

Xiaobo Yuan, PhD

Whitman College
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2019-Present Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Religion
Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA
- 2017-19 Consortium for Faculty Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Anthropology
Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY

EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D. in Anthropology, University of Chicago.
Dissertation: *Reform and Rectification: Chinese Christianities and the Politics of Flourishing*
Committee: Judith Farquhar, Julie Chu, Hussein Agrama
- 2011 M.A. in Anthropology, University of Chicago.
Thesis: "God(s) in Translation: Missionary Discourses and the 19th-century 'Term Question' in China"
Winner of Roy D. Albert Prize for Best MA Thesis in Anthropology
- 2007 B.A. (with honors) in English and Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Anthropology of global Christianity, religion and secularism, anthropology of the state, anthropology of ethics, religious minorities, post-socialism, publicity and secrecy, consumption and aspiration, urbanization and development zones in East Asia; China and the Chinese diaspora

PUBLICATIONS

Book Manuscript

Converting China: Urban Christianity and the Politics of Flourishing (manuscript under preparation)

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

- 2021 "Gendering Heterodoxy: The Corporeal Politics of Xiejiao in Chinese Christianity." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 89 (1): 174–203. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jaarel/lfaao69>
- 2021 "Refusing Educational Desire: Negotiating Faith and Precarity at an Underground Chinese Christian School." *Asian Anthropology* 20(3): 190–209. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1683478X.2021.1930468>
- Forthcoming "Infernal Affect: Christianity, Class, and Economic Anxiety in Urban China," Neoliberalism and Religion in Global Context roundtable. In press for publication in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.

Edited Works

- In prep. Special Issue: Emergent Futures in Contemporary China, co-edited with Shiqi Lin. Issue in preparation for *China Perspectives*.

Book Reviews

- 2021 Review of *Beijing from Below: Stories of Marginal Lives in the Capital's Center*, by Harriet Evans (Duke University Press, 2020), *American Ethnologist* (April 20, 2021). <https://doi.org/10.1111/amet.13010>
- 2018 Review of *The China Questions: Critical Insights into a Rising Power*, by Jennifer Rudolph and Michael Szonyi (eds.), *China Review International* 23: 3 (fall 2016): 297–300.

Other Publications

- 2014 "Under the Cross in China," *Boston Review*, January 2014.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Conferences Organized

- 2017 Co-organizer. Foucault and Religion Conference, University of Chicago Divinity School, March 10–11.

Panels Organized/Chaired

- 2021 Organizer, chair, and panelist. Creating Emergent Futures in Contemporary China. Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Seattle, March 25–28.

- 2016 Co-organizer and Presenter. East Asian Secularisms, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, November 16-20.

Invited Talks

- 2021 “‘When the Police Come Knocking’: underground Chinese Christianity and the state in moral crisis.” Invited participant in the *Spiritual Crisis and Moral Transformation in Contemporary China* workshop, University of Rochester, November 4-5.
- 2021 “Little Sinners and Demonic Real Estate: Urban Christianity in China and the Syncopations of Conversion.” Invited panelist, *Syncopating East Asia* symposium, University of California Humanities Research Institute.
- 2020 “Policing Chinese Christianity.” Whitman College Faculty Forum, October 21.

Papers Presented

- 2021 “Conversion as Speculation: Chinese Christianity and the Production of Futurity.” Panel: Creating Emergent Futures in Contemporary China. Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Seattle, March 25-28.
- 2018 “‘One Belt, One Road’: traversing temporalities on China’s New Silk Road.” Panel: Horizons of Extinction. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, November 14-18.
- 2017 “Engendering Heterodoxy.” *Foucault & Religion* Conference, University of Chicago Divinity School, March 10-11.
- 2016 “Economies of Exposure: publicity and concealment in Chinese Christianities.” Panel: East Asian Secularisms. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, November 16-20.
- 2015 “...And the Case of the Disappearing Slash: On Censorship, Queer Fiction, and Chinese Cyberpolitics.” Panel: Familiar Texts, New Socialities: Remaking Community, Identity, and Sexuality through Fanworks. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Denver, November 18-22.
- 2014 “Conversion among the converted: personal transformation and imaginations of the state in China’s True Jesus Church.” Panel: Understanding Christian politics in its own terms. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C., December 3-7.
- 2014 “The Politics of Self-Exile: Underground Christian Schools in China.” Panel: Educating religious experts for the nation. Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 22-25.
- 2011 “Whispering singers and translated texts: the practices of Chinese Christian hymnody.” Panel: Systems of Value, Exchange, and Mobility. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Montreal, November 16-20.
- 2010 “Asking the Right Questions: Coevalness and the Possibilities of a Critical Anthropology.” Invited presentation. Panel: Anthropology in the World. Futures Seminar at the Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, November 11-12.

- 2009 “Doing the Work of God’: Narrative Constructions of Agency and Divinity.”
Panel: Religious Dynamism in the Modern World. Annual Meeting of the Central States
Anthropological Society (CSAS) Conference, Urbana-Champaign, April 2-5.

Invited Discussant

- 2014 Shalini Shankar. “Semiotics of Spelling Bees: Soundscapes of Language and Materiality.”
Semiotics Workshop, University of Chicago.
- 2012 Beth Brummel. “I tried to picture him as me’: narrativization and salvation in neo-
Pentecostal discourse.” African Studies Workshop, University of Chicago.
- 2011 Anita Hannig. “But We Have to Empower Them’: Timetables, Medical Visionaries, and
the Production of the Patient Entrepreneur at a Fistula Rehabilitation Center in
Ethiopia.” African Studies Workshop, University of Chicago.
- 2010 Shunsuke Nozawa. “Nobodies’ histories, ‘Everybody’s Writing,’ communication with
somebody”: discourses of the coming in Japanese life history.” Semiotics Workshop,
University of Chicago.
- 2009 Robin Shoaps. “When is a prophet?: Navigating the End-Times chronotope and human
vs. divine agency with prophetic training materials.” U.S. Locations Workshop,
University of Chicago.

TEACHING & ADVISING EXPERIENCE

- 2017-19 Thesis Advisor in Anthropology and Urban Studies, Vassar College
- 2016-17 Graduate Preceptor (Instructor and Academic Advisor). M.A. Program in the Social
Sciences, University of Chicago
- 2014-15 Undergraduate Preceptor (Instructor and Academic Advisor). Global Studies Program,
University of Chicago
- 2015 Graduate Teaching Assistant. Divinity School, University of Chicago
- 2012 Undergraduate/graduate Teaching Assistant. Department of Anthropology, University
of Chicago
- 2011 Undergraduate Teaching Assistant. Global Studies Program, University of Chicago
- 2010-11 Writing Intern. Reading Cultures. Humanities Core Curriculum, University of Chicago

COURSES TAUGHT

Whitman College

Consuming Divinity: Food and Religion (Rel 115)
Becoming Human: Introduction to Anthropology (Anth101)
Fundamentals of Cultural Anthropology (Anth201)
China Now (Anth/Asia 220)
Global Christianity (Rel/Anth 225)
Religion and the Spirit of Capitalism (Rel/Anth 223)
Christianity and Politics in East Asia (Rel325)

Resistance and Refusal (Anth 330)
Affect and Emotion (Anth347)

Vassar College

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (*fall 2017, spring 2019*)
China Now (*fall 2017, 2018*)
The State as Anthropological Object (*spring 2018*)
Futures: Culture, Media, and the Speculative Imagination (*spring 2019*)

University of Chicago

As Primary Instructor

Masters Thesis Proposal Writing (*graduate, spring 2017*)
Perspectives on Social Theory (*graduate, fall 2016*)
International Studies B.A. Thesis Seminar (*undergraduate, fall 2015*)
Academic Writing Seminar on "Reading Cultures" (*undergraduate, 2010-2011*)

As Teaching Assistant

Anthropology of Religion (mixed graduate and undergraduate)
Weber, Bakhtin, Benjamin (graduate course in social theory)
Contemporary Global Issues I (undergraduate, taught section of 30 students)
Reading Cultures (undergraduate)

Training

Writing Pedagogy Training, Writing Program, University of Chicago, July-August 2010

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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| 2022 | (Spring semester) Committee Member, Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, Whitman College |
| 2021 | (Spring semester) Committee Member, Institutional Review Board, Whitman College |
| 2021 | Manuscript Reviewer for <i>Current Anthropology</i> |
| 2019 | Manuscript Reviewer for <i>American Ethnologist</i> |
| 2018-19 | Member of Global Campus & Studies Working Group in the Engaged Pluralism Initiative (EPI), Vassar College. |
| 2017 | Applications reader for program admissions, the M.A. Program in the Social Sciences, University of Chicago. |
| 2015 | Development Intern, Community Programs Accelerator in the Office of Civic Engagement, University of Chicago. Grant-writing and funding prospect research for community organizations in the South Side of Chicago. |

2015 Translator, *The Reciprocal Translation Project* (Roof Books, 2017). Assisting in translation and creative rewriting processes between Chinese and English language poets.

2006 Research Assistant for Dr. Sidney Mintz, Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University

2005 Research Assistant for Dr. Sameena Mulla, Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University

2003-2006 Editors' Assistant, Johns Hopkins University Press, Manuscript Editing Department.

LANGUAGES

English: Native

Mandarin Chinese: Fluent speaking and reading

Spanish: Beginner reading

French: Beginner reading

Citizenship: U.S.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association

American Academy of Religion

Society for East Asian Anthropology

Association for Asian Studies