

Morgan Y. Liu

Short C.V. April 2019

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Anthropology of collective agency, emergent complexity; space & power
- Ethnography of corporations, the state, cities; client networks
- **Central Asia & Caucasus**; former Soviet Union; Middle East; northwestern China
- Muslims in postsocialist Eurasia; Islamic revival, social justice

EDUCATION

- 2002 Ph.D., Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
Dissertation: Recognizing the Khan: Authority, Space, and Political Imagination among Uzbek Men in Post-Soviet Osh, Kyrgyzstan.
Committee: Brinkley Messick (Chair), Katherine Verdery, Erik Mueggler, Jane Burbank.
- 1995 M.A., Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 1986 B.S., Mathematics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA.

EMPLOYMENT

- 2017-2018 **Interim Chair**, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (NELC), The Ohio State University, July 2017 – May 2018.
- 2012-present **Associate Professor**, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (NELC), The Ohio State University, with appointment in the Department of **Anthropology**; Affiliated status with **Department of Comparative Studies** (since 2006), and **Dept. of French & Italian** (since 2017). Appointed to graduate faculty for the MA program in **Slavic & East European Studies** and the **East Asian Studies Interdisciplinary Program**.
Sept. 2014-2017: Director of Graduate Studies; Department Officer for Turkish & Uzbek
- 2013 **Interim Chair**, Department of NELC, The Ohio State University, January – July 2013.
- 2006-2012 **Assistant Professor**, Department of NELC, The Ohio State University.
Courses: Islamic Revival & Social Justice – Utopian Ideals & Lived Realities; Culture & Politics in Central Asia; Films of the Middle East.
Supervised Uzbek language program.
Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, OSU
Course: Cultures of the Middle East.
Associated Faculty, Department of Comparative Studies, OSU.
Courses: Theorizing Culture; The City & Culture.
Graduate Faculty, Graduate Program in NELC; Slavic and East European Studies.
- 2005 **Instructor**, Harvard University Extension School.
Course: Muslims in the Modern World.
- 2002 **Visiting Assistant Professor**, Department of Near Eastern Studies and Department of History, University of Michigan.
Course: Muslims Under & After Socialism: Former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe & China.
- 1992-1999 **Graduate Student Instructor**, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan.
Courses: Introduction to Anthropology: an Exploration of Human Diversity (four-field); Comparative Study of Cultures; Language and Society: an Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Writing* "Uzbek Patronage and the Common Good in southern Kyrgyzstan, 1990-2010".
- Submitted* "Serpent Coils", translation by Morgan Liu of Uzbek short story, "Ilon komida" by Matluba Mirkarimova.
- In Press* "Central Asia as Local" in *Central Asia in Context: A Thematic Introduction*, David Montgomery (ed.), Indiana University Press. Publication anticipated in 2019.
- 2018 "Governance and accumulation around the Caspian: a new analytic approach to petroleum-fueled postsocialist development." *Ab Imperio* 2018(2):169-98.
- 2017 "Uzbek political thinking in the third decade of independence", in *Constructing the Uzbek State: Narratives of Post-Soviet Years*, Marlene Laruelle (ed.), pp. 69-83, Lexington Books.
- 2015 "Urban materiality and its stakes in southern Kyrgyzstan." *Quaderni Storici* 2015(2):385-408.
- 2014 "Massacre through a kaleidoscope: fragmented moral imaginaries of the state in Central Asia." Pp. 261-284 in *Ethnographies of the state in Central Asia: performing politics*, edited by Madeleine Reeves, Johan Rasanayagam, and Judith Beyer. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- 2012 *Under Solomon's Throne: Uzbek Visions of Renewal in Osh*. Pittsburg: University of Pittsburg Press.
- 2011 "Central Asia in the Post-Cold War World", *Annual Review of Anthropology* 40:115-131.
- 2007 "A Central Asian Tale of Two Cities: Locating Lives and Aspirations in a Shifting Post-Soviet Cityscape", pp. 78-98 in *Everyday Life in Central Asia: Past and Present*, Jeff Sahadeo and Russell Zanca (eds.). Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.
- 2005 "Hierarchies of Place, Hierarchies of Empowerment: Geographies of Talk about Postsocialist Change in Uzbekistan" in *Nationalities Papers* 33(3):423-438.
- 2005 "Post-Soviet Paternalism and Personhood: Why 'Culture' Matters to Democratization in Central Asia," pp. 225-238 in *Prospects of Democracy in Central Asia*, Birgit Schlyter (ed.). Stockholm / London: Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul & I.B. Tauris.

EDITOR REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Submitted* Book Review of *Paprika, Foie Gras, and Red Mud: The Politics of Materiality in the European Union* (2016), by Zsuzsa Gille, in *Anthropology of East Europe Review*.
- In Press* Book Review of *Order in the Bazaar: Power and Trade in Central Asia* (2017), by Regine Spector, in *Nationalities Papers*.
- In Press* Book Review of *Blood Ties and the Native Son: Poetics of Patronage in Kyrgyzstan* (2017), by Aksana Ismailbekova, in *Nationalities Papers*.
- 2018 Author Response, Book Review, *Under Solomon's Throne* by Morgan Y. Liu, in *Central Asian Survey* 37(1):160-171.
- 2017 "Central Asian Islam Outside a Soviet Box", in *NewsNet: News of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)*, 57(3) 2-5.
- 2015 Book Review of *Border Work: Spatial Lives of the State in Rural Central Asia* (2014), Madeleine Reeves, Cornell University Press, *American Ethnologist* 42(4):793-794.
- 2014 "How anthropology can speak uniquely to large scale issues in Central Asia: a response to book discussion of Morgan Liu, *Under Solomon's Throne*." *Central Asian Affairs* 1:161-165.
- 2014 Book Review of *Variations on Uzbek Identity: Strategic Choices, Cognitive Schemas and Political Constraints in Identification Processes*, 2014, by Peter Finke, New York: Berghahn Books. *Journal of Anthropological Research* 70:609-610.
- 2014 Book Review of *Youth & Globalization in Central Asia*, 2013, by Stefan Kirmse, Frankfurt: Campus Verlag. *Anthropos: International Review of Anthropology and Linguistics* 109:706-7.
- 2012 Book Review of *Ferghana Valley: The Heart of Central Asia*, 2011, by S. Frederick Starr (ed.). *Nationalities Papers* 40:815-817.
- 2012 Book Review of *Islam & Modernity in Turkey*, 2011, by Brian Silverstein, Palgrave Macmillan, in the *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* (IJMES) 44(2): 389-391.
- 2011 Book Review of *The spectacular state: culture and national identity in Uzbekistan*, 2010, by Laura Adams, Durham: Duke University Press, in *American Anthropologist* 113(2):357-8.
- 2008 Book Review of *Urban Life in Post-Soviet Asia*, 2007, by Catherine Alexander, Caroline Humphrey, and Victor Buchli (eds.), London & New York: University College London Press, in *Central Asian Survey* 27(2):203-205.

- 2008 Book Review of *Eurasian Crossroads: A History of Xinjiang*, 2007, by James A. Millward, New York: Columbia University Press, in *H-Net Reviews in the Humanities and Social Sciences*,
- 2003 "Detours from Utopia on the Silk Road: Ethical Dilemmas of Neoliberal Triumphalism", *Central Eurasian Studies Review* 2(2):2-10.
- 2001 Book Review of *The End of Nomadism?*, 1999, by Caroline Humphrey and David Sneath, in *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 43(2):428-9.
- 2000 "Assessing the Appeal of Islam in the Fergana Valley", *Eurasia Insight*, August 2,
- 1998 with Ertabyldy J. Sulaimanov, "Living in an Uzbek Mahalla: Understandings of Place in an Urban Uzbek Community in Osh, Kyrgyzstan" (in Russian) in *Collection: All About Osh, Issue 1, From Materials of the International Conference "Osh on the Eve of the 21st Century"*, Osh.
- 1997 "The Perils of Nationalism in Independent Uzbekistan", *The Journal of the International Institute*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (Winter 1997), Ann Arbor.

REVIEWS OF MY BOOK

- Beyer, Judith 2014, "How to Think with a City", Book Discussion, Morgan Liu's *Under Solomon's Throne*, in *Central Asian Affairs* 1(1):156-158.
- Borbieva, Noor. 2013. "Review of Under Solomon's Throne: Uzbek Visions of Renewal in Osh. By Morgan Y. Liu, 2012." *Slavic Review* 72:632-634.
- Edgar, Adrienne 2014, "The Anthropologist as Historian: Excavating Multiple Pasts in Osh", Book Discussion, Morgan Liu's *Under Solomon's Throne*, in *Central Asian Affairs* 1(1):153-156.
- Howell, Yvonne. 2013. "Under Solomon's Throne: Uzbek Visions of Renewal in Osh. AU - Morgan Y. Liu . Pittsburgh: PB - University of Pittsburgh Press , 2012. 296 pp." *American Ethnologist* 40:783-784.
- Kasym, Elmarad,, 2013, "Tales from the Mahallas of Osh", in *Registan.org*;
- Khamidov, Alisher 2014, "A Tale of a Divided City: a Xenophilic Observer's View", Book Discussion, Morgan Liu's *Under Solomon's Throne*, in *Central Asian Affairs* 1(1):158-161.
- Louw, Maria 2014, "Review of Morgan Y. Liu, *Under Solomon's Throne*", *Int. J. Middle East Stud. (IJMES)* 46:192-194.
- Montgomery, David. 2013. "Review of Under Solomon's Throne: Uzbek Visions of Renewal in Osh. By Morgan Y. Liu, 2012." *Anthropology of East Europe Review* 31:150-151.
- Reeves, Madeleine 2013, "Review of Morgan Liu, *Under Solomon's Throne*", academia.edu.
- Reeves, Madeleine. 2015. "Review of Morgan Y. Liu, *Under Solomon's Throne: Uzbek Visions of Renewal in Osh* (2012)." *Contemporary Islam* 9(1):109-112.
- Rubinov, Igor. 2013. "Book Review: Under Solomon's throne: Uzbek visions of renewal in Osh." *Central Asian Survey* 32(2):231.

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

- 2014 Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) Book Award for best monograph in the social sciences published in 2012-2013, for *Under Solomon's Throne*, 2012 University of Pittsburg Press.
- 2013-2014 Faculty Professional Leave, College of Arts & Sciences, The Ohio State University.
- 2011 International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX), Short-Term Travel Grant, for field research in Kyrgyzstan, July – August 2011.
- 2008 Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Grant, for total of 6 months of fieldwork in Kyrgyzstan, 2009.
- 2008 IREX Post-doctoral Individual Advanced Research Opportunities Grant, for total of 6 months of fieldwork in Kyrgyzstan, 2009.
- 2002-06 Junior Fellow, Society of Fellows, Harvard University.
- 2003 IREX Short-Term Travel Grant, for field research in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.
- 2000-01 Resident Fellow, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan.
- 1999-00 Eurasia Dissertation Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (SSRC).
- 1999-00 Fellow, Advanced Studies Center, International Institute, University of Michigan.
- 1999 Louis Dupree Prize for Research in Central Asia, SSRC, for Most Promising Dissertation
- 1997-98 Individual Advanced Research Opportunities Grant, IREX, for 12-month research in Kyrgyzstan.
- 1997 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies (CMENAS), University of Michigan.
- 1996 FLAS Fellowship, Center for Russian and East European Studies (CREES), U. Michigan.

- 1996 CREES-Ford Foundation Fellowship, "Identity Formation and Social Problems in Estonia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan", CREES, University of Michigan.
- 1995-96 FLAS Fellowship, CREES, CMENAS, University of Michigan.
- 1995 Student Paper Prize Honorable Mention, Association of Political and Legal Anthropology.
- 1994-95 Graduate Training Fellowship, SSRC, Joint Committee on the Study of the Soviet Union and its Successor States.
- 1993-94 International Predissertation Fellowship Program, SSRC. Funded 10 months of Kyrgyz language study in Kyrgyzstan.
- 1992-93 FLAS Fellowship, CMENAS, University of Michigan.

PAPERS AT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

- 2017 "Crafting inclusion within an exclusive ethnic nationalism: Political entrepreneurship via Soviet ideals in a Central Asian city", at American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, 3 December 2017.
- 2016 "Conceptualizing Petroleum-Fueled Development in post-Soviet Central Asia and Azerbaijan between State, NGO, and Corporation", at the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) 2016 Convention, New York City.
- 2015 "Better persons for better societies: a rethink of post-Soviet Central Asian Islam", at the Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS), George Washington University, Washington, DC, 15-18 October 2015.
- 2014 "Uzbek patronage between ethnic particularism & Soviet universalism in southern Kyrgyzstan", at the 2014 SOYUZ Conference for Postsocialist Cultural Studies (under the American Anthropological Association), Miami University, Oxford, OH, 28 Feb 2014.
- 2012 "The common good and ethnic particularism: Uzbek Institutions in Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan", at CESS, Indiana University, Bloomington, 19 October 2012.
- 2011 "How to study culture in Central Asia after state socialism", at Midwest Slavic Conference, at The Ohio State University, 16 April 2011.
- 2011 "Post-Cold War reflections on Central Asian imaginaries of the state", at conference, "Popular culture & alternative histories: voices beyond the security state in Pakistan, Afghanistan, & Central Asia" at the University of Pennsylvania, 18-19 February 2011.
- 2010 "Virtuous society for Central Asia?: Islamic piety and ethics about Uzbeks in Kyrgyzstan today", at the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) 2010 Convention, New York City.
- 2009 "Massacre through a Kaleidoscope: Fragmented Moral Imaginaries of the State and the Common Good in Central Asia", at conference "Anthropology of the state in Central Asia", 14-16 Sept 2009, Buxton, Derbyshire, U.K.
- 2009 "'Halal' Business and Just Society in Southern Kyrgyzstan: A Framework for Inquiry on Post-Cold War Central Asian Islams" at conference, "The Changing Social Role of Islam in Post-Soviet Eurasia", 20-21 March 2009, Harvard University.
- 2005 "Social Imaginary in a Central Asian City" at American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS) Annual Convention, Salt Lake City.
- 2002 "An Islamic Postsocialism" at the 2002 American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting, New Orleans.
- 2000 "Imagining Alternative Modernities in Post-Soviet Central Asia" at the 2000 AAA Annual Meeting, San Francisco.
- 2000 "Articulating Locality and State Without Thinking Nationality" at 2000 Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) conference, New York.
- 2000 "Authority and Spatiality in Uzbek Neighborhoods of a Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstani City" at the Soyuz Research Network for Post-Communist Studies, Columbia Univ., New York.
- 1999 "Narrating Authority Across a Border: Uzbek Sensibilities of Place in the Post-Soviet Kyrgyz Republic" at the 1999 AAA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 1998 "Keeping Aspirations in Place: Uzbek Residential Neighborhoods at the Intersection of Space, Time, and Concern" at the 1998 AAA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- 1993 "Dialectic Negotiations of Musical Meaning in a Turkish Diaspora Community" at Society for Ethnomusicology, Midwest Chapter Meeting, Ann Arbor.
- 1992

INVITED SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 Presenter, Islamic Legal Studies Program, Harvard Law School, "Islam and the Spirits of Capitalism: The Politics of Piety and Profit-Making in Central Asia", led by Aisalkyn Botoeva, Visiting Fellow; and Kristen Stilt, Director, ILSP; Cambridge, MA, 21 May 2018.
- 2018 Keynote Address, 12th Annual Conference on Landscape, Space, and Place; Indiana University; "How a Central Asian Patron Created a Public (of a sort)", Bloomington, Indiana, 3 March 2018.
- 2018 "Framing Piety, Prosperity, and Politics", in workshop "'Bourgeois' Islam, Prosperity Theology, and Ethics in Muslim Eurasia", at the Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, George Washington University, Washington, DC, 29 January 2018.
- 2018 "Mobile Cosmopolitans, Prime Real Estate, and Elite Global Cultures", for the Migration Studies Working Group, The Ohio State University, 19 Jan 2018.
- 2017 "How to Misunderstand Islam (and how to do better)", University of Pittsburg, Center for Global Studies, 10 February 2017.
- 2016 "The Shifting Landscape of Uzbek Political Thinking", School of Global & International Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, 2 March 2016.
- 2015 "Hydrocarbons and the Good Society?: the emerging shape of petroleum-fueled development in post-Soviet Central Asia & South Caucasus", at workshop, "Development and modernization in the Soviet and post-Soviet periphery", Leiden University, The Netherlands, 22-26 September 2015
- 2015 "Uzbek political thinking in the third decade of independence", at conference, "Uzbekistan beyond the 'curtain': approaches, fieldwork, and topics", Swedish Institute of International Affairs, Stockholm, Sweden, 11-12 June 2015.
- 2015 "Social Justice Ideals and Islamic Revival Realities" at International Scholarship Symposium, Office of International Affairs (OIA), The Ohio State University, 27 February 2015.
- 2014 "What does Central Eurasian studies really need?: Trends, Gaps, and Theoretical Engagements", University of Chicago, Central Asian Studies Society, 16 May 2014.
- 2013 "Islam in Central Asia, A View from the Ground" at "Islam in Eurasia: a Policy Conference", organized by the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University, held at the Kennan Institute, Washington, DC, on 6 June 2013.
- 2013 Book Panel presentation, *Under Solomon's Throne*, by Morgan Y. Liu, at the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), 20 April 2013, Columbia University.
- 2013 "Social and Political Imaginaries", talk at the Premodernist Group, Dept. of History, Ohio State University, 18 March 2013.
- 2012 "Uzbek Conundrum, or how a society within a society was built and then decimated in Kyrgyzstan, 1990-2010", Center for Russian & East European Studies, The University of Michigan, 7 November 2012.
- 2012 "Is there a place for Uzbeks in the Kyrgyz Republic?", at the Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C., 4 October 2012.
- 2009 "The City as Lived Idiom of Societal Transformation" at Diversity Enhancement Program Research Working Group, College of Arts and Humanities, Ohio State University, 13 February 2009.
- 2008 "Silk Road City of Exchange" at Local Worlds Working Group, Institute for Collaborative Research & Public Humanities, Ohio State University, 6 October 2008.
- 2007 "Mahalla in Central Asia: Urban Neighborhood as a Site of Societal Transformation" at Middle Eastern Cities Colloquium Series, University of Michigan.
- 2006 Invited Participant, Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Summer Institute on "Teaching Islam in Eurasia, Part 2", June 24-July 4, 2006, American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Presented in Russian.
- 2005 Invited Participant, SSRC Summer Institute on "Teaching Islam in Eurasia, Part 1", June 20-July 3, 2005, Kazan State University, Kazan, Russia. Presented in Russian.
- 2004 "An Embodied Idiom of Post-Soviet Authority in Central Asia" at Department of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2004 "A Central Asian Khan for a Post-Cold War World" at Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado, Boulder.

- 2003 “Neighborhood, Space, and Discipline: An Anthropology of Authority for Central Asia” at workshop “Anthropological Perspectives on Central Asia”, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany.
- 2003 “What Does Effective Political Authority Look Like?: Conceptualizations of the Post-Soviet State among Uzbeks in Kyrgyzstan” at invited conference “Prospects of Democracy in Central Asia”, the Swedish Research Institute, Istanbul, Turkey.
- 2003 “Yearning for a Modern Khan: Talking about Authoritarianism and Democracy in Central Asia” at the Thirteenth Annual Nava’i Lecture in Central Asian Studies, Georgetown University.
- 2002 “Recognizing the Khan” at dissertation workshop, “Globalizing Central Asia and the Caucasus,” sponsored by the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), Berkeley, CA.
- 2002 “A Phenomenology of Authority: Uzbek Space and Political Imagination in a Post-Soviet Central Asian City” at the Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan.
- 2001 “A Very Modern Khan in Post-Soviet Central Asia” at invited conference, “Rethinking Social Science Research on the Developing World”, SSRC, Park City, UT.
- 2000 “Revolt of the Daughters-in-Law: A View of Uzbek Domestic Life Through Film” at Turkish Studies Colloquium, Center from Middle East and North African Studies (CMENAS), University of Michigan.
- 1999 “Uzbek Neighborhoods and Local Sensibilities in a Kyrgyzstani City” at the UM Center for Russian and East European Studies (CREES) Brown Bag Lecture.
- 1999 “Hierarchies of Place, Hierarchies of Empowerment: Focus Groups in Uzbekistan” at invited conference for project “Identity Formation and Social Problems in Estonia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan”, in Tallinn, Estonia.
- 1997 “Living in an Uzbek Mahalla: Understandings of Place in an Urban Uzbek Community in Osh, Kyrgyzstan” at invited conference “Osh on the Eve of the 21st Century”, Osh State University, Osh, The Kyrgyz Republic. Presented in Russian.
- 1997 “Focus Groups as Social Process: Arguing for a Proactive Moderator Role in Uzbekistan Focus Groups” at invited conference for project “Identity Formation and Social Problems in Estonia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan”, Kyiv, Ukraine.
- 1997 “Worlds of Spatial Being: Spatial Practices as Sites of Difference” at the Comparative Studies of Societies in Transformation (CSST) conference, “Seen Worlds and Worlds of Being”, University of Michigan.
- 1997 “The Soviet Urban Neighborhood as a Site of State-Person Encounter” at conference, “Methodological Reflections on Culture and History”, Program in Anthropology and History, University of Michigan.
- 1994 “Conceptions of Kyrgyz Identity” at the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) International Predissertation Fellowship Program Fellows' Conference, Park City.