

ANH SY HUY LE (李佑安)

Assistant Professor of History | Muhlenberg College

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2024–present	Assistant Professor of History, Department of History, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA.
2021–2024	Assistant Professor of History, Department of History, St. Norbert College, De Pere, WI.

EDUCATION

2021	Ph.D., History, Michigan State University. Dissertation: “Taming the Intractable”: Chinese Migrants, Inter-Asian Interactions, and the Transformation of French Rule in Colonial Vietnam, 1862–1940. Dissertation passed with distinction. Qualifying examinations passed with distinction in Modern China, Modern Vietnam, Migration History, and Indian Ocean World History.
2015	M.A., History, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York. Departmental Prize for Best Master’s Thesis.
2013	B.A., Economics and Asian Studies, Wabash College. Steven Schmutt Award for the most outstanding senior thesis in Economics.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Areas of specialization: Modern China; Modern Vietnam; East and Southeast Asia; Sino-Southeast Asian connections; Chinese diasporas and global migration; French colonial Indochina; empire, colonialism, and maritime Asia.

Areas of competence: Asian American history; comparative empires; transnational and global history; mobility and migration studies; political economy and colonial capitalism; history of science, medicine, public health, and disease; digital and spatial humanities.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2017	Spatial Humanities, Digital Humanities @Guelph Summer Workshop, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.
2014	Advanced Chinese, Kathryn Davis Language Fellow, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT.
2012	Intermediate Chinese, Ancient Chinese Philosophies, and Modern Chinese History, Fudan University, Shanghai, China; supported by the G. Michael Dill Fund, Wabash College.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Manuscript

In preparation	<i>South Sea Crossings: Chinese Diaspora, Modern China, and the French Empire, 1862-1940</i> (manuscript completed)
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Manuscripts Under Review

Under review	“Diasporic Ecologies and Socialist Fracture: Ethnic Chinese and Diplomatic Disputes in the 1979 Sino-Vietnamese Border War,” <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i> .
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Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

2023	“From Subjects to Subversives: Chinese Migrants and the Evolution of the French Colonial Surveillance Regime in Saigon-Cholon, 1874–1930.” <i>Asian Ethnicity</i> 24, no. 4: 544–570. Special Issue: “Co-Producing Ethnicity in Urban Asia.”
2023	“Mortal Remains as Biohazard: Chinese Repatriation, Plague Epidemiology, and Biopolitical Governance in Sài Gòn–Chợ Lớn, 1890–1898.” <i>Journal of Vietnamese Studies</i> 18, nos. 1–2: 15–60. Special Issue: “Biopolitical Vietnam.”
2019	“The Studies of Chinese Diasporas in Colonial Southeast Asia: Theories, Concepts, and Histories.” <i>China and Asia: A Journal in Historical Studies</i> 2: 225–263.
2018	“The ‘Orientals’ Strike Back: Displacement, Diasporic Resistance, and Spatial Justice in the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire.” <i>Journal of Migration History</i> 4: 134–160. Special Issue: “Cities and Overseas Migration in the Long Nineteenth Century.”

Book Chapter

- 2021 “Trade, Colonialism, and Diaspora: Chinese Rice Commerce and the Transformation of Saigon-Cholon in Colonial Vietnam.” In *Chapters on Asia: Selected Papers from the Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowships* (2020). Singapore: National Library Board.

Book Reviews

- 2023 Review of Nu-Anh Tran, *Disunion: Anticommunist Nationalism and the Making of the Republic of Vietnam*. *Journal of Asian Studies* 82, no. 4: 771–773.
- 2018 Review of Christina Firpo, *The Uprooted: Race, Children, and Imperialism in French Indochina, 1890–1980*. *Southeast Asian Studies* 7, no. 2: 262–264.
- 2017 Review of Micheline Lessard, *Human Trafficking in Colonial Vietnam*. *Journal of Vietnamese Studies* 12, no. 4: 106–110.
- 2014 Review of Sho Konishi, *Anarchist Modernity, Cooperatism and Japanese-Russian Intellectual Relations in Modern Japan*. *Essay in History*, University of Virginia Department of History.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

External Research Fellowships and Grants

- 2026 LCWS/Eisenhower Institute Summer Research Fellowship, The Eisenhower Institute, Washington, DC.
- 2023 Franklin Research Grant (\$6,000), American Philosophical Society.
- 2019 Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowship, National Library Board, Singapore.
- 2018 Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.
- 2018 Bernadotte E. Schmitt Grant for Research in European, African, or Asian History, American Historical Association.
- 2018 Research Fellow, Research Cluster on Asian Migration, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore; supported by the Henry Luce Foundation.
- 2017 Henry Luce Foundation Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies Program in China Studies.
- 2017 Walker Hill Pre-Dissertation International Research Fellowship, International Studies Center, Michigan State University.
- 2017 Corey/Thompson Endowed Research Fellowship, College of Social Sciences, Michigan State University.
- 2017 Summer Research Fellowship Initiatives, Department of History, Michigan State University; awarded for three consecutive summers.

Fellowships Awarded and Declined

- 2021 Postdoctoral Fellow of Global Asia, New York University Shanghai (declined).
- 2021 Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Fellowship, Taipei, Taiwan (declined).
- 2015 Richard H. and Hester V. Cox Fellowship, East-West Center, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (declined).

Institutional Fellowships and Professional Development Grants

- 2025 Faculty Development Teaching Fellowship (\$2,000), Muhlenberg College, for the development of a new First-Year Seminar, “East Asia in Ten Words.”
- 2022 Faculty Development Summer Research Fellowship with Collaborative Undergraduate Research Component (\$2,500), Office of Faculty Development, St. Norbert College.
- 2021–2022 Writing Across the Curriculum Inaugural Fellowship (\$2,000), Humanities Division, St. Norbert College.
- 2021–2022 Global Fellow Program Fellowship (\$2,000), Center for Global Engagement, St. Norbert College.

Prizes and Academic Awards

- 2020 College of Social Science Graduate Student Research Award, Michigan State University, for innovative work on Chinese migrants and their economic and social worlds in colonial and postcolonial Vietnam.

- 2017 Percy Buchanan Best Paper in Southeast Asian History, Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Association for Asian Studies.
- 2016 Shao-Chang Lee Best Paper in East Asian Studies, Asian Studies Center, Michigan State University.
- 2016 Vietnam Studies Group Best Paper Prize, Vietnam Studies Group, Southeast Asia Council, Association for Asian Studies.
- 2016 Jeff Rooney Paper Prize for the best graduate seminar paper of the year, Department of History, Michigan State University.
- 2016 Dr. Kwan-Wai So Memorial Scholarship Fund in History, Department of History, Michigan State University, awarded to a graduate student with an exemplary record and recognized effectiveness as a teacher in Asian history.
- 2014 Kathryn Davis Fellowship for Peace, Advanced Chinese Studies, Middlebury College.

Travel Grants

- 2023 Faculty Development Travel Grant, St. Norbert College, for the 2023 Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference.
- 2022 Faculty Development Travel Grant, St. Norbert College, for the 2022 Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference.
- 2019 Vietnam Studies Group Travel Grant for the 2020 Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference.
- 2018 Association for Asian Studies LDAC Travel Grant for Annual Conference Participation.
- 2018 American Historical Association Council Annual Meeting Travel Grant.
- 2016 Council of Graduate Students Conference Travel Award, College of Social Sciences, Michigan State University.

INVITED TALKS, WORKSHOPS, AND PUBLIC LECTURES

- 2026 “Thinking with Southeast Asia.” Invited Roundtable, American Association for the History of Medicine Annual Meeting, Buffalo, NY, June 3–7.
- 2025 “The Ethnic Chinese in Vietnam: A Longue Durée Perspective.” Invited Roundtable, Brown China Summit, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University, Providence, RI, October.
- 2023 “From Rice Commerce to a Franco-Chinese High School: Transnational Perspectives on Sài Gòn-Chợ Lớn’s Urban Revolution in Colonial Vietnam.” Public Lecture, Fulbright East Asia Society, Fulbright University Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City, April 6.
- 2023 “War Dead Identifications and the Politics of Reconciliation: The Case of the Vietnam War.” Invited Roundtable sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace, Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, March 16–19.
- 2023 “Dr. Martin Luther King’s Cosmopolitanism: Afro-Asian Solidarity, Decoloniality, and Third-World Consciousness.” Public Lecture, “Beloved Community” Faculty Scholarship Symposium in Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, St. Norbert College.
- 2022 “Reflections on the 2021 Burmese Coup: Perspectives from Vietnam and ASEAN.” Great Decisions Lecture Series, Center for Global Engagement, St. Norbert College, April 18.
- 2021 “Policing Mobile Subjects: The French Migration Regime and Repertoires of Chinese Migration in Urban Sài Gòn-Chợ Lớn, 1874–1930.” Workshop on Managing the Cosmopolitan City: Inter-Asian Strategies of Ethnic Administration, Past and Present, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, January 14–15.
- 2019 “Leaves Falling Back to Their Roots’: Chinese Migrants, Repatriation of Remains, and Colonial Modernity in French Cochinchina, 1892–1893.” Center for Global Asia’s Annual Conference on Asian Migration, New York University Shanghai, August 25–29.
- 2018 “Locating Cosmopolitan Saigon: Reading Urban and Socioeconomic Changes in Colonial Newspapers.” Salon Saigon, Contemporary Arts and Heritage, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, October 4.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Selected Presentations and Workshops

- 2025 “Entangled State-Building and Its Ramifications: Colonial Rice Tariff and the Chinese Diaspora in Southern Vietnam, 1862–1925.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Columbus, OH, March 13–16.
- 2023 “A Tale of Two Churches: Diasporic Ties, Accidental Links, and Chinese Catholic Networks in Colonial Saigon-Cholon, 1890–1930.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Boston, MA, March 16–19.
- 2022 “‘Southern Vietnam as a Chinese Colony’: Đào Trinh Nhất, State-Induced Migration, and the Perils of Chinese Migrants.” Panel: “The ‘South’ in Modern East and Southeast Asia: Inter-Asian Voices,” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Honolulu, HI, March 24–27.
- 2021 “‘Leaves Falling Back to Their Roots’: Chinese Migrants, Repatriations of Remains, and Colonial Modernity in French Cochinchina, 1892–1893.” Vietnam Studies Group-sponsored panel, “Biopolitical Vietnam,” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Seattle, WA, March 21–26.
- 2019 “The Chinese Rice Trade: Politics, Economic Networks, and Urban Growth in Colonial Saigon, 1862–1920.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Denver, CO, March 21–23.
- 2018 “Conceiving Modernity: Chinese Commerce, Political Economy, and the Question of Migration in Colonial Vietnam.” Graduate Workshop on Southeast Asian Studies, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, July 21–24.
- 2018 “Nativism Reconsidered: Chinese Rice Networks, Commercial Crisis, and Cosmopolitics in Colonial Saigon, 1918–1923.” Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Washington, DC, January 4–7.
- 2017 “Rice Trade Crisis and Nativism in 1919 French Cochinchina.” Annual Graduate Workshop on Southeast Asian Studies, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, July 16–19.
- 2016 “A Personalist Revolution: Refugee Resettlement and Regime of Migration in the First Republic of Vietnam, 1954–1956.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 17–20.
- 2016 “A Personalist Revolution: Refugee Resettlement and Regime of Migration in the First Republic of Vietnam, 1954–1956.” Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, October 14–16.

Panels Organized and Chaired

- 2025 Co-organizer, with Linh Vu, “Entangled and Estranged: Histories of Vietnam and the Sinosphere During the Long Twentieth Century.” Vietnam Studies Group-sponsored panel, Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Columbus, OH, March 13–16.
- 2023 Co-organizer, with Phi-Van Nguyen, “Christian Asians or Asian Christians? The Transnationality of Korean, Chinese, and Vietnamese Christians during the Fall of Empires and the Cold War.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Boston, MA, March 16–19.
- 2019 Co-organizer, with Seng Guo Quan, “Sites of Ruptures and Connections: Southeast Asia and Its Chinese Communities” (Parts I and II). Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Denver, CO, March 21–23.
- 2018 Organizer, “Populism, Nationalism, and Global Nativist Movements in the Long Twentieth Century.” Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Washington, DC, January 4–7.
- 2014 Organizer, “Rethinking the East and Southeast Asian Diasporas: Interdisciplinary Perspectives.” Annual Meeting of the New York Conference on Asian Studies, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY, September 18–20.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of record unless otherwise noted.

Muhlenberg College

- FYS 215: East Asia in Ten Words
- HST 124: Gender and Woman in Chinese History
- HST 269: Introduction to Traditional China
- HST 271: Modern China
- HST 276: Modern East Asia

HST 280: Asian America: A Transnational History
HST 285: Comparative Empires and Colonialism in Asia
HST 387: War, Society, and Culture: The Vietnam-American War

St. Norbert College

First-Year Seminar: Modern East Asia
HIST 122-A and HIST 122-B: Introduction to Modern East Asia
HIST 213: Historical Methodology: The Vietnam War Through Archival Documents
HIST 323: Global and Comparative History of Empires
HIST 361: Modern China
HIST 368: A History of Asian America
HIST 389: Special Topics in Asian History: The Vietnam and American Wars, 1900–Present

Michigan State University

Instructor of Record

HST 201: Historical Methods and Skills: Vietnam, From Colonialism to Independence

Graduate Teaching Assistant

ISS 335: National Diversity and Cultures, with Erin Graham
ISS 210: The History and Theory of Genocide, with Ronen Steinberg (online, asynchronous)
ISS 335: Sex Research and Social Science, with Aminda Smith (online, asynchronous)
IAH 203: Latin America and the World, with David Wheat
ISS 325: Wars and Global Revolutions, with Sean Forner
HST 150: World History Since 1500, with Charles Keith (online, asynchronous)
ISS 330: Social Science Perspectives on Japanese History and Culture, with Ethan Segal (online, asynchronous)
IAH 204: Asia and the World, with Sidney Xu Lu

State University of New York at Buffalo

Graduate Teaching Assistant

UGC 102: World Civilizations, 1500–Present, with Kristin Stapleton; guest lecture: “The International Anarchist Movements, 1814–1917”
UGC 101: World Civilizations, Pre-1500, with Donald McGuire; guest lecture: “History of the Silk Road”
UGC 102: World Civilizations, 1500–Present, with Hal Langfur; guest lecture: “Reaction and Revolution in Twentieth-Century China”
UGC 101: World Civilizations, Pre-1500, with Donald McGuire; guest lecture: “History of the Silk Road”

MENTORSHIP AND ADVISING

2026	Ednah Asiema '26, Muhlenberg College, senior thesis titled “Selective Mobilizations: Confucianism, State Power, and Feminist Resistance in China and South Korea,” achieved honor in International Studies.
2026	Collin Boldt '26, Muhlenberg College, senior thesis titled “Imperial Powers and Local Agency in the Founding of Macau,” achieved high honor in History.
2025	Celia Perry '26, Muhlenberg College, senior thesis titled “Chinese Friendship in Aiding Ghanaian Pan-Africanism,” achieved highest honor in History.
2024	Anna Claeirbaut '24, St. Norbert College, senior thesis titled “Northern Vietnamese Refugees and Catholic Nation-Building in the Republic of South Vietnam,” achieved honor in History.

PROFESSIONAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Professional Service

2025 Member, Best Book in Urban History Award Committee, Urban History Association.
Fellowships evaluator, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

Manuscript reviewer for *Modern Asian Studies*; *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*; *Journal of Chinese Overseas*; *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*; *The Middle Ground Journal*; *World History and Global Studies*; and *Journal of Vietnamese Studies*.

Institutional Service

2023–2026	Member, Writing Across the Curriculum Committee.
2023–2025	Member, International Studies Advisory Committee.
2022–2024	Member, Global Education Advisory Committee, St. Norbert College.
2022–2024	Member, Library Advisory Committee, St. Norbert College.
2022	Member, Steering Committee of the International Visiting Scholars Program, St. Norbert College and University of Wisconsin–Green Bay.
2022–2023	Faculty Affiliate, Norman Miller Center for Peace and Public Understanding, St. Norbert College.

LANGUAGES

Modern Vietnamese (Quốc Ngữ): native.

English: native-level professional fluency.

Chinese: Mandarin reading and speaking; traditional characters, elementary reading.

French: advanced reading.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Asian Studies; American Historical Association; Vietnam Studies Group; International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas; Global Urban History; World History Association.

REFERENCES

Charles P. Keith

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Aminda Smith

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Claire Edington

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