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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
Elected to Phi Beta Kappa	
Certificate of proficiency, East Asian Studies	

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

University of Denver, Denver, Colorado	
<i>Professor and Chair, History Department</i>	9.2026-present
<i>Associate Professor, History Department</i>	9.2019-8.2026
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	
<i>Assistant Professor, History Department</i>	1.2012-6.2014
Meredith College, Raleigh, North Carolina	
<i>Assistant Professor, History and Political Science Department</i>	8.2008-12.2011

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Nutritional Imperialism: How Science Turned Difference into Sickness in China (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2026).

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

Peer-reviewed articles and book chapters

"How a Taiwan Fulbright Broadened a China Scholar's Horizon," *Fulbright Chronicles* 4, no. 2 (2026): 50-56.

"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/>

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-Estabilet, 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

Book Talk series: title TBD
SOAS, University of London London (virtual) 3.2027

Eating Right Everywhere Symposium
University of Arizona Tucson, Arizona (virtual) 8.2026

Center for Asian Studies lunchtime lecture series
University of Colorado Boulder, Colorado 4.2026

History of Science, Technology and Medicine Colloquium
University of Minnesota Minneapolis, 2.2026

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

“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
- “China, Taiwan, and the US: A History of Fraught Relations”
OLLI at DU (virtual) Denver, 8.2023
- “Pharmaceutical Self-Strengthening in Republican China: The Relationship between Supplements and Medical Expertise”
Medical Encounters, Practice, and Archives in China (int’l conference)
Tel Aviv University Tel Aviv, 9.2022
- Keynote lecture: “The Pandemic Stress Test: A Historical Perspective on Moving Forward in the Age of COVID-19.”
STAT (Seeking Tomorrow’s Answers Together) Conference 2022
University of Denver (virtual) Denver, 1.2022
- “Vitamins, Chinese Dietetics, and Modern Nutritional Knowledge”
University of Pennsylvania (course taught by Prof. Hsiao-Wen Cheng)
Classroom Lecture series, Center for East Asian Studies (virtual) Philadelphia, 4.2021
- “Historical Lessons about How Epidemics End...Or Don’t.”
Department of Medicine Grand Rounds, UCSD (virtual) San Diego, 1.2021
- Keynote lecture: “The Well-Nourished Nation: Reconsidering Healthy and Pathological Eating in Early Twentieth-Century China”
Modern Overseas Chinese, Medicine, Health and Disease
Nanyang Technological University (virtual) Singapore, 11.2020
- “Vitamins, Chinese Dietetics and Modern Nutritional Knowledge”
4th Annual Ma Kanwen Memorial Lecture
Needham Research Institute Cambridge, UK, 6.2020
- “The Chinese Calorie: Nutrition Science in Early 20th-Century China”
History of Modern Medicine Seminar
Cambridge University History and Philosophy of Science Department UK, 1.2020
- “Science and Sustenance: Dietary Guidelines in the Late Qing and Early Republican Period”
Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica 中研院史語所 Taipei, 11.2019
- Guest lecture in Chinese Bodies: Medicine and Health, Sex and Gender
History 117D (taught by Prof. Michael Nylan)
University of California-Berkeley Berkeley, CA, 10.2018

- “Translating Zhang Congzheng’s *Rumen shiqin* (Scholars’ Service to Their Parents)”
Chinese Medicine and Healing: Translating Practice Workshop
Cornell University Ithaca, New York, 6.2018
- “The Noncompliant Patient: Reading between the Lines of the Chinese Medical Canon”
Medical Practice in Chinese Medicine in Comparative Perspective Conference
Tel Aviv University Tel Aviv, 4.2018
- “Hunger as A Medical Problem: Changes in Concepts of Nutrition in Chinese Medicine”
Body and Cosmos in China: Symposium in Honor of Nathan Sivin
University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia, 10.2017
- “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
Symposium at the University of Tokyo Tokyo, 7.2016
- “From Scholar to Pauper: Remaking Jiaoqi into Beriberi in Nineteenth-Century East Asia”
Sigerist Circle, Amer. Assoc. for the History of Medicine (AAHM) Atlanta, 5.2013
- “The Death and Afterlife of a Traditional Disease”
The (After)Life of Traditional Knowledge: The Cultural Politics and Historical
Epistemology of East Asian Medicine (conference)
University of Westminster London, 8.2010
- “Understanding *jiaoqi*: Historical Disease as Contested Object of Knowledge”
Classical Chinese Text Reading Seminar
Needham Research Institute Cambridge, England, 11.2007
- “What’s in a Name? *Jiaoqi*, Medical Authority, and the State in the Song Dynasty”
International Symposium on the Song State and Science Hangzhou, China, 8.2006
- “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.
Institute for the History of Natural Sciences Beijing, China, 4.2005

Conference papers

- “Nourishing the Aged in Early Twentieth-Century Vernacular Medicine”
Historical Society for Twentieth-Century China conference Taipei, 8.2026
- “Empires in the Global History of Nutrition Science” (roundtable title)
Co-organized (with Dr. Jing SUN) and participated in roundtable
European Society for the History of Science/History of Science Society joint meeting

Edinburgh, 7.2026

“Aging, Nutrition and Health in Vernacular Medicine”

Vernacular Medicine and Modes of Knowing in China rsch group mtg Berlin, 11.2025

“Nutritional Imperialism: How Science Turned Difference into Sickness in China”

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

“Bodies and Alcohol in Chinese Health and Healing”

Joint Conference of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian
Medicines (IASTAM) and the Asian Society for the History of Medicine (ASHM)

Taipei, Taiwan 6.2024

“Vernacular Dietetics: Knowledge about Food and Health in Early Republican China”

Association for Asian Studies annual conference Boston, 3.2023

“Sick of Rice: The Cultural Roots of Nutritional Doubts about Rice in Modern China”

Association for Asian Studies annual conference (virtual) Honolulu, 3.2022

“Dietary Supplements in Republican China: Boosting Vigor by Synthesizing Old and New”

Modern Chinese Foodways conference

Emory University (virtual) Atlanta, 4.2021

“Creating a Modern, Chinese Diet: Guidelines for Eating in the Late Qing and Early
Republican Period”

Have You Eaten Yet? The History and Culture of Food in East Asia Symposium

University of San Francisco San Francisco, 10.2019

“Skipping Breakfast to Save the Nation in Early Republican China”

Association for Asian Studies annual meeting Denver, 3.2019

Roundtable participant, “Researching at the Intersection of Medical History and Food
Studies”

Amer. Assoc. for the History of Medicine annual meeting Los Angeles, 5.2018

“How Modern Translations of Traditional Disease Names Distort their Meanings: The
Example of *Jiaoqi*”

9th International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicines Kiel, Germany, 8.2017

- "Milk in Chinese Medicine"
American Association for the History of Medicine annual meeting Nashville, 5.2017
- "Disease, Disorder, and the Longue Durée in China"
American Historical Association (AHA) annual meeting Denver, 1.2017
- "Milk as Medicine: The Place of Dairy in the *Wai tai mi yao fang*"
Organized and chaired panel titled "Diet and Health in Pre-Modern East Asia"
Association for Asian Studies (AAS) annual meeting Seattle, 3.2016
- "Becoming 'Intolerant': How the Rise of Milk Culture Made China Sick"
Food, Feeding and Eating In and Out of Asia conference
Asian Dynamics Initiative at the University of Copenhagen Copenhagen, 6.2015
- "Origins of 'Intolerance': Lactose and Changing Ideas about Dietary Difference in Modern China"
International Conference on Food and Health
Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences Hong Kong, 12.2014
- "Deficiency, Depletion, and Diet in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth-Century China"
Association for Asian Studies (AAS) annual meeting Philadelphia, 3.2014
- "Learning from Quacks: Reading between the Lines of the Chinese Medical Canon"
Association for Asian Studies (AAS) annual meeting San Diego, 3.2013
- "Why is Chinese *jiaoqi* Different from Japanese *kakke*?"
Association for Asian Studies (AAS) annual meeting Toronto, 3.2012
- "Disease between Paradigms in Late-Nineteenth-Century Japan and China"
Organized and chaired panel titled "A Millennium of Medicine and Empire in East Asia"
Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Meeting Philadelphia, 3.2010
- "Making the Modern Chinese Patient: Changing Definitions of Disease."
Organized and chaired panel, titled "Sex, Politics, Science, and Judo: Body and Identity in Modern Asia"
Southeast Regional Conference/Association for Asian Studies Atlanta, 1.2009
- "How China's Gout Became Japan's Beriberi: Changing the Definition of a Dietary Disease"
Organized panel, titled "Transformations of Nutritional Knowledge in East Asian History"
International Conference on the History of Science in East Asia Baltimore, 8.2008
- "Does the 'Early Modern' Shoe Fit? Foot Qi and Nutritional Science in China"

History of Science Society Annual Conference

Austin, Texas, 11.2004

“Using the Past to Serve the Peasant: Chinese Archaeology in a National and International Context”

Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference/Association for Asian Studies

D.C., 10.2003

Interviews

Modern Chinese Foodways

Atlanta, 4.2021

Interviewed by Dr. Mukta Das about vitamins in Republican China

<https://www.academia.edu/video/kGbZ2l>

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 Prof. Sigrid Schmalzer

New Books Network podcast

9.2018

Interviewed by Prof. Carla Nappi about *Forgotten Disease*

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

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

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

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

Peer reviewer, grant proposal: The Israel Science Foundation

Board consultant, Chinese Academic Translation Project (中华学术外译) University of Science & Technology Beijing; PI: Prof. ZHAO Qiurong Translation of XIA Nai 夏鼐, <i>Archaeology and the History of Science and Technology</i> (考古学和科技史)	2025-
Committee Member, Ph.D. dissertation University of Kansas Department of History	2023-2026
<i>Historia Scientiarum</i> (Tokyo), the English-language, peer-reviewed international journal of the History of Science Society of Japan Member of international advisory board	6.2013-present
Member, Leslie Prize Committee International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine	2017-2018
Member, J. Worth Estes Prize Committee American Association for the History of Medicine	2013
Issue Advisor, Medicine issue <i>Lapham's Quarterly</i>	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
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

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)