

SIDA CHU

褚思達

2026–2027 Kim-Frank Multilingual Writing Fellow
Office of Academic Writing, Wesleyan University
Exley Room 176, 265 Church St, Middletown, CT 06457
she/her/hers | schu@wesleyan.edu | sidachu.com

EDUCATION

- 2026 B.A. *with University Honors*, History and Theater; Minor in East Asian Studies
Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, USA
GPA: 4.08/4.00; Phi Beta Kappa
- Honors Thesis: “Specters of the City: Transcribing Modern Singapore”
Advisor: Jennifer Tucker
- 2023 Academic exchange (via Carleton College), Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Universiteit Utrecht, Utrecht, the Netherlands; Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany; Univerzita Karlova, Prague, the Czech Republic
- Field Research Project: “DIY Homemaking: Alternative Medicines, Trans(national) Magics”
- Also attended 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.
- 2021 Singapore-Cambridge GCE A-Level; Ministry of Education Humanities Programme
Raffles Institution, Singapore

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

- University Honors**, Wesleyan University 2026
- Wesleyan’s highest academic award, bestowed yearly to less than 1% of graduates who have earned departmental High Honors and have performed with unusual distinction in an oral examination before the Committee on Honors; sole recipient in the class of 2026.
- Freeman Asian Scholarship**, Wesleyan University 2022–2026
- Full undergraduate scholarship awarded annually to exceptionally able students from East and Southeast Asian countries; sole recipient from China in the class of 2026.
- High Honors**, Departments of History and Theater, Wesleyan University 2026
- Butler Prize**, Department of History, Wesleyan University 2026
- For the best honors thesis in African, Asian or Latin American History.
- Dutcher Prize**, Department of History, Wesleyan University 2026
- The highest departmental award for academic excellence in History.

- GLASS Prize in Queer Studies**, Wesleyan University 2026
 ○ For the best research and writing on a subject in queer, trans, LGBT, or sexuality studies.
- Scott Prize**, College of East Asian Studies, Wesleyan University 2026
 ○ For excellence in the Japanese language.
- 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
 ○ Funding for the best proposal of a thesis on the study of diasporic or transnational issues.
- 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
 ○ Funding to undertake intensive Japanese language study in Japan for two consecutive summers.
- Student Fellow**, Patricelli Center for Social Entrepreneurship, Wesleyan University 2023–2025
- Global Winner, *Map the System* 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
- SM1 Merit Scholarship**, Ministry of Education, Singapore 2017–2021
 ○ Four-year full scholarship awarded to international students from China and ASEAN countries to study at the secondary and pre-university levels in Singapore.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Department of History, Wesleyan University May 2023–May 2026
 For 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–May 2026
For Mary-Jane Rubenstein, Dean of the Social Sciences and Professor of Religion

“Cosmic Missions: 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 for Prof. Rubenstein's presentation at the “Spirit of Space in China and the West” conference, Duke Kunshan University, June 2024, and her forthcoming book chapter.
- For the project's forthcoming edited volume (co-edited by Mary-Jane Rubenstein and Lance Gharavi; under contract with Columbia UP): reviewed interdisciplinary scholarship on the development of modern U.S. space sciences, surveyed critical perspectives from various spiritual and intellectual traditions, and prepared an annotated bibliography.
- Copy-edited the full manuscript of the edited volume for clarity, accuracy, grammar, and style; verified citations, collated references, cataloged images, and secured author permissions.

Research Assistant, Department of English, Wesleyan University May–August 2025
For Rachel Heng, Novelist and Assistant Professor of English

“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 Singapore's Botanic Gardens.
- Located and analyzed primary records such as colonial administrative documents, photographs, maps, guidebooks, commercial catalogues, and medical and scientific journals.
- Transcribed and translated oral history interviews on everyday life in British Straits Settlements.
- Synthesized secondary literature on the histories of Chinese migration, secret society, agriculture, and botany in colonial Southeast Asia.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Kim-Frank Multilingual Writing Fellow, Office of Academic Writing, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, July 2026–present.

- Lead cross-campus effort to navigate AI in academic writing, briefing faculty, staff, academic deans, and the Honors Board on international student support under Wesleyan's opt-out-by-default AI policy; research and weigh ambiguous instances where AI-generated text and non-native writing conventions look alike, advising on disciplinary decisions.
- Plan cross-cultural programming for large-scale events (orientation, International Education Week, etc.); steward campus partnerships with the Resource Center, Office of International Student Affairs, and Fellowships Office to coordinate student services.
- Build and lead training for a 20-person tutoring staff; set instruction standards that tailor to English language learners and multilingual students; case-manage one-on-one writing support for international and graduate students.

- Direct *Emulsify*, Wesleyan's only multilingual publication; work hands-on with contributors across languages on voice and craft.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Office of Academic Writing, Wesleyan University

- Co-Instructor, WRCT 400: "Ford Seminar" Fall 2026
- Instructor, Multilingual Specialist Training Fall 2026
- Writing Tutor January 2024–May 2026

Department of Religion, Wesleyan University

- Teaching Assistant for Mary-Jane Rubenstein, RELI 317: "Colonizing Space: Exploration, Extraction, and Inhabitation" Fall 2025

Allbritton Center for the Study of Public Life, Wesleyan University

- Co-Leader, CSPL 412: "Seeding Impact: Systems Thinking for Social Change" Spring 2025
- 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

"Specters of the City: Transcribing Modern Singapore," LGBTQ+ Alumni Reception, Reunion and Commencement Weekend, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, May 23, 2026.

"Insights from the Writers Room: Writing and AI," Center for Faculty Career Development, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, April 8, 2026.

"Detrans Singapore: An Archaeology of Pleasure," Senior Thesis Colloquium, Department of History, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, November 6, 2025.

"'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, Smith College, 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 Presentation, 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, March 4–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, Middletown, CT, 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 EXPERIENCE & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Editor-in-Chief, *The Wesleyan Argus*, Middletown, CT, December 2024–August 2025.

Youth Mentor & Outreach Coordinator, Transbefrienders, Singapore & remote, 2021–present.

Member of the Director’s Council, Center for the Arts, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, August–December 2025.

Global Marketing Intern, Offices of Admission & Advancement, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, June 2024–May 2026.

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

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

Events Volunteer, The T Project, Singapore, 2022–2023.

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

Youth Program Leader, Oogachaga, Singapore, 2022.

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

Educational Consultant Intern, Beaver Academy, New York, NY (remote), January–August 2022.

Production Assistant, Rainforest, Singapore, 2022.

English–Chinese Translator, Catalyse, under the Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE), Singapore, October 2020–July 2021.

LANGUAGES

Native fluency in English and Mandarin Chinese

Near-native proficiency in Japanese

Receptive proficiency in Cantonese and Taiwanese/Hokkien

Last updated: August 2026