



The Yangguanzhai Archaeological Field School Xi'an, China

Course ID: ARCH 380A

June 14 - July 20, 2026

Academic Credits: 8 semester credits



FIELD SCHOOL DIRECTOR(S)

Liping Yang, Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology, China (ylp-arch@163.com)

Jingbo Li, Harvard University, (jingboli@harvard.edu)

Mengyi Zhang, Northwest University, China, (zhangmengyi@nwu.edu.cn)

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Yupeng Yin, Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology, China (sxyanyupeng@126.com)

Xuan Yi, Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology, China (yixuann0202@163.com)

OVERVIEW

Yangguanzhai (YGZ) is a large prehistoric settlement dating to the middle–late Yangshao Culture period (late fourth millennium BC) and represents one of the most significant Neolithic sites in the Wei River Valley. Located on the north bank of the Jing River, approximately 25 km north of present-day Xi'an, the site has been the focus of extensive archaeological investigation since 2004 by the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology. Large-scale excavations and surveys, including test trenches and Luoyang spade coring, have exposed over 18,000 m², revealing a settlement covering approximately 1 km².

Excavated features include a cemetery separated from residential areas by a moat, cave dwellings, subterranean houses, storage facilities, child urn burials within habitation zones, a centrally located reservoir within the moated area equipped with a drainage system, and numerous pottery kilns. Owing to its scale, state of preservation, and richness of material remains, Yanggouzhai was named one of China's "Ten Most Significant Archaeological Discoveries" in 2008 and 2017 and is now designated as a protected archaeological site.

In 2010, as part of the ongoing excavation program, a joint project involving UCLA, the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology, and Xibei University began work at Yanggouzhai. This collaboration marked a shift from large-scale architectural exposure toward more systematic analysis of local stratigraphy and a stronger emphasis on anthropological interpretation. Most recently, researchers from the Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology identified an extensive cemetery at the site—the only cemetery currently known to date to the Miaodigou Period (fourth millennium BC).

During its first five field seasons (2010–2014), the Yanggouzhai (YGZ) project focused on the northeastern area near the moat, exposing multiple stratified layers of domestic architecture. As in other excavated areas of the site, no clear evidence of formal planning or a coherent spatial organization of habitation areas was identified, in contrast to other Neolithic villages in the region. Many features were located either directly adjacent to, or at very short distances from, the moat. In 2016, excavations in the south-central portion of the site uncovered several house foundations and hearths, a possible pottery kiln, and a child urn burial near a large artificial reservoir. Field school activities returned to the northeastern sector in 2017, where students discovered additional pits, a possible dwelling, and an infant inhumation burial placed within the fill of a pit—an unusual practice for the Miaodigou Period. In 2018, research resumed around the central reservoir, building on work conducted in 2016. Students excavated several intersecting pits that cut into dwellings or into one another. The complex internal stratigraphy of these features suggests that pits were repeatedly modified, even allowing for walking surfaces or construction above them. Excavations also revealed the partial remains of a disturbed child urn burial and examined a section of the reservoir itself to better understand its construction and maintenance.

Although a complete understanding of Yanggouzhai remains elusive, a clearer picture of site formation processes has begun to emerge. Based on research into the formation of the moat and selected pits excavated by the IFR field school, preliminary models of site development have been proposed. Micromorphological analyses indicate that the function of the moat changed over time, from one that was "potentially defensive or symbolic in nature" (M. Fox 2016) to a space used for refuse disposal. Both environmental processes—primarily water action—and human activities contributed to this transformation, although the broader behavioral motivations behind these changes remain unclear.

Testing results and newly available radiocarbon dates indicate that Yanggouzhai was home to a long-lasting farming community. Its inhabitants practiced millet agriculture, pig husbandry, hunting of wild animals, fishing, and the gathering of wild plants. Ceramic production played a particularly significant role in the local economy, as evidenced by the enormous quantity of pottery sherds recovered and the presence of kilns in all seven excavated sectors of the site. Unlike earlier Neolithic villages, where ceramic production was spatially separated from residential areas, the kilns at Yanggouzhai were located adjacent to or within habitation zones. Imported ceramics, including white-paste rings with plain or red-painted decoration, further demonstrate the existence of long-distance exchange networks.

One of the most distinctive characteristics of Yangguanzhai and other contemporaneous Neolithic sites is the predominance of pits, which account for approximately 90 percent of all excavated features. This project aims not only to explain this phenomenon but also to challenge traditional interpretations of pits in Chinese archaeology. Settlement pits are commonly classified as *huikeng* (literally “ash pits,” more accurately translated as “refuse pits”), a term that reflects only their final stage of use. Many pits at Yangguanzhai, however, are far too large to have originated as simple refuse dumps. A central objective of this research is therefore to investigate their original functions—potentially including pit dwellings—through careful excavation, detailed documentation, and micromorphological analysis. These approaches are complemented by artifact typology and the study of botanical remains recovered from pit contexts. Together, this research seeks to replace the simplistic notion of “refuse pits” with a more nuanced understanding of the diverse roles that settlement pits played in Neolithic communities.

During the 2026 field season, the project will continue work along the southeastern edge of the site. Beginning in 2019, the IFR project moved to a new area on the southeast part of the site. Coring and excavation indicate that the moat extends into this area. As noted above, several aspects of the moat’s function and diachronic use remain unclear; further investigation of its nature therefore constitutes one of the project’s primary research objectives. Previous excavations have consistently documented a high density of features—such as houses and pottery kilns—located adjacent to the moat, including areas outside its enclosed space. Examining the relationship between the moat and these features may provide important insights into the moat’s original purpose and its chronological development.

During the 2019 field season, and subsequently in the 2024 and 2025 seasons, excavations yielded a substantial number of artifacts from within the moat. Additional materials are expected as investigations continue to greater depths and expand laterally. A complete pottery kiln, a possible workshop floor, and hard-packed surfaces likely used for pottery production or preparation were also identified. The high temperatures reached during firing increased the likelihood that the kiln itself would survive, as the heat hardened its earthen structure; however, associated facilities—such as areas for material preparation and pottery production—are far less likely to be preserved and are therefore often absent from the archaeological record, particularly when such structures were not substantially built.

After three seasons of excavation, a total area of 200 square meters has been investigated, revealing the southeastern section of the moat and its surrounding features. The moat runs in a northwest–southeast direction, with a depth of approximately 3.28–3.30 m and a width of about 5.82 m. Stratigraphic analysis, based on sediment color and inclusions, identified a total of 14 layers. Layers ①–⑥ represent abandonment deposits formed after the settlement was deserted, whereas layer ⑦ and those below consist of use-related domestic deposits corresponding to daily activities during the occupation of the settlement. The area west of the moat functioned as a habitation zone, where features such as house remains, hearths, pits, and pottery kilns were discovered.

However, several issues remain to be addressed:

1. The construction and abandonment processes of the moat, including evidence for maintenance activities and how such activities are reflected in the archaeological record.
2. The relationship between the moat and the Jing River, including whether the form and layout of the moat may have been influenced by the river, given that the Jing River experienced (and continues to experience) annual flooding.

3. The interpretation of the spatial arrangement of the pottery kilns, house remains, and pits revealed during the last three excavation seasons, and whether some of the houses and pits may have functioned as ancillary facilities for the kilns.
4. Based on the above analyses, an assessment of the specific function of the excavated area.

Geoarchaeological methods will play a central role in addressing these research questions, with particular emphasis on the detailed documentation of sediments and stratigraphy. Students will observe and participate in the collection and preparation of samples for micromorphological analysis from the moat and associated pit features. To reconstruct aspects of daily life at Yangguzhai, paleobotanical samples will be systematically collected from the moat and nearby features. Accordingly, students will receive focused training in post-excavation techniques, including flotation and artifact cataloguing.

In addition to field excavation training, the Yangguzhai project offers comprehensive exposure to Chinese archaeology through lectures and organized visits to museums and archaeological sites representing multiple historical periods. The program also provides opportunities for daily interaction with Chinese students and close collaboration with experienced Chinese archaeologists.

ACADEMIC CREDIT UNITS & TRANSCRIPTS

Credit Units: Attending students will be awarded 8 semester credit units through our academic partner, Connecticut College. Connecticut College is a private, highly ranked liberal arts institution with a deep commitment to undergraduate education. Students will receive a letter grade for attending this field school (see grading assessment and matrix). Students are encouraged to discuss the transferability of credit units with faculty and registrars at their home institution prior to attending this field school.

Transcripts: An official copy of transcripts will be mailed to the permanent address listed by students on their online application. One more transcript may be sent to the student home institution at no cost. Additional transcripts may be ordered at any time through the National Student Clearinghouse: <http://bit.ly/2hvurkl>.

PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for participation. This course will focus on hands-on, experiential learning. Students will study on site how to conduct archaeological research. Excavation involves physical work and exposure to the elements as well as a certain amount of improvisation, and it requires a willingness to adapt to new situations and an ability to react to unforeseen developments in a creative and flexible manner. An archaeological field school like ours is therefore rather different from the typical university learning experience. Furthermore, excavations are a team effort requiring cooperation and willingness to discuss and compromise.

You will encounter unfamiliar situations and people who think very differently from yourself, which can be a challenge but also a great adventure. You will get sweaty and tired and have to work outdoors, so please be sure that you are physically able to do so. Students are required to come equipped with sufficient excitement and adequate understanding that the archaeological endeavor requires real, often hard work – in the sun, on your feet, and with your trowel.

We will use bicycles every day to get to the site and back. The ride is about 10 to 15 minutes long, on asphalt and dirt roads. Previous experience in how to ride a bike is appreciated, but we are willing to train any unskilled participants.

It will also help if you know how to eat using chopsticks, but again, we can teach students without previous experience.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This field school is a collaboration between the Institute for Field Research, the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology, and Northwest University in Xi'an. The course will begin on June 15 and will meet daily until July 19. Students will be able to depart for onward travel or return home on July 20.

Students will spend the first week in Xi'an for classroom lectures and museum tours. The lectures will focus on questions of archaeological method and theory on the one hand and the particularities of Chinese archaeology on the other hand. The students will be introduced to some of the most important archaeological finds in the Wei River valley, as well as to various anthropological themes related to the Yangshao Culture and the YGZ site. Important topics covered in the class include the history of Chinese archaeology, the origins of agriculture and animal domestication, sedentary villages, ritual, and craft specialization.

Following this initial week of preliminary instruction, four weeks will be spent in the field performing survey, excavation, and lab work at the site and the YGZ Workstation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

• Artifact Identification

Students will learn the basic artifact types found at the YGZ site. These include pottery sherds, lithics, and ceramic tools. Students will also learn to excavate and identify human and animal bones. Students will learn how archaeologists use artifacts to reconstruct the layout of an ancient site, in order to learn about activities and ways of life in antiquity.

• Soil, Sediments, and Geoarchaeology

An archaeological site cannot be interpreted without an understanding of how the layers of sediment at the site became deposited over time, both by natural and human processes. In the field, Students will learn how archaeologists identify different soil and sediment types, describe their color, grain size, and texture, and then use this information to help reconstruct a chronology of the archaeological strata, as well as to clarify the relationships between different parts of the site and excavated artifacts.

In addition, students will learn about the geoarchaeological method of micromorphology. This technique consists of extracting samples of sediment from archaeological features for further analysis in a laboratory, which can reveal the specific composition of the earthen matrix and the history of its deposition. These insights are of tremendous help in understanding how certain features were formed and how they were impacted by the environment. Students will learn about the extraction and preparation of samples firsthand, while the laboratory part of the analysis will be covered in lecture by a specialist.

- **Stratigraphy**

Once the excavation of a site has begun, archaeologists must have a clear understanding of the spatial relationships of various parts of the site. Vertical and horizontal stratigraphy provide critical contexts for understanding the function and use of artifacts, as well as determining the occupation history of the site, including how its major and minor features relate to each other. Students will gain an understanding of this interpretive process as the excavation proceeds. They will thereby learn how spatial analysis creates a framework for excavation planning and post-excavation analyses.

- **Survey Techniques**

Students will be introduced to a survey technique that is unique to Chinese archaeology: the Luoyang spade. Students will work together with YGZ field technicians and learn how to identify soil samples from natural and cultural deposits.

- **Flotation**

Archaeological flotation involves using water to process soil or archaeological deposits to recover tiny artifacts, specifically botanical remains. At the YGZ site, students will use simple techniques in flotation to extract plant seeds for later analysis.

- **Field Documentation**

Students will learn all the important methods of documentation in the field, such as keeping a field journal, feature description, field drawing, field photography, photogrammetry, and various measuring techniques.

ASSESSMENT

Grading will be based on two different components: Fieldwork and presentations. The following is the grade breakdown:

- **Fieldwork (60%):** Students are required to participate in excavation activities at the site every working day and to keep field records, which will be checked regularly. This grade also reflects the ability to work well in a team.
- **Two presentations (2*10%):** Each team of students is required to prepare two PowerPoint presentations – a mid-season and a final presentation – informing their teammates, the instructors, and Chinese collaborators about the progress of their work and any results they have obtained. The presenters will draw on their own experience in the field as well as materials from lectures and readings. Grades will be assigned for each team member based on the grade assigned to the team and individual performance.
- **Final report (20%):** Every student is required to submit a short report one week after the end of the field season. The report consists of 3-5 written pages summarizing the content of their work at YGZ and putting it into a wider context. With the approval of the instructors, the report can also focus on a specific subject relating to the work at YGZ that the student is particularly interested in.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART ONE: Lectures and Museum Tours (June 15-19)

June 14, 2026 (Sunday)

Dinner and Program Briefing: 6:30 pm

- Students meet at the lobby of Zhechen Hotel.

The first week of the program consists of an intensive series of lectures, museum visits, and laboratory tours aimed at equipping students with the conceptual, methodological, and regional background necessary for archaeological fieldwork at the Yangganzhai site. Instruction covers the history and institutional development of Chinese archaeology; archaeological theory, methods, and field practices; Neolithic settlement and cultural developments in the Guanzhong region and the Wei River valley; and specialized introductions to pottery technology, zooarchaeology, archaeobotany, and archaeological documentation. Together, these activities provide a structured foundation for subsequent excavation and lab work on site. Full citations for all required readings are provided at the end of this syllabus.

June 15, 2026 (Monday)

Breakfast: 7:45 am

- Student dining hall, Zhechen Hotel
- **Opening Ceremony: 9:00-10:00 (Shaanxi Archaeological Museum)**
 - All the students and the chief leader of Shaanxi academy of Archaeology and Northwest University attending
- **Lecture I: 10:15-12:00 pm (Shaanxi Archaeological Museum)**
 - **Lothar von Falkenhausen: The History of Chinese Archaeology**
 - keywords: the antiquarian tradition; the introduction of modern archaeology; the earliest excavation projects; the building of the discipline; archaeological institutions in the People's Republic of China; foreign archaeologists working in China and Chinese archaeologists working abroad; current trends.
 - Required readings: von Falkenhausen 1993
 - Discussion: 11:45-12:00 pm

Lunch: 12:00-2:00 pm

- **Museum Tour: 2:00-5:00 pm**
 - Visit the Shaanxi Archaeological Museum

June 16, 2026 (Tuesday)

Breakfast: 7:30 am

- Student dining hall, Zhechen Hotel
- **Lecture II: 8:30 am-10:15 am (Chang'an Campus, Location TBD)**

- **Yaopeng Qian:** *Settlement Archaeology in China*

- Keywords: Neolithic settlement, the Yellow River region, settlement pattern analysis, settlement relationships 、
- Required readings: Lee 2007, Peterson and Shelach-Lavi 2012
- Discussion: 10:00 am-10:15 am

Break: 10:15-10:30 am

- **Lecture III: 10:30 am-12:00 pm (Chang'an Campus, Location TBD)**

- **Linlin Zhai:** *Prehistoric Cultures in the Guanzhong Region*

- Keywords: Laoguantai Culture (ca. 6000-5000 BC), Yangshao Culture (ca. 5000-3000 BC), Longshan Culture (ca. 3000-2000 BC)
 - Required readings: Li 2013
 - Discussion: 11:45 am-12:00 pm

Lunch: 12:00-2:00 pm

- **Museum Tour: 2:00-5:00 pm**

- Visit the Banpo Museum

June 17, 2026 (Wednesday)

Breakfast: 7:30 am

- Student dining hall, Zhechen Hotel

- **Lecture IV: 8:30-10:00 am (Chang'an Campus, Location TBD)**

- **Meng Guo:** *Pottery Technology and Production of Yangshao Culture*

- Keywords: pottery technology, craft production systems
 - Required readings: Rye 1981, Costin 2001
 - Discussion: 9:45-10:00 am

Break: 10:00-10:15 am

- **Lecture V: 10:15 am – 12:00 am (Chang'an Campus, Zooarchaeology Lab)**

- **Yue Li:** *A Brief introduction to Zooarchaeology in China*

- Keywords: domestication, consumption patterns
 - Required readings: Flad *et al.* 2007
 - Discussion: 11:45 am-12:00 pm

Lunch: 12:00-2:00 pm

- **Lecture VI 2:00-4:30 pm (Chang'an Campus, Archaeobotany Lab)**

- **Zhikun Ma:** *Co-adaptive Dynamics of Human Activity and Crop Niches in the Neolithic Wei River Valley, China (8,000–4,000 cal. BP)*

- Keywords: agriculture, Wei River Vally, Neolithic, Crop Niches
 - Required readings: Zhang *et al.* 2024, An and Tang 2025, Cui 2024.
 - Discussion: 4:15-4:30 pm

- **Laboratory Tour: 4:45-5:45 pm**

- Visit the laboratories of the School of Cultural Heritage on the Chang'an Campus

June 18, 2026 (Thursday)

Breakfast: 7: 30 am

- Student dining hall, Zhechen Hotel

• **Visit the Emperor Qinshihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum: 8:30 am**

- Depart from Zhechen Hotel with all your belongings

Lunch: - 12:30 pm

- At the museum or on the way to the hotel

• **Check-in at the Sanne International Hotel: ~3:00 pm**

Dinner: - 7:00 pm

- Meet at the lobby of Sanne International Hotel

June 19, 2026 (Friday)

Breakfast: 7: 30 am

- Student dining hall, Sanne International Hotel.

• **Lecture VII: 8:30-10:00am (Sanne International Hotel)**

- **Liping Yang/Yupeng Yin:** *Important Discoveries at Yangguanzhai*

📖 Keywords: Miaodigou phase, Banpo IV phase, archaeological features

📖 Required readings: Wang et al. 2009 (in Chinese; Students who do not read Chinese should focus on the figures), Ye and Hein 2020, Kielhofer *et al.* 2021, Hein *et al.* 2020

📖 Discussion: 9:45-10:00 am

Break: 10:00-10:15 am

• **Yangguanzhai Site Tour: 10:15 am-12:00 pm**

- Visit the reservoir area, tomb area of site and the work station

Lunch: 12:00-2:00 pm

• **Lecture VIII: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm (Sanne International Hotel)**

- **Zhen Wang:** *The practice of Field Archaeology*

📖 Keywords: Field Survey, Excavation, Recording

📖 Required readings: Dianne, 1994

📖 Handouts: field journal

☐ Discussion: 3:45-4:00 pm

Break: 4:00-4:15 pm

• **Field Practice: 4:15 – 6:00 pm (Yangguanzhai Site)**

Dinner: 7:00 pm

- Meet at the lobby of the Sanne International Hotel

PART TWO: Fieldwork (June 20-July 19, 2026)

During the four-week fieldwork phase, students will participate in intensive archaeological excavation and laboratory training at the Yanggouzhai site and the Yanggouzhai field research station. Fieldwork is structured to provide hands-on experience with all major stages of archaeological practice, including excavation, stratigraphic interpretation, artifact recovery, documentation, and post-excavation processing. Students will work in rotating teams under the supervision of project directors and specialist instructors, with training emphasizing careful excavation techniques, context-based recording, and the interpretation of complex stratigraphy. Practical instruction includes maintaining field journals, completing context and feature descriptions, producing field drawings and photographs, and applying basic measurement and recording techniques.

In addition to excavation, students will participate in laboratory activities that complement fieldwork, including pottery washing and cataloging, flotation for the recovery of archaeobotanical remains, and the preliminary sorting and analysis of artifacts and ecofacts. Field and laboratory work are closely integrated, allowing students to understand how excavation data are transformed into archaeological interpretations and research questions.

Project directors and visiting scholars will deliver specialized lectures on research themes related to the site and ongoing fieldwork either on site or at the hotel where students are accommodated. Lecture schedules are subject to the availability of visiting scholars and will be announced to the group once confirmed.

During the fieldwork period, the program will organize academic visits to museums, archaeological sites, and research institutions, typically scheduled on Wednesday or on designated days when excavation is not in session. These visits are an integral component of the training program and may include the workstation of the Shaanxi Academy of Archaeology, the Hanyangling Museum (the mausoleum of a Western Han dynasty emperor), and other affiliated archaeological sites.

In addition to these program-organized activities, students may choose to travel to Xi'an on weekends during designated rest periods. Students may stay overnight in Xi'an on Saturday at their own expense and are required to return to the hotel by 5:00 pm on Sunday.

Intensive excavations and lab work at the Yanggouzhai site and the Yanggouzhai field research station. Students may return to Xi'an on Sunday, returning to the site before 5 pm. Project directors and scholars who visit the site will give lectures on site or at the hotel where we are staying. The times are not fixed yet, since it depends on their availability, but we will announce them to the team as soon as we know. Detailed assignment of each week's tasks will be explained at the site.

- **Notice:** As the unpredictable weather, some lab work (washing pottery sherds, flotation, cataloging) and some Specialized Courses (Human Osteoarchaeology, geoarchaeological method of micromorphology etc.) is usually arranged on rainy days or high temperature days.
- **Daily schedule (Monday through Saturday):**
 - Breakfast: 6:40 am:
 - Work (morning): 7:00-11:30 am

- Lunch and break: 11:30 am-3:00 pm
- Work (afternoon): 3:00-6:30 pm
- Team meeting and dinner: 7:30 pm (Twice a week, we will inform everyone a day before)

July 5, 2026 (Saturday)

- **Mid-Season Presentation**

- Students present their research results and further questions at this stage in the season, 20 minutes per group. Professors from collaborating institutions comment on the presentations.

July 19, 2026 (Sunday)

- **Final Presentation: 2:00 pm**

- Same procedure as the mid-season presentation.

- **Farewell Party: 7:00 pm**

July 20, 2026 (Monday)

- **Students depart the site**

REQUIRED READINGS

- An, C., and Tang, L. (2025). "Spatiotemporal dynamics of prehistoric millet agriculture dispersal in Northwest China." *Archaeological Research in Asia*. 44. 100658. 10.1016/j.ara.2025.100658.
- Costin, C. L. (2001). "Craft Production Systems. In *Archaeology at the Millennium: A Sourcebook*, edited by G. M. Feiman & T. D. Price. Springer Science. Pp. 273-327.
- Cui, J. (2024). "Mapping landscape in Longshan period's hierarchical society (3000–2000BCE) of North Loess Plateau: from archaeological predictive model to GIS spatial analysis." *Heritage Science*. 12. 10.1186/s40494-024-01194-5.
- Fitzpatrick, Dianne. Museum of London Archaeology Service. 1994. *Archaeological Site Manual* 3rd Ed. MoLAS.
- Flad, R.K., Yuan, J. and Li, S. (2007). "Zooarchaeological evidence for animal domestication in northwest China." In *Late Quaternary Climate Change and Human Adaptation in Arid China*, edited by David B. Madsen, Chen Fahu, et al. Amsterdam: Elsevier Press. Pp. 163-199.
- Hein, A., Ye, W. and Yang, L. (2020). "Soil, hands, and heads: An ethnoarchaeological study on local preconditions of pottery production in the Wei River valley (northern China)." *Advances in Archaeomaterials*, 1(1): 51-104
- Lee, Y.-K. (2007). "Centripetal settlement and segmentary social formation of the Banpo tradition." *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 26: 630-675.

- Li, X. (2013). "The later Neolithic period in the central Yellow River valley area, c. 4000-3000 BC." In *A Companion to Chinese Archaeology*, edited by A. Underhill. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell. Pp. 213- 235.
- Liu, L. and Chen, X. (2012). *The Archaeology of China, from the Late Paleolithic to the Early Bronze Age*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1 "Chinese Archaeology: Past, Present, and Future," Pp. 1-21.
- Peterson, C. and Shelach-Lavi, G. (2012). "Jiangzhai: Social and economic organizations of a middle Neolithic Chinese village." *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 31(3): 265-301.
- Rye, O. S. (1981). *Pottery Technology: Principles and Reconstruction*. Taraxacum Inc. Chapter 3: "The production sequence." Pp. 16-28.
- Schiffer, M.B. (1972). "Archaeological context and systemic context." *American Antiquity* 37 (2):156-65.
- Shaanxisheng Kaogu Yanjiuyuan (Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology). (2009). "Shaanxi Gaoling Yangguanzhai Xinshiqi Shidai Yizhi (The Yangguanzhai Neolithic Site at Gaoling County, Shaanxi Province) [陕西高陵县杨官寨新石器时代遗址]." *Kaogu* 2009: 3-9. (in Chinese, with English abstract)
- Shelach-Lavi, G. (1998). "A settlement pattern study in northeast China: Results and potential contributions of western theory and methods to Chinese archaeology." *Antiquity* 72(275): 114- 127.
- Underhill, A.P. (2002). *Craft Production and Social Change in Northern China*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers. Chapter 1: "Craft Production and the Development of Complex Societies in Ancient China." Pp. 1-18.
- Underhill, A.P. and Habu, J. (2006). *Archaeology of Asia* (edited by M. T. Stark). Malden, MA: Blackwell. Chapter 7: "Early Communities in East Asia: Economic and Sociopolitical Organization at the Local and Regional Levels." Pp.121-148.
- von Falkenhausen, L. (1993). On the historiographical orientation of Chinese archaeology. *Antiquity* 67(257): 839-849.
- Yan, W M. (1999). "Neolithic settlements in China: Latest finds and research." *Journal of East Asian Archaeology* 1(1-4): 131-148.
- Ye, W. and Hein, A. (2020). "A buried past: Five thousand years of (pre)history on the Jing-Wei floodplain." *Asian Archaeology* 4: 1-15.
- Zhang, J., Guan, Y., Xin, Y., Wang, H., Wang, Y., Wu, B., Liu, X., Li, J., Guo, J., Chen, L., Zhang, J., Zhang, C., and Zhang, H. (2024). "The spatiotemporal distribution and environmental suitability evaluation of Neolithic settlements in the Western Guanzhong Basin of China." *The Holocene*. 35. 10.1177/09596836241291978.