

WEN-SHING CHOU  
 Department of Art and Art History  
 Hunter College, CUNY  
 695 Park Ave., 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 New York, NY 10065  
[wchou@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:wchou@hunter.cuny.edu)

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, Department of Art and Art History, Hunter College, City University of New York	2019-
Faculty Member, The Graduate Center, City University of New York	2022-
Assistant Professor, Department of Art and Art History, Hunter College, City University of New York	2011-19
Mellon Assistant Professor Fellow and Member, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton	2015-16
Visiting lecturer, History of Art and Visual Culture, University of California, Santa Cruz	2008
Researcher, translator, and cataloguer, Mellon International Dunhuang Archive, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL and Dunhuang, China	2001-02

## EDUCATION

Ph.D.     **University of California, Berkeley**, History of Art, May 2011.  
 Dissertation: "The Visionary Landscape of Wutai Shan in Tibetan  
 Buddhism from the Eighteenth to the Twentieth Century."

M.A.     **University of California, Berkeley**, History of Art, January 2006.  
 Thesis: "Fluid Landscape, Timeless Visions, and Truthful  
 Representations: A Sino-Tibetan Remapping of Qing-Dynasty  
 Wutai Shan."

B.A.     **University of Chicago**, History of Art with Honors, June 2001.  
 Thesis: "My Beloved Delusions: La Palazzina Cinese and the Making  
 of a Private Chinese Universe in Early 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Palermo."  
 Runner-up, Ancient & Modern International Award for Original Research,  
 HALI and CORNUCOPIA.

## ACADEMIC HONORS

Honorable Mention, Association for Asian Studies Joseph Levenson Book Prize (pre-1900)	2020
---	------

Membership and Mellon Assistant Professor Fellowship, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton	2015–2016
PSC-CUNY Research Awards	2012–20
Columbia University Seminar Publication Subvention Award	2017
Baruch-Rubin Fellowship (deferred)	2012–13
Ittleson Dissertation Fellowship, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art	2008–10
Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Art Doctoral Grant (partially accepted)	2008
Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (declined)	
Junior Visiting Scholar, Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica	2007
Multi-year University Fellowship, UC Berkeley	2003-08
Walter Pozen’s International Research Fellowship, University of Chicago	2000
Smart Family Foundation Research Fellowship, University of Chicago	2000

## BOOKS

*Mount Wutai: Visions of a Sacred Buddhist Mountain*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2018.

Reviewed by: *Sumeru* (June 8, 2018); Ken Rodgers, *Kyoto Journal* (October 18, 2018); William Ma, *Religion and the Arts* (June 10, 2019); Aurelia Campbell, *Ming Studies* (April 14, 2020); Lihong Liu, *CAA Reveiws* (June 23, 2020); Isabelle Charleux, *Études mongoles et sibériennes, centrasiatiques et tibétaines* (December 9, 2020); Natalie Köhle, *Journal of Chinese Religions* (May, 2021); Yong Cho, *H-Buddhism*, *H-Net Reviews* (September, 2021).

## ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“The Qianlong Emperor as Manjushri-Chakravartin” and “Panoramic Map of Mount Wutai” In *Himalayan Art in 108 Objects*. New York: Rubin Museum of Art, forthcoming 2022.

Co-author with Nancy G. Lin, “Karmic Affinities: Rethinking Relations Among Tibetan Lamas and the Qing Emperor.” *Water Moon Reflections: Essays in Honor of Patricia Berger*. Edited by Ellen Huang, Nancy G. Lin, Michelle McCoy, and Michelle H. Wang. Berkeley: Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, 2021.

“Bodhisattva Emperors of the Manchu Qing Dynasty.” In *Faith and Empire: Art and Politics in Tibetan Buddhism*, edited by Karl Debreczeny. University of Washington Press/Rubin Museum of Art, 2019.

- “Miracles in Translation: A Qing-Gelukpa Guidebook to Wutai Shan.” Essay for edited volume on *The Mountain of Five Plateaus: Studies of the Wutai Cult in Multidisciplinary and Transborder Approaches*, edited by Jinhua Chen and Susan Andrews. Brill: 2019. Published in translation as “Zhuanyi shenji huaxian: Cong Shengdi Qingliang Shanzhi kan Qingdai Wutai shan zai Zangwen shijie de dingwei” 轉譯神蹟化現: 從“聖地清涼山志”看清代五臺山在藏文世界的定位 (The Place of Wutai Shan in the Tibetan Buddhist Literary Imagination: A Case Study of a Tibetan Guide to Wutai Shan), in *One Mountain of Five Plateaus*, edited by Shi Miaojiang. Taipei: Xinwenfeng, 2017.
- “Imperial Apparitions: Manchu Buddhism and the Cult of Mañjuśrī.” *Archives of Asian Art* 65, no. 1 and 2, 2015, 139-179.
- “Re-imagining the Buddhist Universe: Pilgrimage and Cosmography in the Court of the Thirteenth Dalai Lama (1876-1933).” *Journal of Asian Studies* 73, May 2014, 419-445.
- “Maps of Wutai Shan: Individuating the Sacred Landscape Through Color.” *Journal of the International Association of Tibetan Studies* no. 6, December 2011.
- “Ineffable Paths: Mapping Wutaishan in Qing-Dynasty China.” *Art Bulletin*, March 2007.

## REVIEWS, ENTRIES, AND PODCASTS

- “Teaching Buddhist Art Using Museum and Gallery Collections” The Circled Square: Buddhist Studies in Higher Education, 2020  
<http://teachingbuddhism.net/wen-shing-chou/>
- Revision of “Mt. Wutai” *Grove Art Online*, 2003, by Frances Wood. Oxford University Press, 2020.
- From Mulberry Leaves to Silk Scrolls* edited by Justin Thomas McDaniel and Lynn Ransom Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015), *Manuscripta: A Journal for Manuscript Research* 61.2 (2018): 293-298.
- Building a Sacred Mountain: The Buddhist Architecture of China’s Mount Wutai* by Wei-Cheng Lin (Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2014), *Monumenta Serica* 64 (2016): 225-228.
- “The Impact of Imperial and Local Patronage on Early Ming Temples in the Sino-Tibetan Frontier” by Aurelia Campbell, *Inner Asian Dissertation Reviews* (2013).

## BOOKS IN PROGRESS

- Editor and author, C.C. Wang: *Lines of Abstraction*. Munich: Hirmer Verlag: forthcoming 2023.

Exhibition at the Bertha and Karl Leubsdorf Gallery, Hunter College, January-April 2023; Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Summer 2023.

Editor, *Brilliant Sun Rays that Bloom the Lotus of Faith: A Guide to the Most Sacred Five-Peaked Mountain of China* by Chankya Rolpe Dorje (1717-1786). Wisdom Publications: forthcoming.

"Shaping Time: Art of Rebirth in Buddhist China and Inner Asia" Manuscript under Preparation.

## INVITED LECTURES

- "Ink Affinities: A Conversation Between Arnold Chang, Michael Cherney, and Wen-shing Chou" Fu Qiumeng Fine Arts Gallery, New York, recorded on <https://fuqiumeng.com/video/19-ink-affinities-a-conversation-between-arnold-chang-michael/> 2022
- "Art of Pilgrimage to Mount Wutai" Dunhuang Foundation China Webinar Series on "Art, Environment, and Materiality along the Silk Roads" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3moxxGI9YAk> 2021
- "Reimagining Tibet's India: Gift Exchange at the Qing Court" lecture at Tibetan Buddhist Art and Visual Culture" Class at the University of Toronto (taught by Dr. Sarah Richardson). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tQFa15tT-E>
- "Conversation on Global History" Guest lecture at Approaches to World History graduate seminar at UMass Amherst (taught by Dr. Jason Moralee)
- "Abodes of Alien Ancestors: Buddhist Geography and Genealogy in Eighteenth-century Beijing" IAAS lecture series, Harvard University, Cambridge. 2020
- "Refuge in the Empire: Visualizing Kingship in Qing Dynasty China" and "Reborn in Beijing: Indian Masters, Tibetan Translators, and Mongol Khans at the Eighteenth-Century Manchu Court." Numata Lecture series, University of Toronto and McMaster University, Toronto and Hamilton.
- "Tibetan Lamas and the Qing Court (1644-1911)" Rubin Museum of Art, New York City 2019
- "What is Tibetan about Tibetan-style Temples and Images in Qing China?" University of Chicago Beijing Center, Beijing.
- "Transformative Illusions: Emperor as Guru in Qing-Dynasty Thangkas." Conserving Active Matter: A *Cultures of Conservation* Research Project. Bard Graduate Center, New York City. 2018

- "Maps and Mapmakers of Mount Wutai in Qing China." Columbia Buddhist Studies Seminar, Columbia University, New York City; Confucius Institute, Temple University, Philadelphia. 2017
- "Panoramic Visions: Religious Cartography in Nineteenth-century China." After Hours Conversations, IAS, Princeton. 2016
- "Narrating Lives and Inter-lives: Time in a Hagiographic Landscape." Art history Seminar, IAS, Princeton. 2015
- "Mandalas of Mañjuśrī: The Origin of Manchu Imperial Household Monasteries." East Asian Seminar, IAS, Princeton.
- "Chinese Calligraphy and the History of Writing." Hunter College Chinese Flagship Program, Ministry of Culture of Taiwan.
- "Transcultural Topographies: Nineteenth-century Pilgrimage Maps of Mount Wutai." NEH Humanities Institute, Westchester College.
- "Photography and Cosmography: Paradigms of Vision and Experience in Early 20th Century Tibet." Rewald Seminar, The Graduate Center, CUNY. 2014
- "Ruins and Revelation: Buddhist Visionary Topography in Post-Cultural Revolution China." Modern China Seminar, Columbia University. 2013
- "Mediating History and Memory in Qing-Dynasty Wutai Shan" China Project Workshop, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. 2012
- "Meaningful Gifts: The Culture of Exchange between Tibet and China, 1652~1908." Rutgers University.
- "The Modern Revival of Buddhism at China's Sacred Mt. Wutai." Society for Asian Art, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco. 2011
- "Visionary and Empirical Mappings: Sacred Geography at the Birth of Modern Tibet." Scholars Seminar, Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center, New York City. 2010
- "Sacred Cosmography and the Mapping of Modern Tibet." Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington DC. 2009
- "My Beloved Delusions: A Private Chinese Universe in Early 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Sicily." Asian Art Museum, San Francisco. 2006

#### SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS

- "Implementing Project Himalayan Art in the Classroom" Roundtable on "Project Himalayan Art: developing resources for integrating Himalayan culture into teaching on Asia," Association for Asian Studies Conference, Honolulu. 2022

- “Changkya’s Spiritual Ancestry” Conference in Honor of Professor Raoul Birnbaum, Centre d’Études Interdisciplinaires sur le Bouddhisme, Paris.
- “Gift of Past Lives: Tracing the Rebirth Lineage of the Qianlong Emperor” Panel on “Materials Movements and Knowledge Transmissions in Qing China,” Virtual Association for Asian Studies Conference. 2021
- “An Experimental Exaltation: Naming the Previous Lives of the Qianlong Emperor” International Colloquium on “Benefitting Sentient Beings through Re-embodiment: the Development of the Tulku-recognizing System since the 17th Century,” National Palace Museum, Taipei. 2020
- “Origin and Originality in Buddhist Art” Panel on “Asian Art as Global Art”, College Art Association Annual Conference, Chicago.
- “Abodes of Foreign Ancestors: Landscapes in Buddhist Albums circa 1800.” International Workshop on “Painting in China Around 1800” Institute of Fine Arts, New York City. 2019
- “Visualizing Emperor as Guru: Kingship and Devotion in Qing-Dynasty China.” Conference on “Tibetan Buddhism and Political Power in the Courts of Asia.” Columbia University and Rubin Museum of Art, New York City.
- “Icons and Ideology in the Manchu Qing Court” Panel on “Himalayan Art in and as the Political Realm” College Art Association Annual Conference, New York City
- “Re-envisioning Priest-Patron Relations under the Qianlong Reign.” Presented at Symposium on *Myriad Teachings with One Nature: Buddhism in China and Inner Asia*. Columbia University, New York. 2018
- “Wisdom Doubles: Imaging Emperors and Lamas in Qing China.” Presented at Symposium on *New Directions in the Study of Tibetan Buddhist Art History*, Harvard University, Cambridge.
- “The Many Lives of Mañjuśrī: Kinship and Kingship in the Rebirth Lineage Albums of the Qing Court” Presented at *Buddhist Statecraft in East Asia*. University of Southern California, Los Angeles. 2017
- “Karmic Affinities: Teachers and Disciples in the Rebirth Lineage Albums of Qing Beijing.” Jointly presented with Nancy Lin at *Return of Ten Thousand Dharmas: A Celebration in Honor of Patricia Berger*, UC Berkeley.
- “Recalling the Past Lives of a Qing Ruler: An Album of the Qianlong Emperor’s Previous Incarnations.” Jointly presented with Nancy Lin at XVIIIth Congress of International Association of Buddhist Studies, University of Toronto.

- “Miracles in Translation: An Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Engagement with Chinese Buddhism at Wutai Shan.” Presented at *The Mountain of Five Plateaus: Studies of the Wutai Cult in Multidisciplinary and Transborder Approaches*, Wutai Shan, Shanxi Province, China. 2015
- “A Panorama of Visions: Religion and Empiricism in 19<sup>th</sup> century Pilgrimage Maps of Mount Wutai.” Presented at workshop on *Circulation in the Nineteenth Century*, Department of English, Rutgers University, New Brunswick. 2014
- “Revisionist Copies: The Building of a Manchu Imperial Monastery.” Presented at Panel on *Alien Buddhisms: The Practice of Non-Chinese Empires in China*, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego.
- “Visions in Translation: Zhangkya Rölpe Dorjé’s Guidebook to Wutai Shan.” Presented at Panel on *The Mountain of Five Plateaus: Studies of the Wutai cult in Multidisciplinary and Transborder/Cultural Approaches*, XVIIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Vienna.
- “History and Memory in the Imperial Cult of Manjusri.” Presented at Fifth International Conference on Tibetan Archaeology and the Arts (ICTAAV), Beijing. 2012
- “In the Likeness of his Apparition.” Presented at Conference on *The Emperor and Tibetan Buddhism: Shaping a Virtual Stupa*, Centre de recherche sur les civilisations de l’Asie orientale, CNRS, Paris.
- “East of India and West of Beijing: Qianlong’s Replicas of Wutai Shan.” Presented at Panel on *Art and Agency in the Qianlong Court*, Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Toronto.
- “Pilgrimage and Cosmography in Early Twentieth Century Tibet.” Presented at panel on *Discoursing Journeys: The Authorial Hermeneutics of Travel*, XVIth Congress of the International Association of Buddhist Studies, Dharma Drum Buddhist College, Taipei. 2011
- “Rethinking Biographies of the 13<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama.” Presented at conference on *Approaches to the Occident: Western Perspectives on Buddhism*, Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München, München.
- “The Empirical and the Visionary in the Life of the 13<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama.” Conference on *Visualizing Global Asia at the Turn of the 20th Century*, Yale University, New Haven. 2010
- “The Culture of Exchange: Tibetan, Mongolian, and Han Constituents at Wutaishan.” Presented at forum on *Cultural and Religious Traditions of Mt. Wutai*, Wutai Shan, Shanxi Province, China. 2009
- “Divine and Diplomatic Encounters: the 13<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama at Wutaishan.” Presented at conference on *Tradition and Modernity: Transitions from Ming and Qing-dynasties to Republican Era*, People’s University of China, Beijing.

- "A Cosmology of Peril and Wonder: Mural Programs of the Thirteenth Dalai Lama, 1922-1928." Presented at conference on *Art History, Buddhist Studies, Tibet: New Perspectives from the Tibet Site Seminar*, Princeton University, Princeton. 2008
- "Fluid Landscape, Timeless Visions, and Truthful Representations: A Sino-Tibetan Remapping of Qing-Dynasty Wutaishan." Presented at conference on *Wutaishan and Qing Culture*, Columbia University, New York. 2007

## COURSES

- Art in East Asia I: Ritual and Religion (Undergraduate Lecture)
- Art in East Asia II: Chinese Painting and Calligraphy (Undergraduate Lecture)
- Buddhist Art of Asia (Undergraduate Lecture)
- History of Chinese Painting (Undergraduate Lecture)
- Buddhism in China and the Himalayas (Undergraduate Seminar)
- Art of the Buddhist Universe (Undergraduate Seminar)
- Art Uncontained: Rethinking Cultural Exchanges Between China, the Islamic World, and the West (Graduate Seminar, Co-taught with Nebahat Avcioglu)
- Picturing Buddhist Biographies (Undergraduate Honors Seminar)
- The Art of Writing in China (Graduate Lecture)
- Comparative Approaches to Buddhist Art (Graduate Lecture)
- Devotional Space in Buddhist Art (Graduate Lecture)
- Buddhism and the Material World (Graduate Lecture)
- Museums, Collecting, and the Formation of Asian Art History (Graduate Research Methods)
- Caves of Dunhuang (Graduate Seminar)
- Art of the Forbidden City (Graduate Seminar)
- Ecology and Materiality of Wood in Qing China (Graduate Seminar, Co-taught with Michele Matteini, Institute of Fine Art, NYU)
- C.C. Wang and the Reinvention of Chinese Painting (Graduate Curatorial Practicum)
- Art of the Brush in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction (Graduate Seminar)
- M.A. Thesis Writing Workshop