

# DAVID G. ATWILL

---

Professor of History  
Pennsylvania State University  
College of the Liberal Arts  
Department of History  
108 Weaver Building  
University Park, PA 16801

Email: dgatwill@psu.edu  
Tel: 814-865-1218

## EDUCATION:

- 1999      **Ph.D.** Department of History, University of Hawai'i, Manoa  
(Advisor: Dru Gladney)
- 1994      **M.A.** Department of History, University of Hawai'i, Manoa  
1989      Certificate in Chinese Language, Tunghai University (Taiwan)  
1989      **B.A.** Department of History, Whitman College

## ACADEMIC & RESEARCH POSITIONS:

- 2019 – present      **Professor of History**, Department of History, Pennsylvania State University.
- 2009-19      **Associate Professor of History**, Department of History, Pennsylvania State University.
- 2002-08      **Assistant Professor of History & Asian Studies**, Department of History, Pennsylvania State University.
- 2010-17      **Director of Graduate Studies**, Department of History, Pennsylvania State University.
- 2015      **Visiting Research Scholar**, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, New Delhi, India.
- 2010-11      **Visiting Research Scholar**, Department of History, Yunnan University.
- 2007-08      **Visiting Fellow**, Center for Studies of Chinese Southwest Borderland Ethnic Minorities, Yunnan University.
- 2001-02      **Assistant Professor**, Department of History, University of Colorado at Denver, Denver, Colorado.
- 1999-2001      **Assistant Professor**, Department of History, Juniata College, Pennsylvania.
- 1997-98      **Doctoral Research Scholar**, History Department, Yunnan University, China.
- 1996-97      **Doctoral Research Scholar**, Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.
- 1989-90      **Instructor**, Foreign Languages and Literature Department, Yunnan University, China

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

### BOOKS:

- [Under Contract] *Tibet: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford University Press.
- [2023] *Lin Zexu: Imperial China in a Globalizing World*. Oxford University Press.
- 2023 *The Panthay Rebellion: Islam, Ethnicity, the Dali Sultanate in Southwestern China, 1856-73*. London: Verso.
- 2021 *Sources in Chinese History (1644-present)*. Co-authored with Yurong Yang Atwill. Routledge. (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)
- 2018 *Islamic Shangri-la: Inter-Asian Relations and Lhasa's Muslim Communities, 1600-1960*, University of California Press.
- 2010 *Sources in Chinese History (1644-present)*. Co-authored with Yurong Yang Atwill. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall.
- 2006 *The Chinese Sultanate: Islam, Violence, and the Panthay Rebellion, 1856-1873*. Stanford University Press.  
(CHINESE Translation under contract with Prof. Yang Jide and Ningxia Chubanshe).

#### RECENT ESSAYS, BOOK CHAPTERS and SCHOLARLY ARTICLES:

- [2023] **"The Lhasa Uprisings of 1959 and 2008: Muslims in a Buddhist Land,"** In *Islamic Ecumene: Comparing Global Muslim Societies*, ed. Eric Tagliacozzo and David S. Powers. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press.
- 2018 **"Lhasa's Departed Past,"** #AsiaNow, October 8: [www.asian-studies.org/asia-now/entryid/178](http://www.asian-studies.org/asia-now/entryid/178)
- 2016 **"Boundaries of Belonging: Sino-Indian Relations and the 1960 Tibetan Muslim Incident,"** *Journal of Asian Studies* 75(3) August 2016: 595-620.
- 2014 **"A Tibetan By Any Other Name: The Case of Muslim Tibetans and Ambiguous Ethno-religious Identities"** *Cahiers d'Extrême Asie* 23: 31-61.
- 2010 **"Ruminations on the Interpretive Framework of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Tibet-Yunnan Relations,"** *Journal of Ethnology* 1-2 (2010) [In Chinese] (大卫·阿提威, "十九世纪滇藏关系解释范式的反思," 民族学刊, 2 (2010): 19-24.

#### RECENT FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS:

- 2023 - Spring **Penn State Humanities Institute, Fellowship**
- 2022 (full year) **China-United States Fellowship (IIE), Senior Fellowship**
- 2020-2021 **Woodrow Wilson Center (Washington D.C.), Resident Fellow**
- 2020-21[Declined] **Institut d'études avancées de Paris/Institute of Advanced Studies, Paris, Resident Fellow**
- 2019 [Declined] **Center of Chinese Studies (National Library, Taiwan), Research Grant for Foreign Scholars**
- 2019 - Spring **Sydney China Fellowship (China Studies Center, University of Sydney), Visiting Scholar**
- 2016 **Association of Nepal and Himalayan Studies, Senior Fellowship**
- 2014-2016 **Public Intellectuals Program Fellow, National Committee of China-United States Relations.**
- 2014-2015 **NEH FPIRI Fellow (administered by American Institute of Indian Studies) Senior Scholar Fellowship**
- 2014 **Graduate School Alumni Society Graduate Program Chair Leadership Award**
- 2012-2015 **European Research Council, Center for Himalayan Studies (CNRS). (Participating scholar)**
- 2011-2013 **Mellon Foundation – Supplemental New Directions Fellowship**

#### SELECTED REVIEWS, FIELD REPORTS & SHORT ESSAYS

- 2020 Review of **A History of Modern Tibet, Volume 4 In the Eye of the Storm, 1957-1959.** By Melvyn Goldstein, *Journal of Asian Studies* 79.2 (May 2020): 468-470.
- 2020 Review of **The Muslim Merchants of Premodern China: The History of a Maritime Asian Trade Diaspora, 750–1400** by John W. Chaffee, *American Historical Review* 125.2 (April 2020): 628-629.
- 2018 Featured Review: **The New Inter-Asian History: Moving Beyond China's Borders, Twentieth-Century China,** 43.1 (January 2018): 89-98.
- 2016 **Islamic Shangri-La: Tibetan Muslim Hybridity, Assimilation and Diaspora** (ANHS Senior Fellowship Report). *HIMALAYA, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies*: Vol. 36 (2): 129-130.
- 2014 Featured Review of **What Remains: Coming to Terms with Civil War in 19<sup>th</sup> century China,** by Tobie Meyer-Fong. *American Historical Review* 119.3 (June 2014) 831-32.

SERVICE (PROFESSIONAL):

SELECTED SERVICE TO THE FIELD:

National Committee US-China Relations Congressional Staff Delegation (Scholar Escort), 2016  
Dissertation Review (Chinese History) – Advisory Board Member, 2012-2016  
Association of Asian Studies, Program Committee – Board Member, 2011-2013

SELECTED EXTERNAL MANUSCRIPT, ARTICLE AND FELLOWSHIP REFEREE:

*Book Manuscript referee:*

Stanford University Press  
University of North Carolina  
Weatherhead East Asian Institute  
Oxford University Press  
Cornell University Press  
Cengage Learning  
Pearson Publishing  
Houghton Mifflin  
Prentice Hall

*Article Manuscript referee:*

Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies  
China and Asia: A Journal in Historical Studies  
Verge: Studies in Global Asias  
Twentieth Century China  
The Historian  
China Review International  
Al-Quantara

SELECTED SERVICE (UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL)

SELECTED UNIVERSITY SERVICE:

2018 – 2019	Graduate School – Committee on Fellowships and Awards – Chair
2016 – 2019	Graduate Council (University level) – Council Member
2017 – 2018	Humanities Institute (College of Liberal Arts) – Advisory Board Member

RECENT COLLEGE SERVICE:

2020 – 2023	Graduate Career Diversity Committee – Member
2016 – 2020	Liberal Arts Research and Graduate Studies Office (RGSO) Committee – Member
2014 – present	Future Funded Faculty Program (College of Liberal Arts) – Member/Mentor

RECENT DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE:

2021 – 2022	Tenure and Promotion Committee (Chair)
2019 – 2020	Search Committee Chair – Global South History
2018 – 2019	Policy Committee (Member)
2018 – 2019	Search Committee (Member) – Civil War Era Endowed Chair History
2016 – 2017	Search Committee (Chair) – South Asian History
2016 – 2017	Search Committee (Member) – Chinese Literature – Comparative Literature
2016 – 2019	Tenure and Promotion Committee (Member)

## RECENT PROFESSIONAL & INVITED PAPERS

**Penn State University** (University Park, PA) – Humanities Institute

- **March 21, 2022** — “In the Pursuit of Evil: Lin Zexu and the Opium War, 1839-1842”

**Reed College** (Portland, OR) – Department of History

- **November 7, 2022** — “In the Pursuit of Evil: Lin Zexu and the Opium War, 1839-1842”

**Association for Asian Studies (AAS) — National Conference** (Honolulu, HI)

- **March 2022** — “Cold War Contradictions: The Tibetan Muslim Experience in Maoist-era Lhasa (1959-61)”

**Wilson Center** (Washington, DC) – **Kissinger Institute on China and the United States/History and Public Policy Program**

- **January 12, 2021** — “In China’s Shadow: The Ascendancy of High Asia, 1900-1960”

**Bucknell University** (Lewisburg, PA) ]— **Bucknell China Institute**

- **March 28-29, 2020 [CANCELLED]** — Islam in China: Religion, Ethnicity, and the State Symposium

**Notre Dame University** (South Bend, IN) — **Liu Institute for Asian Studies**

- **March 23, 2020 [CANCELLED]**— “Muslims in a Buddhist Land: Tibet’s Muslims and the Lhasa Uprisings”

**Dali University** — **Institute of Ethnic Studies** (Dali, Yunnan PRC)

- **December 6, 2019**— Inaugural Speaker Endowed Speaker Series: “From the Panthay Rebellion to Lin Zexu: Choosing a Path in Chinese Studies” (in Chinese: : 我的中国研究 : 从“潘泰”到林则徐)

**George Mason University** — **Islam in China Forum** (Fairfax, VA)

- **April 4, 2019**— Invited Speaker “Islam in China: New Studies and Perspectives”

**Association for Asian Studies (AAS) — National Conference** (Seattle, WA)

- **March 2019**— “Islam in Asian Studies” Invited Roundtable

**University of Sydney** (Sydney, Australia)

- **March 5, 2019** — Invited speaker, “Cold War Asia and Tibet’s Himalayan Past: Tibetan Muslims, Nepalese Rebels and the Bandung Dilemma, 1951-1961”

**University of Sydney** (Sydney, Australia)

- **February 20, 2019** — Sydney Ideas (Public Forum): “The Xinjiang Crackdown: Islam and Nationalities Policy in China Today”

**American Historical Association (AHA) — National Conference** (Washington, D.C.)

- **January 2018**—Panelist and Commentator, “Half-Breeds, Mongrels and Mules: Half-Tibetans at the Intersection of Race, Ethnicity and Nationalism, 1900-1960”

## COURSES TAUGHT:

### **Intro Level History Courses:**

World History to 1500  
World History since 1500  
History of Modern East Asian History  
Tibet: Sacred People, Places and Spaces (HIST/RLST)  
Introduction to Asian Literature (CMLIT)

### **Upper Level History Courses:**

20<sup>th</sup> Century China  
Qing China  
Senior Seminar: Tibet

### **Graduate Level History Seminars:**

Theory, Method and the Practice of History  
Rebellion, Revolution and Nation in Modern China  
Late Imperial and Modern China  
Ethnicity and Borderlands in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century China  
Islam’s Orient: Islam, Nationalism and Ethnic Violence in China  
First Year Seminar for Graduate Teaching Assistants  
Teaching Seminar for Advanced History Graduate Students

**Research Languages:** Chinese (Modern/Classical), Tibetan, French, Italian