

CHRISTOPHER RUSSELL LEIGHTON

DEPARTMENT: History

DATE: April 2014

EDUCATION

DATE	DEGREE	INSTITUTION
2010	Ph.D.	Harvard University
2002	A.M.	Harvard University
2002	A.B.	Harvard College

TITLE OF DOCTORAL THESIS: Capitalists, Cadres, and Culture in 1950s China

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

2013-	MIT Class of 1948 Career Development Chair
2009-10	Stanford Center for East Asian Studies Fellow
2009	US-China Institute Fellowship, University of Southern California (declined)
2008	Harvard Graduate Society Fellowship
2005	Derek Bok Award for Excellence in Teaching, Harvard University
2001	Harvard-Yenching Institute Fellowship, held at Fudan University, Shanghai

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2010- Assistant Professor of History, MIT

NON-ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2004-2008 Teaching Assistant, Harvard University

SEMINARS, COLLOQUIA, ETC.

August 2014	“Communist China’s Capitalist Ambassadors,” Historical Society for Twentieth-Century China Conference, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.
July 2014	“Return of the Rich: The Chinese Communist Party’s Business Advisors,” European Association for Chinese Studies, Universidade do Minho and Universidade de Coimbra, Braga and Coimbra, Portugal.
June 2014	“Stones in the River: Big Capitalists through the Post-Mao Transition,” Rethinking Business History in Modern China Workshop, Institute of Chinese Studies at Freie Universität Berlin, Hannover, Germany.

- March 2014 “The Better Face of Business: Capitalists as Models in Mao’s China,” Association for Asian Studies Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- October 2013 “Communist China’s Capitalist Ambassadors,” New England Association for Asian Studies Conference, Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA.
- October 2013 Discussant, “Institutional Causes of China’s Great Famine,” Harvard Business School’s Business, Government, and International Economy Conference, Harvard Business School, Allston, MA.
- August 2013 “Wealth on Parole: Business under Mao,” China and the Chinese World Order in the 1950s: A Berkeley-Harvard-East China Normal University Research Workshop, Berkeley, CA.
- August 2013 Discussant, “Sentinels under the Neon Lights,” China and the Chinese World Order in the 1950s: A Berkeley-Harvard-East China Normal University Research Workshop, Berkeley, CA.
- June 2013 “War at Home: Chinese Business in Patriotic Campaigns,” Fudan University-Washington University in Saint Louis Conference on China and America Relations in Retrospect and Prospect, Shanghai, China.
- September 2012 “The Merits of Exploitation: Capitalists’ Contributions to New China,” European Association for Chinese Studies, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO) and the Bibliothèque Universitaire des Langues et Civilisations (BULAC), Paris, France.
- March 2012 “Chinese Capitalist Women’s Great Gamble,” MIT Women’s and Gender Studies Intellectual Forum, Cambridge, MA.
- October 2011 “Mah-jongg to Marx: Private Leisure and Public Life of Bourgeois Wives in 1950s China,” New England Association for Asian Studies, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA.
- September 2011 “Paying for Patriotism: Chinese Capitalists in the Korean War,” New York Association for Asian Studies, SUNY-Buffalo, Buffalo, NY.
- September 2011 “Great Expeditions,” MIT World History Teaching Workshop, Cambridge, MA.
- May 2011 “Patriotic Capital: Private Business and Foreign Policy, 1949-56,” *Fuguo Qiangbing* (富国强兵) Revisited: An Interdisciplinary Analysis of Economic and Fiscal Factors in the Making of China’s Foreign and Security Policy Since the Late Qing, Harvard Fairbank Center, Cambridge, MA.
- April 2011 “Truth from Fictions: Writing Capitalists into Literature,” Writing a New Literary History of Modern China Workshop, Harvard Asia Center, Cambridge, MA.
- April 2010 “Red Capitalism Revisited: 1950s China,” Stanford University Center for East Asian Studies, Palo Alto, CA.

- October 2009 “Socialist Roads Not Taken: Gu Zhun and Shanghai’s Finances, 1949-52,” Chinese Capitalists’ Dilemma and the Communist Revolution Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.
- March 2009 “Twilight Creatures: Staging Chinese Capitalists in the Literature and Film of the 1950s,” Association for Asian Studies Conference, Chicago, IL.
- November 2007 “Helpmate to Whom? Capitalist Wives Under Chinese Socialism,” Boston University Asian Studies Conference, Boston, MA.
- March 2005 “Mei Lanfang’s 1935 Russian Tour and Chinese Cultural Diplomacy,” Harvard East Asia Graduate Society Conference, Cambridge, MA.
- March 2002 “Institutional Answers to Cultural Questions: The Wuzhou Pharmacy and Chinese Business History,” Harvard East Asia Graduate Society Conference, Cambridge, MA.

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Modern Chinese social, cultural, and economic history
 Business history, Chinese capitalism
 Sino-foreign cultural exchange

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICE

American Historical Association
 Association for Asian Studies
 Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University
 Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

- 2014- Reviewer, Social Science History
 2011- Manuscript Reviewer, Routledge Asian Studies List
 2010- External Reviewer, Research Grants Council, Government of Hong Kong, China S.A.R.

MIT ACTIVITIES AND COMMITTEES

Departmental and School Activities and Committees

- 2014 Freshman Pre-Orientation Program, History, Chinese Galleries Tour, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
- 2014 Independent Activities Period Program, History, “Chinese Democracy by and for Third Graders”
- 2013 Independent Activities Period Program, History, “Small Happiness: Women in China’s Transitions”
- 2012 Burchard Scholars Program Speaker, School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
- 2012 Bruce Mazlish Essay Prize Committee, History
- 2012 Website Committee, History

- 2012 Independent Activities Period Program, History, “Occupying China: Tiananmen and the Politics of Protest”
- 2012 Freshman Pre-Orientation Program, History, Yin Yu Tang Tour, Peabody-Essex Museum
- 2011 I. Austin Kelly Essay Prize Committee, School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
- 2010-11 Modern Japan Search Committee, History

Educational Commons

- 2014 MIT-Singapore University of Technology and Design Collaboration Course Reviewer
- 2014 Ashdown House Cherry π Society Speaker
- 2013 MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) Global Seed Fund Evaluation Committee
- 2011 MIT China Development Initiative Speaker
- 2010-12 Harry S. Truman Scholarship Selection Committee, MIT

PUBLISHED MATERIALS

Reviews

- 2010 Review of Crossing the Urban-Rural Divide in Twentieth Century China (Jeremy Brown UCSD, 2008) in Dissertation Reviews (dissertationreviews.org), <http://dissertationreviews.wordpress.com/2010/10/17/crossing-the-urban-rural-divide-in-twentieth-century-china-by-jeremy-brown-reviewed-by-chris-leighton/>

UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS

In Press

“Venture Communist: Gu Zhun in Shanghai, 1949-1952,” in Sherman Cochran, ed. *The Capitalist’s Dilemma in China’s Communist Revolution: Stay, Leave, or Return*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, forthcoming 2015, 45 pp.

Works in Progress

“Truth from Fictions: Capitalists and Culture in 1950s China,” 32 pp.

The Revolutionary Rich: Political Fortune and Red Capitalism in China, 1949-79, 250 pp.

UROPS

- 2014 Ran Bi, “China’s Red Capitalists: Private Life in the People’s Republic”
- 2014 Jennifer Lin, “China’s Red Capitalists: Memoir and Memory”

LIST OF THESES SUPERVISED

Ph.D.

- 2016 Lan Angela Li (History, Anthropology, Science, Technology and Society) – Committee Member
- 2015 Xi Emily Lin (History, Anthropology, Science, Technology and Society) – Committee Member