

Dr Zezhou YANG

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Education

- PhD (South Asian Studies), SOAS, University of London, 2024
 - MA (Intensive South Asian Studies), SOAS, University of London, 2017
 - BA (Hindi Language and Literature, with a minor in Law), Beijing Foreign Studies University, 2015
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Professional Experience

2025 - PRESENT

Postdoctoral Fellow, Inter-Asia Engagements, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

2024 - 2025

Lecturer, The Elite Master's Program "Standards of Decision-Making Across Cultures", University of Erlangen-Nürnberg

Research Area/Topic/Discipline

South Asia-China intellectual history; trans-Himalayan engagements; Gaming Asia; inter-Asia engagements; postcolonial studies

Short Biography

Dr Zezhou Yang is a Postdoctoral Fellow within the Inter-Asia Engagements Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. Zezhou is a historian specialising in intellectual histories between South Asia and China, primarily in the Nepali Himalayas, as well as an ethnographer examining diverse forms of trans-Himalayan geopolitics in everyday contexts. He is interested in the interrelation of history, knowledge production, and inter-Asia engagements. At ARI, Zezhou is working on the project for his first book, which explores the transforming knowledge production of Nepal within the Chinese context. He is also involved in a project that examines the growing complexity of video games and nationalism in Asia.

Publications

Refereed Articles (selected)

(in English)

Yang, Z. (under review). Paratextual Invention of Socialist Knowledge of India in China and Cultural Intimacy: Ji Xianlin's Translation of Ramayana, *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*.

Yang, Z. (2025). Rethinking Disconnection as In-Betweenness: Nepal in Chinese Knowledge Production (1910s–1940s), *International Journal of Asian Studies*, doi:10.1017/S1479591425100454.

Yang, Z. (2025). Guesthouses as Sites of Geopolitical Practice: Rethinking China–Nepal Relations Through Tourism, *Geopolitics*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2025.2556720>.

Yang, Z. (2024). Remapping Trans-Himalayan Studies in the Digital Domain during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Constraint-based Innovation, Multimodality and the Way of Knowing, *Possibility Studies & Society*, 3(1): 36-49.

Yang, Z. & Chen, T. (2023). Reconciling the Varied Stories: Arniko Myths, (De)colonization, and Nationalization Between Nepal and China, in *HIMALAYA: The Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies*, 42(1): 28-47.

Yang, Z. (2022). The Transnational Flow of Tourism and *daigou* between Nepal and China before and during the COVID-19 Pandemic, in *The German Journal on Contemporary Asia*, Vol. 162/163, 77-94.

(in Chinese)

Yang, Z. (forthcoming). Toward an Autonomous Epistemology of Himalayan Studies: Reflections on Modern China's Changing Diplomatic Imaginations of Nepal [喜马拉雅区域研究自主知识体系建设:近代中国对尼泊尔外交认知转型研究与反思], *South Asian Studies Quarterly* [南亚研究季刊].

Yang, Z. (2025). Building an Autonomous Knowledge System in Himalayan Studies: A Case of China–Nepal Relations Research Paradigm [喜马拉雅区域研究中的自主知识体系建设——以中国—尼泊尔关系研究范式为例], *South and Southeast Asian Studies* [南亚东南亚研究], 05(81), 124-155.

Yang, Z. (2025). Chinese Online Travelogues on Nepal, Colonial and Multimodal Knowledge Production [中国关于尼泊尔的网络游记、殖民叙事及多模态知识生产的可能性], *South Asian Review* [南亚学], 05, 95-120.

Book Chapter

Yang, Z. (forthcoming). Reconsider Nepal-China Relations: Volumetric Presence, Disconnection and Global Asia, in Chase, L., Lotter, S., Sharma, J. and Turin, M. eds. *Contributions to Contemporary Nepal Studies*, Social Science Baha.

Yang, Z. (2025). The Gendered Figurations of Women Diplomats and the Volumetric Presence of China in Nepal. In: Stephenson, E., Singh Rathore, K. (eds) *Gender and Diplomacy* 41-73. Palgrave Macmillan.

Book Review (selected)

Yang, Z. (forthcoming). Disconnected Presence: Book Review of States of Disconnect: The China-India Literary Relation in the Twentieth Century [断裂的在场：《断裂之境：二十世纪中印文学关系》读后感], *Literature* [文学].

Other Publications (selected)

Yang, Z. (2025). Can the One Piece Flag in Nepal's Gen Z Protest Be an Inter-Asia Referencing Practice?, in *ARIScope*, <https://ari.nus.edu.sg/ariscopes/nepal-one-piece-flag/>.

Yang, Z. (2025). Nepal country profile, in *People's Map of Global China*, <https://thepeoplesmap.net/country/nepal/>.

Yang, Z. (2024). Far Cry 4: Deconstructing Hegemonic Narratives Through Games, in *The Digital Orientalist*.

Awards/Grants and Distinctions

2025 First Prize for Outstanding Thesis, 2025 Annual Conference of the South Asian Languages Association, China

2024 Travel Grant, ICAS (declined)

2022 Travel Grant, University of Padova (declined)

2019 Fieldwork Award, SOAS, UK

2015 Full scholarship, China Scholarship Council, China

2013 Scholarship for Academic Excellence, BFSU, China

2012 Scholarship for Academic Excellence, BFSU, China

2012 Full scholarship, China Scholarship Council, China