

# SIDA CHU

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## EDUCATION

**Wesleyan University**, Middletown, CT, USA Expected May 2026  
*B.A. in History and Theater, with a Minor in East Asian Studies. GPA: 4.06/4.00.*

Honor's Thesis (*in progress*): "Detrans Singapore: People, Places, Pleasure"  
Advisor: Jennifer Tucker

**Universiteit Utrecht**, Utrecht, the Netherlands  
**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**, Berlin, Germany  
**Univerzita Karlova**, Prague, the Czech Republic Fall 2023  
*Semester-long exchange program in women's, gender, and sexuality studies through Carleton College.*

Independent Field Research: "DIY Homemaking: Alternative Medicines, Trans(national) Magics"

Participant of the 2023 Network of Interdisciplinary Women's Studies in Europe (NOISE) Summer School, themed "Queer, Trans, Sexual Archives," at the Netherlands Research School of Gender Studies, Universiteit Utrecht.

**Raffles Institution**, Singapore December 2021  
*Singapore-Cambridge GCE A-Level. MOE Humanities Programme. RP: 90/90.*

## ACADEMIC AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

**Freeman Asian Scholarship**, Wesleyan University 2022–2026  
Sole recipient from China of the full-ride undergraduate scholarship, awarded annually to exceptionally able students from across East and Southeast Asia.

**Taylor Scholarship**, Department of History, Wesleyan University 2025  
Awarded annually to a history major for outstanding academic achievement, fine character, good fellowship, leadership, and service to the Wesleyan community.

**Khachig Tölölyan Prize for the Study of Diasporas & Transnationalism**,  
College of Letters, Wesleyan University 2025

**Davenport Study Grant**, Allbritton Center for the Study of Public Life, Wesleyan University 2025  
Research grant awarded for intellectual excellence and commitment to public affairs.

**Barbara-Jan Wilson Endowed Wesleyan Summer Grant**, Wesleyan University 2025

**Summer Language Scholarship**, College of East Asian Studies, Wesleyan University 2024 & 2025  
Full funding to undertake intensive Japanese language study in Japan for two consecutive summers.

**Fellow**, Allbritton Center for the Study of Public Life, Wesleyan University 2023–2025

**Winner, *Map the System Global Competition***, Saïd Business School, University of Oxford 2023  
First place among more than 900 teams worldwide for a multidisciplinary research project on the systemic causes of child marriage in Indonesia.

**Dean's List**, Wesleyan University All eligible semesters

**SMI Merit Scholarship**, Ministry of Education, Singapore 2017–2021  
Four-year full scholarship awarded to international students from China and ASEAN to study at the secondary and pre-university levels in Singapore.

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Research Assistant, **Department of History**, Wesleyan University May 2023–present  
With Ying Jia Tan, Associate Professor of History

*“Bridging Cultures: U.S.-China Connections in the Archives”*

- Examined archival collections across New England liberal arts colleges to trace missionary activity in 19th- and 20th-century China and reconstruct early experiences of Chinese and Japanese students in U.S. higher education.
- Co-presented findings at exploratory workshops sponsored by the New England Humanities Consortium (NEHC) and the Alliance to Advance Liberal Arts Colleges (AALAC).
- Currently supporting the development of a sourcebook on the transformation of U.S.-China relations through liberal arts education.

*Work on the Meng Chih and Tong Enzheng collections at the College of East Asian Studies (CEAS)*

- Cataloged and digitized portions of archival and book collections at CEAS.
- Assisted Sophie Volpp (UC Berkeley) and Lei Qiang (National Library of China) in locating correspondences between Hu Shih and Yuan Tung-li, National Peiping Library's longtime director.
- Created a bilingual online repository for archaeologist Tong Enzheng's science fiction novellas.

Research Assistant, **Department of Religion**, Wesleyan University May 2023–present  
With Mary-Jane Rubenstein, Dean of the Social Sciences and Professor of Religion

*“Sacred Skies: Religion and Space Exploration”*

- Collected and translated policy documents, propaganda materials, science fiction texts, and media commentary to analyze rhetorical shifts of China's space program from the Mao era to the present, which contributed to Prof. Rubenstein's presentation at the “Spirit of Space in China and the West” conference, Duke Kunshan University, June 2024, and a forthcoming book chapter.
- Reviewed interdisciplinary scholarship on the development of modern U.S. space sciences and surveyed critical perspectives from various spiritual and intellectual traditions to prepare an annotated bibliography.
- For the project's forthcoming edited volume (co-edited by Mary-Jane Rubenstein and Lance Gharavi; currently under review with Columbia UP), verified citations, included missing references, and copy-edited the full manuscript for clarity, accuracy, and style.

Research Assistant, **Department of English**, Wesleyan University  
With Rachel Heng, Novelist and Assistant Professor of English

May 2025–August 2025

*“Paradeisos: A Novel”*

- Conducted archival research on colonial Singapore from the 1870s to the 1920s to support Rachel Heng’s upcoming novel on coolie labor and the making of the Singapore Botanic Gardens.
- Located and analyzed administrative records, photographs, maps, guidebooks, commercial catalogues, medical journals, and taxonomies of tropical flora.
- Transcribed and translated oral history interviews on opium smoking, secret societies, and everyday life in Chinatown under British rule.
- Synthesized secondary literature on the histories of Chinese migration, cults and triads, physical and social hygiene, agriculture and industry, and botanical sciences in colonial Southeast Asia.

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, **RELI 317: “Colonizing Space: Exploration, Extraction, and Inhabitation”**

With Mary-Jane Rubenstein, Department of Religion, Wesleyan University

Fall 2025

- Co-designed the seminar’s syllabus; lead lectures and class discussions; hold weekly office hours and study sessions; provide written feedback on assignments; offer guidance on course readings and the final research project.

Writing Tutor, **Office of Academic Writing**, Wesleyan University

January 2024–present

- Work one-on-one with students on academic and creative writing, with experience supporting first-generation, multilingual, and international students.

Course Instructor, **CSPL 412: “Seeding Impact: Systems Thinking for Social Change”**

Allbritton Center for the Study of Public Life, Wesleyan University

Spring 2025

- Designed and taught a seminar on applied social science research through systems-thinking tools.
- Advised student teams in developing interdisciplinary research projects for the University of Oxford’s *Map the System* Global Competition; supervised the team that continued Wesleyan’s winning streak by securing the Global Championship for the second consecutive year.

### INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

“**‘Boon Tan’ and the Yellow Peril at the PCU.**” AAPI Alumni Celebration Lunch, Homecoming & Family Weekend. Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT. October 25, 2025.

“**Uncovering U.S.–China Connections through Special Collections, 1850–1950.**” New England Humanities Consortium Workshop, Northampton, MA. October 3, 2024.

With Mary-Jane Rubenstein. “**For All Humanity: Chinese Transvaluations of American Space Rhetoric.**” Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT. April 29, 2024.

**“No Longer Daughters: Child Marriage in Indonesia.”** Map the System Global Competition: Final Round, Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK. July 8–9, 2023.

### CREATIVE & CURATORIAL WORK

Exhibition Curator, **“Collecting China: Missionary Assemblages of a Distant World, 1844–1910.”** Pruzan Arts Center, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT. February 26–August 31, 2026.

Playwright, ***American Alien***. Produced by the SHADES Theater Collective. WestCo Café, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT. April 11–12, 2025.

Exhibition Curator, **“Boon Tan and the Yellow Peril at the PCU.”** Olin Memorial Library, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT. May 2023–January 2024.

Director, ***Crush! Crush! Crush!: An Original Musical***. Produced by the Department of Theater. Ring Family Performing Arts Hall, Wesleyan University. May 8, 2023.

Artist, **“Two Flowers”** and **“Barbie, Last Seen Injecting Herself with Hormones.”** *Dysphoria/Euphoria: An Exhibition*. The Projector Picturehouse, The Cathay, Singapore. November 11–20, 2022.

### LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Editor-in-Chief, ***The Wesleyan Argus***. Spring 2025.

Member, **the Director’s Council, Center for the Arts**, Wesleyan University. Fall 2025.

Member, **Majors Committee, Department of History**, Wesleyan University. 2024–2025.

Office Assistant, **College of East Asian Studies**, Wesleyan University. 2024–2026.

Global Marketing Intern, **Offices of Admission & Advancement**, Wesleyan University. 2024–2026.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Youth Mentor & Communications Lead, **Transbefrienders**, Singapore & remote. 2021–present.

Campaign Production Assistant & Event Staff, **Pink Dot SG**, Singapore. 2021–2022.

Youth Program Manager, **Oogachaga**, Singapore. January–August 2022.

Content Writer & Podcaster, **Chinese Rainbow Network**, San Francisco, CA (remote). 2021–2022.

### LANGUAGES

**Speaking:** Mandarin Chinese (native); Japanese (fluent); Cantonese (intermediate); Hokkien/Taiwanese (elementary); Malay (elementary).

**Reading:** Chinese (native); Japanese (near native); Classical Chinese (advanced); French (elementary).