Tien Yi Li
Candidate SM in History, Theory, Criticism of Architecture and Art
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
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RESEARCH FOCUS

- Twentieth-century China
- History of Architecture
- History of Technology
- Economic history
- Archival theory

EDUCATION

2023-25   **SM History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture and Art**
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
(Cross-registration at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA)
Full ride; GPA: 5.0 / 5.0
Thesis: "The *Riji* (日记) in Maoist China: History and Provenance" (Working title)

2019-22   **BS Architectural Studies**
Northeastern University, Boston, MA
Honors Program; summa cum laude
Thesis: "Towards a New China: The Reconstruction of Haizhu Square and Its Political Dimensions, Guangzhou, 1949–59"

RESEARCH

Conferences and Workshops

2024   "Personal Diaries in The Early PRC: History and Provenance of a Genre," Modern Chinese History Workshop, Harvard University, November 21, 2024.

2024   "Excavating the Intermediary Class in Republican-era Political Economy: The Case of the Shanghai Papermaking *Tongye Gonghui*, 1918–1948," 30th Columbia University Graduate Conference on East Asia, October 18–19.

2023   "Architecture, Control, and The Uncontrollable: Huoshenshan Hospital, Wuhan, China," Research in Crisis: tactics and methods [Architectural Humanities Research Association Research Student Symposium], Cardiff University, UK, April 12, 2023.

Non-Refereed Publications

2021   "The Search for Modern China: Aspirations and Disappointments for a New Chinese Capital, Nanjing, 1928–1931," *Infra-Structures* (Northeastern University School of Architecture Student Publication), no. 2, Spring 2022.

2021   "A Case for Qualia: Reinstituting Qualitative Responses in Architecture," *Infra-Structures*, no. 1, Fall 2021.

Other Presentations

2025   On thesis, MIT Architecture Open House

2024   On thesis work-in-progress, 4.221 Architecture Studies Colloquium, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, October 2, 2024.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Spring 2025 **Research Assistant to Caroline Jones, Transmedia Storytelling Initiative, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA**
- Transcribe event recordings
- Furthering research on themes covered in upcoming book project

Fall 2024 **Teaching Assistant, 4.s69 Archive Fever: Theory and Method Graduate Seminar,**
- Assisted syllabus-writing
- Assisted coordinating classroom logistics
- Assisted grading
- Assisted leading class trip to museums and archives in Washington, D.C.

2023–24 **Research Assistant, Leventhal Center for Advanced Urbanism, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA**
- Liaison with book contributors, editor, and publisher for image, quote, and other copyright permissions
- Literature review on the application of large language models and deep learning neural networks.

Mar–Jun 2023 **Due Diligence Research Associate on Mainland Chinese Companies, Blue Umbrella Limited, Hong Kong**
- Drafted due diligence reports on natural persons and company entities in Greater China, covering Aliases (AKA) and Former Names (FKA); Subsidiaries; Affiliates; Shareholders; Management Information; Political Exposure and Military-Related Findings; KYC and appearance on international sanction and watch lists (e.g. OFAC, Pentagon List, Consolidated Screening List); Derogatory and Adverse Media; Patents and Trademarks; Compliance and Other Certifications (e.g. professional licenses and ISO); Litigation records.

Jan–Jun 2022 **Research Assistant to Cole Roskam, Department of Architecture, University of Hong Kong**
- Systematic parsing of databases (Hong Kong University Library Digital Collections, Hong Kong Public Library Old Hong Kong Newspaper, CNKI, JSTOR, ProQuest, 中国期刊全文数据库)
- Created a Python-based web crawler to automatically scrape information and organize into spreadsheets
- Archival research at HSBC corporate archive in Hong Kong.
- Chinese-English translation.

2021–22 **Co-curator, "Beyond Strength: A Retrospective Exhibition of Gay Games, 1982-2022," Goethe-Institut Hongkong**
- Contributed knowledge about queer history in twentieth-century US and Europe early in the project
- Contributed to crafting curatorial narrative early in the project
- NB: Not involved in the project's later stages due to COVID, project delay, and subsequent personnel changes.
- See more: https://www.goethe.de/ins/hon/en/ver.cfm?event_id=24260237

AWARDS

External Awards

2022   Architecture Scholarship, School of Architecture, Yale University (declined)
2021   Society of Architectural Historians 2021 Annual Conference Student Diversity Fellowship, Society of Architectural Historians

Internal Awards

2024   Avalon Conference Travel Grant, Department of Architecture, MIT (600 USD)
2024   Royal Fund Fellowship, Department of Architecture, MIT (750 USD)
2023   URF Scholars Graduation Recognition Award, Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, Northeastern University
2022   Departmental Fellowship, Department of Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Full ride + 10,000 USD/year)
2022   PEAK Trail-Blazer Award, Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, Northeastern University (6,000 USD)
2022   Co-op Scholarship, College of Arts, Media and Design, Northeastern University (1,500 USD)
2021   Honors Global Bank, Honors Office, Northeastern University (6,000 USD)
2021   Honors Early Research Award, Northeastern University
2019–23   Honors Scholarship, Northeastern University (12,500 USD/semester)
2019–22   Dean's List, Northeastern University (all semesters except Spring 2020)

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

- **Chinese** (Native; Extensive experience in deciphering handwriting, cursive script 草書, and allographs 異體字/二简字; Advanced reading in literary Sinitic)
- **English** (Native)
- **French** (Advanced reading)
- **Spanish** (Advanced reading)
- **Japanese** (Basic reading with reference)
- **Italian** (Basic reading with reference)

OTHER SKILLS

Programming Languages
Python, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, R, PHP, SQL, Git

Graphical
Rhinoceros, AutoCAD, Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Final Cut Pro X