



## Matthew Sommer

Bowman Family Professor and Professor of History and, by courtesy, of East Asian Languages and Cultures

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

### Bio

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#### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, History
- Professor (By courtesy), East Asian Languages and Cultures

#### ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania, (1994-2000)
- Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania, (2000-2002)
- Visiting Associate Professor of History, Swarthmore College, (2001-2001)
- Associate Professor, Department of History, Stanford University, (2002- present)

#### HONORS AND AWARDS

- High Honors, Swarthmore College (1983)
- Honor, Phi Beta Kappa (1983)
- National Resource Fellowship (Japanese), University of Washington (1986)
- Jackson Fellowship, University of Washington (1985-1987)
- National Resource Fellowship (Chinese), UCLA (1990-1991)
- Chancellor's Fellowship, UCLA (1989-1993)
- Research Fellowship for China, Committee for Scholarly Communication with China (1991-1992)
- Laffin Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA (1992-1993)
- Writing Fellowship, Center for Chinese Studies, UCLA (1994)
- Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies/Social Science Research Council (1997-1998)
- M.A. (Honorary), School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania (2000)
- Yalom and Litt Awards for Faculty Research, Claymann Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University (2006)
- Ellen Andrews Wright Faculty Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center (2006-2007)
- Young Faculty Career Development Award, School of Humanities and Sciences, Stanford University (2007)
- FCC Award for the Most Expletives in One Tuesday Talk, Stanford Humanities Center (2007)
- Gordon and Dailey Pattee Faculty Fellowship, Stanford University (2008)
- Invited Guest Scholar, Hurst Summer Institute in Legal History, University of Wisconsin (June 2009)
- Invited Visiting Scholar, Institute for Population and Development Studies, Xi'an Jiaotong University (July 2010)

- Faculty Fellow, Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University (2010-2011)
- Faculty Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center (2013-2014)
- Visiting Scholar in Gender and History, University of Connecticut (March 2014)
- Faculty Fellowship, Stanford Center at Peking University (March 2014)

## **BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- Application Referee, American Philosophical Society
- Application Referee, National Humanities Center
- Application Referee, SSRC International Dissertation Field Research Fellowships
- Application Referee, Stanford Humanities Center
- Application Referee, Freeman-Spogli Institute for International Studies (Stanford)
- Application Referee, Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowships
- Chair or member, History Department and Anthropological Sciences Department faculty reappointment committees, Stanford University
- Manuscript Referee, East Asian History
- Manuscript Referee, Oxford University Press
- Manuscript Referee, Journal of Asian Studies
- Manuscript Referee, Intersections: Gender, History and Culture in the Asian Context
- Manuscript Referee, Late Imperial China
- Manuscript Referee, Routledge
- Manuscript Referee, Modern China
- Manuscript Referee, Cambridge University Press
- Manuscript Referee, Law and History Review
- Manuscript Referee, American Historical Review
- Manuscript Referee, Journal of Women's History
- Member, Post-doctoral Selection Committees, Center for East Asian Studies and Center for Korean Studies, Stanford University
- Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Stanford University
- Member, Faculty Appointments Committee, Stanford University
- Member, Policy Committee, History Department, Stanford University
- Tenure/Promotion Reviewer, UC San Diego
- Tenure/Promotion Reviewer, Columbia University
- Tenure/Promotion Reviewer, Drake University
- Tenure/Promotion Reviewer, Stanford University
- Tenure/Promotion Reviewer, UC Santa Cruz
- Tenure/Promotion Reviewer, University of Hawai'i
- Tenure/Promotion Reviewer, Boston College
- Tenure/Promotion Reviewer, University of Pennsylvania
- Tenure/Promotion Reviewer, Northwestern University
- Tenure/Promotion Reviewer, UCLA
- Tenure/Promotion Reviewer, California State University at Long Beach
- Tenure/Promotion Reviewer, University of Utah

- Tenure/Promotion Reviewer, Brown University
- Tenure/Promotion Reviewer, Dickinson College
- Tenure/Promotion Reviewer, Harvard University
- Chair, Jun Uchida tenure committee, Stanford University (2012 - 2013)
- Chair, Thomas Mullaney tenure committee, Stanford University (2012 - 2012)
- Editorial Board, *Frontiers of History in China* (2010 - present)
- Chair, China and Inner Asia Council, Association for Asian Studies (2010 - 2011)
- External Honors Examiner in Chinese History, Swarthmore College (2010 - 2010)
- Head Honors Examiner, Swarthmore College (2010 - 2010)
- Member, Program Subcommittee (Politics and the State), 2011 Berkshire Conference on the History of Women (2010 - 2010)
- Elected Member, China and Inner Asia Council, Association for Asian Studies (2009 - 2012)
- Chair, C-Lib Subcommittee on the Future of Stanford's Libraries (2009 - 2010)
- Member, Oversight Committee, Bing Overseas Studies Program, Stanford University (2009 - 2010)
- Vice-Chair, China and Inner Asia Council, Association for Asian Studies (2009 - 2010)
- External Honors Examiner in Chinese History, Swarthmore College (2009 - 2009)
- Director of Honors and Research, History Department, Stanford University (2008 - 2012)
- Elected Member, Senate of the Academic Council, Stanford University (2008 - 2010)
- Member, Steering Committee, Center for East Asian Studies, Stanford University (2008 - 2009)
- Member, C-Lib Subcommittee on Digital Information Technologies in the Research Library Environment at Stanford University (2008 - 2008)
- Member, Committee on Libraries, Stanford University (2007 - 2010)
- Member, Faculty Research Grants Committee, Center for East Asian Studies, Stanford University (2007 - 2008)
- External Honors Examiner in Chinese History, Swarthmore College (2007 - 2007)
- Head Honors Examiner, Swarthmore College (2007 - 2007)
- Chair, Library Committee, Center for East Asian Studies, Stanford University (2006 - 2006)
- External Honors Examiner in Chinese History, Swarthmore College (2006 - 2006)
- Chair, Modern Chinese History search committee, Stanford University (2005 - 2006)
- Member, Modern Korean History search committee, Stanford University (2005 - 2006)
- Member, Chinese bibliographer search committee, East Asia Library, Stanford University (2005 - 2006)
- Member, Modern Japanese History search committee, Stanford University (2004 - 2005)
- Member, Korean Social Sciences interdepartmental search committee, Stanford University (2004 - 2005)
- External Honors Examiner in Chinese History, Swarthmore College (2004 - 2004)
- Head Honors Examiner, Swarthmore College (2004 - 2004)
- Designated Mentor for Selected Junior Faculty, History Department, Stanford University (2003 - 2006)
- Chair, Modern Chinese History search committee, Stanford University (2003 - 2004)
- Member, Chinese Literature search Committee, Asian Languages Department, Stanford University (2003 - 2004)
- External Honors Examiner in Chinese History, Swarthmore College (2003 - 2003)
- Member, Steering Committee, Center for East Asian Studies, Stanford University (2002 - 2006)
- Member, Judicial Affairs Panel Pool, School of Humanities and Sciences, Stanford University (2002 - 2006)
- Editorial Board, *Modern China* (2000 - present)

- External Honors Examiner in Chinese History, Swarthmore College (1996 - 1996)
- Member, Search Committees for International Relations and Asian-American History, History Department, University of Pennsylvania (1995 - 2002)
- Member, Executive Committee, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Pennsylvania (1995 - 2002)
- Member, Curriculum Committee, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania (1995 - 2002)
- Member, Search Committees for Early Chinese Thought and Chinese Literature, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Pennsylvania (1995 - 2002)
- Member, Executive Committee, History Department, University of Pennsylvania (1995 - 2002)
- External Honors Examiner in Chinese History, Swarthmore College (1995 - 1995)

## PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

## PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles , History (1994)
- M.A., University of Washington , International Studies: China (1987)
- B.A., Swarthmore College , Political Science (1983)

## Teaching

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### COURSES

#### 2025-26

- Law and Society in Late Imperial China: CHINA 392B, HISTORY 392B (Aut)
- Qing Legal Documents: CHINA 495A, HISTORY 495A (Win)
- Qing Legal Documents: HISTORY 495B (Spr)
- Queer and Trans History in Comparative Perspective: FEMGEN 293D, FEMGEN 393D, HISTORY 293D, HISTORY 393D (Spr)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: CHINA 183 (Win)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: CHINA 93 (Win)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: FEMGEN 193 (Win)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: FEMGEN 93 (Win)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: HISTORY 193 (Win)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: HISTORY 93 (Win)

#### 2023-24

- Chinese Legal History: MLA 379 (Spr)
- Frontier Expansion and Ethnic Statecraft in the Qing Empire: CHINA 393, HISTORY 393 (Win)
- Gender and Sexuality in Chinese History: CHINA 395, FEMGEN 395J, HISTORY 395J (Spr)
- Japan and China in the Early Modern World: OSPKYOTO 25 (Aut)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: CHINA 183 (Win)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: CHINA 93 (Win)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: FEMGEN 193 (Win)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: FEMGEN 93 (Win)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: HISTORY 193 (Win)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: HISTORY 93 (Win)

## 2022-23

- Gender and Sexuality in Chinese History: MLA 374 (Spr)
- Introduction to Japan: History, Religion, Culture: OSPGEN 10 (Sum)
- Law and Society in Late Imperial China: CHINA 392B, HISTORY 392B (Win)
- Qing Legal Documents: CHINA 495A (Win)
- Qing Legal Documents: CHINA 495B (Spr)
- Qing Legal Documents: HISTORY 495A (Win)
- Qing Legal Documents: HISTORY 495B (Spr)
- State, Society, and Economy in Qing Dynasty China: CHINA 393A, HISTORY 393A (Aut)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: CHINA 183 (Aut)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: CHINA 383C (Aut)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: CHINA 93 (Aut)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: FEMGEN 193 (Aut)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: FEMGEN 93 (Aut)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: HISTORY 193 (Aut)
- The Chinese Empire from the Mongol Invasion to the Boxer Uprising: HISTORY 93 (Aut)

## STANFORD ADVISEES

Steve Andrews

### Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Zoe Gioja, Sina Salessi, Narusa Yamato

### Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Luther Cenci, Kelly Fu, Preetam Prakash, Hong Song

### Orals Evaluator

Kelly Fu, Zoe Gioja, Audrey Martel-Dion, Sina Salessi, Hong Song, Narusa Yamato, Amanda Zhang

### Master's Program Advisor

Sharon Feng

### Doctoral (Program)

Luther Cenci, Kelly Fu, Preetam Prakash, Sina Salessi, Hong Song, Amanda Zhang

## Publications

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### PUBLICATIONS

- **Symposium on Mitra Sharafi, 'Abortion in South Asia, 1860-1947: A medico-legal history',** <i>Modern Asian Studies</i>, vol. 55, no. 2, 2021, pp. 371-428. *MODERN ASIAN STUDIES*  
Guha, S., Feinberg, M., Sommer, M. H., Levine, P., Sharafi, M.  
2025; 59 (2): 289-308
- **An Informal Death Penalty at the Ba County Jail? Magisterial Discretion and Criminal Procedure at the Grassroots in Qing Dynasty China** *SINOSPHERE AND BEYOND*  
Sommer, M. H.  
edited by Kurtz, J., Sela, O., Shao, D., Shapiro, H., Judge, J.  
2024: 139-155

- **Circulating the Code: Print Media and Legal Knowledge in Qing China (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF ASIAN STUDIES*  
Book Review Authored by: Sommer, M. H.  
2021; 80 (1): 185–87
- **Legal Understandings of Sexual and Domestic Violence in Late Imperial China** *CAMBRIDGE WORLD HISTORY OF VIOLENCE, VOL III: 1500-1800 CE*  
Sommer, M. H.  
edited by Antony, R., Carroll, S., Pennock, C. D.  
2020: 219-235
- **Back from the Dead: Wrongful Convictions and Criminal Justice in China (Book Review)** *HARVARD JOURNAL OF ASIATIC STUDIES*  
Book Review Authored by: Sommer, M. H.  
2018; 78 (1): 221–24
- **Forgery and Impersonation in Imperial China: Popular Deceptions and the High Qing State (Book Review)** *LAW AND HISTORY REVIEW*  
Book Review Authored by: Sommer, M. H.  
2017; 35 (2): 547–49
- **What Does It Mean to Be a Man in China?** *CROSS-CURRENTS-EAST ASIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE REVIEW*  
Sommer, M. H.  
2015: 190–99
- **Regulating Prostitution in China: Gender and Local Statebuilding, 1900-1937 (Book Review)** *AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW*  
Book Review Authored by: Sommer, M. H.  
2015; 120 (2): 596–97
- **Abortion in Late Imperial China: Routine Birth Control or Crisis Intervention?** *RESEARCH FROM ARCHIVAL CASE RECORDS: LAW, SOCIETY, AND CULTURE IN CHINA*  
Sommer, M. H.  
edited by Huang, P. C., Bernhardt, K.  
2014; 1: 119–89
- **The Gendered Body in the Qing Courtroom** *JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY OF SEXUALITY*  
Sommer, M. H.  
2013; 22 (2): 281-311
- **The Field of Qing Legal History** *A Scholarly Review of Chinese Studies in North America*  
Sommer, M.  
edited by Zhang, H.  
Association for Asian Studies.2013: 113–132
- **Obsession: Male Same-Sex Relations in China, 1900-1950 (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF ASIAN STUDIES*  
Book Review Authored by: Sommer, M. H.  
2012; 71 (1): 212–13
- **Scandal in the Garden: The Story of the Stone as a 'Licentious Novel'** *Approaches to Teaching The Story of the Stone (Dream of the Red Chamber)*  
Sommer, M.  
edited by Schonebaum, A., Lu, T.  
Modern Language Association of America.2012: 186–207
- **SELLING WOMEN Prostitution, Markets, and the Household in Early Modern Japan** *FOREWORD SELLING WOMEN: PROSTITUTION, MARKETS, AND THE HOUSEHOLD IN EARLY MODERN JAPAN*  
Sommer, M. H., Stanley, A.  
2012; 21: XI+
- **Obsession: Male Same-Sex Relations in China, 1900-1950 (Review)** *Journal of Asian Studies*  
Sommer, M.  
2012; 71 (1): 212-213

- **Foreword** *Selling Women: Prostitution, Markets, and the Household in Early Modern Japan*  
Sommer, M.  
edited by Stanley, A.  
University of California Press.2012: xi-xvi
- **Abortion in Late Imperial China: Routine Birth Control of Crisis Intervention?** *Rural China: An International Journal of History and Social Science*  
Sommer, M., Translated by Zhang, Y.  
2011; 9: 1-52
- **ABORTION IN LATE IMPERIAL CHINA: ROUTINE BIRTH CONTROL OR CRISIS INTERVENTION?** *LATE IMPERIAL CHINA*  
Sommer, M. H.  
2010; 31 (2): 97-165
- **Death by a Thousand Cuts (Review)** *Social History*  
Sommer, M.  
2010; 35 (2): 204-206
- **Death by a Thousand Cuts (Book Review)** *SOCIAL HISTORY*  
Book Review Authored by: Sommer, M. H.  
2010; 35 (2): 204–6
- **The Field of Qing Legal History in North America** *Chinese Studies in North America: Research, Teaching, and Resources*  
Sommer, M., Translated by Xue, Z.  
edited by Zhang, H.  
Zhonghua Shuju.2010: 244–266
- **The Adjudication of Wife-Selling in Qing County Courts: 272 Cases from Ba, Nanbu, and Baodi Counties** *Power and Culture in Ming-Qing Law*  
Sommer, M., Translated by Lin, W.  
edited by Qiu, P., Chen, X.  
Lianjing Chuban Gongs.2009: 345–396
- **Sex Work: Polyandry as a Survival Strategy in the Qing Dynasty** *Research from Archival Case Records: Law, Society and Culture in China, Past and Present*  
Sommer, M.  
edited by Huang, P. C., You, C.  
Falü Chubanshe.2009: 111–139
- **Public Passions: The Trial of Shi Jianqiao and the Rise of Popular Sympathy in Republican China (Review)** *Law and History Review*  
Sommer, M.  
2008; 26 (3): 741-743
- **Was China part of a global eighteenth-century homosexuality?** *HISTORICAL REFLECTIONS-REFLEXIONS HISTORIQUES*  
Sommer, M. H.  
2007; 33 (1): 117-133
- **The Construction of Gender in Qing Dynasty Law** *The Comparative Legal History of Gender*  
Sommer, M., Translated by Karasawa, Y.  
edited by Mitsunari, M.  
Osaka University Press.2006: 272–301
- **Qing county archives in Sichuan: An update from the field** *LATE IMPERIAL CHINA*  
Karasawa, Y., Reed, B. W., Sommer, M. H.  
2005; 26 (2): 114-128
- **Homoerotic sensibilities in late imperial China. (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF ASIAN STUDIES*  
Book Review Authored by: Sommer, M. H.  
2005; 64 (4): 1017-1019

- **Sex Work: Polyandry as a Survival Strategy in the Qing Dynasty** *New Social History*  
Sommer, M., Translated by Li, X.  
2005; 2: 236-262
- **Making Sex Work: Polyandry as a Survival Strategy in Qing Dynasty China** *Gender in Motion: Divisions of Labor and Cultural Change in Late Imperial and Modern China*  
Sommer, M.  
edited by Goodman, B., Larson, W.  
Rowman and Littlefield.2005: 29–54
- **Dangerous Males, Vulnerable Males, and Polluted Males: The Regulation of Masculinity in Qing Dynasty Law** *Chinese Femininities/Chinese Masculinities: A Reader*  
Sommer, M.  
edited by Brownell, S., Wasserstrom, J.  
University of California Press.2002: 67–88
- **A flourishing yin: Gender in China's medical history, 960-1665 (Book Review)** *HARVARD JOURNAL OF ASIATIC STUDIES*  
Book Review Authored by: Sommer, M. H.  
2001; 61 (1): 273-279
- **Social power and legal culture: Litigation masters in late imperial China. (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF ASIAN STUDIES*  
Book Review Authored by: Sommer, M. H.  
2000; 59 (1): 158-159
- **The penetrated male in late imperial China - Judicial constructions and social stigma** *1993 Conference on Code and Practice in Qing and Republican China*  
Sommer, M. H.  
SAGE PUBLICATIONS INC.1997: 140–80
- **Prostitution in Late Imperial Chinese Law: The Eighteenth-Century Shift Away from Status Performance** *China — Society and Culture*  
Sommer, M., Translated by Terada, H.  
1997; 12 (June): 294-328
- **The uses of chastity: Sex, law, and the property of widows in Qing China** *LATE IMPERIAL CHINA*  
Sommer, M. H.  
1996; 17 (2): 77-130
- **Legislation Related to the Civil Economy in the Qing Dynasty** *Civil Law in Qing and Republican China*  
Jing, J., Translated by Sommer, M.  
edited by Bernhardt, K., Huang, P.  
Stanford University Press.1994: 42–84