

# KAREN MAY-SHEN TEOH

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**STONEHILL COLLEGE**, Easton, MA  
Associate Professor, Department of History  
Director of Asian Studies Program  
Assistant Professor, Department of History

Spring 2015-present  
Spring 2016-present  
Fall 2010 – Fall 2014

**BOWDOIN COLLEGE**, Brunswick, ME  
Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer, Department of History

Fall 2008- Spring 2010

**NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**, Boston, MA  
Lecturer, Department of History

Spring 2008

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY**, Cambridge, MA  
Teaching Fellow, Department of History

Fall 2004-Spring 2007

## EDUCATION

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Ph.D.**, History (June 2008)  
Dissertation: “A Girl Without Talent is Therefore Virtuous: Educating Chinese Women in British Malaya and Singapore, 1850s-1960s.”

**YALE UNIVERSITY, B.A.**, Honors, *magna cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*, History (1999)  
Williams Prize for Best Senior Thesis on East Asian History: “To Maketh Wise Unto Salvation: British Missionary Perceptions and Policies at the Anglo-Chinese School of Malacca, 1814-1843.”

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Late imperial and modern China, colonial Southeast Asia, Chinese diaspora, transnationalism, women and gender, migration, ethnicity, history of education, history of gambling.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Associate Professor, Stonehill College**  
China Rising: The Re-emergence of a Global Superpower  
Modern China  
World War II: The Asian Experience  
Women and Power in East Asia  
The Global Struggle for Female Education  
Asian American History  
Historical Theory and Writing  
World History I and II  
Senior Thesis advising  
Independent Studies: History of Chinese Martial Arts

Fall 2010-present

**Lecturer, Bowdoin College**  
Making of Modern China  
The Modern Girl and Female Citizen in China and Japan  
Global Migration of the Overseas Chinese  
Honors Thesis and Independent Studies advising

Fall 2008- Spring 2010

**Lecturer, Northeastern University**  
Asian American History

Spring 2008

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOK

*Schooling Diaspora: Women, Education, and the Overseas Chinese in British Malaya and Singapore, 1850s-1960s*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Domesticating Hybridity: Straits Chinese Cultural Heritage Projects in Malaysia and Singapore.” Journal article, *Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review* 5:1 (May 2016): 115-146.

“The Burden of Proof: Gender, Cultural Authenticity and Overseas Chinese Women’s Education in Diaspora.” Journal article, *Intersections: Gender and Sexuality in Asia and the Pacific* 36 (December 2014).

“Exotic Flowers, Modern Girls, Good Citizens: Female Education and Overseas Chinese Identity in British Malaya and Singapore, 1900s-1950s.” Journal article, *Twentieth Century China* 35: 2 (April 2010): 25-51.

### BOOK CHAPTER

“Breaking Down Barriers in Chinese Female Education.” Book chapter, *Chinese Women: Their Malaysian Journey* (Malaysia: MPH Publishing, 2010).

## FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

*Women in China: A History*. 2 vols. Manuscript under contract with ABC-CLIO.

*Gambling and the Ethnic Chinese in Colonial Southeast Asia*. Work in progress.

## BOOK AND MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS

Book review of Vivienne Poy, *Passage to Promise Land: Voices of Chinese Immigrant Women in Canada*, Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2014. Reviewed for *Left History: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Historical Inquiry and Debate* 19: 1 (Spring/Summer 2015).

Book review of Lincoln Paine, *The Sea and Civilization: A Maritime History of the World*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013. Reviewed for *Asian Review of World Histories* 3: 1 (January 2015).

Book review essay of Prasenjit Duara, *The Global and Regional in China’s Nation Formation*, Oxon and New York: Routledge, 2009 and Bryna Goodman and David S. G. Goodman, eds., *Twentieth-century Colonialism and China: Localities, the Everyday, and the World*, London and New York: Routledge, 2012. Reviewed for *Journal of International and Global Studies* 5:1 (November 2013).

Book review of Sunil Amrith, *Migration and Diaspora in Modern Asia*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011. Reviewed for *Journal of World History* 23:4 (December 2012).

Book review of Glen Peterson, *Overseas Chinese in the People’s Republic of China*, London and New York: Routledge, 2012. Reviewed for *Journal of International and Global Studies* 4:1 (November 2012).

Book review of Eric Tagliacozzo and Wen-Chin Chang (eds.), *Chinese Circulations: Capital, Commodities, and Networks in Southeast Asia*, Durham: Duke University Press, 2011. Reviewed for *Journal of International and Global Studies* 3:1 (November 2011).

Book review of Christopher Bayly and Tim Harper, *Forgotten Wars: Freedom and Revolution in Southeast Asia*, Harvard University Press, 2007. Reviewed for *Itinerario: International Journal on the History of European Expansion and Global Interaction* 33:3 (November 2009).

Journal article reviews for scholarly journals, including *Journal of Chinese Overseas Studies*, *Modern Asian Studies*, and *Social History*.

Book manuscript review for University of Hawaii Press (2017).

Book manuscript revision reviews for Kevin Reilly's *Worlds of History: A Comparative Reader, Volume One: To 1550* (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Boston: Bedford/St Martin's, 2010 (2011), and Jonathan Spence's *The Search for Modern China* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), New York: W.W. Norton, 1999 (2009).

### **ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

Book talk on *Schooling Diaspora: Women, Education, and the Overseas Chinese in British Malaya and Singapore, 1850s-1960s*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Think City Kuala Lumpur, and YWCA Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, June 2018.

"Gambling and the Overseas Chinese in British Malaya and Singapore." Guest Lecture, "Societies of the World – Asian Diasporas," Seminar, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, February 2017.

Discussant, "Gender and Hybridity: Shanghai Eurasians in the 1920s and 1930s." Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, October 2015.

"From 'The King's Chinese' to 'Living Heritage': Diaspora, National Identity, and the Straits Chinese of Malaysia and Singapore." Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, March 2015.

"The Burden of Proof: Cultural Authenticity, National Belonging, and the Straits Chinese of British Malaya and Singapore." Workshop on "Breaking Boundaries, Building Borders: Twentieth-Century Asian Diasporas and the Nation-State," Center for Korean Studies, University of California, Berkeley, CA, April 2014.

Roundtable Participant, "A Celebration of Chris Gilmartin and her Contributions to the Field of Chinese History." Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, March 2013.

Discussant, "Negotiating and Interpreting Diasporic Traditions: The Making of the Ethnic Chinese Lives in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, 19th Century – Present." New York Conference of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, New Paltz, NY, September 2012.

Roundtable Participant, "Gender Theory and Modern East Asian History." Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, March 2012.

"Schooling Diaspora: Female Education and the Overseas Chinese in British Malaya and Singapore, 1900s-1950s." National Women's Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, GA, November 2011.

Roundtable Participant, "South-South Encounters: Women Writers, Activists and Educators within early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Asia." Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI, March 2011.

"Learning Her Way Into the World: Overseas Chinese Girls' Schools and Transnational Networks, 1900s-1950s." Also Panel Organizer and Chair, "Beyond Chineseness and Acculturation: Rethinking Transnational Chinese Education, 1910s-1950s." New England Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, November 2010.

"Home is That Which I Adore: Identity Choices and the Remigration of Overseas Chinese Women, 1940s-1960s." Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, March 2010.

"Modern Girl, New Woman: Female Education and Adolescence Among the Overseas Chinese of British Malaya and Singapore, 1900s-1950s." American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, January 2009.

"Better Daughters and More Obedient Wives: Class, Ethnicity and Female Education Among the Chinese in British Malaya and Singapore, 1850s-1940s." History of Education Society Annual Meeting, St. Petersburg, FL, November 2008.

"Exotic Flowers, Modern Women: Overseas Chinese Girls' Schools in British Malaya and Singapore, 1900s-1940s." New England Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, University of Massachusetts-Boston, October 2008.

"Gender, Education and the Colonial State: British Intervention in Malayan Chinese Girls' Schools, 1920s-1950s." 8th Conference on International History: Gender and International Studies, Harvard University, March 2008.

"Modernization and Cultural Conservatism: The Emergence of Chinese Girls' Schools in British Malaya and Singapore." New York Conference for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, SUNY-Binghamton, October 2007.

"Home is That Which I Adore: Feminism, Nationalism and Self-Narratives of Repatriated Overseas Chinese Women, 1940s-50s." New England Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, University of New Hampshire, October 2007.

"A Girl Without Talent is Therefore Virtuous: Educating Chinese Women in British Malaya and Singapore, 1850s-1960s." Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, March 2007.

### **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS**

#### Post-doctoral:

Professional Development Grant, Stonehill College	2016
Publishing Grant, National Association of University Women	2013
Taiwan Fellowship, Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Center for Chinese Studies	2013
Center for Chinese Studies Fellowship, Taiwan (declined)	2013
Professional Development Grant, Stonehill College	2012
National Finalist for Social Science Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship in Transnational Studies	2012
Five College Women's Center Research Center Associateship (declined)	2010
Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Consortium for Faculty Diversity at Liberal Arts Colleges	2008-10
Faculty Development Committee Course Development Fund, Bowdoin College	2009

#### Doctoral:

Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Grant, Harvard University	2007-08
Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University	2006 and 2007
Graduate Student Council Summer Research Grant, Harvard University	2007
Department of History Summer Research and Travel Grant, Harvard University	2007
Asia Center Ezra F. Vogel Fund Summer Research Travel Grant, Harvard University	2004-07

Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship for dissertation research, Harvard University 2005-06  
Department of History Clive Fellowship for dissertation research, Harvard University 2005-06

### LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese (Advanced), Classical Chinese (Intermediate), Cantonese (Basic, Spoken), Malay (Intermediate), French (Basic)

### OTHER ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Service to College and Department, Stonehill College, Easton, MA** 2010-present  
Steering Committee and Academic Program Sub-Committee Co-Chair,  
New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Reaccreditation Self-Study (2017-19)  
New Faculty Mentoring Program (2017-18)  
Director of Asian Studies Program (2016 onwards)  
Digital Innovation Lab Advisory Board (2016-17)  
Professional Development Committee (2015-16)  
Steering Committee on Asian Studies Minor (2012 onwards)  
Provost's Advisory Council on Diversity (2012-2014)  
Phi Alpha Theta faculty advisor (2012 onwards)  
Faculty Grievance Committee (2011-2013)  
Search Committee for History Department (2011 and 2010)

**History Advisor, Department of History, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA** 2003-2008  
Advised undergraduate history majors on departmental requirements, course selection, senior theses  
Organized events such as faculty lectures, language table, and museum tours

**Resident Tutor, Eliot House, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA** 2003-2007  
Mentored 60 undergraduates each year in residential hall of 450 students

**Invited Participant, Discussion Leading Seminar, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA** 2006  
Participated in invitation-only Christensen Discussion Leading Seminar, organized by Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, for advanced teaching fellows and faculty

**Founder, Southeast Asia Graduate Workshop, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA** 2004-2005  
Organized Harvard's first interdisciplinary graduate student and faculty workshop on Southeast Asia

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University—Research Associate 2011-present  
Association for Asian Studies—Member 2002-present  
Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, Taiwan—Visiting Scholar 2013  
Asia Research Institute, Singapore—Visiting Affiliate Scholar 2005-06  
Gender Studies Program, University of Malaya, Malaysia—Visiting Researcher 2005-06

### OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Lecturer, Bowdoin Friends Academic Experience, Brunswick, ME** 2009-2010  
Presented monthly lectures on Chinese history to local senior community.

**Educator, Harvard Office for Sexual Assault Response, Cambridge, MA** 2004- 2005  
Led student workshops on sexual assault prevention, risk reduction and response.