ULUĞ KUZUOĞLU, PhD

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of History, History Department, Washington University in St. Louis (Since 2025)

Assistant Professor of History, History Department, Washington University in St. Louis (2020-2025)

MA Program Coordinator and Lecturer in Discipline, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University (2018-2020)

EDUCATION

PhD, History Department, Columbia University, 2018 (*with distinction*)

MPhil, History Department, Columbia University, 2014 (*with distinction*)

MA, History Department, Columbia University, 2013

MA, History Department, Boğaziçi University, 2010

BA, Department of Sociology, Boğaziçi University, 2007 *(with honors)*

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Codes of Modernity: Chinese Scripts in the Global Information Age (New York: Columbia University Press, 2023 [c2024])

The Informatic Fix: Systems Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, and the Origins of Data Technocracy in China (in progress)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Abstract Code: Unicode and the Birth of the Global Neoliberal Information Economy" (Forthcoming in *Journal of Asian Studies* as part of a special edition on "Unicode and the Humanities")

"Wireless Nation: Infrastructural Politics of Tibetan and Mongolian Morse Codes in China" (Forthcoming, *Modern Asian Studies*)

"Basic Chinese: Cognitive Management, Communication Engineering, and Mass Literacy in China," *Modern Chinese Language and Culture* 34/1 (2022): 1–31.

"The Chinese Latin Alphabet: A Revolutionary Script in the Global Information Age," *Journal of Asian Studies* 81/1 (2022): 23–42.

"Capital, Empire, Letter: Romanization in Late Qing China," *Twentieth-Century China* 46/3 (2021): 223–246.

"Telegraphy, Typography, and the Alphabet: The Origins of the Alphabet Revolutions in the Russo-Ottoman Space," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 52/3 (2020): 413–431.

"Codebooks for the Mind: Dictionary Index Reforms in Republican China, 1912–1937," *Information & Culture* 53/3-4 (2018): 337–366.

"Chinese Cryptography: The Chinese Nationalist Party and Intelligence Management, 1927-1949," *Cryptologia* 42/6 (2018): 514–539.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

"Indexing Systems," in *Literary Information in China: A History*, edited by Jack Chen, Anatoly Detwyler, Xiao Liu, Christopher Nugent, and Bruce Rusk (New York: Columbia University Press, 2021): 25–35.

"Ottomans' Xinjiang: Chinese Turkestan — Mutual Perceptions and Impact." In *Türkiye'de Çin'i Düşünmek (Pondering China in Turkey)*. Edited by Selçuk Esenbel, İsenbike Togan and Altay Atlı (Istanbul: Boğaziçi Üniversitesi Yayınları, 2013). (Turkish)

Book Reviews

"The Chinese Computer: A Global History of the Information Age, by Thomas S. Mullaney," *Journal of Chinese History* (2025).

"Seeking News, Making China: Information, Technology, and the Emergence of Mass Society, by John Alekna," *Journal of Asian Studies* 84/1 (2025): 239–241.

"The Sounds of Mandarin: Learning a National Language in China and Taiwan, by Janet Y. Chen," *China Quarterly* 257 (March 2024), 298–299.

"The Stone and the Wireless: Mediating China, 1861-1906, by Shaoling Ma," *Journal of Cultural Politics* 19/2 (2023): 291–293.

"Banished to the Great Northern Wilderness: Political Exile and Re-education in Mao's China, by Ning Wang," *Pacific Affairs* 91/4 (Dec. 2018): 797–799.

Popular Essays and Online Contributions

"Alphabet and Modernity in China," *Toplumsal Tarih* (Nov. 2020, in Turkish).

"The Eurasian Origins of Pinyin," *International Institute for Asian Studies Newsletter, Leiden University* (Oct. 2019).

"Hunt for Words III: *Ren'ai* and *Xinyi* Streets," *Çin Hakkında Her Şey* (Mar. 2016, in Turkish).

"Hunt for Words II: A History of 'Brainwashing' in China," *Çin Hakkında Her Şey* (Mar. 2016, in Turkish).

"Hunt for Words I: *Dihua,*" *Çin Hakkında Her Şey* (Feb. 2016, in Turkish).

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS

AY 2024-25   Luce/ACLS Early Career Fellowship in China Studies – Long-term
             WUSTL Center for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship [Declined]

AY 2023-24   WUSTL Arts & Sciences Faculty Research Grant and Roland Grimm Travel
             Award for Summer 2024 [Deferred to Summer 2025]

AY 2022-23   The Center for Chinese Studies Research Grant, Taipei, Taiwan

AY 2021-22   SPEED Grant for Developing "Asia in St. Louis: An Interactive Mobile App"
             WUSTL Center for the Humanities Grant for "Augmented Reality Reading
             Group"

AY 2020-21   WUSTL Center for the Humanities Faculty Research Grant
             University of Virginia Rare Book School Discretionary Award
             WUSTL Redefining Doctoral Education (RDE) Grant for AR/VR Development

AY 2017-18   Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship
             Columbia University Harriman Russian Studies Research Grant
             Columbia University Weatherhead East Asia Institute Doctoral Training Grant

AY 2016-17   Mellon Interdisciplinary Fellowship at INCITE (Declined)
             Heyman Center Fellowship for Faculty and Post-MPhil Graduate Students

AY 2015-16   The Center for Chinese Studies Research Grant, Taipei, Taiwan

AY 2014-15   Chinese Government Scholarship for Visiting Scholars (Peking University)
             Social Science Research Council - International Dissertation Research Fellowship
             Columbia University GSAS Travel Grant (Declined)
             Henry Luce Foundation/ACLS Predissertation Travel Grant

AY 2013-14   Columbia University Weatherhead East Asia Institute Fellowship
             Columbia University Weatherhead East Asia Institute Doctoral Training Grant
             Kathryn Davis Fellowship for Middlebury Japanese Language Education

AY 2011-12   Columbia University Richard Hofstadter Fellowship for Doctoral Studies

AY 2009-10   Confucius Institute Scholarship for Advanced Scholars, Shanghai University

AY 2008-09   Asia Education Forum Chinese Language Scholarship, Hunan Normal University

AY 2007-08   TUBITAK Scholarship for MA Studies in History at Boğaziçi University (until
             2010)

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

Book Talk: *Codes of Modernity*. Department of the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, Peking University, 2025.

"Unicode: Abstraction and Accumulation in the Neoliberal Information Economy." Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2024.

Workshop for Jeffrey Weng's (National Taiwan University) Book Manuscript, *Out of Many Voices, One: Language in the Reinvention of the Chinese Nation*, held at Stanford University, 2024.

"The Digital Ideograph: An East Asian History of Unicode." Colloquium for Critical Chinese Humanities, Columbia University, 2024.

Book Talk: *Codes of Modernity*. Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University, 2024.

Book Talk: *Codes of Modernity*. Lingnan University, Hong Kong, 2024.

"Algorithmic Histories: Immersive Tech vs Board Games in the Classroom." World History Center, University of Pittsburgh, 2024

Book Talk: *Codes of Modernity*. World History Center, University of Pittsburgh, 2024.

Keynote Lecture on *Codes of Modernity*, Conference on the Cultural Lives of Science and Technology in the Sinosphere, WUSTL, 2024.

Book Talk: *Codes of Modernity*. History Department, WUSTL, 2024

Book Talk: *Codes of Modernity*. Hong Kong Polytechnic University, 2024.

Book Talk: *Codes of Modernity*. Asian Studies Center Talk Series, Boğaziçi University, 2023.

"Zhongguo wenzi yu quanqiu zixun shidai 中國文字與全球資訊時代." Center for Chinese Studies, National Library, Taipei, 2023.

"Chinese Scripts and the Global Information Age." School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, 2023.

"Global May Fourth," *Asia for Educators*, 2022 (recorded lecture for AFE).

"Asia and the Paris Peace Conference," *Asia for Educators*, 2022 (recorded lecture for AFE).

"Codes of Modernity." History Department, George Washington University, 2020.

Workshops/Conferences/Panels Organized

"Immersive Tech Week." Co-organized with Kristina Kleutghen and Seth Graebner as part of the Immersive Technology Collective Initiative, Washington University in St. Louis, 2023.

"Global May Fourth." Conference, co-organized with Lydia Liu and Anatoly Detwyler, Columbia University, 2019.

"Languages and Scripts in China: New Directions in Information and Communications History." Workshop, Columbia University, 2019.

"Writing, Technology, and Information Politics in East Asia." Panel at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., 2018.

"Infrastructure and Event in Global History." Panel at the American Historical Association Annual Conference (co-organized with Selim Karlitekin), Washington, D.C., 2018.

Graduate Students and Young Scholars Meeting, Columbia Global Center, Beijing (monthly meetings co-organized with Hyun Seung Cho), 2015.

"Borderlands and Indigeneity in Conversation." Co-organized with the History Department Graduate Students at Columbia University, 2013.

22nd Annual Columbia University East Asian Languages and Cultures (CU-EALAC), Graduate Student Conference, 2013.

Presentations

"Taxation, Policing, and the Origins of Chinese Computers in Taiwan." Science in the Public Square Workshop, Washington University in St. Louis, 2023.

"Reading Animals: Science and Ideology in Character Simplification, 1910s–30s." Association for Asian Studies Conference in Asia, Daegu, South Korea, 2023.

"Scripts and Global History." Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, 2023.

"Scripts qua Codes: Chinese Characters and the Information Age." Society for the History of Technology Annual Conference, New Orleans, 2022

Discussant for Lu Yi at "Chinese History in the Age of Big Data." WEAI, Columbia University, 2022.

"Translating Science: Conventions, Discourse, and Shaping a Distinctive Chinese Modernity, 1890–1940." Panel Discussant at the Midwest Conference of Asian Affairs, 2021.

"Mapping Ottoman Print Culture and 3D Canton." Talk delivered at the first Digital Transformation Initiative Lecture Series, Washington University in St. Louis, 2021.

"Codes of Modernity." Paper presented in SSRC InterAsia Academy: Integration and Disintegration in InterAsian Perspective. Singapore, 2021 (Zoom Conference)

"Psychogrammatology: Compressing Chinese Characters." Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference. Denver, 2020. (canceled)

"Economies on the Edges of Empire: China and Inner Asia from the Eighteenth to the Twentieth Centuries." Panel discussant at The American Historical Association's Annual Conference, New York, 2020.

"Forgotten Traces: The Arabic Script in the Chinese Alphabet." Middle East Studies Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, 2019.

"The Wireless Nation: Race, Code, and Infrastructure in the Chinese Frontiers." International History Workshop, Columbia University, 2019.

"The Techno-Politics of Tibetan and Mongolian Morse Codes in the 1930s." International Association of Tibetan Studies Tri-Annual Conference, Paris, 2019.

"Compressing Chinese: A Study in Infrastructural Linguistics." Compression Workshop, Max Planck Institute, Berlin, Germany, 2019.

"Alphabet and Revolution: Rethinking May Fourth Radicalism." Global May Fourth, Columbia University, 2019.

"Cognitive Management." Languages and Scripts in China: New Directions in Information and Communications History, Columbia University, 2019.

"The Typographic Mind in the Russo-Ottoman World: A Pre-History of the Chinese Latin Alphabet." Science and Society in Global Asia, Columbia University, 2019.

"Chinese Indexing Systems." Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado, 2019.

"Wires, Scripts, and Brains in Late-Qing China." Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, 2019.

"Architects of the Page: Simplification of Chinese Characters." How International, Transnational, and Global History Conquered the World: Conference in Honor of Adam McKeown, Columbia University Heyman Center, 2018.

"Information and Mental Labor in China." Modern Chinese History, University Seminar, Columbia University, 2018.

"Indices and Dictionaries in Modern China." The Literary History of Information Management in China, Columbia University, 2018.

"China in a Network of Nations? Writing, Language, and Information in Eurasia, 1860-1930." Eighth Annual Symposium for the Consortium for Asian and African Studies (CAAS), International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, Netherlands, 2017.

"Information Politics and the Chinese Latin Alphabet, 1928-1936." Third Annual Critical Humanities Workshop, Duke University, 2017.

"Late Qing Singularity: Telegraphic Wires, Phonetic Scripts, and Cerebral Consciousness in China." Qing History Symposium, UCLA, 2017.

"Revolutionary Informatics." Heyman Center Fellows Workshop, Columbia University, 2016.

"Intelligence Tests, Linguistic Engineering, and Mass Literacy in China, 1920s." Beyond Circulation (Workshop), Columbia University, 2016.

"Socialist Infotopia: First Turcology Congress and Latinization across Eurasia." ICLS Graduate Conference, Columbia University, 2016.

"Cognitive Management and the Birth of Psychogrammatology in China." World Scripts: Concepts and Practices of Writing from a Comparative Perspective, Cape Town, South Africa, 2015.

"Politics and Possibilities: Alternative Political Visions in Republican China." Panel discussant at the 23rd CU-EALAC Graduate Student Conference, Columbia University, 2014.

"Portable Identities: Self and Nationhood Across Frontiers." Panel discussant at the 22nd CU-EALAC Graduate Student Conference, Columbia University, 2013.

"The Ottomans, China, and Xinjiang: Relations and Mutual Perceptions from the 1870s to 1918." Asian and Central Eurasian Studies Center, 18th Annual Conference, Indiana University, 2011.

"Tatars in Xinjiang – The Path to Globalization at the Turn of the Century." Bridge Conference, Bristol University, UK, 2010.

"Ottomans' Xinjiang: Chinese Turkestan — Mutual Perceptions and Activities." Boğaziçi University Asian Studies Center, Turkey, 2010.

Media Coverage and Interviews

Shu Wan, Book Interview on *Codes of Modernity*, *New Books Network* (8/20/2024)

"Çince Karakter, Osmanlıca Hurufat: Dünyada Yazı, Dil ve İdeoloji," *Başka Ülke*, Youtube Channel (1/20/2024): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwdX-4hKBkE

Josh Valeri, "Alphabet Revolutions," *The Ampersand* (11/28/2023)

COURSES TAUGHT

Graduate Seminars

| L22 5376 | "Science and Technology in East Asia" |
| L22 5471 | "Literature of History" |

"Methodology and Historiography for MA Candidates in East Asian Studies" (Seminar, Columbia University)

Undergraduate Courses

L22 4887	"Digital Frontiers of History"
L22 4415	"Technology, Empire, and Science in China"
L22 3614	"Artificial Intelligence: The Mind and the Machine"
L22 3166	"A History of Modern China (1800–2000)"
L22 361	"A History of Information"
L22 3169	"Cyborgs in History: From Cybernetics to Artificial Intelligence"
L22 301T	"Asia in St. Louis"
L22 39UK	"Mao and the World"

"Introduction to Chinese Civilization" (Lecture, Columbia University)

"History of Early Modern China (Yuan-Ming-Qing)" (Lecture, Columbia University)

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Member of the Strategic Planning Committee, 2023-24

Member of the Advisory Council, 2023-24

Organizer of Wednesday Colloquium Talks, Fall 2022

Member of the Strategic Planning Committee, 2021-22

Member of the Advisory Council, 2021-22

Member of the Graduate Studies Committee, 2021-22

PhD Committees:

> Chang Xu, "Medicine on the March: Military Institutions, Medical Networks, and the Qing Empire, 1644-1800," History Department, Washington University in St. Louis, 2024.
>
> Haochen Wang, "Policing in Beijing," History Department, Washington University in St. Louis, 2023.
>
> Xin Yu, "Publishing at the Grassroots: Print Culture and Rural Society in Early Modern China," History Department, Washington University in St. Louis, 2022.

Comprehensive Exams:

> Pei-hsu Lin (Modern Chinese History, 2024)
> Ping Ting (Modern Chinese History, 2024)

Senior Thesis Advisees:

> Nkemjika Emenike, "'Arise! those who refuse to be slaves.' Coalition between the Black Panther Party and the Chinese Communist Party in the 1960s and 1970s," History Department, 2023.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Co-Principal Investigator for "Immersive Technologies Collective," Incubator for Transdisciplinary Futures, 2022-25.

Executive Committee Member, Center for the Humanities, since 2023.

Member of "Science in the Public" Research Cluster, since 2023.

"Global Qing and Its Legacies," Leung Tung Peter & Lin Young Lecture Series, co-organized with Zhao Ma, Washington University in St. Louis, since 2021.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Associate Editor, *Twentieth-Century China* (since 2025)

Board Member of the Chinese American Collecting Initiative, Missouri Historical Society

Reviewer for *International Journal of Digital Humanities*

Reviewer for *International Labor and Working-Class History*

Reviewer for *International Journal of Middle East Studies*

Reviewer for *Twentieth-Century China*

Reviewer for *Modern Asian Studies*

Reviewer for *Modern Philology*

PEDAGOGICAL ACTIVITIES

"Paris Peace Conference and Global May Fourth," Workshop on teaching East Asian history in high schools, organized by Asia For Educators (February 2025)

"Hitting the Ground Running," Workshop Organized by WUSTL Arts & Sciences (November 2023)

"How to Write a Dissertation," Workshop Organized by WUSTL Graduate Students, Washington University in St. Louis (September 2020)

"Student Well-Being Workshop," Dept. of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University (October 2018, March and December 2019)

"PhD Applications Workshop," Dept. of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University (December 2018, April and November 2019)

"Professional Development Workshop," Dept. of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University (November 2018, March and November 2019)

"Academic Writing Workshop," Dept. of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University (September 2018 and September 2019)

"Workshop on Conference Presentation," Dept. of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University (January 2019)

"How to Choose a Thesis Topic," Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University (September 2019)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Turkish (Native Speaker), **English** (Near Native), **Modern Chinese** (Fluent), **Classical Chinese** (Advanced Reading), **Ottoman Turkish** (Advanced Reading), **Russian** (Advanced Reading), **Modern Japanese** (Intermediate Reading)

DIGITAL SKILLS

C# for Unity 3D Programming (Intermediate), ArcGIS (Intermediate), Python (Intermediate)