

**SHANTASHIL RAJYESWAR MITTER OBE FBA
(Rana Mitter)**

Qualifications

- 1992-6: PhD** in Modern Chinese History, King's College, University of Cambridge
Thesis: "The Japanese Occupation of Manchuria, 1931-33"
- 1993-4:** Kennedy Scholar; Visiting Fellow, Department of East Asian Languages,
Harvard University
- 1992-3: M Phil** (Chinese Studies), King's College, University of Cambridge
- 1988-92: BA (Hons)**, Oriental Studies (Chinese with Japanese),
King's College, University of Cambridge: first class honours

Academic appointments

- 2023-** : S.T. Lee Chair in US-Asia Relations, Harvard Kennedy School,
Harvard University
- 2008-23** : Professor of the History and Politics of Modern China,
University of Oxford, and Fellow of St Cross College
- 2001-** : University Lecturer in History and Politics of Modern China,
University of Oxford, and Fellow of St Cross College
- 1999-2001:** Lecturer in History, University of Warwick
- 1996-98:** Chiang Ching-kuo Junior Lecturer in Politics and Society of
Modern China, Institute for Chinese Studies,
University of Oxford
- 1996-98:** Non-Stipendiary Junior Research Fellow, Wolfson College, Oxford

Courses regularly taught:

At Harvard Kennedy School:

IGA-260: Asia in the World
IGA-108: China in the World

Previously at Oxford:

PPE 227 Politics of China (undergraduate)
History Further Subject: China in War and Revolution (undergraduate)
History and Historiography of Modern China (graduate)

Regular annual graduate supervision of 10-12 DPhil, MPhil, MSc and MSt students
across DPIR, History, SAIS, Oriental Studies

Administrative roles include:

At Harvard Kennedy School:

IGA (Intl and Global Affairs) Area Chair, 2024-5, 2026-

At Oxford:

Master (acting), St Cross College (2022-23)

REF (Research Excellence Framework) Coordinator, Faculty of History (2017-19)

Director, University China Centre, University of Oxford (2013-20)

Vice-Master, St Cross College (2014-17)

Director M Phil Modern Chinese Studies and convenor of Examinations for M Phil (2006-7)

Convenor, Politics undergraduate examinations (2008)

Publications

Books

China's Good War: How Memory of World War II is Shaping a Nationalist Future (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2020)

Special citation from ICAS (Intl Convention on Asian Studies): Most Accessible and Captivating Work for the Non-Specialist Reader Accolade, 2021

Forgotten Ally: China's War with Japan, 1937-45 (US title)

China's War with Japan, 1937-45: The Struggle for Survival (UK title)

(Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; London: Allen Lane, 2013), xxi+458pp.

Translations in Chinese (PRC), Chinese (Taiwan); forthcoming in Japanese, Korean

Winner, the Duke of Westminster's Medal for Military Literature, 2014

Shortlisted for the Bernard Schwartz Prize of the Asia Society of New York

Named a Book of the Year in *Financial Times*, *Economist*, *New Statesman*, *Observer*, *Sunday Telegraph*, *Daily Telegraph*

Modern China: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008, updated 2016, 2025), 153pp.

Translations available or forthcoming: Italian, Portuguese, Turkish, Thai, Dutch

A Bitter Revolution: China's struggle with the modern world, xix+357pp.

(Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2004, paperback 2005)

Winner, *Times Higher Education Supplement*

Young Academic Author of the Year 2005

Proxime accessit (runner-up), Longman/History Today Book of the Year 2005

Finalist, The British Academy Book Prize 2005

Selected as a *Foreign Affairs* "must-read" Notable Book on China 2005

Translations in Japanese, Polish, Romanian, Thai

The Manchurian Myth: Nationalism, resistance and collaboration in modern China

(Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2000), xi+295pp.

Honourable Mention, Gladstone Prize of the Royal Historical Society 2001

Under contract: *The war that changed Asia: China 1945-49*

(150,000 words, contracted to Farrar Strauss Giroux/Penguin, expected to be published 2027)

Books/special issues (as co-editor)

Editor (with Matthew Hilton) of special supplementary edition of journal *Past and Present* on Transnationalism and Global History (May 2013)

Editor (with Helen Schneider) of special edition of journal *European Journal of East Asian Studies* on relief and rehabilitation in wartime China (December 2012)

Editor (with Aaron William Moore) of special edition of journal *Modern Asian Studies* on World War II in China (March 2011)

Ruptured Histories: War and Memory in Post-Cold War Asia (edited with Sheila Jager) (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007)

Across the Blocs: Cold War Cultural and Social History (edited with Patrick Major) [Previously published as a special edition of *Cold War History*, Oct. 2003] (London: Frank Cass, 2004)

Journal articles

“Open or closed? China’s dilemmas in a changing geopolitical and geoeconomic order,” *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, Volume 40, Issue 2, Summer 2024, 366–373

“Relocation and Dislocation: Civilian, Refugee, and Military Movement as Factors in the Disintegration of Postwar China, 1945–49,” *Itinerario*. 2022; 46(2):193-213

“State-building after Disaster: Jiang Tingfu and the Reconstruction of Post-World War II China, 1943-1949,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 61(1) (January 2019)

“Presentism and China’s Changing Wartime Past,” *Past & Present* (234:1) (February 2017)

“从战争到战后：史学与中国抗日战争遗产之评价” [From war to postwar: historiography and the assessment of the legacy of China’s War of Resistance against Japan], *Kangri zhanzheng yanjiu*(2017:1)

With Gluck C., Armstrong C., “The seventieth anniversary of World War II’s end in Asia: Three Perspectives,” *Journal of Asian Studies* 74(3) (2015)

“Imperialism, transnationalism and the reconstruction of postwar China: UNRRA in China, 1944-7,” *Past and Present* (supplementary edition 2013).

“1911: The Unanchored Revolution,” *The China Quarterly* 208 (December 2011)

- “Classifying Citizens in Nationalist China during World War II.”
Modern Asian Studies 46: 2 (March 2011).
- (with Aaron William Moore) “World War II in China: Experience, Legacy and Memory.” *Modern Asian Studies* 46: 2 (March 2011).
- “Changed by war: The Changing Historiography of Wartime China and New Interpretations of Modern Chinese History.”
The Chinese Historical Review 17: 1 (2010).
- “Writing war: Modernity, disaster and narrative strategies in wartime China, 1937-46.”
Transactions of the Royal Historical Society (2008).
- “Picturing victory: the visual imaginary of the War of Resistance, 1937-47.”
European Journal of East Asian Studies 7:1 (2008).
- “The Duty of Memory: The Nanjing Massacre, Memory and Forgetting in China and Japan.” (in French) *Vingtième Siècle* (2007).
- “Modernization, War and Internationalism in Modern Chinese History”
(Historiographical Review). *The Historical Journal* (June 2005), pp. 523-43.
- “East is East and West is West: Towards a Comparative Sociocultural History of the Cold War.” (with Patrick Major) *Cold War History* 4:1 (October 2003), pp.1-22.
- “The Individual and the International ‘I’: Zou Taofen and Changing Views of China’s Place in the International System.” *Global Society* 17:2 (2003), pp.121-133.
- “Old ghosts, new memories: changing China’s war history in the era of post-Mao politics.” *Journal of Contemporary History* (January 2003), pp. 117-131.
- “Contention and redemption: Ideologies of National Salvation in Republican China.”
Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions 3:3 (Winter 2002), pp. 44-74.
- “Behind the scenes at the museum: nationalism, history and memory in the Beijing War of Resistance Museum.” *The China Quarterly* (March 2000).
- “Complicity, repression, and the region: Yan Baohang and the emergence of centripetal nationalism, 1931-49.” *Modern China* 25:1 (January 1999), pp.44-68.
- “Reassessing the resistance: Ma Zhanshan in Heilongjiang, 1931-2.”
Papers on Chinese History 5 (Spring 1996), pp. 99-119.

Chapters in edited volumes

- “Competitive Antiliberalism: How Geoeconomics, Security, and Values Define Chinese and American Worldviews in the 2020s and Beyond,” in Hal Brands ed., *Lessons from the new Cold War: America Confronts the China Challenge*, Johns Hopkins University Press, June, 2025.
- MacMillan, Margaret, Rana Mitter, and Ivor Roberts, 'Contemporary Diplomatic Challenges', in Ivor Roberts (ed.), *Satow's Diplomatic Practice, 8th Edition*, 8th Edition (2023; online edn, Oxford Law Pro), <https://doi.org/10.1093/law/9780192859594.003.0003>
- "The Chinese Global in the Long Postwar: Narratives of War, Civilization, and Infrastructure since 1945." *Debating Worlds: Contested Narratives of Global Modernity and World Order*. Ed. Daniel Deudney, G. John Ikenberry, and Karoline Postel-Vinay. Oxford University Press, 2023, 162-183.

- “Identities and Alliances: China’s Place in the World after Pearl Harbor, 1941–1945,” in Beth Bailey and David Farber, ed., *Beyond Pearl Harbor: A Pacific History* (Lawrence KS: University of Kansas Press, 2019)
- “China in the Second World War and Civil War,” in Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom, ed., *Oxford Illustrated History of China* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016)
- “Nationalism, decolonization, geopolitics and the Asian postwar,” in Evan Mawdsley et al., *Cambridge History of the Second World War* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015)
- “British diplomacy and changing views of Chinese governmental capability over the Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945,” In Hans J. van de Ven, Diana Lary, and Steven R. Mackinnon, *Negotiating China's Destiny in World War II* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2014)
- “Mao Zedong,” in Ramachandra Guha, ed., *Anticipations of the Asian Century* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2014).
- “China and the Cold War,” in Richard Immerman and Petra Goedde, ed., *Oxford Handbook of the Cold War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013).
- “Nationalism in East Asia, 1839-1945,” in John Breuilly, ed., *Oxford Handbook of the History of Nationalism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013).
- “Communism, Confucianism, and charisma: the political in modern China,” in Michael Freeden and Andrew Vincent, ed., *Comparative Political Thought: Theorizing Practices* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2013).
- “War and Memory since 1945,” in Roger Chickering, Denis Showalter, and Hans van de Ven, ed., *Cambridge History of Warfare* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).
- “Aesthetics, Modernity, and Trauma: Public Art and the Memory of War in Contemporary China,” in Vishakha Desai, ed., *Asian Art History in the Twenty-First Century* (Williamstown, MA: Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, 2008).
- “Maps, minds and visions: Chiang Kaishek, Mao Zedong and China’s place in the world,” in *Mental Maps’ of the Era of Two World Wars* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2008)
- “Hegemony and liberation: Mao Zedong and Zou Taofen in early twentieth-century China,” in John Chalcraft and Yaseen Noorani, ed., *Counterhegemony in the Colony and Postcolony* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2007, forthcoming)
- “Life as they knew it: Du Zhongyuan’s editorial strategies for the *Xinsheng* weekly, 1934-35,” in Daria Berg, ed., *Reading China: Fiction, History and the Dynamics of Discourse* (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2006).
- “Cold War culture” (with Patrick Major), in Saki Dockrill and Geraint Davies, ed., *Palgrave Approaches to Cold War History* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2006).
- “Educating citizens through war museums in modern China,” in Veronique Benei, ed., *Manufacturing Citizenship: Education and Nationalism in Europe, South Asia, and China* (London: Routledge, 2005)
- “Manchuria in Mind: press, propaganda, and Northeast China in the age of empire, 1930-37,” in Mariko Asano Tamanoi, ed., *Crossed Histories: Manchuria in the Age of Empire* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press and the Association for Asian Studies, 2005)

“An uneasy engagement: Chinese ideas of global order and justice in historical perspective,” in Rosemary Foot, John Lewis Gaddis, and Andrew Hurrell, ed., *Order and Justice in International Relations* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003)

“Evil empire?: Competing constructions of Japanese imperialism in Manchuria, 1928-1937,” in Li Narangoa and Robert Cribb, ed., *Imperial Japan and National Identities in Asia, 1895-1945* (London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2003)

Honours awards and grants

- 2020: Medlicott Medal of the Historical Association for Services to History
- 2019: Appointed OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire), Queen’s Birthday Honours List
- 2019-22: Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship (£180,000)
- 2015: Elected Fellow of the British Academy (FBA)
- 2014: Joint winner, “Frontiers of Knowledge” competition organized by HEFCE/All-Party Parliamentary Universities Group (lecture delivered at Parliament, 18 March 2014)
- 2013: British Academy-Academia Sinica small project grant (with Guoshiguan, Taipei, as partner), approx. £5,000
- 2013: Lead host applicant for Leverhulme visiting professorship for Prof Sheldon Garon (Princeton University), approx. £12,000
- 2011-13: BICC (British Inter-university China Centre) India-China network grant (AHRC) - approx. £12,000
- 2010: Donation from Doos Trading (Shanghai) for conference on “Du Zhongyuan and his world” held under Oxford/CUHK partnership, Hong Kong (£12,915)
- 2007: Winner, Leverhulme Trust Research Leadership Award, 2007-12 (value £800,000 to run a research group on “The Persistence of Conflict; China’s War with Japan, 1931 to the present”)
- 2006: British Academy/ESRC – Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Individual Visits Scheme (China)
- 2005: Winner, *Times Higher Education Supplement* Young Academic Author of the Year award
- 2004: Winner, Philip Leverhulme Prize in History (value £50,000 for research purposes, award held in 2005-07)

2000: British Academy/ESRC – Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Individual Visits Scheme (China) and British Academy/ESRC – Academia Sinica Exchange Scheme (Taiwan)

ECAN (EU-China Academic Network) grant

Both awards for fieldwork in China and Taiwan on “The war against Japan in Chinese political culture, 1931 to the present”

1997: British Academy/ESRC – Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Exchange Scheme; for fieldwork in China on “The war against Japan in Chinese political culture, 1931 to the present”

Non peer-reviewed publications and broadcasts (selection only)

Reviews and review essays for: *The Guardian*, *Sunday Telegraph*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *Financial Times*, *London Review of Books*, *Times Higher Education Supplement*, *New Statesman*, et al.

Academic book reviews for: *American Historical Review*, *The China Quarterly*, *The China Journal*, *Times Higher Education Supplement*, *Pacific Affairs*, *Bulletin of SOAS*, *Asian Affairs*, et al.

Regular broadcasting on modern China and other issues for BBC World Television and World Service radio; *Night Waves/Free Thinking* (BBC Radio Three arts and ideas show); *The Forum* (BBC World Service discussion show); *In Our Time* (BBC Radio 4); History Channel documentaries including *The Samurai and the Swastika*, *Philosophy of the East*, *Samurai Japan*, etc.; The Sunday Feature – “Goodbye Confucius” and “Retreat from the River Bug” as presenter; BBC Radio Three); *Chinese Characters* (BBC Radio 4)

Professional affiliations

Fellow, British Academy (FBA)

Fellow, Royal Historical Society

Member, World Economic Forum Experts’ Network

Chair, Universities China Committee in London (2009-13)

Council member, British Association for Chinese Studies (2001-04)

Editorial board member: *Past and Present* (2008-)

Editorial adviser: *Modern Asian Studies* (2009-)

Journal guest co-editor: *Cold War History* (October 2003)

Series editor (with Akira Iriye), Palgrave Series in Transnational History

Associate Editor, Palgrave Dictionary of Transnational History

Associate Editor, Cambridge Dictionary of Modern World History

Major invitations to speak (selection)

- 2023: Harmon Lecture in Military History, US Air Force Academy
- 2021: Edwin Hume Lecture, Yale University
- 2021: Reischauer Memorial Lectures, Harvard University (online during pandemic)
- 2019: Atheneum, Claremont College, California
- 2019: Keynote Speaker, May Fourth Symposium, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2016, 2018: Speaker, World Economic Forum (Davos)
- 2014: Invited lecturer, “Art of War” conference of the Academy of Military Sciences, People’s Liberation Army, Qingdao, China
- 2014: Wiles Lectures, Queen’s University Belfast
- 2014: Keynote lecturer, Conference on World War II in China, Guoshiguan, Taipei, Taiwan ROC
- 2013: Guest lecturer, Nanjing University History Department, Nanjing, China
- 2013: Distinguished guest lecturer, China Studies Centre, University of Sydney
- 2012: Visiting speaker, Fairbank Center on East Asian Studies, Harvard University
- 2010: Saki Dockrill Memorial Lecture, King’s College, London
- 2010: 6th international conference on Republican China, Nanjing, China
- 2010: Conference on the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II, Beijing, China
- 2009: Beijing Forum, Beijing, China
- 2009: Conference on the Sino-Japanese War, Chongqing, China
- 2008: International Conference on China, Washington University, St Louis, MO
- 2006: Conference on “War and Suffering in Modern China,”
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
- 2006: Conference on “Asian Art and Modernity”, Clark Institute, Williamstown, MA
- 2005: Conference on “War, memory, and healing,” Macau Ricci Institute,
Macau, China
- 2005: Conference on “Historical Revisionism,” Dept of Chinese, Leiden University
- 2005: ECAI conference on “Images of War,” Fudan University, Shanghai
- 2005: Conference on “Transnational History”, Rockefeller Archive Center, NY
Invited lectures/presentations at: Harvard, Emory, University of South
Carolina, Indiana
- 2004: Invited lecture at Dept of Chinese, Leiden University
- 2004: Conference on “Political Religions” in honour of Stanley G. Payne,
University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2004: Conference on “New Approaches to Manchuria,” Harvard University
- 2003: Conference on “War and Memory in post-Cold War Asia,”
Oberlin College, Ohio
- 2001: Conference on “Manchuria in the age of Empire,”
University of California, Los Angeles

Papers at international conferences with competitive entry

- 2018: Panellist at Association for Asian Studies Meeting, Washington DC
- 2010: Panellist at American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York
- 2005: Panellist at Association for Asian Studies Meeting, Chicago
- 2002: Panellist at American Historical Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco
- 1998: Panel organizer for Association of Asian Studies, Washington DC

Papers delivered at conferences and research seminars in the UK, including:
Cambridge, LSE, Edinburgh, Leicester, Sussex, Essex, Manchester, SOAS, Bristol,
etc.

Peer reviewer for university presses including: Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Stanford, University of British Columbia, Manchester; also Palgrave, Rowman and Littlefield.