

RACHEL SILBERSTEIN (苏瑞丽)
Curriculum vitae

Lecturer, Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington
Rsilber@uw.edu

EDUCATION

2007–2014	DPHIL	UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, Merton College, Department of Oriental Studies, Chinese History and Culture. Dissertation: <i>Embroidered Figures: Commerce and Culture in the Nineteenth-Century Chinese Fashion System</i>
2002-2003	MA	SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES (SOAS), University of London Chinese Language and Linguistics (Merit)
2001-2002	HSK (7)	XI'AN FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY, Xi'an, China Chinese language studies
1995-1998	BA. (Hons) 2:1	UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER, Manchester English Literature and Philosophy

SPECIALIZATIONS

Late Imperial / Early Modern China; Textile History; Gender and Women's History; Visual and Material Culture; China in the Museum; Dress and Fashion.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles under review

2017 "A Vent for our English Woolen Manufacture: Selling Foreign Fabrics in Nineteenth-Century China" (Revise and resubmit from *Journal of Asian Studies*)

Articles published in peer-reviewed journals

2017 "Cloud Collars and Sleeve Bands: Fashion and Commercial Embroidery in Mid-Late Qing China"
Fashion Theory (March 2017), 21.3

2016 "Fashionable Figures: The Influence of Popular Culture on Nineteenth-Century Chinese Women's Dress"
Costume, The Journal of the Costume Society of Great Britain (Jan 2016), 50.1

2015 "Eight Scenes of Suzhou: Landscape Embroidery and Urban Courtesans in Nineteenth-Century China"
Late Imperial China (June 2015), 36.1

2011 “Biografía del collar nube” (Biography of the Cloud Collar), translated for publication
Indumenta: Revista Museo del Traje (Journal of the Costume Museum of Madrid), vol.2, 119-146

Chapters published in edited volumes

2018 “Fashioning the Foreign: Using British Woollens in Nineteenth-Century China”
(forthcoming) *Fashion, Identity, and Power in Modern Asia*, eds. Kyunghee Pyun and Aida Yuen Wong
(Palgrave Macmillan)

2010 “Dress of National Minorities in Yunnan province”,
Berg Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion, East Asia volume, ed. John Vollmer (Oxford: Berg
Publishers, 2010), vol.6. *East Asia*, pp.205-215

Book Reviews

Oct 2016 Review of China: Through the Looking Glass (Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2015)
CAA.Reviews, <http://caareviews.org/reviews/2755#.WCCJe-ErLJ8>

2012 Review of Hua Mei, *Chinese Dress* (Cambridge University Press, 2011)
Costume, The Journal of the Costume Society of Great Britain

TEACHING AND RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

April 2017 *Visiting Scholar*, Fashion & Art Design Institute
DONGHUA UNIVERSITY

July 2016-7 *Henry Luce Foundation / ACLS Postdoctoral Fellow*

July 2015-
June 2016 *Visiting Assistant Professor*, Department of History of Art and Visual Culture
RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

Spring 2013 -
Spring 2015 *Instructor*, Department of History of Art and Visual Culture
RHODES ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

Fall 2014 *Instructor*, Department of Art History
PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2017 Francis E. Malamy Fellowship Award, Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum,

2016 Association of Asian Studies, China & Inner Asian Council Short-term Research Travel
Award

2016 Smithsonian Institution Postdoctoral fellowship (declined)

2013 Pasold Research Fund Activity Grant, London

2012	Veronika Gervers Research Fellowship in Textile History, Royal Ontario Museum
2011 –2012	KS Scholarship in Chinese Art, University of Oxford
2007 –2011	British Inter-University China (BICC) Studentship for DPhil, University of Oxford
2006 –2007	Great Britain China Centre ‘Chinese Language Award’ for Classical Chinese study

INVITED TALKS

April 2018	“Fashionable Fripperies: the Decorative Trimming in 19 th -Century China” ASIAN ART MUSEUM
April 2018	“Fashioning Asian Identities” UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO, CENTER FOR ASIA PACIFIC STUDIES
April 2017	“China and Britain: War and Commerce in the Age of Opium”, Seminar BOSTON UNIVERSITY
July 2016	“Visualizing China’s Imperial Order in Eurasia (1500-1800)”, Symposium UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
Nov 2015	“China: Through the Lens of John Thomson (1868–1872)”, Symposium THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MUSEUM AND THE TEXTILE MUSEUM
Feb 2015	“Museums and Material Culture: East Asia”, Public roundtable conversation WEATHERHEAD EAST ASIAN INSTITUTE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Nov 2014	“Eight Scenes of Suzhou: Landscape Embroidery in Nineteenth-Century China” NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
Oct 2014	“Eight Scenes of Suzhou: Landscape Embroidery and Urban Courtesans in Nineteenth-Century China”, Seminar UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, Department of History
May 2012	“Figures in Gardens: Female Identity and Embroidered Narrative in Nineteenth-Century Chinese Women’s Dress”, Research Symposium ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART / VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM

INVITED WORKSHOPS

Nov 2016	“The Artist’s Hand: Technology in Practice” HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Department of History of Art and Architecture
Sept 2016	“Material Culture in Qing China” JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, Department of History

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- May 2016 “Text and Labor in Asian Manufacture”
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, Department of History
- May 2016 “Women at Work: Reconstructing *Niigong* through Text and Image”
SWARTHMORE COLLEGE, Department of History

CONFERENCES

Panels organized

- July 2016 Panel organizer and presenter:
“Fabrics of Empire: Materializing Local Cultures in a Globalized World”
Dressing Global Bodies: Clothing Cultures, Politics and Economies in Globalizing Eras, c. 1600s-1900s, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada
- March 2014 Panel co-organizer and presenter
“Fashioning textiles, Fabricating Fashion: The Technology of Cloth and Clothing from Seventh to Twentieth Century China”
Association of Asian Studies, Annual Conference, Philadelphia

Papers presented

- April 2018 “Competition in Community: Brand-names, Loom-marks, and Commercial Intellectual Property in Late Qing – Early Republic China”
Association of Asian Studies, Annual Conference, Washington DC
- Feb 2017 “New Stitches: Women and Needlework in Republican China”
Refracting Gender in Modern China, Postgraduate Workshop, SOAS
- March 2016 "Fashioning the Foreign: Woollen Fabrics in Late Qing Chinese Dress" in panel:
“Radical Fashion: Social Changes and Dress Reform in Modern Asia”
Association of Asian Studies, Annual Conference, Seattle
- July 2015 "Fashioning the Foreign: Woollen Fabrics in Late Qing Chinese Dress", in panel:
“Asian Textiles in the Global Fashion System: Trade, Technology, and Transmission”
Institute for Historical Research, Anglo-American Conference of Historians, London
- July 2015 “Patterning an industry: Embroidery patterns, producer networks and regional styles in Qing China” in panel: “Transfers of Technology: Exchanging knowledge in visual and material culture”
International Conference on the History of Science in East Asia, Paris
- Sept 2014 “Word and Image in Qing Dynasty Embroidery”
Textile Society of America, biannual conference, Los Angeles
- Feb 2013 “Vicious Purple” or a “First-Class Dye”? Finding a Place for the Foreign in Chinese Dress” in panel: “Reconsidering the Nineteenth Century through Asian Art”

College Art Association, annual conference, New York

- Oct 2012 “Fashionable Figures: the Narrative of ‘The Insignia-laden Bed’ (*Manchuang hu* 滿床笏) in Late Qing Embroidery” in panel: “Moving Fashions. Stories of Bodies, Accessories, and Clothes in Chinese Culture”
New England Association of Asian Studies, annual conference, Amherst
- Sept 2012 “*Gusu bajing* 姑蘇八景: Women, Tourism and Embroidered Dress in Nineteenth-century Suzhou” in panel: “Behind the Scenes (*jing* 景) of Qing China: Four Approaches to Landscapes”, *British Association of Chinese Studies*, annual conference, Oxford

CURRENT PROJECTS

I am currently finishing preparing a book-length manuscript based on my doctoral dissertation (advance contract University of Washington Press). I am also finishing two articles which examine the reception of British woollens in nineteenth-century China, demonstrating demand from Chinese consumers and exploring the uses and understandings of this foreign textile during the late Qing. Finally, I have begun a new project which explores the transformation of needlework in twentieth-century China through the introduction of European needlework styles, missionary workshops, export industries, embroidery schools, and women’s periodicals.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer: *Journal of Early Modern History*, *CAA.Reviews*, *Journal of Design History*, *Inner Asia*

TEACHING AREAS

Visual / Material Culture in Chinese / East Asian History
Histories and Theories of Fashion, Dress and Textiles
Women and Gender in China / East Asia
Collecting and Displaying China / East Asia

LANGUAGES

Advanced proficiency in Modern Chinese and Classical Chinese
Basic proficiency in Russian and French

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association of Asian Studies, USA (2010-present)
British Association of Chinese Studies, UK (2007-present)
Textile Society of America, USA (2010-present)