

MICHAEL TRAVIS MANDELKORN

Curriculum Vitae

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Entanglement of Economies, Environments, & Violence; Inter-Asian Systems; Climate & Monsoon; Frontier Governmentality; Uneven Development; Modern Rurality; Spatiality

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in History, Princeton University, 2026 (expected)

- Dissertation: *Flood and Timber: Mapping Climate, Commerce, and Conflict Across the Heart of Monsoon Asia, 1885 – 1975*
- Advisor: Jeremy Adelman, Committee Members: Michael Laffan, Erika Milam
- General Exam Fields (*with Distinction*): Modern South and Southeast Asia, Global Environments and Environmentalisms, Global Capitalism

M.A. in History, Princeton University, 2022

M.A. in History, Tufts University, 2020

B.A. in History and Russian, Carleton College, 2013

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

“A View from the Forests: Depression, Crisis, and Rebellion in Burma’s Environmental Borderlands.” Forthcoming in *Journal of Asian Studies*, v. 85, no. 2 (2026).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Categorical Annihilation: How Burma’s *Pathi* and *Panthay* Communities Were Made Invisible.” In preparation for submission to *Past & Present*.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

2025-2026.....University Fellowship, Princeton University (*usd 51,516*)

2024-2025.....Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad, US Dept. of Education (*30,945*)

2024-2025.....Visiting Research Fellow, Faculty of Political Science, Thammasat University (Thailand)

2024-2025.....Hack Award Fellow for Water and the Environment, High Meadows Environmental Institute, Princeton University (*8,500*)

2024Center for International Security Studies (CISS) Dissertation Research Grant, Princeton University (*1,500*)

2023.....Multi-Country Research Fellowship, Council of Overseas American Research Centers [*Declined due to funding conflict w/ Fulbright-Hays*] (*12,000*)

2023.....Political Philosophy Graduate Travel and Research Grant, Princeton University Center for Human Values (*2,000*)

2023.....Departmental Research Award, History Dept., Princeton University (*20,000*)

2022-2023.....Cotsen Junior Fellowship, Princeton University (*42,000*)

2020-2022.....University Fellowship, Princeton University (*amount varying, ~40,000 / year*)

2020.....Language Study Award, History Dept., Princeton University (*2,650*)

2019.....Graduate Research Award, Tufts University (*5,000*)

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, & WORKSHOPS

PAPERS PRESENTED

- 2025.....“Following the Rahaeng Road: Fighting Monsoon Time and Teak Time in the China, Burma, India Theater,” Global & Colonial History Workshop, Princeton University, Fall 2025 [*exact date to be scheduled*].
- 2023.....“To Make or Break the Village: Competing Visions of Rurality and Colonial Legacy in Postcolonial Burma,” State Planning and Private Entrepreneurship in the 20th Century Conference, Princeton University, 10-11 November.
- 2023.....“Dis/Order in the Hills: Mapping Mobilities, Capital, and Ecologies Across a Zomian System, 1852 – 1974,” Global Borderlands Project Workshop, American University of Central Asia (AUCA), Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), 23 – 27 June.
- 2023.....New Sanctuaries Required: Tropical Forestry and Property Regimes in Colonial Burma,” Cornell University Southeast Asia Program Graduate Student Conference, Ithaca (New York) 10-12 March.
- 2023.....“New Sanctuaries Required: Tropical Forestry and Property Regimes of Colonial Burma,” Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston, 17 – 18 February (*virtual*).
- 2022.....“A System and Its Fragments: Disorganized Capital and Parastate Sovereignty Across an Area of No Concern, 1872 – 1972,” Global History Collaborative Summer Institute, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) Paris, 29 August – 2 September.
- 2020.....“Internalizing Colonial Differences: The British Liberal Origins of Exclusionary Burman Nationalism,” Graduate History Roundtable, Tufts University, Boston, 28 April (*virtual*).

PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2024.....“A View from Mae Sot: Developing Oral History Methodologies with Myanmar Migrants,” 4th International Conference on Burma/Myanmar Studies, Chiang Mai University (Thailand), 2 – 4 August.

INVITED TALKS

- 2025.....“Dis/Order in the Hills: Mapping Mobilities, Capital, and Ecologies Across a Zomian System,” Direk Jayanama Research Center at Thammasat University (Tha Prachan), Bangkok (Thailand), 11 March.
- 2025.....“Historical Methodologies and Systems Thinking,” Political Science Faculty at Thammasat University (Rangsit), Bangkok (Thailand), 18 February.
- 2023.....Commentator: Tathagata Dutta, “Travel as Strategy, Travel as Sensation,” Graduate History Roundtable, Tufts University, Boston, 2 May (*virtual*).
- 2023.....Commentator: Amrita Das, “Resilience in Sundarbans: Remembering the Myth of Sisyphus in Anthropocene,” Princeton South Asia Graduate Workshop, 20 April.

WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

2024.....“Telling Stories Beyond Borders: Public History Workshop for Myanmar Migrant Youth,”
BEAM Education Foundation’s Youth & Community Engagement Program at RISE
Counseling Center, Mae Sot (Thailand), 6 – 8 January.

2021-2022.....Global History Workshop, Princeton University, Academic Year.

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2024-2025.....National Archives of Thailand (Bangkok & Chiang Mai)
2024-2025.....The Church of Christ in Thailand Archives at Payap University (Chiang Mai)
2024.....National Archives of Singapore (Singapore)
2024.....Slavonic Library at Kansalliskirjasto / National Library of Finland (Helsinki)
2024.....Library of Congress (Washington, DC)
2023.....Caird Library at National Maritime Museum (London)
2023.....National Archives at Kew (London)
2023.....India Office Records at the British Library (London)
2023.....Cambridge University Archives (Cambridge)
2019.....Myanmar National Archives (Naypyidaw & Yangon)
2019.....State Archive of the Russian Federation (Moscow)
2019.....Russian State Archive of Contemporary History (Moscow)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Course Designer, American University of Central Asia [Global History Lab], 2024 - 2025

- 9-unit Case Study Track on Global Borderlands

Lead Facilitator, BEAM RISE Center & Global Margins Institute, 2024

- Short Course on Oral History Ethics, Safety, and Methods

Cotsen Junior Fellow / Assistant in Instruction, Princeton University, 2022 - 2023

- Capitalism: Origins, Alternatives, Futures (Fall 2022 – designed; Spring 2023 – taught)
- Prize fellowship awarded for one academic year to students who show promise and innovation in instruction and course design

Teaching Fellow, Princeton Global History Lab, 2021-2022

- History of the World, BRAC University, Bangladesh (Summer + Fall 2022, *virtual*)
- History of the World, Parami University, Myanmar (Summer + Fall 2022, *virtual*)
- Global History Dialogues, Virtual Federal University, Myanmar (Fall 2021, *virtual*)
- History of the World, Virtual Federal University, Myanmar (Summer 2021, *virtual*)

Teaching Assistant, Tufts University, 2019

- Colonialism in Global Perspective (Spring 2019)

Educational Technology Consultant, Myanmar Mobile Education (MyME) Project, 2016-2017

- Coordinated pilot project to develop low-data, mobile ready platform for courses

Academic Supervisor and Grant Writer, Phaung Daw Oo Monastic School, 2014 - 2017

- Oversaw curricula and funding for existing pre-college and pilot college courses

Instructor and Curriculum Designer, Pre-Collegiate Program of Yangon, 2013 - 2014

- Designed and taught US university survey-level courses in global history

SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL & UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2025-Present...Graduate Peer Coach, McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Princeton University

2021-2022.....Co-Organizer, Global History Workshop, Princeton University

2019-2020.....Coordinator, Center for South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies, Tufts University

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

2023-Present....Co-Founder, Global Humanities Institute

- GHI is a grant-funded public humanities initiative operating on Thai-Burma Border
- Ran oral history workshop in Mae Sot in collaboration with local migrant school partners

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

2025-Present....The Siam Society

2023-Present.... Burma Studies Group

2022-Present.....Association of Asian Studies

DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP TRAINING

2025, 2023.....Completed half-semester workshops on QGIS, ArcGIS Online / StoryMaps led by specialists at the Princeton University Library's Maps and Geospatial Information Center

2025.....Completed half-semester workshop on Lib-Static Approach to Digital Scholarship, Online Archives, Digital Mapping led by specialists at the Princeton University Library's Digital Scholarship Services

LANGUAGES

English: Native

Russian: Full Professional Proficiency

Burmese: Proficient

Thai: Limited Working Proficiency

REFERENCES

Jeremy Adelman, Ph.D.

Henry Charles Lea Professor Emeritus

Department of History, Princeton University

Director of the Global History Lab, University of Cambridge

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Erika Milam, Ph.D.

Charles C. and Emily R. Gillespie Professor in

the History of Science; Professor of History

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Michael Laffan, Ph.D.

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