

David C. Porter

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EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

PhD, History and East Asian Languages, May 2018

Dissertation: “Ethnic and Status Identity in Qing China: The Hanjun Eight Banners”

Committee: Mark Elliott, Michael Szonyi, David Howell, Kelly O’Neill

Yale University, New Haven, CT

BA, *summa cum laude* with Distinction in History, May 2010

EMPLOYMENT

McGill University, Montréal, QC

Assistant Professor, Department of East Asian Studies

August 2024–Present

Faculty Lecturer, Department of History and Classical Studies and Department of East Asian Studies

August 2021–July 2024

Yale University, New Haven, CT

Postdoctoral Associate, Council on East Asian Studies

July 2019–June 2021

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Slaves of the Emperor: Service, Privilege, and Status in the Qing Eight Banners (Columbia University Press, 2024)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Bannermen as Translators: Manchu Language Education in the Hanjun Banners.” *Late Imperial China* 40.2 (December 2019), pp. 1-43. DOI: 10.1353/late.2019.0006.

“Manchu Racial Identity on the Qing Frontier: Donjina and Early Twentieth-Century Ili.” *Modern China* 44.1 (January 2018), pp. 3-34. DOI: 10.1177/0097700417728471.

Book Reviews

Söderblom Saarela, Mårten. *The Early Modern Travels of Manchu: A Script and Its Study in East Asia and Europe*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 84.1 (April 2021), pp. 191-193. DOI: 10.1017/S0041977X2100029X

Kim, Loretta. *Ethnic Chrysalis: China's Orochen People and the Legacy of Qing Borderland Administration*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 2019. *Inner Asia* 22.1 (April 2020), pp. 155-157. DOI: 10.1163/22105018-12340142

Chen, Shuang. *State-Sponsored Inequality: The Banner System and Social Stratification in Northeast China*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2017. *Journal of Chinese History* 3.1 (January 2019), pp. 159-162. DOI: 10.1017/jch.2018.15.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

History of late imperial and Republican China
Ethnicity, nationalism, and identity
Manchu studies
Frontiers and borderlands of China
Translation and empire
Service elites in early modern Eurasian history

TEACHING AREAS

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| Chinese history | Comparative imperial history |
| East Asian history | History of Inner Asian borderlands of China |
| Early modern Japanese history | Manchu language |

PRIZES AND FELLOWSHIPS

Shortlisted for Wallace K. Ferguson Prize, awarded by the Canadian Historical Association
“for the best scholarly work in non-Canadian history,” (for *Slaves of the Emperor*), 2024
Fairbank Center Graduate Student Associate, Harvard University, 2016-2018
Fairbank Center Conference Travel Grant, Harvard University, 2016
Fulbright Fellowship (IIE), US Department of State, 2015-2016
Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship, Harvard University, 2015-2016
Asia Center Graduate Summer Language Grant, Harvard University, 2012
Summer School Tuition Waiver for Japanese Language Study, Harvard University, 2011
George Owen Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University (declined), 2011
BA Thesis received:
Williams Prize in East Asian Studies, Yale University, 2010
Andrew D. White Prize in “Rest of the World” History, Yale University, 2010
Phi Beta Kappa, 2010
Hank Greenberg Fellow through the Richard U. Light Fellowship Program for language study in East Asia, Yale University, 2008 and 2009

TALKS, CONFERENCES, and WORKSHOPS

“皇帝之奴” (“Slaves of the Emperor”). Invited book talk (virtual) with discussants (Prof. Lin Lei of Duke Kunshan University and Prof. Hu Xiangyu of Renmin University), 云里阅天下 *Yunli yue tianxia* (An online scholarly platform for discussions of Chinese history connecting North America-based scholars with audiences in China, run by Professor Li Chen of the University of Toronto). May 4/5, 2024.

“Slaves of the Emperor: Service, Privilege, and Status in the Qing Eight Banners.” Invited book talk (virtual), Talks in Chinese Humanities – University of Sydney and University of New South Wales. Sydney, Australia, March 22, 2024.

“Slaves of the Emperor: Institutionalized Privilege in the Qing Eight Banners.” Invited talk, University of California, Riverside Department of History. Riverside, CA, February 22, 2024.

“Privilege and the Discourse of Service in the Qing Eight Banners.” Invited talk, Texas A&M University Department of History. College Station, TX, February 1, 2024.

“Privilege and the Discourse of Service in the Qing Eight Banners.” Invited talk, Kenyon College Department of History. Gambier, OH, December 8, 2023.

Co-organizer with Juan Wang and Se Hyun Kim, workshop on “Identities and Nation State Building in China.” McGill University, Montréal, QC, June 12-13, 2023 (14 participants from around North America). Also presented a paper at the workshop, titled “Status as a Cross-Ethnic Identity Category in Late Imperial China.”

“The Qing Eight Banners and the Incorporation of Inner Asian Subjects.” Invited participant, workshop titled “On the Frontiers of Qing China.” Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, April 15, 2023.

“Service Elite and Local Elite in the Qing Empire.” Invited participant, international workshop on “Empires and their Elites.” Munich, Germany, March 29-31, 2023.

“Routines of Translation: Bithesi and the Multilingual Qing State.” Association for Asian Studies, Boston, MA. March 19, 2023. Panel titled “Reenvisioning Qing Institutional History: Ordinary Officials and Everyday Bureaucratic Practices” co-organized with Xue Zhang (Reed College)

“Hereditary Service and Institutionalized Privilege in the Qing Empire’s Eight Banner Elite.” Invited talk, University of Alabama Department of History. Tuscaloosa, AL. January 30, 2023.

Co-organizer and discussant, “Manchu Pedagogy and Cross-Cultural Exchange in the 21st Century: A Roundtable to Honor Dr. Gertraude Roth Li.” Virtual Roundtable Session, Association for Asian Studies, Honolulu, HI. March 26, 2022.

“Early Modern Service Elites: The Qing Banner System and Its Eurasian Counterparts.” Invited talk (local), Yan P. Lin Centre for the Study of Freedom and Global Orders in the Ancient and Modern Worlds, McGill University, Montréal, QC. March 18, 2022.

Book manuscript workshop: *Slaves of the Emperor: The Qing Eight Banners as Service Elite*. Yale University, New Haven, CT. May 8, 2021.

Roving discussant and panel session chair (invited local participant). *Façade Truths in Tokugawa Japan and Beyond*. Yale University, New Haven, CT. October 25-27, 2019.

“A Qing Service Elite: The Eight Banners as Status Category.” Postdoctoral Associate talk, Yale University, New Haven, CT. October 23, 2019.

“A Hanjun Anti-Expulsion Protest at the Fuzhou Garrison.” Reading session leader. From *Literary to Vernacular: A Workshop on Manchu/Sibe Language and Archives*. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. August 26, 2019.

Invited participant at book workshop for Macabe Keliher, *The Board of Rites and the Making of Qing China*. University of West Virginia, Morgantown, WV. September 22, 2018.

“Service Elites in Early Modern Eurasia: The Qing Banners in Comparative Perspective.” *New Directions in the History of Central and Inner Asia*, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. February 19, 2018.

“From Han into Bannermen: The Development of a Unified Banner Identity in Nineteenth Century Guangzhou.” *New England Association for Asian Studies*, Boston, MA. January 28, 2017.

“‘Leaving the Banners to Become Commoners’: The Expulsion of the Garrison Hanjun and the Mid-Eighteenth Century Transformation of Banner Status.” *New Directions in the History of Central and Inner Asia*, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. September 27, 2016.

“From Service Elite to Ethnic Elite: The Hanjun and the Mid-Eighteenth Century Transformation of Banner Status.” *First Friday Talk*. Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. September 2, 2016.

“The Household Selected Soldiers and the Mid-Eighteenth Century Transformation of Banner Status” (家選兵與八旗身份在十八世紀中葉的變化). *International Academic Workshop on Ming-Qing Studies (明清研究國際學術交流工作坊)*, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan. July 22, 2016.

“Manchu Language Education in the Hanjun Banners.” Invited participant, *New Directions in Manchu Studies*, Lieberthal Rogel Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. May 6, 2016.

“Longing for Beijing: The Personal Correspondence of a Mongol Bannerman on the Qing Frontier.” *Association for Asian Studies*, Seattle, WA. April 1, 2016.

“Manchu Identity on the Qing Frontier: Donjina and Early 20th Century Ili.” *Association for Asian Studies meeting in Asia*, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan. June 23, 2015.

“Manchu Borderlands: Donjina's History of Late Qing Ili.” *New Directions in the History of Central and Inner Asia*, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. September 30, 2014.

COURSES TAUGHT

McGill University, Montreal, QC, 2021-present
Introduction to East Asian History

Rebellion and Revolution in Modern China
Borderlands of Modern China
Identity in Early Modern East Asia,
Late Imperial China
Age of Samurai: Japan's Tokugawa Era
Society, Culture, and Identity in Early Modern Japan

Yale University, New Haven, CT, 2019-2021
Empire and Identity in Qing China

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, 2019
Modern China: 1644 to the Present

Northeastern University, Boston, MA, 2019
Modern Chinese History and Culture

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 2016-2017
First-year Manchu

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING

Internal Examiner

Chun Kei Chan, "Rehabilitative Colonialism: Psychiatry and Reform in British Hong Kong, 1945-1997." PhD thesis, July 2024.

Jiarui Xue, "Collecting Curiosities during Surveying Missions: French Jesuits and Natural History of China, 1688-1721." MA Thesis, March 2024.

Comprehensive exam supervisor

Minor Field in Modern Chinese History (Jonathan Harper, 2022-2023)

INVITED CLASSROOM VISITS

Amherst College (in person), HIST 367, State, Society, and Family in Early Modern China (Prof. George Qiao). Amherst, MA, April 30, 2024.

University of Leiden (virtual), 5683K102, Early Modern Chinese History (Prof. Ying Zhang). Leiden, Netherlands, April 23, 2024.

UC Irvine (virtual), HIST 171E, Chinese History: 1800-1949 (Prof. Jeffrey Wasserstrom). Irvine, CA, November 23, 2021.

SERVICE

Website Editor and member of the Executive Board, Manchu Studies Group, 2020-2023

Co-Organizer, Graduate student workshop "New Directions in the History of Central and Inner Asia," 2017-2018.

Harvard Standing Committee on the Library, graduate student representative, 2016-2018

Harvard Graduate Student Council, representative for the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, 2016-2017

Editorial board member

Debtelin, 2016-2019

Selection Panel Member, US-China Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program, 2015.

Anonymous reviewer

Journal of Asian Studies

Late Imperial China

Modern China

Journal of Chinese History

Cambridge University Press

Annals of Science

Asian Ethnicity

Journal of Chinese Military History

Saksaha: A Journal of Manchu Studies

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC WORK

Online Summer Manchu Course

Designed and taught weekly online courses for students at a range of levels (one beginner course, one refresher course, two advanced courses) on reading Manchu documents. Students included graduate students, faculty, academic librarians, and non-academic professionals. Summer 2020, Summer 2022, and Summer 2024.

Manchu and Sibe Font and Keyboard Development

Coordinated and contributed linguistic expertise to the design of a Unicode-compatible input system for Manchu and Sibe script, and the adaptation of existing non-Unicode fonts to Unicode. Summer 2020

ChinaX

Collaborator in designing the Qing-related components of Harvard's massive open online course on the history of China from ancient times to the present, 2013-2014

20th Century Manchu History

Research assistant on book project for Professors Mark Elliott (Harvard) and Ding Yizhuang (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences). Created and managed bibliographical database, tracked down relevant articles, and assisted in determining historical Manchu population. November 2012- February 2013

OTHER WRITING AND TRANSLATION

"Meet a Member: David Porter," Manchu Studies Group blog <https://www.manchustudiesgroup.org/2020/12/18/meet-a-member-david-porter/> December 18, 2020

“Old Men’s Tales,” *Debtelin 2: Manchu Archery* (February 2018), Introduction (pp. 119-120) and Translation #2 (pp. 123-125).

“Dmitri and Yakov Escape from Guangzhou,” Fairbank Center blog <https://medium.com/fairbank-center/dmitri-and-yakov-escape-from-guangzhou-1ce7c689d12e> October 3, 2017.

“Zhao Quan Adds a Salary: Losing Banner Status in Qing Dynasty Guangzhou,” Fairbank Center blog <https://medium.com/fairbank-center/zhao-quan-adds-a-salary-losing-banner-status-in-qing-dynasty-guangzhou-5b62f947d42f> October 31, 2016. Featured on *Medium* homepage on January 9, 2017.

“The Injustice of the Silk Thread,” Manchu Studies Group blog <http://www.manchustudiesgroup.org/2015/09/17/the-injustice-of-the-silk-thread/> September 17, 2015

“Notes from the Archives: The First Historical Archives of China,” Manchu Studies Group blog <http://www.manchustudiesgroup.org/2014/09/17/notes-from-the-archives-the-first-historical-archives-of-china/> September 17, 2014

“Qianlong the Petty Tyrant,” Manchu Studies Group blog <http://www.manchustudiesgroup.org/2014/09/17/qianlong-the-petty-tyrant/> September 17, 2014

“The Righteous Elephants,” Manchu Studies Group blog <http://www.manchustudiesgroup.org/2014/02/25/the-righteous-elephants/> February 25, 2014

“Gun Control, Qing Style,” Manchu Studies Group blog <http://www.manchustudiesgroup.org/2013/03/09/the-solon-way-2012-edition/> March 9, 2013

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese – full professional proficiency
Classical Chinese – full reading proficiency
Manchu – full reading proficiency
French – proficient reading, intermediate speaking
Japanese – proficient reading, intermediate speaking
Spanish – proficient reading, intermediate speaking
Classical Mongolian – basic reading
Classical Tibetan – basic reading

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Asian Studies
American Historical Association
Manchu Studies Group
Canadian Historical Association