

ALEXEI KAMRAN DITTER

Department of Chinese
Reed College
114 Eliot Hall
3203 SE Woodstock Boulevard
Portland, OR 97202-8199

dittera@reed.edu
O: 503-517-7348
<https://www.reed.edu/chinese/faculty/ditter.html>

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

| | |
|---------|---|
| 2006 – | REED COLLEGE, Chinese, Portland, OR <i>Chair, 2015–18, 2020–; Associate Professor (2012–); Assistant Professor (2008–12); Visiting Assistant Professor (2006–08)</i> |
| 2005–06 | BRYN MAWR COLLEGE, East Asian Studies, Bryn Mawr, PA <i>Instructor</i> |
| 2002 | RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, Asian Languages and Cultures, New Brunswick, NJ <i>Lecturer</i> |
| 1995–98 | UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, Asian Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics, Minneapolis, MN <i>Teaching Assistant; Teaching Specialist (Summer 1998)</i> |

EDUCATION

| | |
|---------|---|
| 2009 | Ph.D., East Asian Studies, Princeton University Dissertation: “Genre and the Transformation of Writing in Tang Dynasty China (618–907)” Committee: Andrew Plaks (adviser), Martin Kern, Yang Lu |
| 2001 | M.A., East Asian Studies, Princeton University |
| 1995 | B.A., East Asian Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, University of Minnesota Thesis: “A Selected Translation and Study of the <i>Tianyinzi</i> 天隱子” Adviser: Richard B. Mather |
| 1991–93 | Chinese Literature Department (中文系), Tunghai University, Taichung, Taiwan |
| 1989–91 | Chinese Language Center, Tunghai University, Taichung, Taiwan |
| 1988 | Minnesota State University-Moorhead Exchange Program, Nankai University, Tianjin, China |

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2017 | <p><i>Tales from Tang Dynasty China: Selections from the Taiping guangji</i> 太平廣記. Edited by Alexei Kamran Ditter, Jessey J.C. Choo, and Sarah M. Allen. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 2017.</p> <p style="color: blue;">Reviews: Carrie E. (Reed) Wiebe, <i>Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies</i> 81.3 (October 2018): 565-66; Rebecca Doran, <i>Journal of Chinese Religions</i> 46.2 (November 2018): 199-201; Antje Richter, <i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i> 138.4 (2018): 919-20.</p> |
|------|---|

Journal Articles (peer-reviewed)

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2021 | <p>"In Plain Sight: A New Approach to Reading <i>Muzhiming</i>, Using Shangguan Wan'er 上官婉兒 (664–710) as a Case Study." Co-authored with Jessey J.C. Choo. <i>T'oung Pao: International Journal of Chinese Studies</i> 107.3-4 (2021): 319–75.</p> |
| 2021 | <p>"Selections from the <i>Qiyuan lu</i> 啟顏錄 (A Record [of Tales] that Crack a Smile). Co-authored with Jake Buck. <i>Renditions</i> 96 (Autumn 2021): 45–52.</p> |
| 2017 | <p>"Audience and Aims of Mid-Tang <i>Muzhiming</i>: A Preliminary Study." <i>Zhongguo Zhongguo yanjiu</i> 中古中國研究 1 (2017): 395-416.</p> |
| 2014 | <p>"The Commerce of Commemoration: Commissioned <i>Muzhiming</i> in the mid- to late-Tang." <i>Tang Studies</i> 32 (2014): 21–46.</p> |
| 2011 | <p>"Conceptions of Urban Space in Duan Chengshi's 'Records of Monasteries and Stupas.'" <i>Tang Studies</i> 29 (2011): 62–83.</p> |
| 2009 | <p>"New Shoes and Trimmed Feet: The Formation of the Modern Canon of Tang Dynasty Prose." <i>Tang Studies</i> 27 (2009): 66–89.</p> |

Chapters in Edited Books (peer-reviewed)

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2022 | <p>"Tang and Song Expository Prose: The Practice of Persuasion." In <i>How to Read Chinese Prose: A Guided Anthology</i>, edited by Zong-qi Cai and Yucai Liu, 229–48. New York: Columbia University Press, 2022.</p> |
| 2021 | <p>"Zizhuan <i>muzhiming</i>" 自撰墓志銘," in Yi Peixia 伊沛霞, Yao Ping 姚平, and Zhang Cong 張聰, ed., <i>Zhuihuai shengming: Zhongguo lishi shang de muzhiming</i> 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"]</p> |

- 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.
- [Review: Angela Schottenhammer, *Monumenta Serica* 68.2 \(562–63\).](#)
- 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 Campamy, 193–212. Leiden: Brill, 2018.
- [Reviews: Marie Bizais-Lillig, *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 141.1 \(2021\): 231–34; Yue Zhang, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, Series 3* \(2021\), 1–5.](#)
- 2017 “General introduction” (1–30, co-authored with Jessey J.C. Choo and Sarah M. Allen); “Xiao Yingshi” (37–39); “Ming Siyuan” (39–42); “Di Weiqian” (56–61); “The Female Slave of Li Fu” (67–69); “Peng Yan” (70–71). In *Tales from Tang Dynasty China*, edited by Alexei Kamran Ditter, Jessey J.C. Choo, and Sarah M. Allen. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co., 2017.
- 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.
- 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.
- [Review: Jean-Pierre Drège, *T’oung Pao* 103.1-3 \(2017\): 279–83](#)

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

| | |
|------|---|
| 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. <i>Tang Studies</i> 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. <i>Early Medieval China</i> 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. <i>Tang Studies</i> 33 (2015): 129–34. |

Manuscripts/Edited Volumes in Progress

| | |
|-------------|---|
| IN PROGRESS | <i>The Study of Medieval Chinese Entombed Epitaphs: An Anthology of Translations</i> . Edited by Jessey J.C. Choo and Alexei Kamran Ditter. [subvented by the Tang Research Foundation]. |
| IN PROGRESS | Manuscript: With Jessey J.C. Choo, "Immortalized in Stone: Memory Making in Late Medieval China" [partially funded by the Morphomata Center for Advanced Studies in the Humanities Fellowship]. |
| IN PROGRESS | Manuscript: <i>Genre and Memory in Medieval China</i> . |

PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED, FROM 2009)

| | |
|------|--|
| 2022 | Invited Talk: "Commemoration through Collaboration: Memory making in late medieval <i>muzhiming</i> (墓誌銘)." Yale MacMillan Center Council on East Asian Studies Colloquium. |
| 2022 | Conference: "Making Fun of Others: Humor and Representation in the <i>Qiyān lu</i> ." Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Honolulu, HI. |
| 2021 | Conference: "What Makes a Memory: Reflections on the Commemoration of Liu Zongyuan." Annual Meeting of the of the Association for Asian Studies, Online. |
| 2019 | Conference: "Making Memories Together: Co-Authoring in Tang <i>muzhiming</i> ." Annual Meeting of the Western Branch of the American Oriental Society, University of California-Davis, Davis, CA |

- Invited Presentation: "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.
- Invited Talk: "How to Read *Muzhiming* Revisited." [with Jessey J.C. Choo] University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.
- Invited Talk: "Entombed Epitaphs as Collaborative Remembrance." Ludwig Maximilians University (LMU) Munich, Germany.
- Conference: "Contrast and Complementarity in the Construction of Memory." Morphomata Center for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany.
- Invited Talk: "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.
- Invited Talk: "Precedence and Persuasion: Some Preliminary Thoughts on Classicizing Learning in the Tang Dynasty (618–907)." University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK.
- 2018 Workshop: "Self Remembrances: Writing One's Own Memory in Late Medieval China." 12th Annual Chinese Medieval Studies Workshop at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- Conference: "Her Memories of Him: Women Writers of Tang Entombed Epitaph Inscriptions." Annual Meeting of the of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington, DC.
- 2017 Workshop: "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
- Conference: "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
- Invited Talk: "Current Trends in the Study of Tang Literature." Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, USA.
- Workshop: "Two early Tang 'Self-Authored' *muzhiming*: Wang Ji 王績 (590–644) and Wang Xuanzong 王玄宗 (633–686)." Records of

2016

the Dead, Records for the Living: Reading *Muzhiming*. Los Angeles, CA

Workshop: "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.

Conference: "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.

Workshop: "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

Conference: "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.

Conference: "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.

Workshop: "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.

Workshop: "Genre and Memory in the Writings of Quan Deyu 權德輿 (759–818)." Invited paper presented at "To Remember, Remember, and Disremember: Instrumentality of Traditional Chinese Texts" Workshop, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ.

Invited Talk: "Reasons for Remembering: Audiences and Aims of the mid-Tang *muzhiming*." University of Oxford China Centre, Oxford, UK.

Invited Talk: "The Multiple Voices of a Tang *muzhiming*." Text reading seminar held at the Needham Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.

Invited Talk: "Genre and the Construction of Memory: A Case Study of Quan Deyu 權德輿 (759–818)." University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.

| | |
|------|---|
| 2014 | <p>Workshop: "Audience and Aims of mid-Tang <i>muzhiming</i>: A Preliminary Study." "Repainting the Style of Medieval China" Symposium, Fudan University, Shanghai, China.</p> <p>Workshop: "Commemoration by Commission: The Buying and Selling of Memory in the Mid-Tang." Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.</p> |
| 2013 | Conference: "Place, Genre, and the Construction of Memory: Chang'an's Ci'en Monastery in the 8 th and 9 th Centuries." Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego, CA. |
| 2012 | Workshop: "Authors, Objectives, and Audiences of Mid-Tang <i>Muzhiming</i> : Some Preliminary Thoughts." Medieval Studies Workshop, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. |
| 2011 | Conference: "How to Read the Genre of <i>Muzhiming</i> in the Mid-Tang." Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, Honolulu, HI. |
| 2010 | Workshop: "The Genre of Cover Letters in the Mid-Tang." Workshop on Tang Dynasty Culture, Kansas City, KS. |
| 2009 | Conference: "The Auto-Inscribed Life: Self-authored <i>Muzhiming</i> in the Mid- to Late-Tang." Tang Studies: The Next Twenty-Five Years, Albany, NY. |

PANEL/ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSANT

| | |
|------|--|
| 2019 | <p>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.</p> <p>Panel Discussant: "Comparative Approaches to the Chinese and Byzantine Imperial Systems: Literati, Cities, Courts, Soldiers." University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK.</p> |
| 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. |

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS (SELECTED)

| | |
|--------|--|
| 2022 | Tang Research Foundation, Workshop Grant (co-applicant with Jesse J.C. Choo and Yang Lu), "New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China," University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK (May 2020); rescheduled to Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (August 2022). |
| 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. |
| 2018 | Tang Research Foundation, Book Subvention for "The Study of Medieval Chinese Entombed Epitaphs." |
| 2017 | Tang Research Foundation, Workshop Grant (co-applicant with Jesse J.C. Choo and Yang Lu), "New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China," Reed College, Portland, OR (May 2018). |
| 2016 | Tang Research Foundation, Workshop Grant (co-applicant with Jesse J.C. Choo and Yang Lu), "New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China," Peking University, Beijing, PRC (November 2017). |
| 2015 | Tang Research Foundation, Workshop Grant (co-applicant with Jesse J.C. Choo and Yang Lu), "New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China," Reed College, Portland, OR (May 2016). |
| 2014 | Tang Research Foundation, Workshop Grant (co-applicant with Jesse J.C. Choo and Yang Lu), "New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China," Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (May 2015). |
| | Sabbatical Fellowship Award, Reed College (2014–15). |
| | Sabbatical Research Expense Fund, Reed College (2014–15). |
| 2010 | Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Junior Scholars Grant (2010–11) |
| | Sabbatical Fellowship Award, Reed College (2010–11). |
| | Sabbatical Research Expense Fund, Reed College (2010–11). |
| 2003 | William J. Fulbright-Institute of International Education (IIE) Grant for Graduate Study and Research Abroad (2003–04) |
| ANNUAL | Summer Scholarship Fund (Reed College), 2009–2015; 2016– |

Stillman Drake Fund (Reed College), 2009–

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES (SELECTED, FROM 2009)

| | |
|---------|--|
| 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 2022) |
| 2018 | Co-organizer, fourth workshop of the “New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China” series, Reed College, Portland, OR (May 17–19, 2018) |
| | Panel Co-chair. “Hearing Women’s Voices: Meaning-Making and Mis- interpretation of Female-’Authored’ Discourse in Medieval China.” With Rebecca Doran. Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington, DC (March 25, 2018). |
| 2017 | Co-organizer, third workshop of the “New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China” series, Peking University, Beijing, PRC (October 17–18, 2017) |
| 2016 | Co-organizer, Western Branch of the American Oriental Society, Annual Meeting, Portland State University, Portland, OR (October 20-22, 2016) |
| | Co-organizer, second workshop of the “New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China” series, Reed College, Portland, OR (May 23-24, 2016) |
| 2015 | Co-organizer, inaugural workshop of the “New Frontiers in the Study of Medieval China” series, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (May 15-16, 2015) |
| 2010 | Panel Organizer: “Shifting Sense of Self: Metamorphosis, Identity, and Memory in Chinese Literature.” Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, Honolulu, HI (November 13-14, 2010) |
| 2009 | Panel Organizer: “Carved in Stone: <i>Muzhi</i> in the Tang Dynasty.” Tang Studies: The Next Twenty-Five Years Conference, Albany, NY (May 8-9, 2009) |

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS

Asia Major

Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies

*Journal of Song-Yuan Studies**Journal of the American Oriental Society**T'oung Pao: International Journal of Chinese Studies*

TEACHING

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 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> 香奁潤色 |
| BRYN MAWR COLLEGE | Independent Study: Research Methods in Chinese Literature |
| | <i>Dream of the Red Chamber</i> and the Literary Traditions of Chin |
| | Love and Madness in Late Imperial China |
| RUTGERS UNIVERSITY | Modern Chinese Literature in the Republican Period (1911–1949) |
| | Chinese Literature in Translation I: Prose and Poetry |
| UNIV. OF MINNESOTA | First-year Modern Chinese |
| | Accelerated First-year Modern Chinese |
| | Second-year Modern Chinese |

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

| | |
|----------|--|
| 2021-22 | Chair, Department of Chinese |
| | Chair, Alcohol and Other Drugs Committee |
| | Secretary, Division of Languages and Literatures |
| 2020– 21 | Chair, Department of Chinese |

| | |
|---------|---|
| 2019–20 | Chair, Alcohol and Other Drugs Committee |
| | Chair, Alcohol and Other Drugs Committee |
| | Chair, Search Committee, Chinese |
| | Faculty member, Search Committee, Linguistics |
| 2018–19 | Chair, Department of Chinese (fall 2018; on leave fall 2019) |
| 2017–18 | Chair, Department of Chinese |
| | Chair, Search Committee, Chinese |
| | Organizer, Sinobibliophile Salon @ Reed (Chinese text reading workshop) |
| 2016–17 | Faculty member, Community Affairs Committee |
| | Chair, Department of Chinese |
| | Organizer, Sinobibliophile Salon @ Reed (Chinese text reading workshop) |
| | Faculty member, Community Affairs Committee |
| 2015–16 | Chair, Department of Chinese |
| | Faculty member, Community Affairs Committee |
| 2013–14 | Search Committee, Chinese |
| | Faculty member, Fellowships and Awards Committee |
| 2012–13 | Chair, Search Committee, Chinese |
| | Faculty member, Search Committee, Art History |
| | Faculty member, Fellowships and Awards Committee |
| | Faculty member, Alcohol and Other Drugs Committee |
| 2009–10 | Faculty member, Drug and Alcohol Review Panel |
| | Faculty member, Fellowships and Awards Committee |
| | Faculty member, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) Committee |
| 2008–09 | Faculty member, Search Committee, Chinese |
| | Faculty member, Search Committee, Art History |
| | Faculty member, Fellowships and Awards Committee |
| | Faculty member, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) Committee |
| 2007–08 | Faculty Chaperone, Art History China Tour (Fall Break) |

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese (fluent written and spoken)

Classical Chinese (fluent reading)

Japanese (intermediate written and spoken)

German (low intermediate, B1)

French (reading)