

YIPENG ZHOU

Curriculum Vitae

yipengzh@umich.edu
1-201-952-5456

The University of Michigan, Department of History
435 South State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1003

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in History
2023-present

University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
Advisors: Douglas Northrop, Valerie Kivelson

M.A. in Regional Studies:
Russia, Eastern Europe,
and Central Asia
2020-2022

Harvard University
Thesis: "Research on Frontiers: Sino-Soviet Knowledge
Campaign on the Central Asian Borderland"
Advisor: Terry Martin

B.A. in Russian Language
and Literature
2016-2020

Zhejiang University
Thesis: "The Motif 'Joke' in Alexandra Vampilov's Plays"
Advisor: Yong Wang

PUBLICATIONS

Journalism Essay ["Kazakhstan's Growing Role in the Global Energy Transition May Come at a Cost to Local Communities,"](#) *New Lines Magazine*, May 9, 2024.

Case Study ["Dirty Jobs for 'Clean' Energy: Global Energy Transitions Encounter Industrial Legacies on the Kazakh Steppe,"](#) UM-SEAS Environmental Justice Library, *Gala*, December 2023.

Policy Memo ["Greener Pastures: China's Clean Energy Engagement in Central Asia,"](#) *Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies*, March 21, 2023.

DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

Digital Resource ["Digital Handbook for Research on Soviet History,"](#) *Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies*, creator.

Digital Resource ["Fontes: Open Access Sources for Ukrainian History,"](#) *Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute*, web designer.

Digital Resource ["Caspiana: A Digital Toolbox for Students and Scholars of Central Asia and the Caucasus,"](#) *Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies*, contributor and website maintainer.

Research Guide [“Soviet History: a Bibliographic Guide to Published Sources,”](#) Harvard Library, contributor.

Web Map [Mapping Soviet-Xinjiang Dynamics, 1950s-1960s,](#) January 2021, creator.

TEACHING

01 - 05/2026 Graduate Student Instructor, History 285 “Science, Technology, Medicine, and Society.”

08 - 12/2025 Graduate Student Instructor, History 281 “History of the Economy.”

01 - 05/2025 Graduate Student Instructor, History 434 “Russia/USSR 20 & 21C.”

08 - 12/2024 Syllabus Developer & Graduate Student Instructor, History 230 “History, Power, and Violence in Putin’s Russia,” University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

08/2025 Rackham Conference Travel Grant, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. \$1,400.

04/2025 Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia Research Grant for Ph.D. Students, Summer archival research in the South Caucasus, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. \$5,000.

04/2025 Center for Armenian Studies Summer Research Grant, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. \$1,822.

04/2024 Global Individual Grant, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. \$3,000.

04/2025 Rackham Language Training Grant for Eastern Armenian, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. \$6,000.

12/2024 Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia Conference Travel Grant, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. \$300.

11/2024 History Department Conference Travel Grant, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. \$1,150.

11/2024 CREES Conference Travel Grant, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. \$300.

11/2024 Rackham Conference Travel Grant, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. \$1,150.

- 05 - 08/2024 Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia Research Grant for Ph.D. Students, Summer archival research in Central Asia, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. \$9,500.
- 05 - 08/2024 Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant, Summer Uzbek language learning, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. \$1,500.
- 05 - 08/2024 Sydney Fine Teaching Partnership, History Department, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. \$5,000.
- 03 - 07/2024 Fellow, 2024 Monterey Summer Symposium on Russia, Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.
- 06/2024 Rackham Conference Travel Grant, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. \$1,400.
- 2023 J. Frederick Hoffman Award, History Department, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. \$3,000.
- 2021 - 2022 Innovation Fellow, Program on Central Asia, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University. \$7,500.
- 2020 - 2022 Kathryn W. and Shelby Cullom Davis Scholarship, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University.
- 2021 Craig and Anna Kennedy Graduate Student Travel Grant, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University. \$3,000.
- 2019 China National Scholarship, Ministry of Education of China. ¥8,000.
- 2018 - 2019 China-Russia Intergovernmental Scholarship, China Scholarship Council.
- 2018 - 2019 Zhejiang Provincial Government Scholarship, Government of Zhejiang Province, China. ¥5,000.
- 2018 - 2019 National Undergraduate Innovation Training Program, Ministry of Education of China. PI: Yipeng Zhou. ¥8,000.

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2022 2022 Central Eurasian Studies Society Graduate Student Paper Award.
- 2017 Second Prize in the China National College Russian Language Contest, Ministry of Education of China.

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

- 05/2026
(forthcoming) “Commodity against Market: The Moral Economy of Copper Pricing in Imperial Russia,” Midwest Russian History Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.
- 10/2025 Discussant, “Book Discussion: *Soviet Siberia: The Politics of Expertise and the Novosibirsk Scientific Center*, by Ksenia Tatarchenko,” Virtual ASEES 57th Annual Convention.
- 09/2025 “Commodity against Market: The Moral Economy of Copper Pricing in Imperial Russia,” Central Eurasian Studies Society 2025 Graduate and Early Career Scholar Interdisciplinary Workshop, Columbus, Ohio.
- 08/2025 “Commodity against Market: The Moral Economy of Copper Pricing in Imperial Russia,” Conference: “Toward New Transnational/Transimperial Histories of Central Asia,” Nazarbayev University & Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Astana, Kazakhstan.
- 03/2025 “Commodity against Market: The Moral Economy of Copper Pricing in Imperial Russia,” in Multidisciplinary Workshop for Armenian Studies, University of Michigan–Ann Arbor.
- 03/2025 “(Un)Replicable Russian Factories, Quirky Asian Rocks, and ‘Enlightened Absolutism’ in Eighteenth-Century Inner Asian Mining Zones,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference 2025, Columbus, Ohio.
- 01/2025 “Research on Frontiers: Sino-Soviet Knowledge Campaigns on the Central Asian Borderland,” International Conference: “Geopolitics, Migrations, and Identities in Central Eurasia” (Joint Meeting CESS-ESCAS), Lisbon, Portugal.
- 12/2024 “(Un)Replicable Russian Factories, Quirky Asian Rocks, and ‘Enlightened Absolutism’ in Eighteenth-Century Inner Asian Mining Zones,” Italian Association for the Study of Central Asia and the Caucasus Annual Conference 2024, Venice, Italy.
- 06/2024 “(Un)Replicable Russian Factories, Quirky Asian Rocks, and ‘Enlightened Absolutism’ in Eighteenth-Century Inner Asian Mining Zones,” 2024 Central Eurasian Studies Society Conference, Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- 04/2024 “(Un)Replicable Russian Factories, Quirky Asian Rocks, and ‘Enlightened Absolutism’ in Eighteenth-Century Inner Asian Mining Zones,” Graduate Student Conference on Central Asia, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.
- 12/2023 “Who’s Doing the Dirty Job for the ‘Clean’ Energy Transition? Minerals, Environment, and Just Transition in Kazakhstan,” Association for Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies 2023 Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

- 10/2022 “Academic Piedmontism: Soviet-Xinjiang Dynamics in Soviet Uyghur Studies,” Central Eurasian Society Annual Conference, Bloomington, Indiana, USA.
- 06/2022 “Research on Frontiers: Sino-Soviet Knowledge Campaigns on the Central Asian Borderland,” Central Eurasian Society Summer Conference, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

EVENTS & TALKS

- 02/2026 Organizer & Moderator, “[A Fragile Stability: Reconsidering Late Soviet Financial and Social Order with Isaac Scarborough](#),” Central Asian Studies Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.
- 03/2025 Guest lecture, “Brezhnev and the Question of Stagnation,” in History 434: “Russia/USSR in the 20th and 21st Centuries: War, Revolution, and Reform,” University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.
- 11/2024 Guest lecture, “Petro Economy in Contemporary Russia: Wheel of Fortune or Resource Curse,” in History 230: “History, Power, and Violence in Putin’s Russia,” University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.
- 10/2024 Panelist, “Scales of Movement: Beyond Humans and the Problem of Agency,” Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies Graduate Student Workshop, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.
- 05/2023 Panelist, “[China’s Clean Energy Engagement in Central Asia](#),” Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Webinar.
- 05/2023 Event Organizer, “[Many Voices: Many Shapes: An Empire Revisited](#),” Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies.
- 04/2023 Panel Organizer, “Design Scholarly ‘Products’: History, GIS, and the Art of Balancing Scholarly Agendas and User Needs,” Greater Boston Digital Research & Pedagogy Symposium 2023, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.
- 04/2023 Moderator & Organizer, Inaugural Graduate Student Conference on Central Asia, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies.
- 10/2022 Presenter, “Research on Frontiers: Sino-Soviet Knowledge Campaigns on the Central Asian Borderland,” New Directions in the History of Central and Inner Asia Workshop, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.
- 05/2022 Speaker, “Research on Frontiers: Sino-Soviet Knowledge Campaigns on the Central Asian Borderland,” Advisory Board Meeting of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA.

RELEVANT RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 12/2022 - 07/2023 **Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University**
Coordinator, The Imperia Project (Supervisor: Kelly O'Neill)
- 10/2022 -
07/2023 **Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University**
Research Fellow, Program on Central Asia (Supervisor: Nargis Kassenova)
Research Assistant, Program on Georgian Studies (Supervisor: Stephen Jones)
- 07 - 10/2022 **Department of History, Harvard University**
Project Lead for a digital project, Digital Handbook for Research on Soviet History (Supervisor: Terry Martin)
- 09/2022 -
06/2023 **Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University**
Innovation Fellow, Program on Central Asia, Renewable Energy Transition in Central Asia Project
- 08 - 11/2019 **Culture Wuzhen Co., Ltd.**
Coordinator & Interpreter for the Lensovet Theater and the Moscow Art Theatre at the 2019 Wuzhen International Theater Festival
Jiaying, China
- 08 - 09/2018 **Hangzhou Regional Center (Asian-Pacific) for Small Hydro Power**
Coordinator & Interpreter for the "Water Management and Hydropower Development for Uzbekistan" seminar series
Hangzhou, China

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH & STUDY

- 05 - 08/2025 Ph.D. dissertation research (archival research) in Georgia and Armenia.
- 05 - 08/2024 Ph.D. dissertation research (archival research and site observations) in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Armenia.
- 07/2024 Participant of the 2024 Monterey Summer Symposium on Russia in Armenia, Georgia, and Turkey.
- 05/2022 Fieldwork with the Davis Center Program on Central Asia in Kazakhstan.
- 09/2020 -
07/2021 Master's thesis fieldwork in Xinjiang, Guangzhou, and Beijing, China.
- 10/2018 - 07/2029 Undergraduate study abroad at Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, Moscow, Russia.
- 08/2018 Undergraduate summer program at Brno University, Brno, Czech Republic.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

2025 - present	Coordinator, Central Asian Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.
2024-present	Graduate Student Associate, Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.
2024-present	Member, Marxism Lab, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.
2024-present	Member, Association for Asian Studies.
2023 - present	Member, American Historical Association.
2023 - present	Graduate Student Associate, Center for Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.
2023 - present	Member, Association for Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies.
2023-present	Member, Graduate Employees' Organization, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.
2021 - present	Member, Central Eurasian Studies Society.
07 - 09/2023	Fellow, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies.
2022 - 2023	Member, Association for the Study of Nationalities.
2020 - 2022	Graduate Student Associate, Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University.

SKILLS

Languages: Mandarin (native), English (fluent), Russian (fluent), Eastern Armenian (intermediate).

Computational: R, C, Python, HTML/CSS/JavaScript, ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, ArcGIS StoryMaps, QGIS, SPSS, Tableau, Omeka, Scalar, WordPress.