

**SHELLEN XIAO WU**  
**Professor, Department of History**  
**Director, Humanities Center**  
**Lehigh University**  
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**ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

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2024 –present	<b>Lehigh University</b> , <i>Professor</i> , L.H. Gipson Chair in Transnational History and Director of the Humanities Center
2023 –2024	<b>Lehigh University</b> , <i>Associate Professor</i> , L.H. Gipson Chair in Transnational History
2019 – 2022	<b>University of Tennessee</b> , Knoxville, <i>Director of Asian Studies Program</i>
2016 – 2022	<b>University of Tennessee</b> , Knoxville, <i>Associate Professor</i> , History
2011 – 2016	<b>UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE</b> , Knoxville, <i>Assistant Professor</i> , History
2010 – 2011	<b>BATES COLLEGE</b> , Lewiston, Maine, <i>VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR</i> , HISTORY

**EDUCATION**

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Aug. 2010	<b>PRINCETON UNIVERSITY</b> , Princeton, New Jersey <i>Ph.D.</i> , 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	<b>PRINCETON UNIVERSITY</b> , Princeton, New Jersey <i>M.A.</i> , Department of History
May 2002	<b>HARVARD COLLEGE</b> , Cambridge, Massachusetts <i>B.A.</i> , <i>magna cum laude</i> , History & Literature

**FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS**

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2023—2024	<b>Wilson Center</b> China Fellow
2020 – 2021	Member of the <b>Institute of Advanced Studies</b> , School of Historical Studies, Princeton, NJ.
2018—2022	Visual Materials in Local Gazetteers Research workgroup, <b>Max Planck Institute for the History of Science</b> (MPIWG), Group III.
2016—2018	Fifth Cohort of the <b>Public Intellectual Program</b> , National Committee on US-China Relations.
2016 – 2017	<b>National Humanities Center</b> , Pforzheimer Fellow, Residential Fellowship, Research Triangle, NC.

## SHELLEN WU

- 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

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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Manuscript reviewer for University of Chicago Press, Columbia University Press, Stanford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Cornell 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 Asiatic Studies*, the *Diplomatic History Review*, *Journal of Agricultural History*, and *Frontiers of History*.

External reviewer for tenure and promotion for MIT; University of Colorado, Denver; Appalachian State University; University of California, Santa Cruz.

- 2024—2026      *Journal of Chinese History*, editorial board.
- 2022—2024      Steering Committee member of the Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies, **American Council of Learned Societies**.
- 2021—2024      Chair of East and Inner Asian Council (formerly China and Inner Asian Council), **Association of Asian Studies**) and member of the board of directors for the Association of Asian Studies.
- 2022—2024      History of Science Society, Committee on Programming
- 2022—2024      *Isis*, editorial board.
- 2022—2024      President of the Historical Society for Twentieth Century China.
- 2020—2022      Vice President for the Historical Society for Twentieth Century China.
- 2019—2020      Board member for the Historical Society for Twentieth Century China.
- 2018 – present      One of four administrators for the Sinology Facebook group with ~4,000 members.
- 2014 – present      Co-founder of Gender Equality in Asian Studies, group affiliated with the Association of Asian Studies.
- 2012 – 2014      Treasurer / Secretary for the Historical Society for Twentieth Century China.

## BOOKS

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*Birth of the Geopolitical Age: Global Frontiers and the Making of Modern China*, (Stanford University Press, 2023).

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

With Fa-ti Fan, *Science in the Making of Modern China*, under contract with Cambridge University Press, to be delivered in 2024.

*The Oxford Handbook on Transimperial History*, proposed volume with seven sections divided into ~45 chapters, eds. Cyrus Schayegh, Daniel Hedinger, Nadin Heé, Damiano Matasci, and Shellen Wu, under contract.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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“Focus: Using Chinese Gazetteers for History of Science,” *ISIS* Vol. 113, No. 4, December 2022, “Introduction: Redrawing the Map of Science in Modern China,” and “Using LoGart to Uncover a New Spatiality of Science in China,” 797-804 and 805-815.

“Geology, Mineralogy, and Exploration,” Oxford Research Encyclopedias, Asian History, Published online December 21, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277727.013.135>

Translation and essay on the inaugural issue of the Bulletin of the Geological Survey of China, *Alternative Energies*, Stanford University Press, forthcoming.

“Planting the Seeds of the Nation,” chapter 8 in *Exploration in Modern China*, eds. Elisabeth Kaske and Elisabeth Köll (DeGruyter, 2024), 195-216.

“How Geography Won the Battle and Geographers Lost the War,” in Aaron William Moore and Jennifer Altenhenger eds., *How Maoism Was Made*, chapter 11 (British Academy and Oxford University Press, forthcoming Jan. 2025), 316-346.

“Ding Shan and the Resilience of Chinese Historical Geography,” *思想史 (Intellectual History)* Vol. 10 (2021), 391-431.

“On Science and Civilisation in China,” <https://inference-review.com/article/on-science-and-civilisation-in-china>

“Yuan Longping obituary,” *Nature*, Vol. 595 (1 July 2021), 26.

“Saving China through Science,” *Nature*, part of essay series for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of *Nature*'s founding, October 1, 2019. (<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02937-2>)

With Fa-ti Fan, “Modern Science in China” Chapter in *Cambridge History of Science*, Vol. 8, *Modern Science in National, Transnational, and Global Context* (Cambridge University Press, 2020), 521-554.

“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>

“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, 221-242.

“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), 63-78.

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.

“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).

“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.

Book Review: *The Profits of Nature: Colonial Development and the Quest for Resources in Nineteenth Century China* by Peter Lavelle, Columbia University Press, 2020. ISBN: 978-0231194709, Hardcover, \$65. In *East Asian Science, Technology and Society: An International Journal* (EASTS), Vol. 17, Issue 4 (2023), 537-539.

Book Review: *China's Cold War Science Diplomacy* By Gordon Barrett. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022. 300 pp. \$99.99 (cloth). *Journal of Chinese History*. 2023;7(2):661-662.

Book Review: *Carbon Technocracy: Energy Regimes in Modern East Asia* by Victor Seow. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2022. 376 pp. US\$40.00 (hbk). ISBN 9780226721996. *The China Quarterly*. 2023;253: 278-280.

Book Review: *Making It Count: Statistics and Statecraft in the Early People's Republic of China* by Arunabh Ghosh. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2020. 340 pp. *Revue d'histoire des sciences humaines*, [40 | 2022](#), 277-281.

## SHELLEN WU

Book Review: *Powering Empire: How Coal Made the Middle East and Sparked Global Carbonization* by On Barak. Oakland: University of California Press, 2020. 344 pp. *Isis*, Volume 112, No. 2, June 2021, 421-423.

Book Review: *A World Trimmed with Fur: Wild Things, Pristine Places, and the Natural Fringes of Qing Rule.*, Jonathan Schlesinger. *The American Historical Review*, Volume 122, Issue 5, December 2017, Pages 1590–1591, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/122.5.1590>

Book Review: Tonio Andrade. *The Gunpowder Age. China, Military Innovation and the Rise of the West in World History*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016. *The Journal of Military History*. Forthcoming October, 2016.

Book Review: Chad H. Parker. *Making the Desert Modern: Americans, Arabs, and Oil on the Saudi Frontier, 1933-1973*. Amherst & Boston: University of Massachusetts Press, 2015; Peter A. Shulman. *Coal & Empire: The Birth of Energy Security in Industrial America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015. *Diplomatic History Review*, (Mar. 2016).

Book Review: Elizabeth Perry. *Anyuan: Mining China's Revolutionary Tradition*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012. *Frontiers of History in China*, Vol. 9, No.1 (Mar.2014), 159-162.

Book Review: Grace Shen. *Unearthing the Nation: Modern Geology and Nationalism in Republican China*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014. *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, Vol. 48 (Dec., 2014), 38-41.

## RECENT CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

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- Sept. 2024      Organizer: Historical Society for Twentieth Century China Biennial conference, “**Past Futures and Future Pasts: Expanding the Horizons of Twentieth Century Chinese History**,” September 13-15, 2024, Lehigh University and on Zoom.
- Jan. 2024      Book talk for Birth of the Geopolitical Age at Georgetown University.
- Nov. 2023      Book talk for Birth of the Geopolitical Age at University of Pennsylvania.
- Oct. 2023      “Writing Global History from an Asian Perspective,” Harvard University, Fairbank Center.
- Sept. 2023      Book talk for *Birth of the Geopolitical Age* at Princeton University.
- Mar. 2023      “Birth of the Geopolitical Age,” virtual book talk at NYU Shanghai, Center for Global Asia.
- Nov. 2022      Organizer, chair, and presenter of “Bridging the Global and the Local in Agricultural Science” panel at the History of Science Society annual conference in Chicago.
- Aug. 2022      Organizer of the Historical Society for Twentieth Century China virtual conference, “China in the Long Twentieth Century.”
- Aug. 2021      Organizer of the Historical Society for Twentieth Century China Virtual Mini-Conference, “Building the Socialist State.”

## SHELLEN WU

- Apr. 2021 Research Workshop on Visual Materials in Chinese Local Gazetteers, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science.
- Mar. 2021 Invited lecture for Harvard Science and Technology in Asia Spring 2021 Seminar Series, “Mapping Science in a Global Age: The Human Dynamics of Scientific Knowledge.”
- Mar. 2021 Age of Exploration Workshop, organized by Elisabeth Kaske, Leipzig University and Elisabeth Köll, University of Notre Dame.
- Sep. 2019 “O Frontier” manuscript chapter presented at the Modern China Seminar, Columbia University.
- 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.
- 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.”

## SHELLEN WU

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> Century Chinese History (graduate level)  
Hist 562: Modern Chinese History—State Formation (graduate level)  
Hist 299: All's Fair in Worlds Fair—historical methods class for majors  
Hist 358: M(issing) in H(istory): Asian Americans in the Making of American History

### UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2021—2022 Department Head Search Committee, History Department  
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  
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