

Leting Zheng 郑乐婷, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

- 2020-2026 Ph.D. East Asian Languages and Literatures, University of Oregon, USA
Dissertation Title: “Futuring the Nation: Happiness, Affective Economies, and Contested Childhoods in Modern China”
Committee Members: Prof. Roy Chan (advisor), Prof. Maram Epstein, Prof. Glynne Walley, Prof. Bryna Goodman
- 2017-2020 M.A. Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Colorado Boulder, USA
- 2013-2017 B.A. Chinese Language and Literature, Sun Yat-sen University, China

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Modern Chinese Culture, Literature, Film, and History; Transnational Children’s Studies; Media and Visuality; Gender Studies; Affect Theory.

PUBLICATIONS

- (2025) “‘Documenting’ Happiness of Labor for The Great Leap Forward: Children’s Film and the Making of Modern Socialist Childhood,” *Journal of Chinese Cinemas*,
<https://doi.org/10.1080/17508061.2025.2524291>.
- (2025) “The Visibility and Visuality of Children in Modern China: Cuteness, Play, and Outdoor Activities in Children’s Magazines,” *Children’s Literature Association Quarterly* 50.1,
<https://doi.org/10.1353/chq.2025.a978114>.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Chinese Language (All Levels); Chinese History, Literature, and Culture (Premodern to Modern); Film & Media Studies; Gender and Sexuality, Family & Childhood Studies; Socialism.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Oregon

- 2020-present Graduate Employee, Dept. of East Asian Languages and Literatures
Language Courses (Chinese language at all levels):
First Year Chinese (Fall 2021)
Second Year Chinese (Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2022)
Third Year Chinese (Winter 2024)
Literature, Film, and Culture Courses (from lower-division to upper-division):
Introduction to Chinese Narrative (Spring 2024, Fall 2025)
Introduction to Chinese Film (Winter 2023)
Introduction to Pop Culture (Winter 2022, Spring 2023, Winter 2025)
History of Chinese Literature I (Beginnings to 3rd Century CE) (Fall 2023)
History of Chinese Literature II (3rd to 18th Centuries) (Winter 2024)
History of Chinese Literature III (Late Qing to 20th Century) (Spring 2022)
What is Asia? (Spring 2025)
Language of Food in East Asia (2026 Spring)
- 2022 The National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar
- 2020-2021 Department of Defense Chinese Flagship Program Tutorial

University of Colorado Boulder

- 2017-2020 Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Asian Languages and Civilizations
Language Courses (Chinese language at all levels):
First Year Chinese (Fall 2019, Winter 2020)
Second Year Chinese (Fall 2018, Winter 2019)
Third Year Chinese (Fall 2017, Winter 2018)

TEACHING CERTIFICATE

- 2020 Certificate in College Teaching issued by Graduate Teacher Program, University of Colorado Boulder

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

- 2024 The Top Prize of Asian Studies Research Event and Asian Studies Awards for Graduate Students, University of Oregon
- 2024 College of Arts and Science Diversity Grant, "Harmony in Diversity: Exploring the Shared Heritage of Asia," Co-PI, University of Oregon
- 2024 National Humanities Center Graduate Student Summer Residency Program Sponsorship, University of Oregon (postpone)
- 2024 Oregon Humanities Center Dissertation Fellowship for 2024-25, University of Oregon
- 2023 East Asia Library Travel Grant, Stanford University
- 2023 Oregon Humanities Center Graduate Research Support Fellowship, University of Oregon

- 2021 Professional Development Grant, University of Oregon
- 2020-2025 Teaching Assistantship and Fellowship, Dept. of East Asian Languages and Literatures, University of Oregon
- 2019 Tuition Grant, School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University
- 2017-2020 Teaching Assistantship and Fellowship, Dept. of Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2016 The Second Prize Scholarship, Sun Yat-sen University

SELECTED CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Conferences Organized

- 2023 East Asian Languages and Literatures Graduate Student Symposium, University of Oregon, Eugene, April 22

Panels Organized

- 2023 Association for Asian Studies, “De/Romanticizing Childhood: Children and Nation-Building in Modern China and Japan,” virtual, February 17

Papers Presented

- 2026 ETH Zürich University, “Players, Saviors, and Laborers: The Instrumental Plasticity of Childhood in the Chinese “Playground,” Switzerland, August 26-28, 2026
- 2025 Oxford Center for the History of Childhood Colloquium: Becoming Human? Childhood, Development, and the Human Sciences, “Competing (R)Evolutionary Narratives: Children, Labor, and Happiness During the Great Leap Forward (1958–1962),” University of Oxford / virtual, June 23, 2025
- 2025 Children’s Literature Association Annual Conference, “Girls Front and Center: Honor Culture and Socialist Girlhood in 1950s Children’s Films,” in roundtable, “Tokens of Girlhood: Telling the Time through Material Memories,” virtual, June 9-14, 2025
- 2025 American Comparative Literature Association, “Little Red Guards in the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976): Violence, Happiness, and Hatred in Propagandistic Children’s Periodicals,” virtual, May 29-June 1
- 2024 Northwest China Forum, “Hatred, Pleasure, and (In)visible Violence: The Innocent Weapons in Little Red Guards,” Vancouver, Canada, October 18-20
- 2024 Children’s Literature Association, “The Visibility and Visuality of Children in Modern China (1890s-1920s): The Depictions of Cuteness, Play, and Outer Spatiality in Children’s Magazines,” Madison, WI, May 30 - June 1
- 2024 7th Asian Studies Research Event at University of Oregon, “From Bourgeois Fantasy to Maoist Propagandism: Children, Happiness, and Nation-Building in Modern China,” Eugene, OR, May 23
- 2023 Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association, “What is Happiness?: Children, Labor, and Leisure in *The Story of Red Scarves*,” Denver, CO, October 11-14
- 2023 Association for Asian Studies, “Entering the National Spatiality: The Affect of Cuteness in *Children’s World*,” virtual, February 17
- 2022 American Comparative Literature Association, “The Play of Langxian: Education as Subversion In ‘Pan Wenzhi Joins His Male Lover in A Grave of Mandarin Ducks,’” virtual, June 15-18

- 2022 25th Annual Harvard East Asia Society Conference, “The Affect of Cuteness: Cutifying Chinese Youth as the New Normal in the 1920s,” virtual, February 19-20
- 2022 The Texas Asia Conference, “The Affect of Cuteness: Cutifying Chinese Youth as the New Normal in the 1920s,” Austin, TX & virtual, February 25-26
- 2020 29th Annual Columbia Graduate Student Conference, New York, “Chen Zibao and His Primers: An Examination of Cantonese Identity in Late Qing China,” February 21-20
- 2019 68th Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs Annual Meeting, “The Images of Carpenter and Artisan in Premodern Chinese Literary Thoughts,” Lansing, MI, October 4-6
- 2019 Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference, “The Rhetoric of Liao Endao’s Cantonese Verses: Playfulness and Sarcasm,” Boulder, CO, February 15-16

SERVICE

Professional Service

- 2026 Peer Reviewer, *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*

Institutional Service

- 2025 Member of College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship Committee, University of Oregon
- 2020-2021; 2023-2024 Member of Diversity Committee, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, University of Oregon

NON-DEGREE ACADEMIC TRAINING

- 2022 The National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar, University of Oregon, “The Early Modern Vernacular Novel in China and Japan” by Prof. Maram Epstein and Prof. Glynne Walley
- 2019 The 42nd School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University
“Rethinking Trauma Theory” by Prof. Cathy Caruth

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

- 2024 Crafting Classroom Engagement: A Workshop for Teaching Tips, University of Oregon, Oregon
- 2024 Turning a Dissertation into a Book Workshop, University of Oregon, Oregon
- 2023 Teaching U.S. Undergraduates Workshop, University of Oregon, Oregon

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- Cantonese Native
- Mandarin Native
- Classical Chinese Professional Working Proficiency
- English Professional Working Proficiency
- Japanese Professional Working Proficiency (Japanese Language Proficiency Test N2 level certified)
- Korean Limited Working Proficiency