

Historical Society for Twentieth-Century China, Annual Newsletter

Taipei Joint Conference at Institute for Modern History, Academia Sinica

August 4-6 2026 Biennial HSTCC
Conference

Twentieth-Century China

Shift to primary online access
with mailing option

Report on 2024 Conference at Lehigh University

Hosted by Shellen Wu

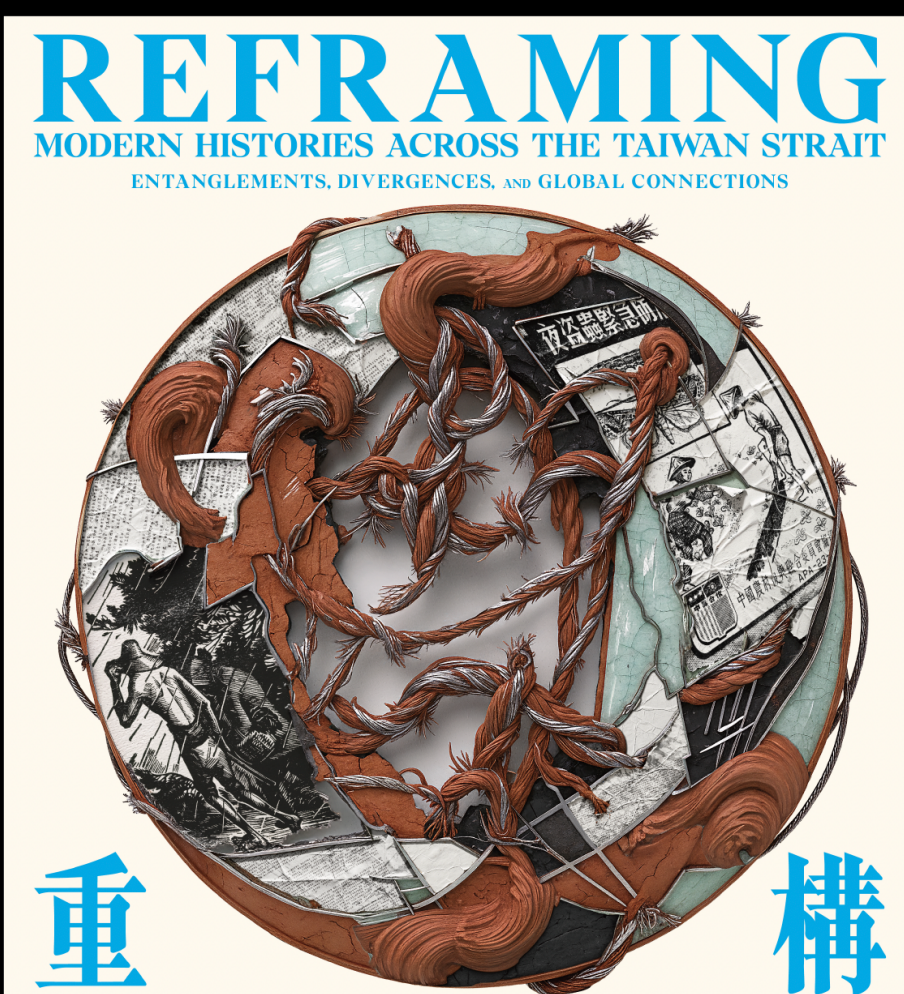
Plans for 2028 Conference at Duke in North Carolina

Hosted by Yidi Wu (Elon)

Bylaws

Please read the proposed bylaws
for discussion and approval at
forthcoming virtual meeting

New Board members needed
starting August 2026, please
consider nominating yourself
with a seconder
president@hstcconline.org



REFRAMING
MODERN HISTORIES ACROSS THE TAIWAN STRAIT
ENTANGLEMENTS, DIVERGENCES, AND GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

重構史：跨越臺海的現代史
交纏、分歧與全球連結

International Conference Jointly Organized by
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR
TWENTIETH-CENTURY CHINA
and THE INSTITUTE OF MODERN HISTORY,
ACADEMIA SINICA TAIWAN

二十世紀中國史學會
中央研究院近代史研究所
聯合主辦

AUG. 4-6, 2026
INSTITUTE OF MODERN HISTORY, ACADEMIA SINICA, TAIPEI, TAIWAN 中央研究院近代史研究所·臺北

INSTITUTE OF MODERN HISTORY, ACADEMIA SINICA • 70th ANNIVERSARY

中央研究院近代史研究所
二十世紀中國史學會
聯合主辦



The Historical Society for Twentieth-Century China (HSTCC)

is the premier international professional organization for modern Chinese studies. Founded in 1983, the HSTCC has held its biennial meetings in Asia, Europe, and North America. The HSTCC has also sponsored and co-organized a dozen symposia and numerous panels at the meetings of the Association for Asian Studies and the American Historical Association. The HSTCC members include many of the most eminent modern China scholars worldwide. The HSTCC is affiliated with the Association for Asian Studies and the American Historical Association. We host a joint reception annually at AAS with the PRC History Group. Membership benefits include a subscription to the journal of the HSTCC, *Twentieth-Century China* and eligibility for the biennial conference as well as HSTCC-sponsorship of panels at the Association for Asian Studies and American Historical Association annual conferences. [Twentieth-Century China](#) is published by Johns Hopkins University Press and hosted online at Project MUSE. Members can also access the journal through the HSTCC website.

HSTCC Executive Board 2026

David Luesink (Sacred Heart) *President 2024-26; Treasurer 2026-2028*

David graduated from UBC in 2012 and is Associate Professor at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut. In the late-2010s he wandered into an HSTCC meeting at AAS and was soon recruited onto the board. When asked to step up to president, he saw it as an excellent opportunity to serve the field. In his two-year term he and the board have focused on fixing behind-the-scenes issues with the website, improving access to TCC, and planning the 2026 conference. They have also reviewed and amended the bylaws which will next be discussed and approved by membership. We are reviving the newsletter and shifting the annual membership meeting from AAS to a virtual format to ensure broader participation. He has volunteered to take a two year term as secretary/treasurer upon stepping down as Di Luo needs to focus on other responsibilities after many years in the role.

Yidi Wu (Elon)

Vice-President (2024-26; Next president 2026-28); 2026 Conference Committee; AAS/AHA Conference Coordinator

Yidi received her PhD from University of California, Irvine in 2017, and has been teaching at Elon University since 2020. She helped organize the 2026 conference in Taiwan and looks forward to co-hosting the 2028 conference at Duke University. As incoming President, she also plans to establish book awards and paper prizes, and organize sponsored panels for AAS and AHA.

Di Luo (Alabama) *Secretary Treasurer 2022-2026 (Rotating off in August)*

Shellen Wu (Lehigh) *(Past President 2022-24)*

Anne Reinhardt (Williams) *(Editor of TCC)*

Evan Dawley (Goucher) *Website Coordinator; Conference Committee*

Benno Weiner (Carnegie Mellon) *at large*



Taipei Joint Conference at Institute for Modern History, Academia Sinica

Reframing Modern Histories Across the Taiwan Strait: Entanglements, Divergences, and Global Connections

David Luesink, Evan Dawley, and Yidi Wu have been meeting for over a year with Sean Hsiang-lin Lei and his colleagues at the Institute of Modern History at Academia Sinica to plan a joint conference in August. Our call for papers went out to our membership and beyond in August 2025 and we have had a tremendous response from members and new members based in Taiwan and around the world to submit individual paper proposals. We are excited to announce that we have 52 concurrent sessions with almost 250 total participants including established scholars and graduate students from Taiwan, the United States, and around the world. The full program is available on the HSTCC Website and will be distributed by email to members. Housing is being graciously covered by the Institute of Modern History, as are lunches. HSTCC is contributing funds for evening meals while travel is the responsibility of each attendee. In order to accommodate so many excellent papers and panels, IMH suggested and HSTCC board agreed to forgoing the usual keynote speaker. Instead, the only plenary session will be a panel organized by former president Tim Weston about the history and significance of this organization which is worth summarizing here:

Modern Chinese History, the Historical Society for Twentieth Century China, and *Twentieth-Century China* (journal). The participants in this round table will reflect on the history of the Historical Society for Twentieth-Century China (HSTCC) and its official refereed journal *Twentieth-Century China* and that of the Institute of Modern History at Academia Sinica. Past, current, and future presidents of HSTCC, the editor of *TCC*, and representatives from IMH will be on the panel. We hope to engage everyone actively during the Q & A period.

Conference Program QR Code



Other 2026 HSTCC Events



- **Joint Reception at Vancouver AAS:** At the annual AAS meeting in Vancouver in 2026, HSTCC's major event will be the joint reception we are hosting with the PRC History Group. Please join us for drinks **Saturday March 14 at 8-10pm** in the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel, Waterfront Ballroom B, Lobby Level.
- **HSTCC Meeting Vancouver AAS:** There will also be a meeting for members and prospective members **Saturday March 14 from 12:45-1:45** in VCC, room 218.
- **Annual Membership Meeting on Zoom** will occur in the first half of April, date and time TBA. There will be an option to submit short comments that will be included in the discussion, and any votes will occur virtually in the week after the meeting and meeting minutes are circulated so that those who cannot attend can have their voices heard.

Twentieth Century China access

Promoting the history of twentieth-century China has never been easy given Cross-strait politics and international logistics. Our organization has long provided members with three physical copies of *TCC* mailed annually as part of the membership fees. All attendees at our conferences must become members, and IMH graciously agreed with this for the 2026 conference with the exception of graduate students who will be able to attend but will not become members with journal access unless they pay the graduate student membership fee. Membership has more than doubled with all of the new members based in Asia where mailing costs are significantly higher. This situation highlights a logistical issue of international mailing costs which the board recognized several years ago and has been negotiating with Johns Hopkins University Press which publishes *TCC*, many thanks especially to Secretary-Treasurer Di Luo for leading that negotiation. There is no perfect solution, but we believe we have established one that we hope works for everyone. We have now set up digital access to *TCC* through a password section of the website for all members, although many of us have access through our institutions on *Project Muse*. There will be no change in membership fees for digital access. For those who would like to continue to receive a physical copy of *TCC*, there will be an added cost of \$24 for shipping costs in North America, and an additional fee of \$15 for addresses outside North America.



Report on 2024 Conference at Lehigh University

Hosted by Shellen Wu

For all the gloomy news about the state of academia and US-China tensions, it's clear that modern Chinese history remains a vibrant field. Evidence of exciting and cutting-edge new work abounded at the last biennial conference, hosted on Lehigh University's campus and online September 13-15, 2024. An international group of participants presented research that offered an interdisciplinary and wide-ranging interpretations of the conference theme, Past Futures and Future

Pasts: Expanding the Horizons of Twentieth Century Chinese History. Conference papers included Dorothy Hou's (Moravian University) discussion of memory and pace of the twentieth century in contemporary Chinese fiction and Qiang Zhang (University of Nottingham)'s paper on the rehabilitation of Republican era in post-Mao China. A lively panel on teaching Modern China using role-playing games organized by Yidi Wu (Elon University) had everyone moving about the room. Graduate students such as Boyao Zhang (University of Toronto), who presented a paper on "The abacus as computer of industry," and Tashi Namgyal (Penn State), who discussed the last years of Qing Tibet Relations, 1900-1911, promise a pipeline of important new works. To cap two full days of panels, Dr. Mingwei Song (Wellesley College) delivered a keynote, "New China Revisited: A Posthuman Perspective from the Twenty-first Century," that examined how science fiction writers offer unique insights on China's recent history through a fictional lens.



Bylaw Updates

HSTCC existing bylaws are available on the website. We spent several board meetings discussing how these were functioning (or not) as new needs and challenges present themselves to us and [these are the bylaws](#) we agreed upon with a board vote and now present to the membership. Here's a summary of the significant differences between the old and new bylaws:

Article II: Mission The new version expands the mission from "promoting the study of" to "promoting research and teaching about" twentieth-century China. It also adds a new fourth mission point explicitly committing the Society to promoting **academic freedom**.

Article III: Powers "Email polls or ballots" is updated to "virtual polls or ballots."

Article IV: Membership Dues structure changes are now addressed directly in the Membership article (moved from Article VI on Meetings), and the journal subscription benefit is now specified as **digital format only**.

Article V: Organization:

- The two at-large board roles are now formally defined as **AAS/AHA Conference Liaison** and **HSTCC Website Coordinator** (previously these were informal designations).
- At-large members may now be reappointed for **one additional term** only (previously unlimited reelection).
- The Vice President must now be appointed **from among board members** before being elected by the membership.
- Elections are no longer held on a fixed biennial February schedule – instead they are held **as needed** when vacancies arise, with more flexible balloting methods.
- Self-nominations now require **a second from another member**.

Article VI: Meetings The in-person AAS board meeting is removed; all board meetings are now held **virtually via Zoom or similar**. Both the annual membership meeting and the biennial conference business meeting now include a **virtual attendance option**. The quorum requirement for the annual membership meeting (previously 10 members) is removed.

Article VII: Biennial Conference (NEW) This is an entirely new article with no equivalent in the old bylaws. It formally defines the conference schedule (even-numbered years), rotation traditions, the conference's goals (including support for graduate students and pedagogy), and establishes a **Conference Abstract Committee** with an explicit prohibition against rejecting papers based on **political sensitivity**.

Article VIII: Amendments The amendment process is now more structured: amendments must be **proposed by a board member** and approved by **two-thirds of the board** before going to the full membership for a vote (previously any member could propose changes directly at the annual meeting).

Overall, the revisions reflect a shift toward greater **flexibility in governance** (virtual meetings, on-demand elections), stronger commitments to **academic freedom and open inquiry**, and more **formalized conference procedures**.

Please submit comments and questions in advance of the membership meeting:
president@hstcconline.org



2028 Conference News

HSTCC will host the 2028 conference at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. In addition to research presentations, we welcome panels that focus on teaching and pedagogy, as well as poster sessions by undergraduate students. Conference participants are invited to see the China collections at the Duke University Library, visit the Duke Garden, and the American Tobacco Campus.

Apologies, we got a little behind!

Please send brief highlights of Member Publications and Awards Highlights (50 words limit) since 2015 to president@hstcconline.org

Sample: Jessie James (Old West Community College, New Mexico), 2022 OK Corral Book Prize Winner; AAS liason committee; author *Gunslingers in post-Taiping China* (Harvard, 2020); "Guns v. Swords in Boxer Uprising," (*American Historical Review*, 2018); "Robin Hood in The Old West, Outlaws of the Marsh in Shandong" (*Twentieth-Century China* 2019).