

Jessica Wang

Current Position

Professor of Geography, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, 2022-
Professor of United States History, Department of History, University of British Columbia, 2020-

Past Employment

Associate Professor of United States History, University of British Columbia, 2006-2020
Associate Professor of United States History, University of California, Los Angeles, 2000-2008
Assistant Professor of United States History, UCLA, 1996-2000
Visiting Instructor, Department of History, University of Minnesota, 1995-96

Education

Ph.D. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, History and Social Study of Science and Technology, 1995
B.A. Cornell University, College Scholar Program, 1988

Grants, Fellowships, Awards, and Honors (selected)

Senior Research Fellowship, Lise Meitner Research Group on “China in the Global System of Science”
(Group leaders: Anna Ahlers), Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin, Germany,
Fall 2024
Short-Term Fellowship (one-month), Huntington Library, February 2023
Faculty Fellowship, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University, 2018-19;
2018-19 theme—“U.S. Power in the Global Arena”
Hampton Fund Research Grant, Established Scholar Award, University of British Columbia, 2017-19
Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Faculty Research Fellowship, UBC/Killam Trusts, 2016-17
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Standard Research Grant, 2010-13 (extended
to September 2015)
Conference Grant, National Science Foundation, Division of Social and Economic Sciences, Award #SES-
1230495, August 2012-July 2013 (co-PI with Stuart W. Leslie) (extended to November 2014)
Faculty Fellowship, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University, Spring
2012; 2011-12 theme—“The Politics of Knowledge in Universities and the State”
Hampton Fund Research Grant, University of British Columbia, 2009-11
Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in U.S. History, Government of Canada, 2006-2011
Early Career Scholar, Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, University of British Columbia, 2008-09
Faculty Fellow, Center for American Politics and Public Policy, UCLA, 2005-06
Research Grant, National Science Foundation, Science and Technology Studies Scholars Award, Award
#SES-0135333, July 2002-June 2004 (extended to June 2005)
Faculty Career Development Award, University of California, Los Angeles, 1999-2000
National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, Program in History and Philosophy of Science and
Technology, University of Minnesota, 1995-96
Guggenheim Postdoctoral Fellowship, National Air and Space Museum, 1994-95

Major Publications

Books and edited volumes:

“Empires of Knowledge: Constructing Global Order in the Twentieth Century,” co-edited with Axel Jansen and John Krige, Special issue, *History and Technology* 35:3 (2019): 195-363.

Mad Dogs and Other New Yorkers: Rabies, Medicine, and Society in an American Metropolis, 1840-1920 (Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019; also published as an audio edition by Tantor Media).

“Nation, Knowledge, and Imagined Futures: Science, Technology, and Nation-Building, Post-1945,” co-edited with John Krige, Special issue, *History and Technology* 31:3 (September 2015): 171-340.

American Science in an Age of Anxiety: Scientists, Anti-Communism, and the Cold War (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999).

Articles, chapters, and essays:

“How Fruit Moves: Crop Systems, Culture, and the Making of the Commercial Blueberry, 1870-1930,” special issue on “The History of Crop Science and the Future of Food,” ed. Helen Anne Curry and Ryan Nehring, *Plants, People, Planet*, under production.

“Botanical Surveying, Nation-Building, and American Empire: The U.S. Quest for a Philippine Flora, 1903-1925,” submitted to *History and Technology* for a special volume in honor of John Krige, under production.

“Demystifying Globalization: Michael Jordan & Global Capitalism,” co-authored with Sayuri Guthrie-Shimizu, in *Thinking Otherwise: Walter LaFeber and American Foreign Relations in a Changing World*, ed. Susan Brewer, Richard Immerman, and Douglas Little (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press), under production.

“Animals, Infrastructure, and Empire: Insects and Birds as Biological Control Agents in Early Twentieth-Century Hawai‘i,” in *Bellwether Histories: Animals, Humans, and U.S. Environments in Crisis*, ed. Susan Nance and Jennifer Marks (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2023), 130-56.

“Rabies, Medicine, and Culture: Dogs, Disease, and Urban Life in the United States, 1840-1920,” in *History of Rabies in the Americas: From the Pre-Columbian to the Present*, vol. 1, ed. Charles E. Rupprecht (Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature, 2023), 241-60.

“Knowledge, State Power, and the Invention of International Science,” in *Knowledge Flows in a Global Age: A Transnational Approach*, ed. John Krige (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2022), 31-73.

“Agricultural Expertise, Race, and Economic Development: Small Producer Ideology and Settler Colonialism in the Territory of Hawaii, 1900-1917,” special issue on “Development Interventions: Science, Technology and Technical Assistance,” ed. Gisela Mateos and Edna Suárez-Díaz, *History and Technology* 36:3-4 (2020): 310-36.

“Plants, Insects, and the Biological Management of American Empire: Tropical Agriculture in Early

Twentieth-Century Hawai'i," special issue on "Empires of Knowledge: Constructing Global Order in the Twentieth Century," ed. Axel Jansen, John Krige, and Jessica Wang, *History and Technology* 35:3 (2019): 203-36.

"Introduction," co-authored with Axel Jansen and John Krige, "Empires of Knowledge: Constructing Global Order in the Twentieth Century," Special issue, *History and Technology* 35:3 (2019): 195-202.

"Looking Forward in a Failing World: Adolf A. Berle, Jr., the United States, and Global Order in the Interwar Years," *Seattle University Law Review* 42:2 (2019): 385-416.

"'Broken Symmetry': Physics, Aesthetics, and Moral Virtue in Nuclear Age America," in *Epistemic Virtues: Towards an Integrated History of the Sciences and the Humanities*, ed. Herman J. Paul and Jeroen van Dongen, *Boston Studies in the Philosophy and History of Science*, vol. 321 (Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing, 2017), 27-47.

"A State of Rumor: Low Knowledge, Nuclear Fear, and the Scientist as Security Risk," in "Governing the Security State," ed. William Bendix and Paul Quirk, Special issue, *Journal of Policy History* 28:3 (July 2016): 406-46.

"Introduction," co-authored with John Krige, "Nation, Knowledge, and Imagined Futures: Science, Technology, and Nation-Building, Post-1945," Special issue, *History and Technology* 31:3 (September 2015): 171-79.

"Colonial Crossings: Social Science, Social Knowledge, and American Power, 1890-1970," in *Cold War Science and the Transatlantic Circulation of Knowledge*, ed. Jeroen van Dongen (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2015), pp. 184-213.

"Physics, Emotion, and the Scientific Self: Merle Tuve's Cold War," *Historical studies in the natural sciences* 42 (November 2012): 341-88.

"Dogs and the Making of the American State: Voluntary Association, State Power, and the Politics of Animal Control in New York City, 1850-1920," *Journal of American History* 98 (March 2012): 998-1024. Also the subject of a *JSTOR Daily* commentary: Livia Gershon, "The 19th Century War on Dogs," *JSTOR Daily*, 8 April 2018, <https://daily.jstor.org/the-19th-century-war-on-dogs/>.

"Local knowledge, state power, and the science of industrial labor relations: William Leiserson, David Sapos, and American labor economics in the interwar years," *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* 46:4 (Fall 2010): 371-93.

"Neo-Brandeisianism and the New Deal: Adolf A. Berle, Jr., William O. Douglas, and the Problem of Corporate Finance in the 1930s," *Seattle University Law Review* 33:4 (2010): 1221-46.

"Imagining the Administrative State: Legal Pragmatism, Securities Regulation, and New Deal Liberalism," *Journal of Policy History* 17:3 (2005): 257-93. Appeared on the *JPH*'s 30th anniversary list of the journal's 30 most-cited articles, June 2018.

"Purges in Comparative Perspective: Rules for Exclusion and Inclusion in the Scientific Community under Political Pressure," co-authored with Richard Beyler and Alexei Kojevnikov, in *Osiris*, vol. 20, *Politics and Science in Wartime: Comparative International Perspectives on the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute* (2005), ed. Carola Sachse and Mark Walker, pp. 23-48.

“The United States, the United Nations, and the Other Post-Cold War World Order: Internationalism and Unilateralism in the American Century,” in *Cold War Triumphalism: The Politics of American History After the Fall of Communism*, ed. Ellen W. Schrecker (New York: New Press, 2004), pp. 201-34.

“Scientists and the Problem of the Public in Cold War America, 1945-1960,” in *Osiris*, vol. 17, *Science and Civil Society* (2002), ed. Lynn K. Nyhart and Thomas H. Broman, pp. 323-47.

“Merton’s shadow: Perspectives on science and democracy since 1940,” *Historical studies in the physical and biological sciences* 30:1 (Fall 1999): 279-306.

“Liberals, the progressive left, and the political economy of postwar American science: The National Science Foundation debate revisited,” *Historical studies in the physical and biological sciences* 26:1 (Fall 1995): 139-66.

“Science, Security, and the Cold War: The Case of E. U. Condon,” *Isis* 83 (June 1992): 238-69.

Public Presentations and Discussions (since 2019)

Panelist, Roundtable on “Animal Histories and U.S. Environments in Crisis,” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, Denver, CO, 3-7 April 2024.

Commentator and chair, Session on “Agricultural Extension: Transimperial Institutions and Transpacific Environments in Modern East Asia,” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Environmental History, Virtual Meeting, 24-30 March 2024.

Chair, Session on “Invaders!,” Annual Meeting of the History of Science Society, Portland, OR, 9-12 November 2023.

“Demystifying Globalization: *Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism*,” presentation at “Thinking Otherwise: How Walter LaFeber Explained the History of US Foreign Relations,” Conference in honor of Walter LaFeber, Cornell University Tech Campus, New York, NY, 27-29 October 2023.

Commentator, Session on “Biotic Resources and Their Management,” Conference on “Natural Resources, Sovereignty and Markets: Revisiting Socio-Economic Histories of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries,” Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 14-15 June 2023 (online).

Interviewer/moderator, “Interracial Coalitions, Repressive Responses: Black and Red Power in North America,” Book discussion of *Cross-Border Cosmopolitans: The Making of a Pan-African North America*, with author Wendell Nii Laryea Adjetej, Massy Arts Society, Vancouver, BC, 11 June 2023.

Panelist, Session on “Statebuilding,” Workshop on “Science and Liberalism,” University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, 7-8 April 2023 (participated via Zoom, due to illness).

Commentator, Session on “Political Power in the History of American Public Health and Medicine,” Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Los Angeles, CA, 30 March-2 April 2023.

“Parasites and Their Publics: Science, Lay Communities, and Invasive Species Control in Early Twentieth-Century Hawai’i,” Session on “The Public and Its Scientists,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, 17-20 November 2022.

“Botanical Surveying, Nation-Building, and American Empire: The U.S. Quest for a Philippine Flora, 1903-1925,” Science and Technology Studies Colloquium, Department of Science and Technology Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 31 October 2022.

“Reimagining the Field: *Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism*,” Festschrift workshop, “Thinking Otherwise: Walter LaFeber and American Foreign Relations in a Changing World,” Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 28-30 October 2022.

“Insects and the Infrastructure of U.S. Empire in Early Twentieth-Century Hawai‘i,” Session on “From Collection to Cultivation (III): Pests and Pathogens,” Annual Meeting of the Agricultural History Society, Stavanger, Norway, 4-6 August 2022.

Commentator, Session on “Ivory: Its Uses and Substitutes,” Conference on “Resources and Their Substitutes: Natural Surrogates and Synthetic Competitors in World History,” Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University, 8-9 June 2022 (online).

“Insects and the Infrastructure of U.S. Empire in Early Twentieth-Century Hawai‘i,” Harriet Ritvo Symposium, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 29-30 April 2022 (participated via Zoom).

“Writing Grant Proposals,” Radical Professionalization Series, HistSTM Early Career Collective, Sponsored by the Society for the History of Technology, 4 March 2022 (online).

“Insects and the Infrastructure of Empire: Tropical Agriculture and Biological Control of Insect Pests in Early-Twentieth Century Hawai‘i,” Science and Technology Studies Colloquium, University of British Columbia, 2 March 2022 (online).

“Parasites and Para-Sites of U.S. Empire: Biological Control of Insect Pests in Early Twentieth-Century Hawai‘i,” Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, 15 February 2022.

“Insects and the Infrastructure of Empire: Tropical Agriculture and Biological Control in Early-Twentieth Century Hawai‘i,” Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge, 8 February 2022 (online).

“States, Knowledge, and Borders: Does Trust Make Science International?” Colloquium, Max-Planck-Institute für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin, Germany, 14 December 2021 (online).

“Agriculture, Nature, and Economic Knowledge: Rural Economy and Its Thinkers in the Long Nineteenth Century,” Keynote address, Annual Meeting of the History of Economics Society, Utrecht, Netherlands, 10-12 December 2021 (online).

Panelist, “Baobab XI: Bodies Under Inter-Imperial Duress,” World History Association “Under the Baobab” Conversations and Community in World History, 18 November 2021 (online).

“Trading Species, Managing Empires: Animals, Landscapes, and Inter-Imperial Exchanges in Early Twentieth-Century Hawai‘i,” Session on “Bodies Under Inter-Imperial Duress: States, Knowledge, and the Dynamics of Dissent,” World History Association Annual Conference, 5-9 July 2021 (online).

Roundtable, “Science and Technology,” Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of American Foreign Relations, 17-20 June 2021 (online).

“Knowledge, State Power, and the Invention of International Science,” Workshop on “Writing the

Transnational History of Science,” California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA, 20-21 February 2020.

“Insects, Entomologists, and Parasites on the Move: The Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Biological Pest Control, and the Global Dimensions of Agricultural Governance in Early Twentieth-Century Hawai’i,” Conference on “When Species Travel: On the Rise and Consequences of Invasive Species Ecologies in Asia and the West Pacific,” Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, Singapore, 17-18 February 2020 (participated via Skype, 18 February 2020).

Commentary on Tina Loo, *Moved by the State: Forced Relocation and Making a Good Life in Postwar Canada*, book launch sponsored by UBC Press, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, 30 January 2020.

Panelist, Canada-China Relations Forum, Convened by students in the UBC Master of Public Policy and Global Affairs Program, School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, 18 November 2019.

Book interview on *Mad Dogs and Other New Yorkers*, interviewed by Al Zambone for the *Historically Thinking* podcast, posted 6 November 2019 (<https://historicallythinking.org/episode-133-mad-dogs-and-other-new-yorkers-or-rabies-in-the-city/>).

“Insects and Empire: Entomological Expeditions and Biological Pest Control in Early Twentieth-Century Hawai’i,” Session on “Pacific Science in Transnational and Translocal Perspective,” Annual Meeting of the History of Science Society, Utrecht, Netherlands, 23-27 July 2019.

“Insects, Entomologists, and Parasites on the Move: The Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Biological Pest Control, and the Global Dimensions of Agricultural Governance in Early Twentieth-Century Hawai’i,” session on “Trans-Pacific Agricultural Flows of Labor, Insects, and Experts,” Annual Meeting of the Agricultural History Society, Washington, DC, 6-8 June 2019.

Chair and commentator, session on “Encountering Agribusiness,” Annual Meeting of the Agricultural History Society, Washington, DC, 6-8 June 2019.

Chair, session on “American Foreign Policy,” Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association, Vancouver, BC, 3-5 June 2019.

“Insects, Entomologists, and Parasites on the Move: The Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Biological Pest Control, and Agricultural Governance in Early Twentieth-Century Hawai’i,” session on “Accidental, Intentional, Successful and Failed: The Introduction of Species in Scientific, Ecological, and Imperial Contexts,” Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association, Vancouver, BC, 3-5 June 2019.

“Plants, Insects, and American Globalism: Inter-Imperial Networks and U.S. Power in Early Twentieth-Century Hawai’i,” Department of History, University of Maryland, College Park, 29 April 2019.

“Rabies Remedies and Materia Medica in 19th-Century New York City: Medical Authority, Political Culture, and Empire,” Faculty Seminar, Global Studies Research Group and Health, Medicine, and Society, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA, 15 April 2019.

“Animals, Governance, and American Globalism: Biological Management and Territorial Rule in Early Twentieth-Century Hawai’i,” History Seminar on Contemporary Science and Technology, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, 21 March 2019.

“The Mediterranean Fruit Fly in the Global Arena: Animals, Governance, and American Globalism in Early Twentieth-Century Hawai‘i,” Workshop on “U.S. Power in the Global Arena,” Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 27 February 2019.

“Animals, Governance, and American Globalism: Biological Management and Territorial Rule in Early Twentieth-Century Hawai‘i,” Seminar in Agricultural and Environmental History, History Section, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, 8 February 2019.

“Animals, Governance, and American Globalism: Biological Management and Territorial Rule in Early Twentieth-Century Hawai‘i,” Colloquium in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, 23 January 2019.

“Animals, Colonial Governance, and the Health of the Land: Biological Management and Territorial Rule in Early Twentieth-Century Hawai‘i,” Session on “Governing Human and Animal Populations from the Colonial to the Post-Colonial World,” Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Chicago, IL, 3-6 January 2019.