



JM Chris Chang
Program Officer in China Studies

**CHINA STUDIES IN 2026:
ACCESS, FUNDING,
CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Luce/ACLS
Program in China
Studies

LUCE/ACLS PROGRAM IN CHINA STUDIES

AUGUST 11, 2023

ACLS launches redesign of China Studies program

by denton.2@osu.edu at 8:38am

ACLS Launches Redesign of Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies



American Council of Learned Societies Launches Redesign of Program in China Studies to Reinvigorate and Diversify the Growing Field.



China Studies in an Uncertain Age

Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies Report



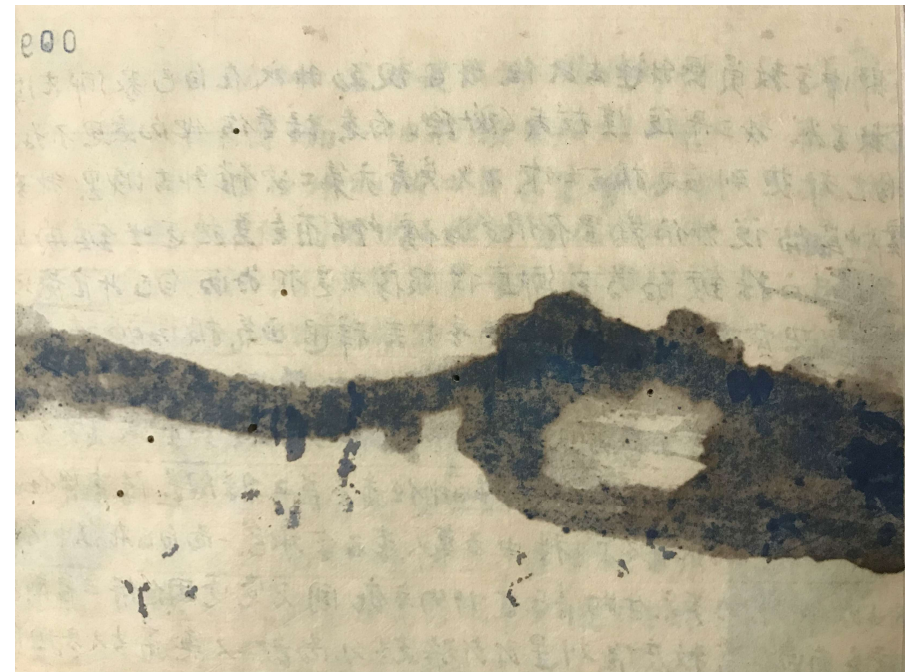
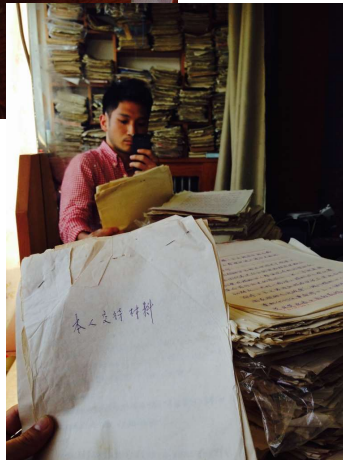
LUCE/ACLS PROGRAM IN CHINA STUDIES



Broadening the field of China Studies by amplifying diverse scholars and perspectives on Chinese and Sinophone cultures, societies, and histories

- **Early Career Fellowships in China Studies – Flexible and Long-Term**
- **Luce/ACLS Travel Grants in China Studies**
- **Luce/ACLS Collaborative Grant in China Studies**
- **Public Engagement Workshop Series**
- **China Studies Digital Mapping Project**

RESEARCH ACCESS: A FRAGILE FOUNDATION



LUCE/ACLS COLLABORATIVE GRANT IN CHINA STUDIES



Supporting the development of new models and collective resources that address pressing needs within the field of China studies.

- **What:** Proposed projects must aim to produce a scalable and sustainable output that contributes to the long-term infrastructure of the field
- **Max. Award:** \$120,000 - 150,000
- **Tenure:** 12-18 months
- **Deadline:** April
- **Who Should Apply:**
 - Project teams of up to six members, which may include scholars, artists, librarians, or technical experts
 - The PI must hold a PhD in the humanities or social sciences and be based at an institution in the US or Canada

MAPPING PROJECT WEBSITE

mapping-project.org

CHINA STUDIES DIGITAL MAPPING PROJECT

An initiative of the Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies

SEARCH HOME

DIRECTORY

ACCESS PARTNERS

DATABASE WORKFLOWS
COMING SOON

NEWS

ABOUT

LUCE/ACLS PROGRAM
IN CHINA STUDIES

RESOURCES FOR CHINA STUDIES

The China Studies Digital Archives Mapping Project is an ongoing initiative that aims to expand access to primary materials and source collections that are vital to the advancement of the China Studies field. The Mapping Project coordinates researchers, librarians, and database administrators to enhance discoverability and access to existing repositories and support the development of new digital resources.

The China Studies Digital Mapping Project is generously supported by the [Henry Luce Foundation](#) as an initiative of the [Luce/ACLS Program in China Studies](#).



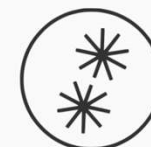
EXPLORE RESOURCES

Browse our directory of open databases and repositories for primary source research



LIBRARY ACCESS

Locate a library partner to access walk-in services for non-affiliated researchers



DATABASE WORKFLOWS

Coming soon - database workflows and AI tools for researchers and librarians

The Mapping Project welcomes collaboration. Click on the appropriate link to update or [suggest a resource for the directory](#), become an [access partner](#), or [get in touch](#).

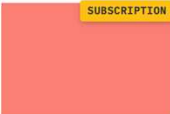



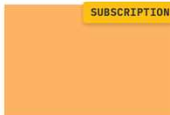



ACLS CHINA STUDIES LIBRARIES WORKING GROUP

FEB 2024 CONVENING

- **Joshua Seufert**, Princeton Libraries
- **Brian Vivier**, University of Pennsylvania Libraries
- **Chengzhi Wang**, Columbia University Libraries
- **Jidong Yang**, Harvard-Yenching Library
- **Luo Zhou**, Duke University Libraries



THE DIRECTORY

 <p>SUBSCRIPTION</p> <p>Academia Sinica Hanji wenxian ziliaoku 漢籍電子文獻資料庫</p>	 <p>SUBSCRIPTION</p> <p>Ancient and Early Medieval Chinese Literature Online:...</p>	 <p>SUBSCRIPTION</p> <p>Apabi China Digital Library 中华数字书苑</p>	 <p>SUBSCRIPTION</p> <p>Apabi Image Database (Tupianku) 图片库 (中华数字书苑)</p>
 <p>SUBSCRIPTION</p> <p>Archives Unbound</p>	 <p>OPEN ACCESS</p> <p>Archives of the Institute of Modern History/ Academia...</p>	 <p>SUBSCRIPTION</p> <p>Bianjiang Lishi Dili Shujuku 邊疆歷史地理數據庫 (Historical Geography of (China's) Borderlands)</p>	 <p>SUBSCRIPTION</p> <p>Bibliography of Asian Studies</p>
 <p>OPEN ACCESS</p> <p>Biblioteca Virtual de Macau</p>	 <p>OPEN ACCESS</p> <p>Bilingual Database and Annotated Bibliography of...</p>	 <p>SUBSCRIPTION</p> <p>Biographical Dictionary of Later Han to the Three...</p>	 <p>OPEN ACCESS</p> <p>Biographical Dictionary of Occupied China</p>

All Fields ▾ ✕ 🔍

CATEGORY

- Archival Material (3/39)
- Classical Texts (0/28)
- Academic Journals and Articles (Contemporary) (0/26)
- Subject Guides and Bibliographies (0/16)
- Images (0/13)
- Biographical Data (0/10)
- Maps and GIS (0/9)

[Show more](#)

Showing 3 of 212 resources [Share Search](#)

Category: Archival Material ✕ Search (All Fields): mao ✕

History of Contemporary Chinese Political Movements

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL **SUBSCRIPTION**

Primary sources only, three contemporary Chinese political movements; first the Chinese Cultural Revolution, second the Chinese Anti-Rightists Campaign, third the Great Leap Forward and the Great Famine. There is a fully functional search-engine in both Chinese and English, with data retrievable by author, subject, title, date, keywords, and (new!) locality (the documents themselves are in Chinese, naturally.) New features further include keyword highlight and toggle between Chinese and English. The Cultural Revolution database includes primary sources mostly written...

Maoist Legacy

ARCHIVAL MATERIAL **OPEN ACCESS** *University of Freiburg*

The Maoist Legacy Collection at the University of Freiburg holds several



MAPPING PROJECT

PRIMARY OUTCOMES

SURVEY

An online directory providing detailed information on open access databases, repositories, and subject guides for for China studies researchers

OPEN ACCESS WORKFLOWS

A knowledge base and guide to best practices for scholars and organizations seeking to digitize and preserve significant collections of primary material

COMMON ACCESS

A list of access partners offering walk-in services to non-affiliated scholars at key China studies libraries and research centers in North America

We welcome feedback or inquiries on the Mapping Project
at chinastudies@acl.org.

SNAPSHOT OF LUCE/ACLS CST GRANTS + FELLOWSHIPS

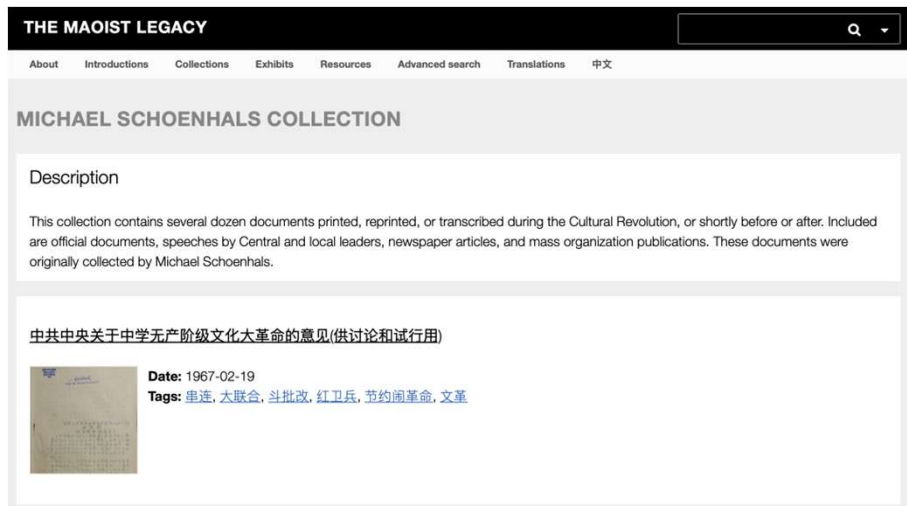
- Context: Fewer funding opportunities for graduate-students/early career scholars to pursue fieldwork (Fulbright IIE, SSRC, no longer offered)
- In the 2025-26 cycle, applications to the Luce/ACLS Travel Grant up 80% from two years prior. Early Career Fellowships were up 37%
- NEH losses mirror broader cuts across higher ed. For AY 2026-27, university institutions likely to pull back more to account for federal cuts to Title VI, FLAS, NEH, etc.
- NB: despite research environment, interest in China-based fieldwork appears to be growing rather than decreasing--close to 75% of travel grant applicants propose the PRC as a primary research sites

LOOKING AHEAD – THREE POINTS OF EMPHASIS FOR EC SCHOLARS

- Researcher as preservationist/archivist/curator
- Cross-domain collaboration and utilizing your librarian
- The changing technical infrastructure of China studies

NEW INFRASTRUCTURE

The Maoist Legacy Project



The screenshot shows the website for the Michael Schoenhals Collection. The header is black with the text "THE MAOIST LEGACY" in white. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: About, Introductions, Collections, Exhibits, Resources, Advanced search, Translations, and 中文. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area is titled "MICHAEL SCHOENHALS COLLECTION" and has a "Description" section. The description states: "This collection contains several dozen documents printed, reprinted, or transcribed during the Cultural Revolution, or shortly before or after. Included are official documents, speeches by Central and local leaders, newspaper articles, and mass organization publications. These documents were originally collected by Michael Schoenhals." Below the description is a section for a specific document titled "中共中央关于中学无产阶级文化大革命的意见(供讨论和试行用)". It includes a small image of the document, the date "Date: 1967-02-19", and tags: "Tags: 串连, 大联合, 斗批改, 红卫兵, 节约闹革命, 文革".

<https://www.maoistlegacy.de/db/>

The Grassroots Chinese History Archive



The screenshot shows the website for the Grassroots Chinese History Archive. The header is orange with the text "Grassroots Chinese History Archive" in white. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: About, Introductions, Browse Items, Browse Collections, and Browse Exhibits. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area is titled "Introduction to Tianjin Mass Organization Publications". The text in the main content area reads: "The materials in this collection were nearly all originally published or reprinted by mass organizations in Tianjin during the Cultural Revolution. Between 1966 and 1968, a vast array of mass organizations were active in Tianjin's Cultural Revolution. Their emergence, evolution, reorganization, alliances, and conflicts are crucial to understanding this historical period. Within individual danwei, opposing mass organizations often coexisted, driven by their differing attitudes toward local or higher authorities. Within each work unit (danwei), opposing mass organizations often coexisted, driven by their differing attitudes toward the authorities of the danwei or higher levels. For instance, at the Tianjin Public Security Bureau, the Tianjin Political and Legal Commune (QZ-002) and the opposing Headquarters of the Proletarian Revolutionary Rebels (QZ-134) represented rival factions. Mass organizations from different danwei also formed broader alliances, culminating in 1967 with two major citywide coalitions: the Five Congresses, aligned with Tianjin authorities, and the Preparatory Committee of the Tianjin Proletarian Revolutionaries' Great Union, which stood in opposition (QZ-247, QZ-266). In terms of form, the materials in this collection primarily consist of exposés (QZ-036, QZ-037), Red Guard tabloids (QZ-023, QZ-024), and open letters (QZ-014, QZ-103a). Even when published by different mass organizations, materials in the same category often adhered to a..."

<https://grassrootschinesehistory.ca>

NEW FUNDERS, NEW OPPORTUNITIES



Schmidt Sciences

About Focus Areas News & Resources

AI & Advanced Computing

Schmidt Sciences awards \$11M in grants to bring AI to humanities research

Dec 11, 2025

Playing Heaven: Remapping Early Modern Neo-Confucian Worlds with AI

Led by: Javier Cha, University of Hong Kong

The team will create DeepPast, an AI research assistant, to dig through digital archives for clusters of data that could lead to new insights, focusing on low-resource language texts from early modern East Asian history.

Connectivity and Individuality in Textual Traditions: Augmenting Retrieval for Eurasian Languages

Led by: Peter Bol, Harvard University

The team will train multilingual AI models to study Asian-language manuscripts, including those from low-resources languages like Tibetan. This will reduce overreliance on a small number of well-known translations and increase understanding and decrease bias in historical economic and political research.

In closing:

ACLS wishes to collaborate. Please reach out to:

- Suggest a resource for the directory
- Become an access partner
- Pitch a workshop or convening

contact: jmchang@acsls.org

THANK YOU!