

Prepared April 2023

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MAJOR PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

History of Modern Southeast Asia; History of Modern Vietnam

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Department of History, Yale University, 2011

Dissertation passed with distinction.

Dissertation Adviser: Benedict Kiernan

Other dissertation committee members: Jonathan Spence, Christopher Goscha, and Erik Harms

M.Phil., Department of History, Yale University, 2007

Qualifying examination passed with distinction.

M.A., Department of History, Yale University, 2006

M.A., Department of History, National University of Singapore, 2005

B.A. (Hons.), Southeast Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore, 2002

First Class Honours

AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS (*asterisks signify pre-doctoral recognition*)

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, East-West Center, Honolulu, 2019.

Weatherhead East Asian Institute First Book Prize, Columbia University, 2018.

National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship, Hanoi, 2017-2018.

International Institute for Asian Studies Fellowship, Leiden, Summer 2017.

Overseas Research Award, Center for Vietnamese Philosophy, Culture, and Society, Temple University, 2014.

Arthur and Mary Wright Prize, for the outstanding dissertation or dissertations in the field of history outside the United States or Europe, Yale University, 2012. (*)

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities and Related Social Sciences, McGill University, 2012-2014 (declined) (*)

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, 2011-2012 (*)

Government of Canada Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Toronto, 2011-2012 (declined) (*)

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities and Related Social Sciences, McGill University, 2011-2013 (declined) (*)

Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2009-2010 (selective university-wide fellowship) (*)

International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council, 2008-2009 (*)

Fox International Fellowship, Institut d'études politiques de Paris, 2007-2008 (*)

Research Scholarship, National University of Singapore, 2002-2004 (*)

Valedictorian for the degree of Bachelor of Arts with Honours, National University of Singapore, 2002 (*)

K.S. Sandhu Book Prize for the top student in Southeast Asian Studies Honours, National University of Singapore, 2002 (*)

Asia 2000 Foundation of New Zealand Singapore Undergraduate Scholar, 1998-2002 (*)

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Northwestern University, 2015-present

Assistant Professor, Department of History, North Carolina State University, 2012-2015

Postdoctoral Fellow, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, 2011-2012

Visiting Instructor, Department of History, Brown University, 2010-2011

Graduate Student, Department of History, Yale University, 2004-2011

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

1. ***Down and Out in Saigon: Stories of the Poor in a Colonial City*** (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2019). Reviewed in, inter alia, *American Historical Review*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Pacific Affairs*, *Journal of Vietnamese Studies*, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, *The French Review*.
2. **“Introduction: The State in Vietnam,”** *Journal of Vietnamese Studies* 11 (2016): 1-16.
3. **“Digging up the Past: Prehistory and the Weight of the Present in Vietnam,”** *Journal of Vietnamese Studies* 4 (2009): 84-144.
4. **“Social Communication and Colonial Archaeology in Viet Nam,”** *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies* 6 (2004): 111-126.
5. **Book Reviews and Review Essays**

Patani through Foreign Eyes: Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries by Daniel Perret and Jorge Santos Alves in *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*. Forthcoming.

Black Market Business: Selling Sex in Northern Vietnam, 1920-1945 by Christina Elizabeth Firpo in *Journal of Social History*. Forthcoming.

India and the Islamic Heartlands: An Eighteenth-Century World of Circulation and Exchange by Gagan D. S. Sood and *Mobile Citizens: French Indians in Indochina, 1858-1954* by Natasha Pairaudeau in *Journal of Global History* 13 (2018): 145-149.

Nothing Ever Dies by Viet Thanh Nguyen in *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 49, no. 1 (2018): 177-179.

Vietnam: A New History by Christopher Goscha. H-Diplo Roundtable XIX, no. 8 (2017): 6-11.

A History of the Vietnamese by K.W. Taylor in *Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia* 29,3 (November 2014).

Misalliance: Ngo Dinh Diem, the United States, and the Fate of South Vietnam by Edward Miller and *Cauldron of Resistance, Ngo Dinh Diem, the United States, and 1950s Southern Vietnam* by Jessica Chapman in *Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review* 2, 2 (November 2013).

The Birth of Vietnamese Political Journalism: Sài Gòn, 1916-1930 by Philippe Peycam for the New Mandala Website (2014).

Southeast Asia and the Vietnam War by Ang Cheng Guan for the Thai-Lao-Cambodia E-Mail List and New Mandala Website (2010).

France and “Indochina”: Cultural Representations edited by Jennifer Yee and Kathryn Robson in *Journal of Vietnamese Studies* 4 (2009): 248-250.

Subject Siam: Family, Law, and Colonial Modernity in Thailand by Tamara Loos in *Journal of the Siam Society* 96 (2008): 265-269.

The Absent-Minded Imperialists: What the British Really Thought about Empire by Bernard Porter in *Yale Journal of International Affairs* 2 (2006): 169-171.

Imagined Ancestries of Vietnamese Communism: Ton Duc Thang and the Politics of History and Memory by Christoph Giebel in *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 37 (2006): 172-173.

The Last Battle: Dien Bien Phu and the French Defeat in Vietnam by Martin Windrow in *Itinerario* 30 (2005): 222-223.

The Country of Memory: Remaking the Past in Late Socialist Vietnam edited by Hue-Tam Ho Tai in *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 34 (2003): 584-585.

Postcolonial Vietnam: New Histories of the National Past by Patricia M. Pelley in *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia* 3 (2003).

SCHOLARLY WORK NOW IN PROGRESS

The Year of the Horse: A Tropical Gothic (book project in progress, proposal in review with Verso)

This book argues that in 1930-31, the Year of the Horse in the Vietnamese sexagesimal calendar, the clandestine Tân Việt Party was responsible for the Nghệ-Tĩnh Soviet Uprising, the largest anti-colonial uprising in French Indochina before the Second World War.

Organized according to the five phases of change or ngũ hành (五行): Hỏa (火) – Fire, Thủy (水) – Water, Mộc (木) – Wood, Kim (金) – Metal, and Thổ (土) – Earth, the book revises the origins of the rebellion and the story of colonial Annam in the years after the First World War.

A Pebble in the Eastern Sea: The Life and Work of Đào Duy Anh (book project in progress)

An intellectual biography of Đào Duy Anh (1904-1988), arguably the most important Vietnamese scholar of the twentieth century. A journalist, lexicographer, historian, philologist, and widely respected man of letters, this book argues that Đào Duy Anh's scholarship is central to the creation of modern Vietnamese “culture” and thus to the intellectual history of modern Vietnam.

“Rethinking the Public Sphere in Colonial Annam, 1925-1937,” for *The Journal of Vietnamese Studies* (pending)

“Domesticating Colonialism: Đạm Phuong Nữ Sĩ and the Association for Studying Domestic Chores,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (pending).

“A Conjunction of Crises: 1919 and the Making of *les années folles* in French Indochina,” *Modern Asian Studies* (pending).

PROFESSIONAL TALKS, SEMINARS, AND COLLOQUIA

“Tân Đà and the Jazz Age in French Indochina,” Association for Asian Studies, Honolulu (March 24-27, 2022).

“Commentary,” International Convention of Asia Scholars, Kyoto, Japan (August 34-27, 2021).

“Deep Orientations: The Study of Vietnamese History and Literature in Hà Nội (1856-1926), International Convention of Asia Scholars, Leiden, The Netherlands (July 16-19, 2019).

“An Historical Outline of Vietnamese Culture in Đào Duy Anh’s *Historical Outline of Vietnamese Culture*,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Denver, Co (March 20-24, 2019).

“The Limits of My Language Are the Limits of My World: Đào Duy Anh and the Vocabulary of Vietnamese Marxism,” Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University (February 15, 2019).

“History and Biography in Twentieth-Century Vietnam: The Seven Ages of Đào Duy Anh,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference,” Toronto, Canada (March 16-19, 2017).

“How to Do Things With Words in Colonial Vietnam,” American Historical Association Annual Conference, Denver, Co. (January 5-8, 2017).

“Tribute to Professor Hue-Tam Ho Tai,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Seattle, Wash. (March 29 – April 2, 2016).

“The Year of Living Dangerously: Southeast Asia in 1965,” The Indonesian Massacres of 1965-6: Legacies and Living Memories Fifty Years On, Equality, Development, and Globalization Studies Conference, Northwestern University (October 24, 2015).

“Murder on the Rue Huế: The State, the Sûreté, and the Việt Nam Quốc Dân Đảng,” Southeast Asian Studies Program, Yale University (April 29, 2015).

“Murder on the Rue Huế: The State, the Sûreté, and the Việt Nam Quốc Dân Đảng,” The State in Vietnam and the State of Vietnamese Studies, Harvard University (April 24-26, 2015).

“Domesticating Colonialism: Đạm Phương nữ sử and the Society for Learning Household Chores,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Chicago, Ill. (March 26-29, 2015).

“Radical Expertise: Dao Duy Anh and the Vocabulary of Vietnamese Marxism,” French Colonial Historical Society Annual Conference, Siem Reap, Cambodia (June 25-28, 2014).

“The New Vietnam Revolutionary Party in Colonial Annam,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Penn. (March 27-30, 2014).

“Mutualities and Obligations: Cooperation and Conflict in Colonial Vietnam,” Cooperation Under the Premise of Imperialism, Bern, Switzerland (June 27-29, 2013).

“Traffic in Translations: Dao Duy Anh and the Vocabulary of Vietnamese Marxism,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, San Diego, Calif. (March 21-24, 2013).

“Crime and Punishment in Colonial Burma: Policing the Plural Society,” International Burma Studies Conference, DeKalb, Ill. (October 5-7, 2012).

“The Kindness of Strangers: Aimée Lahaye and the Orphanage of the Holy Childhood Association in Colonial Saigon,” French Colonial Historical Society Conference, New Orleans (May 31-June 2, 2011).

“The Poor in Saigon During the Great Depression,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Toronto (March 15-18, 2012).

“Rethinking the Vietnamese Revolution of 1945,” Revolution in Vietnam Workshop, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. (November 11-12, 2011).

“A Prodigal Son: Félix Colonna d’Istria and the End of the Jazz Age in Colonial Saigon,” French Colonial Historical Society Conference, Toronto (June 2-4, 2011).

“China and the Making of Urban Poverty in Colonial Saigon,” Boundaries in Question: Japanese and French Empires in East Asia, North Carolina State University (April 8-10, 2011).

“The Social Conditions of the Working Poor in Saigon-Cholon during the Indochina War,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Penn. (March 25-28, 2010).

“The Colonial Policeman as Urban Anthropologist,” Global Urban Studies Workshop, Michigan State University (March 15, 2010).

“Archaeology and Nation-Building in Communist Vietnam,” Graduate Student Conference on Vietnamese Studies, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. (February 9-10, 2007).

“Unearthing Vietnam: Archaeology and Nationalism in Vietnam,” Vietnam Studies Summer School, Australian National University (February 2-6, 2004).

PEER REVIEW AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Editorial Board Member:

Journal of Vietnamese Studies (2015 – 2019)

Critical Asian Studies (2017 – present)

Book Review Editor:

Journal of Vietnamese Studies (2015 – 2019) (co-editor)

Book Manuscript Referee for:

Nordic Institute of Asian Studies Press

Oxford University Press

Routledge

Bloomsbury Press

Article Referee for:

South East Asia Research

Journal of Cold War Studies

Journal of Global History

Journal of Vietnamese Studies

Journal of Social Archaeology

Modern Asian Studies

SOJOURN: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia

TRaNS: Trans-regional and -national studies of Southeast Asia

External Thesis Examiner for:

Department of History, Australian National University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICE

Memberships:

American Historical Association

Association for Asian Studies

French Colonial Historical Society

Vietnam Studies Group (Association for Asian Studies)

Service:

Selection Panel, National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship (2020 – present)

Selection Panel, Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship (2016 – 2019, 2021 2022)

Advisory Board Member, *Bodies and Structures: Deep-Mapping the Spaces of Modern East Asian History*, National Endowment for the Humanities (2018 – 2019)

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Principal areas of undergraduate and graduate teaching

History of Southeast Asia (undergraduate: all periods; graduate: since 1750)

Specific courses taught in the last six years

Graduate:

Approaches to Global Intellectual History (Spring 2017)

Examines the role of Western social and cultural theory in explaining the intellectual history of the non-Western world.

Southeast Asia: History and Historiography (Winter 2016, Winter 2019, Winter 2022)

Examines the major concepts developed in the study of Southeast Asia.

Biography and History (Winter 2020)

Explores the shared conceptual problems of these two fields.

History 570: First-Year Graduate Research Seminar (Winter & Spring 2021)

Introduction to historical research and methods for all first-year graduate students.

Understanding Marx

Reading seminar on the writings of Marx from the earliest works through to *Capital, Volume One*.

Undergraduate:

History of Contemporary Southeast Asia from 1945 (Spring 2017, Spring 2019, Winter 2020, Spring 2022, Spring 2023)

Lecture course on the history of Southeast Asia from 1945 to the present.

History of Modern Southeast Asia to 1945 (Winter 2016, Winter 2017, Fall 2019, Winter 2021, Winter 2022)

Lecture course on the history of Southeast Asia from 1750 to 1945.

Pirates and Prostitutes in Southeast Asia (Fall 2019)

A seminar on the methodology of ‘history from below’ applied to Southeast Asia.

Natural and Supernatural in Southeast Asia (Spring 2021, Spring 2022)

A seminar on conjoint religious and environmental understandings in Southeast Asia.

Southeast Asia in Western Fiction (Winter 2017, Spring 2019)

First-year seminar introducing the history of Southeast Asia through Western fiction with an emphasis on developing writing skills.

Exploring Southeast Asia (Winter 2023)

First-year seminar introducing the history of Southeast Asia through travelers’ writings.

Global History II (Spring 2016)

Introductory lecture class on global history from c.1750 to the present.

Independent Study Instruction

The Environmental History of Indonesia (Luthfi Adam; Winter 2016)

Topics in the History of French Indochina (Norman Joshua, Melody Shum; Winter 2017)

Topics in the History of the Netherlands East Indies (Norman Joshua, Melody Shum; Spring 2017)
Marx and His Thought (Matthew Foreman; Spring 2017)
Readings in the Intellectual History of Southeast Asia (Eunike Setiadarma; Fall 2019)
Scholar-Administrators in Colonial Southeast Asia (Eunike Setiadarma, Amrina Rosyada, Perdana Roswaldy; Winter 2021)
Concepts of Community in Southeast Asia Asia (Eunike Setiadarma, Amrina Rosyada, Perdana Roswaldy; Mirna Nadia; Atmaezer Simanjuntak; Winter 2021)
Early Southeast Asia (Weiliang Song; Fall 2021)
The History of the Cham (Weiliang Song; Spring 2022)
Readings in the History of Empire in Asia (Fiona Asokacitta, undergraduate; Winter 2021)

Ph.D. advising

Dissertation Adviser for Luthfi Adam, Norman Joshua, Melody Shum, Eunike Setiadarma, Weiliang Song
Dissertation Committee Member for Gde Metera (political science), Y Nguyen (sociology), Anh Le (history, Michigan State University)
Minor Field Examiner for Alana Toulin and Matthew Foreman

Other teaching and advising

Searle Center for the Advancing Learning and Teaching Faculty Fellow, 2015-2016
Residential College Fellow, Willard College, 2015 – present
Faculty Adviser, Singapore Students' Society, 2019 – present
Director, Asian Studies Graduate Cluster, 2019 – present

DEPARTMENT, COLLEGE, AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

(* denotes service at North Carolina State University)

Department and Program Service

Member, Undergraduate Affairs Committee (2015 – 2016, 2022-2023)
Afternoon Advisor (Spring 2016, Winter 2017, Winter 2019, Winter 2020, Winter 2022, Winter 2023)
History at Home Committee (2020-2021)
Member, Research Committee, Department of History (2013-2015) (*)
Member, Curriculum Committee, Department of History (2012–2014) (*)

College and University Service

Director, Asian Studies Graduate Cluster (2018 –)
Member, Undergraduate Research Grants Committee (2022-)
Member, Advisory Board, Equality, Development and Globalization Studies (2015 – 2020)
Member, College Committee on International Studies, (2012–2015) (*)
Member, Park Enrichment Grant Committee (2012–2015) (*)

RESEARCH SUPPORT AND ACADEMIC LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Past:

National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship, to support *A Pebble in the Eastern Sea* (\$50,400, for 2017-2018)