

Confucius China Studies Program – Institute of International Education

Research PhD Fellowship

Research Proposal

As a History PhD student at Florida State University I have researched, written, and published on the unifying characteristics of nationalism in general and Chinese nationalism in particular. Chinese nationalism is an interesting research topic for me because it appears to successfully incorporate all of China's diverse peoples within its discourse; spanning divides between dialects, regions, ethnicities, and, even, China's state boundaries to include international Chinese. My dissertation project, focusing on Chinese nationalism, will require substantial research in China to explore and document the progression of and development of Chinese nationalism through the Cold War era. This research will consist of examinations of Chinese cultural products that were created in the latter part of the 20th century, such as literature, music, films, museums, and memorials, to assess how these products were pivotal in the ongoing construction of Chinese nationalism.

This will not be my first time living and studying in China. My first trip overseas was in 2009 when I was selected to participate in the joint Sino-US 30-30 Program sponsored by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and China's Ministry of Education. Following this trip, I participated in an exchange program between my undergraduate institution, Valdosta State University, and Yangzhou University in 2010. Finally, during a gap year between my bachelors and masters program, I attended Shanghai's Donghua University intensive language school after which I passed the HSK V in 2013.

My previous work has centered on how the images of China's defensive military engagements in 1962, 1969, and 1979 influenced the development of China's nationalism. Now, however, I am looking to shift my focus towards other representations of Chinese nationalism in more popular forms such as film, music, literature, and art. The study of these representations and the construction of nationalism is important to better understand how it both incorporates the diversity of peoples found within China as well as those Chinese living abroad.

(This will be a section devoted to connecting an advising China-based professor's work with my own, the impressiveness of the associated school and resources, and the local archival resources depending on the city.)

The Confucius China Studies Program's Research PhD Fellowship will be an important source of funding for my China-based research that will contribute directly to the shaping and completion of my dissertation. My previous living and studying in China has prepared me for the successful completion of research, cooperation with advising professors, and participation in university service while overseas. Following the completion of my dissertation, I plan on taking a teaching position at a public university in the US.