

## Amy Zhang

Assistant Professor of Anthropology  
New York University

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## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2017-present New York University, New York, NY  
Assistant Professor of Anthropology
- 2016 - 2017 Harvard University, Cambridge, MA  
An Wang Postdoctoral Fellow in Chinese Environmental Humanities: Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies

## EDUCATION

- 2016 Yale University, New Haven, CT  
Ph.D. Joint Degree Program in the Department of Anthropology and School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
- 2012 MPhil Department of Anthropology and School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
- 2006 McMaster University, Hamilton, On  
MA. Globalization Studies: 20th Century Chinese history, Political and cultural theory, Political economy
- 2005 Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C.  
BA (Honors) English Literature Extended Minor in Philosophy and Ethics and Minor in History

## FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS & GRANTS

- 2016 Roy Rappaport Prize (best student paper in environmental anthropology)
- 2016 - 2019 Duke University Thompson Writing Program Fellowship (Declined)
- 2014 - 2016 Yale University East Asian Studies Prize Fellowship for Dissertation Writing
- 2012 - 2013 Social Science Research Council (SSRC) – International Dissertation Research Fellowship
- 2012 - 2013 National Science Foundation (NSF) – Cultural Anthropology and Science, Technology and Society Programs  
Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant
- 2012 - 2013 Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
- 2012 - 2013 Wenner-Gren Foundation Osmundsen Initiative, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
- 2012 - 2013 Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University – Dissertation Research Grant (Declined)
- 2011 Yale University Charles Kao Fund Research Grant
- 2010 - 2011 Yale University Council of East Asian Studies Pre-Dissertation Travel Fellowship
- 2010 Yale University MacMillan Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship
- 2009 - 2013 Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) – Doctoral Fellowship
- 2009 - 2012 Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) – Joseph-Armand Bombardier  
Canadian Graduate Scholarship (Declined)
- 2009 - 2011 Yale University MacMillan Doctoral Fellowship
- 2005 - 2006 Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Master's Scholarship
- 2005 Simon Fraser University Department of English Literature Philippa Polson Prize for best undergraduate honors  
thesis
- 1999 British Columbia Provincial Scholarship

## PUBLICATIONS

### Works in Progress

- In prep *Book Manuscript. Matter Transformed: Remaking waste in Post-Reform urban China*
- In prep Commentary. Article Forum on "Air Conditioned City" *City and Society*.
- Under Review "Spectacular Technology, Invisible Harms: Touring Guangzhou's waste infrastructures." *American Ethnologist*.
- Under Review Invited Book Review "How Nature Work." *Current Anthropology*
- Under Review "Microbial regeneration: Fermentation and organic waste in China." *Current Anthropology*

### Journal Articles

- 2020 "Circularity and Enclosures: Metabolising Waste with the Black Soldier Fly." *Cultural Anthropology* 35(1):74–103. <https://doi.org/10.14506/ca35.1.08>

- 2019 [Book Review] *Waste of a Nation: Garbage and Growth in India*. By Assa Doron and Robin Jeffrey. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2018. *The Journal of Asian Studies* 78, no. 3 (2019): 705–6.  
[doi:10.1017/S0021911819000986](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0021911819000986)
- 2018 "(Eco)Enzyme as catalyst" in the series "The Naturalization of Work." Theorizing the Contemporary. *Cultural Anthropology*. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/1506-eco-enzyme-as-catalyst>
- 2014 "Rational Resistance: Homeowner contentions against waste incineration in Guangzhou." Special feature: Contested Urban Spaces: Whose right to the city? *China Perspectives* 2014(2): 45-52.  
<https://journals.openedition.org/chinaperspectives/6458>

#### Book Chapters

- 2020 "The Black Soldier Fly: An indigenous innovation for waste management in Guangzhou." in *Can Science and Technology Save China?* Edited by Greenhalgh, Susan and Zhang, Li. Cornell University Press, 163-183. [doi:10.7591/j.ctvq2w1d7.11](https://doi.org/10.7591/j.ctvq2w1d7.11).
- 2017 "China". *Fueling Culture: 101 Words For Energy and the Environment*. Edited by: Imre Szeman, Jennifer Wenzel and Patricia Yaeger. Fordham University Press, 80-82.
- 2015 Claus, A., S. Osterhoudt, L. Baker, L. Cortesi, C. Hebdon, A. Zhang and M. Dove. "Disaster, Degradation, Dystopia: Political Ecologies & Epistemologies of Disasters." *Handbook of Political Ecology*, R. Bryant and S. Kim, eds. Edward Elgar Publishing, 291-304.
- 2016 Hebdon C., M. Lennon, F. Ludlow, A. Zhang and M.R. Dove. "Pedagogies of Climate Change" in *Anthropology and Climate Change: From Actions to Transformations*. 2nd Edition. Ed. Susan A. Crate and Mark Nuttall. Routledge, 388-398.
- 2014 "Elan Vital." *In To See Once More the Stars: Living in a post-Fukushima World*. Edited by: Daisuke Naito, Ryan Sayre, Heather Swanson and Satsuki Takahashi. New Pacific Press.
- 2012 "Human Waste." *Encyclopedia of Consumption and Waste: The Social Science of Garbage*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

#### Research reports and other media

- 2019 "Invisible Labouring Bodies: Waste work as infrastructure in China." *Made in China Journal*. Under Construction: Visions of Chinese Infrastructure. Vol 4. Issue 2. Apr-Jun. 98-102.  
<https://madeinchinajournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Made-in-China-02-2019.pdf>
- 2008 Zhang Amy et al. *China after the Olympics: lessons from Beijing: A Greenpeace assessment of the performance of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games*. Beijing: Greenpeace China.  
<http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/research/china-after-the-olympics/>
- 2004 "Landscapes." Review of *The Altered Landscape: works from the Carol Franc Buck collection at the Nevada Museum of Art*. Seven Oaks Magazine. 26: [http://www.sevenoaksmag.com/culture/10\\_altered\\_landscape.html](http://www.sevenoaksmag.com/culture/10_altered_landscape.html)

#### TEACHING

##### Department of Anthropology, New York University

- 2019 Work (Graduate)
- 2018 Anthropology of Science and Technology: Nature/Machine (Graduate)
- 2018-2020 Society Culture & Power (Undergraduate)
- 2017 Environmental Anthropology (Undergraduate)

##### Department of Anthropology, Yale University

- 2012 Teaching Assistant  
Chinese Culture, Society, and History ANTH 170b (Undergraduate)

##### School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University

- 2011 Teaching Assistant  
Anthropology of the Global Political Economy for Conservation and Development ANTH 561/F&ES  
877 (Masters seminar)

#### STUDENT ADVISING

- 2017-present Graduate Student Committees (PhD): Andrew Ashley, Hyemin Lee, Shayan Momin, Martin Miller, Saudi Garcia
- 2017-2019 Undergraduate Honors Thesis: 2018-2019 Michelle Sanders (Advisor) Joseph Blakely, Colin Kimberlin (Second Reader) 2017-2018 Dia Beggs (second reader)

#### EVENTS ORGANIZED

- 2017 - Science Studies Workshop, New York University.
- 2016 - 2017 Environmental Humanities Initiative Speaker Series: Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University.

- 2015 Co-organized Panel 4S: STS in the Global South, Part I and II. Nov 11-14. Denver, Colorado.
- 2015 *Ecologies of Urbanism in Asia II: Conference Organizer.* Feb 6-8. Yale University.
- 2014 Co-Organized Panel AAA: Waste, materiality and ecological imaginations: Addressing Social and environmental processes in burgeoning wastescapes. Dec 3-7. Washington, D.C.
- 2009 - 2016 *Environmental Anthropology Collective.* Department of Anthropology, Yale University. K. Sivaramakrishnan (coordinator, 2011-2012, 2014).
- 2010 - 2012 *China Anthropology Colloquium.* Department of Anthropology, Yale University (co-organizer 2010-2012).
- 2011 *Anthropology and History China reading group.* Yale University (co-organizer 2010-2011).

## PRESENTATIONS

### Invited Talks

- 2019 "Microbial regeneration: Fermentation and organic waste in China" April 11. Northwestern University.
- 2019 "Spectacular technology, invisible harms: touring Guangzhou's waste facilities." *Culture, Power, Boundaries Seminar.* Feb 04. Columbia University.
- 2019 "Ecological modernization and waste management in China." *Center for Urban Environments.* Jan 17. University of Toronto (Mississauga).
- 2017 "Reconfiguring the Black Solider Fly for urban waste management in Guangzhou." *Environmental History Working Group and Environment in Asia Series.* April 28. Harvard University.
- 2016 "Spectacular technology, invisible harms: touring Guangzhou's waste facilities." *Department of the History of Science.* Dec 12. Harvard University.
- 2016 "Spectacular technology, invisible harms: touring Guangzhou's waste facilities." Jan 27. Hamilton College.
- 2015 "Recycled Cities: Remaking Waste in Post-Reform urban China." Jan 26. Haverford College.
- 2014 "Trash and the City: International and Environmental Dimensions of the Garbage Crisis in Postsocialist China." 2014 *International and Area Studies Lecture Series: Economic Globalization.* Apr 17. Central Connecticut State University.

### Invited Conferences

- 2020 "Scrap ecologies." *Wenner-Gren Workshop "Collaborative Ecologies"* Oct 1-3. Pittsburgh.
- 2020 "Containment and waste." *the Urban Environments Initiative, Rachel Carson Center "Spaces of Living in Transformation"* June 26. Virtual Conference.
- 2019 "Microbial regeneration: Fermentation and organic waste in China." *Wenner-Gren Workshop "Cultures of Fermentation"* Oct 11-17. Sintra, Portugal.
- 2018 "From the sanitary to the ecological city: Managing waste in post-reform Guangzhou." *Mind, Body, Environment: Living Well in China.* Nov 13. Long U.S.-China Institute, University of California-Irvine.
- 2018 "Waste as Infrastructure." *Infrastructures in China workshop.* Oct 18-19. University of Colorado-Boulder.
- 2018 "Wood Work. Digging Deeper: Field Studies Made Possible by the Waste Stream." Sept 8. Drexel University, RAIR. Philadelphia.
- 2018 "Spectacular technology, invisible harms: touring Guangzhou's waste facilities." *Ecologies of Urbanism III Workshop.* June 12-14. Hong Kong University.
- 2018 "Organic Infrastructure". *Biosocial network retreat.* Feb 07. Rutgers University.
- 2017 "Informal recycling in China. Digging Deeper: Field Studies Made Possible by the Waste Stream." Oct 28-30. *Revolutionary Recovery, RAIR.* Philadelphia.
- 2016 "Reconfiguring the Black Solider Fly for urban waste management in Guangzhou." *Roy Rappaport Prize Panel AAA.* Nov 18. Minneapolis.
- 2016 "Methodologies for an urban ecology of waste in China." *Harvard Global Institute Environmental Humanities Initiative Workshop* Sept 16-17. Harvard University.
- 2016 "Reconfiguring the Black Solider Fly for urban waste management in Guangzhou." *A Better Life through Science and Biomedicine? Troubling an Enduring China Dream.* Apr 15-16. Harvard University.
- 2015 "Public engagements with Waste to Energy Incineration in Guangzhou." (In Chinese) *The Urban Fringe: Re-examining the New Chinese Metropolis.* March 13-14. Duke Kunshan University, Kunshan.
- 2015 "Purified citizenship: Utopian desires in China's DIY community organic waste projects." *Ecologies of Urbanism in Asia II Workshop.* Feb 6-8. Yale University.

### Invited Chairs and Commentator

- 2018 *Chair. Introduction and Framing. Infrastructure as Regulation.* Institute for International Law and Justice. Sept 28-29. New York University.
- 2017 *Commentator. Ecological History in Asia and the World.* Oct 27. Yale University.
- 2017 *Commentator. Medical Humanities, Social sciences and the Environmental Workshop.* Sept 30. Harvard University.
- 2014 *Commentator. Ecologies of Urbanism in Asia II: Cities, towns and the places of Nature.* June 9-12. The University of Hong Kong.

- 2012 Commentator. "Reconciliation and Play." Agrarian Studies Student Conference for David Kneas. May 4. Yale University.
- 2011 Commentator. "Scarcity and Social Conflict in Qājār Iran, 1850-1892." Agrarian Studies Student Conference for Ranin Kazemi. Apr 28. Yale University.

#### Conferences and presentations

- 2020 "Collaborative Ecologies" Roundtable. AAA. Nov 17-20. St. Louis, MO.
- 2020 "Eco-enzyme as catalysts." Discard Studies Conference. April 23-25. NYU, NYC.
- 2019 "Wasted People, Unruly Matter." Discard Studies Colloquium. New York University. May 03. New York, NY.
- 2018 "Breeding Standards." Panel: "Rethinking Breeding" AAA. Nov 14-18. San Diego, CA.
- 2017 "Decomposing Time: Waste Labor in China's Organic Waste DIY Project." Panel: "How Nature Work: Excesses and Overflows." AAA. Nov 29-Dec 3. Washington, DC.
- 2017 "Waste infrastructure in Guangzhou's urban recycling campaign." Panel: "Infrastructures of Nature and the Nature of Infrastructures." AAG. April 7. Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2016 Chair. Panel "Cities for Sale: Gentrification, Spatial Politics, and Violence in Contemporary Urban China." AAA. Nov 17. Minneapolis.
- 2015 "Spectacular technology, invisible harms: touring Guangzhou's waste facilities." Panel: Toxic Nature. AAA. Nov 18-22. Denver, Colorado.
- 2015 "Unreliable knowledge: Villager monitoring of waste technology in Guangzhou." Panel: STS in the Global South, Part I. Nov 11-14. Denver, Colorado.
- 2015 "Valuing waste: civility and livelihood in Guangzhou's urban recycling campaign." Inequality and urbanism in the global South Workshop. June 12-13. New York University.
- 2015 "Spectacular technology, invisible harms: touring Guangzhou's waste facilities." Agrarian Studies Spring Colloquia Series. May 7. Yale University.
- 2015 "Bodies, Communities, Rivers: Affect and matter in China's organic waste DIY project." Panel: Affective Ecologies, Living Economies and Alternate Ways of Valuing Nature Session VII. AAG: April 25. Chicago.
- 2014 "Adulteration and value in China's informal scraps trade." Anthropology and Environment Section Dissertation Workgroup AAA: Dec 3-7. Washington, D.C.
- 2014 "Organic and inorganic materialities in urban China." Panel: Waste, materiality and ecological imaginations: Addressing Social and environmental processes in burgeoning wastescapes. AAA. Dec 3-7. Washington, D.C.
- 2014 "Knowledge Materiality and Value in Urban China's Scrap Trade." New England Asian Studies Association Regional Conference. Oct 4. University of Connecticut.
- 2014 "Infrastructure must be broken: waste as infrastructure." Infrastructural Worlds: Ethnographies of Infrastructure workshop: Urban Forms: Abandonment and Repurposing. Mar 28-29. Duke University.
- 2013 "Divided Claims: Environmental contentions against waste to energy (WTE) incineration in Guangzhou." Mapping Environmental Cultures: Comparative Approaches to Waste in China, an interdisciplinary conference. Sept 16-17. Oxford University.
- 2012 "Industrial Ecology and the question of Urban Nature." Dimensions of Political Ecology. Apr 12-14. University of Kentucky.
- 2012 "The politics of Waste in post-reform China." Ethnography and Social Theory Colloquium Third year Field papers. Yale University.

#### COLLOQUIA AND RESEARCH GROUPS

- 2018 - China studies working group. New York University.
- 2017 - Discard Studies Collective. New York University.
- 2016 - Science and Democracy Research Network. Harvard University.
- 2009 - 2016 Doctoral Lab in Social Ecology. School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University. Michael R. Dove.
- 2009 - 2016 Environmental Anthropology Collective. Department of Anthropology, Yale University. K. Sivaramakrishnan.
- 2014 - 2015 China Environmental History Reading Group. Yale University. Peter Perdue.
- 2010 - 2012 China Anthropology Colloquium. Department of Anthropology, Yale University.
- 2011 Anthropology and History China reading group. Yale University.

#### UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2017 - 2020 Department of Anthropology. New York University Undergraduate Outreach Committee (member). Diversity Initiatives (member). Graduate Fellowship Committee (member).

#### REVIEWER AND EDITORIAL ROLES

*Editorial Board: Anthropologica (2020-2023), Anthropology of Work Review (2020-)*

2016 - 2020 *Reviewer: American Anthropologist, Cultural Anthropology, Political Geography, Science, Technology & Human Value, Nature and Culture, Worldwide Waste: Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies, East Asian Science, Technology and Society, Springer Nature, Research Grants Council (Hong Kong).*

**RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2008 - 2009 *CBS News. Beijing, CN  
Assistant Producer*

2008 *Greenpeace China. Beijing, CN  
Campaigner and principal author of Greenpeace's environmental assessment of the 2008 Beijing Games  
"China after the Olympics: Lessons from Beijing"*

2007 - 2008 *United Nations Industrial Development Organization. Taiyuan, CN  
Project Assistant Intern for the EU – Shanxi Region Partnership Project for Sustainable Development*

2005 - 2006 *Rights and Democracy. Montreal, QC  
Research Intern*

**LANGUAGES**

*Chinese Native Mandarin, intermediate Cantonese, advanced reading, intermediate writing.*

*French Beginner spoken, writing, reading.*

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

*American Anthropological Association (AAA)*

*Anthropology and Environment Society (A&ES)*

*Society for Urban, National and Transnational/Global Anthropology (SUNTA)*

*Association for Asian Studies (AAS)*

*Association of American Geographers (AAG)*

*Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)*