

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Yang Shen

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### Address

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity  
Hermann-Föge-Weg 11, 37073 Göttingen  
Niedersachsen, Germany

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### Employment

2019-2021     Postdoctoral Research Fellow, the Department of Religious Diversity, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity

### Academic Interests

Ritual theory; public culture; secularism/secularity; creativity and agency; Chinese religions; Mahayana Buddhism; divination; modernity and state formation; technology and materiality; anthropological theory of history/historicity

### Education

2011-2019     Boston University, Anthropology, Ph.D.  
(Dissertation: *Sidestepping Secularism: Performance and Imagination in Buddhist Temple-scapes in Contemporary China*)

2007-2011     Zhejiang University, Bachelor of Laws  
Honorary Class of Arts & Social Sciences, Chu Kochen Honors College  
The Morningside Scholar, The Morningside Foundation

### Academic Exchange

2020            Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow, The Max Planck - Cambridge Centre for Ethics, Economy and Social Change, University of Cambridge

2018-2019     Visiting Graduate Fellow, The Stevanovich Institute on the Formation of Knowledge, the University of Chicago

2017-2018     Colloquium Fellow, Institute for Culture, Religion, and World Affairs (CURA), Boston University

### Honors, Awards, and Grants

2020            Max-Cam Mobility Grant, The Max Planck - Cambridge Centre for Ethics, Economy and Social Change, Department of Social Anthropology

2019            Nomination, Postdoctoral Fellowship, The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies, American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)

2018            Finalist, Student Paper Prize of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, The American Anthropological Association (AAA)

2018-2019     Dissertation Fellowship in the Global Religion Research Initiative (GRRI), The University of Notre Dame & the Templeton Religion Trust of Nassau

- 2018 Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award, Boston University  
 2018 The Edwin S. and Ruth M. White Prize & The Angela J. and James J. Rallis Memorial Award, Center for the Humanities, Boston University  
 2015-2016 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants, Cultural Anthropology Proposal #1528368, the National Science Foundation  
 2015-2016 Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship, Boston University  
 2011 Dean's Fellowship, Boston University

### **Teaching Experience**

#### *Teaching Fellows at Boston University*

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology; Medical Anthropology; Language, Culture, and Society; Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Global Challenges I, Kilachand Honors College

### **Publications—Articles**

- 2015 Rethinking "Traditions": Reading the Classics as Ritual. *Journal of Chinese Humanities* 1 (2015) 363-383

### **Publications—Short Works**

- 2016 修行人类学视野下的宗教与社会——第二届宗教人类学工作坊会议综述 [Religion and Society in a Perspective of an Anthropology of Cultivation: Synopsis of the Second Workshop of Anthropology of Religion]. *世界宗教研究* [Studies of World Religions] vol6. (2016). 186-192
- under review* "Temples as a Place for Learning Chinese Buddhism in Contemporary China"

### **Paper Presentations**

#### *Organized Panels*

- under review* "Coming up with Terms of History: Ethnography as Method and its Significance to Chinese Studies" The 23rd biennial conference of the European Association for Chinese Studies, Leipzig.
- 2019 "Making Requests and Making Time: Rethinking the Efficacy of Religious Knowledge." Co-organized with Fred Klaitz. Society for the Anthropology of Religion Biennial Meeting, Toronto.
- 2018 "What is a Temple?" Chinese Religions Unit., American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver.

#### *Paper Presentations*

- forthcoming* "The Appearance of History: Approaching Lottery Divination in Chinese Buddhist Temples in China Today" Colloquium, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen.
- 2019 "Sidestepping Secularism in Buddhist Temples in East China: the Case of Cultivation Lodgers and a Narrative of Cultivation Lodging." Annual Meeting of American Anthropological Association, Vancouver.

- 2019 “The Efficacy of Framing Moments in Lottery Divination Performances in Chinese Temples.” at Society for the Anthropology of Religion Biennial Meeting, Toronto.
- 2019 “The Wish-vows that Make Us: Agency, Ritual Attunement, and Living with Others in Buddhist Temples in Contemporary China.” Religion and the Human Sciences Workshop, University of Chicago Divinity School, Chicago.
- 2019 “Mobility and Imagination: Cultivation Lodgers in Residential Buddhist Temples in East China.” Annual Meeting of the AAR-EIR. Montreal.
- 2018 “浅议许愿、求灵签、发愿的同构性”[A Preliminary Discussion on the Conceptual Continuity between Wishing, Seeking Efficacious Lot, and Vowing], at the Fourth Workshop of Anthropology of Religion, Institute of World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, et al., Quanzhou.
- 2018 “Shifu Immense and Her Creative Vow: A Fieldwork Encounter,” at John Hopkins University Anthropology Graduate Conference, “Being with Others in More-than-human Worlds,” Baltimore.
- 2017 Co-authored with Meng Wang and Zhenrui Zhang, “打蠅頭：試探體知之學的承傳與教化過程”[To Tie a Fly's-Eye Knot: on the Transmission of Embodied Knowledge in Cultivation Practices], at the Third Workshop of Anthropology of Religion, Institute of World Religions, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences et al., Ningbo.
- 2017 “Encountering the Stranger Elders as Individuals: Cross-generational Address forms in Buddhist Monastic Publics in P.R. China,” at New England Region Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston.
- 2016 “Beyond the Commonplace: The Buddhist Monastic Movement in Reform China,” at Symposium of Public Religion, Spirituality, and Lifestyle, Universitair Centrum Sint-Ignatius Antwerpen, Antwerp.
- 2014 “Rethinking Traditions, Reading as Ritual,” Young Scholars Conference, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

### **Translations**

Chinese Translation, Robert P. Weller, “Globalizations and Diversities of Nature in China” In 苏发祥[Su Faxiang] and 郁丹 [Dan Smyer Yu] (eds.), 中国宗教多元与生态可持续性发展研究 [Religious Diversity and Ecological Sustainability in China], Beijing:学苑出版社 [Academy Press], pp. 3-20. 2013

Chinese Translation, Joel Robbins, Chapter 1-3 in Joel Robbins. *Becoming Sinners: Christianity and Moral Torment in a Papua New Guinea Society* (2004), to be published by Intellectual Property Publishing House Co., Ltd, Publication Date pending

Chinese Translation, Karl Polanyi, Chapter 3 “Forms of Integration and Supporting Structures,” Chapter 8 “Traders and Trade,” and Chapter 9 “Money Objects and Money Uses.” in Karl Polanyi. *The Livelihood of Man* (1977), to be published by Zhejiang People's Press, Date pending.

**Public Engagement**

2017-2019	Member of the Strategy Committee, the Morningside Alumni Society Fellow, Equator Peace Academy, Communities Engaging with Difference and Religion (CEDAR), Kampala
2017-2018	Treasurer, Boston University Confucian Association, Boston
2017	Fellow, the Balkan Summer School on Religion and Public Life, Plovdiv
2016	Facilitator & Translator, Nanjing School on Beliefs and Public Life, Nanjing
2011-2012	Chief Editor, Alumni Newsletter Series, the Morningside Scholars Society
2008-2013	Translation Volunteer, Global Links Initiative, Shanghai

**Language Proficiency**

Mandarin Chinese (Native)   English (Excellent)   Classical Chinese (Excellent)