

David Richard Ambaras

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Employment

- Professor, Department of History, North Carolina State University, 2019-
- Associate Professor, Department of History, North Carolina State University, 2005-19
- Visiting Professor, Department of History, Duke University, 2006
- Assistant Professor, Department of History, North Carolina State University, 1999-2005
- Instructor, Department of History, North Carolina State University, 1998-99
- Assistant in Instruction, Department of History, Princeton University, 1995-96

Education

- Princeton University, Department of History M. A., 1995, Ph. D., 1999
- Visiting Scholar, Faculty of Economics, Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, 1996-97
- The University of Tokyo, Program in Area Studies M. A., 1991, doctoral coursework completed 1993
- Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris License, 1986
- Columbia University, Department of Religion B. A., 1984

Books

- *Maritime Space and Modern Japanese World-Making (in progress)*
- *Japan's Imperial Underworlds: Intimate Encounters at the Borders of Empire* (Cambridge University Press, 2018)
 - Finalist for the International Convention of Asia Scholars ICAS Book Prize in the Humanities, 2019.
- *Bad Youth: Juvenile Delinquency and the Politics of Everyday Life in Modern Japan* (University of California Press, 2006).
 - Finalist for the International Convention of Asia Scholars ICAS Book Prize in the Social Sciences, 2007.

Articles and Book Chapters

- David R. Ambaras and Kate McDonald, "What We're Doing (Overview of *Bodies and Structures*)," in *Bodies and Structures: Deep-Mapping Modern East Asian History*, ed. David R. Ambaras and Kate McDonald (2019), at <http://bodiesandstructures.org>
- "Border Controls, Migrant Networks, and People out of Place Between Japan and China," in *Bodies and Structures: Deep-Mapping Modern East Asian History*, ed. David R. Ambaras and Kate McDonald (2019), at <http://bodiesandstructures.org>
- "Dans le piège du fourmilion: Japonaises et Fujianais en marge de l' Empire et de la Nation" [In the Antlion's Pit: Japanese Women and Fujianese Men at the Margins of Empire and Nation], *Vingtième siècle, revue d'histoire* 120 (octobre-décembre 2013)
- "Topographies of Distress: Tokyo, c. 1930," in *Noir Urbanisms: Dystopic Images of the Modern City*, ed. Gyan Prakash (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2010), 187-217.

- Finalist for the inaugural SECAAS Article Prize, Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, 2011.
- “Juvenile Delinquency and the National Defense State: Policing Young Workers in Wartime Japan, 1937-45,” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 63, no. 1 (2004): 31-60
 - Reprinted in *Imperial Japan and the World, 1931-1945*, ed. Anthony Best (London: Routledge, 2010)
- “Social Knowledge, Cultural Capital, and the New Middle Class in Japan, 1895-1912,” *The Journal of Japanese Studies* 24, no. 1 (1998): 1-33
 - Reprinted in *Gender and Japanese Society: Critical Concepts*, ed. Dolores Martinez (Routledge, 2013)

Digital essays, blog posts, and podcasts

- David R. Ambaras, Curtis Fletcher, Erik Loyer, and Kate McDonald, “Building a Multivocal Spatial History: Scalar and the Bodies and Structures Project” (Parts 1-3), *PLATFORM__A digital forum for conversations about buildings, spaces, and landscapes* (June-July 2019) (<http://www.platformspace.net>)
- David R. Ambaras and Kate McDonald, “Introducing Bodies and Structures 1.0: Deep-Mapping Modern East Asian History.” #AsiaNow (blog), 2019-02-11, at <http://www.asian-studies.org/asia-now/entryid/195/introducing-bodies-and-structures-10-deep-mapping-modern-east-asian-history>
- *Japan’s Imperial Underworlds: Intimate Encounters at the Borders of Empire*. New Books Network podcast, May 12, 2020. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/david-ambaras-japans-imperial-underworlds-intimate-encounters-at-the-borders-of-empire-cambridge-up-2018/>
- “WEAI Author Q&A: David Ambaras’s ‘Japan’s Imperial Underworlds.’” *Columbia University Weatherhead East Asian Institute* (blog), January 02, 2019. <http://weai.columbia.edu/weai-author-qa-david-ambaras-japans-imperial-underworlds/>
- David Ambaras, interview with Tristan Grunow, *The Meiji at 150 Podcast*, December 18, 2018. <https://meiji150.podbean.com/e/episode-84-dr-david-ambaras-nc-state/>

Collaborative Research

- *Bodies and Structures: Deep-mapping Modern East Asian History* (<http://bodiesandstructures.org>), 2016-2024 (current public version: 1.0; projected final version: 3.0). Co-director with Prof. Kate McDonald (History, UC Santa Barbara). *Bodies and Structures* is a platform for researching and teaching spatial histories of East Asia and the larger worlds of which they were a part. Built using the open-source platform [Scalar](#), the site combines individually-authored, media-rich content modules with conceptual maps and visualizations, which reveal thematic, historical, and geographic connections between the modules. Each module is based around a translated primary source or sources. These translations are also included in the site. Awarded an NEH Digital Humanities Advancement Grant (Level II, \$100,000), September 2019-September 2021.
- “Mobility and Social Integration in Twentieth-Century East Asia,” Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research. (Project director: Araragi Shinzō, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan), 2013-2018. Status: Overseas Research Collaborator.

Fellowships and Grants (selected)

- NEH Digital Humanities Advancement Grant, Level II (\$100,000), for “Bodies and Structures: Using Scalar to Deep-map Modern Asian History” (P.I.: David Ambaras; Co-P.I: Kate McDonald), 2019-2021
- National Humanities Center Fellowship, 2014-2015
- American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, 2014-2015 (declined)
- CHASS Scholarly Research Award, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, North Carolina State University (2012), to support French translation of “In the Antlion’s Pit”
- Grant for short-term research travel to Japan, Triangle Center for Japanese Studies, 2011-12
- Co-author (2010) of successful Japan Foundation grant application to secure funding (\$274,000) for new Triangle Center for Japanese Studies
- Grant for short-term travel to Japan, Northeast Asia Council, Association for Asian Studies, 2010
- Harvard-Yenching Library Travel Grant, 2010
- CHASS Scholarly Project Award, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, North Carolina State University, 2006
- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship (twelve months), 2003
- Japan Studies Grant, Northeast Asia Council, Association for Asian Studies, 2001
- Faculty Research and Project Development Grant, North Carolina State University, 2001
- Marion Levy Prize, Program in East Asian Studies, Princeton University, 1998
- Mrs. Giles Whiting Honorific Fellowship in the Humanities, 1997-98
- Honorary Fellow, Princeton Society of Fellows of the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, 1997-98 (full fellowship declined)
- Fulbright IIE Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant, 1996-97

Book Reviews

- Eiichiro Azuma, *In Search of Our Frontier Japanese America and Settler Colonialism in the Construction of Japan’s Borderless Empire*, reviewed for *The Journal of Japanese Studies* (forthcoming)
- Leo T. S. Ching, *Anti-Japan: The Politics of Sentiment in Postcolonial East Asia*, and Erik Esselstrom, *That Distant Country Next Door: Popular Japanese Perceptions of Mao’s China*, reviewed for *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* (forthcoming)
- Max M. Ward, *Thought Crime: Ideology and State Power in Interwar Japan*, reviewed for *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 50, no. 3 (2019): 480-81.
- Maren Ehlers, *Give and Take: Poverty and the Status Order in Early Modern Japan*, and James L. Huffman, *Down and Out in Late Meiji Japan*, reviewed for *Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review* (e-journal) 30 (2019): 120–127
- Christopher P. Hanscom and Dennis C. Washburn, eds., *The Affect of Difference: Representations of Race in East Asian Empire*, reviewed for *Japan Forum* 31, no. 1 (2018): 132-34
- Samuel Hideo Yamashita, *Daily Life in Wartime Japan, 1940-1945*, reviewed for *The Journal of Military History* 80, no. 4 (2016): 1263-64
- Jordan Sand, *Tokyo Vernacular: Common Spaces, Local Histories, Found Objects*, reviewed for *The American Historical Review* 119, no. 5 (2014): 1676-77
- Alisa Freedman, *Tokyo in Transit: Japanese Culture on the Rails and Road*, reviewed for *The American Historical Review* 116, no. 5 (2011)
- Rachel DiNitto, *Uchida Hyakken: A Critique of Modernity and Militarism in Prewar Japan*, reviewed for *The Journal of Asian Studies* 69, no. 3 (2010)
- Eiko Maruko Siniawer, *Ruffians, Yakuza, Nationalists: The Violent Politics of Modern Japan, 1860-1960*, reviewed for *Global Crime* 11, no. 1 (2010)

- Faye Yuan Kleeman, *Under an Imperial Sun: Japanese Colonial Literature of Taiwan and the South*, reviewed for *The Journal of Asian Studies* 67, no.1 (2008)
- Jordan Sand, *House and Home in Modern Japan: Architecture, Domestic Space, and Bourgeois Culture, 1880-1930*, reviewed for *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 66, no. 1 (2006)
- Brian Platt, *Burning and Building: Schooling and State Formation in Japan, 1750-1890*, reviewed for *Monumenta Nipponica* 61, no. 1 (2006)
- Barbara Sato, *The New Japanese Woman: Modernity, Media, and Women in Interwar Japan*, reviewed for *Monumenta Nipponica* 59, no. 1 (2004)
- Anne Walthall, ed., *The Human Tradition in Modern Japan*, reviewed for *The Journal of Japanese Studies* 29, no. 1 (2003)
- Michael Lewis, *Becoming Apart: National Power and Local Politics in Toyama, 1868-1945*, reviewed for *Social History* 27, no. 3 (2002)
- Chushichi Tsuzuki, *The Pursuit of Power in Modern Japan, 1825-1995*, reviewed for *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 33, no. 2 (2002)
- Kathleen S. Uno, *Passages to Modernity: Motherhood, Childhood, and Social Reform in Early Twentieth Century Japan*, reviewed for *Monumenta Nipponica* 55, no. 2 (2000)
- Stephen Vlastos, ed., *Mirror of Modernity: Invented Traditions of Modern Japan*, reviewed for H-JAPAN, 1999

Papers and Invited Lectures

- “From ‘The Sea Bastards’ to ‘Solidarity Beyond Ocean’: Japanese Dockworkers, Afro-Asianism, and Asia-Pacific Unionism in the 1950s-1960s.” Universität Zürich Geschichtskontor works-in-progress colloquium, May 2020. Invited presentation. (Cancelled due to COVID-19.)
- (With Kate McDonald) “Liberating Mapping: The *Bodies and Structures* Project,” Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Denver, April 2020. (Cancelled due to COVID-19.)
- “From Sinospheric Intimacies to Solidarity Beyond Ocean: Mobile, Global Histories of Modern Japan,” Department of History, University of Michigan, February 2020. Invited lecture.
- “Digital History, Spatial History, and the Politics of Mobility in Modern East Asia,” Panel on “Mapping the Space of History: Borders and Liminal Space in the Global System,” 134th Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, New York, January 2020
- (With Kate McDonald) “*Bodies and Structures*: Problems and Prospects for Multivocal, Multidisciplinary Digital Spatial History,” Conference on “Bridging the Methodological Gap: Devising Collaborative Quantitative and Qualitative Research Projects on Japan,” University of Michigan Center for Japanese Studies, November 2019. Invited presentation.
- “Japan's Imperial Underworlds: Intimate Encounters at the Borders of Empire,” Panel: “ICAS Book Prize ‘Humanities’ – Shortlisted Authors,” ICAS 11 Conference, Leiden, July 2019
- “Japan's Imperial Underworlds: Intimate Encounters at the Borders of Empire,” (1) Department of History, UCLA; (2) Carolina Asia Center, UNC Chapel Hill; (3) Center for East Asian Studies, Stanford University; (4) Center for Japanese Studies and Center for Chinese Studies, UC Berkeley, April-May 2019. Invited lectures.
- “Japan's Imperial Underworlds: Intimate Encounters at the Borders of Empire,” Panel on “Pushing the Boundaries in the Study of the Japanese Empire,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Denver, March 2019
- “Japan's Imperial Underworlds: Intimate Encounters at the Borders of Empire,” (1) Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, University of Oxford; (2) University of London School of Oriental and African Studies; (3) University of Cambridge; (4) University of Edinburgh; and (5) Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, March 2019. Invited lectures.

- “Bodies and Structures: Deep-mapping the spaces of Japanese history,” presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington, DC, March 2018
- “Japan's Imperial Underworlds: Intimate Encounters at the Borders of the Sinosphere,” Center for East Asian Studies, Yale University, February 2018. Invited lecture.
- “Treaty Ports and Traffickers: Children's Bodies and Japan's Re-opening to the Sinosphere,” Meiji Japan in Global History Workshop, Duke University, November 2017
- “Deep Mapping and the Writing of Digital History,” Universität Zürich Historisches Seminar, Doctoral Workshop on “Digital History and the Writing of History,” September 29-October 1, 2017. Invited presentation and workshop session leader.
- “Japan's Imperial Underworlds: Intimate Encounters at the Borders of the Sinosphere,” Research Colloquium in Extra-European and Global History at ETH Zürich/Universität Zürich, September 2017. Invited lecture.
- “Amerika rekishigaku ni okeru shakaishi kenkyū no tenkai to kadai” (Social history research in the United States: development and tasks), Institute of American and Canadian Studies, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan, June 2017. Invited lecture.
- “Embodying the Borderland: Nakamura Sueko as Runaway Woman and Pirate Queen,” University of California Santa Barbara, June 2017. Invited Lecture.
- “Border Controls, Migrant Networks, and People Out of Place between Japan and China,” Bodies and Structures: Deep-mapping the Spaces of Modern Japanese History, Triangle Center for Japanese Studies conference, December 2016.
- “Sino-Japanese Mobilities, Transactions in Children, and Territorial Anxieties in the Age of Imperialism,” Sophia University, Tokyo, September 2016. Collaborative Research Project on Mobility and Social Integration in Twentieth-Century East Asia. Invited lecture.
- “Treaty Ports and Body Parts: Child Trafficking, Territoriality, and the Spatial Imaginary of Japan's Encounter with the Sinosphere,” Bodies and Structures: Making Sense of Space in Japan and the Japanese Empire, Triangle Center for Japanese Studies workshop, May 2016.
- “Runaway Woman, Pirate Queen: Life on the Margins of the Japanese Empire,” University of Chicago, “East Asia: Transregional Histories” workshop, May 2014. Invited discussion of pre-circulated paper.
- “Teikoku no hazama o koete: idōsei to shūhensei kara mita Nit-Chū kankei no kingendaishi” (Across and between empires: the modern history of Sino-Japanese relations as seen through mobility and marginality), Sophia University, Tokyo, May 2014. Collaborative Research Project on Mobility and Social Integration in Twentieth-Century East Asia. Invited lecture.
- “Unsettling Colonialism: Naichijin Precarity in Taiwan,” Triangle Center for Japanese Studies, Conference on “Shifting Terrains of Struggle in Japan and Japanese Studies,” University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, April 2014.
- “People Out of Place Between Japan and China: Interethnic Intimacies from the Prewar to the Post-Postwar,” University of Cambridge, November 2013.
- “Runaway Woman, Pirate Queen: Life on the Margins of the Japanese Empire,” (1) University of London School of Oriental and African Studies; (2) Manchester University; and (3) Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, University of Oxford, November 2013.
- “In the Antlion's Pit: Japanese Women and Fujianese Men at the Margins of Empire and Nation,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Toronto, March 2012 (panel organizer).
- “Amerika ni okeru Nihon kenkyū: toshi shi, bunka shi o kataru” (Japanese studies in the United States: A discussion of urban and cultural history), invited lecture, Waseda University, Tokyo, November 2011.

- “Furyō shōnen to kindai Tōkyō no toshi kūkan” (Juvenile delinquents and the urban spaces of modern Tokyo), invited lecture, Conference on “Japan: Urban Systems, Society, and Culture,” Waseda University, Tokyo, November 2011.
- “From the Great War to the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere: Japan and the Crisis of Modern Imperialism,” invited lecture in symposium on “Remaking the World in the Wake of World War I,” Program in the Humanities and Human Values, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- “Raundoteeburu: Bad Youth to Tōkyō no kindai: David Ambaras shi o kakonde” (Roundtable: Bad Youth and Tokyo’s modernity: A discussion with David Ambaras), invited presentation, The Urban Historical Association of Japan, Tokyo, May 2011.
- “In the Antlion’s Pit: Japanese Women and Fujianese Men at the Margins of Empire and Nation,” invited lecture, Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University, April 2011.
- “*Bad Youth*: The Biography of a Book,” invited lecture, Columbia University, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, graduate seminar on Modern Japanese Historiography, April 2009.
- “Historical Perspectives on Japan’s ‘Youth Problems,’” invited lecture in symposium on “Rents in the Social Fabric: the Darker Side of Japanese Society,” Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, February 2008.
- “Child Murders in the Village of Devils: Controlling the Traffic in Unwanted Children in Prewar Japan.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, April 2005.
- “Gang Leaders, Opera Singers, Waitresses and Office Girls: Constructions of Juvenile Delinquency in the Old and New Economies of Interwar Tokyo, 1918-32,” UNC-Chapel Hill series on “Sexuality, Gender, and Nation in Modern Japan, February 2003.
- “Dual Logics: Social Work and Japanese Colonialism, 1918-37,” Harvard University Reischauer Institute Workshop on The Middle Classes in Modern Japanese History, May 2002.
- “Colonizing the Margins in Imperial Japan,” Princeton University Conference in Memory of Professor Marius B. Jansen, May 2001.
- “Social Work and Japan’s Asia, 1918-1945,” Connecticut College Series on Colonialism and Culture in Modern Japanese History, March 2001.
- “Empire of Welfare: Social Work and Japanese Colonialism, 1918-1945,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting (panel organizer), March 2001.
- “The Social Work of the Japanese Empire: Techniques of Discipline and Integration Between Colonies and Metropole, 1918-1945,” 115th Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association (panel co-organizer), January 2001.
- “La Politique du Japon des Années 1930: Croissance de l’Etat Mobilisateur,” Ecole Normale Supérieure, Cachan, France, December 2000.
- “Délinquance Juvenile, Ingénieurs Sociaux, et l’Etat Japonais,” Institut des Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po), Paris, France, December 2000.
- “Juvenile Protection, Lifestyle Guidance, and the Construction of a Pedagogic Regime in Wartime Japan, 1937-1945,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting (panel organizer), March 2000.
- “Total War and the Modernization of Socialization in Japan,” Japan Studies Seminar, Asia/Pacific Studies Institute, Duke University, Fall 1999.
- “Treasures of the Nation: Juvenile Delinquency, Socialization, and Authority in Modern Japan, 1895-1945,” Department of History, North Carolina State University, Spring 1998.
- “‘Everyone Must be a Probation Officer’: Juvenile Delinquency and the Mechanisms of Policing in Tokyo, 1914-1937,” Department of History, Lewis & Clark College, Spring 1998.

- “Juvenile Delinquency and Social Policing in Tokyo, 1914-1937,” 112th Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, January 1998.
- “Ruffians, Dandies, and Thieves: Juvenile Delinquency and the Emergence of Modern Japan,” Department of History, Duke University, Spring 1997.
- “The Construction of Juvenile Delinquency in Late Meiji Japan,” German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo, Spring 1997.
- “Social Knowledge, Cultural Capital, and the New Middle Class in Japan, 1895-1912,” Modern Japan History Workshop, New York Area, Spring 1996.
- “Poor Relief and Social Order in Nineteenth-Century Edo-Tokyo: The Genesis of the Tokyo Poorhouse,” Fourth Graduate Conference on East Asia, Columbia University (panel organizer), Spring 1995.

Scholarly Translations

- Yoshida Nobuyuki, “The Emergence of Yose” (Yose no tanjō), in volume on medieval and early modern social history, ed. Martin Collcutt (forthcoming)
- Uchida Ryūzō, “The Transformation of Urban Space in Tokyo,” *iichiko* 77 (2003)
- Kanamori Osamu, “A Discursive Sphere of Self-Referential Cultural Anthropology: An Essay on Paul Rabinow,” in *Philosophical Designs for a Socio-Cultural Transformation*, ed. Tetsuji Yamamoto (Tokyo and Boulder, Colorado, 1998)
- Hashimoto Hiroyuki, “Re-Creating and Re-Imagining Folk Performing Arts in Contemporary Japan,” *Journal of Folklore Research* 35, no. 1 (1998): 35-46
- Takahashi Jun’ichi, “The Genealogy of the Subject and Ethics: Learning from Foucault,” *iichiko intercultural* 9 (1997)

Community/Professional Service (selected)

- Board of Trustees, Society for Japanese Studies (2020-2022)
- Manuscript reviewer: University of California Press, Harvard University Asia Center, Cornell University Press, University of Hawai’i Press, Weatherhead East Asia Institute, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Journal of Japanese Studies*, *Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review*, *Japan Forum*, *Social Science Japan Review*, *Critical Asian Studies*, *Transnational Asia*, *La Revue des Océanistes*
- Book proposal reviewer: Cambridge University Press
- Tenure reviewer (7 dossiers, 2006-present)
- Co-founder and Executive Committee Member, Triangle Center for Japanese Studies (UNC, NCSU, Duke consortium), 2011-present
- Invited discussant, Workshop on “Japan: Acquisition, Transformation, and Tradition,” Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris, March 2019
- Co-organizer, “Bodies and Structures: Deep-mapping the spaces of Japanese history,” panel at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington, DC, March 2018
- Discussant, Duke Global Asian Health and Humanities: Colonialisms and Imperialisms, Duke University, February 2017
- Co-convener, Bodies and Structures: Deep-mapping the Spaces of Modern Japanese History, University of California at Santa Barbara, June 2017
- Co-convener, Bodies and Structures: Deep-mapping the Spaces of Modern Japanese History, Triangle Center for Japanese Studies conference, December 2016
- Co-Convener, Bodies and Structures: Making Sense of Space in Japan and the Japanese Empire, Triangle Center for Japanese Studies workshop, May 2016

- Chair and Discussant, panel on “Shaping Families, Shifting Lives: Law in the Japanese Empire,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Seattle, March 2016
- Chair, Organizing Committee, Conference on “Shifting Terrains of Struggle in Japan and Japanese Studies,” Triangle Center for Japanese Studies Inaugural International Conference, April 2014
- Convener, Triangle East Asia Colloquium, 2013-14; organized conference “Sex Work and Trafficking in East Asia”
- Invited presenter, Modern Japan History Workshop, Columbia University, October 2013
- Discussant, panel on “Girls Gone Wild: Prostitution and Colonial Anxieties in India, China, and Southeast Asia, 1890s-1950s,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, San Diego, March 2013
- Invited manuscript workshop discussant, Franklin Humanities Institute, December 2012
- Conference organizer, “Boundaries in Question: Japanese and French Empires in East Asia,” North Carolina State University, April 2011
- Invited presenter: workshops and seminars conducted by North Carolina Teach Asia Network, UNC World View, Duke University Asia-Pacific Studies Institute, Duke University Fuqua School of Business (2001-2010).
- Co-convener, Triangle East Asia Colloquium, 2010-11; organized conference “Recent Trends in the Study of Science and Technology in East Asia”
- Invited manuscript workshop discussant, Duke University Press, Fall 2009
- Co-founder, Triangle Japan Forum (funded research cluster, Duke University, 2008- present, and previous incarnations)
- Discussant, Conference on “Missionaries in the Middle East: Rethinking Colonial Encounters,” North Carolina State University, May 2007
- Chair and Discussant, panel on “Infanticide in East Asia,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Boston, March 2007

Committees and Service (NCSU)

- Chair, Chinese History Search Committee (open-rank), 2018
- Director of History Department Undergraduate Honors Program, 2013-present
- Department Committee on Strategic Planning and Diversity, 2005-09, 2010-14, 2015-present (Chair, 2006-08, 2010-11, 2018-19)
- History Department external review preparation team, 2016-17
- Department Research Committee, 2016-17
- Department Salary Review Committee, 2017-18, 2007-08, and 1999-2000
- Strategic Planning Committee, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, 2012-2013
- Search committee, Middle East Studies/Interdisciplinary Studies, 2011-2012
- Chair, ad hoc department search committee on Southeast Asian History, 2012
- Department Graduate Committee, 2008-2010, 2011-2012
- Department Budget Committee, 2015-16
- Department Committee on Courses and Curriculum, 1999-2001, 2005-07, 2009-2010, 2012-13
- Faculty Senator, 2007-09
- University Bookstores Committee, 2007-08
- CHASS International Programs Committee, 2005-07 (Chair, task group on international experiences programming)
- Search committee for CHASS Associate Professor in International Studies, 2006-07
- Department Part-Time Instructors Committee, 2004-05
- Department Headship Search Committee, 2002

- Department Speakers Committee, 2000-2002 (Chair)
- Search committee, Japanese language and literature, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (2001)

Graduate students

- Doctoral committees: Mr. James Gerien-Chen, Department of History, Columbia University (defended 2019, currently Postdoctoral Fellow, Columbia University); Ms. Kari Shepherdson, Department of Art History, Duke University (defended 2012, currently Associate Professor, Macalester College); Ms. Catherine Phipps, Department of History, Duke University (defended 2007, currently Associate Professor, University of Memphis)
- Active M. A. Committees, NCSU: Mr. Daniel Trout
- Past M. A. committees, NCSU: Ms. Elise John (2019), Ms. Kate Bunn (2019), Ms. Kara Haesecker (2019), Ms. Hanna Howard (2019), Mr. Colby Lipscomb (2019), Ms. Anna Spencer (2019), Ms. Caroline Waller (2019), Mr. Andrew Benton (2016), Mr. Robert Roupail, (2013), Ms. Kelly Murray (2013), Ms. Maria Piper (2012, committee chair), Mr. Sean Bennett (2012), Mr. Aaron Brown (2010); Ms. Rebecca Sherman (2008)

Courses Taught

- Modern Japan, 1850-Present (undergraduate and graduate course)
- Modern Asia, 1800-Present (introductory survey)
- Asian Civilizations to 1800 (introductory survey, team taught)
- The World Since 1750 (introductory survey)
- Japan's Empire in Asia, 1868-1945 (upper-level undergraduate and graduate course)
- Mapping Manchuria: Space and Empire (senior research seminar)
- Borders and Border-crossers in the Modern World (senior research seminar)
- Western Missionaries in the Japanese Empire (senior research seminar)
- Tokyo and the Modern World (senior research seminar)
- Introduction to Historical Methods (undergraduate seminar)
- Historiography and Historical Methods (graduate seminar)
- Spatial Approaches to History (graduate colloquium)

Public lectures:

- "Outside In: The Global and the Regional in the Making of Modern Japanese Society," lecture at "Japan Then and Now: A Dialogues Seminar," UNC Humanities Program of the College of Arts and Sciences, January 2017
- "Japan and the United States in the Cold War," Center for Life Enrichment, Highlands, NC, June 2016
- "Unending Conflict on the Korean Peninsula," Center for Life Enrichment, Highlands, NC, June 2016
- "Piracy and the Contemporary World," Center for Life Enrichment, Highlands, NC, June 2015
- "Conflict in the China Sea: An Update," Center for Life Enrichment, Highlands, NC, June 2015
- "Migration and Trafficking in Modern East Asia," Center for Life Enrichment, Highlands, NC, June 2014
- "Catastrophic Japan: From the 'Lost Decades' to the 3.11 Disasters and Beyond," Center for Life Enrichment, Highlands, NC, June 2014

- “Making Sense of the China-Japan Islands Dispute: An Examination of Modern East Asian Relations,” Highlands Center for Life Enrichment, Highlands, NC, June 27, 2013
- “Japan and the World: Power and Culture, 1850-Today,” Center for Life Enrichment, Highlands, NC, June 2012
- “From the Great War to the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere: Japan and the Crisis of Modern Imperialism,” invited lecture in symposium on “Remaking the World in the Wake of World War I,” Program in the Humanities and Human Values, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. October, 2011
- “Historical Perspectives on Japan’s ‘Youth Problems,’” invited lecture in symposium on “Rents in the Social Fabric: the Darker Side of Japanese Society,” Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, February 2008

Policy panels

- Invited panelist, “Recent Development in Japan in the context of US-Japan Relations” (organized by the Prime Minister's Office of Japan and the Consulate General of Japan in Atlanta), North Carolina Japan Center, August 2014

Presentations to professional development programs for educators and business professionals

- “Introduction to Japan,” Asia-Pacific Studies Institute workshop for NC elementary school teachers, Duke University, June 2012
- “Turning Points in East Asia,” workshop for NC secondary school teachers, Asia-Pacific Studies Institute, Duke University, June 2011
- “Japan's Empire in Asia,” UNC World View (for NC K-12 and community college educators), March 2010
- “Wings of Defeat” (presentation and lesson plans), Asia-Pacific Studies Institute workshop for NC secondary school teachers, Duke University, June 2009
- “The Struggle for the Center: Japan, China, and East Asian Modernity” (with Jonathan Ocko), North Carolina Teach Asia Network, February 2008
- “The Historical Trajectory of Contemporary Intra-Asian Relations,” Weekend MBA Program, Fuqua School of Business, Duke University, Spring 2008
- “The U.S. and East Asia” for education administrators, UNC World View (for K-12 and community college educators), Spring 2008
- Teaching World History workshop for Triangle area secondary school teachers, NCSU Department of History, 2007-08
- “The Historical Trajectory of Contemporary Intra-Asian Relations,” Weekend MBA Program, School of Business, Duke University, Spring 2007
- “Revolutionary Change in Modern Japan” and “Japan’s Empire in East Asia” (two lectures, preparation of two slide shows, two lesson plans, and supplementary readings), UNC World View/Duke Asia-Pacific Studies Institute workshop (for secondary school and community college educators), March 2006
- “Revolutionary Change in Modern Japan” (lecture, preparation of slide show, two lesson plans, and supplementary readings), Asia Pacific Studies Institute workshop for NC secondary school teachers, Duke University, June 2005