- 2023 Review of Tao Wang, *Isolating the Enemy: Diplomatic Strategy in China and the United States, 1953-1956* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2021), *PRC History Review* no. 63 (Oct 2023), 1-8.

Digital Content

- 2019 “Being an 'Asian Woman': The Fulian, the AIWC, and Hannah Sen.” *Afro-Asian Visions* (blog). August 26th, 2019.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago (Instructor of Record)

- 2021 The Making of Modern Asia: Nationalism and Imperialism in China, India, and Japan (Fall 2021) [self-designed]
Intro to Asian-American Studies (Fall 2021) [self-designed]

University of Chicago (Teaching Assistantships)

- 2021 Introduction to the Civilizations of South Asia II: Modern Era (Spring 2021)
Introduction to the Civilizations of East Asia III: Korea (Spring 2021)
Anthropology of Borders (Winter 2021)
- 2020 Introduction to the Civilizations of East Asia II: Japan (Winter 2020)
- 2019 China in East Asian Civilization I/II/III (Fall 2019 – Study Abroad)
Introduction to the Civilizations of East Asia III: Korea (Spring 2019)
- 2018 Everyday Maoism: Revolution, Daily Life, and Material Culture in Socialist China (Fall 2018)

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2024 “Just Friends: India, China, and the Promise of Asian Solidarity in the Cold War”
Nanjing University History Department, April 2024

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“Rethinking Friendship: India, China, and the Cold War”
Renmin University School of International Studies, April 2024

“Imagining the World Through Asia”
Africa-China Initiative Annual Symposium, Georgetown University, April 2024

2022 “China as a Third Way? Indian and Japanese Imaginings of an Asian Developmentalism”
Development Dreams from the Socialist South, University of Bristol, June 2022 (Zoom)

2021 “Making Friendship: Asian Solidarity in India and China, 1949-1956”
5th World Congress of Chinese Studies [第五屆世界漢學論壇] Witten, August 2021 (Zoom)

Panels Organized

2024 “Making Friends and Studying Friendship: International and Musical Histories of China and the Global South in the Early Cold War”, American Historical Association Annual Conference, January 2024

“Finding Friends of the Revolution: The People’s Republic of China’s Global Stature in the Cold War”
Association of Asian Studies Conference, March 2024

2023 “‘Debating ‘Development’: Planning Economies and Societies in Mid-Twentieth Century South Asia”
Annual Conference on South Asia, October 2023

2021 “‘A New Asia, A Resurgent Asia’: Early Cold War Asianism in China and India, 1949-1955”
Association of Asian Studies Conference, Seattle, February 2021 (Zoom)

2020 “The Chinese Revolution as an ‘Asian’ Event”
Historical Society for Twentieth-Century China Biennial Conference, Denver, August 2020 (Zoom)

Papers Presented

2024 “Just Friends: Sino-Indian Friendship and the Promises of Asian Solidarity, 1949-1962”
American Historical Association Annual Conference, January 2024

“Mutual Benefits: Friendship with the PRC in India, Japan, and the United Kingdom, 1949-1962”
Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, March 2024

“Dreaming of Peace: The Japanese Socialist Party and the Regional Quest for a Neutral Japan”
Asian Studies Conference Japan, July 2024

2023 “Defending Peace in Asia: Sino-Indian Friendship and the Promises of Solidarity, 1949-1962”
Texas A&M University History Graduate Student Organization Annual Conference, February 2023

“Developing Asian Land, Reforming Asian Labor: Sino-Indian Friendship and Economic Exchange”
Trans-Asia Graduate Student Conference, Madison, April 2023

“The Chinese Peace Committee and Visions of Asian History, 1949-60”
The Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Urbana-Champaign, September 2023

“Mutual Aid, Mutual Learning: Sino-Indian Friendship and Economic Development, 1949-1960”
Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, October 2023

- 2022 “Sino-Indian Friendship and Making a New Asia”
44th Annual Susman Graduate Conference, Rutgers University, April 2022 (Zoom)
- “Returning to ‘Asia’: Japanese Embraces of Sino-Indian Friendship”
Association of Asian Studies Conference, Honolulu, April 2022 (Zoom)
- 2021 “Sino-Indian Friendship and the Promises of Solidarity”
Reckoning with Empire, Yale University, November 2021 (Zoom)
- “Making Friends and Making Asia: The Aspirations of Sino-Indian Friendship, 1949-1956”
Cambridge Political History Workshop, June 2021 (Zoom)
- “Creating ‘New Asia’: Sino-Indian Friendship and its Global Afterlives, 1947-1962”
AAS-SSRC Dissertation Workshop, March 2021 (Zoom)
- 2020 “‘Asia’ as a Third Way? J.C. Kumarappa and the Problems of Asian Nationalism.”
Afro-Asian Networks Research Collective Workshop, December 2020 (Zoom)
- “Finding ‘Asia’ in the Cold War: Sino-Indian Friendship and Anti Imperialism, 1949-1955”
Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, October 2020 (Zoom)
- “Enlightened Modernity: Asian Buddhists and Anti-Imperialist Developmentalism”
Rise of Asia in Global History and Perspective Conference, Paris, France, February 2020
- 2019 “The Pedagogy of Asianism: The *Fulian* and Defending the Peace of Asia”:

Berkeley-Stanford Graduate Student Conference on Modern Chinese Humanities, Stanford University, Stanford, California, April 12th-13th
- Re-Envisioning Gender in China, China Academic Network on Gender Conference, Université libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium, February 14th-16th

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Present Freelance Translation (2016-)
Translation work for a firm based in Beijing on a seasonal basis, editing clients’ English and translating Mandarin documents
- UChicago Center for International Social Science Program Assistant
Contributing to regular digest of research updates, writing guide to international archival research, finding funding for the Center to provide for postdoctoral fellowships
- Editor and contributor for *Democratic Left* (2021-)
Regularly writing for the publication’s online and print editions, editing relevant articles on international issues.
- 2021 UChicago Grad Fellowships Office Intern
Advised Master’s students’ on fellowship opportunities, manage monthly newsletter on funding for STEM graduate students, and have designed spreadsheets and fellowship lists for students in a variety of disciplines

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S E R V I C E

2020 Conference Co-Organizer
Annual Northwestern-UChicago Asian Studies Graduate Symposium (cancelled due to coronavirus)

Volunteer Community Translator
Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community [華埠更好團結聯盟]

2019-20 Workshop Co-Coordinator
East Asia: Transregional Histories Workshop, University of Chicago

2016-17 MPhil Student Representative
China Center, University of Oxford

Peer Review

2023 *Critical Asian Studies*
Cold War History

2021 *International Relations and Diplomacy*

M E M B E R S H I P S A N D A F F I L I A T I O N S

2019- American Historical Association
Afro-Asian Networks Research Collective

2018- Association of Asian Studies

2016- Oxford China Center Alumni Society

L A N G U A G E S

English (native)

Hindu/Urdu (near-native, heritage speaker)

Mandarin Chinese (advanced)

Japanese (advanced)

Arabic (intermediate)

Bengali (elementary)

R E F E R E N C E S

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