

Pär Cassel  
Friday, January 31, 2025

**Pär Cassel**

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5492-782X>

Associate Professor  
Department of History, University of Michigan

2507 Haven Hall  
435 S. State St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1003

Phone: 734-647-4868  
Fax: 734-647-4881  
e-mail: [cassel@umich.edu](mailto:cassel@umich.edu)

**EMPLOYMENT**

**University of Michigan**  
Associate Professor of History

Sept. 2012-

**University of Michigan**  
Assistant Professor of history

Sept. 2006-Aug. 2012

**Embassy of Sweden, Beijing**  
Assistant Sinologist

Jan. 1996-June 1997

**EDUCATION**

**Harvard University**  
**Ph.D.**, History

June 2006

**Stockholm University**  
**Magister** of Sinology (equivalent to combined BA and MA degree)

Jan. 1996

**LEADERSHIP**

Director of graduate studies, LSA International Institute at the University of Michigan  
Sept. 2018–May 2021, Sept. 2022–

Associate director of the Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Michigan

September 2014-June 2017

Member of executive committee, Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Michigan.

September 2013- June 2017

## DISSERTATION

“Rule of Law or Rule of Laws: Legal Pluralism and Extraterritoriality in Nineteenth Century East Asia”

Thesis Advisors: Professors Philip A. Kuhn, Andrew Gordon, William P. Alford

(Awarded 2006 Yong K. Kim '95 Memorial Prize by the East Asian Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School.)

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

*Grounds of Judgment: Extraterritoriality and Imperial Power in Nineteenth-Century China and Japan.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

“Koga Tōan’s *Suppositions on Naval Defense* and the Opium War Debate in Japan.” In Joan Judge, Joachim Kurtz, et al (eds), *The Sinosphere and Beyond: Essays in Honor of Joshua Fogel* (De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2024), 67-89.

“Solitary Swedish Sinologists: Three Hundred and Fifty Years of Swedish China Studies.” *Journal of Chinese History* 7, no. 2 (2023): 463–89.

“The Mixed Court of the Shanghai International Settlement,” in H Ruiz Fabri (ed), *The Max Planck Encyclopedia of International Procedural Law*. Oxford University Press 2020.

“Treaty Ports and the Foreign Community in Modern China.” In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History*, edited by David Ludden. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

“Extraterritoriality in China: What We Know and What We Don’t Know.” In *Treaty Ports in Modern China*, edited by Robert Bickers and Isabella Jackson. London: Routledge, 2016.

“‘Spelling Like a State’: Some Thoughts on the Manchu Origins of the Wade-Giles System.” *Central Asiatic Journal* 58, no. 1-2 (2015): 37-47.

“East Asian Legal Traditions.” In *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, edited by James D. Wright, 778-83. Amsterdam: Elsevier, 2015.

”Arkivet som problem: hur man skriver kinesisk historia utan ’arkiv’.” [The Archive as a Problem: How to Write Chinese History without ‘Archives’.] In *Information som problem*, edited by Otfried Czaika, Jonas Nordin and Pelle Snickars. Stockholm: National Library of Sweden, 2014.

“Xuan er wei jue de zhangcheng he jihu nachan de tiaoyue: Zhong-Rui guanxi,” 1847-1909. In *Falü shi yiping*. Beijing University Press, 2014. pp. 327-343. [Chinese translation of the 2010

article in *Historisk tidskrift*.]

”Traktaten som aldrig var och fördraget som nästan inte blev: De svensk-norsk-kinesiska förbindelserna, 1847-1909.” [“The Treaty that never was and the Treaty that almost never became: Swedish-Norwegian-Chinese Relations, 1847-1909.”] *Historisk tidskrift* 130, no. 3 (2010): 437-66.

“The Gate of Heavenly Peace-Making.” In *China in 2008: A Year of Great Significance*, edited by Jeffrey Wasserstrom, Ken Pomeranz and Kate Merkel-Hess, 140-43. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2009.

“The Legacies of Ming Taizu in Japan.” In *Long Live the Emperor: The Uses of the Ming Founder across Six Centuries of East Asian History*, edited by Sarah Schneewind, 329-44. Minneapolis: Society for Ming Studies, 2008.

“Extraterritoriality.” In *Encyclopedia of Western Colonialism since 1450*, edited by Jenai Mynatt and Thomas Benjamin, vol.1, 479-80. Detroit: MacMillan Reference USA, 2007.

“Excavating Extraterritoriality: The ‘Judicial Sub-Prefect’ as a Prototype for the Mixed Court in Shanghai.” *Late Imperial China* 24, no. 2 (2003): 156-82.

“Explaining ‘the Republic of China.’” *The Stockholm Journal of East Asian Studies* 8 (1997): 15-40. Annotated translation of Zhang Taiyan’s “Zhonghua minguo jie,” *Minbao*, no. 15 (5 July 1907).

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

”Ledare på livstid,” [Leader for life] review of Steve Tsang and Olivia Cheung, *The Political Thought of Xi Jinping* (Oxford University Press 2024), *Axess*, 8 April 2024, 87-89.

”Enögd kritik mot Sven Hedin och Sveriges stora sinologer,” [Biased criticism of Sven Hedin and other great sinologists in Sweden] *Kvartal*, 17 May 2023.

”Slutet på illusionerna,” [The end of illusions] *Axess*, 4 May 2023, 12-16.

”Bokslut över mannen som gjorde Kina stort igen,” [A balance sheet of the man who made China great again] *Kvartal*, 3 December 2022.

”Det finns ingen trovärdig efterträdare till Xi Jinping,” [There is no credible successor to Xi Jinping] *Liberal debatt*, 28 November 2022

Review of Emily Whewell, *Law Across Imperial Borders: British Consuls and Colonial Connections on China’s Western Frontiers* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2019). *Law and History Review* 40, no. 1 (2022): 180–82.

“Manchuiska språket.” [The Manchu Language] *FokusKina*, no. 3 (2017): 16-19.

Review of Catherine L. Phipps, *Empires on the Waterfront: Japan's Ports and Power, 1858–1899* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 2015). *Monumenta Nipponica* 71, no. 2 (2016): 409-11.

”Kinesiskan utmanar det svenska språket.” [The Chinese challenge to the Swedish language] In *kinesiskan flyttar in - nytt skolspråk i Sverige*, edited by Hanna Sahlberg Wu, 163-67: Uppsala universitet, 2015.

Review of Hans Van De Ven, *Breaking with the Past: The Maritime Customs Service and the Global Origins of Modernity in China* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014). *The American Historical Review* 120, no. 1 (2015): 204-05.

Review of Ines Eben von Racknitz, *Die Plünderung des Yuanmingyuan: Imperiale Beutenahme im britisch-französischen Chinafeldzug von 1860* [The plunder of the Yuanmingyuan; Imperial looting in the British-French China campaign of 1860]. (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2012). *Journal of Asian Studies*, 73 (2014), 228-230.

“Imperial Power, Legal Cosmology, and Beyond.” Review of Jiang Yonglin, *The Mandate of Heaven and the Great Ming Code* (University of Washington Press, 2011). *China Review International* 17, no. 4 (2012): 393-95.

Review of Carlos Rojas, *The Great Wall: A cultural history* (Harvard University Press, 2010). *Pacific Review* 85, no. 2 (2012): 396-97.

Contributing translator to *Mao's Road to Power*, Volume VIII. Edited by Professor Stuart R. Schram. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe (*forthcoming*).

“Manchuernas återkomst – Från herrefolk till modellminoritet.” [The Return of the Manchus: From Master Race to Model Minority.] *Kinarapport*, no. 4 (2010): 74-79.

”De kejserliga riterna.” [Imperial rituals.] *Kinarapport*, no. 4 (2008): 13-18.

”Kinesisk stadsplanering genom århundradena.” [Chinese City Planning Through the Centuries] *Plan: Tidskrift för samhällsplanering* 2008, 21-6.

“Genus och makt vid kejsarhovet - Änkekejsarinnan Cixis plats i den kinesiska historien.” [Gender and Power at the Imperial Court: The Place of Empress Dowager Cixi in Chinese History] *Kinarapport* 4 (2006): 16-21.

”Den cinnoberröda penselns makt - En inblick i Kinas gamla arkivskatt,” [Under the Spell of the Vermillion Brush: A Short Survey of China's Ancient Archives.] *Kinarapport*, no. 4 (2005): 60.

”Så styrdes Kina under kejsartiden – Strövtåg genom Pingyaos *yamen*.” [How China was Governed during the Late Imperial Period: Wanderings through the Pingyao *yamen*.] *Kinarapport*, no. 4 (2004): 62-69.

”Kunskap och makt: Japansk sinologi och kinaforskning före 1945.” [Knowledge and Power: Japanese sinology up to 1945.] *Kinarapport*, no. 2 (2004): 24-26.

”Officiell nationalism i Meiji-periodens Japan: Det kejserliga reskriptet om utbildning och uppfostran.” [Official Nationalism in Meiji Japan: On the Imperial Rescript of Education.] *Orientaliska studier [Stockholm]*, no. 96-97 (1998): 9-20.

”De kinesiska triaderna.” [The Chinese Triads.] In *Världens Brott*. Stockholm: Utrikespolitiska Institutet [The Swedish Institute of International Affairs], 1995.

*Kina vid vägskalet*. [China at the Crossroads]. *Skriftserien Utrikes 3*. Stockholm: Utrikespolitiska Institutet [The Swedish Institute of International Affairs], 1995.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Richard and Lillian Ives Faculty Fellow, Humanities Institute, University of Michigan, 2017-18

William T. Ludolph, Jr. Junior Faculty Development Award, 2008

William T. Ludolph, Jr. Junior Faculty Development Award, 2007

Harvard University Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Grant 2005-06

Reischauer Institute Graduate Summer Research Grant 2005

Urban China Research Network, Small Grant 2003

Reischauer Institute Supplementary Dissertation Grant 2003

GSAS Merit Fellowship, Harvard University 2003

Japanese Government *Monbusho* Scholarship 1998-2000

Sino-Swedish government scholarship for language study in China 1993-94

## RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant Department of Oriental Languages, Stockholm University, Fall 2009-Winter 2010

Faculty Fellow Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan, Fall 2007-Winter 2008.

Graduate Student Associate Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University. 2002-03, 2004-06

Advanced research student Institute of Qing History, Renmin University, Beijing. March -June 2004

Foreign researcher, Department of Oriental History, Tokyo University. October 2003 – March 2004

Research Assistant, Professor Sven Beckert (Harvard University) “The Empire of Cotton: A Global History,” 2001-2.

Research student Kanazawa University, Japan. 1998-2000

Chinese language student supported by Swedish-Chinese bilateral scholarship. Nanjing University, People’s Republic of China, 1993-1994.

## **LANGUAGES**

Swedish (native), English (professional), Chinese (fluent) and Japanese (excellent). Reading knowledge of Classical Chinese, Classical Japanese, Danish, Norwegian, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Manchu. Basic knowledge of Turkish and Polish.

## **PhD STUDENT PLACEMENT**

- Shuang Chen (committee member, defended PhD thesis on Sep 21, 2009), currently employed as associate professor of history at University of Iowa.
- Joseph Ho (committee member, defended March 7, 2017), currently employed as assistant professor of history at Albion College.
- Josh Tychonievich (co-chair, defended Mar 24, 2017), currently employed as research development program director at Notre Dame.
- Jaymin Kim, (chair, defended March 19, 2018), currently employed as T.T. & W.F. Chao Assistant Professor of Transnational Asian Studies at Rice University.
- Fusheng Luo (chair, defended April 15, 2022), currently employed as instructor of history at the Phillips Exeter Academy.

## **SERVICE**

Member of The Committee on the University of Michigan Principles on Diversity of Thought and Freedom of Expression

March 2024-September 2024

Member of graduate committee, Department of History, University of Michigan

September 2016-June 2017

China Studies Librarian Search Committee (one hire)

January-May 2013

Member of graduate admissions committee at the History Department and convener of Asia Caucus

Pär Cassel  
Friday, January 31, 2025  
September 2010-April 2012

History Department job placement coordinator

January 2009 – April 2009

Admissions and fellowships committee at the Center for Chinese Studies

January-February 2008

Korean Studies Search Committee (two hires)

Sept. 2006 – April 2007

### **Conference Organization**

Co-organizer (with Dr. Elizabeth Berger) of “Environments and Adaptation in Ancient China: Recent Advances and Global Context,” Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies.

Ann Arbor, February 8-9, 2019

Co-organizer (with Joseph Ho) of “China Between Worlds,” Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies.

Ann Arbor, May 8-9, 2017

Co-organizer (with Dr. Benjamin Levey) of “New Directions in Manchu Studies,” Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies Annual Conference Series

Ann Arbor, May 5-8, 2016

### **Other service**

Co-editor of *Saksaha: A Journal of Manchu Studies* (Michigan Publishing)

Manuscript reviewer for *American Historical Review*, University of Washington Press, University of Chicago Press, Cornell University Press, *Late Imperial China*, and *Journal of Japanese Studies*.

Book Review Editor of *Journal of Asian Studies*, 2014-17

Faculty reviewer for the International Institute Individual Fellowships (IIIF).

Faculty reviewer for *Comparative Studies in Society and History*.

Faculty advisor of *Michigan Journal of Asian Studies*

## PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

“China’s Century of Humiliation and the Politics of Sovereign Apologies,” paper presented at the conference Presented at the conference The Age of Empires, Széchenyi István University

Győr, Hungary, 22 November 2024

Invited speaker at “Big Picture,” organized by the Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit.

Engelsbergs bruk, Sweden, 15 August 2023

“Confucianism and Filial Piety: When Political Loyalty was not a Civic Virtue,” talk presented at the seminar “Virtues and Vices,” organized by the Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit,

Engelsbergs bruk, Sweden, 18 April 2024.

“Chinese Statecraft: Between Polyethnicity and Sinicization,” talk presented at the seminar “Culture, Society, and the Social Contract,” organized by the Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit,

Engelsbergs bruk, Sweden, 2 November 2023.

Invited panelist at the Presidential Roundtable, Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Association for Asian Studies

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 30 September 2023.

Invited speaker at “Big Picture,” organized by the Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit.

Engelsbergs bruk, Sweden, 17 August 2023

“Between the Penal Codes and the Sacred Commands: Revisiting the Debate on Civil Law in China,” paper presented at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Boston, 19 March 2023.

“Loyalty is not a public virtue: From filial piety to unswerving loyalty,” talk given in the Eastern Michigan University History Section Speaker Series.

Ypsilanti, MI, 19 January 2023



Pär Cassel  
Friday, January 31, 2025

“Kina – Maktens centrum och silvret,” talk given at the seminar ”Europa upptäcker världen,” organized by the Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation for Public Benefit.

Engelsbergs bruk, Sweden, 3 oktober 2022

“The Potsdam mission and politics of sovereign apologies,” presented at the workshop “Maritime Asia: the Securitization of the China Seas in the 19th-21st Centuries,” organized by the Centre for Geopolitics, University of Cambridge and the Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley. [On-line event.]

Cambridge, UK, 8 August 2021

“From Filiality to Loyalty: Representations of the Emperor in Late Imperial and Modern China.”  
Talk given at the University of Madison Law School

Wisconsin, Madison, March 6, 2019

“The Meiji Restoration and the Response to China,” paper presented at The First Tohoku Conference of Global Japanese Studies, Tohoku University,

Sendai, Japan, 15 December, 2018.

“Sovereignty in China: The Careers of a Concept,” presented at the Berkeley-Cambridge Workshop on Maritime Asia.

Berkeley, California, May 15, 2018.

“Sovereignty in China: The Careers of a Concept, from the late Qing through the PRC,” presented at the workshop “China’s Quest for Sovereignty: International Law in China in a Historical Perspective,” Harvard-Princeton, China and the World Program

Princeton, NJ, May 29, 2018.

“Preaching Outside the Choir: Bringing ‘Qing Docs’ to the Undergraduate Curriculum.”  
talk given at the digital humanities workshop “Anxieties of Abundance” at Johns Hopkins University

Baltimore MD, October 19, 2017

“The Failure of a Concept: The Use and Abuse of Sovereignty in Chinese History.” Talk given at Asian Studies Center Colloquium on Transnational East Asia, Michigan State University

East Lansing, 9 February, 2016

Invited panelist at the workshop “1864 and the End of Global Civil War,” Council of East Asian Studies at Yale University

New Haven, October 25, 2014.

“From Filiality to Loyalty: Representations of the Emperor in Late Imperial and Modern China.”  
Talk given at the Council of East Asian Studies Colloquium Series, Yale University

New Haven, April 3, 2014

Pär Cassel  
Friday, January 31, 2025

“Sino-Japanese Extraterritoriality under the Treaty of Tianjin, 1871-95.” Invited talk at Xiamen University.

Xiamen, July 23, 2013.

“From Filial Subjects to Loyal Citizens: Representations of the Emperor in Late Imperial and Modern China.” Talk given at the China Studies Colloquia, Stanford University

Palo Alto, CA, November 8, 2012.

“Perspectives on China's Republican Era 1912-49.” Talk given at the CHINA Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, Ohio State University,

Columbus, OH, October 29, 2012.

“Tinker, Tailor, Consul, Sailor: Sino-Japanese Extraterritoriality under the Treaty of Tianjin, 1871-95.” Talk given at the East Asia: Transregional Histories' Workshop, University of Chicago

Chicago, April 19, 2012.

“From Filiality to Loyalty: Visions of the Emperor in Late Imperial China.” Talk given at the Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Michigan, Noon Lecture Series.

Ann Arbor, December 6,  
2011.

Commentator at the Symposium “Archival Advances & Historical Research: Shanghai Municipal Archives & Beyond” organized by the Bentley Historical Library

October 28, 2010

”Den ’laglösa rättsstaten’: Politik och juridik i den tidiga Folkrepubliken Kina.” [“State of Lawlessness: Politics and Law in the Early People’s Republic of China.”] Talk given at the Department of Oriental languages, Stockholm University.

Stockholm, 2 November  
2009

Presentation on Chinese history at the Teacher Workshop on the photo exhibition “Inge Morath and Arthur Miller: China Eyewitness to an Awakening Giant,” at the University of Michigan Museum of Arts.

February 6, 2008

Invited discussant on the panel “Law, Constitution, and State-Building” at the conference “Towards an Age of Rights: China and International Perspectives,” University of Michigan.

February 1, 2008

Pär Cassel  
Friday, January 31, 2025

Invited discussant on Dr. Mark Selden's paper "War, Historical Memory and the Future of the Asia Pacific" at the conference "The New Humanities in China," Humanities Institute, University of Michigan

November 15, 2007

"Getting Away with Manslaughter: The Vagaries of Justice in Maritime Courts in Late Nineteenth Century China and Japan." The Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Michigan, Noon Lecture Series.

January 23, 2007.