

## Tamara T. Chin

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### Employment

- 2018- Associate Professor of Comparative Literature and East Asian Studies,  
Brown University
- 2014- Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, Brown University
- 2006-13 Assistant Professor, Department of Comparative Literature, University of  
Chicago

### Education

- 1998-2005 PhD University of California, Berkeley, Comparative Literature, May 2005  
(classical Chinese, Greek, Latin) with a Designated Emphasis in Women,  
Gender and Sexuality
- 1993-7 BA Harvard College, Classics and Literature, *magna cum laude*, June 1997  
with a *summa cum laude* recommendation in Literature

### Selected Honors and Fellowships

- Spring 2018 Brown University Faculty Fellowship at the Cogut Center for the Humanities  
(non-sabbatical teaching fellowship)
- 2017 International Convention of Asia Scholars Book Prize Ground-Breaking  
Subject Matter Accolade (biennial Asia Humanities competition)
- 2016 American Comparative Literature Association Harry Levin Prize (best first book)  
Association of Asian Studies Joseph Levenson Pre-1900 China Book Prize  
Honorable Mention
- 7/2011-2/12 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship  
Affiliated Fellow of Franke Institute, University of Chicago  
Franke Fellowship (declined)
- Fall 2008 Visiting Scholar, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York  
University
- 2005-6 (Teaching) Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of East Asian Studies, New York  
University
- 2005-8 University of Michigan Society of Fellows (declined)
- 2003-4 University of California Dissertation-Year Award  
Doreen B. Townsend Center Fellowship, UC Berkeley (declined)
- 2002 John J. Winkler Memorial Essay Prize in Classics (national graduate prize)
- 1999-2002 UC Regents Intern Fellowship
- 1998-9 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies
- 1997 John J. Winkler Memorial Essay Prize in Classics (national undergraduate  
prize)
- 1997 Harvard College Classics Prize

### Publications

#### Book

*Savage Exchange: Han Imperialism, Chinese Literary Style, and the Economic Imagination*  
(Harvard University Press, 2014)

Review article in *Journal of China Studies* 61 (July 2015): 325-340; Reviews in *Journal of  
the American Oriental Society* 135.2 (April–June 2015): 414-417; *Bulletin of the School of*

*Oriental and African Studies* 78.3 (October 2015): 646 – 648; *Journal of Asian Studies* 75.3 (August 2016): pp. 806-807.  
ACLA Harry Levin Prize; AAS Joseph Levenson Pre-1900 Book Prize Honorable Mention;  
ICAS Book Prize 2017 Ground-Breaking Subject Matter Accolade

#### Peer-reviewed Articles

- “China’s Afro-Asian ‘Silk Road’ and the Rhetoric of Connected History.” Under review.
- “Anti-Colonial Metrics: Homeric Time in an Indian Prison, ca. 1909.” *English Literary History* 81.3 (Fall 2014): 1029-1053. Internet republication (2019) in “Prosody: Alternative Histories,” Stanford ARCADE Project, curated by Natalie Gerber and Eric Weiskott. <https://arcade.stanford.edu/colloquies/prosody-alternative-histories>.
- “The Invention of the Silk Road, 1877.” *Critical Inquiry* 40, no.1 (Autumn 2013): 194–219.
- “Defamiliarizing the Foreigner: Sima Qian’s Ethnography and Han-Xiongnu Marriage Diplomacy.” *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 70.2 (December 2010): 311–54. [Translation into Turkish by Turkish Historical Society in progress]
- “Orienting Mimesis: Marriage and the *Book of Songs*.” *Representations* 94.1, Special Issue: *Mimesis East and West*, edited by Victoria Kahn (Spring 2006): 53–79.

#### Peer-reviewed Book Chapters

- “Colonization, Sinicization, and the Polyscriptic Northwest.” In *Oxford Handbook of Classical Chinese Literature (1000 BCE-900 CE)*, edited by Wiebke Denecke, Wai-ye Li and Xiaofei Tian, 477–493. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.
- “What is Imperial Cosmopolitanism? Revisiting *kosmopolitēs* and *mundanus*.” In *Cosmopolitanism and Empire: Universal Rulers, Local Elites and Cultural Integration in the Ancient Near East and Mediterranean*, edited by Myles Lavan, Richard Payne and John Weisweiler, 129–151. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.
- “Antiquarian as Ethnographer: Han Ethnicity in Early China Studies,” In *Critical Han Studies: The History, Representation, and Identity of China’s Majority*, edited by Thomas Mullaney, James Patrick Leibold, Stéphane Gros, and Eric Armand Vanden Bussche, 128–46; 287–299. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012.

#### Short Articles, Reviews, Commentaries

- “Review of Selçuk Esenbel, ed., *Japan on the Silk Road: Encounters and Perspectives of Politics and Culture in Eurasia*.” Forthcoming in *Journal of Japanese Studies* (2019).
- “Ptolemy and Richthofen.” In *The Silk Road*, edited by Susan Whitfield. London: Thames and Hudson. Forthcoming.
- “Commentary on [A. Azfar] Moin: Eurasian History, Comparative Literature, Haptology.” *Fragments: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Ancient and Medieval Pasts* Volume 3 (2013-14): 30-36.

#### Media

- “History of the Silk Road,” *The Forum*, BBC World Service radio interview, July 3, 2017. Podcast: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/forum>
- “Why does China want to revive the Silk Road?” *The Inquiry*, BBC World Service interview, June 22, 2017. Podcast: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p055y581>
- “One Belt, One Road: A Convergence of Civilizations? Insights from Tamara Chin.” Interview article with Mercy A. Kuo in *The Diplomat* (Asia-Pacific current affairs magazine), May 24, 2017: <https://thediplomat.com/2017/05/one-belt-one-road-a-convergence-of-civilizations/>
- “A German imperialist paved the way for China to revive the ‘Silk Road’” by Ilaria Maria Sala in *Quartz* (qz.com: digital news), May 13, 2017

“History of the Silk Road,” *Talking History* on Newstalk fm radio podcast discussion, Ireland, April 2017

“Savage Exchange book interview,” *New Books Network* podcast w/Carla Nappi, January 2015

### **Works in Progress**

*The Silk Road Idea: A History of Connected History* (book monograph)

*Readings in Early Chinese Economic Thought* (book of original translations, with annotations, prefaces, and introductory chapter)

### **Selected Talks & Conferences**

#### **2019**

TBA. Invited conference paper for “Economies of the Edge: Frontier Zone Processes at Regional, Imperial, and Global Scales (300 BCE- 300 CE),” Universität Freiburg, Germany, September 2019

TBA Invited lecture and graduate workshop, Department of East Asian Languages, University of Oregon, May 2019

“The Afro-Asian Silk Road.” Invited lecture, By Faculty For Faculty Provost’s Office series, Brown University, April 2019

#### **2018**

“Homo Geoeconomicus,” invited conference paper, Political Concepts, Brown University, December 2018

“The Modern Idea of an Afro-Asian ‘Silk Road’ (1955-71),” conference paper for “Africa-Asia, A New Axis of Knowledge,” co-organized by University of Dar es Salaam, International Convention of Asia Scholars, Association for Asian Studies in Africa, Tanzania, September 2018

“Zheng He in Mogadishu.” Invited paper, Ifriqiyya Colloquium, Columbia University, September 2018

“The Afro-Asian ‘Silk Road’ and the Rhetoric of Connected History,” invited lecture, co-sponsored by the Program in Chinese Literature and Culture, the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, and the Center for the Study of Social Difference, Columbia University, April 2018

“*Homo Geoeconomicus* and the Silk Road Spirit,” invited lecture, English Department, University of Toronto, March 2018

“*Homo Geoeconomicus* and the Silk Road Spirit,” invited workshop paper, “Borders, Mobilities and New Infrastructures in an Age of Shifting Power Configurations,” National University of Singapore, Asia Research Institute, and Max Weber Foundation, Singapore, January 2018

#### **2017**

“The Politics of Greek Meter in Modern Asia,” invited lecture, Classics Department, University of Washington, Seattle, November 2017

“*Homo Geoeconomicus* and the Silk Road Spirit,” invited conference paper for “Globalizations, Global, and World: History, Literary Criticism, and Spaces of the Present,” Northwestern University, Chicago, October 2017

“One Belt, One Road: China’s Indian Ocean World”; “Travelling Pasts: The Politics of Cultural Heritage in the Indian Ocean World,” invited conference paper, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany, May 2017

[“Modern Europe and Its Ancient Worlds: Legacies, Culture, Conflict,” invited participant, Kandersteg Seminar, Remarque Institute, NYU, Switzerland, April 2017. Declined]

Commentator on Nayanjot Lahiri, “Are Archaeological Discoveries like Scientific Discoveries? The Curious Case of the Indus Civilization.” Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University, May 2017

Panel organizer and Commentator, “Timescales of Displacement.” Mellon-Sawyer Workshop on Displacement at Brown University, April 2016

“Gender and Economic Productivity in Han China,” invited lecture, Columbia University Early China Seminar lecture series, April 2017

“Rethinking Cosmopolitanism in the Greco-Roman Mediterranean and Han China,” invited lecture, Global Antiquities, McGill University, Canada, February 2017

Co-organizer of “Worlds of Economic Thinking,” two-part comparative symposium on recent scholarship in Chinese economic history and thought, February & March 2017

## **2016**

“A Short History of the Silk Road Idea,” invited lecture, Center for Global Asia, NYU-Shanghai, China, December 2016

Co-organizer of “Killer Images,” two-day series of workshops & film screenings with Joshua Oppenheimer, November 2016

“Indian Ocean studies/Silk Road studies: A Response to Amrith’s *Crossing the Bay of Bengal*,” Mellon-Sawyer workshop on Displacement at Brown University, November 2016

“A Political History of the Silk Road Idea,” invited lecture, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, Rutgers University, October 2016

“Contact,” Mellon-Sawyer Workshop on Political Concepts on Displacement at Brown University, September 2016

“A Short History of the Silk Road Idea,” invited lecture, Inner Asian and Altaic Studies Lecture Series, Harvard University, September 2016

## **2015**

“The Afterlives of Han Historiography,” invited lecture, Classical Ideals and Historical Realities: Approaches to Chinese Pasts and Present Taiwan Studies Lectureship series, UCLA, October 2015

“The Silk Road Idea: The First Hundred Years (1877-1980),” invited conference paper, University of Nottingham and Durham University, UK, “The Silk Road Legacy in Asia’s Imagined Futures” conference, May 2015

“Money-like Objects in the Han,” invited paper, Qin-Han dynasty currency workshop, British Museum, May 2015

“Inventing Silk Road Studies,” invited lecture, East Asian Studies Colloquium series, New York University, April 2015

“Women’s Work,” East Asian Studies book colloquium on *Savage Exchange*, Brown University, April 2015

“On Arrighi’s Adam Smith in Beijing,” guest talk for Leela Gandhi’s seminar “Positivist Humanities and the Humanistic Social Sciences,” April 2015

“Afterlife Economies: Archaeological and Literary Contexts of Money in Early China,” Brown bag talk, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World, Brown University, April 2015

“Inventing Silk Road Studies,” invited lecture, Stanford University, April 2015

“Inventing Silk Road Studies,” invited lecture, Center for China Studies, UC Berkeley, April 2015

Commentator and chair for panel, “Translation and Chinese Literature in a Globalized Chinese World,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Chicago, March 2015

## **2014**

Oxford Handbook of Classical Chinese Literature Workshop, Harvard University, December 2014

“On Inventing Silk Road Studies,” invited paper, “Critical Silk Road Studies” Mellon Foundation John E. Sawyer Seminar, Georgetown University, December 2014

Respondent to Louisa Wei’s paper on Jessey Tsang’s *Flowing Stories* at Chinese Women’s Documentary Festival, Brown University, October 2014

“The Afterlife Economy,” invited conference paper, “Old Society, New Faith: Religious Transformation of China and Rome, ca. 100-600 CE” at Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), June 2014

“The Silk Road Cave and the Tower of Babel,” invited conference paper, “Crossing Worlds: Translation, Eventfulness, and the Political,” co-organized by the Barnard Center for Translation Studies, Columbia University’s Institute of Comparative Literature and Society and Tsinghua University, May 2014

“Empire, Ethics, and the Afterlife Economy,” invited conference paper, “Empire, Ethics, and Tradition: An International Conference on the Han Dynasty,” University of Pittsburgh, May 2014

“On Quantification,” invited conference paper, “Thinking, Minting, and Counterfeiting Money in Late Imperial China,” Harvard University, April 2014

“Monetary Inscription and Otherworld Economies,” AAS Annual Conference talk, Philadelphia, March 2014; “The Matter of Money: Coins, Silk, Digital Money, and the Politics of Chinese Foreign Exchange (200 BCE-2014 CE),” panel organizer, Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Philadelphia, March 2014

“The *Fu*’s Things,” invited talk, Columbia University, EALC department, December 2014

“The Invention of the Silk Road,” invited talk, Brown University, Comparative Literature, December 2014

### 2013

“A Counterhistory of Chinese Money,” invited talk, UCLA, Center for Chinese Studies, December 2013

“How to become an unproductive wife,” invited talk, Cornell University, Asian Studies Department, November 2013

“Money in the Guanzi’s *Qingzhong* chapters,” Society for the Study of Early China Annual Conference, San Diego, March 2013

“Abstraction,” class talk for Prof. Michael Bourdaghs’ graduate seminar “Philosophy of Money in Japanese Literature,” March 2013

“Market and Genre,” invited talk, New York University-Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, February 2013

“Richthofen’s Silk Road,” invited paper, Workshop on Re-enacting the Silk Road, sponsored by the Royal Geographical Society and the Department of Geography, Nottingham University, UK, February 2013

“The Han *fu* and the Material Politics of Sound,” invited talk, Cornell University Department of Comparative Literature, January 2013

“Silk Road Contact & Exchange,” invited workshop talk, Yale-NUS, Singapore, January 2013

“Chronology in Greece-China Studies,” response paper on Author meets Critics panel,

“Pushing the Geographical Boundaries of the Classics,” American Philological Association Annual Conference, Seattle, January 2013 (read by chair)

### 2012

“Economics and Literary Form,” invited participant at “China After Comparison Workshop,” Penn State University, September 2012

- “Ptolemy’s *Geography*, the *Hanshu*, and the Invention of the Silk Road 1877-1936,” invited participant at “Western Classics in Modern China” conference, Chicago Center in Beijing, May 2012
- “Money and the Morality of Exchange in the Han dynasty,” invited talk, Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, February 2012
- “The Invention of the Silk Road,” invited Horizons of Knowledge Lecture, Indiana University, January 2012

### **Before 2012**

- “The *fu* and the marketplace,” Historical Poetics Conference, University of Chicago, May 2011
- “Marriage in Han-Xiongnu Marriage Diplomacy,” invited talk sponsored by the China Humanities Seminar and Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University, Nov 2010
- “The Silk Road and the Stereoscope,” invited participant at Workshop on Making Meaning Through Myth East and West, Cornell University, July 2010
- Respondent for Shigehisa Kuriyama’s paper “Probing the Archaeology of Tension” at Anthropology workshop (University of Chicago), May 2010
- “Richthofen’s Silk Road,” invited talk sponsored by the Department of Modern Languages & Cultures, University of Rochester, December 2009
- “Re-reading Sima Qian’s ‘Account of the Xiongnu,’” University of Chicago, China Before Print Workshop, May 2008
- “Before Han Ethnography,” pre-modern panel-organizer and presenter, Critical Han Studies conference, Stanford University, April 2008
- “Ethnography as Literary Artifact,” paper presenter and panel co-chair, Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, April 2008
- “The Invention of the Silk Road, 1877,” Yale University, invited talk sponsored by the Council on East Asian Studies, February 2008
- “Money and the Construction of the Silk Road,” Columbia University, invited class talk co-sponsored by the History department and the Silk Road Foundation, March 2007
- “Foreign Exchange: Silk Road Money and its Meanings,” University of Chicago Alumni Day public talk, February 2007
- “‘Barbarous Greek’ in Early China,” The Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago, January 2007
- International Conference on Silk Road Coins (invited participant), Shanghai Museum, P.R. China, December 2006
- “Anti-Expansionist Protest in the Han Dynasty,” Central Eurasian Studies Society Annual Conference, University of Michigan, September 2006
- “Rethinking Repression in *Book of Songs* Studies,” Pleasure and Passion in Chinese Literature Conference, University of Chicago, May 2006
- “Barbarian Commerce: Rethinking Han and Non-Han in the Han Empire,” East Asian Studies Department, New York University, March 2006
- “The Problem of a Han Barbarian,” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Princeton University, February 2006
- “Sima Xiangru and the Poetics of Colonization,” American Oriental Society, Seattle, WA, February 2006
- “Transnationalism and Queer Chinese Politics,” international two-day conference co-organizer, UC Berkeley, April 2005 (participants from Hong Kong, Taiwan, P.R. China, UK, US)
- “Compulsory Heterotextuality: Sappho 31 meets *Shijing* 1,” John J. Winkler Memorial Prize Talk, Oberlin College, 2002
- “Authenticating Desires -- of Sappho (31), *Shijing* (1) and Difference,” *Authenticities East and West Conference*, Princeton University, 2001

“Mapping the Nomads,” Columbia University Graduate Conference in Greek and Roman Ethnography, 1998

### **Brown University Service**

East Asian Colloquium Coordinator (2018-)  
Comparative Literature Modern Asia position search committee (2018-19)  
Department of History junior faculty manuscript workshop participant (2018)  
Director of Graduate Studies, Comparative Literature (2017-18)  
Chair of ad hoc committee to review Comparative Literature Graduate Program (2017-18)  
Member of ad hoc committee member for Comparative Literature Internal Review (2016)  
Comparative Literature graduate committee (2016-present)  
Steering Committee for Mellon Sawyer Seminar on Displacement (2016-17)  
Nanjing-Brown Joint Program in Gender Studies board member (2014-5)  
Environmental Humanities faculty workshop co-organizer (with Hannah Freed-Thall), Spring 2015

### **External Professional Service**

2017-2020 American Comparative Literature Association Presidential Undergraduate Prize and Masters Prize Committee  
2018 Leibniz Prize Competition reviewer (Leibniz Association, Germany)  
2014-present Book and article manuscript reader for: University of Hawai‘i Press  
Routledge; *Asia Major*; *Journal of the Social and Economic History of the Orient*; *T’oung Pao*; *Archaeological Research in Asia*  
2015-present Reader for tenure and faculty files at: The Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica (Taiwan); University of Minnesota; Tufts University  
2008, 2009 John J. Winkler Memorial Essay Prize in Classics Committee judge committee in undergraduate and graduate divisions

### **Teaching**

2008 Identified by seniors of Class of 2008 as one of the instructors most influential during their time at the University of Chicago

### **Courses at Brown**

Undergraduate:

Literature of Empires (co-taught with Jay Reed)  
Silk Road Fictions  
Chinese Empire and Literature  
Soil: The Earth and Environmental Writing

Graduate:

Collaborative Humanities Project Development Workshop (co-taught with Amanda Anderson)  
Comparative Literature Proseminar (co-taught with Emily Drumsta)  
Critical Approaches to China (co-taught with Lingzhen Wang)  
Scales of Historiography (co-taught with Rebecca Nedostup)  
Historical Form  
Culture and Economy

### **BA theses at Brown**

Nicholas Quah, “The Singaporean idiom rehabilitating and contesting the postcolonial nation” (adviser, 2018)

Matteo Cavalier Riccardi, “Dreaming with the Helmsman: Negotiating Representations of Socialist China in Two Italian Travel Narratives” (adviser, 2017)

Bailey Hu, “Han Shaogong and the Roots of Chinese Literature: Exploring the Fantastic and Regional Space in the Context of Modern History” (reader, 2015)

**PhD exam and dissertation committee at Brown**

MJ Cunniff (English), 2018-

Baoli Yang (Comparative Literature), 2019