

ALEXEI KAMRAN DITTER

PROFESSOR OF CHINESE AND HUMANITIES • REED COLLEGE

114 ELIOT HALL • 3203 SE WOODSTOCK BOULEVARD • PORTLAND, OR 97202

EDUCATION

- 2009 Ph.D., East Asian Studies, Princeton University
- 2001 M.A., East Asian Studies, Princeton University
- 1995 B.A., East Asian Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, University of Minnesota
- 1991–93 Chinese Literature Department (中文系), Tunghai University, Taichung, Taiwan
- 1989–91 Chinese Language Center, Tunghai University, Taichung, Taiwan

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2006– REED COLLEGE, Chinese, Portland, OR (*Visiting Assistant Professor*, 2006–08; *Assistant Professor*, 2008–12; *Associate Professor*, 2012–22; *Professor*, 2022–; *Chair*, 2015–18, 2020–22)

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023–24 Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Scholar Grant
- 2023–24 Fulbright Scholar Award, 2023–24
- 2023 Summer Residency, National Humanities Center (June)
- 2014– Co-PI (with Jessey J.C. Choo), “New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China” workshop series, Tang Research Foundation [Annual reading workshops on medieval Chinese entombed epigraphy] (\$110,000-)
- 2022–23 Sabbatical Fellowship Award, Reed College
- 2022–23 Sabbatical Research Expense Fund, Reed College
- 2019 Fellowship, Morphomata Center for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Cologne (The Käte Hamburger International Centres in the Humanities, Germany), January–July. (€39,000/\$44,460)
- 2017 Co-PI (with Jessey J.C. Choo), Book Subvention, Tang Research Foundation, for “The Study of Medieval Chinese Entombed Epitaphs.” (\$5,000)
- 2014–15 Sabbatical Fellowship Award, Reed College
- 2014–15 Sabbatical Research Expense Fund, Reed College
- 2010–11 Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Junior Scholars Grant (\$15,000)
- 2010–11 Sabbatical Fellowship Award, Reed College
- 2010–11 Sabbatical Research Expense Fund, Reed College

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2017 *Tales from Tang Dynasty China: Selections from the Taiping guangji* 太平廣記. Edited by Alexei Kamran Ditter, Jessey J.C. Choo, and Sarah M. Allen. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 2017.

Articles (Peer-Reviewed)

- 2021 With Jessey J.C. Choo. "In Plain Sight: A New Approach to Reading *Muzhiming*, Using Shangguan Wan'er 上官婉兒 (664–710) as a Case Study." *T'oung Pao* 107.3-4 (2021): 319–75.
- 2017 "Audience and Aims of Mid-Tang *Muzhiming*: A Preliminary Study." *Zhongguo Zhongguo yanjiu* 中古中國研究 [Medieval Chinese Studies] 1 (2017): 395-416.
- 2014 "The Commerce of Commemoration: Commissioned *Muzhiming* in the mid- to late-Tang." *Tang Studies* 32 (2014): 21–46.
- 2011 "Conceptions of Urban Space in Duan Chengshi's 'Records of Monasteries and Stupas.'" *Tang Studies* 29 (2011): 62–83.
- 2009 "New Shoes and Trimmed Feet: The Formation of the Modern Canon of Tang Dynasty Prose." *Tang Studies* 27 (2009): 66–89.

Book Chapters (Peer-Reviewed)

- 2022 "Tang and Song Expository Prose: The Practice of Persuasion." In *How to Read Chinese Prose: A Guided Anthology*, edited by Zong-qi Cai and Yucai Liu, 229–48. New York: Columbia University Press, 2022.
- 2021 "Zizhuan *muzhiming*" 自撰墓志銘," in Yi Peixia 伊沛霞, Yao Ping 姚平, and Zhang Cong 张聪, ed., *Zhuhuai shengming: Zhongguo lishi shang de muzhiming* 追懷生命：中國歷史上的墓志銘 (Shanghai: Shanghai guji, 2021), 26-35. [Chinese translation of "Authoring One's Own Epitaph"]
- 2019 "Authoring One's Own Epitaph: 'Self-authored Epitaph' by Wang Ji (590?–644) and 'Inscription Dictated While Near Death' by Wang Xuanzong (633–686)." In *Chinese Funerary Biographies: An Anthology of Remembered Lives*, edited by Patricia Ebrey, Ping Yao, and Cong Ellen Zhang, 47–58. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2019.
- 2018 "Genre and the Construction of Memory: A Case Study of Quan Deyu 權德輿 (759–818)." In *Memory in Medieval China: Text, Ritual, and Community*, edited by Wendy Swartz and Rob Company, 193–212. Leiden: Brill, 2018.
- 2017 With Jessey J.C. Choo and Sarah M. Allen. "General introduction." In *Tales from Tang Dynasty China*, edited by Alexei Kamran Ditter, Jessey J.C. Choo, and Sarah M. Allen, 1–30. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 2017.
- 2015 "Civil Examinations and Cover Letters in the Mid-Tang: A Close Reading of Dugu Yu's 獨孤郁 (776-815) "Letter Submitted to Attendant Gentleman Quan of the Ministry of Rites" 上禮部權侍郎書." In *History of Chinese Epistolary Culture*, edited by Antje Richter, 642–74. Leiden: Brill, 2015.
- 2015 "*Chuxue ji* (Fundamentals of Learning)." In *Early Medieval Chinese Texts: A Bibliographic Guide*, edited by Cynthia Chennault, Keith Knapp, Alan Berkowitz, and Albert Dien, 52–57. Berkeley and Los Angeles: Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California Press, 2015.

Translations

- 2021 With Jake Buck. "Selections from the *Qiyān lù* 啟顏錄 (*A Record [of Tales] that Crack a Smile*). *Renditions* 96 (Autumn 2021): 45–52.
- 2017 "Xiao Yingshi." In *Tales from Tang Dynasty China*, edited by Alexei Kamran Ditter, Jessey J.C. Choo, and Sarah M. Allen, 37–39. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 2017.
- 2017 "Ming Siyuan." In *Tales from Tang Dynasty China*, edited by Alexei Kamran Ditter, Jessey J.C. Choo, and Sarah M. Allen, 39–42. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 2017.
- 2017 "Di Weiqian." In *Tales from Tang Dynasty China*, edited by Alexei Kamran Ditter, Jessey J.C. Choo, and Sarah M. Allen, 56–61. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 2017.
- 2017 "The Female Slave of Li Fu," In *Tales from Tang Dynasty China*, edited by Alexei Kamran Ditter, Jessey J.C. Choo, and Sarah M. Allen, 67–69. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 2017.
- 2017 "Peng Yan." In *Tales from Tang Dynasty China*, edited by Alexei Kamran Ditter, Jessey J.C. Choo, and Sarah M. Allen, 70–71. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 2017.

Book Reviews

- 2019 Timothy M. Davis, *Entombed Epigraphy and Commemorative Culture in Early Medieval China*. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2015. *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 139.2 (April-June 2019): 525–27.
- 2017 Nicolas Tackett, *The Destruction of the Medieval Chinese Aristocracy*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Asia Center, 2014. *The Historian* 79.1 (Spring 2017): 160–61.

Workshop Reports

- 2023 Fifth Workshop of the New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China: On Funerary Inscriptions, Elling Eide Center, May 19–20, 2023." Co-authored with Jessey J. C. Choo. *T'ang Studies* 41 (2023): 179–84. Forthcoming.
- 2018 "On Commemorative Inscription": Fourth Workshop of the New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China, Reed College, May 17–19, 2018." Co-authored with Jessey J.C. Choo. *Tang Studies* 36 (2018): 150–54.
- 2016 "Workshop Report: 'On Muzhiming': Second Workshop of the New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China, Reed College, May 23–24, 2016." Co-authored with Jessey J.C. Choo. *Early Medieval China* 21 (2016): 75–80.
- 2015 "New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China, Inaugural Workshop: On Muzhiming. Rutgers University, May 15–16, 2015." Co-authored with Jessey J.C. Choo. *Tang Studies* 33 (2015): 129–34.

Works in Progress

MONOGRAPH

“Collaborative Remembering in 7th–10th century China.”

“Genre and Memory in Medieval China.”

CO-EDITED BOOK

With Jessey J.C. Choo. “The Study of Medieval Chinese Entombed Epitaphs: An Anthology of Translations.” [subvention from the Tang Research Foundation].

With Rao Xiao. “Laughter, Humor, and Comedy in Middle Period China, 600-1400” [Under contract with Amsterdam University Press]

PRESENTATIONS

Conference and Workshop

- 2023 “What We Learn from Looking at Layouts: Construction and Design in Tang Dynasty (618–907) Entombed Epitaphs.” Studying Written Artefacts: Challenges and Perspectives International Conference, University of Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany.
- 2023 “Collaborative self-remembrance: Entombed Epitaph Inscription, with Preface, for Liu Fu 劉復 (? – 793).” Fifth Workshop for New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China, Elling Eide Center, Sarasota, FL.
- 2023 “Two Authors, One Epitaph: Collaborative Remembering in Late Medieval Chinese Entombed Epitaph.” 14th Annual Chinese Medieval Studies Workshop at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 2023 “Identifying the “Self” in the Self-Authored *muzhiming* of the Tang Dynasty (618–907).” Workshop on Autobiographical Writing in the Early World, Elling Eide Center, Sarasota, FL.
- 2022 “What We Uncover from Epitaph Covers: A Preliminary Exploration of *muzhi gai* 墓志蓋.” Annual Meeting of the Western Branch of the American Oriental Society, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.
- 2022 “Making Fun of Others: Humor and Representation in the *Qiyān lu*.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Honolulu, HI.
- 2021 “What Makes a Memory: Reflections on the Commemoration of Liu Zongyuan (773–819).” Annual Meeting of the of the Association for Asian Studies, Online.
- 2019 “Making Memories Together: Co-Authoring in Tang *muzhiming*.” Annual Meeting of the Western Branch of the American Oriental Society, Davis, CA.
- 2019 “Memory-making in Tang Dynasty Buddhist *muzhiming*: A Preliminary Exploration.” International Conference on the Production, Preservation, and Perusal of Buddhist Epigraphy in Central and East Asia, Oxford University.
- 2019 “Contrast and Complementarity in the Construction of Memory.” Morphomata Center for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany.

- 2018 "Entombed Epitaph Inscription and Preface for His Excellency Li [Quanli 李全禮 (d. after 733).]" Fourth Workshop for New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China, Reed College, Portland, OR.
- 2018 "Self Remembrances: Writing One's Own Memory in Late Medieval China." 12th Annual Chinese Medieval Studies Workshop at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 2018 "Her Memories of Him: Women Writers of Tang Entombed Epitaph Inscriptions." Annual Meeting of the of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington, DC.
- 2017 "Orality, Textuality, and Materiality in Self-Authored Entombed Epitaph Inscriptions of the Tang Dynasty." International Symposium for New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China, Beijing, China.
- 2017 "Getting the Last Word: A Preliminary Discussion of Tang Entombed Epitaphs Written by Wives for Deceased Husbands." Annual Meeting of the Western Branch of the American Oriental Society, Tempe, AZ.
- 2017 "Two early Tang 'Self-Authored' *muzhiming*: Wang Ji 王績 (590–644) and Wang Xuanzong 王玄宗 (633–686)." Records of the Dead, Records for the Living: Reading *Muzhiming*. Los Angeles, CA.
- 2016 "Self-Authored *muzhiming* in the late Tang: Han Chang and Pei Gong." Second Workshop for New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China, Reed College, Portland, OR.
- 2016 "From Athazagoraphobia to Self-Advertising: Multivalent Motives of Self-Authored *muzhiming* in the mid- to late-Tang." Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, Seattle, WA.
- 2016 "Remembering à la mode: Genre and the Construction of Memory in Quan Deyu's Funerary Writings." 11th Annual Chinese Medieval Studies Workshop at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 2015 "Poems on Pillars, Odes to Oysters: Literary Interactions With and Within Chang'an's Daxingshan Monastery in the 8th and 9th Centuries." Annual Meeting of the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, Portland, OR.
- 2015 "Quotation and Commemoration: Cited Speech in *Muzhiming* of the mid- and late-Tang." Annual Meeting of the Western Branch of the American Oriental Society, Boulder, CO.
- 2015 "Constructing Memory from the Words of Others: The Role of Cited Speech in a 9th century *muzhiming*." Rutgers University, Inaugural Workshop for New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 2015 "Genre and Memory in the Writings of Quan Deyu 權德輿 (759–818)." Invited paper presented at "To Remember, Re-member, and Disremember: Instrumentality of Traditional Chinese Texts" Workshop, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ.
- 2014 "Audience and Aims of mid-Tang *muzhiming*: A Preliminary Study." "Repainting the Style of Medieval China" Symposium, Fudan University, Shanghai, China.
- 2014 "Commemoration by Commission: The Buying and Selling of Memory in the Mid-Tang." Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

- 2013 "Place, Genre, and the Construction of Memory: Chang'an's Ci'en Monastery in the 8th and 9th Centuries." Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego, CA.
- 2012 "Authors, Objectives, and Audiences of Mid-Tang *Muzhiming*: Some Preliminary Thoughts." Medieval Studies Workshop, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 2011 "How to Read the Genre of *Muzhiming* in the Mid-Tang." Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, Honolulu, HI.
- 2010 "The Genre of Cover Letters in the Mid-Tang." Workshop on Tang Dynasty Culture, Kansas City, KS.
- 2009 "The Auto-Inscribed Life: Self-authored *Muzhiming* in the Mid- to Late-Tang." Tang Studies: The Next Twenty-Five Years, Albany, NY.

Invited Talks

- 2022 "Autobiographical *muzhiming* as Collaborative Remembering." Premodern Chinese Literature Workshop, East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University.
- 2022 "Commemoration through Collaboration: Memory making in late medieval *muzhiming* (墓誌銘)." Yale MacMillan Center Council on East Asian Studies Colloquium.
- 2019 With Jessey J.C. Choo. "How to Read *Muzhiming* Revisited." University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.
- 2019 "Entombed Epitaphs as Collaborative Remembrance." Ludwig Maximilians University (LMU) Munich, Germany.
- 2019 "Memory Making in Late Medieval China: A Case Study of the Female Chief Minister to China's Only Woman Emperor." [with Jessey J.C. Choo] Morphomata Center for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany.
- 2019 "Precedence and Persuasion: Some Preliminary Thoughts on Classicizing Learning in the Tang Dynasty (618–907)." University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK.
- 2017 "Current Trends in the Study of Tang Literature." Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, USA.
- 2015 "Reasons for Remembering: Audiences and Aims of the mid-Tang *muzhiming*." University of Oxford China Centre, Oxford, UK.
- 2015 "The Multiple Voices of a Tang *muzhiming*." Text reading seminar held at the Needham Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.
- 2015 "Genre and the Construction of Memory: A Case Study of Quan Deyu 權德輿 (759–818)." University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.

Panel/Roundtable Discussant

- 2019 Panel Discussant: "Sharp Contrast? Reflections on 'Contrasting and Complementary Figures of Portraiture and Biography,'" Annual Conference, Morphomata Center for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany.
- 2019 Panel Discussant: "Comparative Approaches to the Chinese and Byzantine Imperial Systems: Literati, Cities, Courts, Soldiers." University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK.

- 2018 Roundtable Discussant: Fourth Workshop for New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China, Reed College, Portland, OR.
- 2016 Roundtable Discussant: Second Workshop for New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China, Reed College, Portland, OR.
- 2015 Roundtable Discussant: Inaugural Workshop for New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

- 2023– Member, Board of Directors (East Asia Sectional Chair), American Oriental Society.
- 2022– Member, Board of Directors, T'ang Studies Society.
- 2016–21 Secretary-Treasurer, Western Branch of the American Oriental Society.
- 2022 Co-organizer, fifth workshop of the “New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China” series, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK (May 21–22, 2020; rescheduled to May 2023, Elling Eide Center, Sarasota, FL)
- 2016–18 Organizer, Sinobibliophile Salon @ Reed (Chinese text reading workshop)
- 2018 Co-organizer, fourth workshop of the “New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China” series, Reed College, Portland, OR.
- 2018 Panel Co-chair. “Hearing Women’s Voices: Meaning-Making and Misinterpretation of Female-’Authored’ Discourse in Medieval China.” With Rebecca Doran. Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington, DC.
- 2017 Co-organizer, third workshop of the “New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China” series, Peking University, Beijing, PRC.
- 2016 Co-organizer, Western Branch of the American Oriental Society, Annual Meeting, Portland State University, Portland, OR.
- 2016 Co-organizer, second workshop of the “New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China” series, Reed College, Portland, OR.
- 2015 Co-organizer, inaugural workshop of the “New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China” series, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 2010 Panel Organizer: “Shifting Sense of Self: Metamorphosis, Identity, and Memory in Chinese Literature.” Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, Honolulu, HI.
- 2009 Panel Co-organizer: “Carved in Stone: *Muzhi* in the Tang Dynasty.” Tang Studies: The Next Twenty-Five Years Conference, Albany, NY.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE (REED COLLEGE)

- 2015–F18; 2020–22 Chair, Department of Chinese
- 2021–22 Secretary, Division of Languages and Literature
- 2019–22; 2012–13 Alcohol and Other Drugs Committee (Chair 2019–22)
- 2019–20 Search Committee, Sabbatical Replacement, Chinese (Chair)
- 2019–20 Search Committee, Sabbatical Replacement, Linguistics

2017–18	Search Committee, Sabbatical Replacement, Chinese
2015–18	Community Affairs Committee
2013–14	Search Committee, Sabbatical Replacement, Chinese
2012–14; 2008–10	Fellowships and Awards Committee
2012–13	Search Committee, Sabbatical Replacement, Chinese (Chair)
2012–13	Search Committee, Sabbatical Replacement, Art History
2012–13	Drug and Alcohol Review Panel
2008–10	Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) Committee
2008–09	Search Committee, Sabbatical Replacement, Chinese
2008–09	Search Committee, Sabbatical Replacement, Art History
2007–08	Faculty Chaperone, Art History China Tour (Fall Break)

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS

Asia Major

Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies

Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews (CLEAR)

Journal of Song-Yuan Studies

Journal of the American Oriental Society

Tang Studies

T'oung Pao: International Journal of Chinese Studies

TEACHING (COURSES)

Reed College	Chin 110 First Year Modern Chinese
	Chin 210 Second Year Modern Chinese
	Chin 311 Third Year Modern Chinese
	Chin 316 Classical Chinese
	Chin 324 Genres of Memory in Medieval China
	Chin 327 Chinese Inhumanities: Construction of the Other in Chinese Literature
	Chin 329 Stranger Things in Medieval China
	Chin 360 The Social Life of Poetry in the Tang Dynasty (618–907)
	Chin 367 Love in Late Imperial China
	Chin 380 <i>Dream of the Red Chamber</i> and the Literary Traditions of China
	Hum 231 Chinese Humanities: The Qin/Han Unification of China
	Hum 232 Chinese Humanities: Middle Imperial China: The Great Song Transition
	Independent Study: Readings in Contemporary Chinese Food Culture
	Independent Study: Late Imperial Chinese Cosmetic Formularies: Readings in the <i>Xianglian runse</i> 香奩潤色
	Independent Study: Research Methods in Chinese Literature

THESES ADVISED (REED COLLEGE)

S2009–F2009	Kim Damio (MALS)	Cosmetics and Painted Women in Late Imperial Chinese Literature
F2009–S2010	Aaron McCloud	Papercuts: The Literary and the Martial in the Genre of Wuxia Fiction
F2011–S2011	Rex Crabb	Revisiting the Taibo Temple: The Organization and Themes of “The Scholars” (<i>Rulin waishi</i> 儒林外史)
F2012–S2013	Alan Montecillo	Songs in the <i>Jin Ping Mei cihua</i> 金瓶梅词话
F2012–S2013	Amy Egerton-Wiley	Already Exiled From Home: History and Nostalgic Dissonance in Mo Yan's <i>Red Sorghum</i> 紅高粱
S2013–F2013	Wendell Britt	The Dystopian Present: Recontextualizing Yu Hua's 1980s Fiction
F2015–S2016	Joseph Winitzky	Gender in the Jianghu: Transgressive Gender Performance in "Wuxia" Cinema
F2016–S2017	Caroline Toll	Humanimals: An Analysis of the Progression of Animal-Human Hybrids in Mo Yan's <i>Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out</i>
S2018–F2018	Christopher Stasse	Buddhism, Nature, and 'Mystic Vision': A Study of the <i>Poem and Preface on a Journey to Stone Gate</i>
F2019–S2020	Jake Buck	Tales to Crack a Smile: A Translation and Analysis of <i>Qǐyán lù</i> 啟顏錄
F2020–S2021	Keziah Wong	In Your Dreams [18th c. Chinese fiction; 20th c. Asian-American fiction]
F2020–S2021	Alex Morgan	Mirages and Mirrors: Reflections on Femininity, Masculinity, and Adolescence in Two Mid-Qing-Dynasty Novels
F2021–S2022	AJ Adler	Questioning the Relationship Between Love and Expressions of Love Within Medieval Romance Stories of France and China (co-advised with Luc Monnin, French)

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese (fluent written and spoken)

Classical Chinese (fluent reading)

Japanese (intermediate written and spoken)

German (low intermediate, B1)

French (reading)