

RANA SHANTASHIL RAJYESWAR MITTER OBE FBA

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

2008- : Professor of the History and Politics of Modern China,
University of Oxford, and Fellow of St Cross College

2001-08 : 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:

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 PhD (DPhil), MPhil, MSc and MSt
students across departments including History, Politics and International Relations,
Area Studies

Administrative roles include:

External

Vice-President (Communications), The British Academy (2021-)

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

Within Oxford

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

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

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: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2020), 316pp.
Winner: Most Accessible and Captivating Work for the Non-Specialist Reader
Accolade at the ninth edition (2021) of the ICAS (International Convention on
Asia Studies) Book Prize [from around 1000 entries]

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 RUSI/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*
Named a *CHOICE* Outstanding Academic Title, 2014
Named "Most Valuable Western Book on China" 2014
Oriental Outlook (*Dongfang liaowang zhoukan*)
Named one of eight Most Influential 2014 History Books in China (Xinhua)

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

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

“Relocation and dislocation: civilian, refugee, and military movement as factors in the disintegration of postwar China, 1945-49,” *Itinerario* (forthcoming 2022)

“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

- “Qing China and Ottoman Turkey: Response and Decline, 1774-1937,” with Michael Reynolds, in Peter Fibiger Bang et al., ed., *Oxford World History of Empire* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020)
- “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* (forthcoming, 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

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| 2021: | Named one of 50 “World’s Top Thinkers” by <i>Prospect</i> magazine |
| 2020: | Medlicott Medal of the UK 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 (selection only)

Recent examples of policy-oriented writing for a general audience include:

“What the West Gets Wrong about China,” *Harvard Business Review* (forthcoming, May 2021), with Elsbeth Johnson

“The World China Wants,” *Foreign Affairs* (Jan/Feb 2021),
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2020-12-08/world-china-wants>

“After the Golden Era: Resetting UK-China Engagement” with Sophia Gaston – policy report on the future for UK-China relations (London: British Foreign Policy Group, 2020) - <https://bfpg.co.uk/2020/07/resetting-uk-china-engagement/>

Archive of essays on China policy at the *South China Morning Post*, 2016 – <https://www.scmp.com/author/rana-mitter>

Editorials, long essays, reviews and review essays for: *The Guardian*, *Sunday Telegraph*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *Financial Times*, *London Review of Books*, *Times Higher Education Supplement*, *New Statesman*, *Times of India*, *The Telegraph* (Calcutta), etc

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.

Broadcasting

Regular presenter (approximately 1-2 times per month), BBC Radio 3 arts and ideas show *Free Thinking* (formerly *Night Waves*), also presented as the *BBC Arts and Ideas Podcast*, 2007-
(link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0144txn>)

Regular commentator for broadcasts/podcasts including: BBC, NPR, CNN, ABC Australia, NBC, Sky News, Al Jazeera, etc.

Regular broadcasting on modern China and other issues for BBC World Television and World Service radio; *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.; radio long-form documentaries include *Goodbye Confucius* (2006); *Movie Nights in Moscow* (2009); *Enter the Dragon - on Chinese Theatre* (2014); *Shanghai World City Redux* (2014); *South Korea – The Silent Superpower* (2016); *Japan’s Never-Ending War* (2018); all for BBC Radio Three; *Chinese Characters* (20-part series on Chinese history), 2018, *Meanwhile in Beijing* (BBC Radio 4), 2020

Professional affiliations

Fellow, British Academy (FBA)
Fellow, Royal Historical Society (FRHistS)
Associate, Imperial War Museum (2019-)
Research Committee, The British Museum (2020-)
Member, World Economic Forum Experts’ Network (2016-)
Council member, British Association for Chinese Studies (2001-04)
Editorial board member: *Past and Present* (2008-)
Editorial adviser: *Modern Asian Studies* (2009-)
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

International invitations to speak (selection)

- 2021: Edwin O. Reischauer Lectures, Fairbank Center, Harvard University
2019: Atheneum, Claremont College, California
2019: Keynote Speaker, May Fourth Symposium, Chulalongkorn Univ., Bangkok, Thailand
2016, 2018: Speaker, World Economic Forum (Davos)
2015: Forum on the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing
2015: Forum on the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, Guoshiguan, Taipei
2014: Invited lecturer, “Art of War” conference of the Academy of Military Sciences, People’s Liberation Army, Qingdao, China
2014: The 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: 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

- 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, Yale, Stanford, University of British Columbia, Manchester; also Palgrave, Rowman and Littlefield.

Date: 4 April 2021