

SOPHIA J. MAO, Ph.D.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Bryn Mawr College

2025- Assistant Professor, Department of Literatures in English

Harvard University

2025 Lecturer, Department of English

Tufts University

2023-4 Mellon Foundation Fellow, Department of Studies in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora (RCD)

EDUCATION

Harvard University

2023 Ph.D. in English

2016 M.A. in English

University of California, Berkeley

2014 B.A. in English Literature & B.A. in Media Studies

PEER-REVIEWED

2024 “The Hunch of Racism: Racial Paranoia and Microaggressions in Celeste Ng’s *Everything I Never Told You* (2014),” forthcoming in *Journal of Asian American Studies* 28:3, October 2025.

PUBLIC WRITING

2023 [“K-pop’s Labors of Love,”](#) *The Georgia Review*, Summer 2023

DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS

2021 [American Chinatowns: History & Literature](#), Harvard Library Open Education Resources Project

BOOK REVIEWS

2021 [Review of *Tonal Intelligence*](#) by Sunny Xiang. Columbia University Press: 2020. *ASAP/J*, 17 June 2021.

2020 Review of *Inscrutable Belongings: Queer Asian North American Fiction* by Stephen Hong Sohn. Stanford University Press: 2018. *Rethinking Gendered Citizenship: Intimacy, Sovereignty, & Empire*, special issue of *Amerasia*, 46:2, 2020, 255-256.

AWARDS

2025 Association for Asian American Studies, Tenure-Track Faculty Symposium
Competitive grant-funded mentorship program

2024 Tufts University Arts, Sciences & Engineering Diversity Fund
Competitive \$2,000 grant to support an Asian American & Latinx Speaker Series

2022 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University
Recipients achieve an overall rating of 4.50 or above on 5-point scale, based on student evaluations

2021 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University
Recipients achieve an overall rating of 4.50 or above on 5-point scale, based on student evaluations

2021 Derek Bok Center Teaching Certificate
Awarded upon completion of the Derek Bok Center's training program on undergraduate pedagogy

2020 Pforzheimer Fellowship, Digital Strategies and Innovation, Harvard University
Fellowship to create Open Educational Resources for teachers and students in grades 6-12

2018 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University
Recipients achieve an overall rating of 4.50 or above on 5-point scale, based on student evaluations

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

2025 “The Discomforts of Re-Orientation: The Unruliness of Imagining and Feeling A Yellow/Brown Atlantic,” Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Boston, MA, April 17-19.

2024 “Feeling Onwards: Model Minority Affects in Contemporary Asian American Literature,” English Department, Brown University, February 15.

Selected Conference Presentations

2024 “Through a Glass, Clearly: Racial Embodiment & Meditation in Contemporary Asian American Fictions,” Association for Asian American Studies, Seattle, WA, April 25-27.

2020 “Home is Where the *Sour Heart* Is: Jenny Zhang’s Narratives of Asian American Impoverishment,” Ethnicity, Migration, and Rights Working Group, Harvard University, April 10.

2019 “A New Model for Contemporary Affect: The Global Success of the K-pop Group BTS,” Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present, College Park, MD, October 10-12.

CONFERENCE PANELS/SYMPOSIA ORGANIZED

2025 “When and Where I Enter: A Roundtable on the Role of the Personal in Asian American Studies Scholarship,” Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Boston, MA, April 17-19.

2024 “Asian American Buddhisms,” Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Seattle, WA, April 25-27.

2024 Asian American & Latinx Studies Speaker Series, Tufts University, February 22nd, March 26th, and April.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

As Primary Instructor, English Department, Harvard University

2025 Introduction to Asian American Literature

2022-3, 2025 English 98r: The Art of Minor Feelings: Asian American Emotional Lives in Contemporary Literature

As Lecturer, Department of Studies in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora, Tufts University

2024 Asian (American) Intimate Industries

2023 Introduction to Asian American Studies

As Primary Instructor, Summer Pre-College Program, Harvard University

2022, 2023 Stories That Should Never Be Told: Banned Books in American History

As Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor, English Department, Harvard University

2022 English 99r: “Tutorial—Senior Year”

Joint directed senior honors thesis with Professor Beth Blum, “An Old Normal: The Minor Feelings Plaguing Asian American Pandemic Literature”

2018 English 99r: “Tutorial—Senior Year”

Joint directed senior honors thesis with Professor Louis Menand, “The 20th Century Women’s Magazine”

SERVICE

2024 Selection Committee, Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora Essay Prize

2024 Respondent, *Kenneth Tam: Standing in Soft Formation* exhibit at Tufts University Art Gallery

2021-22 Student Advisory Board Member, Harvard Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study

AFFILIATIONS

Association for Asian American Studies

Modern Language Association