

MARK E. FRANK

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E-MAIL MARK.FRANK@FULBRIGHT.EDU.VN
WWW.MARKEFRANK.COM

Education

PhD in Chinese History, 2020.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures.
Dissertation: *The Rooted State: Plants and Power in the Making of Modern China's Xikang Province*.

MA in East Asian Languages and Cultures, 2013.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures.

BA with Honors in Linguistics, 2006.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of Linguistics.

Appointments

2021 - Fulbright University Vietnam, Faculty Member in History.

2020-21. Yale University, Postdoctoral Associate in the Environmental Humanities, Lecturer in East Asian Studies, and Affiliate Fellow of the Program in Agrarian Studies.

2019-20. Wesley College. Adjunct Professor, Department of History.

Refereed Publications

Forthcoming. "Frontier Atmosphere: Observation and Regret at Chinese Weather Stations in Tibet, 1939-1949." *The British Journal of the History of Science*.

2019 "Wheat Dreams: Scientific Interventions at Chinese Model Farms in Kham, 1937-49" in *Frontier Tibet: Patterns of Change in the Sino-Tibetan Borderlands*, ed. Stephane Gros, Amsterdam University Press, 217-254. Open access:
https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvt1sgw7.12?refreqid=excelsior%3A8c27f08ab495f019307c4b5c29f3cd9a&seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents.

2018 "Hacking the Yak: The Chinese Effort to Improve a Tibetan Animal in the Early Twentieth Century." *East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine* 48: 17-48. Open access:

http://www.eastm.org/index.php/journal/article/view/827/714?fbclid=IwAR3hQdKHd9WbaVKurq0xpAwhKBf_LZgYCNGdHTsf1WsW0AaPu2NeGI2gf7g

- 2016 “Planting and Its Discontents: Or How Nomads Produced Spaces of Resistance in China’s Erstwhile Xikang Province.” *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities* 3: 112-141.

Works in Progress

“National Climate: Zhu Kezhen and the Politics of the Atmosphere in Modern China.” In submission to *History of Science*.

“Food and the Friction of Terrain in the Sino-Tibetan Borderlands.” Prepared for Ling Zhang and Mindi Schneider (ed.), *Problematizing Chinese Food* (working title).

Book Reviews

Forthcoming. Review of Peter Lavelle, *The Profits of Nature: Colonial Development and the Quest for Resources in Nineteenth-Century China* (Columbia University Press, 2020), for *Agricultural History*.

Forthcoming. Review of Gillian Tan, *In the Circle of White Stones: Moving through Seasons with Nomads of Eastern Tibet* (University of Washington Press, 2017), for *HIMALAYA*.

2019 Review of Di Wang, *Violence and Order on the Chengdu Plain: The Story of a Secret Brotherhood in Rural China, 1939-1949* (Stanford University Press, 2018) for *The Chinese Historical Review*, Vol. 26, No. 1 (forthcoming).

2018 Review of David Bello, *Across Forest, Steppe, and Mountain: Environment, Identity, and Empire in Qing China’s Borderlands* (Cambridge University Press, 2016) for *Agricultural History*, Vol. 92, No. 3.

Other Publications

2020 “These Chinese Immigrants Are Helping to Save an America That Shuns Them, One Box of PPE at a Time.” Medium, May 8, 2020.
(<https://medium.com/@mark.ernstmeyer.frank/from-china-with-love-3110afb3efda>)

2019 “Diversity in Ecocriticism.” Kritik, December 12, 2019.
(<https://unitforcriticism.wordpress.com/2019/12/12/professor-clara-boak-schroeder-classics-on-ecocriticism-response-by-mark-e-frank-east-asian-languages-and-cultures/>).

2018 “Lost Province: China’s Xikang, Now Tibet And Sichuan, Is Turning 80. But Few People Realize It Ever Existed.” SupChina, December 26, 2018.

<https://supchina.com/2018/12/26/lost-province-chinas-xikang-now-tibet-and-sichuan-is-turning-80/>

- 2018** “Thinking with Stoler.” Kritik, January 23, 2018.
(<https://unitforcriticism.wordpress.com/2018/01/>)
- 2012** “Tea with the Gao Brothers: The Gao Brothers Reflect on the 60th Anniversary of the PRC and the Gentrification of the Factory 798 Art District.” In Majella Munroe (ed.), *Modern Art Asia, Issues 1-8: Papers on Modern and Contemporary Asian Art*. Enzo Arts and Publishing Limited.
- 2010** “Song of Tibet” (film review). *Asia Educational Media Services News and Reviews*, Issue 36
(www.aems.illinois.edu/publications/filmreviews/songoftibet.html).
- 2010** “Summer Pasture” (film review). *Asia Educational Media Services News and Reviews*, Issue 36
(www.aems.illinois.edu/publications/filmreviews/summerpasture.html).

Fellowships & Awards

2020-21. Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Environmental Humanities of East Asia at the Council on East Asian Studies, Yale University.

2019 spring. Included on List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students at UIUC.

2018. Global Intersections Grant for project “Chinese Agriculture, Society, and Environment” at UIUC.

2017-18. UIUC Graduate College Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

2017-18. School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics Dissertation Completion Fellowship (declined).

2017. “Best Essay” Prize, Agricultural History Society Graduate Workshop.

2015-16. IIE Fulbright Research Grant for research in China.

2015. UIUC Graduate College Dissertation Travel Grant (declined).

2015. Henry Luce Foundation / ACLS Pre-dissertation Summer Travel Grant.

2014-15. University of Illinois Foreign Language and International Studies Fellowship.

2014. Summer Research Grant, University of Illinois Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures.

2013-14. UIUC Intersect Fellowship for participation in Cultures of Law in Global Contexts Project.

- 2013-14.** FLAS Fellowship for Chinese Studies (declined).
- 2013.** EALC Departmental Conference Travel Award.
- 2012.** Nanjing University Postgraduate Summer School in Chinese Studies Fellowship (June-July).
- 2011** spring and fall. List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students.
- 2011.** Summer Research Grant, University of Illinois Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures.
- 2011.** Best Presentation Award, Ethnography of the University Initiative Spring 2011 Student Conference, University of Illinois.
- 2010.** Nanjing University Postgraduate Summer School in Chinese Studies Fellowship, June-July.
- 2002-2006.** James M. Johnston Scholarship, UNC Chapel Hill.

Conference and Workshop Presentations

- 2021** “Studying Climate and Historical Civilization: A Cautionary Tale.” FSPPM Workshop Series, Fulbright University Vietnam, October 1.
- “National climate: Zhu Kezhen and the politics of the atmosphere in modern China.” 2021 History of Science Society Annual Meeting in New Orleans, November 19.
- “3600 Meters: The Grain Line as a Lens on the History of Han-Tibetan Relations.” Life Along the River: Interactions between Human Societies and Valley Environments in the Convergence Zone of the Inner Asian Highlands conference at Columbia University, July 22.
- “National Climate: Zhu Kezhen and the Politics of the Atmosphere in Twentieth-Century China.” CEAS Works in Progress workshop series at Yale University, April 29.
- 2020** “Assimilation Ecology: Ethnicity, Gender, and Lifeways in the Chinese Settlement of Eastern Tibet.” Political Ecologies of State-building workshop at the Danish Institute for International Studies, Copenhagen, February 28.
- “Food and Assimilation: Rice at Chinese Boarding Schools in Eastern Tibet during World War II.” The American Historical Association’s 134th Annual Meeting, New York, January 5.
- 2019** “Food and the Friction of Terrain in the Sino-Tibetan Borderlands.” Problematizing Chinese Food workshop, Boston College, Boston, MA, October 10-13.
- 2018** “Chinese Meteorology in Eastern Tibet during the 1940s”. The 3rd Annual ACRE China Workshop, Tokyo, November 16 (Via Goto Meeting).

“Enlightening the Natives’: Crisis, Rice, and Education in Wartime Kangding.” Workshop on Technology, Politics, and Material Transformation in Asia’s Long World War II, Columbia University, New York, NY, October 5.

“Food and Accommodation: Chinese Grain Governance in Eastern Tibet, 1908-1949.” Workshop on Chinese Food: History, Economy, and Political Ecology at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, April 27-28.

“Impossible Weather: China’s Western Borderlands in Meteorological Perspective during the Early Twentieth Century.” Asian Extremes: Climate, Meteorology and Disaster in History, National University of Singapore, May 17 (Via Goto Meeting).

2017 “Metrics and Misery: Observing Kham from Kangding Weather Station, 1939-49.” East Asian Studies Center Consortium National Dissertation Workshop, Indiana University at Bloomington, IN, June 23.

“Improving Kham: Everyday Life on the Scientific Frontier of Chinese Frontier Agriculture.” Agricultural History Society Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, MI, June 10.

2016 “Chinese Physiocracy: Kham as Laboratory for the Agrarian Theory of China.” “Territories, Communities, Exchanges on the Sino-Tibetan Borderlands” Conference in Paris, February 18.

2015 “The High Pasture People: Yaks in the Making of a Political Ecosystem.” American Society for Environmental History Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., March 19.

2014 “The Highest High Court in China: Materiality in the Making of a Modern Provincial Justice System.” Cultures of Law in Global Contexts Symposium, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, May 28.

“Planting and its Discontents: Khampa Nomadic Pastoralism as Technology of Resistance, 1910-1950.” Global Environmental Histories from Below Symposium, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 8.

2013 “Composing a Province out of a Battlefield: Gender, Violence and Assimilation in Republican Xikang.” Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, East Lansing, MI, October 26.

2012 “Poetic Ecomorality: How Early Confucian Scholars Dealt with the Plants and Animals in the *Book of Odes*.” Columbia University Graduate Conference on East Asia, February 10.

Invited Talks and Colloquia

2021 “Chinese Empire after Empire: Agrarian Colonization on the Twentieth-Century Frontier.” Invited talk at the Yale Council on East Asian Studies, April 22.

2019 “Assimilation Ecology: Ethnicity, Gender, and Lifeways in the Chinese Settlement of Eastern Tibet.” Invited colloquium at the Yale Program in Agrarian Studies, February 15.

- 2018** “Hunger in the Making of a Modern Sino-Tibetan Borderland.” Invited talk for the EALC Speaker Series at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 29.
- “The Past and Present of Chinese Agriculture and its Impact on Southeast Asia.” Invited talk at the International Perspectives Seminar of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program, February 9.
- 2017** “U.S. Race Relations in Chinese Perspective.” Invited talk for The 11th Annual China Town Hall at the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, October 24.
- “Academic Freedom and Its Limits in America as Seen through the Salaita Controversy.” Invited talk at the U.S. Consulate-General in Chengdu, China, January 25.
- 2016** “Window or Mirror? How Cultural Knowledge Changes Culture.” Invited talk at TEDx event “Window,” Chengdu Foreign Languages School, April 3.

Conferences and Other Meetings Organized

- 2019** Lead organizer for symposium “Lives Across Borders: The Sixth Annual SEAS Symposium on East Asia.” University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, April 13.
- 2018** Lead organizer for symposium, “Planting China: The Illinois Symposium on Chinese Agriculture, Society, and Environment.” University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, April 21.
- 2015** Co-organizer for symposium, “Narratives of Empire: The Third Annual Graduate Symposium on East Asian Studies.” University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, April 25.
- 2014** Co-organizer for The Second Annual Graduate Symposium on East Asian Studies. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, April 26.
- 2013** Lead organizer for the First Annual East Asia Humanities Symposium. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, April 27.
- 2012** Student coordinator for conference, “The American University Meets the Pacific Century.” University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL, March 9-10.

Teaching Experience

2021 Spring, with Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan. HIST 964/ANTH 964: Topics in the Environmental Humanities (second semester), Yale University.

2021 Spring. EAST 409/HIST 329J/EVST 408: The Environmental History of East Asia, Yale University.

2020 Fall, with Paul Sabin. HIST 963/ANTH 963: Topics in the Environmental Humanities (first semester), Yale University.

2020 Spring. HI214: Modern Asia (online), Wesley College.

2019 Fall. HI308: Modern China (online), Wesley College.

2019 Spring. CHIN 203: Intermediate Chinese I, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2018 Fall. HIST120: East Asian Civilizations, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

2015 Spring. EALC 288B: The Cultural History of Chinese Revolutions, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

2010 Fall – 2013 Spring. Teaching Assistant, HIST 120: East Asian Civilizations, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Course Guest Lectures

2020 “Wheat in History.” The Global History of Food, Indiana University Bloomington, October 22.

2019 “China and the West.” East Asian Civilizations, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, February 11.

2017 “Working with Chinese Archives.” Proseminar (EALC 500), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 7.

2012 “The Great Qing in the Modern World.” East Asian Civilizations, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, December 12.

“Tang Cosmopolitanism at Chang’an.” East Asian Civilizations, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 12.

“Political Reform and the Revolution of 1911.” East Asian Civilizations, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 14.

2011 “Commodore Perry’s Black Ships: Western Intrusion in Japan and China in the Nineteenth Century.” East Asian Civilizations, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, February 21.

Institutional Service

- 2021** Chair, panel on “Narratives Along the Rivers,” Life Along the River conference, Columbia University, July 22.
- 2021** Chair, Agrarian Studies Graduate Colloquium, Yale University, May 7.
- 2021** Respondent, colloquium on “The Schizophrenia of Sovereignty: Peasants’ Law of Nations and the People’s Game of Great Powers in the Manchurian Borderland, 1881-1932,” Agrarian Studies Colloquium, Yale University, April 9.
- 2020-21** Member of the Environmental Humanities Steering Committee at Yale University.
- 2019** IIE Fulbright campus interviewer, National and International Scholarships Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2019** Member of the General Education Assembly on Learning Outcomes, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2017-18** Member of the Executive Committee of the Graduate College Fellowship Board, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2014-15** Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2014-15** President of the Illinois Society for East Asian Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
- 2012-13** President of the Illinois Professional Society for East Asian Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Languages

English (native)
Modern Chinese (near-native speaking, reading and writing proficiency)
Classical Chinese (high reading proficiency)
Japanese, Russian, French (intermediate reading and speaking)
Tibetan (basic reading)