

HONGYAN YANG

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

2022- **Core Fellow/Visiting Assistant Professor**
Boston College, Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences

AREAS OF INTEREST

Racialization of space, racial formation, immigrant placemaking
Asian American history, Asian American architecture and architects
Foodways, material culture, the built environment, oral history, digital humanities (ArcGIS, Podcasts, films)

EDUCATION

2021 **Ph.D. - University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**
Architecture, Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures Program
Diss.: "Built for Food: The Resistance of Chinese Immigrants from Service to Ownership, 1880-1960"
Dissertation Committee: Dr. Jasmine Benyamin (UW-Milwaukee, co-chair) and Dr. Anna Andrzejewski (UW-Madison, co-chair), Dr. William Warner Wood (UW-Milwaukee), Dr. Yong Chen (UC-Irvine)

2013 **M.S. - Beijing Normal University**
Human Geography (*with distinction*)

2010 **B.A. - East China Normal University**
English

2008 **B. S. - East China Normal University**
Urban and Rural Planning & Resource Management (*with distinction*)

WORKS IN PROGRESS AND UNDER REVIEW

Book Monograph

Building Past Exclusion: Chinese Placemaking through Foodways, 1880-1950. In prep.

This book draws primarily on architectural and culinary archives to explore how Chinese immigrants pursued foodways as an aspirational model to survive racial exclusion and achieve class mobility in California. I argue that foodways were not only a means for Chinese immigrants to contest the hierarchies of power embedded in their everyday spaces but also were the very locations where they retained cultural agency. As the first study that centers the built environment in the exploration of Chinese American history in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, my manuscript revises the prevailing "negative history" of the era by making intelligible the little-known everyday practices of Chinese immigrants and the agency they possessed in the spaces they inhabited and owned.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

"Joy Yuen Low: The Architectural Formation of Los Angeles's New Chinatown." In *The Five Chinatowns*:

CURRICULUM VITAE

Chinese Americans and the Creation of Multi-Ethnic Los Angeles, edited by Will Gow, Kelly Fong, and Isabela Quintana. Los Angeles: UCLA Asian American Studies Press. Forthcoming in 2025.

Journal Articles

“Homemaking in Displacement: The Everyday Negotiations of Hmong Immigrants in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.” In prep for the *Journal of Urban History*.

“Milwaukee’s Forgotten Chinatown, 1931-1949.” In prep for the *Journal of Asian American Studies*.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

“Homemaking in White America: The Jue Joe Ranch, 1919–1958.” *Buildings & Landscapes: Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum* 31, no.2 (Fall 2024): 5–29.

“Art as Place and the Place as Art: Comparing the Beijing and Shanghai Artist Districts.” *Yearbook of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers* 75 (2013): 217.

With Xiaogang Mao, Jinping Song, and Qian Zhao. “Changes of the Spatial Pattern of Beijing City Parks from 2000 to 2010.” *Progress in Geography* 31, no. 10 (2012): 54–65.

With Man Fang. “Developments in Emergency Industry and Industrialization in China.” *Procedia Engineering* 43 (2012): 379–386.

With Shangyi Zhou and Xiang Kong. “The Structuralistic and Humanistic Mechanism of Placeness: A Case Study of 798 and M50 Art Districts.” *Geographical Research* 30, no.9 (2011): 1566–1576.

With Xiang Kong and Junjie Qian. “The Exploration of the Influences of Local Cultures on Cultural and Creative Clusters: A Case Study of 798 and M50 Art Districts.” *Commentary on Cultural Industry in China*, 15 (2011): 366–380.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

“Toy’s Chinese Restaurants: Exploring the Political Dimension of Race through the Built Environment.” In *American Chinese Restaurants: Society, Culture and Consumption*, edited by Jenny Banh and Haiming Liu, 285–300. New York: Routledge, 2020.

“Cooking in the Hmong Cultural Kitchen.” In *Routledge Handbook of Food in Asia*, edited by Cecilia Leong-Salobir, 89–105. New York: Routledge, 2019.

Research Report

With Sujin Eom. “Chinese American Architects and Designers.” In *Rediscovering Asian American and Pacific Islander Architects & Designers*, edited by Gail Dubrow, Sean H. McPherson, and Yao-Fen You, 50–79. New York: Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, 2023.

PUBLIC-FACING SCHOLARSHIP

Films, Podcasts, and Exhibitions

2024 “Boston’s Chinatown: The Immigrant History Trail.” An exhibition curated by Hongyan Yang. Pao Arts Center, Boston, May 2024. ([link](#))

CURRICULUM VITAE

- 2023 *Places of Their Own..* A short documentary film on the history of Chinese laundries, restaurants, and grocery stores in Milwaukee, WI. Executive Producer. ([link](#))
- 2016 “This is Washington Park. This is Milwaukee.” A theatrical production based on the research by students in the Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures Field School. Directed by Alvaro Saar Rios. Peck School of Arts Theatre, UW-Milwaukee, Oct 12-16.
- 2015 “Picturing Milwaukee: Washington Park.” An exhibition curated by Arijit Sen. Artists Working in Education, Inc., Milwaukee, WI, Jul 24.
- 2013 “Picturing Milwaukee: Historic Water Tower Neighborhood.” An exhibition curated by Arijit Sen. Edith S. Hefter Conference Center, Milwaukee, WI, Jul 26.

Online Publications

- “Hmong Food Landscape.” Picturing Milwaukee: The 2015 Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures Field School—Washington Park Neighborhood. ([link](#))
- “C&S Supermarket” Picturing Milwaukee: The 2015 Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures Field School—Washington Park Neighborhood. ([link](#))
- “Cha Family House.” Picturing Milwaukee: The 2015 Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures Field School—Washington Park Neighborhood. ([link](#))
- “Goeliang’s Single Family Housing.” Picturing Milwaukee: The 2015 Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures Field School—Washington Park Neighborhood. ([link](#))
- “Mae’s house.” Picturing Milwaukee: The 2015 Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures Field School—Washington Park Neighborhood. ([link](#))
- “2118 Kenilworth Place.” Picturing Milwaukee: 2013 Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures Field School—Historic Water Tower Neighborhood. ([link](#))
- “The Villa Terrace.” Picturing Milwaukee: The 2013 Buildings-Landscapes-Cultures Field School—Historic Water Tower Neighborhood. ([link](#))

MEDIA COVERAGE ON COMMUNITY ACTIVISM

- 2023 Powell, Teran. “‘Places of Their Own’: Uncovers Chinese American Experiences in Milwaukee through Oral History.” WUWM 89.7 - Milwaukee’s NPR, Aug 17. ([Link](#))
- 2022 Chiang, Emma Marie. *Saving the Far East Cafe: San Francisco Chinatown’s Last Banquet Hall*. Good Medicine Picture Company Chinatown Shorts Series. ([Link](#))
- 2021 Chakraborty, Ranjani. *The Surprising Reason behind Chinatown’s Aesthetics*. Vox Media. ([Link](#))
- 2021 Bitker, Janelle. “S.F. Greenlights \$1.9 Million for Chinatown, and Restaurants Like 100-year-old Far East Cafe are Already Getting Relief.” *San Francisco Chronicle*, Jan 21. ([Link](#))
- 2021 Li, Portia. “Efforts of Fundraising and Preserving 100-Year-Old Chinese Artworks Ongoing

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to Save Far East Café,” *Wind Newspaper*, Jan 12.

SELECTED AWARDS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2025	Bishir Prize , Vernacular Architecture Forum (link)
2024	SAH IDEAS Research Fellowship , Society of Architectural Historians
2022	Emerging Voices Fellowship 2022-23 Finalist , American Council of Learned Societies Research Mini-Grant , Oral History Project “Places of Their Own,” Oral History Association and National Endowment for the Humanities (link) “In Search of Asian American/Pacific Islander Architects and Designers” Research Grant , Society of Architectural Historians-Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum Minor Grant , The Institute for the Liberal Arts, Boston College
2021	Diversity Fellow , The National Trust for Historic Preservation Chancellor’s Graduate Student Award , Department of Architecture, UW-Milwaukee
2020	The Emergency Student Fund Award , Institute of International Education
2018	Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship 2018-19 , UW-Milwaukee
2017	The Sophie Coe Prize Honorable Mention (world’s best prize for writing on food history, link to judge report)
2016	Pamela H. Simpson Presenter’s Fellowship , Vernacular Architecture Forum
2015	Ambassadors Award , Vernacular Architecture Forum
2013	Chancellor’s Award , UW-Milwaukee Distinguished Graduate Student Fellowship 2013-14 , UW-Milwaukee University Commencement Honors , Beijing Normal University
2013	National Scholarship of China , Ministry of Education of China
2012	Committee Award for Excellence in Area Studies , Association of Pacific Coast Geographers
2011	The 19th Scientific & Technological Competition Third Place , Beijing Normal University
2010	Graduate Student Fellowship 2010-13 , Beijing Normal University
2009	National Higher Geography Education Field Work Competition of China Second Place , the Geographical Society of China (¥2,000)

CURRICULUM VITAE

Undergraduate Honors Thesis, East China Normal University

2008 **The 17th Scientific & Technological Competition Third Place**, East China Normal University

Scientific Shop Fund Project 2008-09 (Principal Investigator), East China Normal University

2007-09 **Distinguished Student Scholarship**, East China Normal University

2007 **National Illumination Fellowship**, Ministry of Education of China

INVITED TALKS

2025 Keynote, “Between History and Design: Asian American Architecture in the Twentieth Century,” University of California, Berkeley.

2025 “Bridging Classrooms and Communities,” Excellence in Teaching Day, Boston College.

2024 “Preserving AAPI Historic Places: Reflections and New Directions,” Preservation Chatter, Boston Preservation Alliance.

2023 “Places of Their Own: Learning Chinese American Legacy in Milwaukee through Oral History,” Organization of Chinese Americans-Wisconsin, Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

2022 “Homemaking in Displacement: Hmong Immigrants in Milwaukee, Wisconsin,” Ethnic Studies 265: Hmong Americans: History, Culture, and Contemporary Life, UW-Milwaukee.

2021 “A Chinese New Year Celebration: American Chinese Restaurants” for edited book *American Chinese Restaurants: Society, Culture and Consumption*, Chinese Historical Society of America, Virtual on Zoom. ([link](#))

“Built for Food: Chinese Restaurants in San Francisco’s Chinatown,” Talk Story, 1882 Foundation, Virtual on Zoom.

2020 “Preserving the Jue Joe Ranch,” Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council, Virtual on Zoom.

“We Are What We Eat,” The 5th Transcultural Dialogue, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam, Germany, Virtual on Zoom.

“Introduction to East Asia: China: Long, Continuous & Uninterrupted Cultural Tradition”, ARCH 102: Architectural Thinking I, Department of Architecture, UW-Milwaukee.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING & SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Conference/Panel Organizing

2023 Organizer, “Oral History as a Humanizing Pedagogy: Voices from the Immigrant Kitchen,” 57th Annual Meeting of the Oral History Association, Baltimore, MD.

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Co-Chair with Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, “Asian Americans Voices in the Built Environment,” Global Asias Interdisciplinary Conference, Irvine, CA.

2022 Co-Chair with Sujin Eom, “The Architectural Fragments of Chinatown across the Pacific,” Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Denver, CO.

2021 Planning Committee, “Saving Wisconsin’s Historic Theatres” workshop, Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation, Hillside Home School, Taliesin, Spring Green, WI.

Co-chair with Wei Gan and Linda Wen, Symposium VIII, 1882 Foundation, Virtual on Zoom.

Co-chair with Aslihan Gunhan, Leslie Lodwick, Chelsea Wait and Vyta Pivo, Graduate Student Lightning Talks, Society of Architectural Historians, Virtual on Zoom.

Co-chair with Kateryna Malaia, Graduate Student Lightning Talks Workshop “Architectural Epistemologies,” Society of Architectural Historians, Virtual on Zoom.

Selected Presentations

2025 “Building Chinese Restaurants in Los Angeles’s Chinatown,” Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Boston, MA.

“Recent Past Immigrant Heritage: AAPI Spaces in Boston and Beyond,” co-presented with Priya Jain, Mass Advocacy, Preserving the Recent Past 4 Conference, Boston, MA.

2024 “Chinese Servants: Food, Architecture and American Domestic Culture, 1880-1950,” Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Seattle, WA.

“Advancing Interdisciplinary Learning through ArcGIS StoryMaps,” Roundtable, 137th Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, San Francisco, CA.

2023 “Places of Their Own”: Learning Chinese American Legacy in Milwaukee through Oral History,” the 57th Annual Meeting of the Oral History Association, Baltimore, MD.

“Preserving AAPI Resources through Community-Engaged Teaching,” Virtual Roundtable “Teaching and Learning with AAPI Heritage,” Society of Architectural Historians International Conference. ([link](#))

“Ethnic Revival in the Design of Philip P. Choy,” Global Asias Interdisciplinary Conference, UC-Irvine.

“Chinese American Architects and Designers,” Stewarding AAPI Cultural Resources in the Shadow of Franklin Odo, 2023 Association for Asian Americans Virtual Conference.

“Asian American and Pacific Islander Architects and Designers: Findings and Next Steps,” Society of Architectural Historians (SAH Connect), Virtual on Zoom. ([link](#))

2022 “Orientalism Reconsidered: Uncovering Voices of Resistance in San Francisco’s Chinatown,” Association for Asian Americans Conference, Denver, CO.

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- “Rediscovering Asian American and Pacific Islander Architects and Designers,” Society of Architectural Historians (SAH Connect), Virtual on Zoom. ([link](#))
- 2019 “Materializing Chineseness: Space, Architecture and Cultural Identity,” Canadian Anthropology Society and American Anthropological Association conference, Vancouver.
- “Building Otherness and Sameness: The Fluidity of Chinese Identities in the Built Environment,” Transfers: Diffusions and Mobilities in the Built Landscapes of Asia and Beyond, Department of Architecture, The University of Hong Kong, China.
- 2016 “Toy’s Chinese Restaurants: Exploring the Political Dimension of Chinese Identities through the Built Environment,” The 9th International Conference of the International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas, Vancouver.
- “How Race Produces and Reproduces Domestic Homes: The Everyday Culinary Negotiations of Hmong Immigrants in Milwaukee, Wisconsin,” Annual Meeting of the Vernacular Architecture Forum, Durham, NC.
- “Exploring the Political Dimension of Race through Ethnic Restaurants,” Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, CA.
- “Spatial Negotiations: Shifted Publicity and Privacy in Hmong’s Everyday Domestic Landscapes,” 2016 Landscape, Space, and Place Conference, Bloomington, IN, Mar 2016.
- 2014 “Buildings Speak: An Incorporation of Oral History into Material Culture Studies,” Oral History Association Annual Meeting, Madison, WI.
- 2013 “The Invisibility of the Service Spaces,” The 76th Annual Meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Lake Tahoe, CA.
- 2012 “Art as Place and the Place as Art: Comparing the Beijing and Shanghai Art Districts,” The 75th Annual Meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Olympia, WA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2022- **Core Fellow/Visiting Assistant Professor**
Boston College, Core Curriculum/History Department
- Food, Race, Nation
Cultural Diversity Core Course (Fall 2025)
- Explore how Asian American food cultures reflect and shape the perceptions of Asian immigrants in the United States, and how their identities and relations to power are negotiated through the production, service, and consumption of food across the Pacific.
- The “Other” Americans: Representation and Reality in Asian America
Complex Problem Course (Spring 2023 and 2025, four Lab sections)
- Guide students through primary and secondary sources research as well as script writing to produce a podcast related to an Asian American historical event. Lecture on ways to structure the podcast and how to record and edit the podcast using Audacity.
- Making American Landscapes: Building and Living in Asian America
History and Cultural Diversity Core Course (Spring 2024, two sections)

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- Explore the places Asian immigrants and Asian Americans inhabited and built in America and the Pacific. Collaborate with the Chinatown Community Land Trust to develop the Immigrant History Trail in Boston's Chinatown ([link](#))

Real Estate and Urban Action: Transforming Communities and Increasing Access to Opportunity

Complex Problem Course (Fall 2023, four Lab sections)

- Lecture and mentor students on two major projects, including UrbanPlan simulation and a neighborhood revitalization project.

The Just City: Race, Class, and Communities

Enduring Question Course (Fall 2022, two sections)

- Engage interdisciplinary thinking about spatial and social justice issues in urban spaces through readings, lectures, fieldwork, and mentoring students in primary & secondary sources research of Boston local neighborhoods including Chinatown

2020-21

Lecturer

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Department of Architecture

East Asian Architecture: A Global Perspective (Fall 2020 & 2021)

- Develop a fundamental understanding of the cross-cultural and interdisciplinary aspects of East Asian architecture in relation to East Asian and Asian American histories

Food and Architecture (Spring 2020)

- Investigate food spaces from a wide array of fields such as Ethnic Studies, Gender Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, Geography, and Material Culture Studies

2014-18

Teaching Assistant

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Department of Architecture

Architectural Thinking II (Spring 2018)

Architectural Thinking I (Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017)

Architecture & Human Behavior (Spring 2015, Spring 2016)

Introduction to Building Technologies (Fall 2014)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2023-24	"Community-Engaged Learning," Faculty Cohorts on Teaching, The Center for Teaching Excellence, Boston College
2023	Advanced Oral History Summer Institute, University of California-Berkeley
2023	Faculty Success Program, National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity
2023	UrbanPlan, Volunteer and Professor Training, Urban Land Institute
2022	Course Prep Retreat, The Center for Teaching Excellence, Boston College
2021	Online and Blended Teaching Certificate, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UW-Milwaukee
2020	Coordinating NEPA and Section 106, The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

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- 2016 Graduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UW-Milwaukee
- 2016 Kolb's Experiential Learning Cycle: Active Learning Certificate, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, UW-Milwaukee

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Service to Academic Fields

- 2021- **Member**
Strategic Planning Committee, Society of Architectural Historians
- 2022 **Moderator**
“Ethnicity, Race, and Migration Student Forum” for building Ethnic Studies program at Boston College

Student Mentorship

- 2024-25 Emily Hiltunen, Boston College | Undergrad Research Fellow
Brianna Allen, Boston College | Undergrad Research Fellow
Cassidy Wichman, Boston College | Undergrad Research Fellow
- 2023-24 Gigi Chu, Boston College | Undergrad Research Fellow
Emily Hiltunen, Boston College | Undergrad Research Fellow
Rachel Liu, Boston College | Undergrad Research Fellow (graduated, attending Graduate School at George Washington University)
Lucian Mahoney, Boston College | Undergrad Research Fellow
- 2022-23 Rachel Liu, Boston College | Undergrad Research Fellow
Lucian Mahoney, Boston College | Undergrad Research Fellow
Huixing Yu, Boston College | Undergrad Research Fellow, graduated (graduated, attending Graduate School at the University of Chicago)
Annie Liu, Boston College | Undergrad Research Fellow (graduating senior)

University Service

- 2023 **Organizer**
Guest lecture by Eugene Moy, President, Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, Boston College
- 2022 **Moderator**
“Ethnicity, Race, and Migration Student Forum” for building Ethnic Studies program at Boston College
- 2022 **Co-Organizer**
“A Reckoning in Boston” film screening and roundtable at Boston College
- 2020-21 **Member**
Graduate Faculty Committee, Graduate School, UW-Milwaukee

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2017-18 **Voting Member**
Graduate School Representative Committee, UW-Milwaukee

2017 **Co-Founder**
Graduate Student Resource Network, UW-Milwaukee

Service to the Communities

2024- **Advisory Council Member**
Support the mobile and brick-and-mortar AAPI History Museum in Rhode Island

2023- **Committee Member**
Support the development of the Immigrant History Trail in Boston's Chinatown

2023 **Consultant**
Oral History Working Group, Massachusetts Historical Society

2021 **Moderator**
Focused Group Study "Stay Healthy by Eating Fish, Safely" (Studies on Asian American women), Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Participant
National Impact Agenda Focus Group, National Trust for Historic Preservation

2020 **Cultural Consultant**
Gold House/Pixar (on Chinatown architecture representations in *Turning Red*)

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Mandarin: Native fluency
English: Bilingual fluency
Cantonese: Advanced reading & intermediate comprehension

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Asian American Studies
Society of Architectural Historians
American Historical Association
Oral History Association
Vernacular Architecture Forum
American Planning Association