

Dr. Cécile J. ARMAND 孟喜博士

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[Personal website](#) | [Research platform](#) | [Research blog](#)
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Research Interests: Modern China, history of advertising, urban history (Shanghai), social history of elites in China, intellectual migrations, Sino-American relations, computational methods in history and the humanities.

EDUCATION

- 2017 PhD in History, École Normale Supérieure de Lyon (ENS Lyon)
2012 M.A. in History (second grade), ENS Lyon, Lyon Institute of East Asian Studies

RESEARCH POSITIONS

- 2024– Junior Professor Chair, National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)
Lyon Institute of East Asian Studies (IAO), ENS Lyon, France
2026 Visiting Fellow, Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C2DH)
University of Luxembourg, Belval, Luxembourg – 2 months
2023–24 Postdoctoral fellowship of the French National Research Agency (ANR)
Access ERC Program (ANR-23-AERC-0018), ENS Lyon, Laboratory of Historical Research in the
Rhône-Alps Region (LARHRA)
2018–24 Postdoctoral researcher, European Research Council Advanced Grant
“Elites, Networks and Power in modern China”, Institute of Asian Studies (Irasia), Aix-Marseille
University, France
2018–20 Postdoctoral researcher, Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange
2017–18 Postdoctoral researcher, Stanford University
Department of History/Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA), Digital Humanities Asia
(DHAsia) Program (Andrew Mellon Foundation)
2012–14 Creation and direction of a “junior research lab” in Digital Humanities (Nhumérisme)
ENS Lyon (<http://dhlyon.hypotheses.org/>)

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- 2026–7 Introduction to Python and Large Language Models for the Humanities and Social Sciences (Doc-
toral Training, ED483 Social Sciences, Lyon) (<https://python4shs.blogspot.com/>)
2025–6 Introduction to R Programming for Social Sciences and Humanities (Doctoral Training, ED483
Social Sciences, Lyon) (<https://r4shs.blogspot.com/>)
2024 PhD Defense Committee Member
Hu Yi-fan, “The Making of China’s Monuments and Sino-Foreign Interactions (1872-1936)”, Aix-
Marseille University, France
2019–23 Teaching assistant, Aix-Marseille University Undergraduate: History of the People’s Republic of
China since 1949
2018–20 Qualification to Associate Professorship in History and East Asian Studies

- 2015–16 Teaching Assistant in History, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris Individual mentoring for graduate students
- 2012–14 Teaching Assistant in History, ENS-Lyon

RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 French National Research Agency (ANR), Access ERC (ANR-23-AERC-0018)
- 2022–25 Chiang-Ching Kuo Foundation Research Grant, Principal Investigator (Project n°RG004-U-21; 72,000€)
- 2022 Application for ERC Starting Grant (SH6 – The Human Past panel) successfully passed Step 1
- 2018–20 Chiang-Ching Kuo Foundation, Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2017 Andrew Mellon Foundation, Postdoctoral Fellowship (DHAsia Program), Stanford University
- 2015 Coca-Cola Company, Research Grant “The Observatory of Happiness”
- 2015 Chiang-Ching Kuo Foundation Doctoral Fellowship

DIGITAL PLATFORMS AND APPLICATIONS (SELECTION)

- 2023 HistText R package and Interface – Contributor
<https://histtext.enpchina.eu/>
- 2023 ENP-Corpus Creator – Contributor
<https://enpchina.hypotheses.org/5989>
- 2023 Liumei Biographical Database (LMBD) – Creator (with the help of Nora Van den Bosch)
<https://heurist.huma-num.fr/heurist/Liumei/>
- 2023 Modern China Biographical Database (MCBD) – Contributor
<https://heurist.huma-num.fr/ModernChinaBiographicalDatabase/>
- 2017 MADSpace (<https://madspace.org/>) – Creator (with the help of Gérald Foliot)

LANGUAGE AND DIGITAL SKILLS

Languages: English, French, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish

Digital tools: Programming languages (R, Python), relational databases (Heurist, Fichoz/Actoz, Filemaker), network analysis and visualization (Cytoscape, Gephi), Geographical Information System (QGIS, ArcGis), qualitative analysis (NVivo).

PROFESSIONAL & ACADEMIC SERVICE (SELECTED)

- 2019– Founder and Editor-in-Chief, *Lisons les Thèses* (Let’s Read Dissertations)
<https://https://ltshs.hypotheses.org/>
- 2013–4 Expert, HCERES (French Evaluation Agency for Research and Higher Education), École Nationale des Chartes and Versailles School of Architecture.
- 2013–4 Student Representative, Scientific Council, ENS Lyon.
- 2010 Summer Intern, French National Assembly, Paris.
- 2009–10 Private French Tutor for Chinese Students, Beijing, China.
- 2007 Deputy Press Attaché, Consulate General of France, Atlanta, GA, USA.
- 2006 Assistant Producer, France Culture, Paris, France.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Research Monographs

- Armand Cécile, *Between Public and Market: A Spatial History of Advertising in modern Shanghai (1905-1949)*, Berlin: De Gruyter, 2025.
- Armand Cécile, *La publicité en Chine : espaces et pouvoirs (1905-1949)*, Aix-en-Provence: Presses Universitaires de Provence, 2024.
- Armand Cécile, *Madmen in Shanghai: A Social History of Advertising in Modern China*, Berlin: De Gruyter, 2024.
- Armand Cécile, *La publicité en Chine : naissance d'une industrie (1914-1956)*, Berlin: De Gruyter, 2024.

Edited Volumes

- Cécile Armand, Baptiste Blouin, and Christian Henriot (ed.), *Taming the Digital Dragon 馴服數字巨龍: Datafication, Textbases, and Historical Research on Modern China*, Berlin: De Gruyter (in press).
- Cécile Armand, Christian Henriot and Ling-ling Lien (ed.), *Performing Power: Elites and the Making of Modern China*, Berlin: De Gruyter, 2026.
- Cécile Armand (ed.), *Le chinois dans tous ses états : une anthologie augmentée (18e-21e siècles)*, TEI Publishers, 2026. <https://materia-sinica.huma-num.fr/>
- Cécile Armand, Christian Henriot and Huei-min Sun (ed.), *Knowledge, Power, and Networks: Elites in Transition in Modern China*, Leiden: Brill, 2022.

Special Issues

- Armand Cécile (ed). "Rethinking the Study Abroad Movement in Modern China, 1850s–1950s" *Twentieth-Century China*, 51/1, 2026. <https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/56241>
- Armand Cécile (ed). "New Foundations in Chinese Digital History (DH China)" *Journal of Digital History*, 5, 2024-6. <https://journalofdigitalhistory.org/>

Journal Articles

- Armand Cécile. "Science, Money, and Power Across the Pacific: A Network Analysis of the China Foundation for the Promotion of Education and Culture (1924-1970)." *Journal of American-East Asian Relations* (accepted).
- Armand Cécile and Christian Henriot. "The Great Talent Divergence: Transnational Training and the Fate of China's Doctoral Elite (1905–1962)." *Modern China* (accepted).
- José G. Moreno, Ahmed Hamdi, Cécile Armand, and Christian Henriot. "Adaptive LLM Selection for Question Answering over Historical Digital Libraries," in *Proceedings of the 2026 ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL 2026)*, Dallas, Texas, U.S.A, 10-13 October 2026.
- Armand Cécile. "Reshaping the Chinese Ladder of Success in the Era of Globalization: Family Strategies and Social Mobility of Early American-Educated Chinese (1850-1917)." *Twentieth-Century China*, 51/1, 2026, pp. 52-87. <10.1353/tcc.2026.a979917>
- Armand Cécile. "Introduction: Rethinking the Study Abroad Movement in Modern China, 1850s–1950s." *Twentieth-Century China*, 51/1, 2026, pp. 3-24. <10.1353/tcc.2026.a979917>
- Armand Cécile. "Shaping the Transnational Public Sphere in Republican China: Discourses and Practices of the Rotary Club in the Shanghai Press (1919-1949)." *Journal of Digital History* (Special Issue/October 2024). <https://doi.org/10.1515/JDH-2023-0017?locatt=label:JDHFULL>

- Armand Cécile. “ReOrienting Digital History: New Frontiers in Chinese Studies”, *Journal of Digital History* (Special Issue/October 2024). <https://doi.org/10.1515/JDH-2024-0001?locatt=label:JDHFULL>
- Armand Cécile. “Uncovering Places in Two-Mode Networks”. *RZINE*, November 2024, <10.48645/nk8x8d47>. <hal-04784832>
- Baptiste Blouin, Hen-hsen Huang, Cécile Armand, and Christian Henriot. “Unlocking Transitional Chinese: Word Segmentation in Modern Historical Texts,” in *Proceedings of the Joint 3rd International Conference on Natural Language Processing for Digital Humanities & 8th International Workshop on Computational Linguistics for Uralic Languages*, 2023.
- Baptiste Blouin, Cécile Armand, and Christian Henriot. “HistText: An Application for leveraging large-scale historical textbases”, *Journal of Data Mining and Digital Humanities*. 2023 <halshs-04178820>
- Cécile Armand and Christian Henriot. “From Textual to Historical Networks: Reconstructing Social Relations in the Biographical Dictionary of Republican China,” *Journal of Historical Network Research* 5, 2021, 114-153. DOI: 10.25517/jhnr.v5i1.117.
- Cécile Armand, Christian Henriot, and Pierre Magistry. “Mining the Biographical Dictionary of Republican China, from Print to Network Exploration.” *Proceedings of the Third Conference on Biographical Data in a Digital World 2019*, September 2019, 24-30.
- Armand Cécile. “Digging Up Lost Billboards: A Photographic Archaeology of Outdoor Advertising in Early Twentieth-Century Shanghai.” *The Chinese Historical Review*, 25/2, 2018, 118-142.

Book Chapters

- Armand Cécile. “Neither Success Nor Failure: A Sequence Analysis of Post-Return Careers of U.S.-Educated Chinese Elites (1850–1917)”, in Cécile Armand, Christian Henriot, and Baptiste Blouin (ed.), *Taming the Digital Dragon 馴服數字巨龍: Datafication, Textbases, and Historical Research on Modern China*, Berlin, De Gruyter (forthcoming).
- Armand Cécile. “Beyond ‘Revolutionaries’ and ‘Modernizers’: A Corpus-Driven, Comparative Analysis of Japanese- and American-Returned Students in Dongfang Zazhi 東方雜誌 (1905–1948)”, in Cécile Armand, Christian Henriot, and Ling-ling Lien (ed.), *Performing Power: Elites and the Making of Modern China*, Berlin, De Gruyter, 2026 (forthcoming).
- Cécile Armand and Christian Henriot. “Dongfang Bali: Faguoren zai Shanghai de kongjian wei lishi (1942 nian) 東方巴黎: 法國人在上海的空間微歷史 (1942 年)” [Paris of the Orient: A Spatial Microhistory of the French in Shanghai (1942)], in Jiang Jie (ed.), *上海法租界史研究 [Recherches historiques sur la Concession française de Shanghai]*, Vol. 6. Shanghai: Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences Press, 2026, p.3-24.
- Armand Cécile. “Bonding minds, bridging nations: Sino-American alumni networks in the Era of Exclusion (1882-1936)”, in Henriot (ed.), *Modern China in Flux: Networks, Mobility, and Transformation*, Berlin, De Gruyter, 2025, p. 163-239.
- Armand Cécile. “Foreign Clubs with Chinese Flavor: The Rotary Club of Shanghai and the Politics of Language”, In Cécile Armand, Christian Henriot and Huei-min Sun (ed.), *Knowledge, Power, and Networks: Elites in Transition in Modern China*, Brill, Leiden, 2022, 233-259.
- Cécile Armand and Christian Henriot. “X-Boorman: The Biographical Dictionary of Republican China in the Digital Age”, In Cécile Armand, Christian Henriot and Huei-min Sung (ed.), *Knowledge, Power, and Networks: Elites in Transition in Modern China*, Brill, Leiden, 2022, 54-84.

Pre-prints

- Cécile Armand and Christian Henriot. Beyond Digital Humanities: Thinking Computationally: A Position Paper, 19-09-2023. <halshs-04194570v3>

ORGANIZED CONFERENCES (SELECTION)

- Approches computationnelles du monde chinois (Computational Approaches to Chinese Studies), Webinar, October 2025-June 2026. <https://computationalchineseestudies.blogspot.com/>
- Rethinking Modern Chinese Elites: From Print to Computational Methods, Aix-en-Provence, 10–12 June 2024 (co-organizer). <https://china-conference.univ-amu.fr/>
- Rethinking the study abroad movement and its impact on modern China (1850-1950s). Aix-en-Provence, 12 October 2023. <https://advertisinghistory.hypotheses.org/6723>
- Beyond Digital Humanities: How computational methods are reshaping scholarly research. Aix-en-Provence, 4 September 2023 (co-organizer). <https://enepchina.hypotheses.org/5243>
- New Foundations in Chinese Digital History. International Conference and Summer School, Aix-en-Provence, 20–25 June 2022 (co-organizer). <https://summi.enpchina.eu/>

TALKS & CONFERENCE PAPERS (SELECTION)

- **2026, January 25:** “From Computation to Interpretation: Reappraising Transformations in Modern China through the Lens of AI”. Hong Kong Association for Digital Humanities (HKADH) Conference: Distant Reading | Viewing | Perceiving in the Age of AI, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (Organized panel with Thorben Pelzer and Christian Henriot).
- **2025, December 4:** “Bridging the Close/Distant Reading Divide: Analyses de corpus historiques sur la Chine moderne (19-20e siècles)”. Computational Approaches to Chinese Studies Webinar (with Christian Henriot).
- **2025, November 13:** “Faire des sciences humaines et sociales à l’ère de l’ intelligence artificielle : quelques réflexions historiennes [Practicing the Social Sciences and Humanities in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Reflections from a Historian]”. University of Lyon, Ecole Doctorale Sciences Sociales, Lyon, France.
- **2025, August 15:** “跨太平洋視角下的近代中國起源：一部關於留美華人的社會史（1850–1950） The Transpacific Origins of Modern China —A Social History of American-Educated Chinese (1850-1950)”. Academia Sinica Institute of Modern History, Taipei, Taiwan.
- **2025, August 6:** “Chinese Students in the United States (1850-1950): A Data-Analytic Approach”. University Education, Employment, and Scientific Research in China (Research Workshop). Shanghai Jiaotong University, Shanghai, China.
- **2024, December 2:** “From Tools to Insight: New Computational Approaches for Chinese Historical Texts in the Age of AI” (with Baptiste Blouin and Christian Henriot), Centre Chine, Corée, Japan, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France.
- **2024, November 8:** Book talk: “Madmen in Shanghai”, Chinese Business History Webinar Series, Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences.
- **2024, July 9–11:** “Charting the European D-SEA (Digital Scholarship in East Asian Studies)”, Berlin Staatsbibliothek/Max Planck Institute, Berlin. Workshop 4: “Leveraging Large-Scale Historical Databases with HistText” (with Christian Henriot). “Decoding the ‘returned students’ in Modern China: A corpus-driven investigation” (Panel 141. Digital research: Case studies).
- **2024, 11 June:** “A comparative analysis of Japanese- and American-returned students in Dongfang zazhi 東方雜誌 (1904-1948)”. Rethinking Modern Chinese Elites: From Print to Computational Methods, Aix-en-Provence.
- **2023, 6 October:** “Paris in the Orient: A spatial micro-history of the French in Shanghai (1942)”. 从开埠到开放 – 上海都市化 180 年. 国际学术研讨会 From Port Opening to Openness: 180 Years of Urbanization in Shanghai. International Symposium. <https://amupod.univ-amu.fr/video/28116-paris-in-the-orient/>

- **2023, 4 September:** “Beyond Digital Humanities: Thinking Computationally. A Position Paper”. Beyond Digital Humanities: How computational methods are reshaping scholarly research, Aix-en-Provence (with Christian Henriot). <https://shs.hal.science/halshs-04194570>
- **2023, 7 June:** “Filling the data gap: the cases of the Modern China Biographical Database (MCBD) and the Liumei Biographical Database (LMBD)”, China Institute of the University of Trier Webinar Series #1.
- **2023, 12–15 April:** “The Rise of Global Elites in China: A data-driven study of American University Men in Shanghai (ca. 1936)”, 14th European Social History Conference (ESSHC), University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
- **2023, 16–19 March:** “Introduction to HistText –an integrated framework for the datafication of massive, multilingual digital corpora for the study of modern China”. (Workshop session), Association of Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, Boston, USA.
- **2023, 14–16 March:** “Introducing the Modern China Biographical Database (MCBD)”. Tools of the Trade — The Way Forward. Harvard University, USA.
- **2023, 9–11 January:** “Reshaping the ladder of success in the era of globalization —A network approach to family strategies among American-educated elites in China around 1917”. Elites and Social Networks in China and Taiwan. Academia Sinica Institute of Modern History, Taipei, Taiwan.

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