

TEXAS STATE VITA

I. ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

NAME: Benjamin Ruilin Fong

TITLE: Assistant Professor

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Ph.D., Comparative Literature [Chinese, English], DE in Critical Theory, UC Davis,
Dissertation: *From Panels to Pixels: Picture Cultures of Lianhuanhua and Chinese Animation*,
2026.

MSt in English (1550-1700), University of Oxford, Thesis: *The Devil Was in Your Dream: Genre and Formula in English Revenge Tragedy and the American Western* (Merit), 2019.

B.A. *summa cum laude*, English, East Asian Studies, Brandeis University, Thesis: *Myth, Legend, Dust: The Southern Literary Influences of Cormac McCarthy and How They Portend the Evening Redness in the West* (Highest Honors), 2018.

UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of English (Film and Media), Texas State University,	2026-present
Associate Instructor, Comparative Literature, University of California, Davis,	2023-2026
Associate Instructor, East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of California, Davis,	2024-2025
Teaching Assistant, Comparative Literature, University of California, Davis,	2022-2023
Teaching Assistant, Economics, Brandeis University,	2017-2018

II. TEACHING

COURSES TAUGHT

UNDERGRADUATE [6 distinct courses]

At the University of California, Davis

1. Com 004, "Sino-American Literature and Film," (Spr. 2026, Sum. 2025). A study of Asian American, Chinese, and Sino-American literature and film.
2. Com 003, "Modern Sinophone Literature and Film," (Fall 2025). Introduction to "Sinophone" and accompanying literature and film.
3. Com 002, "Early Modern Adaptations," (Spr. 2025, Fall 2023). Pairings of early modern texts with contemporary global adaptations.
4. Chn 10, "Contemporary Chinese Fiction," (Winter 2025, Winter 2024). Introduction to novels, poetry, and short stories of contemporary Chinese literature.
5. Chn 104, "Modern Chinese Fiction," (Fall 2024). Upper-division study of key novels, poetry, writings, and theoretical interventions in the modern Chinese literature discipline.
6. Chn 101, "Chinese Film," (Spring 2024). Upper-division study of key films and theoretical interventions in the Chinese film discipline.

III. SCHOLARLY

JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. "Asian American Exportation: "Chineseness" and Representation in Sino-US Animated Co-Venture Films." in *Journal of Chinese Film Studies* (2025) <https://doi.org/10.1515/jcfs-2025-0010>
2. "Learning to Speak Chinese: Expanding the Chinese-language Film Paradigm to Sino-American Films." *Arts* 13 (2024) <https://doi.org/10.3390/arts13010018>

WORKS NOT IN PRINT

Forthcoming

1. "Ang Lee" in Chiang, Howard, and Groppe, Alison ed., *Routledge Encyclopedia of Sinophone Culture*. Forthcoming.
2. Fong, Benjamin Ruilin, Lu, Sheldon. "Chow Yun-fat" in Chiang, Howard, and Groppe ed., Alison, *Routledge Encyclopedia of Sinophone Culture*. Forthcoming.
3. Fong, Benjamin Ruilin, Lu, Sheldon. "Michelle Yeoh" in Chiang, Howard, and Groppe, Alison ed., *Routledge Encyclopedia of Sinophone Culture*. Forthcoming.

Under Review

1. The Beautiful is Blurred: Light Chaser, Coloroom, and the Industrialization of Chinese Aesthetics" in *Chinese Cinema in the 21st Century: Industry, Culture, and Form*.
2. Lu, Sheldon, Fong, Benjamin Ruilin. "Introduction" in *Chinese Cinema in the 21st Century: Industry, Culture, and Form*.

Books in Progress

1. *From Panels to Pixels: Picture Cultures of Lianhuanhua and Chinese Animation*
2. Lu, Sheldon, Fong, Benjamin Ruilin ed. *Chinese Cinema in the 21st Century: Industry, Culture, and Form*.

PAPERS PRESENTED IN PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

1. 2026. "Cels into Panels: Intermedial Adaptation and Socialist Aesthetics in Sino-Soviet Animation," Society of Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago
2. 2025. "Cels Panels Interlinked: Visual Representation Across Soviet Animation, Lianhuanhua, and Chinese Film, Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, San Francisco
3. 2025. "Chinese American Exportation: Constructing Sino-American Identity in Sino-US Animated Co-productions," Hollywood Conference, USC
4. 2024. "China's Speculative Ecologies: The Picture Culture of Chinese Ecocinema's Animated Films," American Comparative Literature Association, Montreal
5. 2024. "All I Ever Wanted was a Normal Life: Redefining Chinese-Language Films in Hollywood," Tucker Boatwright Film Festival, Richmond (Virtual)
6. 2023. "Learning to Speak Chinese: Expanding Chinese-language films to Hollywood," Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, Portland
7. 2023. "Speaking Bad Chinese is More Interesting: Diaspora in Chinese American Films," School of Criticism and Theory Colloquium, Cornell

8. 2023. “*Lianhuanhua*, or Film to Pictures and Back Again: *Lianhuanhua* and Shanghai Animation Studios Multidirectional Adaptation Networks,” Association of Asian Studies, Boston
9. 2022. “From Picture to Story: The *Lianhuanhua* (連環畫) Genre as an Adaptation Network,” Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, UCLA
10. 2022. “Once Upon a Time Online: How literary form and transnational co-production influence Chinese language film adaptations,” American Comparative Literature Association, Taipei (Virtual)
11. 2022. “Duan jian can bian (斷簡殘編): Jin Shengtan’s (金聖嘆) *Xixiangji* (西廂記) editions,” CU Boulder Asian Studies Graduate Association Conference, CU Boulder (Virtual)
12. 2019. “Space, Text, and Margin: Imagined Space and Marginalia in Different Editions of Richard Hakluyt’s *Principal Navigations*,” Early Modern Literature Graduate Forum, Oxford University

Local Invited Presentations

1. 2026. “Iconographies of Postsocialism: Post-Serialized Pictures in a Post Socialist Era,” Graduate Student Conference East Asian Studies, UC Davis
2. 2024. “Across Mountains and Seas: Chinese Picture Culture in Eco-Cinema,” Graduate Student Conference East Asian Studies, UC Davis
3. 2023. “Serial Pictures: Medium Genre, and Adaptation Networks of Picture Culture *Lianhuanhua* (1950s and 1960s),” 2023 Comparative Literature Works-in-Progress, UC Davis
4. 2023. “A Very Long Time Ago: Western Literary Genre and Aesthetics in Chinese Language Film Adaptations,” 2023 Comparative Literature Colloquium, UC Davis
5. 2022. “Ready Poet One: Defining Internet Fiction through Chinese Language Film Adaptation,” 2022 Comparative Literature Works-in-Progress, UC Davis
6. 2022. “*Leyu* 乐鱼: Comparative Free Play and Beauty in Kant and Late Imperial Art,” 2022 Comparative Literature Colloquium, UC Davis
7. 2021. “Of Strange and Foreign Plants: Tea’s literary genre and form in Restoration England,” 6th Annual Global Tea Initiative Roundtable Discussion: Embracing Tea in Restoration England, UC Davis
8. 2019. “Genre and Formula in English Revenge Tragedy and the American Western,” Hertford College Trinity Term Academic Soirée, Oxford University
9. 2018. “Jameson, Modernity, and Badiou: *The Three-Body Problem* and China’s Literary Legacy,” Brandeis Novel Symposium Roundtable Discussion, Brandeis University

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, and HONORS

1. Departmental Dissertation Completion Quarter-Off Fellowship (\$12,000), UC Davis, 2026
2. Dean’s Graduate Summer Fellowship Award (\$6,000), UC Davis, 2024
3. Professors for the Future Program (\$3,000), “Academic Accommodations as a Graduate Instructor (AI/TA),” UC Davis, 2024-2025
4. Dean’s Graduate Summer Fellowship Award (\$5,700), 2023
5. School of Criticism and Theory (\$5,450), Cornell, 2023

6. Global Education for All Fellow, UC Davis, 2022-2023
7. Mellon Public Scholars Program (\$7,000), “Home Style Cooking: The Davis Chinese Cookbook Collection,” SF Chinatown, UC Davis, 2022
8. National Humanities Center Graduate Student Podcasting the Humanities Winter Institute (\$300), San Diego (Virtual), 2022
9. Comparative Literature Department Summer Research Grant (\$3,000), UC Davis, 2021
10. UC Davis Dean’s Distinguished Graduate Fellowship (\$60,000), UC Davis, 2020-2022
11. Esther Pine Memorial Prize, for excellence in the Humanities, Brandeis University, 2018
12. Phi Beta Kappa, Brandeis University, 2018
13. UAA All-Academic Honors: Brandeis Track and Field, Brandeis University, 2015-2018
14. UAA All-Academic Honors: Brandeis Cross Country, Brandeis University, 2015-2017
15. JV Cunningham Award, best first-year paper, Brandeis University, 2015

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

1. [“The Oldest Chinese American Restaurant Project.”](#) Article from [The Guardian](#), [Gabriel Chin](#), [Symbols of Survival](#), 2023
2. “Recipes to Remember: An Exhibition Connecting Past and Present in San Francisco Chinatown,” Library Exhibition, UC Davis Library, 2023
3. “Recipes to Remember: Oral Histories of UC Davis Chinese Cookbooks,” Two- Episode Podcast Series with Martin Yan, UC Davis Library, 2023
4. “Recipes to Remember: Expanding the Chinese Cookbook Collection through Oral Histories in San Francisco Chinatown,” Webinar, Davis Humanities Institute, 2023
5. “Homestyle Cooking: Connecting Past and Present in San Francisco Chinatown,” Mellon Public Scholars, 2022

IV. SERVICE

University and Departmental Service

At the University of California, Davis

DEPARTMENTAL

Organizer, Comparative Literature Lecture Series 2022, UC Davis.

Co-Organizer, Comparative Literature Works in Progress Conference 2022, UC Davis.

Comparative Literature Rep, Graduate Student Association, UC Davis, 2020-2022.

COLLEGE and UNIVERSITY

President, UC Davis Graduate Student Association (GSA), UC Davis, 2023-2025.

GSA Rep, Executive Council Academic Senate, UC Davis, 2023-2025 .

GSA Rep, Graduate Council Academic Senate, UC Davis, 2023-2025.

Member, Council of Presidents, University of California, 2023-2025.

Member, AI Council, UC Davis, 2024-2025.

Member, Research and AI Subcommittee, AI Council, UC Davis, 2024-2025.

Member, Sustaining Teaching and Research Task Force: Future of Graduate Education, UC Davis, 2023-2025.

Member, Sustaining Teaching and Research Task Force: Future of Graduate Education Working Group Re-imagining Doctoral Education and Training, UC Davis, 2023-2025.

Member, Sustaining Teaching and Research Task Force: Future of Graduate Education Working Group Doctoral Enrollment, UC Davis, 2025.

Member, Sustaining Teaching and Research Task Force: Future of Graduate Education Working Group Faculty and Student Advising and Mentoring, UC Davis, 2025.

GSA Rep, Student Success and Equitable Outcomes Subcommittee, UC Davis, 2023-2024.

Member, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Cabinet of Student Leaders, UC Davis, 2023-2025.

Member, Student Affairs Strategic Planning Committee, UC Davis, 2023-2024.

Member, 2024 Accreditation WASC Steering Committee, UC Davis, 2023-2025.

Member, Student Parent Working Group, UC Davis, 2023-2025.

Member, Graduate Alumni Network Graduate Studies, UC Davis, 2023-2025.

Member, Vice Chancellor for Research Recruitment Advisory Committee, UC Davis, 2023-2024.

Member, Dean School of Education Recruitment Advisory Committee, UC Davis, 2023-2024.

GSA Rep, Program Review Committee Academic Senate, UC Davis, 2023-2024.

Chair, Aggies Near & Far Program, UC Davis, 2022-2023.

Member, Chancellor's Graduate and Professional Student Advisory Board (CGPSA), UC Davis, 2020-2022.

Mentor, Mentor-Mentee Program (MMP) in Humanities, Arts, Cultural Studies, and Social Sciences, UC Davis, 2020-2026.

ORGANIZATIONS

Association for Asian Studies; American Comparative Literature Association; Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association; Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)