

Melanie Meng XUE

London School of Economics
Houghton Street
London WC2A 2AE
United Kingdom

Email: m.m.xue@lse.ac.uk
Homepage: <http://www.melaniexue.net/>
CV updated: December 2025

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Economic History, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), October 2021 –
Assistant Professor of Economics, New York University - Abu Dhabi, September 2019 – August 2022
(Year Zero, 2019 – 2020; On leave, 2021 – 2022)

Postdoctoral Fellow, Northwestern University, Department of Economics and Center for Economic History, September 2017 – August 2019 (Supervisor: Joel Mokyr)

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

Research Affiliate, Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), 2024 –
Research Affiliate, Centre for Economics, Policy and History (CEPH), 2023 –

EDUCATION

Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), September 2015 – December 2017
Concentration: Economic History and Economic Development
Mentor: Paola Giuliano
PhD in Economics, George Mason University, 2015
MA in Finance, Claremont McKenna College, 2010
BA in Economics (minor: Legal Studies), Fudan University, 2009

ACADEMIC VISITS

University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), Anderson School of Management, January – February 2026
Yale University, Economic Growth Center and Department of Economics, September 2025 – December 2025
Toulouse School of Economics, Institute for Advanced Study, March 2018 – April 2018
Brown University, Department of Economics, January 2017 – August 2017

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Economic History, Political Economy, Cultural Economics, Development Economics

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

“Folklore” (with Stelios Michalopoulos), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, November 2021, 136 (4), 1993–2046.
Editor’s Choice
“Friends from Afar: The Taiping Rebellion, Cultural Proximity and Primary Schooling in the Lower Yangzi, 1850–1949” (with Yu Hao), *Explorations in Economic History*, 63 (2017): 44–69.

Short Articles

“Crowd-Sourced Chinese Genealogies as Data for Demographic and Economic History,” *Explorations in Economic History*, 99, 2026.

Book Reviews & Book Chapters

Book Review for “D. Ma and R. Von Glahn, The Cambridge Economic History of China. Volume II”, *Economic History Review*, 76 (2023): 989-990.

“Folklore” in: Kurtz, L.R. (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace, and Conflict*, vol. 4. Academic Press, 2022.

Book Review for “M. Tanimoto and R. B. Wong, Public Goods Provision in the Early Modern Economy: Comparative Perspectives from Japan, China, and Europe”, *Economic History Review*, 73, 1 (2020): 335-336.

WORKING PAPERS

“High-Value Work and the Rise of Women: The Cotton Revolution and Gender Equality in China,” 2024.

“Autocratic Rule and Social Capital: Evidence from Imperial China,” 2021.

“The Short- and Long-Run Effects of Affirmative Action: Evidence from Imperial China,” 2025, with Boxiao Zhang.

“Values of China: Toward a Cultural Map,” 2024.

“Enlightenment Under Autocracy: The Origins of Liberalism in China,” 2025, with Xizi Luo.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Refereeing

American Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review: Insights, Asia-Pacific Economic History Review, Business History, Cambridge Journal of Economics, Cambridge University Press, China Economic Review, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic History of Developing Regions, Economic History Review, Economic Inquiry, Economic Journal, Economica, Economics and Politics, European Economic Review, European Review of Economic History, Explorations in Economic History, International Economic Review, Israel Science Foundation, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Institutional Economics, Journal of International Economics, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Organization Science, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Palgrave Macmillan, Princeton University Press, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Research in Economic History, Review of Economics and Statistics, Science, Social Science History, Swiss National Science Foundation.

Invited Seminars

2025 Harvard, Yale, NYU Stern, UChicago HTC Workshop, Oxford China Reading Group, Bristol, Durham, York, Birmingham, Queen’s University Belfast, NYU Abu Dhabi, University of Bergamo, UConn, CUNY Stone Center, Utrecht, Paris Empirical Political Economics Seminar, Toronto.

2024 Glasgow, LSE, Helsinki GSE, Sussex, PKU INSE, University of Auckland, Paris School of Economics, Stockholm University.

2023 LSE Public Policy, Trinity College Dublin, Universidad Carlos III, St Andrews, University of Manchester, Cardiff University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Reichman University, Duke Kunshan, Fudan University, Notre Dame, Penn, Aix-Marseille School of Economics.

2022 LSE Asia Economic History Seminar, Chicago Booth, Oxford, University of Warwick, King’s College London, Queen Mary, ISER Macro/Trade Workshop, International Macro History Online Seminar, University of Western Australia, Boston University, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

2021 London School of Economics, Yale, Peking University, Korea University, C-BID, JEES, POLECONUK Webinar, Swansea University, Northwestern Economic History Lunch, Brown Growth Breakfast, University College London (SSEES).

2020 Bonn, University of Hong Kong, LEAP Webinar.

2019 Stockholm University, University of Nottingham, George Mason University, Amherst.
Job Market Seminars: Chicago Harris, NYU Abu Dhabi, CKGSB.

2018 Toulouse IAST, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, University of Copenhagen, Université Catholique de Louvain, Higher School of Economics, New Economic School, Trinity College, UC San Diego, Northwestern.

2017 Brown, Northwestern, Williams College, UC Irvine, NYU Stern.

2016 Bonn, Toulouse IAST, Bologna, HKUST, NUS Business School, UNSW Sydney, Monash, Chapman University, UCLA Economic History Proseminar, UCLA Anderson Brown Bag, University of Arizona, UC Davis.

Conference & Workshop Presentations

2025 CEPR Economic History Symposium, BSE Summer Forum, CESifo Venice Summer Institute, WEHC Lund (presenter; discussant), EHA, Oxford-Tsinghua Workshop on Chinese Economic History, The III at 10: New Directions in Inequality Research.

2024 Venice Workshop: Frontiers in Economic History, ASSA (presenter; discussant), EHS, ASREC Europe, Oxford Workshop on the Chinese Economic History from the Comparative Perspectives, Book Symposium on the Ideological Foundations of Qing Taxation, KCL Workshop in Comparative Politics and Political Economy, HKU Annual Conference on Asia and the Global Economy, QMUL/Warwick Workshop on Culture, Institutions and Political Economy.

2023 NBER Economics of Culture and Institutions, Stanford SITE - Gender, EHA (discussant), Northwestern New Economic History of China Conference, CAGE Economic History Workshop, PSE India-China Workshop, Harvard Workshop on Historical Kinship, Psychology, and Economic Prosperity.

2022 BSE Summer Forum, ASSA (presenter; discussant), EHA, EHS, STEG Workshop: Political Economy and Public Investment, PKU Workshop on Political Economy and Political Selection.

2021 Oxford-Warwick-LSE Workshop in Economic History, “Sex Ratios and Missing Girls in History” Online Series (invited), SEA – Economic Growth Mini Conference, EHS, SSHA(2).

2020 BREAD/CEPR/STICERD/TCD Conference on Development Economics.

2019 NBER Organizational Economics Meeting, NYU QCSS-3, IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting for Labor Economists, WPSA Mini-Conference on Autocratic Politics, ASREC.

2018 Barcelona GSE Summer Forum: V Calvó-Armengol International Prize Workshop, Barcelona GSE Summer Forum: Towards Sustained Economic Growth, Northwestern “Narrow Corridor” Book Conference, Deep-Rooted Factors in Comparative Development Conference, Northwestern Economic History of Religion Conference (discussant), Life & Legacy of Douglass North Conference, EHA (presenter; discussant), WEHC Boston (2), Cliometric Society, Asian Historical Economics Conference, North American Meeting of the Econometric Society.

2017 NBER Political Economy Meeting, NBER Summer Institute – Income Distribution and Macroeconomics, ASSA(3), NEUDC, All-UC Economic History Conference, WEAI-Clio, ASREC.

2016 NBER Summer Institute – Development of the American Economy, PacDev, EHA, All-UC Economic History Conference, IOEA (Corsica), HEDG Mini-Conference, ASREC.

2015 NBER Chinese Economy Meeting (discussant), NEUDC, All-UC Economic History, IRES Graduate Student Workshop, Social Science History Association, WEHC Kyoto, ASREC.

2014 “Deep Causes of Economic Development” Conference (Utrecht), EHA, Washington Area Development Economics Symposium, Economic History Society, International Society for New Institutional Economics, Southern Economic Association, Hong Kong Economic Association.

Invited Lectures

“The Rise of Women in Historical Perspective,” University of Exeter Economists Society, February 2023

“Culture, Institutions, and the Long-Term Development of China,” “The Chinese Economy in the Long Run” Conference, University of Manchester, October 2022

Workshops & Sessions Organized

2025 Co-organizer, Session “Values, Ideology and Sentiment in Economic History,” WEHC Lund.

2025 Co-organizer, Session “Gender in a Historical Perspective,” WEHC Lund.

2025 Co-organizer, Co-organizer, Narratives and Culture in Historical Perspective, LSE.

2024 Co-organizer, Workshop on Institutions and Political Economy in Historical Perspective, LSE.

2024 Organizer, Session “Culture and Narratives,” EHS.

2023 Co-organizer, LSE Chinese Economic and Social History Workshop, LSE.

2022 Co-organizer, Session “The Infrastructure of Power in East Asian Empires,” WEHC Paris.

2022 Organizer, Workshop “History, Culture and Popular Beliefs,” LSE.

2021 Organizer, Session “Gender Norms in a Historical Perspective,” EHS.

Other Activities

2021 – Associate Editor, Cambridge Elements in Law, Economics and Politics

2022 – 2025 Program Committee, Economic History Society Annual Conference

2024 – 2025 Organizer, LSE Economic History Brown Bag Seminar

2023 – 2025 Committee Member, LSE Economic History Research Committee

2023 – 2024 Committee Member, LSE Economic History Seminar Committee

2021 – 2022 Committee Member, LSE Economic History PhD Admission Committee

2020 – 2021 Co-organizer, NYUAD Social Science History Seminar

2020 – 2021 Committee Member, NYUAD Social Science Postdoctoral Program Recruitment Committee

2020 Committee Member, CEPR-NYUAD Workshop on Economic History Scientific Committee

2017 – 2019 Organizer, Northwestern Economic History Lunch

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2024 LSE Economic History RIIF Fund (“Women and Asylums”)

2024 LSE Global Research Fund (“Workshop on Genealogical Sources in Economic History”, joint with Neil Cummins)

2021 Hayek Fund for Scholars, Institute for Humane Studies (“Women and Asylums”)

2017 – 2019 Northwestern’s Center for Economic History Postdoctoral Fellowship

2018 Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse Visiting Fellowship

2015 – 2017 Dan Searle Fellowship in Economics

ADVISING

PhD Placement: Xizi Luo (2024: Oxford postdoc; now at Manchester)

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

PhD Dissertation, Toulouse School of Economics, 2025

PERSONAL

UK/US Permanent Resident