

History Department, 2000 E. Asbury Ave., Denver, CO 80208

e-mail: Hilary.Smith@du.edu

academia.edu page: <https://udenver.academia.edu/HSmith>

Hilary A. Smith, Ph.D.

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Ph.D., History and Sociology of Science	2008
Certificate in College and University Teaching	2007
M.A., History and Sociology of Science	2004
University of Cambridge	Cambridge, England
M.Phil., History and Philosophy of Science	2000
Princeton University	Princeton, New Jersey
A.B., Religion, <i>summa cum laude</i>	1998
Certificate of proficiency, East Asian Studies	

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

University of Denver, Denver, Colorado	
<i>Associate Professor, History Department</i>	9.2019-present
Courses taught: Imperial China, Modern China, Comparative History of Medicine, Chinese Science in World History, Food in East Asian History, Disease in World History (honors advanced seminar), Issues in Comparative History, What Is History?, Senior Seminar II	
<i>Director, Asian Studies Program</i>	7.2020-8.2023
<i>Assistant Professor, History Department</i>	9.2014-8.2019
Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania	1.2012-6.2014
<i>Assistant Professor, History Department</i>	
Meredith College, Raleigh, North Carolina	8.2008-12.2011
<i>Assistant Professor, History and Political Science Department</i>	

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Nutritional Imperialism: How Science Turned Difference into Sickness in China (under advance contract with Johns Hopkins University Press; has undergone peer review; final revision to be submitted July 15, 2025).

Forgotten Disease: Illnesses Transformed in Chinese Medicine (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2017).

Peer-reviewed articles and book chapters

“Absorbing Vitamins: How a Nutritional Paradigm Was Reinvented in Republican China.” In *Modern Chinese Foodways*, edited by Jia-Chen Fu, Michelle King, and Jakob Klein, 89-108. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 2025.

Eddy, J.J., H.A. Smith, and J.E. Abrams, “Historical Lessons on Vaccine Hesitancy: U.S. Campaigns against Smallpox, Polio, and Measles, and the Implications for COVID-19 Vaccination,” *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* 66, no. 1 (winter 2023): 145-159.

“Food, Health, and Nutrition in Chinese History.” *History Compass* e12704 (2021): 1-12. DOI: 10.1111/hic3.12704

“Good Food, Bad Bodies: Lactose Intolerance and the Rise of Milk Culture in China.” In *Moral Foods: The Construction of Nutrition and Health in Modern Asia*, edited by Angela Ki-Che Leung and Melissa L. Caldwell, 262-284. Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2019.

“Beyond Indulgence: Diet-Induced Illnesses in Chinese Medicine.” *Historia Scientiarum* 27, no.2 (2018): 233-253.

“Skipping Breakfast to Save the Nation: A Different Kind of Dietary Determinism in Early Twentieth-Century China,” *Global Food History* 4, no. 2 (14 March, 2018): 152-167.

“Understanding the *Jiaoqi* Experience: The Medical Approach to Illness in Seventh-Century China.” *Asia Major* 21.1 (2008): 273-292.

“What’s in a Name? *Jiaoqi* and the Struggle for Medical Authority in the Song Dynasty.” In Xiaochun Sun, ed. *Science and State in the Song Dynasty*, edited by Xiaochun Sun, 170-199. Beijing: Science and Technology Press, 2007.

"Using the Past to Serve the Peasant: Chinese Archaeology and the Making of a Historical Science." In *A New History of Anthropology*, edited by Henrika Kuklick, 207-221. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2007.

Non-peer-reviewed publications

Marta Hanson, Michael Nylan, and Hilary A. Smith, "In Memoriam: Nathan Sivin (1931-2022)," *Asia Now: The Association for Asian Studies Newsletter* (July 31, 2023).

<https://www.asianstudies.org/in-memoriam-nathan-sivin-1931-2022/>

"A Tribute to Nathan Sivin," *Journal of World Philosophies* 8 (Summer 2023): 183-193.

Marta Hanson, Michael Nylan, and Hilary A. Smith, "News of the Profession: Eloge, Nathan Sivin (1931-2022)," *Isis* 114, no. 1 (March 2023): 439-443.

Marta Hanson, Michael Nylan, and Hilary A. Smith, "Obituary: Nathan Sivin," *History of Science Society Newsletter* 51, no. 4 (October 2022): 8-12.

"Manuscript celestial globe, Japan, 1784." Brief essay for *Materials for the History of Science: A Whipple Museum Festschrift to Celebrate the Directorship of Professor Liba Taub*. Cambridge: History and Philosophy of Science Department, 2022.

Jeanne Abrams and Hilary Smith, "Compared to Polio and Smallpox, America's COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign is Going Great," *Time* (December 17, 2021).

<https://time.com/6126442/covid-vaccine-hesitancy-polio-smallpox/>

"Biohacking in China, Circa 1915? Or Skipping Breakfast to Save the World?" *Asian Medicine Zone* (August 3, 2019). <http://www.asianmedicinezone.com/chinese-east-asian/biohacking-in-china-circa-1915-or-skipping-breakfast-to-save-the-world/>

"Germ theory." *World Book Encyclopedia* (2013).

"Traditional Chinese medicine." *World Book Encyclopedia* (2013).

Book reviews

Review of Susan Greenhalgh, *Soda Science: Making the World Safe for Coca-Cola* in *Ambix* 72, no. 1 (2025): 84-85.

Review of Alexandre I.R. White, *Epidemic Orientalism: Race, Capital, and the Governance of Infectious Disease* in *The Journal of Asian Studies* 83, no. 3 (August 2024): 822-824.

Review of Liz P.Y. Chee, *Mao's Bestiary: Medicinal Animals and Modern China* in *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 96, no. 2 (Summer 2022), 278-279.

Review of Judith Farquhar, *A Way of Life: Things, Thought, and Action in Chinese Medicine*, in *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 96, no. 1 (Spring 2022): 140-141.

Review of Luesink, Schneider, and Zhang, eds., *China and the Globalization of Biomedicine* in *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 95, no. 3 (Fall 2021): 421-423.

Review of Yuan Mei, *Recipes from the Garden of Contentment*, translated and annotated by Sean J.S. Chen in *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 141, no. 4 (December 2021): 982-985.

Review of Tamara Venit Shelton, *Herbs and Roots: A History of Chinese Doctors in the American Medical Marketplace* in *The American Historical Review* 126, no. 2 (June 2021): 788-789.

Review of Edward Slingerland, *Mind and Body in Early China: Beyond Orientalism and the Myth of Holism* in *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 141, no. 2 (2021): 445-450.

Review of James L. A. Webb, *The Guts of the Matter: A Global History of Human Waste and Infectious Intestinal Disease* in *Environmental History* 25, no. 3 (July 2020): 571-572.

Review of Emily Baum, *The Invention of Madness: State, Society, and the Insane in Modern China* in *Social History of Medicine* 32, no. 4 (2019): 884-885.

Review of Liping Bu, *Public Health and the Modernization of China, 1865-2015* in *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 74, no. 2 (April 2019): 230-232. <https://doi-org.du.idm.oclc.org/10.1093/jhmas/jrz008>

Review of Andrew Schonebaum, *Novel Medicine: Healing, Literature, and Popular Knowledge in Early Modern China* in *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 91, no. 1 (Spring 2017): 127-129.

Review of TJ Hinrichs and Linda L. Barnes, eds. *Chinese Medicine and Healing: An Illustrated History in Asian Medicine: Tradition and Modernity* 11 (2017): 285-287.

Review of Yi-Li Wu, *Reproducing Women: Medicine, Metaphor, and Childbirth in Late Imperial China* in *Asian Medicine: Tradition and Modernity* 11 (2017): 288-290.

Review of Howard Chiang, ed. *Historical Epistemology and the Making of Modern Chinese Medicine* in *Medical History* 60, no. 1 (January 2016): 108-110.

Review of Florence Bretelle-Establet, ed. *Looking at It from Asia: The Processes that Shaped the Sources of History of Science*, in *East Asian Science, Technology, and Society* 8, no. 2 (2014): 257-260.

Review of Charlotte Furth and Angela Ki Che Leung, eds. *Health and Hygiene in Chinese East Asia* in the *Journal of Social History* 46, no. 4 (Summer 2013): 1097-1099.

Review of Marta E. Hanson, *Speaking of Epidemics in Chinese Medicine: Disease and the Geographic Imagination in Late Imperial China*, in the *Journal of Asian Studies* 71, no. 4 (November 2012): 1108-1109.

Review of Yüan-ling Chao, *Medicine and Society in Late Imperial China*, in *East Asian Science, Technology, and Society* 6, no. 4 (2012): 581-584.

Review of Francesca Bray et al., *Graphics and Text in the Production of Technical Knowledge in China* in *Isis* 100, no. 3 (Sept. 2009): 632-33.

Review of Fabrizio Pregadio, *Great Clarity: Daoism and Alchemy in Early Medieval China* in *Chemical Heritage* 25, no. 4 (Winter 2007/8).

Review of Kinji Imanishi, *A Japanese View of Nature* in *Historical Studies of the Physical and Biological Sciences* 33, no. 2 (2003): 407.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited presentations

“Nutritional Imperialism: How Science Turned Difference into Sickness in China” 4.2025
Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan

“Milk in Modern China”
Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica Taipei, Taiwan, 4.24.2024

“Science and Nation: How Twentieth-Century Nutrition Science Looked at the Daily Diets of Chinese People,” 科学与国家:二十世纪初营养学视野下中国人的日常饮食
Hunan University (virtual) Changsha, China, 3.28.3024

“Nutritional Imperialism: How Science Turned Difference into Sickness in China”
Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica Taipei, Taiwan, 3.26.2024

OLLI at DU (virtual) Denver, 8.2023
Talk title: “China, Taiwan, and the US: A History of Fraught Relations”

Medical Encounters, Practice, and Archives in China (int'l conference) Tel Aviv, 9.2022
Tel Aviv University
Talk title: “Pharmaceutical Self-Strengthening in Republican China: The Relationship between Supplements and Medical Expertise”

STAT (Seeking Tomorrow's Answers Together) Conference 2022 (virtual) Denver, 1.2022
University of Denver

Keynote lecture: "The Pandemic Stress Test: A Historical Perspective on Moving Forward in the Age of COVID-19."

Classroom Lecture series, CEAS (virtual) Philadelphia, 4.2021
University of Pennsylvania
"Vitamins, Chinese Dietetics, and Modern Nutritional Knowledge"

Department of Medicine Grand Rounds, UCSD (virtual) San Diego, 1.2021
"Historical Lessons about How Epidemics End...Or Don't."

Modern Overseas Chinese, Medicine, Health and Disease (virtual) Singapore, 11.2020
Nanyang Technological University
Keynote lecture: "The Well Nourished Nation: Reconsidering Healthy and Pathological Eating in Early Twentieth-Century China"

4th Annual Ma Kanwen Memorial Lecture Cambridge, UK, 6.2020
Needham Research Institute
"Vitamins, Chinese Dietetics and Modern Nutritional Knowledge"

History and Philosophy of Science Department Cambridge, UK, 1.2020
History of Modern Medicine Seminar, Cambridge University
"The Chinese Calorie: Nutrition Science in Early 20th-Century China"

Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica 中研院史語所 Taipei, 11.2019
"Science and Sustenance: Dietary Guidelines in the Late Qing and Early Republican Period"

Guest lecture in Chinese Bodies: Medicine and Health, Sex and Gender Berkeley, 10.2018
University of California-Berkeley, History 117D (taught by Michael Nylan)

Chinese Medicine and Healing: Translating Practice Ithaca, New York, 6.2018
Conference at Cornell University
Title: Translating Zhang Congzheng's *Rumen shiqin* (Scholars' Service to Their Parents)

Medical Practice in Chinese Medicine in Comparative Perspective Tel Aviv, 4.2018
Conference at Tel Aviv University
Title: "The Noncompliant Patient: Reading between the Lines of the Chinese Medical Canon"

Body and Cosmos in China: Symposium in Honor of Nathan Sivin Philadelphia, 10.2017
University of Pennsylvania
"Hunger as A Medical Problem: Changes in Concepts of Nutrition in Chinese Medicine"

New Problems and Methodologies in the History of Medicine in East Asia Tokyo, 7.2016
Symposium at the University of Tokyo
Title: "Hunger as a medical problem: changes in concepts of nutrition in Chinese medicine"

Sigerist Circle, American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) Atlanta, 5.2013
"From Scholar to Pauper: Remaking *Jiaoqi* into Beriberi in Nineteenth-Century East Asia."

The (After)Life of Traditional Knowledge: The Cultural Politics and Historical Epistemology
of East Asian Medicine (conference) London, 8.2010
Univ. of Westminster
"The Death and Afterlife of a Traditional Disease"

Needham Research Institute Cambridge, England, 11.2007
Text reading seminar
"Understanding *jiaoqi*: historical disease as contested object of knowledge."

International Symposium on the Song State and Science Hangzhou, China, 8.2006
"What's in a Name? *Jiaoqi*, Medical Authority, and the State in the Song Dynasty"

Institute for the History of Natural Sciences Beijing, China, 4.2005
"Zhongguo lidai dui "jiaoqibing" de renshi 中国历代对'脚气病'的认识, (On the Historical
Understanding of *Jiaoqi* Disorder in Chinese Medicine)." Presentation in Chinese.

Conference papers

Global Asias 7, Penn State University State College, PA 3.2025
"Nutritional Imperialism: How Science Turned Difference into Sickness in China"

Association for Asian Studies annual conference Columbus, Ohio, 3.2025
"Nutritional Imperialism: How Science Turned Difference into Sickness in China"

Joint Conference of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicines
(IASTAM) and the Asian Society for the History of Medicine (ASHM)
"Bodies and Alcohol in Chinese Health and Healing" Taipei, Taiwan 6.2024

Association for Asian Studies annual conference Boston, 3.2023
"Vernacular Dietetics: Knowledge about Food and Health in Early Republican China"

Association for Asian Studies annual conference (virtual) Honolulu, 3.2022
"Sick of Rice: The Cultural Roots of Nutritional Doubts about Rice in Modern China"

Modern Chinese Foodways conference (virtual) Atlanta, 4.2021
"Dietary Supplements in Republican China: Boosting Vigor by Synthesizing Old and New"

Have You Eaten Yet? The History and Culture of Food in East Asia San Francisco, 10.2019
Symposium at University of San Francisco
"Creating a Modern, Chinese Diet: Guidelines for Eating in the Late Qing and Early Republican Period"

Association for Asian Studies annual meeting Denver, 3.2019
"Skipping Breakfast to Save the Nation in Early Republican China"

American Association for the History of Medicine annual meeting Los Angeles, 5.2018
Participant in roundtable on "Researching at the Intersection of Medical History and Food Studies"

9th International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicines Kiel, Germany, 8.2017
"How Modern Translations of Traditional Disease Names Distort their Meanings: The Example of *Jiaoqi*"

American Association for the History of Medicine annual meeting Nashville, 5.2017
"Milk in Chinese Medicine"

American Historical Association (AHA) annual meeting Denver, 1.2017
"Disease, Disorder, and the Longue Durée in China"

Association for Asian Studies (AAS) annual meeting Seattle, 3.2016
Organized and chaired panel titled "Diet and Health in Pre-Modern East Asia"
Individual paper: "Milk as Medicine: The Place of Dairy in the *Wai tai mi yao fang*"

Food, Feeding and Eating In and Out of Asia conference Copenhagen, 6.2015
Asian Dynamics Initiative at the University of Copenhagen
"Becoming 'Intolerant': How the Rise of Milk Culture Made China Sick"

International Conference on Food and Health Hong Kong, 12.2014
Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences
"Origins of 'Intolerance': Lactose and Changing Ideas about Dietary Difference in Modern China"

Association for Asian Studies (AAS) annual meeting Philadelphia, 3.2014
"Deficiency, Depletion, and Diet in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth-Century China"

Association for Asian Studies (AAS) annual meeting San Diego, 3.2013
"Learning from Quacks: Reading between the Lines of the Chinese Medical Canon"

Association for Asian Studies (AAS) annual meeting Toronto, 3.2012
"Why is Chinese *jiaoqi* Different from Japanese *kakke*?"

Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Meeting Philadelphia, 3.2010
Organized and chaired panel titled "A Millennium of Medicine and Empire in East Asia."
Individual paper: "Disease between Paradigms in Late-Nineteenth-Century Japan and China"

Southeast Regional Conference/Association for Asian Studies (SEC/AAS) Atlanta, 1.2009
Organized and chaired panel, titled "Sex, Politics, Science, and Judo: Body and Identity in Modern Asia."
Individual paper: "Making the Modern Chinese Patient: Changing Definitions of Disease."

International Conference on the History of Science in East Asia Baltimore, 8.2008
Organized panel, titled "Transformations of Nutritional Knowledge in East Asian History."
Individual paper: "How China's Gout Became Japan's Beriberi: Changing the Definition of a Dietary Disease"

History of Science Society Annual Conference Austin, Texas, 11.2004
"Does the 'Early Modern' Shoe Fit? Foot Qi and Nutritional Science in China"

Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference/Association for Asian Studies (MAR/AAS) D.C., 10.2003
"Using the Past to Serve the Peasant: Chinese Archaeology in a National and International Context"

Interviews

Modern Chinese Foodways Atlanta, 4.2021
Interviewed by Dr. Mukta Das about vitamins in Republican China
<https://www.academia.edu/video/kGbZ21>

History of Science Society Annual meeting Seattle, 11.2018
Forum for the History of Science in Asia: "Authors and Readers" interview about *Forgotten Disease*, with Dr. Sigrid Schmalzer

New Books Network podcast 9.2018
Interviewed by Prof. Carla Nappi about *Forgotten Disease*
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/hilary-a-smith-forgotten-disease-illnesses-transformed-in-chinese-medicine-stanford-up-2017/>

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Asian Medicine: Journal of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine, an international, peer-reviewed scholarly journal.

Senior Editor 1.2024-present
Associate Editor 7.2017-1.2024

Historia Scientiarum (Tokyo), the English-language, peer-reviewed international journal of the History of Science Society of Japan

Member of international advisory board 6.2013-present

Peer reviewer, book manuscripts: Cornell University Press, University of Pittsburgh Press, Stanford University Press, Indiana University Press

Peer reviewer, article manuscripts: *História, Ciências, Saúde-Manguinhos* (the main journal of medical history in Latin America); *Isis*; *EASTS (East Asian Science, Technology, and Society)*; *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*; *Late Imperial China*; *Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review*; *Journal of the American Oriental Society*; *Twentieth-Century China*; *Social History of Medicine*; *Frontiers of History in China*; *Archaeometry*; *Asian Medicine*; *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*; *Comparative Studies of Society and History*

Peer reviewer, book proposals: Stanford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Needham Research Institute

The Israel Science Foundation

Peer reviewer, grant proposal

University of Kansas Department of History

Committee Member, Ph.D. dissertation

2023-2026

International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine

Member, Leslie Prize Committee

2017-18

American Association for the History of Medicine

Member, J. Worth Estes Prize Committee

2013

Lapham's Quarterly, Medicine issue

Issue advisor

2009

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Collaborator, "Vernacular Healing and Modes of Knowing in China, 19 th to 21 st Centuries." PI:	
Prof. Joan Judge, York University. Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada (SSHCC) grant	2025-present
University of Denver PROF Grant	2024
Fulbright US Scholar Grant, Taiwan	Jan-June 2024
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Stipend	July-Aug 2023
Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation US Scholar Grant	June 2019-June 2020
University of Denver PROF Grant	2019
Jing Brand Scholarship in Chinese Science and Civilisation, Needham Research Institute	4.2019
DU Moreland Fund for Information Literacy Programs course development grant	4.2019
University of Denver, Course Design Institute	Aug 2018
National Humanities Center, Jessie Ball DuPont Summer Seminar participant	June 2010
Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, Needham Research Institute, Cambridge	Oct-Dec 2007
University of Pennsylvania Critical Writing Teaching Fellowship	2006-2007
Association for Asian Studies (China and Inner Asia Council) Small Grant	July 2006
Harvard-Yenching Institute Fellowship at Peking University	2005-2006
University of Pennsylvania, William Penn Fellowship	2001-2002, 2003-2005
University Of Pennsylvania, Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Grant	2002
Middlebury College Japanese Language School Grant	2002
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	1999-2001, 2002-2003
Cambridge Overseas Trust Fellowship	1999-2000

COLLEGE SERVICE

University of Denver

Member (once) and chair (once) of PROF review committee	
Member, department-level (twice) and college-level (once) Tenure & Promotion Committees	
Fulbright Campus Committee member	2023, '24
Director, Asian Studies program	2020-23
Member, search committee, asst prof position in Black Diaspora History	2022-23
Chair, search committee, postdoc in History of the Black Diasporas	2022
Chair, search committee, asst prof position in African History	2020-21
Moderated "The 'Yellow Peril,' Then and Now" event, DU	10.2021
Member of "Internationalization at Home" committee, DU IMPACT 2025	2019-2020
Member of Elected Faculty Committee	2017-19
Member of Faculty Advisory Board for the Office of Teaching and Learning	2016-18
Taught History of Medicine class for University College Enrichment Program	11.2017
Member of department committee to assess capstone projects	2016,'18

LANGUAGES

Modern Chinese (speaking Mandarin and reading, proficient)

Classical Chinese (reading)

Japanese (reading and speaking, elementary)

French (elementary speaking, intermediate reading)

Spanish (speaking and reading, elementary)