

Curriculum Vitae
September 2008

Michael A Szonyi

Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations
Harvard University
2 Divinity Ave
Cambridge, MA 02138
USA

617-495-8371 (office)
617-821-5736 (mobile)
617-496-6040 (fax)
szonyi@fas.harvard.edu

Date of Birth: 18/05/67

Languages: English, French, Modern Standard Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese (reading only)

Employment:

2007-present John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities, Harvard University
2005-2007 Associate Professor of Chinese History, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University

Courses: Society and Culture in Late Imperial China; Chinese Popular Religion: Historiography; Chinese Popular Religion: Methodologies and Texts; The Culture of Everyday Life in China; Freshman Seminar: The Cold War in Asia; The Chinese Overseas

2001-2005 Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Toronto
1998-2001 Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Toronto

Courses: Introduction to Chinese History; Modern China Since 1800; Modern Chinese Foreign Relations; Topics in Late Imperial and Modern Chinese History; China in the World Today; Core Seminar in Asia-Pacific Studies; History of Chinese Overseas

1994-1998 Assistant Professor, Department of History, McGill University

Courses: Introduction to East Asian History; China in Revolution 1840-1994 ; History of the Chinese Overseas; Topics in Imperialism and Colonialism; The Peasant in Twentieth Century China; Social and Economic History of Ming and Qing

Education:

- 1990-5 University of Oxford, Faculty of Oriental Studies. D.Phil.
Dissertation: Lineages and Ritual in Fuzhou in the
Late Imperial and Republican Periods.
- 1992-3 Xiamen University, History Department, Advanced Research Student
- 1988-90 National Taiwan University, History and Philosophy Departments
Visiting Student
- 1985-8 University of Toronto. B.A. with High Distinction, Chinese Studies and
International Relations

Academic Publications:

Books

Cold War Island: Quemoy on the Front Line. 310 pages. Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Ming-Qing Fujian Wudi xinyang ziliao huibian (Documents on the Cult of the Five Emperors in Fujian in Ming and Qing). 265 pages. Hong Kong University of Science and Technology South China Research Centre, 2006.

Practicing Kinship: Lineage and Descent in Late Imperial China. 313 pages. Stanford University Press, 2002.

Zheng Zhenman, *Family and Lineage Organization and Social Change in Ming-Qing Fujian*, translated and with an introduction by Michael Szonyi. 320 pages. University of Hawai'i Press, 2001.

Edited Journal Issue

David Ownby and Michael Szonyi, trans. and eds., *New Histories of Late Imperial and Modern Southeast China* (special double issue of *Chinese Studies in History*, vol 34.4 and vol. 35.1). 182 pages. Armonk: M.E. Sharpe, 2002; "Guest Editor's Introduction," 3-11.

Refereed Journal Articles

"Making Claims about Standardization and Orthopraxy in Late Imperial China: Rituals and Cults in the Fuzhou Region in Light of Watson's Theories," *Modern China* 33.1 (2007), 47-71.

"Mothers, Sons, and Lovers: Fidelity and Frugality in the Overseas Chinese Divided Family before 1949," *Journal of Chinese Overseas* 1.1 (2005), 43-64.

“The Virgin and the Chinese State: The Cult of Wang Yulan and the Politics of Local Identity on Jinmen (Quemoy),” *Journal of Ritual Studies* 19.2 (2005), 87-98.

- Reprinted in Pamela Stewart and Andrew Strathern, eds., *Asian Ritual Systems: Syncretisms and Ruptures*, Durham NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2007, 183-208.

“The Graveyard of Huang Xiulang: Early Twentieth Century Perspectives on the Role of Overseas Chinese in Chinese Modernization,” *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal* 10.1 (2001), 81-98.

- Revised Chinese version published as “Huang Xiulang muzhi: 20 shiji chuqi de huaqiao, qiaoxiang yu xiandaihua,” *Haijiaoshi yanjiu (Maritime History Studies)*, 43 (2003), 100-106.
- Revised version published as “The cemetery of Huang Xiulang: Transnationalism and the overseas Chinese in the early twentieth century,” in Eric Fong and Chiu Luk eds., *Chinese Ethnic Business*, New York: Routledge, 2007, 132-146.

“Local cult, *Lijia*, and Lineage: Religious and Social Organization in Ming and Qing Fujian,” *Journal of Chinese Religions*, 28 (2000), 93-126.

- Revised Chinese version published as “Citang, cunmiao, yamen: jianlun Ming-Qing shiqi Fuzhou diqu minjian xinyang yu wenhua tonghe,” in *Jinmen lishi, wenhua yu shengtai guoji xueshu yantaohui lunwenji (Proceedings of the International Conference on the History, Culture and Ecology of Quemoy)*, ed Wang Qiukui. Taipei: Shih Ho-cheng Cultural Foundation, 2004.

“China: The Years Ahead,” *International Journal*, 55.3 (August, 2000), 475-484

“The Cult of Hu Tianbao and the Eighteenth Century Discourse of Homosexuality,” *Late Imperial China*, 19.1 (June, 1998), 1-25.

- Revised Chinese version published as “Hu Tianbao yu Qing zhongye tongxinglian huayu,” *Lishi renleixue (Journal of History and Anthropology)*, 1:1 (2003), 67-82.

“The Illusion of Standardizing the Gods: The Cult of the Five Emperors in Late Imperial China,” *Journal of Asian Studies*, 56.1 (February, 1997), 113-135.

“National Gods and Local Contexts: Distinguishing the Five Emperors and the Five Manifestations in Late Imperial China,” *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association*, New Series, 6 (1996), 59-79.

Book Chapters and Encyclopedia Entries

“Fujian,” and “Historical Patterns of Emigration and Government Policy,” in David Pong, ed., *Encyclopedia of Modern China* (Farmington Hills, MI: MacMillan, forthcoming)

“Zupu, jiti jiyi yu difang shehui: yi Ming-Qing shiqi Fuzhou diqu shiqianzu chuanshuo wei li” (“Genealogy, collective memory and local society: Legends of founding ancestors in the Fuzhou region in Ming-Qing”), trans. Lee Chih-hsien, in He Guozhong (Hou Kok Chung), ed., *Wenhua jiyu yu Huaren shehui (Cultural Memory and Chinese Society)*(Kuala Lumpur: University of Malaya Institute of China Studies, 2008), 197-212.

“Lantern Festival,” and “Tombs and cremation,” in Edward Davis, ed., *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Chinese Culture* (London: Routledge, 2005), 315, 604-605

“The lineage and the *lijia*: genealogical explorations in the local history of the Fuzhou region,” in Sha Qimin and Qian Zhengmin, eds, *Zhongguo zupu difangzhi yanjiu* (Shanghai:Shanghai Scientific and Technical Literature Publishing, 2003), 220-241

Review Essays

Hugh Clark, *Portrait of a Community: Society, Culture, and the Structures of Kinship in the Mulan River Valley (Fujian) from the Late Tang through the Song*, forthcoming in *Journal of Chinese Studies*

“Triumph of the Chinese: how the Chinese examination system created the modern world” (Review essay of Alexander Woodside, *Lost Modernities*), *Literary Review of Canada*, October 2006

Richard von Glahn, *The Sinister Way: The Divine and the Demonic in Chinese Religious Culture*, in *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, 65.2 (2005), 542-552

Book Reviews (last five years)

Helen Dunstan, *State or Merchant? Political Economy and Political Process in 1740s China*, in *The Review of Politics* 69.4 (2007), 721-723

Sarah Schneewind, *Community Schools and the State in Ming China*, in *Etudes chinoises* 25 (2006), 389-393

Ping-chen Hsiung, *A Tender Voyage: Children and Childhood in Late Imperial China*, in *Canadian Journal of History* 46 (2006), 181-183

Lucille Chia, *Printing for Profit: The Commercial Publishers of Jianyang, Fujian (11th – 17th Centuries)*, in *Journal of Asian Studies*, 63.2 (2004), 490-492

Daniel Overmyer, ed, *Ethnography in China Today: A Critical Assessment of Methods and Results*, in *Journal of Asian Studies*, 63.1 (2004), 160-162

Wanning Su, *Leaving China: Media, Migration and Transnational Imagination*, in *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 12.4 (2003), 515-517

Other Publications (selected)

“Taiwan’s election brings best results,” *The National Post*, 30 March 2004.

“Asian-Canadians and Canada’s International Relations,” *Canada in Asia* (publication of Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada), November 2003, p. 1-12.

“Paper Tigers: The Other Newspaper War,” *National Post Business*, July 2002, p. 34-45.

with Christopher Watson. “Human Resources Challenges Nothing New in China,” *Canada-China Business Forum*, July-August 2000.

“Behold, a culture in revolution. An Interview with Chinese Author Mo Yan,” *The National Post*, 18 April 2000.

“Mao's Crib Sheet: Review of *Three Kingdoms, A Historical Novel*,” *The National Post*, 4 March 2000.

“China seeks solutions that Canada can't provide,” *Financial Post*, 9 April 1999.

Grants and Awards:

2008 Fellow, Public Intellectuals Program, National Committee on US-China Relations

Conference Grant for “Mapping New Directions in Chinese Local History,” Fairbank Center for East Asian Research, \$10,000; Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, \$10,000; Asia Center, \$10,000 (Co-applicant with Peter Bol).

2007 Conference Grant for “The Cold War in Asia: Beyond Geopolitics and Diplomacy,” Fairbank Center for East Asian Research. \$4,500.

2006 “A Comparative Study of Chinese Local Society in Historical Perspective,” Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange Standard Research Grant (Co-investigator; Principal Investigator Steven Harrell, University of Washington). \$30,000

Visiting Fellow, National University of Singapore, OAP (Inbound) Program

- 2004 “Islands on the Frontline: A Social and Cultural History of Jinmen (Quemoy) in the Cold War,” Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Standard Research Grant. \$65,500
- 2002 Republic of China Ministry of Education Faculty Research Award. \$5,000
Canada-China Scholarly Exchange Program Fellowship.
- 1999 “Emigration and Identity in *Qiaoxiang* (Overseas Chinese emigrant communities), 1911-1998,” Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Standard Research Grant. \$33,000
- 1998 University of Toronto, Connaught Committee Faculty Grant. \$10,000
- 1996 “Aetiologies and Treatments of Epidemics in Fujian Province, China, from the 16th to 20th Century,” Hannah Institute for the History of Medicine. \$11,475
“Gérer la culture: rituels, culture locale et histoire de la Chine moderne,” Programme soutien aux équipes de recherche, Fonds pour la Formation de Chercheurs et l'Aide à la Recherche. (Co-investigator with Kenneth Dean, McGill and David Ownby, Université de Montréal). \$195,000
- 1994 McGill University Faculty of Research and Graduate Studies Research Development Fund and Humanities Sub-Committee \$7,000
- 1992 Canada-China Scholarly Exchange Scholarship
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship
- 1990 Rhodes Scholarship

Participation in Academic Conferences

(C) - in Chinese

- 2008 “History, Anthropology and Fifty Years of Research on Chinese Local Society in the West,” Workshop on Historical Fieldwork, National Taiwan Museum of History and Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan, 4 August.
“Military Households and Translocal Mobility in the Ming,” International Conference on Translocal and Transregional Dynamics in Chinese History, 960-1911, National University of Singapore, 13 May.
- 2007 “Militarization, modernization and gender in a Cold War flashpoint,” co-author

with Ch'i Chang-hui, Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Boston, 23 March (Panel Organizer).

2006 "Islands on the Front-line: Militarization and Jinmen (Quemoy) Society, 1949-1992," Workshop on War and Suffering in China, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, 4 Nov.

Also presented at:

- The Cold War in Asia: Beyond Geopolitics and Diplomacy, Zhongshan University, Guangzhou, 1 Nov. 2007

"Cults, Communities, and Chinese Geopolitics: Popular Religion in Twentieth-century Jinmen," Conference on Reviewing the Past and Projecting the Future, Harvard-Yenching Institute, Cambridge, 3 June

Also presented at:

- Conference on Religion and Social Integration in Chinese Societies: Exploring Sociological Approaches to the Study of Religion in the Chinese World, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 28 June 2007.

"Genealogy, Collective Memory, and Local Society: Foundation Legends of Lineages in the Fuzhou Region in Ming-Qing," Conference on Collective Memory in Chinese Culture, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, 1 April(C)

2005 "Commemorating the Glory of Ju: Quemoy and Historical Memory in the Republic of China (ROC) on Taiwan," Canadian Historical Association Annual Meeting, London Ontario, 1 June.

"The Multiple Uses of the Chinese Genealogy, or, How to Dodge the Draft, Cheat on Your Taxes, and Forge a New Identity in Sixteenth-Century South China," Workshop on Genealogy in the Early Modern World, USC-Huntington Early Modern Institute, Los Angeles, 28 May.

2004 "Reflections on Standardization and Orthopraxy," Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, San Diego, 4 March.

"Popular Religion in a New Borderland: The Cult of Wang Yulan on Jinmen (Quemoy)," Workshop on the Chinese State at the Borderlands, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, 17 January.

2003 "Internal Politics, International Organizations, and Globalization: Implications of the SARS Epidemic," Human Rights in China, Globalization and the Spread of SARS: Lessons from the Epidemic, International Human Rights Program, University of Toronto, 31 October.

"Mothers, Sons and Lovers: The Overseas Chinese Divided Family and the

Remittance Economy, 1900-1949”, Workshop on Chinese Migrations, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, 22 March.

- 2001 “Ancestral Hall, Village Temple, and Yamen: Preliminary Explorations into Popular Religion and Cultural Integration in the Fuzhou region in Ming-Qing,” International Conference on the History, Culture and Ecology of Quemoy (Chinmen), Jinmen, Taiwan 10 September. (C)

“The Cemetery of Huang Xiulang: Overseas Chinese, Overseas Chinese Homelands and Chinese Modernization in the early twentieth century,” Conference on Creating Homelands: Chinese Migrants and Native-place Community, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, 17 July.

- 2000 “Emigration from Fujian: Historical Perspectives and Research Directions,” Workshop on Chinese Migration, Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, 17 March.

- 1999 “The lineage and the *lijia*: explorations in the local history of the Fuzhou region,” Chinese Genealogy and Local History Conference, Utah Valley State College, Orem Utah, 8 September. (C)

“Fujian *Qiaoxiang* Identities in the Twentieth Century,” Harvard-Duke Workshop on International Migration, Cambridge, 21 May.

“*She* Altars and Local Cults: Official and Popular Religious Organization in Fujian,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Boston, 14 March.

- 1997 “The Cult of the Five Emperors,” International Conference on Chinese Ritual, Theatre and Music, Taiyuan, PRC. (C)

- 1996 “Inventing the Lantern Festival in Fuzhou,” Joint Committee for European-North American Cooperation in East Asian Studies, Symposium 8, Ritual and Community Life in East-Asia, Montréal, 18 October.

“The Rabbit God: A Chinese Homosexual Cult and Its Suppression,” Canadian Asian Studies Association, , St. Catherines Ontario, 28 May.

“Démon et dieux: les Cinq Empereurs de Fuzhou,” Association canadienne-française pour l'avancement des sciences, Montréal, 13 May.

- 1995 “The Illusion of Standardizing the Gods: The Cult of the Five Emperors in the Fuzhou Area, 1182-1995,” Canadian Historical Association, Montréal, 27 August.

“The Communal Ritual Complex of the Fuzhou Suburbs: A study in the

relationship between local centrality and local culture,” Conference on the Religious Expression of State-Society Interactions, Oxford, 26 June. (C)

Invited Seminars and Lectures

- 2008 “Institutions, Families, Communities: Towards a Social History of the Ming Military in Southeast China,” China Humanities Seminar, Harvard University, 31 March
Also presented at:
- Traditional China Seminar, Columbia University, 24 April 2008
- “Cold War Flashpoint: Jinmen and Geopolitically-Informed Social History,” Party School of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, Beijing, 7 January (C)
- 2007 “Women soldiers of Jinmen: militarization and gender in a Cold War flashpoint,” Harvard University Fairbank Center for East Asian Research China Gender Studies Seminar, 7 December.
- 2006 “Cold War Island: Militarization, Geopolitics and Jinmen (Quemoy) Society, 1949-1992,” National University of Singapore, Department of Chinese Studies, 29 March
Also presented at:
- Harvard University Fairbank Center for East Asian Research Modern China Seminar, 24 March 2007
 - Department of History, Xiamen University, 23 July 2007 (C)
 - Department of Political Science, Concordia University, Montréal, 18 Oct. 2007
 - Harvard-Yenching Institute, 25 Oct. 2007
 - Center of Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, 22 Jan. 2008.
 - Monolith2008 video-conference (Waseda University; Université de Montréal; University of Toronto), 24 Jan. 2008.
 - Taiwan Focus, Columbia University, 24 April 2008
- 2004 “Mothers, Sons, and Lovers: fidelity and property in the Overseas Chinese divided family before 1949,” China Humanities Seminar, Harvard University, 23 February
Also presented at:
- UCLA Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Los Angeles, 27 May 2005.
- 2003 “Chinese culture: some implications for financial corruption,” Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC), Mt. Tremblant, Quebec, 27 June.

- “Asian-Canadians and Canada’s International Relations,” Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada, Ottawa, 27 March.
- 2002 “Current Issues in Overseas Chinese historical research,” Quanzhou Maritime Museum, Quanzhou, 30 November. (C)
- “The Virgin and the Chinese State: The Cult of Wang Yulan and the Politics of Local Identity on Jinmen (Quemoy),” Zhongshan University Institute for Historical Anthropology, Guangzhou, 23 November. (C)
- “Dangerous Passage: Chinese Illegal Migration to Canada,” Learning in Retirement, Toronto, 25 October.
- “My fieldwork experiences: the development and special characteristics of southern Min (Fujian) culture,” National Kaohsiung University of Applied Technology, Kinmen campus, 2 October. (C)
- “Eighteen Songs of a Nomad Flute: A Study in Chinese Perceptions of Nomadic Peoples,” Ontario Archeological Society, Toronto, 1 May
Also presented at
- Saint Too College, Hong Kong, 18 November, 2007. (C)
- “Historical Reflections on Contemporary China,” Friends of the Trinity College Library, Toronto, 3 April.
- “Sino-Canadian Relations: The tension between trade and human rights,” Learning Unlimited, Toronto, 12 March.
- “Gold Mountain widows and Chinatown bachelors: The transnational Chinese family and the remittance economy, 1900-1949,” Department of History, Guelph University, Guelph, 6 March.
- “Dangerous Passage: Chinese Illegal Migration to Canada,” The Toronto Roundtable, 13 February.
- “Two Generations, Three Decades: Reflections on the People's Republic of China,” with John Fraser, Royal Ontario Museum Bishop White Committee Spring Luncheon, Toronto, 22 January.
- 2001 “Historical and Contemporary Issues in Illegal Emigration from Fujian Province,” “Why have borders Seminar,” University of Michigan School of Law. 26 March.
- 2000 “Historical Overview of the Qing Dynasty,” Royal Ontario Museum Bishop White Committee Presentation, Toronto, 8 November.

“The Economic, Political and Strategic Environment in the People's Republic of China Today,” Canadian Security and Intelligence Service, Ottawa, 29 May.

“The Implications of the Taiwanese Presidential Elections,” Canadian China Society, Toronto, 26 March.

1999 “Do Chinese Politics Matter?” University of Toronto Alumni Association Canadian Perspectives Series, Toronto, 16 November.

“Issues in the Social History of Southeastern China,” Xiamen University Historical Anthropology Seminar, Xiamen, 20 June. (C)

“Using Canadian Archival Sources for Chinese-Canadian Historical Research,” Guangdong Provincial Archives, Guangzhou, 15 June. (C)

“Local Cults and National Cults: Worship of the Five Emperors in the Fuzhou Area in Ming and Qing,” History Department, Zhongshan University, Guangzhou, 11 June. (C)

“Constructing Kinship: Lineage Strategies in Ming-Qing Fuzhou,” History Department Research Seminar, Zhongshan University, Guangzhou, 10 June. (C)

“Commerce and Connoisseurship in the Ming Dynasty, 1368-1644,” Royal Ontario Museum Bishop White Committee Winter Luncheon, Toronto, 21 April.

1998 “Greater China and Cultural China in the Twenty-first Century,” McGill University Faculty of Continuing Education Lunch-time Lecture Series, Montreal, 13 February.

1997 “An Introduction to Chinese History,” Later Life Learning Centre, Kingston Ontario, 10 January.

1996 “The Rabbit God: A Chinese Homosexual Cult and its Suppression,” McGill University History Department Staff-Student Seminar, Montreal, 13 February.

Other Professional Activities

English language editor, *Lishi Renleixue (History and Anthropology)*, Guangzhou (2002 – present)

Book manuscript assessment for Cambridge University Press; Chinese University of Hong Kong Press; Harvard University Press; Hong Kong University Press; McGill-Queens University Press, Stanford University Press; University of British

Columbia Press.

Article manuscript assessment for *Canadian Journal of History*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *European Journal of East Asian Studies*, *International Journal*, *Late Imperial China*, *Lishi Renleixue (History and Anthropology)*, *Minsu qiyi (Journal of Chinese Ritual, Theatre, and Folklore)*

Grant application assessment for Chiang Ching-kuo foundation (Taiwan), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada); University of British Columbia; Israel Science Foundation; Research Grants Council (Hong Kong)

External reviewer for tenure (3) and Phd dissertations (3) for universities in the U.S. and Asia

Co-organizer, "Mapping New Directions in Chinese Local History," Workshop at Harvard University, May 28-30, 2008

Co-organizer, "The Cold War in Asia: Beyond Geopolitics and Diplomacy," Conference at Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, November 1-2, 2007

Co-organizer, "Popular beliefs and local culture in China." Workshop in Fuzhou, PRC 10-12 July, 1996 (C)

Visiting Research Fellow, Quanzhou Maritime Museum (2000-2005)

Secretary-Treasurer, Canadian Asian Studies Association (1996-1998)

University Service (last five years)

2008 – present	Executive Committee, Fairbank Center for East Asian Research
2008 – present	Board of Freshman Advisers
2007 – present	Tutorial Committee, EALC
2008	Search Committee, Chinese/Korean Buddhism
2006	An Wang Post-doctoral fellowship, Pre-selection Committee
2004	Harvard-Yenching Visiting Scholars, Selection Committee