

Thomas J. Mazanec

Curriculum Vitae

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HSSB 2255

Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies

University of California

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EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D., Princeton University.
Joint: Department of East Asian Studies and Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities.
Dissertation: “The Invention of Chinese Buddhist Poetry: Poet-Monks in Late Medieval China (c. 760–960 CE).”
- 2011 M.A., University of Colorado, Boulder.
Department of Comparative Literature.
Thesis: “To Know the Tone: Analyses and Experimental Translations of Li Duan’s Poetic Experiments.”
- 2007 B.A., Calvin College.
Majors: English, Asian Studies. Graduated with Honors.

EMPLOYMENT

- 2023– Associate Professor, UC Santa Barbara, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies.
- 2017–2023 Assistant Professor, UC Santa Barbara, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies.
Affiliations: Program in Comparative Literature.

CURRENT PROJECTS

- *Three Hundred Tang Poems*. A scholarly translation of an influential anthology of Tang poetry, with selections from historical commentaries. Contracted with Oxford University Press (due 2023).
- *A Dictionary of Common Allusions in Early and Medieval Chinese*. Reference work listing the 300 or so most frequently used allusions in Chinese literature, with translations of *loci classici* and example uses through the eleventh century. Contracted with Brill (due 2026).
- *Beyond Lyricism: Classical Chinese Poetry in Other Modes*. Monograph in preparation. Argues for interpreting classical Chinese poetry not according to the modern ideal of self-expressivity but in its relation to five other modes that were meaningful to premodern audiences: sound, assemblage, network, index, and inscription. Offers a critical history of

the concept of “lyricism” and explorations into topics such as whistling, pastiche poems, versified primers, and poems written on objects.

- *The Worst Chinese Poetry: A Critical Anthology*. Co-edited volume based on spring 2021 conference. A history of Chinese literary criticism as seen through what has been regarded as its worst poetry. Each contributor translates several poems and critical remarks about them, calling attention to the theoretical grounds of negative aesthetic judgments from antiquity to the present. With Xiaorong Li and Hangping Xu.

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

2024 *Poet-Monks: The Invention of Buddhist Poetry in Late Medieval China*. Cornell University East Asia Series.

Edited Volumes

2018 Guest editor, *Digital Methods and Traditional Chinese Literary Studies*, special issue of the *Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture*. With Jeffrey Tharsen and Jing Chen.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- n.d. “The *Lotus Sūtra* in Sinitic Poetry.” *A Comparative History of East Asian Literatures*, ed. Haun Saussy (accepted).
- n.d. “On Translating Lyric as *Shuqing* in Chinese.” *Comparative Literature Studies* (accepted).
- 2024 “Literary Debts in Tang China: On the Exchange of Money, Merit, and Meter.” *Monumenta Serica* 71.1: 21–41.
- 2023 First author, with Jason Protass. “Chinese Buddhist Poetry.” *Oxford Bibliographies in Chinese Studies*. DOI: 10.1093/obo/9780199920082-0202.
- 2020 “Of Admonition and Address: Right-hand Inscriptions (*Zuoyouming*) from Cui Yuan to Guanxiu.” *Tang Studies* 38: 28–56.
- 2019 “How Poetry Became Meditation in Late Ninth-Century China.” *Asia Major*, third series, 32.2: 113–151.
- 2018 “Righting, Riting, and Rewriting the *Book of Odes* (*Shijing*): On ‘Filling out the Missing Odes’ by Shu Xi.” *Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, and Reviews* 40: 5–32.
- 2018 “Networks of Exchange Poetry in Late Medieval China: Notes Toward a Dynamic History of Tang Literature.” *Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture* 5.2: 322–359.
- 2018 Second author, with Chao-lin Liu and Jeffrey Tharsen. “Exploring Chinese Poetry with Digital Assistance: Examples from Linguistic, Literary, and Historical Viewpoints.” *Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture* 5.2: 276–321.
[Chinese translation](#): “用数字工具探索中国古典诗歌：语言学、文学及历史视角之例证。”《数字人文》，2021 (2): 72–110.
- 2017 “The Medieval Chinese *Gāthā* and Its Relationship to Poetry.” *T’oung Pao* 102.1/3: 94–154.
- 2016 “Guanxiu’s ‘Mountain-Dwelling Poems’: A Translation.” *Tang Studies* 34.1: 99–124.
- 2016 “Jǐ Dǎo’s Rhythm, or, How to Translate the Tones of Classical Chinese.” *Journal of Oriental Studies* 49.1: 27–48.

Book Reviews

- 2023 Review of *A Biographical Dictionary of Tang Dynasty Literati*, by William Nienhauser, *Tang Studies* 41: (forthcoming).
- 2020 Review of *The Halberd at Red Cliff: Jian'an and the Three Kingdoms*, by Xiaofei Tian, *Studies in Late Antiquity* 4.3: 353–59.
- 2019 Review of *The Organization of Distance: Poetry, Translation, Chineseness*, by Lucas Klein, *Journal of Translation Studies* 3.2: 115–21.
- 2018 Review of *On Cold Mountain: A Buddhist Reading of the Hanshan Poems*, by Paul Rouzer, *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 138.3: 102–04.
- 2016 Review of *Spells, Images, and Maṇḍalas: Tracing the Evolution of Esoteric Buddhist Rituals*, by Koichi Shinohara, *Pacific World* 18: 209–218.
- 2015 Review of *The Destruction of the Medieval Chinese Aristocracy*, by Nicolas Tackett, *The Bulletin of the Jao Tsung-i Academy of Sinology* 饒宗頤國學院院刊 2: 403–412.

Other Publications

- 2018 First author, with Jeffrey Tharsen and Jing Chen. “Introduction” (Special issue: *Digital Methods and Traditional Chinese Literary Studies*). *Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture* 5.2: 179–185.
- 2018 Translator, Wang Zhaopeng and Qiao Junjun. “Geographic Distribution and Change in Tang Poetry: Data Analysis from the ‘Chronological Map of Tang-Song Literature.’” *Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture* 5.2: 360–374.
- 2018 Translator, Sun Zhimei. “From Poetic Revolution to the Southern Society: The Birth of Classicist Poetry in Modern China.” *Frontiers of Literary Studies in China* 12.2: 299–323.
- 2018 Translator, Lin Hsiang-ling. “Lyricism, the Veneration of Feeling, and Narrative Techniques in the Poetry Talks of the Southern Society.” *Frontiers of Literary Studies in China* 12.2: 324–350.
- 2016 Biographical entries on Tang dynasty poet-monks for the *Digital Dictionary of Buddhism* (buddhism-dict.net/ddb), ed. A. Charles Muller: Guanxiu 貫休, Jia Dao 賈島, and Poet-monk 詩僧.
- 2015 Biographical entries on Tang dynasty poet-monks for the *Digital Dictionary of Buddhism* (buddhism-dict.net/ddb), ed. A. Charles Muller: Jiaoran 皎然, Qiji 齊己, Shangyan 尚顏, Lingche 靈澈, Lingyi 靈一, Tanyu 曇域, Huguo 護國, Fayan 法眼, Guangxuan 廣宣, Wuke 無可, Xuzhong 虛中, Xiumu 修睦, Sengluan 僧鸞, Wenxiu 文秀, Kepeng 可朋, Kezhi 可止, Qichan 栖蟾, Qibai 棲白, Qingsai 清塞, and Chumo 處默.

Digital Projects

- “Chinese Poetry in Translation: A Bibliography.” Co-editor (with Zeb Raft).
<https://chinese-poetry-translation.org/>.
- “Late Medieval Chinese Exchange Poetry: A Network Analysis.” Principal Investigator, Project Manager, and Technical Lead. Funded by the Center for Digital Humanities, Princeton University, 2016–17. <http://tommazanec.com/mcexp>.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, GRANTS

- 2022–23 Online course development grant, Instructional Development, UC Santa Barbara.
- 2020–21 Regents’ Humanities Faculty Fellowship Award, UC Santa Barbara.
- 2016–17 Center for Digital Humanities Project Grant, Princeton University.

- 2016–17 Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities Fellowship.
 2014–15 Fulbright-IIE Graduate Student Fellowship, Fudan University.
 2013–14 Tsang Yee and Wai Kwan Chan So P*71 Fellowship, Princeton University.
 2011–17 Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University.
 2010 FLAS, Teaching Assistantship, University of Colorado.
 2003–07 Honors and Van der Weele scholarships, McGregor Fellowship, Calvin College.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UC Santa Barbara

Lower Division

- “Masterpieces of Chinese Literature.” Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Summer 2022, Fall 2022, Summer 2023.
 “The World’s Worst Poetry.” Fall 2022.

Upper Division

- “East Asian Buddhist Poetry.” Spring 2018, Fall 2020.
 “China in Translation: Theory, Art, History.” Spring 2018, Fall 2019.
 “Introduction to Classical Chinese.” Winter 2018, Winter 2019, Winter 2021, Fall 2021, Winter 2022, Winter 2023.
 “Literary Translation: Theory and Practice.” Winter 2022.
 “Tang Literary History.” Winter 2023.

Graduate

- “Chinese Bibliography and Research Methodology.” Winter 2019, Winter 2021, Fall 2022.
 “Topics in Tang Poetry: Dunhuang Poetry.” Spring 2020.

Princeton University

- Assistant in Instruction, “East Asian Humanities I, The Classical Foundation.” Fall 2016.
 Assistant in Instruction, “Children’s Literature.” Spring 2016.
 Assistant in Instruction, “The Buddhist World of Thought and Practice.” Fall 2015.

University of Colorado, Boulder

- Teaching assistant, “Beginning Chinese.” Fall 2010, Spring 2011.
 Teaching assistant, “Introduction to Film Studies.” Fall 2009, Spring 2010.

TALKS AND CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Conferences and Panels Organized

- 2021 Organizer, American Oriental Society, Western Branch. UC Santa Barbara. Online.
 2021 Co-organizer, international conference, “The Worst Chinese Poetry: A Virtual Workshop.” UC Santa Barbara. Online.
 2020 Organizer of panel, “China’s Worst Poetry.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston. [cancelled due to coronavirus]
 2018 Organizer, international conference, “Patterns and Networks in Classical Chinese Literature: Notes from the Digital Frontier.” UC Santa Barbara.
 2017 Co-organizer of panel, “Beyond the Tang-Song Transition: New Visions of Tenth-century China.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Toronto.

- 2016 Co-organizer, “Princeton Workshop on Chinese Religious Poetry.” Princeton University.
 2016 Co-organizer, “New Schools: Experimental Lesson Plans for the 21st Century”
 (newschools.princeton.edu). Princeton University.
 2015 Co-organizer of panel, “Experiments in Translating Classical Chinese Poetry.” AAS-in-Asia, Annual Meeting. Taipei, Taiwan.

Invited Presentations

- 2023 “Kūkai as Tang Poet-Monk: An Experiment in Tracing Lines of Continuity.” Fluid Borders, Shifting Visions: China-Japan Transregional Religions Conference. University of Arizona.
 2023 “Some Preliminary Notes for a Dynamic History of Poetic Genres in the Tang-Song Transition.” Historicism Beyond Periodization Conference. University of Chicago.
 2022 “Dynamic Literary History: On Digitally-Assisted Geographic, Social, and Textual Analysis of Late-Tang Poetry.” Fall Symposium on Digital Scholarship 2022. Hong Kong Baptist University. Online.
 2021 “Lyric 与抒情传统” (Lyric and the *Shuqing* Tradition). “文本山岳”：传统、创作与文学世界的自我指涉 (Lexical landscapes: Tradition, Creation, and Self-referentiality in Literature). Fudan University, Shanghai. Online.
 2021 “Networks of Exchange Poetry in Late Medieval China: Notes toward a Dynamic History of Tang Literature.” Talk Series on Digital Tools for Sinology and Beyond. TEXTCOURT Project. Oxford University. Online.
 2020 “Historical Social Network Analysis with Gephi.” Workshop on Digital Methodologies for Historical Chinese Studies, Li Ka-Shing Foundation Program in Modern Chinese History at Berkeley. UC Berkeley. Online.
 2018 “Poetry, Repetition, and Apophasis among Late Tang Poet-Monks.” Specialist Lectures on Chinese History and Culture. Hong Kong Polytechnic University.
 2018 “Wisdom Verses of Medieval China.” Philology and the Study of Classical Chinese Literature: An International Symposium on the Future of Sinology in the 21st Century. University of Colorado, Boulder.
 2018 “On the Fungibility of Money, Merit, and Meter.” Stanford University Center for East Asian Studies.
 2014 “Putting Tang Poetry to Work: Another Look at Guànxīū’s Poem Found in P.2104 and S.4037.” Prospects for the Study of Dunhuang Manuscripts: The Next 20 Years. Princeton University.

Conference Presentations

- 2023 “Fishy Materials: On a Late Tang Poetic Series on Fish Tackle.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. Boston.
 2023 “Constructing Yao Chong in Medieval Literary Allusions.” 223rd American Oriental Society Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA.
 2023 “Lyrical Imperialism: Limits of the Affective-Expressive Paradigm for Understanding Tang Poetics.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention. San Francisco.
 2022 “Poetry and Biography Beyond *Shi*-Poetry: The Case of Yao Chong.” American Oriental Society, Western Branch. University of Arizona.
 2022 “Religious and Literary Infrastructure in the Tang-Song Transition: Bai Juyi and Beyond.” Reading Tang Literature across Disciplines Conference. Sarasota, Florida.

- 2022 “Religious and Literary Infrastructure of Late Medieval Chinese Literature.” Buddhism as/in/and Chinese Literature Conference. UC Berkeley.
- 2021 “The Still and the Wild: Two Buddhist Approaches to Poetic Craft.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Online.
- 2021 Panel Discussant for “Hidden Structures: Data, Social Networks and Politics in Early and Medieval China.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. Online.
- 2021 “Buddhist Poetry by Its Persecutors: The Cases of Li Shen and Li Deyu.” American Oriental Society Annual Meeting. Online.
- 2020 “The Practice of Religious Poetry: Buddhist Poet-Monks of Late Tang China.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts. Online.
- 2020 “Jia Dao: China’s Worst Poet?” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. Boston, Massachusetts. [cancelled due to coronavirus]
- 2019 “The Lotus Sūtra in Sinitic Poetry.” The 22nd General Congress of the International Comparative Literature Association. University of Macau.
- 2019 “Lyric, *Shuqing*, and the Reification of Names in Modern Poetics.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. Denver, Colorado.
- 2018 “Poetry, Style, and Community in Pelliot chinois 3409.” International Conference of Younger Scholars of Chinese Religious Studies 中國宗教研究青年學者國際論壇. Hong Kong Polytechnic University.
- 2018 “Two Tang Poems on the *Lotus Sūtra*.” American Oriental Society, Western Branch. Stanford University.
- 2018 “The Poetics of Exteriority in Early Medieval China: *Zan* as Anti-Lyric.” American Comparative Literature Association’s Annual Meeting. UCLA.
- 2018 “Anti-Lyric: The Poetics of Exteriority in Early Medieval *Zan*.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. Washington, D.C.
- 2017 “Whistling and Poetry.” American Oriental Society, Western Branch. Arizona State University.
- 2017 “Three Types of Debt in the Late Tang: Money, Merit, and Meter.” Second Conference on Middle Period Chinese Humanities. Leiden University.
- 2017 “Old Prose or Bitter Poetry?: Jia Dao and Cultural Continuity in Tenth-century China.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. Toronto, Ontario.
- 2016 “Jia Dao: Religious Poet?” Princeton Workshop on Chinese Religious Poetry. Princeton University.
- 2016 “Intertextuality as Time Travel” (with Leon Grek, 50-minute symposium talk). Princeton Early Text Cultures Workshop. Princeton University. April 16, 2016.
- 2016 “Money, Merit, and Meter: On Religio-Literary Exchange in Late Medieval China.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. Seattle, Washington.
- 2016 “The *Gāthā* in Medieval China, or, Are You *Shī*?” 131st Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Austin, Texas.
- 2015 “What Is a Poet-Monk?” American Oriental Society, Western Branch. University of Colorado, Boulder.
- 2015 “Jia Dao’s Rhythm, or, How to Translate the Tones of Medieval Chinese.” AAS-in-Asia, Annual Meeting. Taipei, Taiwan.
- 2015 “Exchange Poems in Late Medieval China (c. 840-940 CE): A Network Analysis of Connections between Scholar-Officials and Buddhist Monks.” American Comparative Literature Association’s Annual Meeting. Seattle, Washington.

- 2014 “The *Gāthā* in Medieval China, or, *Gāthā Be Shī*” (50-minute talk). Stanford-Berkeley Graduate Student Conference on Pre-modern Chinese Humanities. Stanford University.
- 2013 “‘Filling Out the Lost Odes’ by Shu Xi: Ritual and Intertextuality in Early Medieval China.” American Oriental Society, Western Branch. Victoria, British Columbia.
- 2012 “The Curious Case of Retriplcation in the Poetry of Guanxiu (832–913).” American Oriental Society, Western Branch. Scottsdale, Arizona.

Campus Talks

- 2016 “Indra’s Network: Exchange Poetry and the Fellowship of the Late Tang Poet-Monk” (50-minute symposium talk). East Asian Studies Lunch Colloquium, Princeton University.
- 2012 “Rhythm in Arthur Waley’s Translation of Chinese Poetry” (50-minute symposium talk). Translation Lunch Series, Princeton University.

SERVICE

To the field

- 2023 Reviewer, Oxford University Press, *Tang Studies*
- 2019–22 Member, executive committee of the American Oriental Society’s Western Branch
- 2022 Member, T’ang Studies Society nominating committee
- 2022 Reviewer, Oxford University Press, Hong Kong Research Grants Council, *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies*
- 2021 Reviewer, University of Strausbourg Institute for Advanced Study, *Journal of Chinese Religions*, *Tang Studies*, *History of Religions*
- 2020 Reviewer, Oxford University Press, *Prism: Theory and Modern Chinese Literature*, *Journal of the Japanese Association for Digital Humanities*
- 2019 Reviewer, *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, *Journal of the British Association for Chinese Studies*
- 2018 Reviewer, *Journal of Chinese Religions*, Institute for East Asian Studies (UC Berkeley)

UC Santa Barbara

- 2017– Member, Translation Studies advisory board.
- 2022– Member, Graduate Council for Literary Research
- 2022–23 Member, graduate committee, EALCS Department.
- 2020–23 Chair, Public relations committee, EALCS Department.
- 2021–22 Member, search committee for Assistant Professor in Translation Studies, Department of French and Italian.
- 2020–21 Member, search committee for Digital Humanities Research Facilitator, Library.
- 2019–20 Undergraduate advisor, EALCS Department.
- 2019–20 Member, Public relations committee, EALCS Department.
- 2018–19 Member, search committee for East Asian Studies librarian, Library.
- 2018–19 Member, search committee for Assistant Professor in Modern Chinese Literature, Film, and Cultural Studies.
- 2017–18 Departmental representative, Academic Senate.

Princeton University

- 2016–17 Co-president, Digital Humanities Graduate Student Caucus.
2015–16 Digital Humanities Graduate Student Caucus.
2015–16 East Asian Studies departmental representative, Graduate Student Government.
2012–13 Chair, Cracked Pot (East Asian Studies graduate student forum).

STUDENT ADVISING

Ph.D. students

- (in progress) Wandi Wang, Song-dynasty aesthetics and taste, chair, UC Santa Barbara
(in progress) Shixing Lin, late imperial Chinese poetry and gender, committee member, UC Santa Barbara
(in progress) Li-Ting Chang, late imperial / early Republican sinophone love letters, committee member, UC Santa Barbara
2022 Yang Zhao, late imperial women's poetry on paintings, committee member, UC Santa Barbara

M.A. students

- 2022 Sophia Shi, medieval Chinese religious practice and manuscript culture, committee member, UC Santa Barbara
2021 Yuyu Zhang, Tang-dynasty Christianity, chair, UC Santa Barbara
2019 Annie La, Chinese sociolinguistics, committee member, UC Santa Barbara
2019 Patrick Fryberger, contemporary Chinese gaming, committee member, UC Santa Barbara
2019 Nicole Hsiao, Taiwanese literature, committee member, UC Santa Barbara

B.A. students

- 2020 Kitty Ma, Chinese translation studies, advisor, UC Santa Barbara
2020 Crystal Zhou, Chinese translation studies, advisor, UC Santa Barbara
2019 Annette Ding, Chinese translation studies, advisor, UC Santa Barbara
2019 Ziqiang Zhao, Chinese translation studies, advisor, UC Santa Barbara
2018 Xiaoshi Zhang, Chinese translation studies, advisor, UC Santa Barbara

LANGUAGES

Full proficiency: Classical Chinese, Mandarin Chinese
Reading languages: Japanese, Sanskrit, French
Elementary: Cantonese

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion, American Comparative Literature Association, American Oriental Society, Association for Asian Studies, Modern Language Association, Society for Song Yuan and Conquest Dynasties Studies, T'ang Studies Society