

Dr. Peter Thilly

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MAJOR PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS: Late imperial and modern Chinese history (19th-20th century); the history of East and Southeast Asia; global capitalism; maritime and transnational history; crime and legal culture; migration and citizenship.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2018-present	Assistant Professor of History, University of Mississippi, University, MS
2017-2018	Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Mississippi, University, MS
2016-2017	Adjunct Professor, University of Mississippi, University, MS
2015-2016	Faculty Fellow, Colby College, Waterville, ME
2012-2013	Senior Visiting Scholar, Institute of Qing History, Renmin University of China, Beijing, China.

EDUCATION

2015	Ph.D. History, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
2007	M.A. Social Sciences, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
2004	B.A. East Asian Studies, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

PEER-REVIEWED SCHOLARSHIP

In Progress	Book manuscript: <i>Small Sword, Big Trouble: The Diasporic Revolutionaries who Tried to Remake China</i> .
2022	<i>The Opium Business: A History of Crime and Capitalism on the Chinese Maritime Frontier, 1832-1945</i> . Stanford University Press, 2022.
2021	“The Coastal Opium Trade in 1830s Fujian.” Peer-reviewed digital history module for <i>Bodies and Structures: Deep Mapping Modern Asian History</i> . September, 2021.
2020	Co-editor of “Taiwan: Global Island,” special issue of <i>Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review</i> , 9.1 (2020).
2020	“Introduction,” <i>Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review</i> 9, No. 1 (2020): 1-6.
2017	“The Fujitsuru Mystery: Translocal Xiamen, Japanese Expansionism, and the Asian Cocaine Trade, 1900-1937.” <i>Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review</i> , No. 25, (2017): 84-107.
2017	“Opium and the Origins of Treason in Modern China: The View from Fujian.” <i>Late Imperial China</i> 38, No. 1, (2017): 155-197.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 “Opium for the Masses.” *History Today*. January, 2023.
- 2022 Margherita Zanasi and Peter Thilly. “The Opium Business: A Conversation with Peter Thilly.” *Made in China Journal*. November 29, 2022.
- 2022 “Consistent, coherent policy can prevent problems with legal marijuana.” *The Washington Post*. October 25, 2022.
- 2022 “Opium’s Reverse Course: A Story of Shifting Winds.” *The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus* 20:18, No. 3, November 15, 2022.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2023 Review of Ghassan Moazzin, *Foreign Banks and Global Finance in Modern China: Banking on the Chinese Frontier, 1870-1919* (Cambridge, 2022), forthcoming in *Twentieth-Century China*.
- 2022 Review of Diana Kim, *Empires of Vice: The Rise of Opium Prohibition Across Southeast Asia* (Princeton, 2020), in *The Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 53, Vol. 3 (2022): 597-599.
- 2022 Review of Ong Soon Keong, *Coming Home to a Foreign Country: Xiamen and Returned Overseas Chinese, 1843-1938* (Cornell, 2021), in *The Journal of Asian Studies* 81, No. 3, (2022): 580-581.
- 2019 Review of Philip Thai, *China’s War on Smuggling: Law, Economic Life, and the Making of the Modern State* (Columbia, 2018), in *The Journal of Asian Studies* 78, No. 3, (2019): 661-663.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND ACADEMIC AWARDS

- 2019-20 Henry Luce Foundation / ACLS Postdoctoral Fellowship in Chinese Studies.
- 2014-15 Lacey Baldwin Smith Prize for the Best Graduate Student Teacher in a Seminar, Northwestern University.
- 2013-14 Teagle Teaching Fellow, Northwestern University.
- 2012-13 International Dissertation Research Fellow, Social Science Research Council.
- 2012-13 Fulbright IIE Research Scholar, Institute of Qing History, Renmin University of China, Beijing.
- 2011-2012 Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies Graduate Fellow, Northwestern University.
- 2011 IHR-Mellon Pre-Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities, Institute of Historical Research (IHR), University of London.
- 2004 High Honors in East Asian Studies, Wesleyan University.
- 2004 Scott Prize for Excellence in a Modern Language, Freeman Center for East Asian Studies, Wesleyan University.
- 2003-2004 Freeman Center for East Asian Studies Senior Fellow, Wesleyan University.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Conferences Organized:

2012 Nicholas D. Chabreja Center for Historical Studies Graduate Conference on “Crime and the Modern World,” Northwestern University. Evanston, IL, 9 March, 2012.

Panels Organized:

2020 New Approaches to the History of Capitalism in China. Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston, MA, March 19-22, 2020.

2016 Crisis and Intervention: Local Histories of State and Society in Qing China. Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, March 31 – April 3, 2016.

Papers Presented:

2023 “The Small Sword Uprising and the Origins of Modern Citizenship.” The Society for Global Nineteenth-Century Studies Annual Congress. Singapore, June 2023.

2023 “The Business of Rebellion: Citizenship, Migration, and Profits during the 1853 Small Sword Uprising.” The Business History Conference. Detroit, March 2023.

2022 “The Origins of Flexible Citizenship in Treaty Port China,” Seuss-Flic Conference on Late Imperial China. Vanderbilt University, February 2022.

2021 “The Coastal Opium Trade in 1830s Fujian,” American Historical Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA. Panel recorded remotely on April 19, 2021.

2020 “Opium Capitalism: Centering the Illicit Contributions of a Drug Lord.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston, MA, March 19-22, 2020.

2019 “Consular Jurisdiction and the Pioneers of Flexible Citizenship.” American Society for Legal History Annual Conference. Boston, MA, November 21-24, 2019.

2019 “Extraterritorial Privilege: Collaboration and Resistance in the Age of Opium, Capitalism, and Empire.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Denver, CO, March 24-27, 2019.

2018 “It Paid to be Taiwanese: Drugs, Opportunism, and Collaboration in Southern Fujian, 1895-1937.” Global Island: Taiwan and the World. University of Washington, Seattle, October 18-19, 2018.

2017 “Opium’s Reverse Course: When China Came to Supply Southeast Asia, 1911-1937.” Mobile Bodies: A Long View of the Peoples and Communities of Maritime Asia, Binghamton, NY, November 10-11, 2017.

2017 “An Experiment in Legalization: Lijin Bureaus, Opium Taxation and State Involvement in Southeast China.” Southeast Conference Association for Asian Studies, Oxford, MS, January 14-16, 2017.

2016 “Crisis as Opportunity: Lineage, State and Opium in Coastal Fujian, 1832-1839.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, March 31 – April 3, 2016.

- 2015 “The Fujitsuru Mystery: The Pan-Asian Cocaine Trade of the 1920s-30s.” Binding Maritime China: Control, Evasion, and Interloping, Boston University, Northeastern and Brandeis University, Boston, MA. May 29-30, 2015.
- 2014 “Illicit Globalization: Quanzhou and the Smuggler's View of Periphery.” 4th European Congress on World and Global History, Paris, France, September 4-7, 2014.
- 2014 “Treacherous Waters: Drug Smuggling in Modern Fujian, 1832-1937.” Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship (SSRC/IDRF) Dissertation Workshop, New Orleans, LA, March 6-9, 2014.
- 2013 “The Eighteen Elder Brothers: Taiwanese Ronin, the Vice Industry, and the Japanese Conquest of Xiamen in the 1930s.” The Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (MCAA), East Lansing, MI, October 12, 2013.
- 2012 “The Emergence of a Modern Chinese Syndicate: Opium Smuggling in 1830s Fujian.” Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies Graduate Conference on Crime and the Modern World, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, March 9, 2012.
- 2011 “Murder at Pagoda Anchorage: Smuggling and Maritime Customs in Fuzhou, 1861-1876.” Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies Graduate Conference on The Possibilities and Pitfalls of Microhistory, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, May 13, 2011.
- 2011 “Smuggling and Maritime Customs in Fuzhou, 1861-1876.” Big-H: The First Annual Berkeley Graduate Student Conference on International History, University of California, Berkeley, March 4, 2011.

Discussant:

- 2021 “Perspectives on Technology, Diplomacy, and War During Chaotic Times,” University of Mississippi History Graduate Student Association Annual Conference, April 10, 2021.
- 2020 International Society for Law and Chinese History Book Talks, May 2020.
- 2017 “Maritime Japan,” Southeast Conference Association for Asian Studies, Oxford, MS, January 14-16, 2017.
- 2016 University of Mississippi History Colloquium, Oxford, MS, 23 September 2016.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2017 “A Legal History of the Chinese Opium Trade.” International Law in Context Series, Gorove Society of International Law, University of Mississippi School of Law, Oxford, MS, 24 April 2017.
- 2017 “‘A Degree of Cooperation’: Sino-Japanese Friendship and the Asian Cocaine Trade of the 1920s-30,” Arch Dalrymple III Department of History Colloquium, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, 19 April 2017.
- 2015 “Drugs and Imperialism in Asia, 1906-1937.” East Asian Studies Student-Faculty Colloquium, Colby College, Waterville, ME, 18 November 2015.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS

Introduction to East Asian History (most semesters, 2016-2023)

Pre-Modern China (Spring 2023, Spring 2022)
Race and Ethnicity in East Asian History (Spring 2023)
Modern Japanese History (Fall 2022, Fall 2020, Fall 2018, Fall 2017)
Introduction to East Asian Studies (Fall 2021)
Crime and Punishment in Modern China (Spring 2017, Spring 2021)
The South China Sea Territorial Disputes in Global and Historical Context (Spring 2018)
Nations and Nationalism in Asia (Spring 2018)
Historical Methods (Fall 2017)

Colby College, Waterville, ME

Foundations in East Asian Studies (Spring 2016)
Crime and Punishment in Modern China (Spring 2016)
The History of Modern China (Fall 2015)
Nations and Nationalism in Asia (Fall 2015)

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Crime and Punishment in Modern China, Instructor of Record, (Spring 2014)
History of Modern China: 20th Century China, T.A., (Winter 2015, Spring 2011)
Chinese Civilization, T.A., (Winter 2011)

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

First Year Chinese Language, TA, (Fall 2001, Spring 2002)

CAMPUS AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2022-23 Director, East Asian Studies Minor
2022-23 History Department Equity Representative
2016-23 Thesis Reader, Croft Institute for International Studies, University of Mississippi.
2021-22 History Department Future Planning and Strategic Hiring Committee
2020-21 History Department Dalrymple Fund Committee
2020-22 Thesis Advisor for Honors College
2020-22 Thesis Advisor for Croft Institute for International Studies
2018-19 History Department Undergraduate Committee
2017-19 Co-director and instructor on curriculum development for teaching Asian Studies in Mississippi secondary schools, National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA).

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

2023- Book Review Editor for *Twentieth-Century China*
2018-21 Peer Review reader for *Palgrave Macmillan*, *The American Historical Review*, *The Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, *The Journal of Global History*, *Late Imperial China*, and *Modern China*.

OTHER ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2014 History Writing Center Fellow. Northwestern University.
2001-2004 Outreach Program Instructor. Freeman Center for East Asian Studies, Wesleyan University.
2002-2004 Assistant Archivist. Freeman Center for East Asian Studies, Wesleyan University.
2000-2001 English-Language Teacher. St. Mary's School (K-12), Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand.

LANGUAGES

- English – Fluent
Chinese (Mandarin) – Research fluency
Chinese (Classical) – Research fluency
Thai – Advanced
Japanese – Beginner (can read with dictionary)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

- The Association of Asian Studies (AAS).
The American Historical Association (AHA).
The American Legal History Association (ALHA).
International Society for Chinese Law and History (ISCLH).