



The Memory Project

<http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/memoryproject/>

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Duke University Libraries
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The Project and the Archive

- Project leader: Wu Wenguang 吴文光
- Duke faculty:
 - Guo-juin Hong, Director of the Program in Arts of the Moving Image
 - Ralph Litzinger, Professor of Cultural Anthropology
 - Nicole Barnes, Professor of Chinese history
- Library team working with the archive:
 - Luo Zhou, Chinese Studies Librarian, and the **interns**
 - Kevin Smith, Duke's former Scholarly Communications Officer
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 - Matthew Farrell, Digital Record Archivist
 - Craig Breaden, Audiovisual Archivist
 - Naomi Nelson, AUL, Director of Rubenstein Library
 - Kristina Troost, Head of International & Area Studies
 - Ann Elsner, AUL for Administrative Services
 - Molly Bragg, Head of Digital Collections & Curation Services
 - Will Sexton, Head of Software Services

Summary of the Archive in Numbers

- **160** filmmakers participated since 2010
- **1100** villagers from 17 provinces and 2 province-level municipalities:
 - **628** interviews have transcripts and/or blogs
 - other interviews have only basic information of the interviewees
- **1117** videos
 - Length: 1 to 120+ minutes
 - 12 Formats: MPG, AVI, MTS, M2T, MP4, VOB, MOV, WMV, FLV, M2V, MKV and MPA
 - Subtitles: about 5% have Chinese subtitles
- **629** blogs: **89** have been translated into English
- **229** transcripts: some were supplied by the filmmakers, some were transcribed by student interns; **119** transcripts have been translated into English

Metadata Schema

- Descriptive Metadata:
 - Title: English & Chinese
 - Interview date
 - Location: province, city, county, village, in Chinese & pinyin
 - Interviewee: name in Chinese & pinyin, gender, age
 - Filmmaker/Interviewer: name in Chinese and pinyin
 - Subject: English & Chinese
 - Interview summaries: English & Chinese
- Technical Metadata
 - Item unique ID
 - Video: length, format, etc.

The Memory Project: Finding Aids

<https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/memoryprojectpilot/>

The Memory Project pilot video oral histories

Series: Interviews [All Series »](#)

Gaojia Village (昆明市富民县款庄乡高家村), 2010

Oral history interviews in this sub-series were conducted by Wu Wenguang. Gaojia Village is located in Yunnan Province.

Ni Meilan (倪美兰), 2010

Ni Meilan (b. 1942) lives in Gaojia Village, Fumin County, Kunmin City, Yunnan Province. In this interview, Ni narrates her experiences from 1958 to 1961 (during the Great Famine). She joined the Great Leap Forward and Great Collaboration at 16 years old. Without enough cattle for plowing, people did it themselves, and someone died because of that. Once Ni got caught stealing food; not only were her work points deducted, she was forbidden to eat for three days. In May 1959, her parents were poisoned to death because they were too old to work.

倪美兰1942年出生，1959年嫁到了云南省昆明市富民县款庄乡高家村。在这段口述中，倪老人讲述了她从1958年到1961年（大饥荒）的经历。她16岁参加大跃进，去搞大协作。当时犁地牛不够，让人去，有人活活拉犁拉死了。有一次她偷吃东西被发现，不仅工分被扣，还被罚三天不许吃饭。1959年5月，她的父母因为不是劳动力被人毒死了。

Ni Meilan unedited oral history

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Ni Meilan unedited oral history

[Play](#)

Ni Meilan transcript

[View](#)

English translation of Ni Meilan transcript

[View](#)

Translated by Lucy Dong, Claire Chen, Angela Zhou, Justin Du, Hannah Wang, and Michelle Chen

Interviewee: Ni Meilan, female, born in 1942, Xugugaojia Village, Kuanzhuang Town, Fumin

Moving Forward

- An updated finding aid: data normalization
- A digital collection in Duke Digital Repository (DDR)
- Challenges
 - Reformat video files for long-term preservation
 - The project continues with new materials deposited every year
 - Create more transcripts and translations

Thank you!