



Department of History

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Cecilia L. Chien

Associate Professor of History and Assistant Department Chair



Brief Biography:

Cecilia Chien is an Associate Professor and Assistant Chairperson of the Department of History at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. Before coming to WCU in 2005, she taught at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in colonial and post-colonial Hong Kong from 1994-2005. Dr. Chien received her BA degree in History with French and Russian minors from Central Michigan University in 1980. She received her MA and PhD degrees in History from Harvard University in 1985 and 1994 respectively. She studied for two years in Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan, on an International Rotary Graduate Fellowship from 1982-1984. In addition to living in Hong Kong for ten years, she has traveled extensively in the mainland of China as well as to Taiwan, Macau, Singapore, and South Korea. She serves on the Executive Board of the Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies. As an “ABC” born in Washington, DC, Dr. Chien’s life commitment is building bridges between East and West.

Teaching Interests:

Dr. Chien teaches upper-division and graduate courses in pre-modern and modern East Asian history as well as general education sections of World Civilization. Her course offerings thus far include History of Civilization I, Chinese Civilization, Modern China, History of East Asia, The Rise of Industrial East Asia, China's Economic Miracle in Historical Perspective, History and Culture of East Asia, and Reading East Asia through Film. She mentors students in opportunities for study and teaching in East Asia. She is currently developing new courses in Asian-American history and contemporary Chinese, Japanese, and Korean-language film. She is the co-advisor to the Asian Students Association and a member of the Ethnic Studies Steering Committee.

Research Interests:

Dr. Chien has published a book, *Salt and State* (University of Michigan Center for Chinese Studies, 2004), on the political economy of imperial China focusing on the government monopoly of the salt industry in the Song dynasty (970-1279). Her current research interests include the following: the regional history of middle-imperial China; kinship and genealogy in China; global tourism theory and Chinese tourism as connected to development, nation-building, heritage, and the environment; and Chinese TV and historical drama.

Select Publications:

Translation of *Wuyue Qianwang* 吴越钱王 [*King Qian of the Wuyue kingdom (907-978)*], a 28-part historical drama on DVD, Huawen Film Co., 2009. Forthcoming.

"Binzhou xiaocheng jiapu yanjiu 2" 宾州小城家谱研究记 (二) [Genealogical research at the Mormon Family History Library, Salt Lake City, USA]." *Qianshi* 3 (2010): forthcoming.

"Binzhou xiaocheng jiapu yanjiu 1" 宾州小城家谱研究记 (一) [Professional genealogical research in Pennsylvania, USA]. *Wuyue Qianshi* 2 (2009): 46-48.

Salt and State: An Annotated Translation of the Song Salt Monopoly Treatise. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, Center for Chinese Studies, 2004.

Select Presentations:

"The Chinese Model of Tourism: Case of the Southeast" at the Annual Conference, Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies, Villanova University, October 30-November 1, 2009.

"3,000 Years of a Chinese Family," a table poster for the 8th Annual Research Day, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, April 14, 2009.

- “Tourism in China” at the 15th Annual National Conference, Asian Studies Development Program, Philadelphia, March 5-7, 2009
- “Chinese Calligraphy—Theory, Practice, and Hands-on Workshop” a presentation for the Green Library Seminar, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, *December 4, 2008*.
- “Development in the Yangzi Delta in the Five Dynasties” at the Annual Conference, Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies, Rutgers University, October 24-26, 2008.
- “Kinship and Genealogy in China,” a presentation for the Diversity Lecture Series, Office of Social Equity, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, September 16, 2008.
- “Roots and Diaspora: 1,000 Years of a Chinese Family,” a presentation for the Ethnic Studies Seminar, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, April 16, 2008.
- “Ancestors, Tourism, & State in the Yangzi Delta Today,” a poster session for the 7th Annual Research Day, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, March 27, 2008.
- “Dreams of a King: Qian Liu & the Wuyue Kingdom (907-978)” at the Annual Conference, Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies, University of Maryland, October 26-28, 2007.
- “Teachers Studying Abroad,” a panel discussion at the Annual Conference, Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies, University of Maryland. *Oct 26-28, 2007*
- “Civility and Exhortations in China Today,” a report on the Faculty Staff Development Abroad Initiative--China 2007 Report Session, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, September 19, 2007.
- “Family History: Context, Memory, and Identity” at the WCU/FSDAI International Conference on Global Perspectives in Higher Education, Guiyang, China, May 18-20, 2007.
- “Issues in Culture, Research, and Pedagogy,” a panel discussion at Annual Conference of Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies, Seton Hall University, October 27-29, 2006.

Academic Memberships:

Association for Asian Studies (AAS)

American Historical Association (AHA)

Chester County Historical Society (CCHS)

Qian Liu Research Society of Zhejiang, China

Association of Chinese Historians in the US (CHUS)

Association of Chinese Professionals of the Social Sciences (ACPSS)

Executive Committee, Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies (MARAAS)
