



Yahui He

Postdoctoral Scholar, Archaeology

Bio

BIO

Yahui He is an environmental archaeologist specializing in archaeobotany in East Asia. Her research investigates the dynamics of human-plant relationships in multi-scalar socio-political contexts, focusing on the materiality of plants in processes of sedentism and urbanism.

Her PhD and ongoing research work in the Northern Zone, China (northern Loess Plateau and southern Mongolian Plateau) utilizes multi-proxy methods, including starch, phytolith, fungi, and use-wear analyses, to explore plant-based food and drink practices across different social contexts, such as household, community, and mortuary settings. Yahui's collaborative research extends to studies on plant exploitation and dispersal, as well as related technologies such as plant food fermentation and bast fiber production across mainland China and beyond, including Erlitou in Henan and others in Taiwan and Honduras.

Prior to joining the Stanford Archaeology Center as a postdoctoral scholar, Yahui obtained her PhD at Stanford and was a Li Foundation Fellow at the Needham Research Institute in Cambridge, UK (2024).

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy, Stanford University , CHINE-PHD (2024)
- Master, Yale University , Archaeological Studies (2015)
- Bachelor, Xiamen University, China , History, Archaeology track & Law (2013)

STANFORD ADVISORS

- Li Liu, Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- Archaeobotany: ARCHLGY 126, ARCHLGY 226, BIO 186, BIO 286 (Win)

2024-25

- Archaeobotany: ARCHLGY 126, ARCHLGY 226, BIO 186, BIO 286 (Spr)

2022-23

- Archaeology of Food: production, consumption and ritual: ARCHLGY 124, ARCHLGY 224 (Win)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Modern starter culturing and starter-based alcohol making experiments: A methodological rethinking in East Asian fermented beverage production** *JOURNAL OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE-REPORTS*
He, Y., Liu, L.
2026; 73
- **Unveiling bast fiber production in Upper Paleolithic North China: Microfibers and usewear traces on stone tools from Shizitan.** *PLoS ONE*
Liu, L., He, Y., Cohen, D., Chen, X., Shi, J., Song, Y.
2026; 21 (4): e0346767
- **Late Neolithic painted pottery traditions at Huangguashan and Fengbitou along the Taiwan Strait: A case study** *Production and Exchange in Eurasia. In Commemoration of Zeng Lingyi*
He, Y.
Yale University Publications in Anthropology, Yale Peabody Museum.2025
- **Identification of 10,000-year-old rice beer at Shangshan in the Lower Yangzi River valley of China.** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*
Liu, L., Zhang, J., Li, J., He, Y., Gao, Z., Jiang, L.
2024; 121 (51): e2412274121
- **Identifying indigenous bast microfibers for archaeological research in East Asia** *ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN ASIA*
Liu, L., He, Y., Grauer, K. C., Wang, Y.
2023; 36
- **An Interplay of Dryland and Wetland: Millet and Rice Cultivation at the Peiligang Site (8000-7600 BP) in the Middle Yellow River Valley, China** *AGRONOMY-BASEL*
Wang, J., He, Y., Tang, Y., Liu, L., Li, Y., Chen, X., Gu, W.
2023; 13 (8)
- **Brewing and Serving Alcoholic Beverages to Erlitou Elites of Prehistoric China: Residue Analysis of Ceramic Vessels** *FRONTIERS IN ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTION*
He, Y., Zhao, H., Liu, L., Xu, H.
2022; 10
- **Fermented maize beverages as ritual offerings: Investigating elite drinking during Classic Maya period at Copan, Honduras** *JOURNAL OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
Chen, R., He, Y., Li, X., Ramos, J., Li, M., Liu, L.
2022; 65
- **##### (A study on the fermented beverages and related pottery assemblage from the Huangchengtai Locality at the Shimao site in Yulin, Shaanxi) ##### (Archaeology and Cultural Relics)**
He, Y., Liu, L., Shao, J., Di, N., Sun, Z.
2022: 146-154
- **"Proposing a toast" from the first urban center in the north Loess Plateau, China: Alcoholic beverages at Shimao** *JOURNAL OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHAEOLOGY*
He, Y., Liu, L., Sun, Z., Shao, J., Di, N.
2021; 64
- **##### (A study on the painted pottery from the Huangguashan Culture) ##### (Cultural Relics in Southern China)**
He, Y.
2019; 6: 89-100