

## SOPHIA J. MAO, Ph.D.

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### 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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