

Cynthia J. Brokaw

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Harvard University	History and East Asian Languages	1984
M.A.	Harvard University	East Asian Regional Studies	1974
B.A.	Wellesley College	History	1972

EMPLOYMENT

Brown University, 2021-: Professor of History and East Asian Studies
2015-: Chen Family Professor in Chinese Studies
2009-: Professor of History
The Ohio State University, 2006-2009: Professor of History
2001-2006: Associate Professor of History
University of Oregon, 1991-2001: Associate Professor of History
1987-1991: Assistant Professor of History
Vanderbilt University, 1984-87: Assistant Professor of History

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Commerce in Culture: The Sibao Book Trade in the Qing and Republican Periods. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Asia Center, 2007. 673 pages.

Chinese translation: 《Wenhua maoyi: Qingdai zhi Minguo shiqi Sibao de shuji jiaoyi 文化贸易：清代至民国时期四堡的书籍交易》北京：北京大学出版社，2015.

The Ledgers of Merit and Demerit: Social Change and Moral Order in Late Imperial China. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991.

Chinese translation: 《功过格:明清时期的社会变迁与道德秩序》Hangzhou: Zhejiang renmin chubanshe, 1999. Re-translated and published under same title by Shanghai renmin chubanshe, 2021.

Edited Volumes and Journal Issues

Publishing for Daily Life in Early Modern East Asia, *Lingua Franca* Issue 6 (2020), edited with Joan Judge. A series of four translations of essays by Chinese and Korean scholars on the publication of daily-use encyclopedias in early modern China, Korea, and Japan; Professor Judge and I selected and edited the essays, and I contributed the introduction. See: <https://www.sharpweb.org/linguafranca/issue-6-2020/>.

The History of the Book in East Asia, edited with Peter Kornicki. Franham, UK: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2013. 604 pages. A volume in the series *The History of the Book in the East: A Library of Critical Essays*, this is a collection of reprints of essays that Professor Kornicki and I selected and introduced.

From Woodblocks to the Internet: Chinese Publishing and Print Culture in Transition, edited with Christopher A. Reed. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2010.

Printing and Book Culture in Late Imperial China, edited with Kai-wing Chow. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2005.

Book Chapters

"Robert Morrison at the End of the Enlightenment: Collecting Books in Early Nineteenth-Century China," in *Exchanging Knowledge: Ideas and Materialities*, edited by James Raven. Woodbridge, UK: Boydell & Brewer, forthcoming. 55 manuscript pages.

"Intellectual Property with Chinese Characteristics," in *Ownership of Knowledge: Beyond IP*, edited by Dagmar Schafer, Annapurna Mamidipudi, Marius Buning, and Mario Biagioli. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2023. Pages 47-89.

"The Colour Print and Early Modern Chinese Society," in *Handbook of the Colour Print in China, 1600-1800*, edited by Anne Farrer and Kevin McLoughlin. Leiden: Brill, 2022. Pages 1-22.

"Later Imperial Vernacular Encyclopedias," in *Literary Information in China: A History*, edited by Jack W. Chen, Anatoly Detwyler, Christopher M. B. Nugent, Xiao Liu, and Bruce Rusk. New York: Columbia University Press, 2021. Pages 316-323.

"Medieval and Early Modern East Asia," in *Oxford Illustrated History of the Book*, edited by James Raven. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020. Pages 84-112.

"Relating the Past: Writing (and Rewriting) History," with Allison Busch, in *What China and India Once Were: The Pasts That May Shape the Global Future*, edited by Sheldon Pollock and Benjamin Elman. Columbia University Press, 2018. Pages 127-164.

"Empire of Texts: Book Production, Book Distribution, and Book Culture in Late Imperial China," in *Distant Relations: The Book Worlds of East and West, 1450-1850*, edited by Peter Burke and Joseph McDermott. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2015. Pages 181-236.

"Regional Publishing and Late Imperial Scholarship: The Zunjing shuyuan 尊經書院 of Chengdu and Scholarly Publication in Late-Qing Sichuan," in *Imprimer autrement: Le livre non commercial dans la Chine imperial*, edited by Michela Bussotti and Jean-Pierre Drège. Geneva: Librairie Droz, 2015. Pages 597-635.

"The History of the Book in East Asia," with Peter Kornicki, in *The History of the Book in East Asia*, edited by Cynthia Brokaw and Peter Kornicki. Franham, UK: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2013. Xiii-xxxv.

"Commercial Woodblock Publishing in the Qing (1644-1911) and the Transition to Modern Print Technology," in *From Woodblocks to the Internet: Chinese Publishing and Print Culture in Transition*, edited by Cynthia Brokaw and Christopher A. Reed. Leiden: Brill, 2010. Pages 39-58.

"On the History of the Book in China," in *Printing and Book Culture in Late Imperial China*, edited by Cynthia Brokaw and Kai-wing Chow. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2005. Pages 3-54.

"Reading the Best-sellers of the Nineteenth Century: Commercial Publishing in Sibao," in *Printing and Book Culture in Late Imperial China*, edited by Cynthia Brokaw and Kai-wing Chow. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2005. Pages 184-231.

Translated into Japanese: "Jūkyū seiki no besutoseraa ni tsuite: ni okeru shogyo shuppan" 19 世紀のベストセラーについて：四堡における商業出版, *Jinbun shakai kagaku kenkyū* 人文社会科学研究 no. 53 (March 2013): 29-86.

"Supernatural Retribution and Human Destiny," in *Religions of China in Practice*, edited by Donald S. Lopez, Jr. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996: 423-436.

"Tai Chen and His Confucian Program of Learning," in *Education and Society in Late Imperial China*, edited by Benjamin A. Elman and Alexander Woodside. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1994. Pages 257-291.

Articles in Refereed Journals

"The Dance of 'Old' and 'New' in Chinese Print Culture, 1860s-1955," *Science in Context* 30.3 (September 2017) (Special Issue: From Qing to China: Knowledge Systems in Transformation), pages 281-324.

"17 到 19 世紀中國南部鄉村的書及書籍的流傳" (Book Markets and the Circulation of Texts in Rural South China, 17th-19th Centuries), *Qingshi yicong* 清史译丛 7 (1/2008), pages 40-76.

"Book History in Premodern China: The State of the Discipline I," *Book History* 10 (2007), pages 253-290.

"Publishing, Society, and Culture in Pre-Modern China: The Evolution of Print Culture" (A Review of Inoue Susumu's 井上進 *Chūgoku shuppan bunkashi: shomotsu sekai to chi no fūkei* 中国出版文化史中国出版文化史：書物世界と知の風景, *A Cultural History of Chinese Publishing: The World of Books and the Landscape of Knowledge*, , *A Cultural History of Chinese Publishing*, Nagoya: Nagoya University Press, 2002), *International Journal of Asian Studies* 2.1 (2005), pages 135-165.

"Field Work on the Social and Economic History of the Chinese Book," *East Asian Library Journal*, 10.2 (Autumn 2001), pages 6-59.

"Commercial Publishing in Late Imperial China: The Zou and Ma Family Businesses of Sibao, Fujian," *Late Imperial China*, 17.1 (June 1996), pages 49-92.

"Yuan Huang (1533-1606) and the Ledgers of Merit and Demerit," *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, 47.1 (June 1987), pages 137-196.

明末清初的善書與社會意識形態變遷的關係 (Changes in Social Ideology in the Morality Books of the Ming and Qing), 近代中國史研究 (*Newsletter for Modern Chinese History*) 16 (September 1993), pages 30-40.

Online Publications (Refereed)

"Publishing and Popular Literature in Imperial China," in *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History*, edited by David Ludden. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017. 28 manuscript pages.

"Printing and Book Culture," in *Oxford Bibliographies in Chinese Studies*, edited by Tim Wright. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014; revised in 2017. 41 manuscript pages.

Published Interviews

"Bao Yunya jiaoshou fangtan—guanyu zai Sibao, Jinxi, Yuechi de tianye diaocha" 包筠雅教授访谈—关于在四堡，金溪，岳池的田野调查 (Interview with Professor Cynthia Brokaw—on fieldwork in Sibao, Jinxi, and Yuechi), edited by He Zhaohui 何朝晖 in *Zhongguo chubanshi yanjiu* 中国出版史研究 (Research on Chinese Publishing History), 1 and 2 (2020): 149-164 and 178-191.

"Bao Yunya jiaoshou fangtan—guanyu Ou Mei de Zhongguo shujishi yanjiu dongtai, qushi yu fangfa" 包筠雅教授访谈—关于欧美的中国书籍研究动态，趋势与方法 (Interview with Professor Cynthia Brokaw—on status, trends, and methods of research on Chinese book history by European and American scholars), edited by He Zhaohui 何朝晖 in *Zhongguo chubanshi yanjiu* 中国出版史研究 (Research on Chinese Publishing History), 1 and 2 (2020): 169-177.

Reprints

"Merit Accumulation in the Early Chinese Tradition," in *Critical Readings on Religions of China*, edited by Vincent Goossaert. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2012. Vol. 2, pages 725-761. (Reprint of chapter 2 of *The Ledgers of Merit and Demerit: Social Change and Moral Order in Late Imperial China*.)

"Supernatural Retribution and Human Destiny," in *Religions of Chinese in Practice*, edited by Donald S. Lopez, Jr. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996.

Essays in Conference Proceedings

"Spreading Civilization: The Distribution of Commercial Imprints in Late Imperial China," in *Confucianism and Books in Late Imperial China: Familial, Religious, and Material Networks* (Papers from the Fourth International Conference on Sinology). Taipei: Academia Sinica, 2013. Pages 165-197.

"The Aesthetics of Cheap Print," *The Art of the Book in China* (Percival David Foundation Colloquies on Art and Archaeology in Asia No. 23). London: School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, 2006. Pages 43-59.

"Woodblock Printing and the Diffusion of Print in Qing China," in *Higashi Ajia shuppan bunka kenkyū—Niwatazumi* 東 アジア出版文化研究—にわたずみ (Studies of Publishing Culture in East Asia—NIWATAZUMI), edited by Isobe Akira. Tokyo: Nigensha, 2004. Pages 183-197.

"Strategies for Family Renewal in Fifteenth-Century China: The Yuan-shih chia-hsun," 第六屆亞洲族譜學術研討會會議記錄 (Proceedings of the Sixth Conference on Asian Genealogies). Taipei: Kuo-hsueh wen-hsien kuan, 1993. Pages 73-103.

HONORS/GRANTS

Overseas Visiting Scholar, Collaborative Innovation Center for Confucian Civilization, Shandong University, Fall 2017.

Individual Award for Achievement in Printing History, American Printing History Association, 2015-2016

Chen Family Chair in Chinese Studies, Brown University, 2015

Collaborative Reading-Workshop Grant, The Henry Luce Foundation/ ACLS Program in China Studies, 2014 (with Li Yu)

National Humanities Center Fellowship, 2012-2013

Overseas Visiting Scholar, St. John's College, Cambridge University, Easter Term, 2009

Research Grant, Committee for Scholarly Communication with China (ACLS), 2006 (for use in 2008)

National Endowment for the Humanities, awarded 2006 (for use in 2009)

College of Humanities Seed Grant, The Ohio State University, 2006

CLIO Award for Outstanding Teaching in History from the Zeta Chapter, Phi Alpha Theta, June 2004

United States-China Cooperative Research Award, Henry Luce Foundation, 1999-2005

Member, School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, 1999-2000

National Endowment for the Humanities Collaborative Research Grant, 1997-1998

American Council of Learned Societies Conference Grant, 1997-1998

Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Conference Grant, 1997-1998

Research Grant, Committee for Scholarly Communication with China, 1996

Fellowship for University Teachers, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1995

Research Grant, Committee for Scholarly Communication with China, Fall 1993

Center for Chinese Studies Research Grant, Taipei, Fall and Winter, 1992-1993

Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Grant for Summer Study, Taipei, 1992

American Philosophical Society Research Grant, 1990

Grant-in-Aid, American Council of Learned Societies, 1988

Fellow, Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute, Radcliffe College, Spring 1987

American Council of Learned Societies Mellon Fellowship for Young China Scholars, 1986-87

CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION

Facilitator, Workshop on Chinese Descriptive Bibliography, held at the Harvard-Yenching Library, May 16-19, 2017.

Co-organizer, "How to Read a Chinese Book" workshop, held at Williams College, October 3-5, 2014. The workshop was supported by a Collaborative Reading-Workshops Grant from the Henry Luce Foundation / ACLS Program in China Studies.

Co-organizer, "From Woodblocks to the Internet: Chinese Publishing and Print Culture in Transition," held at the Ohio State University, November 3-6, 2004. The conference was supported by the Freeman Foundation and the Institute for Chinese Studies and the Office of International Affairs at the Ohio State University.

Principal Investigator for "Printing and Book Culture in Late Imperial China," an international conference held at Timberline Lodge, Oregon, June 1-5, 1998. The conference was supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, and the University of Oregon.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PARTICIPATION/INVITED LECTURES (since 2015)

"Changing Conceptions of Daily Use: From the 萬寶全書 of the Late Ming to the 酬世類書 of the High Qing," Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, May 20, 2024.

"The Yuechi Block-cutters and Sichuan Book Culture, 18th – Early 20th Centuries," Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, May 17, 2024.

"The Zunjing Shuyuan 尊經書院, 'Sichuan Learning,' and the *Shuxue Bao* 蜀學報 in Late Qing and Republican-Era Sichuan," Institute for Modern History, Academia Sinica, May 15, 2024.

"'How to do everything right': The Daily Use Encyclopedias of the Ming and Qing as Sources for Social History," Distinguished Speaker Series, Department of Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore, July 22, 2023.

"'Spreading Culture Throughout the Land': Woodblock Publishing and Chinese Book Culture in the Early Modern Era," Panizzi Lectures, series of three lectures on book history, British Library, November 30, December 2, and December 7, 2021.

"Field Work in the Social History of the Book in China," East Asia Seminar, Cambridge University, December 25, 2021.

"Books without Covers: Reading Digitized Texts," Keynote address for the virtual graduate conference "Reading Material: New Approaches to Textual Media in China from Bamboo Slips to Touchscreen Tablets," Center for Chinese Studies, University of California, Berkeley, April 16, 2021.

"Books for 'Grassroots' Readers," paper presented at the "Chinese Grassroots Reading Across Time" Roundtable, Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, March 23, 2019.

"Governments and Scholars in Chinese History," paper presented at the "President's Panel: Governments and Scholars in Historical Context: Examples from South Asia, East Asia,

and the United States,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, March 22, 2019.

“Intellectual Property with Chinese Characteristics,” paper presented (via Skype) at the Workshop on the Ownership of Knowledge, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, August 30, 2018.

Presented in a revised version at the Brown Legal History Workshop, February 8, 2019.

“Popular Medical Texts and Publishing in Late Qing Shandong,” paper presented at the Workshop on Chinese Vernacular Medicine, University of Hong Kong, June 28-29, 2018.

“Spreading the Word: Woodblock Publishing Sites and Book Distribution Networks in the Qing,” Center for Chinese Studies, University of California, Berkeley, February 8, 2018.

“The Yuechi Block-Cutters and Woodblock Publishing in Qing and Republican-Era Sichuan,” paper presented at the *Chine: histoire et société locales/Chinese local history and society*, École française d’Extrême-Orient, Paris, December 15, 2017.

“Wenben de diguo: Ming Qing shiqi de chubandi yu shuji fenxiao wangluo” 文本的帝国：明清时期的出版地与书籍分销网络 (Empire of Texts: Publishing Sites and Book Distribution Networks in Ming and Qing China), paper presented at Shandong University, October 26, 2017; and Liaocheng University, November 7, 2017.

“The Production and Transmission of Confucian Texts and Popular Confucianism in the Qing,” paper presented at the 8th World Confucian Congress, Chufu, China, September 22, 2017.

“Beyond Intellectual Property,” position paper presented at the “Ownership of Knowledge” Workshop at the Max Planck Institute, November 9-11, 2017.

“‘Every household should have a copy of this text’: Paratexts and the Popular Reading Public in Early Modern China,” for “Paratexts in Chinese Book Culture: Case Studies from Early Modern and Modern China,” Annual Conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing, Paris, July 19, 2016.

“*Wanbao quanshu* 萬寶全書 and the Book Culture of Late-Ming China,” for the Workshop on Late Ming through Early Republican *Wanbao quanshu*: Texts and Readers,” Heidelberg University, April 29, 2016.

“‘Delightful to the Senses’: Color Woodblock Printing in Early Modern China,” invited talk at the History of Material Texts Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, October 12, 2015.

“The *Journal of Sichuan Learning*, Western Knowledge, and Classical Studies in Late Nineteenth-Century China,” for “Books and Print between Cultures, 1400-1900,” Amherst College, September 19, 2015.

“What Peasants ‘Read’: The Expansion in Access to Textual Knowledge in Early Modern China,” for the panel “Histories of Reading and Writing,” SHARP in China, International Congress of Historical Sciences, August 28, 2015.

TEACHING (at Brown)

“Heaven Above, Suzhou and Hangzhou Below”: Urban Culture in Early Modern China (1961D, Spring 2019, Spring 2021, Fall 2023)

Historical Crossings (2935, Fall 2018)

Chinese Political Thought from Confucius to Xi Jinping (1101, Spring 2018, Fall 2022)

China’s Examination Hell (1961C, Fall 2016)

Imperial China (1110, Fall 2016, Summer 2021)

The Silk Roads, Past and Present (0574A, Spring 2016; 1974A, Spring 2018, Spring 2022, Spring 2023)

Religion, Popular Protest, and Social Justice in China, Past and Present (1976N, Spring 2012, Spring 2013)

China’s Late Empires/China’s Early Modern Empires (1510A, Spring 2011, Spring 2012; 1112, Spring 2022, Fall 2023)

Women and Gender Relations in China, Past and Present (1976E, Spring 2011, Spring 2015; 1111, Spring 2021)

History of East Asian Civilization: China (410, Fall 2009, Fall 2010, Fall 2011)

History Graduate Colloquium: The Theory and Practice of History (293, Fall 2010, Fall 2011, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2022)

Peasant Rebellion and Popular Religion in China (1380, Spring 2010)

Cities and Urban Culture in China (1973E, Spring 2010; 1961B, Fall 2015)

Knowledge and Power: Elite Culture in Late Imperial China (1973F, Fall 2009)

Service on Brown Preliminary Exams/Dissertation Committees:

Dandan Xu (Ph.D. candidate in History of Art and Architecture, 2023-)

Richard Shih (Ph.D. candidate in History, 2019-; dissertation committee only)

Kuan-hung Liu (Ph.D. candidate in History of Art and Architecture, 2020-)

Amanda Armenceneaux (Ph.D. candidate in History, 2019-)

Qingyue Pan (Ph.D. candidate in Religious Studies, 2019-)

Baoli Yang (Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Literature, 2019-)

Yekai Zhang (Ph.D. candidate in History, 2018-)

Yu-chi Chang (Ph.D. candidate in History, 2014-2021)

Shiu-on Chu (Ph.D. candidate in History, 2011-2018)

Amy Huang (Ph.D. candidate in History of Art and Architecture, 2013-2018)

SERVICE

Service to the Profession

Editorial Board, *Book History*, 2018

Guest Editor, *Lingua Franca*, 2018

Editorial Board, *Journal of Chinese History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015-2021

Editorial Board, *East Asian Publishing and Society*. Leiden: Brill, 2011-

Editorial Board, *Frontiers of History in China*, 2011-

Editorial Board, *International Journal of Asian Studies*, 2010-2020

Member, Faculty Advisory Committee, Harvard-Yenching Institute, 2011-2012, 2013-2014

Joseph Levenson Prize Committee, Association for Asian Studies, 2011-2013

Chair, Program Committee, Association for Asian Studies, 2007

Service at Brown

Department of History:

Graduate Admissions Director, 2022-23

Chair, Committee on Britain and the World, 2018-19

Chair, 2013-2016

Graduate Committee, 2011-2012, 2020-2021

Chair, Modern China Search Committee, 2010-2011

Personnel Planning Committee, 2009-2011

Other Departments:

Chair, Department of East Asian Studies, 2018-2020

Chair, East Asian Studies Steering Committee, 2018-2020

Chair, East Asian Studies Senior Search Committee, 2018-2020

Search Committee in Asian Art, History of Art and Architecture, 2014-2015

Search Committee in Late Imperial Chinese Literature and Culture, East Asian Studies, 2011-12, 2014-2015

University:

Manager, East Asia Colloquium, 2013-2018

Office of Global Engagement Advisory Committee, 2013-2016

Chairs' Agenda Committee, 2013-2014

Year of China Advisory Committee, 2010-2012

Co-chair, Contemporary China Search Committee, 2010-2011

Task Force in International Affairs, 2010-2011