

GAO, Yunxiang
Curriculum Vitae

Department of History 518 Jorgenson Hall Ryerson University 380 Victoria Street Toronto, ON M5B 2K3	(416) 979-5000 ext. 6204 Fax: (416) 979-5110 y1gao@ryerson.ca
---	---

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, Department of History, Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario, 2012-
Assistant Professor, Department of History, Ryerson University, Ontario, 2005-2012

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy	History, University of Iowa (2005) Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination: Modern History of China, Modern History of Japan, Gender History in the United States
Master of Arts	Library and Information Science, University of Iowa (2002)
Master of Arts	History, Beijing University, China (1997)
Bachelor of Arts	History, Inner Mongolian Normal University, China (1994)

Areas of Specialization: Modern East Asian History, with an emphasis on China; Gender and Women; Culture (Sports, Physical Culture, Fashion, and Cinema); Second World War in Asia; Asian Diasporas in the Americas; Sino-African American Relationship

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Sporting Gender: Women Athletes and Celebrity-Making during China's National Crisis, 1931-1945, Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2013

Articles and Book Chapters

- “W. E. B. and Shirley Graham Du Bois in Maoist China,” *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race* 10, 1 (2013): 59-85
- “Beidaihe Beach, Leisure Culture, and Modernity in Republican China,” *Sport in Society: Culture, Commerce, Media, Politics* 15, 10 (2012): 1353-80
- “Soo Yong (1903-1984): Hollywood Celebrity and Cultural Interpreter,” *Journal of American-East Asian Relations* 17, 4 (2010): 372-99
- “Sex, Sports, and ‘National Crisis,’ 1931-1945: The ‘Athletic Movie Star’ Li Lili (1915-2005),” *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture* 22, 1 (2010): 96-161. Translated into Chinese, “性，体育与中国的‘国难’：1931-1945——‘体育明星’黎莉莉（1915-2005）,” in 《镜中红颜：跨文化视阈中华语电影的性别体认》，中国电影出版社 (Chinese Cinema Publishing House), 2013
- “The Nationalist and Feminist Discourses on ‘Jianmei’ (Fit/Robust Beauty) during

China's 'National Crisis' in the 1930s," for the Special Issue on "Translating Feminism in China" of *Gender and History* 18, 3 (2006): 546-73; Reprinted in Dorothy Ko and Wang Zheng (eds.), *Translating Feminism in China*, Blackwell Publishing, 2007: 104-37; Translated into Chinese, "'健美'在中国三十年代的'国难时期: 民族主义与女权主义,'" in 《女权主义在中国的翻译历程》, 上海三联书店 (Shanghai Sanlian Bookstore), 2011.

Nominated by *Gender and History* for the Berkshire Conference Best Article Prize in 2006

"Interview with Filmmaker Shi Qing," in Megan C. McShane (ed.), *Proceedings of Image, Flux: China, New Work in Video, Art, Documentary Film, and Independent Film*, Guangzhong: Image Theory Group, 2006, 120-26

Work in Progress

Soo Yong (1903-1984): A Hollywood Actress and Cosmopolitan of the Asian Diasporas (This is a book-length biography of the educated, sophisticated Hawaiian-born Chinese American actress Soo Yong. I seek to change scholarly and public views of the history of Asian-American Women by going beyond discussions of their stereotypical on- and off-screen images as marginalized, oppressed, and illiterate laundry workers, housewives, or prostitutes.)

Liu Liangmo (1909-1988) and the Transpacific Politics of Mass Singing

(This book manuscript focuses on the story and impact of Liu, a 20th-century Chinese Diaspora activist, prolific journalist, music conductor, and Christian administrator, across the Pacific Ocean. This project cuts across national and racial boundaries, demonstrates the use of mass singing in politics, and combines radical Chinese nationalism and missionary Christianity with cultural history.)

"Engendering the Athletes on Socialist Screen: Athletic-Themed Cinema in the Maoist China"

(This article explores the gender dynamics presented in several athletic-themed films produced in the Maoist years, demonstrating continuity and disconnection in making socialist citizens for the "New China.")

"Kissing: Beyond Racial, Cultural and Ideological Boundaries"

(This article analyzes how kissing was "translated" from a western novelty to a "Chinese" body Language of intimacy through the dimensions of tradition, morality, modernity, hygiene, and science within the semi-colonial context.)

"Twisted Racial and Gender Identities on and off Screen: Anna May Wong and Li Xianglan (Yamaguchi Yoshiko, Ri Koran) in the 1930s and 1940s"

(This project analyzes Chinese Diasporas through gender perspectives and interprets global representations of Chinese womanhood during Japanese imperial expansion through the cases of the American-born actress of Chinese descent Anna May Wong, and the Manchurian-born actress of Japanese descendant, Li Xianglan.)

Encyclopedia Entries

"China and the Olympics" (3,200 words), "Sports" (1200 words), "Sports Figures" (800 words), and "Beijing Olympic Games 2008" (800 words), *Encyclopedia of Modern China*, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2009 (peer reviewed).

The encyclopedia was named as one of the Ten Outstanding Reference Sources of 2010 by American Library Association, and received an “Honourable mention” for the 2010 Dartmouth Award

“China and African Americans” (1,000 words), *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896-the Present*, vol. 1, New York: Oxford University Press, 2009, 373-74

The encyclopedia was named as one of the Ten Outstanding Reference Sources of 2010 by American Library Association

“Don Ho” (1,000 words), *Scribners Encyclopedia of American Lives*, vol. 8, Detroit: Gale Research Company, 2009, 222-23

Book Reviews

Joshua Goldstein, *Drama Kings: Players and Publics in the Re-Creation of Peking Opera 1870-1937*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007, in *Canadian Journal of History* 43, 2 (2008): 353-55

Gary Xu, *Sinascapes: Contemporary Chinese Cinema*, Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2007, in *Journal of Asian Studies* 67, 4 (2008): 1448-50

Xu Guoqi, *Olympic Dreams: China and Sports 1895-2008*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008, in *Journal of Asian Studies* 68, 2 (2009): 618-20

TEACHING

Courses Taught

(Undergraduate)

Modern China I (1839-1949)

Modern China II (1949-the Present)

History and Film I: Clash of Empires

History and Film II: Breaking the Colonial Chains

Core Culture: China

History Workshop: Methodology

Cinema and Modernization in East Asia

Gender History in East Asia since the Late 19th Century

Gender History in China since the Late 19th Century

Courses that I would like to teach

(Undergraduate)

Themes in Modern East Asian History

The Ming and Qing Dynasties

The Twentieth-Century China

Chinese in the Diaspora (1850s-the Present)

(Upper level undergraduate or graduate)

Sports History in Modern China /World

Cinema and History in Modern China

Invention of Popular Culture in Modern China (Sports, Cinema, and Music)

Sports, Gender, and Cinema for the 20th-Century Pan-Chinese Community

Second World War in China/Asia

Shanghai Modern (1842-1949)
Issues in the Cultural Revolution
Images of China in the West (the 13th Century-the Present)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Instructor, Department of History, University of Iowa, 2003
Teaching and Research Assistant, Department of History, University of Iowa, 1998-2003

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

SRC Fund Travel Grant, Faculty of Arts, Ryerson University, 2010, 2011, and 2013
Research Grant of Faculty of Arts, Ryerson University, 2006-2007
Pre-doctoral Fellowship, the Fisher Centre for the Studies of Women and Men, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, United States, 2003-2004
Aydelotte Dissertation Fellowship, Department of History, University of Iowa, 2003-2004
Centre of Asian and Pacific Studies Dissertation Research Fellowship, International Centre, University of Iowa, 2001-2002, and 2002-2003
T. Anne Cleary International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Graduate College, University of Iowa, 2001-2002
Liqing Award for Outstanding Academic Performance, Department of History, Beijing University, China, 1996
Awards for Outstanding Academic Performance, Department of History, Inner Mongolian Normal University, 1991, 1992, 1993, and 1994

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences

“Engendering Athletes on Socialist Screens: Athletic-themed Cinema in Maoist China,” Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, the University of Toronto, 2014
“Liu Liangmo (1909-1988) and the Transpacific Politics of Mass Singing,” Annual Conference of the Association of Asian Studies, San Diego, California, 2013
“Yang Xiuqiong (1918-1982): Chinese Female Olympian Swimmer and the Perils of Celebrity for the Modern Girl in the 1930s,” 15th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2011
“Soo Yong: Hollywood Actress and Cosmopolitan of the Asian Diaspora,” Annual Conference of the Association of Asian Studies, Honolulu, Hawaii, 2011;
The Asian Diaspora Conference, University of Toronto, 2010 (Invited)
“Industries of Chinese-Language Cinema Conference,” Shanghai University, 2011 (Invited)
“Swimming, Fashion and Beauty during China’s ‘National Crisis’ 1931-1945,” International Workshop on Modern Sports in Asia: Cultural Perspectives, the Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore, 2010 (Invited)
“History in Contemporary Chinese Films: The Cases of *Lust*, *Caution*, *Farewell, My Concubine*, and *Hero*,” the Fifth Annual University of Toronto China Conference: Changes and Challenges, 2010 (Invited)
“Reframing the ‘Athletic Movie Star’ in China’s ‘National Crisis,’ 1931-1949,” Annual Conference of Association of Asian Studies, Boston, Mass., 2007

- “Sports, Gender, Cinema, and the Nation-State Building during China’s ‘National Crisis’ from 1931 to 1945: the ‘Athletic Movie Star’ Li Lili (1915-2005),” Annual Conference of the American Association for Chinese Studies, University of California at Riverside, 2006
- “Chinese Women’s First Participation in the Olympics and the Remaking of Chinese Womanhood during China’s ‘National Crisis,’” Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference of the Association of Asian Studies, at the University of Pittsburgh, 2005
- “In the National Interest: Chinese Women’s Sports and Physical Education During the War of Resistance Against Japan,” International Symposium on Sports and Culture, Iowa City, 1999

Invited Lectures

- “Reframing the ‘Athletic Movie Star’ in China’s ‘National Crisis,’ 1931-1945,” Johns Hopkins University Nanjing Centre, 2006;
The East West Centre, University of Hawaii, 2007;
Film Department and Women’s Studies Program at University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, and Wisconsin Chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans, 2007
- “Gender and History: Through the Examples of Ya-ching Lee and Soo Yong,” Department of History, Inner Mongolia University, Huhhot, China, 2007
- “Gender History in the Republic of China,” Department of History, Nankai University, Tianjin, China, 2005
- “Sports, Gender, Cinema, and Nation-State During the War of Resistance Against Japan, 1931-1945,” Fisher Centre for the Studies of Women and Men, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, 2004

SERVICE (SELECTED)

Departmental and University Committees and Service

- Department Chair Search Committee, 2013
Grievance Committee of Ryerson Faculty Association, 2012-2014
Department Hiring Committee, 2012-2013, 2013-2014
Equity Committee of Ryerson Faculty Association, 2010-2012
B.A. Committee of the Department of History, Ryerson University, 2010-2012
Organizer of the Discussion Group of the Department of History, 2009-
Dennis Mock and Doug Webb Awards Committee, Department of History, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012
Faculty of Arts Teaching Award Committee, 2007-2008

Outreach and Other Professional Activities

- Panel Chair, Annual Conference of the Association of Asian Studies, Honolulu, 2011
Article referee for *Journal of American-East Asian Relations*, 2011
Article referee for *Gender and History*, 2009
Translation and consultant for *Woodcuts in Modern China 1937-2008: Towards A Universal Pictorial Language*, Picker Art Gallery, Colgate University, 2009

Consultant for catalogue of Chinese Woodcut Movement for Picker Art Gallery, Colgate University, 2008

Media Appearances

Commentator for the article “Xuezhè: Zhongmei guānxi wú dà’ài (Scholar: The Sino-American Relations Should Not Be Affected),” for *Singtao Daily*, 2012

Commentator on “the Flying Tigers,” the Fairchild (*Xin Shidai*) TV Station in Toronto, 2012

Commentator for the article “China Clamps Down on Social Media,” for *The Daily Planet*, 2011

Commentator on “The Impact of Banning Shark Fin Products on Chinese Community in Toronto” in the Fairchild (*Xin Shidai*) TV Station in Toronto, 2011

Commentator on the Impact of the Earthquake in Japan, 2011, for *Singtao Daily*

Commentator for the article “Will China’s Economy Hop Forward in Year of Rabbit?” in *CTV.ca News*, Canada, 2011

Commentator on Women/Gender and Olympics, Fairchild Television at Richmond Hill, Ontario, 2010

Commentator on Vancouver Winter Olympics for OMNI News, 2010

Commentator on Tradition and Chinese New Year, for *the Hamilton Spectator*, 2010

Commentator for the article “Chinese Debate Positive Side of Global Warming,” in *National Post*, 2009

Commentator on Dalai Lama’s Visit to Toronto, Global TV, 2007

Nadine Kam, “Tale of Two Chinese Female Film Stars,” *Honolulu Star Bulletin*, January 23, 2007. (An article on my study of the “athletic movie star” Li Lili; <http://starbulletin.com/2007/01/23/features/story01.html>)

Commentator on Chinese New Year on the “Toronto at Noon” Program of CFRB Radio, Toronto, 2006

Commentator on the Chinese New Year for the Evening News of Canadian Television Station, 2006.

Panelist for “Teaching and Research at Ryerson University,” in the “New Style” (*Xin Fengcai*) Program of the Fairchild (*Xin Shidai*) TV Station in Toronto, 2005

Other Community Services

Testimony for the City Hall of Toronto Regarding the Ban of Shark Fin Product, 2011

AFFILIATION TO ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS

Association of Asian Studies, 1998-

Critical China Study Group, University of Toronto, 2011-