

Kathryn Edgerton-Tarpley
Curriculum Vitae
Professor, San Diego State University

Department of History
San Diego State University
San Diego, CA 92182-6050

E-mail: edgerton@sdsu.edu
Office phone: (619) 594-6985
Office fax: (619) 594-2210

Teaching and Research Fields

Late Imperial and Modern Chinese History
Chinese Social and Cultural History
Disaster Studies – famines and floods

Trauma and Memory
Gender and Sexuality
World History

Education

Indiana University , Bloomington, Indiana	8/95 to 2002
Ph. D. in History, 9/ 2002	
Wesleyan University , Middletown, Connecticut	8/88 to 6/92
B.A., History. Phi Beta Kappa	

Publications

Refereed Monograph:

Tears from Iron: Cultural Responses to Famine in Nineteenth-Century China. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008. Foreword by Cormac Ó Gráda.

- **Chinese edition:** 铁泪图: 19 世纪中国对于饥馑的文化反应, translated by Cao Xi 曹曦. Nanjing: Jiangsu People's Publishing House, 2011.

Positively reviewed by:

Pierre-Etienne Will, trans. by N. Jayaram, *China Perspectives* (2010); Madeleine Zelin, *American Historical Review* (2009); Janet Y. Chen, *Journal of Asian Studies* (2009); Joan Judge, *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* (2009); William Rowe, *China Journal* (2009); Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik, *China Information* (2009); Dominique Tyl, *Chinese Cross Currents* (2009); Felix Wemheuer, *The China Quarterly* (2008); Guo Wu, *The Chinese Historical Review* (2008).

Refereed Articles and Chapters:

“A River Runs Through It: The Yellow River and the Chinese Civil War, 1946-1947.” *Social Science History* 41.2 (Summer 2017): 141-173.

“Between War and Water: Farmer, City, and State in China’s Yellow River Flood of 1938-1947.” *Agricultural History* 90.1 (Winter 2016): 94-116.

“Saving the Nation, Starving the People? The Henan Famine of 1942-43.” In *1943: China at the Crossroads*, edited by Joseph Esherick and Matthew Combs. Ithaca, New York: Cornell East Asia Series, 2015, pp. 323-364.

Chinese translation (edited) of refereed book chapter, “救国或饿死人民？ 1942-1943 年河南大饥荒” [Saving the Nation, Starving the People? The Henan Famine of 1942-1943] in 1943 中国在十字路口, edited by Joseph Esherick and Matthew Combs, translated by Chen Xiao. Beijing: Shehui kexue wenxian chubanshe [Social Sciences Academic Press, 2015], 285-313.

“From ‘Nourish the People’ to ‘Sacrifice for the Nation’: Changing Responses to Disaster in Late Imperial and Modern China.” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 73.2 (May 2014): 447-469.

“Tough Choices: Grappling with Famine in Qing China, the British Empire, and Beyond.” *Journal of World History* 24.1 (March 2013): 135-176.

“‘Governance with Government’: Non-State Responses to the North China Famine of 1876-1879.” *Berliner China-Hefte/Chinese History and Society* 35 (2009): 33-47.

“晚清中国的灾荒与意识形态——1876-1879 年“丁戊奇荒”期间关于灾荒成因和防荒问题的对立性阐释” [“Famine and Ideology in Late-Qing China: Contending Interpretations of Famine Causation and Prevention during the ‘Incredible Famine’ of 1876-1879”]. In *Tianyou xiongnian: Qingdai zaihuang yu Zhongguo shehui [Unexpected Famine Years: Qing Dynasty Disasters and Chinese Society]*, edited by Li Wenhai and Xia Mingfang. Beijing: Sanlian Publishing House, 2007, pp. 509-537.

“The ‘Feminization of Famine,’ The Feminization of Nationalism: Famine and Social Activism in Treaty-port Shanghai, 1876-1879.” *Social History* 30.4 (November 2005): 421-443.

“Family and Gender in Famine: Cultural Responses to Disaster in North China, 1876-1879.” *Journal of Women’s History* 16.4 (2004): 119-147.

Invited Publications:

“饥饿符号学：从新文化史看灾害史研究” [The Semiotics of Starvation: New Cultural History Approaches to Disaster Studies], translated by Zhang Xia. Forthcoming in *灾荒与历史 [Disasters and History]* 1 (June 2018): 1-18.

“Famine in Imperial and Modern China,” an invited, peer-reviewed essay for the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History* (8000 words). Online Publication Date, March 2017. DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190277727.013.133

“North China Famine, 1876-79,” <http://www.disasterhistory.org/north-china-famine-1876-79>. (7,922 words). This piece was written for a new collaborative website on disasters in Chinese history run by the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom. The website aims to make scholarship on major historical disasters in China accessible to the public. Posted September, 2015.

“Pictures to Draw Tears from Iron: Depicting Disaster and Raising Relief Funds during the North China Famine of 1876-1879” (6,380 words).

http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/tears_from_iron/index.html. *Visualizing Cultures* is an MIT-based project that weds scholarly commentary and images to create website units about cultural interactions in Asian history. Posted Spring, 2011.

“海外晚清灾荒史研究” [The Development of Western-Language Research on Famines in Late Imperial China], translated by Du Tao, *Zhongguo shehui kexue bao* [*Chinese Social Sciences News*], July 28, 2010. (3,480 words).

“Chinese Responses to Disaster: A View from the Qing,” originally appeared on the China Beat blog (5/19/2008), reprinted in Kate Merkel-Hess, Kenneth L. Pomeranz, and Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom, eds., *China in 2008: A Year of Great Significance*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Press, 2009, pp. 101-104.

Work in Progress:

Book manuscript: “The Loss of Heaven: Changing Responses to Famine in Modern China, 1877-1962”

Book Reviews:

Book Review of David A. Pietz’s *The Yellow River: The Problem of Water in Modern China* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2015), in *Twentieth-Century China* 41.3 (October 2016): 308-311.

Book review of Kimberley Ens Manning and Felix Wemheuer’s *Eating Bitterness: New Perspectives on China’s Great Leap Forward and Famine*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011. In *Journal of Asian Studies* May 2012.

Book review of Jeffrey Snyder-Reinke’s *Dry Spells: State Rainmaking and Local Governance in Late Imperial China*. Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, 2009. In *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 70.1 (June 2010), pp. 209-220.

Book review of Lillian M. Li’s *Fighting Famine in North China: State, Market, and Environmental Decline, 1690s-1990s*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2007. In *Asian Studies Review*, 2010.

Book review of Weijing Lu’s *True to Her Word: The Faithful Maiden Cult in Late Imperial China*, Stanford University Press, 2008. In *China Perspectives*, 2009 (3), pp. 113-115.

Book review of John M. Hobson’s *The Eastern Origins of Western Civilisation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. In *East Asia: An International Quarterly*, August, 2006.

Awards and Fellowships

2017-18 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Grant Support for six months of full-time research and writing as visiting scholar at Shanghai Jiao Tong University.	1/2018-7/2018
University Grants Program Award San Diego State University – support for a research trip to three archival collections in Taipei, Taiwan, and support for mapping and research assistance during sabbatical leave (\$7397)	6/2015-6/2016
University Grants Program Award San Diego State University – support for a follow-up research trip to two archival collections in Henan.	6/2013-6/2014
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend Support for a summer research trip to the Henan Provincial Archives and the Yellow River Conservancy Commission Archives in Henan to collect original material for my current book project.	6/2013
China and Inner Asia Council (CIAC) Small Grant Association for Asian Studies – support for a summer research trip to Wheaton, Illinois to use the Billy Graham Center Archives.	6/2012
University Grants Program Award San Diego State University – support for summer research trip to London to use School of Oriental and African Studies Missionary Archives (China Inland Mission collection).	6/2011
University Grants Program Award San Diego State University – supplementary research support for six months of sabbatical research in China (\$9,595)	6/2008-12/08
Sabbatical (competitive) San Diego State University – started my new research project on disasters in twentieth-century China by collecting original materials in Beijing, Anhui, and Henan.	Fall 2008
National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship Six months of full-time research and writing	7/2006-12/06
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend Summer fellowship for conducting archival research in Beijing	6/2004

Academic Conference Papers and Presentations

“从观音土到人造肉精：从历史的角度看 1960-1961 年间的代食品运动” [From Guanyin Earth to Man-Made Meat Essence: The Food Substitutes Movement of 1960-61 in Historical Perspective]. Presentation delivered to Faculty from the Institute of Humanities, Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Shanghai, China, June 12, 2018.

“What Do People Eat When Food Runs Out? Famine Foods and Food Substitutes in Late Imperial and Modern China.” Presentation sponsored by the International Graduate Program in Politics and the Department of Politics, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China, May 21, 2018.

“不同时期与文化中食土现象的分析研究：以四川为例” [Analyzing Geophagy across Time and Culture: A Case from Sichuan]. Presentation delivered at the History of Contemporary China seminar sponsored by the Chinese Civilization International Research Center, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, May 12, 2018.

“饥饿符号学：从新文化史方法看中国灾难历史” [The Semiotics of Starvation in Chinese Famines: New Cultural History Approaches to Chinese Disaster History]. Presentation delivered to Faculty from the Institute of Humanities, Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Shanghai, China, April 18, 2018.

“‘Rice of the Immortals’ or Poison? Famine Foods in Late-Qing, Nationalist, and Mao-era China.” Paper delivered at international conference titled “Disastrous Pasts: New Directions in Asian Disaster History.” National University of Singapore, November 21-November 22, 2016.

“The Semiotics of Starvation in Chinese Famines: A Case Study of Cultural History Approaches to Famine Studies.” Presentation delivered at the Disasters and History seminar jointly sponsored by Shanxi University, the Institute of Qing History at the People’s University of China, and the China Association for Disaster Prevention. Shanxi University, Taiyuan, China, July 30-August 5, 2016.

“Mapping Famine: Geography and Statecraft in Late-Qing, Nationalist, and Mao-era Henan.” Paper delivered at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Seattle, April 2016. Panel: States of Nature: Resources, Regimes, and the Environment from Medieval to Modern China.

“Globalizing Humanitarianism in Modern China?” Discussant comments delivered at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Chicago, March 2015. Panel: “Localizing Humanitarianism in Republican China.”

“The State of the Field in Chinese Disaster Studies: Key Trends in Western-language Scholarship on Famine in Late Imperial and Modern Chinese History.” Invited presentation delivered at international workshop titled: “History of Chinese Disasters: State of the Field and Pathways to Public Engagement,” co-sponsored by the University of Manchester and the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Manchester and London, September 26, 2014.

“Suffering Compatriots and Patriotic Producers, or Traitors and Spies? Relief and Appropriation of Henan Disaster Refugees, 1938-1943.” Paper delivered at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Philadelphia, March 2014. Panel: “Refugees: Imagery, Nomenclature, Politicization.”

“Water in Wartime: The Yellow River Flood of 1938-1947.” Invited paper presented at international conference titled “Disasters Wet and Dry: Rivers, Floods, and Droughts in World History,” Renmin University of China, Beijing, May 2013.

“Contours of a Water Disaster: Local-Level Experiences of the Yellow River Flood of 1938-1947.” Paper delivered at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, San Diego, March 2013. Panel: “A River Runs Through It: Environment, Society, and Governance in Chinese Riparian History.”

“From Nourish the People to Sacrifice for the Nation: Changing Responses to Disaster in Late Imperial and Modern China.” Invited paper delivered at the Program for Agrarian Studies Colloquium Series at Yale University, New Haven, February 2012.

“A Necessary Sacrifice? The Politicization of Disaster in Chinese Media Coverage of the Yellow River Flood of 1938.” Paper presented at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Honolulu, April 2011. Panel: “Disasters in Asia: Societal and Governmental Responses and Responsibilities

“Tough Choices: Grappling with Famine in Qing China and the British Empire.” Keynote Address presented at the 19th Annual World History Association Conference, San Diego, June 2010.

“Evolving Icons of Starvation in Chinese Famines, 1877-1961.” Paper presented at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Chicago, March 2009. Panel: Hungry People, Hungry Ghosts: China’s Great Leap Famine in Comparative Perspective.

“Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People? Local-Level Interpretations of Famine Causation in North China, 1876-2004.” Invited lecture presented at Wesleyan University’s Mansfield Freeman Center for East Asian Studies, Middletown, Connecticut, Feb. 2008.

"'Governance with Government:' Non-State Responses to the North China Famine of 1876-1879." Invited paper presented at the Freie Universität Berlin's workshop entitled "Cooperation Networks and Local Forms of Governance in Semi-Colonial China (1860-1911)," Berlin, Germany, December 2007.

"Making Sense of Famine: Late-Qing and Late-Victorian Visions of the Incredible Famine of 1876-1879." Paper presented at the Southern California China Colloquium Workshop, "Rethinking China & Europe," UCLA, Nov. 2007.

"Famine and Ideology in Late-Qing China: Contending Interpretations of Famine Causation and Prevention during the 'Incredible Famine' of 1876-1879." Invited paper presented at the International Research Conference entitled "Qing Disasters and Chinese Society," Beijing, PRC, August 2005.

"Narratives of Blame: Contested Heroes and Villains of the North China Famine, 1876-2001." Paper presented at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, San Diego, March 2004. Panel: Food, Fasting, and Famine: Culture and Crisis in Late Imperial China and Choson Korea.

Teaching Award

2017 Outstanding Faculty Award

5/2017

- Selected as most influential professor by outstanding graduating senior in Asian Studies.

Teaching Experience

Professor, San Diego State University

8/2017-present

Associate Professor, San Diego State University

8/2007-8/2017

Assistant Professor, San Diego State University

8/2002-7/2007

Undergraduate and graduate courses designed and taught:

- History 650, "Hotspots of Modern Chinese History" – Graduate Seminar
- History 601, "Seminar in Historical Methods" – Graduate Seminar
- History 583, "Women, Sex, and Power in Chinese History" – Thematic seminar
- History 580, "Trauma & Memory in Modern East Asian History" – Thematic Seminar
- History 566, "Chinese Civilization to 1600" – Upper-level survey
- History 567, "China in Revolution" – Upper-level survey on modern China
- History 570, "Japan in the Modern World" – Upper-level survey
- History 450W, "The Writing of History: Natural Disasters in World History"
- History 420, "Asia's Dynamic Traditions" – East, South, and Southeast Asia to 1600
- History 421, "Asia's Emerging Nations" – East, South, and Southeast Asia since 1600
- History 412, "Modern World History for Teachers" – Upper-level course for teachers
- History 101, "Modern World History" – Introductory survey, 1500 to present
- Asian Studies 150, "Understanding the Chinese World" – Interdisciplinary team-taught course designed for SDSU's new Chinese Studies major.

Service for the University, the Profession, and the Community:

Service for the Department of History, SDSU:

- Member of Search Committee for Dwight E. Stanford Chair in the History of U.S. Foreign Relations / United States History in the World, Fall 2016-Spring 2017
- Member of Executive Committee, Fall 2016, ??
- Member of Lecturer Periodic Review Committee, spring 2016
- Chair of Search Committee for a historian of the Modern Middle East / North Africa, Fall 2014-Spring 2015
- Recruitment Chair, Spring 2014 to present
- Member of Department's Personnel Committee, ?, ?
- Chair of Department's Curriculum Committee, 2008-2014 (co-chair, 2012-14)
- Member of Department's Scholarship Committee, Fall 2005 to the present
- Faculty Sponsor of Phi Alpha Theta, the History Department Honor Society, 2005-2006 academic year
- Organizer of the History Department's "History Through Film" Series, 2005-2006 academic year
- Editor of History Department Newsletter, 2004-2005 academic year
- Member of Search Committee for a historian of Southeast Asia, Fall 2004-Spring 2005
- Member of Search Committee for a historian of the Muslim World, Fall 2003.

Service for the University and the College of Arts and Letters (CAL), SDSU:

- Member, CAL Academic Policy and Planning committee (elected in 5/2016)
- Member, International Business Advisory Council, spring 2013 to present
- Chair, Department of Asian Studies Lecturer Periodic Review Committee, 2017
- Chair, International Business Lecturer Periodic Review Committee, spring 2016
- Department of Religious Studies Periodic Review Committee, fall 2015
- Chair of Department of Religious Studies Peer Review Committee, 2014-15
- Department of Religious Studies Peer Review Committee, 2013-14
- Member, CAL Curriculum Committee, Fall 2007- Spring 2011
- Co-Director of Chinese Studies and Language program and Title VI UISFL grant for building Chinese Studies, 2009 to 2011.
- Developed and taught Asian Studies 150, an innovative team-taught course titled "Understanding the Chinese World," 2009-2012.
- Wrote and received College approval for proposal to establish a new Emphasis in Chinese Studies and Language, fall 2007
- Organizer of the Chinese Studies Institute's series on "Contemporary Chinese Life Through Film" and "Chinese Studies Through Lectures," 2004-2005

Teacher Training via the International Studies Education Project (ISTEP) at SDSU and the Office of Resources for International and Area Studies (ORIAS) at the University of California, Berkeley:

- 7/23/2014: "One Red Bean: Food, Famine, and Moral Choice in Nineteenth-Century China and Ireland," – session for ORIAS summer institute titled "Foodways in World History," UC Berkeley.
- 6/26/2012; 6/29/2012: "Sino-Japanese Cultural Relations through the 19th

Century: From a Sinocentric World to "Goodbye Asia," and "Fraught Relations in the 20th Century" – sessions for ISTEP summer institute titled "Understanding China and Japan in the 21st Century," SDSU. -

- 7/12/2011: "Seeking the Way: Classical Chinese Philosophy and its Current Manifestations" – session for ISTEP workshop titled "Educating Globally Competent Citizens with 21st Century Skills," Fallbrook and Oceanside elementary schools. -

- 6/22/2010: "Hotspots in Modern Chinese History: Teaching Modern Chinese History with attention to Big Debates in the Field" – session for SDSU's China Workshop and ISTEP's 2010 teacher workshop for San Diego high school teachers.

- 6/23/2009: "The Search for Modern China" – session for ISTEP workshop titled "Explorations into Chinese History and Culture," Barnard Elementary School teachers.