



## Haiyan Lee

Walter A. Haas Professor of the Humanities and Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures and of Comparative Literature

### Bio

---

#### BIO

Before coming to Stanford in 2009, Haiyan Lee taught at the University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of Hong Kong, and held post-doctoral fellowships at Cornell University and Harvard University. Her first book, *Revolution of the Heart: A Genealogy of Love in China, 1900-1950*, is a critical genealogy of the idea of “love” (qing) in modern Chinese literary and cultural history. It is the first recipient of the Joseph Levenson Prize in the field of modern Chinese literature. Her second book, *The Stranger and the Chinese Moral Imagination*, examines how the figure of “the stranger”—foreigner, migrant, class enemy, woman, animal, ghost—in Chinese fiction, film, television, and exhibition culture tests the moral limits of a society known for the primacy of consanguinity and familiarity. Her new project centers on Chinese visions of “justice” at the intersection of narrative, law, and ethics. In 2015-16 she received a Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies which supported her residency at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. For more about her work, see “Social Science Research Council (SSRC): New Voices,” “Stanford Report: The Human Experience Feature Story,” and “Stanford Humanities Center Research News.”

#### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, East Asian Languages and Cultures
- Professor, Comparative Literature

#### ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Chair, East Asian Languages and Cultures, (2020- present)

#### HONORS AND AWARDS

- Ellen Andrews Wright Fellowship, Stanford Humanities Center (2019-2020)
- Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies (2015-2016)
- Residential fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (2015-2016)
- Joseph Levenson Book Prize, The Association for Asian Studies (2009)
- An Wang Postdoctoral Fellowship, John K. Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University (2006-2007)
- Eugene M. Kayden Manuscript Prize, University of Colorado (2005)
- Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in comparative literature, Cornell Society for the Humanities (2002-2003)
- Committee on Scholarly Communication with China (CSCC) Graduate Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies (1998-1999)

#### BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Member of the Annual Meeting Program Committee, Modern Language Association of America (2018 - 2021)
- Elected member of the Modern and Contemporary Chinese LLC Forum Executive Committee, Modern Language Association of America (2017 - 2022)
- Editorial board member and associate editor, *Journal of Asian Studies* (2012 - 2015)

- Elected member of the China and Inner Asia Council, Association for Asian Studies (2012 - 2015)
- Editorial board member, *Journal of Posthumanism*, *Modern China*, *Journal of World Literature*, *Chinese Literature Today* (2010 - present)
- Consultant and jury coordinator of the inaugural Newman Prize for Chinese Literature, *World Literature Today* and the Institute for US-China Issues, University of Oklahoma (2008 - 2009)
- Member of the Annual Meeting Program Committee, Association for Asian Studies (2007 - 2009)

## PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Center for East Asian Studies
- Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- Philosophy and Literature

## PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- B.A., Peking University , Philosophy and Religious Studies (1990)
- M.A., University of Chicago , East Asian Languages and Civilizations (1994)
- Ph.D., Cornell University , East Asian Literature (2002)

## Research & Scholarship

---

### CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Modern Chinese literature and popular culture; philosophy and literature; law and literature; cognitive science; affect studies; cultural studies of gender, sexuality, race, and religion; human-animal relations and environmental humanities

My current project is titled "A Certain Justice: Toward an Ecology of the Chinese Legal Imagination." It is a book-length study of the Chinese legal imagination pivoted on the idea of justice as a juridical, ethical, aesthetic, ecological, and cosmological concept. It sets out to make sense of the contradictions and paradoxes that course through verbal and visual narratives about good and evil, crime and punishment, guilt and responsibility.

I examine a variety of texts ranging from traditional courtroom drama to modern spy thriller and film noir. The basic questions that drive my inquiry are: How has justice been envisioned and pursued in Chinese culture and society, from dynastic times to the new millennium? Does "liberty and justice for all" occupy the same place in the Chinese legal imagination as it does in modern liberal democracies? I situate the social imaginary of law, morality, and justice at the intersection of literary genre studies, critical legal studies, moral and political philosophy, and cognitive psychology. Aiming to make an original contribution to the interdisciplinary field of law and humanities, I structure my investigation around a central dichotomy: high justice and low justice.

See a Q&A on my research at Stanford Humanities Center Research News: <https://shc.stanford.edu/news/stories/why-chinese-spies-don't-fall-love>

## Teaching

---

### COURSES

#### 2021-22

- East Asian Humanities Workshop I: EALC 211 (Aut)
- East Asian Humanities Workshop II: EALC 212 (Win)
- East Asian Humanities Workshop III: EALC 213 (Spr)
- For Love of Country: National Narratives in Chinese Literature and Film: CHINA 279, CHINA 379 (Spr)
- Humanities Core: How to be Modern in East Asia: CHINA 24, COMPLIT 44, HUMCORE 133, JAPAN 24, KOREA 24 (Spr)

- Proseminar in East Asian Humanities II: Current Scholarship: EALC 202 (Win)
- The Cult of Happiness: Pursuing the Good Life in America and China: COMPLIT 10SC (Sum)
- Why College? Your Education and the Good Life: COLLEGE 101 (Aut)

#### 2020-21

- Humanities Core: How to be Modern in East Asia: CHINA 24, COMPLIT 44, HUMCORE 133, JAPAN 24, KOREA 24 (Spr)
- Practicum Internship: CHINA 390 (Aut, Win, Spr, Sum)
- Proseminar: Bibliographic and Research Methods in Chinese Studies: CHINA 201 (Spr)
- Sex, Gender, and Power in Modern China: CHINA 115, CHINA 215, FEMGEN 150, FEMGEN 250 (Sum)

#### 2018-19

- Animal Planet and the Romance of the Species: CHINA 70N, COMPLIT 70N (Win)
- Humanities Core: How to be Modern in East Asia: CHINA 22Q, HUMCORE 22Q, JAPAN 22Q (Spr)
- Modern China Studies: State of the Field: CHINA 288, CHINA 388 (Spr)
- The Cult of Happiness: Pursuing the Good Life in America and China: CHINA 10SC, COMPLIT 10SC (Sum)
- Tiananmen Square: History, Literature, Iconography: CHINA 112, CHINA 212 (Win)

### STANFORD ADVISEES

#### Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Elise Huerta, Maciej Kurzynski

### Publications

---

#### PUBLICATIONS

- **The Stranger and the Chinese Moral Imagination**  
Lee, H.  
Stanford University Press.2014
- **Revolution of the Heart: A Genealogy of Love in China, 1900-1950**  
Lee, H.  
Stanford University Press.2007
- **The Importance of Not Being Honest** *LAW & LITERATURE*  
Lee, H.  
2021
- **Utopian Ruins: A Memorial Museum of the Mao Era (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF ASIAN STUDIES*  
Book Review Authored by: Lee, H.  
2021; 80 (4): 1069-1070
- **How Things Count as the Same: Memory, Mimesis, and Metaphor. (Book Review)** *CRITICAL INQUIRY*  
Book Review Authored by: Lee, H.  
2021; 47 (2): 416
- **Commentary on "Overnight Urbanization and Changing Spirits Disturbed Ecosystems in Southern Jiangsu" by Robert Weller and Keping Wu**  
Lee, H.  
Current Anthropology.  
2021 ; 62 (5):
- **Latour, Tiananmen, and Glass Slippers; or, What We Talk about When We Talk about Chinese Studies** *PRISM-THEORY AND MODERN CHINESE LITERATURE*  
Lee, H.

---

2020; 17 (2): 457-474

- **"Measuring the Stomach of a Gentleman with the Heart-Mind of a Pipsqueak": On the Ubiquity and Utility of Theory of Mind in Literature, Mostly *POETICS TODAY***  
Lee, H.  
2020; 41 (2): 205–22
- **Déjà Vu: Revisiting Hu Fayun's SARS Novel during the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic**  
Lee, H.  
MCLC Resource Center Publication. Ohio State University.  
2020
- **A Sino-Jewish Encounter, A Humanitarian Fantasy *Verge: Studies in Global Asias***  
Lee, H.  
2020; 6 (1): 142-167
- **When Nothing Is True, Everything Is Possible: On Truth and Power by Way of Socialist Realism *PMLA-PUBLICATIONS OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA***  
Lee, H.  
2019; 134 (5): 1157–64
- **The Silence of Animals: Writing on the Edge of Anthropomorphism in Contemporary Chinese Literature *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment***  
Lee, H.  
2019; 26 (1): 145-164
- **Class Feeling *AFTERLIVES OF CHINESE COMMUNISM: POLITICAL CONCEPTS FROM MAO TO XI***  
Lee, H., Sorace, C., Franceschini, Loubere, N.  
2019: 23-+
- **The Lives and Troubles of Others *Mouse v. Cat in Chinese Literature***  
Idema, W. L.  
University of Washington Press.2019: vii-xiv
- **Through Thick and Thin: The Romance of the Species in the Anthropocene *International Communication of Chinese Culture***  
Lee, H.  
2018; 5 (1-2): 145-172
- **Review of The Spatiality of Emotion in Early Modern China: From Dreamscapes to Theatricality by Ling Hon Lam (Columbia University Press, 2018)**  
Lee, H.  
Modern Chinese Literature and Culture Resource Center.  
2018
- **Charlie Chan and the Orientalist Exception *ASIA-PACIFIC JOURNAL-JAPAN FOCUS***  
Lee, H.  
2017; 15 (4)
- **Revolution and Love *A New Literary History of Modern China***  
Lee, H.  
edited by Wang, D.  
Harvard University Press.2017: 231–236
- **Monsters to Die For: On Monster Hunt as a Ecological Fable**  
Lee, H.  
Association for Chinese Animation Studies. Hong Kong.  
2017
- **Review of *The Age of Irreverence: A New History of Laughter in China* by Christopher Rea (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015)**  
Lee, H.  
Chinese Literature Today. University of Oklahoma.

2017

- **How the Chinese Fell in Love with Love, Caveats and All: Review of \_When True Love Came to China\_ By Lynn Pan (Hong Kong University Press, 2015)**  
Lee, H.  
MCLC Resource Center. Ohio State University.  
2017
- **The Rise and Fall (and Rise again) of Vernacular Happiness** *Journal of Modern Literature in Chinese*  
Lee, H.  
2017; 14 (1): 89-122
- **The Soft Power of the Constant Soldier; or, Why We Should Stop Worrying and Learn to Love the PLA** *Chinese Visions of World Order: Tianxia, Culture, and World Politics*  
Lee, H.  
edited by Wang, B.  
Duke University Press.2017: 237–266
- **Mao's Two Bodies: On the Curious (Political) Art of Impersonating the Great Helmsman** *Red Legacies in China: Cultural Afterlives of the Communist Revolution*  
Lee, H.  
edited by Li, J., Zhang, E.  
Harvard University Asia Center Publications.2016
- **'Two Wongs Can Make It White': Charlie Chan and the Orientalist Exception.** *Transnational Asia*  
Lee, H.  
2016; 1 (1)
- **Chinese Paw-litics, Anyone?**  
Lee, H.  
China Policy Institute, University of Nottingham.  
2016
- **Guns, Fairy Tales, and Red Guards**  
Lee, H.  
Parlio.com.  
2016
- **Chinese Feelings: Notes on a Ritual Theory of Emotion** *The Wenshan Review of Literature and Culture*  
Lee, H.  
2016; 9 (2): 1-37
- **Review of \_Literature the People Love: Reading Chinese Texts from the Early Maoist Period (1949-1966)\_ by Krista Van Fleit Hang (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2013)**  
Lee, H.  
Journal of Asian Studies.  
2015
- **Figuring History and Horror in a Provincial Museum: The Water Dungeon, the Rent Collection Courtyard, and the Socialist Undead** *The Challenge of Linear Time: Nationhood and the Politics of History in East Asia*  
Lee, H.  
edited by Murthy, V., Schneider, A.  
Brill.2014: 215–254
- **Woman, Sacrifice, and the Limits of Sympathy** *Frontiers of Literary Studies in China*  
Lee, H.  
2012; 6 (2): 184-197
- **The Ruins of Yuanmingyuan; Or, How to Enjoy a National Wound** *Places of Memory in Modern China: History, Politics, and Identity*  
Lee, H.  
edited by Matten, M. A.

---

Brill.2012: 193–232

- **The Charisma of Power and the Military Sublime in Tiananmen Square** *JOURNAL OF ASIAN STUDIES*  
Lee, H.  
2011; 70 (2): 397-424
- **From the Iron Rice Bowl to the Beggar's Bowl: What Good Is (Chinese) Literature?** *TELOS*  
Lee, H.  
2010: 129-149
- **Enemy under My Skin: Eileen Chang's Lust, Caution and the Politics of Transcendence** *PMLA-PUBLICATIONS OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA*  
Lee, H.  
2010; 125 (3): 640-?
- **Nowhere in the World does There Exist Love or Hatred without Reason** *Words and Their Stories: Essays on the Language of the Chinese Revolution*  
Lee, H.  
edited by Wang, B.  
Brill.2010: 149–170
- **The Ruins of Yuanmingyuan Or, How to Enjoy a National Wound** *MODERN CHINA*  
Lee, H.  
2009; 35 (2): 155-190
- **Brought to You by the People's Republic of The Onion** *China Beat*  
Lee, H.  
2009
- **It's Right to Party, en Masse** *China in 2008: A Year of Great Significance*  
Lee, H.  
edited by Merkel-Hess, K., Pomeranz, K., Wasserstrom, J.  
Rowman and Littlefield.2009: 173–177
- **Kung Fu Panda, Go Home!** *China in 2008: A Year of Great Significance*  
Lee, H.  
edited by Merkel-Hess, K., Pomeranz, K., Wasserstrom, J.  
Rowman and Littlefield.2009: 241–245
- **Mo Yan, Inaugural Newman Laureate, Honored in Oklahoma** *China Beat*  
Lee, H.  
2009
- **Painted Skin: To Scare or Not to Scare?** *China Beat*  
Lee, H.  
2008
- **Woman, Demon, Human: The Spectral Journey Home** *Chinese Films in Focus II*  
Lee, H.  
edited by Berry, C.  
BFI Publishing.2008; 2nd edition: 243–249
- **Meng Jiang Nü and the May Fourth Folklore Movement** *Meng Jiangnu Brings down the Great Wall: Ten Versions of a Chinese Legend*  
Lee, H.  
University of Washington Press.2008: 24–41
- **Taking It to Heart: Emotion, Modernity, Asia** *Positions: asia critique*  
Lee, H.  
2008; 16 (2)
- **The Lord of the Wolves?** *China Beat*

- Lee, H.  
2008
- **Kung Fu Panda, Go Home!** *China Beat*  
Lee, H.  
2008
  - **The Right to Party, en Masse.** *China Beat*  
Lee, H.  
2008
  - **The Other Chinese: Romancing the Folk in May Fourth Native Soil Fiction** *Concentric: Literary and Cultural Studies*  
Lee, H.  
2007; 33 (2): 9-34
  - **Review of \_The Clash of Empires: The Invention of China in Modern World Making\_ by Lydia H. Liu (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004)**  
Lee, H.  
The China Journal.  
2007
  - **Eileen Chang's Poetics of the Social: Review of \_Love in a Fallen City\_ By Eileen Chang (New York Review of Books Classics, 2006)**  
Lee, H.  
2007
  - **Review of \_China on Screen: Cinema and Nation\_ by Chris Berry and Mary Farquhar (New York: Columbia University Press, 2006)**  
Lee, H.  
Nations and Nationalism.  
2007
  - **'A Dime Store of Words': The Liberty Magazine and the Cultural Logic of the Popular Press** *Twentieth-Century China*  
Lee, H.  
2007; 33 (1): 53-80
  - **Nannies for foreigners: The enchantment of Chinese womanhood in the age of millennial capitalism** *Workshop on the Art and Politics of East Asia*  
Lee, H.  
DUKE UNIV PRESS.2006: 507-29
  - **Governmentality and the aesthetic state: A Chinese fantasia** *Symposium on Problem of Public Intellectuals*  
Lee, H.  
DUKE UNIV PRESS.2006: 99-129
  - **The Book and the Sword: China and the U.S. in the Global Classroom** *Teaching China in the American Classroom: Personal Reflections of Chinese Scholars in the U.S.*  
Lee, H.  
edited by Ban, W., Xueping, Z.  
Nanjing University Press.2006
  - **From Abroad, with Love: Transnational Texts, Local Critiques** *Tamkang Review*  
Lee, H.  
2006; 36 (4): 185-225
  - **Tears that crumbled the great wall: The archaeology of feeling in the may fourth folklore movement** *Annual Meeting of the Association-for-Asian-Studies*  
Lee, H. Y.  
CAMBRIDGE UNIV PRESS.2005: 35-65
  - **Review of \_Revolution Plus Love: Literary History, Women's Bodies, and Thematic Repetition in Twentieth-Century Chinese Fiction\_ by Jianmei Liu (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2003)**  
Lee, H.  
2005

- **Sympathy, Hypocrisy, and the Trauma of Chineseness** *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture*  
Lee, H.  
2004; 16 (2): 76-122
- **Review of *Holding Up Half the Sky: Chinese Women Past, Present, and Future*** ed. by Tao Jie, Zheng Bijun & Shirley L. Mow (New York: The Feminist Press, 2004)  
Lee, H.  
Journal of the American Oriental Society.  
2004
- **All the feelings that are fit to print - The community of sentiment and the literary public sphere in China, 1900-1918** *50th Annual Meeting of the Association-for-Asian-Studies*  
LEE, H.  
SAGE PUBLICATIONS INC.2001: 291-327
- **Love or Lust? The Sentimental Self in Honglou meng** *Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews*  
Lee, H.  
1997; 19: 58-111