

# HEATHER R. LEE

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2016-            Assistant Professor of History, NYU Shanghai  
2014-16        Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow, MIT, Department of Global Studies and  
                  Languages  
2012-14        Research Fellow, Brown University, Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences  
2008-12        Research Fellow, Brown University, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity  
2005-07        Guest Lecturer, Freie Universität, JFK Institute for North American Studies

## EDUCATION

2014    Ph.D., American Studies, Brown University  
          Dissertation, “Entrepreneurs in the Age of Chinese Exclusion: Transnational Capital,  
          Migrant Labor, and Chinese Restaurants in New York City, 1850-1943”  
2009    M.A., Public Humanities, Brown University  
2004    M.A., History, Emory University  
2003    B.A., History and Anthropology, Emory University

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

### FELLOWSHIPS

2018-19        New York Historical Society David Lion Gardiner Fellowship  
2017-18        NYU Center for Humanities Faculty Fellowship  
2014-16        Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship, MIT  
2013-14        ACLS/ Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship  
2013-14        Kay Fellowship in American Society and Immigration, Brandeis University  
                  (*declined*)  
2013-14        American Association of University Women American Dissertation Completion  
                  Fellowship (*declined*)  
2008-13        Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, US Department of Education

### GRANTS

2013            American Historical Association Littleton-Griswold Grant for U.S. Legal History  
2013            Library of Congress Florence Tan Moeson Grant for Asia Research  
2013            Brown University Hazeltine Grant for Research in Entrepreneurship  
2012            University of Massachusetts Institute for Asian American Studies Research Grant  
2011            University of Minnesota Immigration and History Research Center Travel Grant

## PUBLICATIONS

### MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

*Acquired Tastes: Making of the Chinese Restaurant Industry in the United States, 1878-1943* (book in progress).

“Borrowed Whiteness: How an Irish Grocer helped make Chinese Restaurants an American Institution,” in *Acquired Tastes*, edited by Benjamin Cohen, Anna Zeide, and Michael Kideckel (*in editorial review*).

“Chinese Food without Clichés,” *Race in the Marketplace*, edited by Sonya Grier, Guillaume D. Johnson, Kevin D. Thomas (*in editorial review*).

### PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

“Hunting for Sailors: Restaurant Raids and the Conscription of Laborers during World War II,” in *A Nation of Immigrants Reconsidered: The U.S. in an Age of Restriction, 1924-1965*, edited by Maria Cristina, Madeline Hsu (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2018).

### BOOK CHAPTERS

“A Life Cooking for Others: The Work and Migration Experiences of a Chinese Restaurant Worker in New York City, 1920-1946,” in *Eating Asian America*, edited by Robert Ji-Song Ku, Martin Manalansan, and Anita Mannur (New York: New York University Press, 2013).

“Selfish Consumers: Delmonico’s Restaurant and Satisfying Personal Desire,” in *Food for Thought: Essays on Eating and Culture*, edited by Lawrence Rubin (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2008).

### BOOK REVIEWS

*From Canton Restaurant to Panda Express: A History of Chinese Food*, by Haiming Liu New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, *Journal of American History* vol 103, no 3 (December 2016): 799-800.

*Between Mao to McCarthy: Chinese American Politics in the Cold War Years*, By Charlotte Brooks. *Journal of American Ethnic History* vol 36, no 2 (Winter 2017): 102-103.

*Modernity and National Identity in the United States and East Asia, 1895-1919*. By Carol C Chin. *Journal of American Studies* vol 47, no1 (February 2013): 279-281.

### REVIEW ARTICLES

“What is Human Trafficking?” co-authored with Rhacel Salazar Parrenas and Maria Hwang, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* vol 37, no 4 (Summer 2012): 1015-59.

### ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

“Ha Jin,” in *Encyclopedia of Asian American Folklore*, edited by Jonathan H X Lee and Kathleen Nadeau (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2010).

“Chinese-American Foodways,” in *Encyclopedia of Asian American Folklore*, edited by Jonathan H X Lee and Kathleen Nadeau (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2010).

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 “Chinese Food and Asian American Studies,” Asian American Taskforce of Harvard/ MIT, Apr 20
- 2016 “Section Six Merchant Loopholes: The Rise of Chinese Restaurants in the United States,” NEH Summer Institute on the Chinese Exclusion Act and Immigration in America, Museum of Chinese in America, Jul 18
- 2016 “New Directions in Asian American Studies: Chinese Restaurants through a Transnational and Digital Lens,” Brandeis University, Apr 20.
- 2016 “To Dine Like One of the Boys: Female Access to New York City Restaurants, 1905-1929,” Critical Consumptions: The Future of Food Studies, Princeton University, Apr 1.
- 2016 “The Digital Turn in History: A Small Data Approach to Data Gather and Analysis,” Integrating Global China Studies with Computational Social Science Research, NYU Shanghai and the European Research Council, Mar 4.
- 2015 “Transnational Circuits: Chinese Restaurants and the Movement of Labor and Capital,” History Speaker Series, University of Waterloo, Mar 13.
- 2015 “The Importance of Chinese Restaurant to Immigration History,” Interactions Seminar Series, University of Toronto, Mar 12.
- 2014 “Migration Oriented Businesses and the Spread of Chinese Restaurants in New York, 1915-1943,” Global Borders Research Collaboration of MIT, Science Po, and Columbia University, Paris, France, Jun 11.
- 2014 “Merchants in the Age of Exclusion: Migration Oriented Businesses and the Spread of Chinese Restaurants in the United States, 1894-1920,” Joshua B Stein Lecture Series, Departments of History and American Studies, Roger Williams University, Mar 6.
- 2013 “New York’s Chinese Restaurants: A History of Migration and Entrepreneurship, 1850-1943,” Asian American Studies Program, University of Massachusetts Boston, Jun 4.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2017 “Thriving in Scarcity: How Restaurants in New York and London Exploited World War II Food Policies,” Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, Washington, DC (Panel Organizer).
- 2016 “Feeding the Masses in Scarcity: Food Provision in Wartime New York, 1942-1946,” Urban History Association, Chicago, IL.
- 2016 “Teaching Asian American Studies with Digital Tools,” Association for Asian American Studies, Miami, FL (Roundtable Organizer).
- 2016 “Chinese Seamen of New York: Building Networks of Community under Empire, 1842-1882,” Association for Asian Studies, Seattle, WA.
- 2015 “Deporting Chinese Seamen: Continued Exclusion of Chinese Laborers under the Alien Seamen Program, 1942-1946,” Immigrant America Conference, University of Minnesota and Immigration and Ethnic History Society, Minneapolis, MN; Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, Washington, DC.
- 2015 “Chop Suey for Two: The Role of Chinese Restaurants in the Leisure Industry, 1900-1930,” American Historical Association, New York, NY.

- 2014 “The Right to Migrate: the Roots of the Chinese Restaurant Industry in U.S. Immigration Law, 1894-1915,” Organization of American Historians, Atlanta, GA.
- 2013 “A Life Cooking for Others: A Life Cooking for Others: the Experiences of Shuck Wing Chin in New York’s Chinese Restaurants, 1935-1946,” Association for Asian American Studies, Seattle, WA.
- 2013 “Creating New Archives: Engaging Communities in Expanding the Public Record for Historical Research,” American Historical Association, New Orleans, LA (Panel Organizer).
- 2012 “Empires of Circulation: Chinese Restaurants and Transpacific and Transcontinental Movements of Labor, Goods, and Capital, 1909-1949,” American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico (Panel Organizer).
- 2012 “Food Refugees: INS regulation of Chinese Seamen turned Restaurant Worker, 1939-1946,” Association for the Asian American Studies, Washington, DC (Panel Organizer).
- 2012 “Chin Lee’s China: The Importance of Kinship Labor to Restaurant Success,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Boston, MA.
- 2011 “Let’s Eat Chinese: A Labor and Migration History of Chinese restaurant workers, 1920-1965,” Association for Asian American Studies Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA (Panel Organizer).
- 2010 “We Need Cooks: Chinese Restaurants, American Consumption, and Immigration Law,” Association for Asian American Studies Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, 7-11 Apr. 2010 (Panel Organizer).
- 2008 “Public Scholarship: Negotiating the Narratives of the Asian Community,” Asian American Studies East of California Conference: A Movement To Look Back To, University of Connecticut.
- 2006 “Slumming in Chinatown: The Birth of Ethnic Tourism in Nineteenth-Century New York,” Asian Migrations: Conference of the Asian and Asian American Studies Program, Binghamton University.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### COURSES TAUGHT

NYU, Department of History, 2017-

New York: History of the City and its People

NYU Shanghai, Humanities and Global China Studies, 2016-2017

Asia-Pacific History

Global Chinese Food (Digital Humanities Course)

New York: History of the City and its People (Digital Humanities Course)

MIT, Department of Global Studies and Languages, 2014-2016

Chinese Migration Since 1567 (Digital Humanities Course)

Global Chinese Food (Digital Humanities Course)

Introduction to Asian American Studies

Brown University, Department of American Studies, Brown University, 2010

Immigration, Identity and Americanization through Food

Free University (Berlin, Germany), JFK Institute for North American Studies, 2005-2006

Introduction to Asian American Studies

Asian American Literature and Film

Chinese in US Popular Culture

Gender, Race and Sexuality in 19<sup>th</sup> Century America

#### **AWARD**

2017 Martin Luther King, Jr Faculty Teaching Award, NYU

#### **PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING**

2012 Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning Seminar on Professional Development

2009 Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning Seminar on Reflective Teaching

2008 Department of American Studies Course on Professional Issues

### **PUBLIC HISTORY ACTIVITIES**

#### **MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS**

2016 Advisor, "Chinese Food in the United States," Museum of Food and Drink

2014 Consultant, "Chinese Americans: Exclusions/ Inclusions," New York Historical Society,

2011 Advisor, "Sweet and Sour," National Museum of American History, Washington, DC

2010 Researcher, "Food On the Move: Eating in Trains, Ships, Cars, and Planes," Culinary Museum at Johnson and Wales

2009 Co-curator, "Chow Mein, Chicken Wings, and Cheeseburgers: Chinese Restaurants of Providence, RI," Culinary Museum at Johnson and Wales, 2009

2009 Researcher, "Deporting Cambodians: How Immigration Policy Shapes our Communities," Wing Luke Asian Museum

2008 Curator, "Chinese on Fridays: Rhode Island's *Chow Mein* Sandwich," John N Brown Center

#### **PUBLIC TALKS**

2017 United States of Chop Suey: Heather Lee in Conversation with Anne Mendelson, Museum of Food and Drink, Brooklyn, Jan 12.

2016 "Section Six Merchant Loopholes: The Rise of Chinese Restaurants in the United States," NEH Summer Institute on the Chinese Exclusion Act and Immigration in America, Museum of Chinese in America, Jul 18.

2015 "The Work Life of Shuck Wing Chin, an Anonymous Bachelor in New York City," Museum of Chinese of America, Jan 4.

#### **BLOG ENTRY**

2015 "The Untold Story of Chinese Restaurants in America," *Scholars Strategy Network*  
<http://wwwscholarsstrategynetworkorg/content/untold-story-chinese-restaurants-america>

2015 "History of Chinese Restaurants in America," *Process: A Blog for American History*  
<http://wwwprocesshistoryorg/?p=130>

#### **PODCASTS**

- 2016 “Restaurant Loophole,” *Scholar’s Strategy Network’s No Jargon*  
<http://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/podcast/restaurant-loophole>
- 2015 “The United States of Chinese Food,” *Gastropod*  
<http://gastropodcom/the-united-states-of-chinese-food/>
- 2015 “The Bitter Truth,” *Gastropod*  
<http://gastropodcom/the-bitter-truth/>

#### PRINT CONTRIBUTIONS

- 2018 Monica Eng, “[How Chinese Restaurants Nearly Became Extinct Across U.S.](#),” *Chicago Tribune*, Feb 27
- 2016 Maria Godoy, “[Lo Mein Loophole: How U.S. Immigration Law Fueled a Chinese Restaurant Boom](#),” *NPR*, Feb 22.
- 2015 Gillian B. White, “[Explaining Chinese Restaurants, Korean Dry Cleaning, and Indian Motels](#),” *The Atlantic*, Oct 2.

#### FILM AND TV CONTRIBUTIONS

- 2017 “[CHOW: Making the Chinese American Restaurant](#),” *Culture Trip*, Feb 17.
- 2016 [Asian American Life](#), CUNY TV, Minnie Roh, Dec 8.
- 2014 *Search for General Tso* (Cheney), interviewee.

#### SERVICE

- 2013-15 Board Member, Chinese Historical Society of New England, Boston, MA
- 2011 Collections Intern, Museum of Chinese in America, New York, NY (One Year)
- 2008 Summer Intern, Wing Luke Asian Museum, Seattle, WA

### ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

#### DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- NYU Shanghai, 2016-  
 Humanities Major Faculty Mentor, 2016-17  
 New York Diaspora City, 2018-

#### UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE WORK

- NYU Shanghai, 2016-  
 Faculty Committee on the NYU Global Network, 2017-  
 Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, 2017-  
 Academic Programming Advisory Committee (Chair), 2016-17  
 Critical Inquiry Beyond the Classroom Ad Hoc Committee (Chair), 2016-17  
 NYU Shanghai Dissertation Fellowship Selection Committee, 2016-17  
 Yenching Academy Internal Selection Committee, 2016-17

#### Brown University, 2007-2014

- 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Steering Committee  
 Provost Search Committee Brown University  
 President of the Graduate Student Council (Two Terms)  
 Chair of the Graduate Student Council Finance Committee

Board of Trustee's Committee on Campus Life  
University Community Council

### EVENTS ORGANIZED

- 2017 "Digital Collection for Humanities Classrooms and Research," NYU Urban Democracy Lab, Department of English, and Libraries, New York Apr 8
- 2017 "Three Debates: Critical Inquiry Beyond the Classroom," NYU Shanghai, Feb 28, Apr 24, TBD.
- 2015 "Pacific New England Digital Research and Pedagogy Workshop," MIT, Global Borders Research Initiative and Department of Global Studies and Languages, Oct 3
- 2015 "Digital Teaching Initiative," MIT, Program in History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society, Jan 13-14
- 2010-11 "Graduate Workshop on Food Studies," Departments of American Studies, Sociology, and Art and Architecture, Sep 2010-May 2011

### LEADERSHIP TRAINING

- 2012 Brown Executive Scholar Training Program

## SKILL SETS

### LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES

CHINESE: Intermediate speaking and basic reading and writing

GERMAN: Basic speaking, reading, and writing

FRENCH: Basic speaking, reading, and writing

### SOFTWARE PROFICIENCIES:

ArcGIS (Mapping Software)

OpenRefine (Data Cleaning Software)

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association

Asian American Studies Association

Association of Asian Studies

Organization of American Historians

Society for the History of American Foreign Relations

Urban History Association

Reviewer for

- *Journal of American History*
- *Journal of Urban History*
- *Journal of American Ethnic History*
- *Global Food History*
- *Public Historian*
- *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*

