

Christopher M. B. Nugent

Professor of Chinese
Department of Asian Studies
Program in Comparative Literature

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Teaching and Administrative Experience

Williams College, Williamstown, MA
Professor of Chinese, Department of Asian Studies, 2016–present
Chair, Comparative Literature Program, 2014–16, 2017–2020
Associate Professor of Chinese, Department of Asian Studies, 2010–16
Assistant Professor of Chinese, Department of Asian Studies, 2004–10

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Visiting Scholar, 2007–09
Teaching Fellow, 1998–2002

Education

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and Civilizations, June, 2004. Primary coursework included traditional Chinese literature, history, and philosophy and Japanese literature. Additional coursework in social anthropology, aesthetics, and European intellectual history. **Dissertation:** “The Circulation of Poetry in Tang Dynasty China.” Advised by Stephen Owen.

Brown University, Providence, RI.
B.A. in Religious Studies, 1991. *Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa.*

The Ohio State University, Summer Program East Asian Concentration, Columbus, OH.
Summer 2004. Intensive training program in teaching Mandarin Chinese

International Chinese Language Program, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan
2003–04. Intensive work in modern and classical Chinese language and literature.

Princeton-in-Beijing, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China
Summer 1993 and summer 1994. Intensive work in modern Chinese language and literature.

Foreign Languages College of Capital Normal University, Beijing, China
1993–94. Coursework in modern and pre-modern Chinese language and literature.

Publications

The Textual Practices of Literary Training in Medieval China. Manuscript in progress.

Literary Information in China: A History. Edited volume (with four co-editors) under contract with Columbia University Press.

“Medieval Encyclopedias.” In *Literary Information in China: A History.*

“Philological Practices in the Chinese Tradition.” In Phillip Roelli, ed., *Handbook of Stemmatology: History, Methodology, Digital Approaches*, DeGruyter, 2020, pp. 501–512.

“Sources of Difficulty: Reading and Understanding Du Fu.” In Xiaofei Tian, ed., *Reading Du Fu: Nine Views*. Hong Kong University Press, 2020, pp. 111–28.

“Structured Gaps: The *Qianzi wen* and Its Paratexts as Mnemotechnics.” In Swartz and Campany, eds., *Memory in Medieval China: Text, Ritual, and Community*. Brill, 2018, pp. 158–92.

“Literary Media.” In Denecke, Li, and Tian, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Classical Chinese Literature (1000 BCE–900 CE)*. Oxford University Press, 2017, pp. 46–60.

“Manuscript Culture,” In Denecke, Li, and Tian, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Classical Chinese Literature (1000 BCE–900 CE)*. Oxford University Press, 2017, pp. 61–75.

“Putting His Materials to Use: Experiencing a Li Bai *Yuefu* in Manuscript and Early Print Documents,” *East Asian Publishing and Society* 5.1 (2015), pp. 32–73.

Manifest in Words, Written on Paper: Producing and Circulating Poetry in Tang Dynasty China. Harvard University Asia Center, 2010. Winner, 2012 Joseph Levenson Book Prize, Pre-1900 Category.

「唐代长安诗歌的流传」 (“The Circulation of Tang Poetry in Chang’an”). In Chen Pingyuan 陈平原, et al., eds. 《西安：都市想象与文化记忆》 (“Xi’an: Metropolitan Imagination and Cultural Memory”), Beijing University Press, 2009, pp. 104–15.

“The Lady and Her Scribes: Dealing with the Multiple Dunhuang Copies of Wei Zhuang’s ‘Lament of the Lady of Qin’.” *Asia Major*, vol. 20 (2007), pp. 25–73.

“Literary Collections in Tang Dynasty China.” *T’oung Pao*, vol. 93 (2007), pp. 1–52.

Book Reviews

Review of Zongqi Cai, ed., *How to Read Chinese Poetry in Context: Poetic Culture from Antiquity through the Tang*. *Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture*, forthcoming.

Review of Mark Swislocki, *Culinary Nostalgia: Regional Food Culture and the Urban Experience in Shanghai*. *Gastronomica*, Spring 2010, pp. 98–100.

Review of Graham Sanders, *Words Well Put: Visions of Poetic Competence in the Chinese Tradition*. *The University of Toronto Quarterly*, vol. 78:1 (2009), pp. 221–222.

Editorial

Library of Chinese Humanities. Co-General Editor and member of the Editorial Board, 2013–present.

Manuscript and Text Cultures. Member of advisory board, 2019–present.

The Poetry and Selected Prose of Wang Wei. Paul Rouzer, translator. De Gruyter, 2020. Volume editor.

The Poetry of Hanshan (Cold Mountain), Shide, and Fenggan, Paul Rouzer, translator. De Gruyter, 2016. Volume editor.

Tang Studies. Editor, 2011–2015.

Editorial committee member, 汉语 900 句 (*Everyday Chinese*), Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 2006.

Invited Talks and Conference Presentations

“China's Golden Age: Imperial Chang'an.” Delivered August 27, 2020 remotely for the Dunhuang Foundation.

“Multiple Hands in a Manuscript Copy of *Kaimeng yaoxun*: A Children's Primer Fount at Dunhuang.” Delivered February 20, 2020 at workshop entitled “By One's Own Hand-For One's Own Use” at the Center for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany.

“Thinking through categories: The *Chuxue ji* and Literary Composition.” Delivered December 13, 2019 at symposium entitled “Classicising Learning, Performance, and Power: Eurasian Perspectives from Antiquity to the Early Modern Period” at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.

- “Designing the Rabbit Garden: Model Prose and Mnemonic Structures in an Early Tang Encyclopedia Discovered at Dunhuang.”** Delivered September 4, 2019 at conference entitled “The Materiality of Knowledge in Chinese Thought: Past and Present” at Yuelu Academy, Hunan University, Changsha, PRC.
- 「敦煌蒙書中的層累知識」 (Layered knowledge in a Dunhuang primer). Delivered June 13, 2019 at workshop entitled 「文本的潛力：中文寫本」 (Potential texts: a workshop on Chinese manuscripts) at 中央研究院 (Academia Sinica), Taipei, Taiwan.
- “The Exam Primer *Tuyuan cefu* in Dunhuang Manuscripts.”** Delivered May 4, 2019 at the “13th Annual Chinese Medieval Studies Workshop” at Rutgers University.
- “Dunhuang Manuscripts of the Tang Educational Work *Tuyuan cefu*.”** Delivered April 18, 2019 at conference entitled “Dunhuang Studies Conference” at Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK.
- “From Chang’an to Dunhuang: A Capital Education on the Silk Road.”** Delivered September 23, 2018 at conference entitled “From the Silk to the Book Road(s): Networks of Commerce, Artifacts, and Books between Central and East Asia” at University of California, Berkeley.
- “A Tang Miscellany Found at Dunhuang as a Part of Literary Training in Medieval China.”** Delivered June 7, 2018 at Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK.
- “Layered Learning in a Children’s Primer Found at Dunhuang.”** Delivered May 17, 2018 at conference entitled “New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China: On Commemorative Inscriptions” at Reed College.
- “Learning through Example: Literary Training through *Tuyuan cefu*.”** Delivered April 27, 2018 at conference entitled “Reconsidering Chinese Literature in the World: An International Symposium in Honor of Stephen Owen” at Harvard University.
- “Layered Learning in a Children’s Primer Found at Dunhuang.”** Delivered April 7, 2018 at conference entitled “Manuscripts and Materiality of Text” at the International Center for the Study of Ancient Text Cultures, Renmin University, Beijing, PRC.
- “Structuring Knowledge in an Early Tang Exam Encyclopedia.”** Delivered March 23, 2018, at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. Also served as organizer of the panel, which was entitled “Useful Categories: Encyclopedic Texts and Practical Knowledge in Middle Period East Asia.”
- “Encyclopedias.”** Delivered February 10, 2018 at conference entitled “A Literary History of Information, Part III,” at Columbia University.
- “Textual Practices of Literary Training in Medieval China: Evidence From Dunhuang.”** Delivered October 11, 2017 at Princeton University.

- “On Encyclopedias.”** Delivered May 12, 2017 at conference entitled “A Literary History of Information, Part II,” at University of Virginia.
- “Compressing the Culture: Encoding Knowledge for Retrieval in Medieval China.”** Delivered May 3, 2017 at conference entitled “Size Matters: Knowledge, Storage, and the History of Compression,” at Harvard University.
- “Literacy in Medieval China.”** Delivered April 24, 2017 to the American Association of University Women, Bennington VT branch. Bennington, VT.
- “Meandering Miscellanea” 蜿蜒的雜錄.** Delivered March 29, 2017 at conference entitled “From Manuscript to Print: Medieval Europe and China” 由写本到印刷:中世纪欧洲与中古中国, Fudan University, Shanghai, PRC.
- “Instructional Materials: Manuscripts for the Early Stages of Literary Training in Medieval China.”** Delivered January 31, 2017 at Stanford University.
- “Priming Du Fu.”** Delivered October 28, 2016 at conference entitled “Du Fu (712–770): China’s Greatest Poet: A Conference in Honor of the Library of Chinese Humanities,” at Harvard University.
- “Encoding the Literary Inheritance: Memory and Text as Information Management in Medieval China.”** Delivered September 9, 2016 at workshop entitled “The Literary History of Information Management” in China at the Center for Humanities and Information at The Pennsylvania State University.
- “Restructuring to Remember: Textual and Paratextual Manipulations of the *Qianzi wen* 千字文 to Increase Mnemonic Utility.”** Delivered April 30, 2016 at the “11th Annual Chinese Medieval Studies Workshop” at Rutgers University.
- “Informed Learning in Medieval China.”** Delivered at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, April 1, 2016, Seattle, WA. Also served as organizer of the panel, which was entitled “Information Management in Pre-Modern China.”
- “Colloquium on Dunhuang Poetic Manuscripts.”** Led two-hour colloquium on my research on Dunhuang poetic manuscripts. January 29, 2016, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.
- “Learning to Produce Literature in Medieval China.”** Delivered January 12, 2016 at the University of California, Los Angeles.
- “編錄’作為一種創作：類書的文本意義” (“Composed Compilations: *Leishu* as Independent Texts”).** Delivered December 12, 2015 at Fudan University, Shanghai, PRC as part of workshop entitled “文本形態與文學闡釋” (“Textual Forms and Literary Interpretation”).

“Orality and Memorization in a Dunhuang Manuscript of the *Kaimeng yaoxun* 開蒙要訓.”

Delivered October 3, 2015 at The Ohio State University as part of workshop entitled “Memory and Text in Premodern East Asia: Concepts, Theories, and Methods.”

Presentations on Tutorial Teaching Methods. Delivered August 28 and 29, 2015 at Hendrix College as part of a series of discussions on approaches to tutorial-style teaching.

“Writing Materials” and “Manuscript Culture.” Presentation and discussion of two draft essays at a conference on the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Traditional Chinese Literature*. Delivered December 4, 2014 at Harvard University.

“Material Matters: Thinking about Chinese Poetry through Medieval Manuscripts.” Delivered November 5, 2014 at the University of South Carolina’s Center for Asian Studies.

“Radical Words: Material Worlds.” Presentation delivered with Professor Edan Dekel September 18, 2014 at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute as part of the “Radical Words: From Magna Carta to the Constitution” and “Cast for Eternity: Bronzes from the Shanghai Museum” exhibitions.

“Organizing Literary Information in China Before the Spread of Printing.” Delivered September 13, 2014 at Peking University for conference entitled “Medieval Text Technologies in China and Europe.”

“Putting His Materials to Use: Experiencing a Li Bai *Yuefu* in Manuscript and Early Print Documents.” Delivered September 7, 2014 at Princeton University for conference entitled “Prospects for the Study of Dunhuang Manuscripts: The Next 20 Years.”

“On Reading (or Not Reading) the *Wenxuan*.” Delivered May 30, 2014 at University of California, Los Angeles for “Reading, Information, and Quantification in Traditional China” (Luce/ACLS Collaborative Reading Workshop).

“Organizing the Literary Inheritance in Medieval China.” Delivered May 1, 2014 at Columbia University for the Premodern China Lecture Series.

“Literary Training in Medieval China: Dealing with the Literary Inheritance.” Delivered April 25, 2014 at Harvard University for the Premodern Chinese Literature Workshop.

“Structures of Textual Memory in Medieval China.” Delivered at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, March 27–30, 2014, Philadelphia, PA.

“Some Issues in the Aesthetics of Oral Poetic Performance in Late Medieval China.” Delivered May 18, 2013 at University of California, Los Angeles for conference entitled “From Earthly Pleasures to Princely Glories in the Medieval and Renaissance Worlds.”

“Literary Information in a Tang *Leishu*.” Delivered April 29, 2013 at Harvard University for the China Humanities Seminar.

“Organizing Literary Information in Tang China.” Delivered December 7, 2012 at the University of California, Berkeley’s Center for Chinese Studies.

“Information Management in the *Chuxue ji*.” Delivered September 8, 2012 at The Pennsylvania State University for conference entitled “China after Comparison.”

“‘Unearthed’ and Notions of Ethnic Identity in Medieval China.” Delivered July 29, 2012 at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute.

“Training the Reader in Late Medieval China.” Delivered at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, March 31–April 3, 2011, Honolulu, HI.

“A Medieval Chinese Poem in Its Material Contexts.” Faculty lecture delivered February 17, 2011 at Williams College.

“李白樂府及其物質背景” (“A Li Bai Yuefu and Its Material Contexts”). Delivered June 6, 2010 for conference entitled “中世文學的世界：漢魏六朝唐宋研究的新視域與新路徑” (“The World of Medieval Literature: New Visions and New Paths in Research on the Han, Wei, Six Dynasties, Tang, and Song”) held jointly at Fudan University in Shanghai and Suzhou University.

“The Moon is Missing: A Li Bo *Yuefu* and Its Material Contexts.” Delivered May 15, 2010 at Harvard University for conference on “Manuscript Culture in the Chinese Tradition.”

“Variation in Early Texts of a *Yuefu* Poem Attributed to Li Bo.” Delivered May 8, 2010 at Columbia University for the Chinese Medieval Studies Workshop.

“Textual Memory and Memorization in Medieval China: Content, Methods, and Limitations.” Delivered April 24, 2009 at the University of Chicago.

“Memory and Memorization in Tang Dynasty China.” Delivered October 22, 2008 at Princeton University.

“Memory and Memorization in Medieval Literary Culture.” Delivered May 3, 2008 at Columbia University for the Chinese Medieval Studies Workshop.

“Oral Circulation of Poetry in Tang Dynasty China.” Delivered on December 13, 2007 at Brown University.

“Reading Medieval Chinese Manuscripts.” Delivered February 27, 2007 at Williams College for the International Studies Colloquium.

「唐代詩歌在長安的流傳」 (“**The Circulation of Tang Poetry in Chang’an**”). Delivered November 2, 2006 at conference on 「『西安：歷史記憶與城市文化』國際研討會」 (“The International Symposium on ‘Xi’an: Historical Memory and Urban Culture’”) at Shaanxi Normal University.

“The Lady and Her Scribes: Dealing with the Multiple Dunhuang Copies of Wei Zhuang’s ‘Lament of the Lady of Qin.’” Delivered October 27, 2006 at Harvard University for conference on “The Power of Words: The Interpretation of Premodern Chinese Literature.”

“Variations in Dunhuang Poetic Manuscripts.” Delivered at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, April 6–9, 2006, San Francisco, CA. Also served as organizer and chair of the panel entitled “The Material of Tang Literature.”

“Individual Literary Collections During the Late Tang Dynasty.” Delivered April 29, 2005 at Harvard University for conference on “The Early Development of Print Culture in China.”

“Tang Poetry in Tang Manuscripts.” Delivered at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, March 4–7, 2004, San Diego, CA.

“Written and Oral Sources for Tang Poetry Collections.” Delivered October 26, 2002 at the New England Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, Colby College.

“The Formation of Individual Poetry Collections in Tang Manuscript Culture: The General Process and the Special Case of Bai Juyi.” Delivered August 23, 2002 at Harvard University for conference on “The Canon of Chinese Poetry in East Asia.”

“Fixing the Gaps: Preservation and Loss in Prefaces to Tang Dynasty Literary Collections.” Delivered March 1, 2002 at Harvard University for conference entitled “Fixed Ideas: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference.”

“Prefaces and the Circulation of Tang Poetry in the Tang.” Delivered October 1, 2000 at the New England Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, Brown University.

Other Scholarly Activities

Discussant, “Histories of Literary Information in China, Part 2: Complexity and Overload,” March 23, 2019, at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boulder, Colorado.

Discussant, “From the Silk to the Book Road(s): Networks of Commerce, Artifacts, and Books between Central and East Asia,” September 23, 2018, University of California, Berkeley.

Discussant, Chinese Medieval Studies Workshop at Rutgers University, May 5, 2018.

“Making Connections: Contemporary Approaches to the Tang Dynasty, In Honor of the Opening of the Elling O. Eide Library.” Served as panel chair for panel entitled “New Approaches to Tang Poetry” and was discussant in round-table discussion entitled “Reflections on Past Paths and Future Directions in the Study of the Tang and the Role of the Tang Studies Journal.” The Elling O. Eide Library, Sarasota, Florida, November 10–11, 2016.

Organizer, “Radical Words” lecture series, fall, 2014, at Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, MA.

Facilitator, panels on “Literature” and “Ninth Century” at “Conference on Middle Period China, 800–1400), Harvard University, June 5–7, 2014.

Discussant, Chinese Medieval Studies Workshop at Rutgers University, May 3, 2014.

Discussant, Chinese Medieval Studies Workshop at Rutgers University, May 5, 2012.

Co-organizer, “Ideas of Order in the Tang Dynasty.” April 2001, Harvard University.

Co-organizer, “Early Medieval China: Questions of Interpretation.” May 2000, Harvard University.

Awards and Fellowships

Marion and Jasper Whiting Foundation Travel Grant. 2017. Awarded for travel to London to examine Dunhuang manuscripts held at the British Library.

UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Distinguished Visiting Scholar. January, 2016.

Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange Scholar Grant. 2013–14. Awarded for project entitled “It’s All before Your Eyes: Organizing, Using, and Transmitting Literary Knowledge in Medieval China.”

Henry Luce Foundation/ACLS Program in Chinese Studies Collaborative Reading-Workshop Grant. 2013. Awarded for a workshop entitled “Reading, Information, and Quantification in Traditional China,” in collaboration with Jack W. Chen of University of California, Los Angeles.

Herbert H. Lehman Fellow, Oakley Center for the Humanities and Social Sciences. 2013–14.

Joseph R. Levenson Prize, pre-1900 category, for *Manifest in Words, Written on Paper: Producing and Circulating Poetry in Tang Dynasty China.* 2012.

Engl Fellow, Williams College. Fall, 2007.

First Place, Thirty-first Annual Foreigners’ Chinese Speech Competition, Taipei, Taiwan, November 7, 2003. Took top honors in an international Chinese speech competition.

Whiting Fellowship in the Humanities. 2003–04. Fellowship awarded to a small number of students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University.

Foreign Language and Area Studies. 2003–04. Awarded grant for year-long intensive Chinese language work at the International Chinese Language Program, National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan.

Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, 2001, 2002. Twice awarded certificate given for exceptionally high marks on student teaching evaluations.

Foreign Language and Area Studies, 1996. Awarded grant for summer language work in Japanese.

Service to the Profession

Reviewer: Brill, Harvard University Asia Center, SUNY Press, *Asia Major*, Yale University Press, *CLEAR (Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, and Reviews)*, *Gastonomica*, *Tang Studies*, IUP Program, Critical Languages Scholarships, ACLS, *T'oung Pao*, *Journal of Chinese Studies*

Board of Electors: Oxford University

External Reviewer: Various

Prize Committee: Joseph Levenson Book Prize, Pre-1900 Category, 2017–2019.

Service to Williams College

Chair, Curricular Planning Committee, 2018–20

Curricular Planning Committee, 2017–20

Co-chair, CPC Working Group on Linguistics, 2019–20

Chair, Program in Comparative Literature, 2014–16, 2017–20

Co-chair, CPC Working Group on Science and Technology Studies, 2017–18

Faculty Steering Committee, 2015–16

Ad-hoc Committee on the Year of the Tenure Decision, 2015–16

Planning Committee, “The Book Unbound,” 2013–14

Convocation Planning Committee, 2013–14

Committee on Priorities and Resources, 2012–13

Schapiro and Hollander Halls Users Committee (chair), 2010–12

Faculty Advisor, Varsity Men’s Tennis Team, 2006–07, 2009–13

Faculty Review panel, 2010–11

Faculty Compensation Committee. 2009–11

Coordinator, Chinese Language Program. 2005–07, 2009–11

Winter Break Campus Shutdown Task Force. 2010

Committee on Educational Policy. 2006–07

Professional Memberships

Association of Asian Studies

Early Medieval China Group

T'ang Studies Society