

# Matthew Reeder

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## Education

PhD, history, 2019  
MA, Asian studies, 2009  
MLIS, library science, 2005  
AB, history, 2002 (*summa cum laude*)

Cornell University  
University of Hawai'i, Mānoa  
Rutgers University  
Bowdoin College

## Academic Appointments

2021-present. Assistant Professor of History, Division of Humanities, Yale-NUS College.  
2019-2021. Postdoctoral Fellow, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore.

## Publications

### *Peer-Reviewed Articles*

- Forthcoming. "Crafting a Categorical Ayutthaya: Ethnic Labeling, Administrative Reforms, and the Social Reorganization of an Early Modern Entrepôt." *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*.
2021. "The Roots of Comparative Alterity in Siam: Depicting, Describing, and Defining the Peoples of the World, 1830s-1850s." *Modern Asian Studies* 55, no. 4: 1065-1111.
2017. "Royal Brother, Ethnic Other: Politicizing Ethnonyms in the Chronicle Compositions of Early Bangkok." *Rian Thai: International Journal of Thai Studies* 10, no. 2: 65-99.
2010. "Buffalo Crimes and Modernization in King Chulalongkorn's Siam." *Explorations: A Graduate Student Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 10: 33-53.

### *Short Articles and Translations*

2016. "The National Library of Thailand, Manuscript Collection," *Dissertation Reviews*, 16 May. <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/13975>.
2015. "What to do with the Testimony of a Brahmin? A Day in the Manuscript Room of the National Library of Thailand." *Southeast Asia Program at Cornell University Bulletin* (Fall): 11-15.
2013. Translation of "A Conversation with Robbers," by Prince Damrong Rajanubhab. *Journal of the Siam Society* 101: 201-234. (Co-translated with Chalermchai Wongrak.)

### *Book Reviews*

2020. Review of *Siamese Melting Pot: Ethnic Minorities in the Making of Bangkok*, by Edward Van Roy. *Southeast Asian Studies* 9, no. 1: 143-147.
2020. Review of *A History of Ayutthaya: Siam in the Early Modern World*, by Chris Baker and Pasuk Phongpaichit. *H-Net* (March). [h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=51106](http://h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=51106).
2014. Review of “The Creole City in Mainland Southeast Asia: Slave-Gathering Warfare and Cultural Exchange in Burma, Thailand, and Manipur, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> cent.,” PhD thesis by Bryce Beemer. *Dissertation Reviews* (4 November). <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/9944>.

### Fellowships and Awards

#### *External*

2021. Shortlisted, ICAS Book Prize: Best Dissertation in the Humanities, International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS).
2019. Postdoctoral Fellowship, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore.
2019. Tsinghua-Michigan Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Michigan Society of Fellows (declined).
2016. Field Scholarship (Chiang Mai), École française d’Extrême-Orient (EFEO).
2015. Multi-Country Research Fellowship (Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand), Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC).
2015. Empowering Network for International Thai Studies (ENITS) Scholarship, Institute of Thai Studies, Chulalongkorn University.
2015. Bernadotte E. Schmitt Grant, American Historical Association.
2015. Senior Fellowship, Center for Khmer Studies.
2014. Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (Thailand).
2008. Program Fellowship, Consortium for the Advanced Study of Thai.

#### *Internal (selected)*

2020. ARI-FASS Book Manuscript Workshop grant, National University of Singapore.
2020. Conference funding award to hold *Managing the Cosmopolitan City*, Asia Research Institute.
2020. Lauriston Sharp Dissertation Prize, Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University.
2019. Messenger Chalmers Dissertation Prize, Department of History, Cornell University.
2018. Oliver W. Wolters Summer Write-Up Grant, Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University.
- 2017, 2011. Sage Fellowships, Graduate School, Cornell University.
2016. Research Travel Grant, Graduate School, Cornell University.
2016. Graduate Travel Grant, Society for the Humanities, Cornell University.
2016. Myanmar Initiative Grant, Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University.
2015. Boldt Fellowship, History Department, Cornell University.

- 2014, 2013, 2012. Einaudi Travel Grants, International Studies Center, Cornell University.
2013. John F. Badgley Research Fellowship, Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University.
2012. Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship (Thai), Cornell University.
2012. Teresa Palmer Research Fellowship, Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University.
2011. Spector Fellowship, History Department, Bowdoin College.
- 2009, 2008. Student Affiliate Program grants, East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii.
- 2009, 2008, 2007. Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships (Thai and Khmer), University of Hawai'i, Mānoa.
2002. Phi Beta Kappa, elected by the faculty, Bowdoin College.

## Lectures and Invited Talks

2019. “The Lovesick Chambermaid, the Inner-Palace Arsonist, and the Stubborn Village Girl: Tales of Assertive Women in the Royal Households of Early Bangkok,” Institute for International and Area Studies, Tsinghua University. 23 November.
2019. “Five Transformations in Ethnic Categorization: Thai Discourses of Social Organization in an Interconnected World,” Institute of Area Studies, Peking University. 22 November.
2018. “The Peoples of the World, Compared: A New Subject of Knowledge and Its Local Roots in Early Bangkok,” Ronald and Janette Gatty Lecture, Cornell University. 15 February.
2016. “Ethnicity and the Reformulation of Political Community in Khmer Chronicles of the Nineteenth Century,” Royal University of Fine Arts, Phnom Penh. 9 June.
2015. “เหตุใดขุนนางต้อง ‘ขอลี้ภัย’ หากพระเจ้าเชียงใหม่ ‘จักเป็นม่าน’: แนวคิดทางชาติพันธุ์กับการสร้างความรู้ทางการเมืองแบบใหม่ในสมัยรัตนโกสินทร์ตอนต้น” [Why the nobles threatened to “flee” if the king of Chiang Mai were to “become Burmese”: Ethnic thinking and the creation of new political knowledge in early Bangkok], Department of History, Chulalongkorn University. 9 February.
2015. “การประดิษฐ์สร้างอาณาจักรชาติพันธุ์ หลังการล่มสลายของกรุงศรีอยุธยา” [Creating the ethnic kingdom after the fall of Ayutthaya], Centre for ASEAN Studies, Chiang Mai University. 23 January.
2014. “Turning King Naresuan’s Subjects into Thais: The Language of Social Categories and First Reign Narratives of Ayutthaya,” Center for Thai Language and Literature, Chulalongkorn University. 15 August.

## Conference Activity

### *Conferences Organized*

2021. *Managing the Cosmopolitan City: Inter-Asian Strategies of Ethnic Administration, Past and Present*, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. 14-15 January. (Co-organized with Clay Eaton and Yang Yang.)
2013. Annual Graduate Student Conference, Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University. 1-3 March. (Co-organized with Jack Chia and Courtney Work.)

### *Panels Organized*

2021. "Information Collection and Knowledge Production in Nineteenth-Century Siam, Cambodia, and Laos," ICAS, Kyoto. 24-27 August.
2021. "Making Acquaintances: Ethnography, Classification, and Control in Precolonial Southeast Asia," AAS Annual Meeting, Seattle. 25 March. (Co-organized with Brad Davis.)
2020. "Threatening Discourses and State Anxieties in Southeast Asia, Past and Present," AAS in Asia conference, Kobe. 1 September.
2019. "Sustaining the Parasol: The Premodern State and Its Supports in Theravāda Asia," ICAS, Leiden. 16 July. (Co-organized with Jan Dressler.)

### *Conference Presentations*

2022. "Taking Categorical Advantage: The Theory and Politics of Ethnic Names in Premodern Siam," International Conference on Thai Studies, Kyoto. April.
2021. "Potent Intelligence: Investigating Supernatural Knowledge in Early Bangkok," International Convention of Asian Scholars, Kyoto. 24-27 August. [Online]
2021. "'If You Are to Become a Burmese': Anxieties over Ethnic Boundary-Crossing in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Chiang Mai," Tsinghua Area Studies Forum, Tsinghua University. 5 July. [Online] (Best Presenter Award received.)
2021. "Producing 'Peoples' as a Concept in Early Bangkok (1782-1855)," Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Seattle. 25 March. [Online]
2021. "Crafting a Categorical Ayutthaya: Ethnic Labeling, Administrative Reforms, and the Social Reorganization of an Early Modern Entrepôt," *Ethnic and Community Identity in Southeast Asia*: UC Berkeley-UCLA Southeast Asian Studies Conference. 12 February. [Online]
2020. "Anonymous Letters, Hanging from Trees: Challenges to Authority and Omens of Unrest in Siam (1780s-1870s)," AAS-in-Asia conference, Kobe. 1 September. [Online]
2019. "The Wandering Brahmin and the Perverted Prince: Manuscript Interlopers in a Modern Archive," Workshop on *Unpacking the Asian Library: Collecting Histories and Collecting Networks from Asia to Europe*, National Library, Singapore. 12 December.
2019. "Women's Agency in the Royal Households of Early Bangkok: Nineteenth-Century Historical Narratives and Their Twentieth-Century Suppression," SEASIA Biennial Conference, Academia Sinica, Taipei. 6 December.
2019. "War Captives as Interlocutors of Empire: Collecting Intelligence and Justifying Siam's Suzerainty in Precolonial Cambodia," EuroSEAS Conference, Berlin. 11 September.
2019. "From Peasants to Peoples: The Emergence of New Legal Categories in the Kingdom of Ayutthaya," International Convention of Asian Scholars, Leiden. 16 July.
2018. "The Peoples of the World: A New Subject of Knowledge in Early Bangkok," *Along the Crooked Line*: Asian Borderlands History Symposium, Columbia University. 31 March.
2017. "The Thai 'Gender'? The Male 'Nation'? Early Bangkok Experiments in Articulating Ethnicity," Southeast Asia Program Graduate Conference, Cornell University. 11 March.
2016. "Ethnic Classification and the Intellectual Control of Peoples: Thai-Language Experimentation in Ayutthaya and Early Bangkok," Council on Thai Studies Annual Meeting, Northern Illinois University. 29 October.

2015. “Celebrating, or Not, the Ethnic Variety of the King’s Army in the Royal Praise Poetry of Ayutthaya and Early Bangkok,” SEASIA Biennial Conference, Kyoto. 13 December.
2015. “Royal Brother, Ethnic Other: The Introduction of a New Paradigm to Narrate Relations with Cambodia in Thai-Language Chronicles Composed in Early Bangkok,” ENITS Conference, Institute of Thai Studies, Chulalongkorn University. 25 June.
2015. “The Autonomous Invention of the Ethnic Kingdom in Eighteenth-Century Buddhist Southeast Asia,” Graduate Conference in International History, *Transitions: States and Empires in the Longue Durée*, Harvard University. 13 March.
2009. “Changing Foods and Trade Goods in Rural Northern Laos,” *Conservation Research in the Mekong Region: Culture, Environment, and Ethnobotany* conference, University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa. 11 April.
2009. “Buffalo Crimes and Modernization in King Chulalongkorn’s Siam,” School of Pacific and Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference, University of Hawai‘i, Mānoa. 12 March.

### *Discussant and Roundtable Roles*

2021. Discussant, “Unforgetting War Histories,” Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. 13 July.
2021. Moderator, “Studying Ethnicity and Urban Governance in an Interconnected Asia” (roundtable), *Managing the Cosmopolitan City: Inter-Asian Strategies of Ethnic Administration, Past and Present*, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. 14 January.
2020. Discussant, “Colonial and Pre-Colonial Legacies,” Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. 22 July.
2016. Moderator and discussant, “Local Scholars in Southeast Asia: Biographical Sketches and Reflections on the Writing of a Common History,” Center for ASEAN Studies, Chiang Mai University. 1 April.
2012. Discussant, “Cultural Transmissions and Connections,” Southeast Asia Program Graduate Student Conference, Cornell University. 4 March.

## Teaching Experience

### *Yale-NUS College*

*Narai: Siam’s Worldly King and the ‘Revolution’ of 1688*, fall 2021.

### *Cornell University*

*The World of Modern Japan* (teaching assistant), spring 2019.

*Educational Psychology* (teaching assistant), fall 2018.

*Converts and Traitors in the Early Modern World*, spring 2017.

*Foreign Knowledge & Local Power in Early Modern Asia*, fall 2016.

*China Encounters the World* (teaching assistant), fall 2013.

### *American Center (Myanmar)*

*Southeast Asian History*, fall 2010.

*Model United Nations*, winter 2011, spring 2011.  
*Advanced English*, fall 2010, winter 2011, spring 2011.

### *Khon Kaen University (Thailand)*

*Speaking and Listening*, fall 2005, spring 2006.  
*General English*, fall 2005.

### *Teaching Professionalization (selected)*

2016. Course completion certificate, *Teaching Writing*, a graduate-level course on “writing in the disciplines,” Cornell University. Summer semester.  
 2005. Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) certificate, Princeton in Asia.  
 2002. Maine provisional teaching certificate to teach grades 7-12 (social studies).

## Other Institutional Affiliations

2021-present. Associate, Inter-Asian Engagements Cluster, Asia Research Institute, NUS  
 2015-2016. Senior Fellow, Center for Khmer Studies, Siem Reap, Cambodia.  
 2014-2015. Doctoral Research Affiliate, Department of History, Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University.  
 2007-2009. Graduate Student Affiliate, East-West Center, Honolulu.

## Service (selected)

Referee, manuscripts for *Journal of Burma Studies*, *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, and *Modern Asian Studies*.  
 Consultant, Ministry of Education (Singapore), Curriculum Planning and Development Division, Social Studies Primary Unit, for their curriculum and animations on Sukhothai and Angkor, 2020-2021.  
 Member, Steering Committee, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, January-December 2020.  
 Building Manager, George McT. Kahin Center for Advanced Research on Southeast Asia, Cornell University, 2017-2018.  
 Co-chair, Graduate Student Committee, Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University, 2012-2013.  
 Member, editorial board, *Explorations: A Graduate Student Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, University of Hawai'i, 2008-2009.

## Membership in Professional Associations

American Historical Association (AHA)  
 Association for Asian Studies (AAS)  
 Thailand, Laos, Cambodia Studies Group (of AAS)

Burma Studies Group (of AAS)  
 European Association for Southeast Asian Studies (EuroSEAS)

## Professional Positions in Special Collections

2007-2009. Archivist, Japanese American Veterans Collection, University of Hawai'i, Mānoa.  
 2006-2007. Archives assistant, Special Collections, Princeton Theological Seminary.  
 2002-2005. Archives assistant, University Archives, Princeton University.

## Language Competencies

English	Native
Thai	Fluent
Lao	Advanced (reading); intermediate (speaking)
Khmer	Advanced (reading); intermediate (speaking)
Muang/Northern Thai	Intermediate (reading)
French	Intermediate (reading)
Burmese	Intermediate
Pali	Beginning (reading)