

YANG LI 李洋

yli2829@wisc.edu

Department of History
University of Wisconsin-Madison

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Department of History and Integrated Liberal Studies Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2025–

Anna Julia Cooper Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2024–2025

EDUCATION

PhD, History of Science, Princeton University, 2024

Dissertation: “Biopolitical Socialism: Antibiosis, Scientific Capital, and China’s Cold War Rationality, 1949–1990” (Committee: He Bian, Keith Wailoo, Janet Chen)

MA, History of Science, Princeton University, 2019

MS, Physical Chemistry, University of California, Riverside, 2014

BS, Chemistry, Peking University, China, 2010

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

History of Science, Technology, and Medicine

Modern China/East Asia

Cold War Transnational History

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Li, Y. “Socialist Big Pharma: Antibiotics and the Making of China’s Pharmaceutical Industry in the Global Cold War.” under review.

Li, Y. “A Forgotten Technological Revolution: Workers and Innovations in Pharmaceutical Factories of the Great Leap Forward,” in *A Revolution Across Art and Science: Participatory Knowledge Production in China’s Great Leap Forward*, edited by Christine I. Ho and Sigrid Schmalzer. Forthcoming. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.

Li, Y., and F. Zaera. “Sensitivity of the Glycerol Oxidation Reaction to the Size and Shape of the Platinum Nanoparticles in Pt/SiO₂ Catalysts.” *Journal of Catalysis* 326 (2015): 116–126.

Li, Y., and F. Zaera. “Factors Affecting Activity and Selectivity in the Oxidation of Glycerol Promoted by Platinum Catalysts.” *Catalysis Science & Technology* 5 (2015): 3773–3781.

Wang, S., **Y. Li,** and H. Liu, “Selective hydrogenolysis of glycerol to propylene glycol on MgO-Al₂O₃ dispersed Cu catalysts.” *Acta Chimica Sinica* 70 (2012): 1897–1903.

Book Reviews

Li, Y. Review of *Mao's Bestiary: Medicinal Animals and Modern China*, by Liz P.Y. Chee. *The China Quarterly* 252 (December 2022): 1334–1335.

<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305741022001175>

Li, Y. Review of *China and the Globalization of Biomedicine*, edited by David Luesink, William H. Schneider, and Zhang Daqing. *H-Net Reviews*.

<https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=57604>

Oral Histories

Princeton Women in Science series at Princeton University Archives

Li, Y. “Interview with Ming Scholars: Questions for Professor Willard Peterson.” *Ming Studies* 81 (May 2020): 61–75.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Anna Julia Cooper Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2024–2025.

D. Kim Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2023–2024.

Graduate Fellowship in Digital Humanities, Center for Digital Humanities, Princeton University, Spring 2023.

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, East Asian Studies Program, Princeton University, 2022–2023.

TEACHING

Integrated Liberal Studies 110: Knowing the Body: A Global History of Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2025 Fall.

History of Science 921: Science, Medicine, and Technology Across Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2025 Fall.

Assistant in Instruction, China, 1850 to Present (Prof. Janet Chen), Princeton University, Spring 2023.

Assistant in Instruction, History of Medicine and the Body (Prof. Katja Guenther), Princeton University, Fall 2019.

Teaching Assistant, Physical Chemistry: Thermodynamics, UC Riverside, 2011–2013.

Teaching Assistant, General Chemistry Lab, UC Riverside, 2010–2011.

Teaching Assistant, Inorganic Chemistry Lab, Peking University, 2009–2010.

SERVICES

Member, Princeton Women in Science Oral History Project (with Prof. Erika Milam), Princeton University, Fall 2018–Spring 2020.

Co-organizer, Global History of Science Reading Group, Interdisciplinary Humanities

(IHUM), Princeton University, 2019–2020.

Member, Women’s Committee in Graduate History Association, Princeton University, 2018–2019.

Co-organizer, Princeton Citizen Scientists (PCS), Princeton University, Spring 2018.

INVITED TALKS

“From Antibiotics to the Atomic Bomb: Scientific Capital and a New Interpretation of PRC History during the Cold War.” 从抗生素到原子弹：科学资本理论与冷战下的共和国史新解. Department of History of Science and Scientific Archaeology, University of Science and Technology of China, June 10, 2025. (*In Chinese*)

“Biopolitical Socialism: Technologies of Life and China’s Cold War Rationality.” Program in History of Science, Technology and Medicine, University of Minnesota, April 25, 2025.

“A Forgotten Technological Revolution: Mass Participation in the Great Leap Forward.” University of Massachusetts Amherst, April 8, 2025.

“Globalizing Socialist Pharmacy: Antibiotic Diplomacy and the Rise of Affective Archive.” University of Oslo, November 23, 2023.

“Antibiotics, Atomic Bomb, and Nationalization of Scientific Capital” 抗生素、原子弹与科学资本的国有化. Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, November 18, 2022. (*In Chinese*)

“Socialist Big Pharma: The Nationalization of Pharmaceutical Marketplace and the Production and Reproduction of Knowledge” 社会主义大药厂：药物市场国有化与知识的生产和再生产. Department of History of Science, Technology and Medicine, Peking University, June 13, 2022. (*In Chinese*)

“Citizen/Mass Science: An Alternative?” Voices of STEM series, Princeton University, April 21, 2021.

CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

“Globalizing Socialist Pharmacy: Chinese Antibiotic Diplomacy and the Rise of Affective Archive during the Cold War,” 27th International Congress of History of Science and Technology, Dunedin, New Zealand, June 29–July 5, 2025.

“Unruly Cures: Antibiotic Side Effects and the Contested Rise of Clinical Expertise in Socialist China,” Annual Meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Boston, MA, May 1–4, 2025.

“Seeing the Womb Like a State: Ultrasound Technology and China’s One Child Policy,” Workshop on Medicine, the Body, and the Senses: Asian Perspectives, The Asia Research Institute at The University at Buffalo, State University of New York, April 11–12, 2025.

“From Antibiotics to Atomic Bomb: Scientific Capital and Cold War Rationality,” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Columbus, Ohio, March 13–16, 2025.

“Antibiotics, Atomic Bomb, and the Cultural Revolution: Reinterpreting PRC Political History through Science,” Biennial Conference of the Historical Society for 20th Century China,

Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, September 13–15, 2024.

“History of Chemistry and Global History,” Conversations on the History of Chemistry, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany, August 28, 2024. (Zoom)

“From Hygienic Modernity to Therapeutic Modernity: Understanding Socialist Governmentality through Pharmaceuticals,” From Local Practice to Global Health: Socialism and Medicine in East Asia, Shanghai, China, June 6–7, 2024.

“‘Everything is Divided into Two:’ Coming to Terms with Rational Use of Antibiotics in the Chinese Cultural Revolution,” Annual Meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Kansas City, MO, May 9–12, 2024.

“From Hygienic Modernity to Therapeutic Modernity: Understanding Socialist Governmentality through Pharmaceuticals” (Panel Organizer), Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington, March 14–17, 2024.

“Workers’ Innovations in Socialist Factories: Technological Revolution in the Great Leap Forward,” Workshop on Participatory Knowledge Production in the Great Leap Forward, University of Massachusetts Amherst, February 24, 2024.

“‘Everything is Divided into Two:’ Coming to Terms with Rational Use of Antibiotics in the Cultural Revolution” (Panel Organizer), Annual Meeting of the History of Science Society, Portland, Oregon, November 9–12, 2023.

“Antibiotic Technoscape: Socialist Pharmaceutical Network in China and Beyond,” Connecting 3 Worlds Conference, Berlin, June 14–16, 2023.

“Workers’ Innovations in Socialist Factories: Technological Revolution in the Great Leap Forward,” Workshop on Socialist Industrialization, Deskilling, and Efforts to Diminish the Gap between Mental and Manual Labor in the People’s Republic of China, Lingnan University, Hong Kong, May 27–28, 2023.

“Building Hua Pharm: Antibiotics, Expertise, and Health Care System in the People's Republic of China,” Annual Meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Ann Arbor, Michigan, May 10–14, 2023.

“Microbial Technoscape: Knowledge, Gender, and the Making of Antibiotics in Mao’s China” (Panel Organizer), Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston, March 16–19, 2023.

“Building North China Pharmaceutical Plant: Socialist Antibiotic Factory as a Hub of Technology Transfer in the Third World,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, New Orleans, November 10–13, 2022.

“From Bourgeois Intellectual to Replaceable Laborer: The Nationalization of Scientific Expertise as Capital in Early Socialist China, 1949–1966,” Let’s Get to Work: Bringing Labor History and the History of Science Together, Gordon Cain Conference, Science History Institute, Philadelphia, June 2–4, 2022.

“Antibiotics, Atomic Bomb, and the Cultural Revolution: The Nationalization of Scientific Expertise as Capital in Early Socialist China, 1949–1966,” Science Across Regions in Asia

Working Group, Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine, October 22, 2021.

“Barefoot Doctor’s Magic Bullet: Mass Production of Antibiotics and Expertise Politics in Cold War China,” Joint Atlantic Seminar in East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine (JAS-EASTM), April 16–17, 2021.

“Barefoot Doctor’s Magic Bullet: Mass Production of Antibiotics and China’s Healthcare System in the Cold War,” Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, March 21–26, 2021.

“Curing the Body and the Mind: Fighting Opium Addiction as a Disease in Nineteenth Century China,” UCLA Qing History Symposium, Los Angeles, CA, February 23–24, 2017.

“Fighting Opium Addiction as a Disease in Nineteenth Century China,” Annual Meeting of the History of Science Society, Atlanta, GA, November 3–6, 2016.

“A Record for the Five Men’s Tomb: Commoners, Literati, and Popular Protest from Late Ming China to the Twenty-first Century,” Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast Conference, Northridge, CA, June 10–12, 2016.

LANGUAGES

Proficient: English, Chinese

Advanced: French, Japanese

Intermediate: German

Beginner: Russian, Korean