

NATHANIEL ISAACSON

Associate Professor, Modern Chinese Literature
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EDUCATION

- **Ph.D. Modern Chinese Literature, UCLA**
June 2011
- **M.A. East Asian Studies, University of Arizona**
May, 2004
- **B.A. East Asian Studies, University of Arizona**
May, 2001

FACULTY POSITIONS

- Associate Professor, Chinese Language and Culture, North Carolina State University, 2017-Present
- Assistant Professor, Chinese Language and Culture, North Carolina State University, 2011-2017
- Adjunct Faculty Member, Duke University Fuqua School of Business, 2017-2018
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, UCLA Asian Languages and Cultures, 2005-2011

PUBLICATIONS (Selected Works Since Tenure)

Work in Progress

- Olga Petrova (lead translator). Russian translation of *Celestial Empire*. Brookline, MA: Academic Studies Press (expected Fall 2024).
- Wang, Dingding (translator). Chinese translation of *Celestial Empire*. Jiangsu: Jiangsu People's Publishing House (awaiting cover blurbs in Chinese).
- "Borrowed Bodies and Corporate Bodies in the Fiction of Chi Ta-Wei". *Posthuman Fabulations*, ed. Carlos Rojas and Song Mingwei. (Press TBD)
- Isaacson, Li, and Song, eds. *Chinese Science Fiction: Concepts, Forms, and Histories*. Palgrave (forthcoming Fall 2023)
- "Introduction." *Chinese Science Fiction: Concepts, Forms, and Histories*, Isaacson, Li and Song, eds. London: Palgrave Press (forthcoming Fall 2023)
- (Translator and editor) Jia Liyuan. "Intelligent Human Machines." *Chinese Science Fiction: Concepts, Forms, and Histories*, Isaacson, Li, and Song, eds. Palgrave (forthcoming Fall 2023)

- (Translator and editor) Li Guangyi. "The King of Electricity from the East: Science, Technology, and the Vision of World Order in Late Qing China" *Chinese Science Fiction: Concepts, Forms, and Histories*, Isaacson, Li, and Song, eds. Palgrave (forthcoming Fall 2023)

Books

- *Celestial Empire: the Emergence of Chinese Science Fiction*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2017.

Books Edited

- (See forthcoming)

Journal Issues Edited

- Special Issue on Chinese Science Fiction, *Comparative Literature and World Literature*. Fall 2021.
- Special Issue on Han Song and Contemporary Chinese SF, *Chinese Literature Today* V. 7, No. 1 (2018).

Book Chapters

- "Liu Cixin (2000) and Frant Gwo (2019), The Wandering Earth / De-Imperializing Empire." *Uneven Futures: Lessons for Community Survival from Speculative Fiction*, Ed. Canavan, Yoshinaga et. al. MIT Press. 153-162.
- "The Automation of Affect" Robots and the Domestic Sphere in Sinophone Cinema." *The Palgrave Handbook of Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Literature and Science* Ed. The Triangle Collective. Palgrave MacMillan, 2021. 621-636. (originally published as *Qinggan de waibao*)

Journal Articles/ Web Modules

- (Web Module) "[Trains in Late Qing Print Culture.](#)" *Bodies and Structures 2.0: Deep-Mapping Modern East Asian History*, ed. David Ambaras and Kate McDonald. Nov. 2021.
- "'Subaltern' No More: of What Does Chinese Science Fiction Speak?" *Comparative Literature and World Literature* 6.1 Special Issue on Chinese Fiction of Science and Technology (Fall 2021): 1-4.
- "Trains, Technology and National Affect in Socialist-Realist Cinema 1949-1965." *Comparative Literature and World Literature* 6.1 Special Issue on Chinese Fiction of Science and Technology (Fall 2021): 63-81.
- "Locating *Kexue Xiangsheng* (Science Crosstalk) in Relation to the Selective Tradition of Chinese Science Fiction." *Osiris* 34.1 (Spring 2019): 139-157.
- "*Qinggan de waibao*" (The Outsourcing of Affect), trans. Wang Chen. *Wenxue*, (Spring/Summer 2017): 110-126.

Book Reviews

- Hutters, Theodore. *Taking China to the World: the Cultural Production of Modernity*. NY: Cambria Press, 2023). <https://u.osu.edu/mclc/2023/03/09/taking-china-to-the-world-review/#more-45131>

- Ma Shaoling. *The Stone and the Wireless: Mediating China, 1861-1906*. Durham, NC and London: Duke U. Press, 2021. *Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews* vol. 144 (December 2022): 339-343.
- Mark Bould. *The Anthropocene Unconscious: Climate Catastrophe Culture* (London and New York: Verso Press, 2021). *Science Fiction Studies*, 49.3 (2022): 555-558.

Other Articles

- “Sino-American SF: Trans-national Participatory Culture and Translation.” *SFRA Review* V. 51.2 (Spring 2021): 62-70.
- “Han Song.” *Chinese Literature Today* V. 7, No. 1 (2018): 4-5.

TRANSLATION

Academic Translation

- (Co-translator with Zhou Shu). “An Analysis of the Concept of ‘Science Fiction in the Late Qing Dynasty.’” *Comparative Literature and World Literature* 7.1 Spring 2022): 1-19.
- (Translator and Editor) “China Turns Outward: on the Literary Significance of Liu Cixin’s Science Fiction” (Zhongguo zhuanxiang wazai: Lun Liu Cixin kexue shi yiyi). *Science Fiction Studies* Vol. 46, no. 1 (March, 2019): 1-20.
- (Translator and Editor) “Soul-stealing Sand’: War and Time in *Xin jiyuan* [The New Era] (*Xin jiyuan yu ‘zhuihun sha’ – Xin jiyuan zhong de shijian yu zhanzheng*)” *Science Fiction Studies*. Vol. 46, no. 1 (March, 2018): 1-23.

Literary Translation

- (Translator and editor) Han Song. “Sars Survivors Association.” *Chinese Literature and Thought Today* 53, 1-2 (2022): 62-72.
- (Translator) Various short stories and novellas in *A Primer to Han Song*. Los Angeles: Dark Moon Books, 2020. 9-60; 81-145.
- Han Song. “The Great Wall,” (*Chang cheng*) “Earth is Flat” (*Diqiu shi ping de*) and “The Fundamental Nature of the Universe” (*Yuzhou de benxing*). *Chinese Literature Today*. Vol. 7, no. 1, 2018: 6-19.
- Subtitles *Death Ray on a Coral Island*, screened at MOMA, NYC August, 2017.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- Guest Speaker. “Chinese Science Fiction, 1949-1976.” UNC Chapel Hill, March 2023.
- Presider. “Digital Renderings of Chinese Literature, Cinema, and Television.” MLA. January, 2023.
- “The New in the Late Qing: Chinese Science Fiction at the Turn of the Twentieth Century.” Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden. November, 2022.
- Panel Chair and Presenter. “Developmental Aesthetics: Representing Railways and Extraction in Modern China.” March, 2022.

- Invited Speaker. “Trains in Late Qing Print Culture.” Duke University Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Symposium. October, 2021.
- Panelist. “Posthuman Fabulations Seminar Series”. Paper Title: Borrowed Bodies and Corporate Bodies in the Fiction of Chi Ta-Wei.” Duke University. October, 2021.
- Invited Speaker. “On Not Dreaming and Other Techniques of the Body: Trains, Technology and Nation in Socialist-Realist Cinema 1949-1965.” Asian Studies Seminar Series. University of Cambridge. Jan., 2021.

HONORS & AWARDS

- National Humanities Center Summer Research Fellow. Research Topic: “Popular science publication and public health initiatives in China 1949-1976.” June, 2018.
- Young Sinologists Research Conference Fellow, Beijing China, September 11-30, 2017.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Search Committee, Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences. AY 2021-22
- Search Committee, Department Head, World Languages and Cultures. AY 2022-23
- World Literature Committee, 2012-present
- Director, Chinese Language Major Concentration and Chinese Minor, NCSU Foreign Languages and Literature. 2011-Present

MENTORSHIP

- Erik Mo Welin (PhD Dissertation Reader, Uppsala University, Sweden): “Time, history and politics in contemporary Chinese science fiction literature (ca 2000-2015)”, Spring, 2023.
- Li Xuezhao (Translation and Interpretation Practicum Director, Ohio State University): short stories by Wang Zengqi, Spring 2022.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY

- Forum Executive Committee member, Modern Languages Association 2022-2027.
- Peer Reviewer, *University of Toronto Press*, Association for Asian Studies, *Comparative Literature Studies*, *Literature and Medicine*, *East Asian History*, *Journal of Urban Cultural Studies*, *Science Fiction Studies*, *China Perspectives*, *Journal of Translation Studies*, (Chinese University of Hong Kong) Jamie Bishop Memorial Award.
- Program Committee Member, Southeast Conference, Association for Asian Studies, January, 2020.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Member, Association of Asian Studies
 Member, Modern Languages Association
 Member, Science Fiction Research Association