

NICOLAI VOLLAND

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The Pennsylvania State University
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EDUCATION

Dr. phil. University of Heidelberg, Modern Chinese Studies, 2004
M.A. University of Heidelberg, Modern Chinese Studies, 2001

EMPLOYMENT

2018- Associate Professor of Asian Studies and Comparative Literature
2014-2018 Assistant Professor of Asian Studies and Comparative Literature,
Pennsylvania State University
2008-2014 Assistant Professor, National University of Singapore
2007-2008 Visiting Fellow, National University of Singapore
2006-2007 Adjunct Assistant Professor, National Tsinghua University, Taiwan
2005-2007 Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow, Academia Sinica, Taiwan
2004-2005 Content Manager, Digital Archive of Chinese Studies (DACHS)
2004-2005 Lecturer, Institute of Chinese Studies, University of Heidelberg
2003-2004 Assistant Professor at the Institute of Chinese Studies, University of
Heidelberg (one-year temporary replacement position)
2002-2003 Teaching Assistant in Chinese Studies, University of Heidelberg

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Modern Chinese Literature and Culture
Cosmopolitanism, Transnationalism, and World Literature
Global Cultural Circulations
Publishing, Media, and Digital Cultures
Modern Chinese Film Culture

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2018 Penn State Humanities Institute, Faculty Fellow
2017 Association of Asian Studies/China and Inner Asia Council Research Travel Grant
2017 ACLS Collaborative workshop grant (co-investigator)
2016 First Book Award, Weatherhead Institute of Asian Studies (for *Socialist Cosmopolitanism: The Chinese Literary Universe, 1945-1965*, Columbia University Press)
2014 Penn State University Start-up Grant
2010 NUS Young Investigator Award (shortlisted)
2010 NUS-FASS Conference Organization Grant (MOE AcRF Tier 1)
2009 NUS Chinese Studies Conference Organization Grant
2009 NUS-FASS Conference Organization Grant
2009 ACLS-CCK (American Council of Learned Societies / Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation)
Conference Grant
2008 NUS Staff Start-up Grant
2005 CCK Postdoctoral Fellowship (1 year, declined)

2005 Academia Sinica (Taiwan) distinguished postdoctoral fellowship (2 years)
 2001 DFG (German Research Foundation) dissertation fellowship (2 years)

LANGUAGES

German	Native
English	Near-native fluent
Chinese	Near-native fluent
French	Fluent
Japanese	Reading

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association of Asian Studies (AAS)
 American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)
 Modern Language Association (MLA)
 Association of Chinese and Comparative Literature (ACCL)

CURRENT SERVICE APPOINTMENTS

Penn State, Dept. of Asian Studies, Director of Graduate Studies, 2018-
 Penn State, Dept. of Comparative Literature, Director of Graduate Studies, 2018-
Verge: Studies in Global Asias, Editorial Collective—member, 2014-

PAST SERVICE APPOINTMENTS

Penn State, Dept. of Asian Studies, Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2019
 Penn State, Dept. of Asian Studies, Honors Advisor for Chinese, 2015-2018
 Penn State, Dept. of Asian Studies, Graduate Committee member, 2014-2018
 Penn State, Dept. of Comparative Literature, Graduate Committee member, 2015-2018

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

2019/10- President, Association of Chinese and Comparative Literature

PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPH

2017/03 *Socialist Cosmopolitanism: The Chinese Literary Universe, 1945-1965* (New York: Columbia University Press)
 Reviewed in:
Choice, Sept. 2017 (J.C. Kinkley)
Hyperallergic, Nov. 2017 (Matt Turner)
Modern Chinese Literature and Culture, May 2018 (Tie Xiao)
The China Quarterly 234 (June 2018), 585-87 (Sebastian Veg)
The China Journal 80.1 (Spring 2018), 176-78 (Lisa Rofel)
China Perspectives 2018/3 (Fall 2018) (Krista Van Fleit)
Modern Language Quarterly 79.4 (Dec. 2018) (Richard King)
Comparative Literature Studies 56.1 (2019), 213-16 (Gal Gvili)
Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews 40.1 (2019), 231-34 (Shuang Shen)
Journal of Chinese Overseas 15.2 (2019), 287-90 (Nathaniel Isaacson)
Wenxue 2019/01 (actually 2020/08), via [Weixin](#) (Huang Kun)

EDITED VOLUMES

2014/12

The Business of Culture: Cultural Entrepreneurs in China and Southeast Asia, 1900-1965 (co-edited with Christopher G. Rea, UBC Press; co-published by Hong Kong University Press for distribution in the Asia Pacific region).

Reviewed in:

Choice, June 2015, 1707 (H.T. Wong)

The Journal of Chinese Overseas 12 (2016): 370-73 (Donna Brunero)

Zhongyang yanjiuyuan jindaishi yanjiusuo jikan (Bulletin of the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica) 97 (Fall 2017), 123-29 (Xuelei Huang)

Pacific Affairs 90.4 (2018): 781-83 (Anna Belogurova)

Journal of Asian Studies 77.1 (Spring 2018), 243-44 (Di Luo)

Journal of Southeast Asian Studies 49.2 (Summer 2018) (Wu Xiao An)

2008/11

Comic Visions of Modern China (with Christopher G. Rea), special issue of *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture* 20.2 (Fall 2008).

JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

forthcoming

“Turning the Tables on the Global North: China, Afro-Asia, and Cold War Cultural Diplomacy,” in Lisa Rofel, Carlos Rojas (eds.). *China and the Global South*. Durham: Duke University Press. Accepted for publication (09/30/2020)

forthcoming

“‘Liberating the Small Devils.’ Red Guard Newspapers and Radical Publics.” *The China Quarterly*. Accepted for publication (10/05/2020).

2020/08

“Xiandai Zhongguo ji qi shijiezhuyi chuantong” [Modern Chinese literature and its cosmopolitan tradition], in *Wenxue* 2019/1 (publication in 2020).

2020/01

“Steaming Toward the Future: Cao Ming, *Locomotive*, and Transcultural Socialism,” in Barbara Mittler, Catherine V. Yeh (eds.). *China and the World: A Transcultural Perspective*. Gossenberg: Ostasien-Verlag.

2019/06

“In Search of the City of Light: Chinese Creative Communities and the Myth of Interwar Paris.” *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture* 31.1 (Spring 2019): 192-228.

2017/03

“How the Steel was Tempered: The Forging of a Transnational Socialist Literature in China,” in David Der-wei Wang (ed.). *A New Literary History of Modern China*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 562-68.

2017/02

“Clandestine Cosmopolitanism: Reading Foreign Literature in Maoist China, 1957-1977,” *Journal of Asian Studies* 76.1:185-210.

2015/09

“All the Literature that’s Fit to Print: A Print Culture Perspective on Modern Chinese Literature,” in *A Companion to Modern Chinese Literature*, ed. Zhang Yingjin. London: Wiley-Blackwell, 2015, 360-78.

2014/12

“Cultural Entrepreneurship in the Twilight: The Shanghai Book Trade, 1945-1957,” in Christopher G. Rea and Nicolai Volland (eds.). *The Business of Culture: Cultural Entrepreneurs in China and Southeast Asia, 1900-1965*, 234-58.

2014/12

“Aw Boon Haw, the Tiger from Nanyang: Social Entrepreneurship, Transregional Journalism, and Public Culture” (co-authored with Sin Yee Theng), in Christopher G. Rea and Nicolai Volland (eds.). *The Business of Culture: Cultural Entrepreneurs in China and Southeast Asia, 1900-1965*, 121-49.

2014/12

“Epilogue: Exit the Cultural Entrepreneur?” (co-authored with Christopher A. Reed), in Christopher G. Rea and Nicolai Volland (eds.). *The Business of Culture: Cultural Entrepreneurs in China and Southeast Asia, 1900-1965*, 259-82.

2014/11

“Soviet Spaceships in Socialist China: Reading Soviet Popular Literature in the 1950s,” in *Modern China Studies* 22.1 (2015): 191-214.

2014/03 “The Birth of a Profession: Translators and Translation in Republican China” in Peng Hsiao-yen (ed.). *China and the Other: Cultural Mediations Between China and the West in the Modern Era* (Leiden: Brill, 2014), 126-50.

2013/07 “Xidu *Fu Lei jiashu*: wenhua mailuo, guojia lingdaoquan, yu yizhe de kunjing” [“A Close Reading of *Fu Lei's Family Letters*: Cultural Context, State Sovereignty, and the Dilemma of Translators”] in Peng Hsiao-yen (ed.). *Wenhua fanyi yu wenben mailuo: wan Ming yijiang de Zhongguo, Riben, yu Xifang [Textual Translation and Cultural Context: China, Japan, and the West since the late Ming]* (Taipei: Zhongyang yanjiuyuan Zhongguo wenzhe yanjiusuo, 2013), 129-62.

2011/11 “From Control to Management: The CCP's 'Reforms of the Cultural Structure,'” in Anne-Marie Brady (ed.). *China's Thought Management*. London: Routledge, 2011, 107-21.

2011/05 “Taking Urban Conservation Online: Chinese Civic Action Groups and the Internet,” in David Kurt Herold and Peter Marolt (eds.). *Online Society in China: Creating, Celebrating, and Instrumentalising the Online Carnival*. London: Routledge, 2011, 184-99.

2011/04 “‘Zhuoya’ de Zhongguo youji” [Zoya in China] in Xu Lanjun and Andrew Jones (eds.). *Ertong de faxian: Xiandai Zhongguo wenxue ji wenhua zhong de ertong wenti* [The Discovery of the Child: The Problematic of Children in Modern Chinese Literature and Culture]. Beijing: Beijing daxue chubanshe, 2011, 251-69.

2010/11 “Zhengzhi rentong: 1950 niandai Zhongguo yu Sulian, dong-Ou de wenhua jiaoliu” [Political Identification: China's Cultural Exchange with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in the 1950s], in Shen Zhihua and Douglas A. Stiffler (eds.). *Cuiruo delianmeng: Lengzhan yu Zhong-Su guanxi* [Fragile Alliance: The Cold War and Sino-Soviet Relations]. Beijing: Shehui kexue wenxian chubanshe, 2010, 93-113 [Note: Chinese trsl. of “Translating the Socialist State: Cultural Exchange, National Identity, and the Socialist World in the Early PRC”].

2009/12 “Inventing a Proletarian Fiction for China: The Stalin Prize, Cultural Diplomacy, and the Creation of a Pan-Socialist Identity,” in Tuong Vu, Wasana Wongsurawat (eds.). *Dynamics of the Cold War in Asia: Ideology, Identity, and Culture*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009, 93-112.

2009/09 “A Linguistic Enclave: Translation and Language Policies in the Early PRC,” in *Modern China* 35.5 (Sept. 2009), 467-94.

2008/11 “Introduction” (with Christopher G. Rea), in *Comic Visions of Modern China*, special issue of *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture* 20.2 (Fall 2008), v-xviii ([fulltext available](#)).

2008/04 “Translating the Socialist State: Cultural Exchange, National Identity, and the Socialist World in the Early PRC,” in *Twentieth-Century China* 33.2 (Apr. 2008), 51-72.

2007/03 “*Fu Lei jiashu*: Kulturaustausch in der Volksrepublik China und die Strategien eines Mittlers zwischen zwei Welten” in Antje Richter, Helmolt Vittinghoff (eds.). *China und die Wahrnehmung der Welt*. Wiebaden: Harrassowitz, 221-44.

REVIEWS, COMMENTS, ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

accepted

Review of Lingchei Letty Chen. *The Great Leap Backward: Forgetting and Representing the Mao Years* (Amherst: Cambria Press, 2020). *Prism: Theory and Modern Chinese Literature*.

2020/10 Review of Fei-Hsien Wang. *Pirates and Publishers: A Social History of Copyright in Modern China* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2019). *East Asian Publishing and Society* 10 (2020): 224-26.

2019/04 Review of Richard Jean So. *Transpacific Community: America, China, and the Rise and Fall of a Cultural Network* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2016), in *Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews* 40 (2018): 239-42.

2017/03 Review of Cai Xiang; Rebecca E. Karl, Xueping Zhong (eds. and trans.). *Revolution and Its Narratives: China's Socialist Literary and Cultural Imaginaries, 1949-1966* (Durham: Duke University Press), MCLC Resource Center, <http://u.osu.edu/mclc/book-reviews/volland/>.

2015/11 Review of Paola Iovene. *Tales of Future Past: Anticipation and the Ends of Literature in Contemporary China* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2014), in H-ASIA, <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=43660>.

2015/06 Review of Alison Groppe. *Sinophone Malaysian Literature: Not Made in China* (Amherst: Cambria Press, 2014), in *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 46.2 (2015): 326-28.

2015/04 Review of Yiman Wang. *Remaking Chinese Cinema: Through the Prism of Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Hollywood* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2013), in *Asian Studies Review* 39.2 (2015): 328-30.

2015/01 Review of Mark Gamsa. *The Reading of Russian Literature in China: A Moral Example and Manual of Practice* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), in *Twentieth-Century China* 40.1 (Jan. 2015).

2015/03 Review of Dandan Zhu. *1956: Mao's China and the Hungarian Crisis* (Cornell: Cornell University East Asia Program, 2014), in *Pacific Affairs* 88.1 (March 2015).

2014/02 Comment on Dafna Zur. "The Great Reform of Nature: Science Fiction in the North Korean Children's Magazine *Adong Munhak*, 1956-1965," in *Journal of Asian Studies* 73.2 (May 2014): 353-58.

2014/02 Review of Perry Link. *An Anatomy of Chinese: Rhythm, Metaphor, Politics* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2013), in *Asian Journal of Communication*, publ. "online first."

2010/11 Review of Sandra Voglreiter. *Kurze Leine, Langer Atem: Voraussetzungen der Berichterstattung deutscher Korrespondenten in der Einparteidiktatur China* (Köln: Herbert von Halem Verlag, 2009), and Peixin Cao. *Media Incidents. Power Negotiation on Mass Media in Time of China's Social Transition* (Konstanz: UVK, 2010, in *r:k:m Rezensionen Kommunikation Medien*, at <http://www.rkm-journal.de/archives/4669#hide>).

2010/09 Review of Xiaoling Wang. *Jean-Jacques Rousseau en China (de 1871 à nos jours)* (Montmorency: Société internationale des amis de musée Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 2010), in *Études Chinoises*, vol. XXIX (2010), pp. 363-66.

2008/07 Review of Xu Wu. *Chinese Cyber Nationalism: Evolution, Characteristics, and Implications*. Lanham, Lexington Books, 2007, in *The China Journal* 60 (July 2008), pp. 191-93.

2005 Comment on Zhou Yongming. "Living on the Cyber Border: Minjian Political Writers in Chinese Cyberspace," in *Current Anthropology* 46.5 (2005), pp. 798-99.

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS

2020/01 "Borrowed Books/*Jie shu*," in *The Mao Era in Objects*, at <https://maoeraobjects.ac.uk/#/object-biographies/borrowed-books/>

2017/06 “‘China Learns from Eastern Germany?’ A Glimpse from the Berlin Archives,” in *The PRC History Review* 2.3, at <http://prchistory.org/review-june-2017/>

2011/08 “Mourning the Soviet Union,” *The China Beat*, at <http://www.thechinabeat.org/?p=3682>

2010/08 “Silence is Still Golden: Women and the Metropolis in Early Chinese Cinema” (with Yap Soo Ei, Ji Xing, Yang Lijun, and Paul Pickowicz), *The China Beat*, at <http://www.thechinabeat.org/?p=2550>

2009/09 “The Frankfurt Book Mess,” *The China Beat*, at www.thechinabeat.org/?p=856

2008/06 “Boss Hu and the Press, *The China Beat*, at <http://thechinabeat.blogspot.sg/2008/06/boss-hu-and-press.html>. Repr. in Kate Merkel-Hess, Kenneth L. Pomeranz, Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom (eds.), *China in 2008: A Year of Great Significance* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2009), pp. 216-20.

2005 “Zhao Ziyang’s Virtual Bookshelf” – Online publication, at <http://www.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/dachs/volland050314.htm>

2005 “Fifty Influential Public Intellectuals” – Online publication, at <http://www.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/dachs/volland050423.htm>

RECENT CONFERENCE PAPERS AND TALKS

2019/11 “The Afterlives of SovLit in China: From World Literature to Literary Worlds” Soviet Literature as World Literature, New York University

2019/07 “Parlez-vous Français? How to Become a Cosmopolitan in Shanghai, 1910-1925” Association for Chinese and Comparative Literature (ACCL), Biennial Meeting, Changsha, China

2019/03 “Translational Provocations: Balzac, Fu Lei, and Literary Realism in Cold War China” Association of Asian Studies (AAS), Annual Meeting, Denver, CO

2019/02 “How to Become a Cosmopolitan: Learning French in Shanghai, 1904-1924” Penn State University, Humanities Institute lecture

2018/11 “Soviet Books in Socialist China: The Epoch Press and the Making of Socialist Cosmopolitanism, 1940-1960” “How Maoism was Made: Analysing Chinese Communism beyond the Totalitarian Lens, 1949-1965,” British Academy, London, UK

2018/06 “The Un-Public Sphere: Mediated Communication in Mao’s China” Publicness Beyond the Public Sphere: Alternative Publications and Counter-Publics in Twentieth and Twenty-First Century China, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France

2018/03 “Life as a Character from a Foreign Book: Romain Rolland, Transcultural Biography, and China’s Cosmopolitan Tradition” Association of Asian Studies (AAS), Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

2017/07 “Clandestine Cosmopolitanism: Literary Worldliness under High Maoism” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Annual Meeting, Utrecht

2017/06 “‘Flying Between Moscow and Beijing?’ Feng Zhi and Socialist Cosmopolitanism”

	Association of Chinese and Comparative Literature (ACCL), Biennial Meeting, Chinese University of Hong Kong
2017/04	“Contact Zones, Entrepôts, Anchoring Sites: Sinophone Southeast Asia and World Literature” Workshop on “Worlding Chinese Literature: Sinophone Southeast Asia,” Duke University
2017/03	“Clandestine Cosmopolitanism: Debating Foreign Literature under High Maoism, 1957-1977” Association for Asian Studies (AAS) annual meeting, Toronto, Canada
2017/01	“We Are Flying toward Moscow:’ Reimagining Global (Literary) Space in Socialist China” Modern Language Association (MLA) annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA
2017/01	“Chinese Socialist Literature as World Literature: Land Reform Fiction in Transnational Perspective” Modern Language Association (MLA) annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA
2016/09	“Con Men and Cosmopolitans: Two Views on Mao’s China” Invited Lecture, Yale University
2016/04	“China Without: The People’s Republic of China in East German Archives” Association for Asian Studies (AAS) annual meeting, Seattle
2015/06	“Hurricane Across Borders: Re-Reading the ‘Red Classics’ from a Transnational Perspective” Association of Chinese and Comparative Literature (ACCL), Biennial Meeting, Fudan University, Shanghai, China
2015/06	“Throat and Tongue of the Party: The Formation of the Chinese Communist Party’s Press Concept in the 1930s and 1940s” Conference on “Chuanmei yu Taiwan xiandaixing” [The media and modernity in Taiwan], She-wo Research Center, Shih-hsin University, Taiwan
2015/06	“The Literary Universe: A Model” Workshop on “Reception and Authorship in Popular Cultures,” Junge Akademie, Munich, Germany
2014/03	“Books for New China: The Transformation of the Publishing Industry, 1949-1953” Association for Asian Studies (AAS) annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
2014/03	“From the Bund to the Left Bank: Chinese Creative Communities in Paris, 1925-1935” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Annual Meeting, New York
2013/09	“How Zoo Animals Travelled in Cold War China.” Invited lecture, University of California, Irvine
2013/05	“Globalizing Knowledge in Socialist China: A Transnational Perspective on Knowledge Production in the PRC, 1924-1960.” Workshop on “Organized Knowledge under State Socialism, 1949-1978,” University of California, Berkeley.
2013/04	“After Leaning to One Side? China, the Soviet Union, and the Third World in the 1960s.” Association for Asian Studies (AAS) annual meeting, San Diego, CA.
2012/10	“Geming xianlie Shashibiya: Xifang jingdian zai shehuizhuyi Zhongguo” [Comrade Shakespeare: Reading Western Classics in Socialist China, 1949-1979]. Invited lecture, National Taiwan University.

2012/09 "Soviet Spaceships in Socialist China: Reading Soviet Popular Literature in the 1950s." European Association of Chinese Studies (EACS) biannual meeting, Paris.

2012/04 "Writing to Learn Seeing: Print Culture in the Making of Early Chinese Cinema." Workshop on "Writing Asia: Textual Traditions and Scriptural Modernities," National Univ. of Singapore

2012/03 "A Brave New World of Literature: Mapping China's Cultural Encounter with the Socialist World, 1949-1960." Association for Asian Studies (AAS) annual meeting, Toronto, Canada.

2011/09 "Chinese Fans of Hollywood Movie Stars: The Formation of Film Culture in 1920s Shanghai." Invited lecture, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

2011/04 "A Midwife for the Movies: Print Culture and the Formation of Early Chinese Cinema." Association of Asian Studies (AAS) annual meeting, Honolulu.

2011/04 "Mary Pickford's Chinese Fans: The Emergence of a Cosmopolitan Entertainment Culture in 1920s Shanghai." Invited lecture, UCLA

2010/09 "Movies on Paper? A Print Culture Perspective on Early Chinese Cinema" Invited lecture, Stanford University.

2010/08 "Dismantling the Cultural Entrepreneur: The Nationalization of the Chinese Publishing Industry, 1949-1954." Conference on "Circuits of Cultural Entrepreneurship in China and Southeast Asia, 1900-1965," NUS

2010/06 "Kua meijie tansuo: Zhongguo zaoqi dianying zazhi" [Cross-Media Explorations: Early Chinese Film Journals]. Invited lecture, National Tsinghua University, Taiwan.

2010/04 "Global Knowledge, Local Audiences, and the Formation of a Commercial Entertainment Culture: Chinese Film Journals of the 1920s" Invited lecture, Nanyang Technological University

2010/04 "The World in the Shadow Theatre: Cosmopolitan Visions in Early Chinese Film Journals" American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Annual Meeting, New Orleans

2010/04 "Socialist Cosmopolitanism? China Other 'Age of Openness' in the 1950s" Invited lecture, University of California, Irvine

2009/12 "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Professional Associations of the Publishing Industry in Shanghai, 1941-1957" Invited lecture, University of California, San Diego

2009/09 "A Brave New World of Literature: Translation Politics and the Journal *Yiven*, 1953-1960" Conference on "Encounters and Transformations: Cultural Transmission and Knowledge Production in a Cross-Literary and Historical Perspective, 1850-1960," Univ. of Cambridge, England

2009/08 "Cultural Production and Crisis Management: The Shanghai Book Trade Association, 1945-1957" Conference on "The Cultures of Emergency: Cultural Production in Times of Turmoil, 1937-1957," National Univ. of Singapore