

Fuwei Li

Department of History, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

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EDUCATION

Expected January 2027

Ph.D. in History | University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

Defense scheduled for October 5, 2026.

Dissertation: The Huiru Grammar: Islamic Argument and Authority in Republican China.

Committee: Kelly A. Hammond, Joel Gordon, and Ruslan Yusupov.

May 2019

M.A. in History | University of Cincinnati

Qualifying paper: Becoming Mulan and Fatimah: Women's Mosques in Early Republican Northwestern China.

Advisor: Elizabeth Frierson.

June 2017

B.A. in History; minor in Ethnology | Lanzhou University

Thesis: Cultural Identity in Xi'an's Hui Muslim Quarter: A Century of Change in Funeral Customs.

Lanzhou University Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis Award. Advisor: Wenjong Yang.

Fall 2015

Exchange Program | Soochow University, Taipei

Coursework in Republican Chinese History.

RESEARCH EXPERTISE

Islam in China; Sino-Islamic intellectual history; Huiru and Han Kitab traditions; Islamic authority and knowledge production; Translation and transregional networks; Late Qing and Republican China.

PUBLICATIONS

2025

Book review

Review of Johan Elverskog, A History of Uyghur Buddhism (New York: Columbia University Press, 2024). Chinese Studies International, vol. 29 (2025).

DOI: 10.1353/ci.2025.a975949

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2026-2027

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Middle East and North African Studies

King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies, University of Arkansas.

2025

Doctoral Student Presentation Travel Grant

University of Arkansas Graduate School; Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference.

Summer 2022

Research Support Grant

King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies, University of Arkansas; archival research in Cairo, Egypt.

2017

Graduate Enrichment Award

Taft Research Center, University of Cincinnati; archival research in the Chiang Kai-shek Papers at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University.

SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

2022

George Billingsley Award

Best Paper on an Asian or Middle Eastern Topic, University of Arkansas.

2022

Best Graduate Paper Award, Honorable Mention

Southwest Conference on Asian Studies.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

March 18-21, 2027 | Accepted · Upcoming

Learning Islam, Testing China: Evaluation of Muslim Students from China in Wartime Cairo, 1943

Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston, Massachusetts.

Panel: State Power and Negotiating Mobility: Chinese Muslim Migrants Across the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries.

November 7-9, 2025 | Presented

Between Nation and the Global Ummah: Chinese Muslim Students in Cairo during World War II

54th Annual Conference of the Southwest Conference on Asian Studies.

March 2025 | Presented

The Princess's Elegant Gatherings: A Dialogue between Yuan Aristocratic Women's Participation in the Kuizhang Pavilion and Fourteenth-Century Neo-Confucian Views of Chastity

Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Columbus, Ohio.

October 2022 | Presented

195 Stops to Mecca: The Northern Hajj Route of Chinese Muslims

51st Annual Meeting of the Southwest Conference on Asian Studies, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, Arkansas.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Middle East Studies Association (2026)

Association for Asian Studies (2024-present)

Southwest Conference on Asian Studies (2022-present)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2027

Introduction to Middle East Studies (MEST 20103)

Instructor of Record (scheduled)

King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies, University of Arkansas

Fall 2026

Introduction to Middle East Studies (MEST 20103)

Teaching Assistant

King Fahd Center for Middle East Studies, University of Arkansas

Spring 2026; Fall 2025

Modern China (HIST 35203)

Instructor of Record

Department of History, University of Arkansas

Spring 2026; Fall 2025; Spring 2025 (two sections); Fall 2024

Institutions and Ideas of World Civilization I (HIST 11193)

Instructor of Record

Department of History, University of Arkansas

TEACHING FIELDS

Pre-modern China; Modern China; Modern Japan; History of East Asia; Modern Islam; Transnational Asian History; Global Intellectual History.

LANGUAGES AND SCRIPTS

English & Chinese: Fluent

Arabic: Intermediate reading

Uyghur: Elementary reading

Japanese: Intermediate reading

Xiao'erjing: Advanced reading