

# A FEMINIST LENS ON GLOBAL CHINA

2025 COLLOQUIUM

**Friday  
March 7th 2025  
10am - 4:30pm**

**GATES WOODRUFF COTTAGE  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER**  
*with Virtual Option*

The Department of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder is hosting a one-day colloquium on feminist perspectives on Global China as part of a series of colloquia celebrating our 50th anniversary as a department. The rise of China as a new global economic and political force has spurred the rapid growth of the field of Global China studies. Yet, research focused on gender and sexuality remains quite limited. This colloquium is a rare event that brings together an international group of scholars to help foster more robust feminist perspectives on Global China. Special attention will be paid to the implications of China's engagement with the Global South, especially Africa and South Asia.

For more information, a detailed schedule of panels, and to RSVP for the virtual option and Zoom link please review the event page.



## PANELISTS

Ching Kwan Lee  
*UCLA*

Marie Berry  
*University of Denver*

Yoon Jung Park  
*Georgetown*

Mingwei Huang  
*Dartmouth*

Sisasenkosi Mataruse  
*University of Zimbabwe*

Prolific Mataruse  
*University of Zimbabwe*

Vivian Lu  
*Rice*

Ivy Gikonyo  
*University of Pretoria, South Africa*

Charlotte Goodburn  
*King's College London*

Soumya Mishra  
*King's College London*

Matthew Chin  
*University of Virginia*

Yiping Cai  
*UC Irvine*

Eram Ashraf  
*Swansea University, UK*

Xinlei Sha  
*Cornell*

Justin Haruyama  
*University of British Columbia*

Xianan Jin  
*University of Exeter, UK*

Robert Wyrod  
*CU Boulder*



Women & Gender Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



Center for Asian Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



International Affairs Program  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

*This event has been made possible by a grant to Women and Gender Studies from the Mellon Foundation, and generous support from the Center for Asian Studies and the International Affairs Program at CU Boulder.*



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**Friday, March 7th**  
**10:00am - 4:30pm**  
**Gates Woodruff Cottage**  
**University of Colorado, Boulder**

## **A Feminist Lens on Global China**

**The rise of China as a new global economic, political, and cultural force has spurred the rapid growth of the field of Global China studies. Yet, research focused on gender and sexuality remains quite limited. This colloquium is a rare event that brings together an international group of scholars to help foster more robust feminist perspectives on Global China. Special attention will be paid to the implications of China's engagement with the Global South, especially Africa and South Asia.**

**The Department of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder is proud to be hosting this event as part of our Department's 50th Anniversary celebration.**

**This event has been made possible by a grant to Women and Gender Studies from the Mellon Foundation, and generous support from the Center for Asian Studies and the International Affairs Program at CU Boulder.**

**This event has been organized by Robert Wyrod, Associate Professor, Women and Gender Studies Department and International Affairs Program, CU Boulder.**

**Professor Wyrod would like to thank Julie Carr, Alicia Turchette, Kai Blake-Leibowitz, Elizabeth Williams, Eileen Brown, Hyodong Sohn, Musabber Ali Chisty, and Cameron Shipulski for all their help to make this event a success.**



# PROGRAM

**10:00am**      **Welcome**

**10:15am**      **Panel 1: Framing Global China Research and Researchers**

Searching for China in Afro-Sino Gender and Sexual Relations

Robert Wyrod, University of Colorado Boulder

Feminist/Queer Reorientations of China-Africa Studies  
Mingwei Huang, Dartmouth College

Enfiguring Afro-Asian Capital and the Body Geopolitic  
Vivian Lu, Rice University

Gender and Chinese Investors Corporate Social Responsibility in Africa: Perspectives from the 'Weaving the Future' - Community Moms Empowerment Project in Zimbabwe  
Sisaskenzi Mataruse and Prolific S. Mataruse, University of Zimbabwe

Becoming Postcolonial: Situated Knowledge Yet beyond Borders  
Xianan Jin, University of Exeter, UK

Discussant: Ching Kwan Lee, UCLA

**12 noon**      **Lunch break**

**1:00pm**      **Panel 2: Intimacies of Global China**

When Factory Comes to the Field: How Do Chinese Investments Change Local Women's Lives?  
Soumya Mishra, King's College London, UK

Chinese Workers, African Women, and Abandoned Children: The Gendered Impact of Chinese Labour Practices in Africa  
Ivy Gikonyo, University of Pretoria, South Africa

The Dependence of Capital on Women's Affective and Reproductive Labor in China-Africa Relations  
Justin Lee Haruyama, University of British Columbia, CA

Cultural Politics of Blame: HIV/AIDS Rumors, Race, and Gender  
Xinlei Sha, Cornell University

Discussant: Marie Berry, University of Denver

**2:30pm**                      **Coffee break**

**3:00pm**                      **Panel 3: Perspectives from South Asia, the Caribbean, and Beyond**

Co-Producing Southern Feminist Knowledge on Global China

Yiping Cai, University of California, Irvine

Disciplining Production and Reproduction in Special Economic Zones beyond China: Rural Migrant Women and Dormitory Labour Regimes in India and Uganda  
Charlotte Goodburn, King's College London, UK

Gender and China's Belt and Road Initiative in Pakistan  
Eram Ashraf, Swansea University, UK

Intimacies of Travel: Afro-Asian Relations in Post-Independence Jamaica

Matthew Chin, University of Virginia

Discussant: Yoon Jung Park, Georgetown University

**4:30pm**                      **Closing Remarks**



## PARTICIPANTS

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**Eram Ashraf** is a UK-based scholar with a PhD in International Relations from Swansea University in Wales, UK. She works on gender, China's Belt and Road Initiative in South Asia, as well as China-Pakistan relations. Her work appears in *Pakistan, China and the Belt and Road Initiative* (Routledge 2024), *The Diplomat*, and United Nations Development Programme publications.

**Marie Berry** is the Director of the Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy and an Associate Professor at the Josef Korbel School at the University of Denver. Her award-winning book, *War, Women, and Power: From Violence to Mobilization in Rwanda and Bosnia-Herzegovina* (Cambridge University Press, 2018), examines the impact of mass violence on women's political mobilization in Rwanda and Bosnia. Together with Dr. Milli Lake (LSE), she runs the Women's Rights After War Project. Her work has been published in *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, *Gender & Society*, *Democratization*, and *Signs*. In 2021, she was the recipient of a National Science Foundation CAREER Award.

**Yiping Cai** is a PhD Candidate at the Department of Global and International Studies, University of California, Irvine. She is also an Executive Committee member of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) and co-leads DAWN's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) thematic analysis team. Her research focuses on gender and Global China, transnational feminism, South-South collaboration, sexual and reproductive health and rights. She holds Master's Degrees in History (Peking University) and Global Studies (University of California, Irvine).

**Matthew Chin** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Women, Gender & Sexuality at the University of Virginia. He is an interdisciplinary scholar of race, gender, and sexuality trained in anthropology and community social work. He conducts feminist and queer histories of race to engage key debates within and across the fields of Caribbean Studies and Asian Studies. He is the author of *Fractal Repair: Queer Histories of Modern Jamaica* (Duke University Press, 2024), winner of a Duke University Press Scholars of Color First Book Award and co-winner of the John Boswell Prize of the LGBTQ+ History Association.

**Ivy Gikonyo** is a Project Officer at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, South Africa, in the Freedom of Expression, Access to Information and Digital Rights Unit. She is also an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya. She holds a Master's Degree in International Law from Oxford Brookes University and is currently pursuing her PhD, focusing on sovereign debt. Ivy is passionate about advancing justice and transparency in global finance with a keen interest in how financial and legal frameworks intersect with human rights. Her work seeks to bridge the gap between economic policies and the protection of fundamental human rights.

**Charlotte Goodburn** is a Reader in Chinese Politics and Development, and Deputy Director of the Lau China Institute at King's College London. Her research interests include Chinese rural-urban migration, industrialization and urbanization, and the impacts for women, children and households; the comparative development of China and India; and China-associated special economic zones in Asia and Africa.

**Justin Lee Haruyama** is an ACLS Yvette and William Kirby Centennial Fellow in Chinese Studies and a Public Scholars Training Fellow at SAPIENS Magazine. His work in China-Africa studies demonstrates how scholarly concepts such as race, colonialism, patriarchy, and capitalism are being fashioned anew by processes that do not have the West as their focal point. Justin's work has appeared in *Cultural Anthropology* and *African Studies Review*, among other publications.

**Mingwei Huang** is an Assistant Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Dartmouth College. She is the author of *Reconfiguring Racial Capitalism: South Africa in the Chinese Century* (Duke University Press, 2024), an ethnography of contemporary Chinese world-making in Johannesburg, South Africa. Her research has appeared in *Scholar & Feminist Online*, *Radical History Review*, *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, *Public Culture*, *Verge*, *Safundi*, and *Made in China*, and edited volumes *Anxious Joburg: Space, Affect, and Experience in a Global South City* (Wits University Press, 2020) and *New World Orderings: China and the Global South* (Duke University Press, 2022).

**Xianan Jin** is a Lecturer in Politics at the University of Exeter's Penryn Campus. She joined the department in September 2022, where she convenes modules including 'Politics of Gender and Sexuality', 'Queer Theory', and 'Politics and Gender in Africa'. Before that, she was conducting her PhD project, *The Political Economy of Women's Political Participation in Rwanda: Gender, Class and State-building*, at SOAS, University of London. Her PhD thesis is shortlisted for the Best Thesis by the African Studies Association UK in 2024. For this book project, she did her fieldwork in Rwanda for a year to investigate the political economy of women's engagement with politics after the genocide in 1994.

**Ching Kwan Lee** is a Professor of Sociology at UCLA. Her award-winning books on China include *Gender and the South China Miracle: Two Worlds of Factory Women* (1998), *Against the Law: Labor Protests in China's Rustbelt and Sunbelt* (2007), and *The Specter of Global China: Politics, Labor and Foreign Investment in Africa* (2017). Her recent co-edited volumes include *The Social Question in the 21st Century: a Global View* (2019) and *Take Back Our Future: an Eventful Political Sociology of the Hong Kong Umbrella Movement* (2019).

**Vivian Chenxue Lu** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Rice University. She is an anthropologist whose work focuses on the cultural politics of profit, transnational commerce, ethnonationalism, and diaspora. Lu's first book (in progress) traces the extensive commercial migration of Igbo Nigerian businessmen across the Middle East and Asia. Based on ethnographic and archival fieldwork primarily in Nigeria, the project examines how these transnational circuits are transforming social and economic life in Nigeria, with a focus on market formation, kinship and gender, race and ethnicity, and postcolonial economic sovereignty. Vivian's work has appeared in *American Ethnologist*, *African Studies Review*, and *The Black Scholar*.

**Sisassenkosi Mataruse** is a researcher in femocracy and patriarchal bargains in Africa. She holds a Master's in Political and International Studies from Rhodes University in South Africa and a BS in Political Science from the University of Zimbabwe.



**Prolific S. Mataruse** is a researcher on China in Africa and African international relations. He holds a PhD in Political and International Studies and a Master's in International Relations from the University of Zimbabwe.

**Soumya Mishra** is a Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer at the King's India Institute at King's College London. Her work examines rural-urban migration and structural transformation in relation to industrializing processes such as SEZs and Chinese investments in India. She has also worked on projects examining the role of Global China in the manufacturing sector in India, Nigeria, and Uganda and its impact on local communities.

**Yoon Jung Park** is the Program Director of the Africa-China Initiative and Adjunct Professor, African Studies, Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. She is the author of *A Matter of Honour: Being Chinese in South Africa* (Jacana/Lexington Books) and articles and book chapters in publications including *African Studies Review*, *African Studies*, *African & Asian Studies*, among others. She is currently completing her second book, focused on "new" Chinese migrants in Africa.

**Xinlei Sha** is a PhD Candidate in the Anthropology Department at Cornell University. Her current research project centers on Chinese and Vietnamese female sex workers' working and living experiences in the transnational sex industry across China, Vietnam, and Kenya. She also examines collaborative sex worker activism with the Sex Worker Outreach Programs (SWOP) City and Ambassadors, pro-sex worker NGOs in Kenya. Her dissertation research is sponsored by grants from the Wenner Gren Foundation and the Social Science Research Council.

**Robert Wyrod** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Women and Gender Studies and the International Affairs Program at the University of Colorado Boulder. His award-winning first book, *AIDS and Masculinity in the African City: Privilege, Inequality, and Modern Manhood* (University of California Press, 2016) examines how the AIDS epidemic shaped conceptions of masculinity in Africa. His work has appeared in *Gender & Society*, *Men & Masculinities*, *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, among others. His current research on Africa-China relations has been funded by the National Science Foundation and he is completing his second book *Eastern Horizon: Africa and China at the Limits of Development*.