

Charles S. Argon

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RESEARCH AREAS

China since 1500; History of Empire; Digital Humanities

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Princeton University, History	2026
Dissertation: “ <i>Baojia</i> : A Policy for Household Registration and Community Policing in Qing China, c. 1723-1839”	
Committee: He Bian (adviser), Janet Chen, Sheldon Garon, Sean Wilentz, Taisu Zhang	
General Examinations passed with distinction	
M.A. Tsinghua University, Chinese History	2021
B.A. Princeton University, East Asian Studies, <i>summa cum laude</i>	2017
Visiting Student, Tsinghua University	2024-2025
Visiting Researcher, University of Tokyo	July 2023
Visiting Student, Zhejiang University	2017-2018
Exchange Student, Tsinghua University	Fall 2015

BOOK PROJECT

(Manuscript in preparation, based on dissertation) *Community Policing in Early Modern China*.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

“Dai Zhaochen Learns to be an Official: Statecraft Ideas and Local Governance in Late Qing China.” *Journal of Chinese History* (2025): 1-22.

“*The Problem of China*: Orientalism, ‘Young China’, and Russell’s Western Audience.” *Russell: The Journal of Bertrand Russell Studies* 35, no. 2 (2015): 154-176.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“On Path to Multimodal Historical Reasoning: HistBench and HistAgent.” *ArXiv Preprint* 2505.20246.
One of numerous coauthors.

《清高宗远征缅甸中的调马理路——以“马力”为中心》(“Horse Provisioning for Qianlong’s War in Burma: with a focus on ‘horsepower’”). 《华大史学论坛》 (*Proceedings of the Central China Normal University History Forum*) 8 (2021):104-120.

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant, “The United States Since 1974,” Princeton University	Spring 2024
Freelance High School History Instructor	2018-2026

- Courses: “Unlocking History’s Secrets” (5 semesters); “American History: A Thematic Approach” (3 semesters); “AP World History” (3 semesters); “The Golden Age of Plague”
- Independent Projects (selected): “Local Order in Seventeenth Century China: *Voices from the Cataclysm*”; “New Identity: the Xiang Army’s Reconstruction Project in Xinjiang...”

Princeton University Writing Center Fellow 2015-2017

Princeton University Petey Greene Tutor 2015-2017

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Huo Family Fellowship, Princeton University 2024-2025

William A. Dippel '50 *55 Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University 2022-2023

Chinese Government Scholarship, Tsinghua University 2019-2021

2nd Prize, Central China Normal University History Forum 2021

Fulbright Fellowship to China 2017-2018

Marjory Chadwick Buchanan Senior Thesis Prize, East Asian Studies 2017

Phi Beta Kappa, Princeton University 2017

INVITED TALKS

“Qing zhongqi baojia ‘shixing’ pouxu: yi Jiangxi sheng hukou shuju wei xiansuo” (“Really Doing’ Baojia in the Mid-Qing Period: A Study of Jiangxi’s Hukou Data”). Professor A Feng Research Group, Tsinghua University, June 5, 2025.

“Jinqi beimei qingshi yanjiu” (“Recent North American Scholarship on Qing History.”) *Professor Qi Xuemin Research Group*, Tsinghua University, December 16, 2024.

“Zuwei zhengzhi yundong de qingdai baojia zhi: yi qianlong chao de Jiangxi sheng wei li” (“The Qing Baojia System as a Political Movement: The Case of Jiangxi Province in the Qianlong Reign”). *Professor Zhao Siyuan Research Group*, Shanghai Jiaotong University, December 10, 2024.

ORGANIZED PANELS

“The Ghosts of Wittfogel: Recategorizing Early Modern Systems of Neighborhood Governance.” *American Historical Association*, January 8, 2026. Co-organized roundtable on “Comparing Ideas About Political Economy in the Ottoman and Qing Empires: A Discussion of Sources and Methods.”

“Li Yanzhang’s Baojia Policy in Late Qing Guangxi.” *Association for Asian Studies*, Cincinnati. March 15, 2025. Panel Organizer for “Translating Qing Political Categories onto New Frontiers: From Inner Asia to the Outer Seas.”

“Ideology and Mobilization in the Tongzhi Reign: The Political Vision of Dai Zhaochen 戴肇辰.” *AAS (Association for Asian Studies) New England Regional Conference*, Wellesley College, October 14, 2023. Co-organized and co-chaired panel on “Ways of Knowing: Excavating Concepts in Qing Intellectual History.”

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

“Baojia’s Mutual Responsibility Provisions in Qing Legal Practice: Evidence from Legal Cases.” *International Society for Chinese Law & History Conference*, July 22-23, 2025.

- “The Flow of Policy Information in Late Qing China: The 1813 Baojia Reforms in Practice.” *Involvement and Revolution: Information in Nineteenth Century China*, Peking University, June 14-15, 2025.
- “The Qing Dynasty Baojia System in World History, c. 1680-1780.” *World History Association Conference*, San Francisco State University, June 28, 2024.
- “Policy Drift: The spread of collective responsibility (*baojia*) in China, c. 1723-1768.” *Regulatory Governance in a Changing World Conference*, University of Pennsylvania Law School, June 18, 2024.
- “Mourning in the Qing Bureaucracy: Bureaucratic Influence, Political Participation, and the Archive.” *Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference*, University of Pennsylvania, October 1, 2022.
- “The Rhythms of Commodification: Mid-Qing Military Horse Provisioning,” *AAS (Association for Asian Studies) New England Regional Conference*, Harvard University, December 6, 2021.
- “The Rhythms of Commodification: Mid-Qing Military Horse Provisioning,” *Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference*, Villanova University, October 24, 2021.
- “Qing gaozong yuanzheng miandian zhong de diaoma lilu —— yi ‘mali’ wei zhongxin” (“Cherishing Horsepower: Horse Requisitioning in the Qing-Burma War, 1765-1770”), *Central China Normal University Chinese History Graduate Student Forum (online)*, Wuhan University, November 8, 2020.
- “Ningbo kaibu tongshang hou shi nianjian de fubai yu shehui maodun: yi difang guan duice he siwei wei zhongxin de kaocha” (“Corruption and Social Conflict in Ningbo: An Inquiry into the Policies of Local Officials, 1843-1853”), *Zhejiang Studies Forum*, Ningbo University, October 20, 2018.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

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| Research Assistant, Janet Chen: <i>The Search for Modern China, 4th edition</i> | 2021-2023 |
| Research Assistant, Linda Colley: <i>The Gun, The Ship, and the Pen</i> | 2017 |

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITY

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|---|-------------|
| Cohort Representative, History Graduate Association, Princeton University | 2024-2026 |
| Co-organizer, AI and History Working Group, Princeton | Spring 2025 |
| Co-organizer, Global History Workshop, Princeton | 2022-2023 |
| Organizer, Political Economy Reading Group, Tsinghua | 2020-2021 |
| Organizer, Manchu Documents Workshop, Tsinghua | Jan. 2020 |

LANGUAGES

Native: English; Fluent: Mandarin; reading: Japanese, Classical Chinese, French, Manchu