

Tamara T. Chin

Email: Tamara_Chin@Brown.edu

Website: tamaratchin.com

Employment

- 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

- 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, September 2014)
Reviewed in *Journal of China Studies* 61 (July 2015): 325-340; *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.

Articles, Book Chapters

- “What is Imperial Cosmopolitanism? Legacies of *kosmopolitēs*, *politēs tou kosmou*, and *kosmios*” 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.
Forthcoming with Oxford University Press.

- “Anti-Colonial Metrics: Homeric Time in an Indian Prison, ca. 1909.” In *English Literary History* 81.3 (Fall 2014): 1029-1053.
- “Commentary on Moin: Eurasian History, Comparative Literature, Haptology.” In *Fragments: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Ancient and Medieval Pasts* Volume 3 (2013-14): 30-36.
- “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.” In *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*.” In *Representations* 94.1, Special Issue: *Mimesis East and West*, edited by Victoria Kahn (Spring 2006): 53–79.
- “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.

Works Submitted or in Progress

- “Colonization, Sinicization, and the Multigraphic Northwest.” Submitted to the *Oxford Handbook of Classical Chinese Literature (1000 BCE-900 CE)*, edited by Wiebke Denecke, Wai-ye Li and Xiaofei Tian
- “Han Dynasty Trade and Communications (202 BCE–220 CE).” *Database of Cultural History*, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada (invited contributor)
- Media of the Silk Road Economy (1-700 CE)* [working title](book in progress on ancient Chinese and Eurasian economic history)
- The Invention of the Silk Road* (book in progress on modern idea of intercultural antiquity)
- “Money in Early China” (article in progress)

Selected Talks & Conferences

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
- “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
Podcast interview about *Savage Exchange* with the New Books Network (newbooksnetwork.com), January 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

External Professional Service

- 2015 Tenure review (Tufts University)
- 2014 External book manuscript reader (University of Hawai‘i Press)
- 2008, 2009 John J. Winkler Memorial Essay Prize in Classics Committee: one of four judges 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 Taught (at Brown University, University of Chicago and New York University)

Undergraduate

- Chinese Literature and Empire
- East Asian Civilizations Program in Beijing (Core)
- Greek Thought and Literature (Core)
- Silk Road Fictions (EALC/Complit/English/ Classics)
- Historicizing Desire in Ancient Greece and China (EALC/ Classics/Complit/Gender Studies)
- Cosmopolitanisms (Complit)
- Money and Literature (Complit/English/EALC)
- Soil: From Ancient China to Al Gore (Complit/English)

Graduate

- Mimesis (Complit)
- Historiography, Archaeology, Literature (EALC/Complit)
- Chinese Historiography (EALC/Complit)
- Chinese Economies (EALC/Complit)
- Silk Road Narratives (Complit/EALC)
- Ancient Cosmopolitanism and its Discontents (Complit/EALC/Classics)
- Money and Literature (Complit)

