

SEUNG-JOON LEE

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

AS 1, 05-04, 11 Arts Link, Singapore 117570
Office (65) 6516-8051/Fax: (65) 6774-2727
Email: hisls@nus.edu.sg

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

National University of Singapore 2007–present

Department of History
Associate Professor 2016–present
Assistant Professor 2007–2016

Asia Research Institute
Research Associate, 2023–present

University of Wisconsin, Whitewater 2005–2007

Department of History
Assistant Professor

EDUCATION

Ph.D. **University of California, Berkeley** 2005

Department of History
Field of Study: East Asia/Modern China

M.A. **Korea University** 1996

Department of History (East Asia/Modern China)

B.A. **Korea University** 1993

Department of Asian History

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Revolutions at the Canteens: Dietary Energy and the Politics of Communal Meals in Industrial China (Cornell University Press, 2027)

Gourmets in the Land of Famine: the Culture and Politics of Rice in Modern Canton
(Stanford University Press, 2011)

Reviewed in

China Quarterly / *H-net* / *Twentieth Century China* / *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* / *Shenzhou jiaoliu* 神州交流 (Macau Ricci Institute, Macau) /

Technology and Culture / *Vingtième Siècle: Revue d'histoire* (Paris, France) / *Gastronomica; the Journal of Food and Culture* / *China Review International* / *Agricultural History* / *Hanxue yanjiu tongxun* 漢學研究通信 (Taiwan) / *Journal of History and Anthropology* (Hong Kong) / *Chungguk kŭnhyŏndaesa yŏn'gu* 중국근현대사연구 (Seoul, S. Korea) / *Social History* / *Pacific Affairs* / *China Journal* / *Food, Culture, and Society* / *East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine* / *Middle Ground Journal*

Empire's Dietary Laboratories: Colonial Nutrition and the Making of Postwar East Asia
(in progress)

Journal Articles

- "Dr. Prison and the Politics of Colonial Nutrition in Post-1919 Korea."
(under review)
- "Canteens and the Politics of Working-Class Diets in Industrial China, 1920-1937."
Modern Asian Studies 54, no.1 (Jan. 2020): 1-29.
- "Airborne Prawn and Decayed Rice: Food Politics in Wartime Chongqing."
Journal of Modern Chinese History 13, no. 1 (Sep. 2019): 124-147.
- "Expertise Marginalized: Quality Inspection and the Grain Market in Republican China," *Frontiers of History in China* 10, no. 4 (Dec. 2015): 668-94.
- "The Patriot's Scientific Diet: Nutrition Science and Dietary Reform Campaigns in China, 1910s-1950s," *Modern Asian Studies* 49, no. 6 (Nov. 2015): 1808-39.
- "Taste in Numbers: Science and the Food Problem in Republican Guangzhou, 1927-1937," *Twentieth-Century China* 35, no. 2 (Apr. 2010): 81-103.

Book Chapters

- "Striking for Rice: The Struggle for the 'Rice Allowance' in Republican China," in *Proletarian China: A Century of Chinese Labor*, Edited by Ivan Franceschini and Christian Sorace (London: Verso, 2022)
- "Rice and Maritime Modernity: The Modern Chinese State and the South China Sea Rice Trade, 1911-1937," *Rice: Global Networks and New Histories*. Edited by Francesca Bray, Dagmar Schafer, and Edda Fields-Black (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015).

Book Reviews:

- The Master in the Bondage: Factory Workers in China, 1949-2019* By Huaiyin Li (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2023), *Journal of Asian Studies* 83, no. 2 (May 2024): 436-37.
- Forging Global Fordism: Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia, and the Contest over the Industrial Order* By Stefan Link, (Princeton University Press, 2020). H-Diplo (roundtable review, 2022)
- Moral Foods: The Construction of Nutrition and Health in Modern Asia*. Eds. by Angela Ki

- Che Leung and Melissa L. Caldwell, (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2019) [in Korean]. *Hanguk Kwahaksa hakhoe chi* [The Korean Society for History of Science Review] 43, no. 1 (Apr. 2021): 281-86.
- Bitter and Sweet: Food, Meaning, and Modernity in Rural China*. By Ellen Oxfeld. (Oakland: University of California Press, 2017) *Journal of Asian Studies* 77, no. 3 (Aug. 2018): 786-88.
- Negotiating Religion in Modern China: State and Common People in Guangzhou, 1900–1937*. By Poon Shuk-wah (Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 2011) *China Review International* 20, no.3 & 4 (2013): 359-62.
- Cuisine, Colonialism, and Cold War: Food in Twentieth-Century Korea*. By Katarzyna J. Cwiertka. (London: Reaktion, 2012) *Agricultural History* 88, no. 3 (Summer, 2014): 467-68.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Extramural:

- Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS), Stanford University**
NUS Fellow 2024–2025
- National Humanities Center (Durham, NC)**
Henry Luce East Asia Fellow 2019–2020
- Needham Research Institute, University of Cambridge**
Jing Brand Scholar Spring, 2018
- Harvard-Yenching Institute, Harvard University**
Visiting scholar 2013–2014

Internal:

- Humanities and Social Science International Sabbatical Fellowship
(2024/2025 & 2019/2020)
Office of Deputy President for Research & Technology, NUS
- Humanities and Social Science Faculty Research Fellowship (Spring, 2018)
Office of Deputy President for Research & Technology, NUS
- Faculty Research Award for Promising Researcher (2011)
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, NUS

RESEARCH GRANTS

Singapore Ministry of Education Academic Research Fund Tier 1
 Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, National University of Singapore
 (2025–2027/2021–2024/2017–2021/2014–2017/2010–2012)
 Office of Deputy President Grant for Research Excellence (2021, 2013)
 Office of Deputy President for Research & Technology,
 National University of Singapore
 Staff Research Support Scheme Grant (2008, 2012)
 Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, National University of Singapore
 Faculty Research Grant (2006)
 Department of History, University of Wisconsin at Whitewater
 The Bernadotte Schmitt Research Grant
 American Historical Association (2005)

INVITED LECTURES & WORKSHOPS (select)

“Nutrition Management and the Working-Class Diet in Manchukuo and Colonial Korea.” Invited paper to the conference: “Cross-Cultural Multisenses and Food in Eastern Eurasia” Chonnam National University (Kwangju, South Korea (October 2025))

“Chinese People's Minimum Nutrition Requirements and the Birth of New Labor Regimes, 1937–1958.” Fellow Seminar Series, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University (October 2024)

“Canteens and the Politics of Dietary Energy in Twentieth-Century China.”
 The EAI seminar series, the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore (December 2021)

“Seeing like an Engineer: Thermodynamics and the Global Politics of the Factory Diet in the 1920s-1930s.” Fellow Seminar, National Humanities Center, Durham, NC (April 2020)

“Canteens and the Biopolitics of Food in Industrial China.”
 Invited to Carolina Asia Center, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (Feb. 2020)

“Science, Food, and Energy in Twentieth-Century China.”
 Invited as a Keynote Speaker to the Workshop, “Cultures of Chinese Science, Technology and Medicine” hosted by Science Museum, London, UK (June 2018)

“Food Science and the Politics of Eating in Republican Shanghai.”
 Invited to the Text Reading Seminar, Needham Research Institute, University of Cambridge (June 2018)

“Canteens and the Politics of Working-Class Diets in Industrial China, 1920s-1950s.”

- Invited to "China Research Seminar series hosted by the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge (May 2018)
- "People's Vital Minimum: Canteens and Nutrition Science in Industrial China."
Invited to "Twentieth-Century Think Tank Talk," Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge (February 2018)
- "Building People's Nutrition: Food, Energy, and Socialist Industrialization in China, 1950s." Invited to Institute of Taiwan History, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan (Sep. 2017)
- "Food and Hunger in Wartime China." Invited to the Berkeley-Cambridge Summer Institute: "China in a Global World War II," University of Cambridge (July 2017)
- "Joseon Korea and Early Modern East Asia." Invited to the Monthly Series of Public Lectures at the Asian Civilization Museum, Singapore (May 2017)
- "Revolution at the Canteen: Food and Labor Politics in Industrial China, 1910s-1950s."
Invited to the workshop, "Culinary Nationalism in Asia," University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (Mar. 2017)
- "Canteen and the Politics of Labor in Industrial China, 1910s-1950s." Invited to History Programme Seminar Series, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (Oct. 2016)
- "Provincial Divergence: the Great Depression and Guangdong Economy." Invited to the conference, "Coping with transnational crises: Chinese economic and social lives in East Asian Ports-Cities, 1850-1950," Department of History, Chinese University of Hong Kong (Jun. 2016)
- "Revolution at the Canteen: Food and Labor Politics in Industrial China, 1910s-1950s."
Invited to the Department of History, Chinese University of Hong Kong (Mar. 2016)
- "Revolution at the Canteen: Food and Labor Politics in Industrial China, 1910s-1950s."
Invited to Harvard-Yenching Institute, Harvard University (Nov. 2015)
- "Expertise Marginalized: Quality Inspection and the Grain Market in Republican China." Invited to the workshop, "Rethinking the Market in Modern China," Center for History and Economics, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (Apr. 2014)
- "Archival Research in the Age of Digitization"
Invited to Council on East Asian Libraries, the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA (Mar. 2014)
- "The Patriot's Scientific Diet: Nutrition Science and Food Politics in Modern China, 1910s-1950s."
Invited to History Department, University College London (Jan. 2014)
- "The Patriot's Scientific Diet: Nutrition Science and Food Politics in

Modern China, 1910s–1950s.”

Invited to Modern Chinese History Seminar, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University (Nov. 2013)

“Gourmets in the Land of Famine: the Culture and Politics of Rice in Modern Canton.”

Invited to Visiting Scholar Talk Series, Harvard-Yenching Institute, Harvard University (Oct. 2013)

“Rice and Maritime Modernity: Modern Chinese State and the South China Sea Rice Trade, 1911–1937.”

Invited to the workshop, “New Histories of Rice,” Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin, Mar. 2011)

“Politics, Memory, and the National Identity Construction of Singapore.”

Invited to the workshop, “Asian Memories: Interaction, Integration, and Diversion,” organized by Mikyung Kim. Hiroshima City University-Hiroshima Peace Institute (Atlanta, GA, Feb. 2010)

TEACHING INTERESTS

Modern / Late imperial China Modern East Asia Asia and the Modern World

Cold War in East Asia Food and Technology in East Asia

COURSES TAUGHT

National University of Singapore:

Asia and the Modern World

Cold War in East Asia

Food in Global History

Modern Japan: From Samurai to Sony

Struggle for Modern China: 1800–Present

Society and Economy in Late Imperial China

Twentieth-Century Korea

Approaches to Chinese History (Honors Class Seminar)

Historiography: Theory and Archive (Graduate Seminar)

Historiography on China (Graduate Seminar)

Topics in East Asian History (Graduate Seminar)

University of Wisconsin at Whitewater:

Banditry, Rebellion, and Revolution in Modern China

East Asia since 1800

From Samurais to Red Guards: East Asia in Film

Modern China

Modern Japan
Historical Perspective: Twentieth-century World
US Experience in a World Context

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese (fluency) / Classical Chinese (reading fluency)
Japanese (advanced) Korean (native)
French (reading fluency)

SERVICE

Professional Service

Editorial Board, *Journal of World History* (2020–present)

Scholarly referees (Publishers):

Cambridge University Press
Johns Hopkins University Press
MIT Press
Routledge
University of Michigan Press
University of Washington Press

Scholarly referees (Journals):

Agricultural History
Bulletin of the Institute of Modern History (中央研究院近代史研究所集刊)
Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review
EASTS: East Asian Science, Technology, and Society
Endeavour
European Review of Economic History
Global Food History
Journal of Chinese Military History
Journal of Modern Chinese History
Modern Asian Studies
Modern China
Twentieth-Century China

Fellowships and Grants:

Tang Prize in Sinology
 Tang Prize Foundation, Taiwan, 2024–2025
Harvard-Yenching Visiting Scholarship
 Harvard-Yenching Institute, 2023–2024

Wang Gungwu Medal and Prize Committee
NUS Graduate School, 2022–present
National Humanities Center (Research Triangle, NC)
Residential Fellowship, 2020–2021
Joan Cahalin Robinson Prize Committee,
The SHOT (Society for History of Technology), 2015–2017
Humanities and Social Sciences Prestigious Fellowship Scheme,
Hong Kong Research Grant Council 2017
General Research Fund & Early Career Scheme, 2015–present
Hong Kong Research Grant Council

DEPARTMENT, FACULTY, and UNIVERSITY SERVICE

National University of Singapore:

Wang Gungwu Medal and Prize Committee, NUS Graduate School, 2022–Present
Chair, Military History Search Committee (2022/2023)
Public History Search Committee (2021/2022)
Chair, Modern Chinese History Search Committee (2020/2021)
FASS Writing Fellowship Selection Committee (2020–present)
Chair, Department Graduate Studies Program (2017–2026)
Department Graduate Program Committee (2016–present)
Department Research Advisory Committee (2017–2022)
Imperial China Search Committee (2011/2012)
Modern Japan Search Committee (2010/2011)
Department Curriculum Committee (2011–present)

University of Wisconsin at Whitewater:

College of Letters and Sciences Scholarship Committee (Spring 2007)
College and Letters and Sciences Graduate Council (2006/2007)
Asian Studies Advisory Committee (2005–2007)
Middle Eastern/Islamic History Search Committee (2005/2006)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Historical Association
Association for Asian Studies
Historical Society for Twentieth-Century China
Society for the History of Technology
History of Science Society

MEDIA APPEARANCES

New York Times / WUNC public radio (NC, USA) / Channel News Asia Radio (Singapore) / *Lianhe zaobao* 聯合早報 (Chinese-language Daily, Singapore)

REFERENCES

Available upon request