

**The CHUS Program at 2026 AHA  
(Chicago, January 8-11, 2026)**

CHUS will be holding 6 sessions of its own and co-sponsoring 7 sessions with the AHA at this annual meeting. All 13 sessions (co)sponsored by CHUS take place in *Palmer House Hilton*. The **CHUS Business Meeting** (encompassing the CHUS Book Launch, Business, and Award Ceremony) is scheduled on Friday evening, Jan. 9, at 7-10pm, and there will be a CHUS and Friends Self-Funded Dinner on the evening of Saturday Jan. 10 (exact time and location TBA).

**Friday, January 9, 2026**

**CHUS Session 1**

**Navigating the Uncertainties of Publishing History Monographs**

*Friday, January 9, 2026: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM*

*Madison Room (Palmer House Hilton, Third Floor)*

Chair: *Dan Du, University of North Carolina at Charlotte*

Presenters:

*Panel Discussion*

*Bridget Barry, University of Nebraska Press*

*Panel Discussion*

*Dan Du, University of North Carolina at Charlotte*

*Panel Discussion*

*Yuanchong Wang, University of Delaware*

*Panel Discussion*

*Xiaowei Zheng, University of California, Santa Barbara*

Please follow this [link](#) to see the full session description at CHUS conference website.

**AHA Session 98; Co-sponsored by CHUS**

**Commodity Frontiers of the 19th-Century Qing Empire: Sino-Russian Trade, Copper Currency, and Economic Institutions**

*Friday, January 9, 2026: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM*

Water Tower Parlor (Palmer House Hilton, Sixth Floor)

Chair: Meng Zhang, Loyola Marymount University

Papers:

[Minting Trouble in Copper Coins: Official Forgeries, Imports of Inferior Cash, and Monetary Governance in the Qing Empire, 1780–1850](#)

Xiaoyu Gao, University of Chicago

[Steam the Tea: The Sino-Russian Tea Trade in Late 19th-Century Hankou and Tianjin](#)

Lejiu Sun, Boston College

[The Making of an Overland Trading Port: Tarbagatay/Chuguchak, 1851–85](#)

Hekang Yang, Columbia University

[Three Crises: The Demise of the Muslim Cloth Institution and the Fall of Qing State in Xinjiang](#)

Chao Lang, Harvard University

Comment:

Meng Zhang, Loyola Marymount University

Please follow this [link](#) to see the full session description at the AHA conference program website.

#### **AHA Session 117, co-sponsored by CHUS**

[The Dilemmas of Early Modern Governance: Knowledge, Office, and Authority in Ming China](#)

Friday, January 9, 2026: 1:30 PM-3:00 PM

Salon 7 (Palmer House Hilton, Third Floor)

Chair:

Daniel Barish, Baylor University

Papers:

[Poverty in the Imperial Clan: What Petitions to Increase Princely Stipends Mean for Ming History](#)

Yiming Ha, Hong Kong Baptist University

*[“Aboriginal Offices” in Ming Legal Order: The Central–Local Legal Dynamics on the Ming Southwest Borderlands](#)*

*Yonglin Jiang, Bryn Mawr College*

*[Legal Specialization in Late Ming China: Competing Trends and Discourses](#)*

*Weiwei Luo, Florida State University*

*[From the National to the Local: Printing, Kinship, and Local Dominance in 15th-Century China](#)*

*Xin Yu, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee*

Comment:

*Sarah Schneewind, University of California, San Diego*

**Please follow this [link](#) to see the full session description at the AHA conference program website.**

## **CHUS Session 2**

### **[Xi’s China and Its Neighbors](#)**

*Friday, January 9, 2026: 3:30 PM–5:00 PM*

*Madison Room (Palmer House Hilton, Third Floor)*

Chair:

*Yi Sun, University of San Diego*

Papers:

*[“Bamboo Diplomacy”: Between Beijing and Hanoi](#)*

*Xiaobing Li, University of Central Oklahoma*

*[Cooperation or Confrontation: New Era in Sino–Indian Relations](#)*

*Xiaoxiao Li, University of Central Oklahoma*

*[From Recovering China to Seeking Independence: China–Taiwan Relations in the Xi Era](#)*

*Qiang Fang, University of Minnesota, Duluth*

*[A New World Order? The Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Xi’s China](#)*

*Mao Lin, Georgia Southern University*

Comment:

*Yi Sun, University of San Diego*

Please follow this [link](#) to see the full session description at CHUS conference website.

**AHA Session 143, co-sponsored by CHUS**

**Global Commodities and Local Transformations: Silver, Cotton, Labor, and Land in Late Qing and Republican China**

*Friday, January 9, 2026: 3:30 PM-5:00 PM*

*Salon 7 (Palmer House Hilton, Third Floor)*

Chair:

*Laura E. Hostetler, University of Illinois Chicago*

Papers:

*Techniques, State–Merchant Relations, and the 19th-Century Crisis: Contestation over Silver Value in Early Modern Coastal China*

*Xueqian Zhang, Johns Hopkins University*

*The Daoguang Depression: A New Exploration*

*Zhao Fang, University of Chicago*

*Networks of Indenture: Local Practices and Global Effects of Trade and Trafficking in 19th-Century China*

*Carl Kubler, Carnegie Mellon University*

*Cotton Plantations, Elite Networks, and the Territorialization of Company Power in Early Republican China, 1912–22*

*Mingran Cao, Leiden University*

Comment:

*Emily Mokros, University of Kentucky*

Please follow this [link](#) to see the full session description at the AHA conference program website.

## **CHUS Business Meeting**

*Friday, January 9, 2026: 7:00 PM-10:00 PM*

*Madison Room (Palmer House Hilton, Third Floor)*

### **Chair:**

*Qin Shao, The College of New Jersey*

*This event consists of **two parts**:*

- 1) **CHUS Book Launch**: 7:00pm-8:00pm;*
- 2) **CHUS Business Meeting** (8:00pm-10:00pm)*

## **Saturday, January 10, 2026**

### **AHA Session 170, co-sponsored by CHUS**

#### **Symbols of Desire and Diplomacy: A Material Cultural History of US–China Connections**

*Saturday, January 10, 2026: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM*

*Spire Parlor (Palmer House Hilton, Sixth Floor)*

### **Chair:**

*Xi Wang, Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

### **Papers:**

*Medicinal Discourses over Chinese Tea in Revolutionary America*

*Yiyun Huang, University of Tennessee*

*From an “Indian Cloth” to “Colored People’s Cotton”: Nankeens in America*

*Dan Du, University of North Carolina at Charlotte*

*Fuzzy Diplomacy: Pandas in America*

*Yi Sun, University of San Diego*

*The Lao Gan Ma Craze: The Popularity of Spicy Chinese Food Culture in the  
Midwestern United States*

*Haoran Ni, University of Kansas and Slippery Rock University*

Comment:

*Xi Wang, Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

Please follow this [link](#) to see the full session description at the AHA conference program website.

### **CHUS Session 3**

#### **Unraveling the Fabric of Control: Tracing China's Transformations Through Evolving Vocabularies, Cultural Practices, and Social Imaginaries**

*Saturday, January 10, 2026: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM*

*Marshfield Room (Palmer House Hilton, Third Floor)*

Chair:

*Lei Duan, Sam Houston State University*

Papers:

*"Amateur" and "Professional" Musical Culture in Socialist and Post-Socialist China*

*Ling Zhang, Purchase College, State University of New York*

*From "the Hundred Names (Baixing)" to "the Mass (Qunzhong)": The Evolving Politics of the Multitude in Socialist China*

*Yaowen Dong, University of Memphis*

*Technocracy and/in Revolution: The Public Administration Efficiency Movement in Republican China, 1927-37*

*Ye Lin, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

*Performing After Hours: Workers' Cultural Production at the Margins of Factory Labor in Socialist China*

*Feifan Li, University of Chicago*

Comment:

*Lei Duan, Sam Houston State University*

Please follow this [link](#) to see the full session description at CHUS conference website.

### **CHUS Session 4**

**Fluidity and Integration of Property Rights in State Building: Resource Distribution, Personal Naming, and Privilege Economy in 20th-Century China**

Saturday, January 10, 2026: 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Marshfield Room (Palmer House Hilton, Third Floor)

Chair:

*Brian James DeMare, Tulane University*

Papers:

*Measuring the Land for Our Nation: Land Ownership, Agricultural Migration, and Nationality Policy in Manchurian Borderland, 1912–44*

*Luming Xu, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

*“Each Person Has One Name Only”: State Regulation of Personal Names in Republican China, 1936–49*

*Xiaoyan Ren, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

*Luxury, Privilege, and Legitimacy: Consumption of Imported Goods from the Capitalist World in Maoist China’s Friendship Stores, 1958–78*

*Zhen Zhang, University of Edinburgh*

*Animals, Products, and State Building: China’s Sheep Improvement Project and Wool Trade in the Early 20th Century*

*Guanran Cui, Binghamton University, State University of New York*

Comment:

*Brian James DeMare, Tulane University*

**Please follow this [link](#) to see the full session description at CHUS conference website.**

**AHA Session 217, Co-Sponsored by CHUS**

**Ruling and Living the Sino-Southeast Asian Borderlands: State Building, Environment, and the Liminality of Everyday Lives**

Saturday, January 10, 2026: 1:30 PM-3:00 PM

Salon 7 (Palmer House Hilton, Third Floor)

Chair:

Selda Altan, Randolph College

Papers:

[\*Will the Mosquito Retreat? Malaria and the Politics of Tropical Hygiene in Southern Yunnan\*](#)

Xuexin Cai, Columbia University

[\*Salt and State-Building on the China–Vietnam Borderlands, 1870–1940\*](#)

Anke Wang, Cornell University

[\*The Art of Pretending to Govern: Claiming Sovereignty in Colonial Burma\*](#)

Frances O'Morchoe, New York University

[\*The Scarred Landscape: Coming to Terms with Landmines After the Sino-Vietnamese Border Conflict\*](#)

Junyi Han, Yale University

Comment:

Selda Altan, Randolph College

Please follow this [link](#) to see the full session description at the AHA conference program website.

## **CHUS Session 5**

### **[Global China: Transpacific Interactions and Exchanges in the 20th Century](#)**

Saturday, January 10, 2026: 1:30 PM-3:00 PM

Marshfield Room (Palmer House Hilton, Third Floor)

Chair:

Guoqi Xu, University of Hong Kong

Papers:

[\*Global Connections and Local Realities: Hong Kong Prostitution, 1904–35\*](#)

Iris Boyun Lei, University of Hong Kong

[\*Transpacific News Reporting: The Chongqing School of Journalism and the Negotiation of Press and Propaganda During Wartime, 1943–45\*](#)

Di Luo, University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa

*[The Pan-Pacific Decades: China, Hawaii, and Interwar Pacific Internationalism, 1910s–30s](#)*

Bohan Zhang, Rice University

*[“God Called Me to the Land of My Forefathers”: A Chinese American Teacher in China During the First Half of the 20th Century](#)*

Shouyue Zhang, University of Melbourne

Comment:

Charlotte Brooks, Graduate Center and Baruch College, City University of New York

Please follow this [link](#) to see the full session description at CHUS conference website.

## **CHUS Session 6**

### **[Political, Cultural, and Diplomatic Networks in China and Beyond](#)**

Saturday, January 10, 2026: 3:30 PM-5:00 PM

Marshfield Room (Palmer House Hilton, Third Floor)

Chair:

Qiang Fang, University of Minnesota, Duluth

Papers:

*[Language, Commerce, and Empire: Introducing Chinese Instruction into US Higher Education, with Harvard as a Case Study](#)*

Shuhua Fan, The University of Scranton

*[“Securing and Holding Our Share of Influence and Trade in China”: Edwin Conger and US–China Relations at the Turn of the 20th Century](#)*

Tao Wang, Iowa State University

*[The Chinese Communist Party’s Transition from a Revolutionary Party to a Ruling Party, 1990s–2010](#)*

Xiaoqing Diana Lin, Indiana University Northwest

*[Who Are They? A Study of Chinese Legislators Elected During the First Nationwide Election in 1912–13](#)*

Patrick Fuliang Shan, Grand Valley State University

Comment:

Guolin Yi, Providence College

Please follow this [link](#) to see the full session description at CHUS conference website.

## **CHUS and Friends Self-Funded Dinner**

(Exact time and location TBA)

**Sunday, January 11, 2026**

### **AHA Session 272, Co-Sponsored by CHUS**

#### **Rethinking the Great Leap Forward: Urban Crises, Technological Ambitions, Economic Challenges, and People's Education**

Sunday, January 11, 2026: 9:00 AM-10:30 AM

Wabash Room (Palmer House Hilton, Third Floor)

Chair:

*Fabio Lanza, University of Arizona*

Papers:

*More Steel, More Food: The Crisis of Urban Food Rationing During the Great Leap Forward*

*Peilun Hao, Princeton University*

*A Forgotten Technological Revolution: Workers and Innovations in the Pharmaceutical Factories of the Great Leap Forward*

*Yang Li, University of Wisconsin–Madison*

*At the Margins of the Great Leap Forward: Organizing the Cotton Textile Industry During China's Rapid Industrialization Campaign, 1958–62*

*Xiao Sun, Princeton University*

*Who Are the Masters of Historical Study? Mass Mobilization, Resistance, and Teachers' Agency in History Education During the Great Leap Forward*

*Guanhua Tan, University of Massachusetts Amherst*

Comment:

*Fabio Lanza, University of Arizona*

Please follow this [link](#) to see the full session description at the AHA conference program website.

**AHA Session 290, Co-Sponsored by CHUS**

**Entwining Global and Local Histories in Modern China**

*Sunday, January 11, 2026: 11:00 AM-12:30 PM*

*Hancock Parlor (Palmer House Hilton, Sixth Floor)*

Chair:

*Xin Zhang, Indiana University Indianapolis*

Papers:

*Jewish Diaspora in China: A Comparison of the 12th and 20th Centuries*

*Hanchao Lu, Georgia Institute of Technology*

*Temporality and Spatiality: "Global Jiangnan" as Theoretical and Historical Framework*

*Dandan Chen, Farmingdale State College, State University of New York*

*The Local and the Global in Modern Chinese Sport History*

*Le Tao, Simon Fraser University*

*Peasant Philosophers and Barefoot Doctors: Local Lessons in Global Maoism*

*Aminda M. Smith, Michigan State University*

Comment:

*Xin Zhang, Indiana University Indianapolis*

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