

## KATHERINE L. ALEXANDER

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### EDUCATION

- 06.2016 Ph.D. University of Chicago: Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations  
Dissertation: "Virtues of the Vernacular: Moral Reconstruction in Late Qing Jiangnan and the Revitalization of *Baojuan*"
- 12.2009 M.A. University of Chicago: Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations
- 05.2007 B.A. Beloit College: *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa.  
East Asian Languages and Cultures, with departmental honors  
Physics, with departmental honors  
Exchange program, Fall 2005: Lingnan University (Hong Kong)

### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 08.2016 - present Assistant Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Colorado, Boulder
- 09.2015-03.2016 Instructor, University of Chicago
- 08-12.2015 Instructor, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 08-12.2011 Instructor, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

### RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Late Imperial China: the relationship between Chinese popular literatures and popular religions; popular novels, short stories, dramas, and their oral antecedents; publication history and print cultures; status and uses of Chinese vernaculars; Taiping War Civil and postwar reconstruction, particularly in relation to didactic literature, popular religions, and elite attitudes towards social change and reform; Chinese women's history; Taiwan history and popular religions.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### **Book**

(in progress) *Teaching and Transformation: Yu Zhi and Popular Confucian Literature in the Late Qing*  
*Status*: manuscript at 70% completion

#### **Published Articles and Essays**

"Conservative Confucian Values and the Promotion of Oral Performance Literature in late Qing Jiangnan: Yu Zhi's Influence on Two Appropriations of *Liu Xiang baojuan*," *CHINOPERL: Journal of Chinese Oral and Performing Literature* 36.2 (December 2017): 89-115.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01937774.2017.1403186>

"*The Precious Scroll of Liu Xiang*: late Ming Roots and late Qing Proliferation," *Journal of Chinese Religions*. 49.1 (May 2021): 49-74.  
[muse.jhu.edu/article/791147](https://muse.jhu.edu/article/791147)

"[An Excerpt from \*The Precious Scroll of Liu Xiang\*](#)," *Journal of Chinese Buddhist Studies*. 34 (July 2021):27-62.

"Teaching Through the Uncanny: Red Candle Games' Devotion," co-authored with Dr. Gregory Scott  
*British Journal of Chinese Studies*. 12.2 (July 2022):70-75.

## Articles in Progress

“Mothers, Maidens, and Ghosts: Afterlives of Qing Chastity Paragons on the Taiwan Frontier”  
*Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*  
Status: in revision after initial review

## Book Reviews

*Jesuits and Matriarchs: Domestic Worship in Early Modern China* by Nadine Amsler, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*. 140.4 (October – December 2020): 976-979.

*Many Faces of Mulian: The Precious Scrolls of Late Imperial China*. by Rostislav Berezkin, *CHINOPERL: Journal of Chinese Oral and Performing Literature* 38.2 (December 2019): 171-176.

*The Immortal Maiden Equal to Heaven and Other Precious Scrolls from Western Gansu* by Wilt Idema, *Journal of Chinese Religions* 45.2 (October 2017): 212-214.

*Practicing Scripture: A Lay Buddhist Movement in Late Imperial China*. by Barend J. ter Haar, *Journal of Asian Studies* 76.3 (August 2017): 771-773.

## In Edited Volumes

“The Written Word” in *Chinese Religious Culture in 100 Objects*, edited by Adam Yuet Chau  
Status: Accepted by editor, awaiting proofs

“Cat. 48” in Zeitlin, Judith and Yuhang Li. *Performing Images: Opera in Chinese Visual Culture*. Chicago: Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago Press, 2014. 202-203.

“Glossary of Terms” in Zeitlin, Judith and Yuhang Li. *Performing Images: Opera in Chinese Visual Culture*. Chicago: Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago Press, 2014. 215-216.

## Online publications

“Greater Taiwan: Watching the Election from the U.S.” Harvard University’s *Fairbank Center Blog*, January 13, 2020. <https://medium.com/fairbank-center/taiwan-votes-9163fe29557c>

“Should the Vatican Compromise with China? A ChinaFile Conversation” *ChinaFile*, September 25, 2018. <http://www.chinafile.com/conversation/should-vatican-compromise-china>

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

PAPERS PRESENTED (including those accepted to forthcoming conferences)

- 11.2022     Panelist on roundtable "Building and Sharing Open-Access Online Resources for the Study of Chinese Religions"  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
- 10.2022     “Poetry for Children: Teaching with Literature in the Late Qing”  
Rocky Mountain Modern Languages Association Annual Convention, Albuquerque, NM
- 03.2022     “Competing Demands: Challenging and Resolving Identity in *Xiumü baojuan*”  
Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Honolulu, HI
- 03.2021     “The Chaste Concubine: Women’s Conflict and Cooperation in *Xiumü baojuan*”  
Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference Online
- 12.2020     “Aesthetic Pleasures of Karmic Revenge and Religious Romance: *The Precious Scroll of Liu Xiang* as Popular Narrative”  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting Online
- 10.2020     “Who’s Afraid of Vernacular Literature?: Evangelical Confucianism and its Bureaucracy of Hope”  
Rocky Mountain Modern Languages Association Annual Convention, Boulder, CO  
(rescheduled to 2021 due to COVID-19)

- 03.2020 “Literary Legacies: Reproducing and Re-imagining Yu Zhi’s Corpus”  
Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston, MA (cancelled due to COVID-19)
- 11.2019 “Disaster and Calamity in Chinese Religions – The Early Modern Era”  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA
- 10.2019 “Revising Redemption: Laboring Women and the Work of Moral Performance Literature”  
Rocky Mountain Modern Languages Association Annual Convention, El Paso, TX
- 11.2018 “A Confucian Great Commission: Yu Zhi’s Call to Evangelize the Chinese Masses”  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
- 10.2018 “Confucianize Popular Culture, Popularize Confucian Culture: A Late Qing Response to Christian Evangelism”  
American Oriental Society, Western Branch Annual Meeting, Palo Alto, CA
- 10.2018 “Stories in Motion: A Newly-Discovered, Revised Version of *Liu Xiang baojuan*”  
Rocky Mountain Modern Languages Association Annual Convention, Cheyenne, WY
- 03.2018 “Good Housekeeping: Advice for Women in a late Qing Daily-Use Religious Encyclopedia”  
Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Washington, D. C.
- 11.2017 “Late Qing Performances of Philanthropic Identity in Reprints of *Pan Gong baojuan*”  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, MA
- 10.2017 “Literary Afterlives of Chastity Paragons in Qing dynasty Taiwan”  
American Oriental Society, Western Branch Annual Meeting, Tempe, AZ
- 03.2017 “Mothers, Maidens, and Ghosts: Afterlives of Qing Chastity Paragons on the Taiwan Frontier”  
Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada
- 06.2016 “Tactical Deployment of Vernacular Literature in Wartime Jiangnan (1853-1864)”  
AAS-in-Asia, Kyoto, Japan
- 04.2016 “Embodying Guanyin, Embodying *yaojing*: Devotional Deviance in *Liu Xiang baojuan*”  
Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Seattle, WA
- 03.2015 “Penitent Mothers and Vengeful Fetuses: The Price of Infanticide”  
Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
- 01.2013 “*Liu Xiangnü baojuan* and Lay Religious Practice”  
Society for Indian Philosophy and Religion: International & Interdisciplinary Conference,  
Fo Guang University, Yilan, Taiwan
- 02.2010 “The Elusive Reflection: Reality and Illusion in Mirrors of the *Honglou Meng*”  
Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, Columbia University
- 02.2009 “Third Rate Iron? A new look at Li Rihua’s *Nanxixiangji*”  
Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, Columbia University

#### PANELS ORGANIZED

- 11.2022 “Building and Sharing Open-Access Online Resources for the Study of Chinese Religions”  
*co-organized with Dr. Gregory Scott, University of Manchester*  
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
- 03.2020 “Legacies of Civil War: Religion and Politics in the Late Qing”  
Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston, MA (cancelled due to COVID-19)
- 11.2019 “Disaster and Calamity in Chinese Religions from the Medieval to the Modern Era”  
*co-organized with Dr. Gregory Scott, University of Manchester*  
American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, San Diego, CA

- 11.2018 “Inspired by the Other: Rhetorical Reinventions of Tradition in Ming-Qing Religious Literature”  
American Academy of Religion Annual Conference, Denver, CO
- 03.2015 “Sowing Seeds of Goodness: Morality Literature in Qing China”  
Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Chicago, IL

#### WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- 12.2021 “Sensational Adventures and Religious Awakenings: *Xiuntü baojuan* and its late Qing context”  
Jiangnan Buddhist Traditions in Context, University of Arizona
- 06.2021 “Fearing and Loving the Vernacular: late Qing Social Reform and the Power of Words”  
International Workshop: “Dynamics of knowledge transmission and linguistic transformation in Chinese textual cultures” Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Verona (Italy) and the Research Center on East Asian Civilizations, CRCAO, Paris (France)
- 12.2019 “Making Good: Labor and Laborers in Post-Taiping Moral Reconstruction”  
The Makers Space: Person, Place, and Production in Early Modern China, Johns Hopkins University
- 02.2019 “*The Precious Scroll of Cherishing Grains*: Redemptive Labor as Women’s Work”  
New Directions in the Study of Early Modern Chinese Fiction Symposium, University of Puget Sound
- 10.2017 “Heaven is Always Watching: Women’s Redemptive Labor in late Qing Morality Literature”  
East Asian Studies and Gender and Women’s Studies Faculty, University of Montana
- 03.2015 “Preserving Grains, Written Paper, and Infants in the Aftermath of the Taiping War”  
East Asia: Transregional Histories Workshop, University of Chicago
- 12.2014 “Reading for Women: 19<sup>th</sup> Century Chinese Popular Literature and Religious Culture”  
Art and Politics of East Asia Workshop, University of Chicago
- 06.2011 “The Rat and the Bodhisattva: Performance and Religion in Late Qing *Baojuan* (Precious Scrolls)”  
Literature, Theater and Cultural History of China Workshop, University of Chicago
- 11.2009 “Six Illusions of Encountering an Immortal: Late Ming *Xixiang* Print Culture and the Allure of Expertise”  
Literature, Theater and Cultural History of China Workshop, University of Chicago

#### INVITED LECTURES AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- 12.2022 Guest lecturer for two sections of Chinese studies senior seminar, focused on *Precious Scroll of Liu Xiang*  
University of Manchester, UK
- 06.2022 Instructor for From the Ground Up: Buddhism and East Asian Religions (FROGBEAR) Summer Training Session on Precious Scrolls (*baojuan*)
- 06.2021 Instructor for “Spirit-Writing and the Study of Spirit-Written Literature in Early Modern and Modern China”  
From the Ground Up: Buddhism and East Asian Religions (FROGBEAR) Summer Training Session
- 03.2021 “Vernacularizing the Written Word: Printed Performance Literature in Early Modern China”

- Humanities Research Seminar, University of Manchester
- 02.2021 “[“What Times Are These?”: Confronting Crisis with Literature During the Taiping War](#)”  
Keynote speaker, Arizona State University Graduate Student Symposium: “An Inauspicious Year: Confronting Crisis in Chinese Literature, History, and Culture”
- 10.2020 “[“The Precious Scroll of Liu Xiang: A Case Study in Tradition and Creativity in Qing Popular Religious Literature](#)”  
Online Speaker Series, East Asia Center, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 10.2019 “[“Archival and Private Collection in Modern China: The Case of Zashuguan](#)”  
Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University
- 03.2019 Review of Yuhang Li, *Becoming Guanyin: Artistic Devotion of Buddhist Women in Late Imperial China*  
Inaugural First Book Roundtable, Society for the Study of Chinese Religions, AAS 2019
- 11.2018 “Penitent Mothers of 19<sup>th</sup> century Chinese Anti-Infanticide Literature”  
Work in Progress Series, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Studies Network, CU Boulder
- 10.2018 “Imperial Values and Private Virtues: Popular Morality Literature in the late Qing”  
Faculty Research Forum, Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations, CU Boulder
- 06.2018 High School Convocation Speaker, Kaohsiung American School, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
- 04.2018 “Good Housekeeping: Advice for Women in a late Qing Daily-Use Religious Encyclopedia”  
Center for Asian Studies Luncheon Series, CU Boulder
- 10.2017 “Afterlives of Chinese Widows: Venerating Chaste Women on the Taiwan Frontier”  
Invited Speaker, Mansfield East Asia Lecture Series, University of Montana
- 10.2017 “Memorials of Story and Stone: Afterlives of Qing Chastity Paragons on the Taiwan Frontier”  
Faculty Research Forum, Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations, CU Boulder
- 02.2016 “Loss and Restoration in late Qing Society and Religion”  
Asian Studies Faculty Seminar, Beloit College, Beloit, WI
- 08.2013 “以《劉香寶卷》研究清末宗教與文化 (The *Precious Volume of Liu Xiang* and late Qing religion and culture)” (presented in Mandarin Chinese)  
Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
- 05.2013 “The Business of Being Good: *Baojuan* in late Qing Jiangnan”  
Fulbright Thought Leader Lecture Series, Fulbright Taiwan
- 04.2006 “Translation’s Illicit Pleasures: *The Plum in the Golden Vase*”  
Student Symposium Presentation, Beloit College

## OUTREACH

- 07.2020 Video on Empress Cixi for Denver Art Museum, for online secondary school curriculum  
<https://vimeo.com/471211501/85ec635d43>
- 10.2018 Lecture on late Qing Dynasty for Brookdale Senior Living Community, Boulder, CO
- 07.2018 Lecture on early Qing Dynasty for Brookdale Senior Living Community, Boulder, CO
- 10.2017 Lecture on filial piety literature for Brookdale Senior Living Community, Boulder, CO
- 05.2017 Presentation on research to Center for Asian Studies Advisory Council, CU Boulder
- 03.2017 Lecture on the Ming Dynasty for Brookdale Senior Living Community, Boulder, CO

## AWARDS AND HONORS

Summer 2021	Undergraduate Research Opportunities Team Grant, University of Colorado, Boulder
Summer 2020	Undergraduate Research Opportunities Team Grant, University of Colorado, Boulder
Summer 2020	CLAC Course Development Grant, Center for Asian Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder
2019	Bibliographical Society of America Community Grant
Fall 2018	CHA Faculty Fellowship, Center for Humanities and the Arts, University of Colorado, Boulder
Summer 2018	Undergraduate Research Opportunities Team Grant, University of Colorado, Boulder
AY 2014-2015	Whiting Dissertation-Year Fellowship, Humanities Division, University of Chicago
AY 2014-2015	Martin Marty Junior Fellowship, Martin Marty Center, Divinity School, University of Chicago
AY 2013-2014	Chinese Studies Dissertation Fellowship, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago
AY 2012-2013	Fulbright Student Fellowship, United States Department of State
Summer 2012	Pre-dissertation Research Grant, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago
Fall 2012	Taiwan Fellowship, Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (declined)
Summer 2007	Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship (for Japanese), Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago
May 2007	Lucius Porter Prize for Asian Studies, Beloit College

## TEACHING HISTORY

**University of Colorado, Boulder** (Boulder, CO), 08.2016 - present

*Assistant Professor*

### Undergraduate courses

Introduction to Chinese Civilization (F'16, S'18, S'20, F'20, S'22, F'22)

Women and the Supernatural in Chinese Literature (Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2023)

Culture and Literature of Late Imperial China (Spring 2021)

Masterpieces of Chinese Literature in Translation (Fall 2021)

Advanced Writing Topics on Chinese & Japanese Literature and Civilization (Spring 2017)

### Graduate seminars

Early Modern Chinese Fiction - Vernacular Novels and Short Stories (Fall 2016, Fall 2020)

Late Qing Narrative Precious Scrolls (Fall 2022)

History of Chinese Literature, 1000-1900 (Fall 2017, Spring 2020, Spring 2023)

Graduate Academic Writing (Spring 2018, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023)

Topics in Early Modern Literature - Ming-Qing Contexts (Fall 2019, Spring 2022)

Ming-Qing Drama on the Page (Spring 2021)

**University of Chicago** (Chicago, IL), 09.2009 - 03.2016

*Instructor*

Divinity and Femininity: Women's Religious Lives in Pre-Modern China (Winter 2016)  
Humanities Core: Readings in World Literature (Fall 2015)

*Writing Intern*

Humanities Core: Readings in World Literature (Fall 2015)  
Humanities Core: Reading Cultures (Fall 2010, Winter 2011, Winter 2012)

*Course Assistant*

The Ghost Tradition in Chinese Literature, Opera and Film (Fall 2011)  
Dream of the Red Chamber and the Culture of Late Imperial China (Fall 2009)

**School of the Art Institute of Chicago** (Chicago, IL), 08-12.2011, 08-12.2015

*Instructor*

Falling in Love All Over Again: 1200 Years of Reinventing a Chinese Tale (Fall 2015)  
Chinese I (Fall 2011)

**Beloit College** (Beloit, WI), 08.2006 - 05.2007

*Course Assistant*

Chinese 100, Chinese 200 (Fall 2006, Spring 2007)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 05.2021 CU Boulder Human Resources Anti-Racism Challenge
- 01.2019 CU Boulder Student Academic Success Center Annual Inclusive Pedagogy Seminar: "Be the Change: Practicing Inclusive Excellence in the Classroom."
- 05.2017 CU Boulder Leadership Education for Advancement and Promotion: "Introductory Leadership Workshop"
- 02-03.17 CU Boulder Arts & Sciences Support of Education Through Technology Special Interest Group: "Encouraging and Developing Students' Critical Thinking Skills"
- Winter 2014 University of Chicago course: "East Asian Languages, Acquisition and Pedagogy" (audit)  
Instructor: Dr. Hi-Sun Kim
- Summer 2010 University of Chicago Writing Program: "Pedagogies of Writing"  
(intensive 8-week summer training)

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND DEPARTMENTAL ROLES

- 2021- Diversity & Inclusive Excellence Committee, ALC
- 2022- , Curriculum Committee, ALC  
2020-21
- Fall 2022 Graduate Faculty Advisor for Chinese, ALC
- 2018-21 Executive Committee, Center for Asian Studies
- 2018-21 Curriculum Committee, Center for Asian Studies
- 09.2018 Reappointment Committee for Chinese Language Instructor, ALC
- 2017-21 Undergraduate Faculty Advisor for Chinese, ALC
- 2017-19 Salary Committee, ALC
- 2017-18 Modern Chinese Literature Search Committee, ALC
- 2016-21 Honors Council Representative, ALC

OTHER SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- 10.2019 Organized and led workshop “Readers & the Printed Word in Early Modern China:  
and Investigate Real-life Chinese History in Norlin Library!” for Boulder students, faculty, and  
04.2019 staff.  
03.17-21 Judge, Boulder Chinese Contest (held annually each March)

#### SERVICE TO THE FIELD

- 2022- Steering Committee, Daoist Studies Unit, American Academy of Religion  
2020- Board of Directors, Society for the Study of Chinese Religions  
2018- Steering Committee, Chinese Religions Unit, American Academy of Religion  
2018- Steering Committee, Chinese Religious Text Authority (CRTA) Database Project  
2018-22 Co-chair, “Chinese Literature before 1900” Session, Rocky Mountain Modern Languages  
Association  
2019-21 Nominating Committee, American Oriental Society

#### LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese - near-native oral fluency, advanced reading knowledge  
Classical Chinese - advanced reading knowledge  
Taiwanese/Hokkien - intermediate oral fluency  
Japanese - functional reading knowledge, beginner oral proficiency

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Asian Studies  
American Academy of Religions  
Society for the Study of Chinese Religions