

Shawn Frederick McHale
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Positions:

September 2022—present: Professor of History and International Affairs, Department of History/ Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA.

August 2003-2022: Associate Professor of History and International Affairs, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University.

2005-2007, 2008—2011: Director, Sigur Center for Asian Studies, and Director, Asian Studies Program, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University.

2004-2005: Associate Director, Sigur Center for Asian Studies, and Director, Asian Studies Program, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University.

1997-2003: Assistant Professor of History and International Affairs, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University.

1995-1997: Visiting Assistant Professor of Asian History, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

1994-1995: Visiting Assistant Professor of History, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, USA.

Education:

Ph.D., Southeast Asian History, Cornell University, 1995.

M.A., History, Cornell University, 1991.

M.A., Asian Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 1985.

B.A. (Honors), Swarthmore College. Major: Sociology and Anthropology, Minor: Religion, 1982.

Intellectual Specializations and Interests:

Research: Modern Vietnamese and Cambodian history, Buddhism, Confucianism, communism, comparative study of colonialism and decolonization, gender, memory, civil war and violence, sovereignty.

Teaching: Southeast Asian and Vietnamese history; comparative study of colonialism (Asia/Africa) and its legacy; trauma, violence, memory and history.

Awards and Fellowships:

American Council on Learned Societies (ACLS)/ Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Research Fellowship in Buddhist Studies, December 2018- August 2019, for research in Cambodia and Vietnam.

Sigur Center for Asian Studies, George Washington University, summer research awards, 2006, 2013, 2016, for research in Vietnam and France.

Fulbright-Hays faculty research fellowship, US Department of Education, for research in Vietnam (10.5 months) and France (1.5 months), 2007-2008.

Fulbright faculty research fellowship, US Department of State, for 10 months of research in Vietnam, 2007-2008 (declined to take the Fulbright-Hays).

George Washington University Facilitating Fund Fellowship, summer 1998, 2004.

George Washington University, Junior Incentive Fellowship, summer 2001.

Mellon Foundation Completion Fellowship (dissertation write-up support), 1993-94 academic year.

Social Science Research Council Dissertation Fellowship, 1992 (for research in Vietnam)

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, United States Department of Education, 1991-1992 (restricted, because of the US embargo, to research outside of Vietnam)

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (for the study of Vietnamese), United States Department of Education, summers of 1982, 1983, 1985, 1989; academic years 1983-1984, 1989-1990; spring 1991.

Refereed Publications:

Books:

The First Vietnam War: Violence, Sovereignty, and the Fracture of the South, 1945-56 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, August 2021). xi, 304 pages.

Print and Power: Confucianism, Communism, and Buddhism in the Making of Modern Vietnam 1920-1945 (Honolulu: Hawaii, 2004). xii, 256 pages.

Republished by a leading Indian publisher, Munshiram Manoharlal, 2010. Shortlisted for the Benda Prize in Southeast Asian Studies. Chapter 5 on Buddhism has been translated and published in Vietnam's leading research journal specializing in literature as "Chấn hưng Phật giáo, Phật giáo bình dân và chuyển biến văn hóa ở Việt Nam nửa đầu thế kỷ XX" [The Buddhist Revival, Popular Buddhism, and Cultural Transformations in Vietnam in the Mid-Twentieth Century], *Nghiên cứu văn học* 2018 (4): pp. 89-115.

Book in Preparation:

Buddhism in the Borderlands: Vietnamese Mahayana Engagements with Theravada Buddhism, 1930-1990.

This book will focus on one of the most significant -- but understudied -- attempts to refashion Vietnamese Buddhism, one in which Cambodian Theravada Buddhism plays a key role. The book, while examining doctrine and practice, will situate this transformation in the context of difficult, even violent, relations between Vietnamese and Cambodians.

Major Articles/ Book Chapters:

Ethnicity, Violence, and Khmer-Vietnamese Relations: The Significance of the Lower Mekong Delta, 1757-1954," *Journal of Asian Studies* 72,2 (May 2013): 367 – 390.

“Understanding the Fanatic Mind? The Viet Minh and Race Hatred in the First Indochina War

(1945-1954),” *Journal of Vietnamese Studies* (October 2009): 98-138.

“Vietnamese Print Culture under French Colonial Rule: The Emergence of a Public Sphere,” in Wilt Idema, ed., *Books in Numbers* (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2007): 377-414.

“Violence, Freedom, and the Transformation of the Public Realm in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, 1945-1958,” in Christopher Goscha and Benoît de Tréglodé, eds., *Naissance d’un État-parti. Le Viet Nam depuis 1945. Etat, contestations et constructions d’une nation*. Paris: Les Indes Savantes, 2004.

“Mapping a ‘Confucian’ Past: Vietnam and the Transition to Modernity,” in Benjamin Elman, Hermann Ooms, and John Duncan, eds., *Rethinking Confucianism: Past and Present in China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam* (Los Angeles: UCLA Asia Pacific Monograph Series, 2002).

“Vietnamese Marxism, Dissent, and the Politics of Postcolonial Memory: Tran Duc Thao, 1946-1993,” *Journal of Asian Studies* (February 2002): 7-37.

“Texts and Bodies: Refashioning the Disturbing Past of Tran Vietnam (1225-1400),” *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* (Leiden), November 1999.

“Printing and Power: Vietnamese Debates Over Women’s Place in Society, 1918-1934,” in Keith W. Taylor, editor, *Essays into Vietnamese Pasts*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell Southeast Asia Program, 1995.

“Imagining Human Liberation: Vietnamese Buddhists and the Marxist Critique of Religion, 1920-1939,” *Social Compass* 42(3), 1995.

Print and Online Reviews and Short Book Entries:

Featured Review (2,500 words) of Christopher Goscha, *The Road to Dien Bien Phu: A History of the First War for Vietnam* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2022), *The American Historical Review*, March 2022, pp. 407-10.

Review of *The Divine Eye and the Diaspora: Vietnamese Syncretism Becomes Transpacific Caodaism*. By Janet Alison Hoskins. (Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2015), *Journal of Asian Studies*, May 2019, Volume 78 / Issue 2, pp. 486 - 488.

"Saigon Descends into Chaos" and "Cochinchina: A Failed Revolution," entries in David Chandler, Robert Crib, and Li Narangoa, eds. *End of Empire: 100 Days in 1945 that Changed Asia and the World* (Copenhagen: NAAS Press, 2016). (online version at <https://www.endofempire.asia/>).

Shawn McHale, "Caught Between Propaganda and History," review of *Lịch sử Nam bộ Kháng chiến* (History of the Southern Resistance), edited by Hội Đồng Chỉ Đạo Biên Soạn Lịch Sử Nam Bộ Kháng Chiến, *Cold War International History Project*, October 2014 (<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/caught-between-propaganda-and-history>).

Online review of Peter Zinoman. "Nhan Van Giai Pham and Vietnamese Reform Communism." *Journal of Cold War Studies* 13:1 (Winter 2011) on H-DIPLO (<https://issforum.org/reviews/PDF/AR320.pdf>).

Online review of David G. Marr. *Vietnam: State, War, and Revolution (1945-1946)* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2013) on H-DIPLO (<https://issforum.org/roundtables/PDF/Roundtable-XV-36.pdf>) (June 2014).

Online Review of Jessica M. Chapman, *Cauldron of Resistance: Ngo Dinh Diem, the United States, and 1950s Southern Vietnam* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2013). 1 August 2013. New Mandala (<https://www.newmandala.org/book-review/review-of-cauldron-of-resistance-tlc-nmrev-lvi/>)

Online review of Li Tana, *Nguyen Cochinchina: Southern Vietnam in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century* (Ithaca: Cornell SEAP, 1998). H-NET Book Reviews (<https://networks.h-net.org/node/22055/reviews/22092/mchale-tana-nguyen-cochinchina-southern-vietnam-seventeenth-and>), September 1998.

Many earlier printed and online book reviews in *Asian Studies Review*; *Pacific Affairs*; *Journal of Vietnamese Studies*; *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*; *Journal of Asian Studies*; *Aséanie: Sciences humaines en Asie du Sud-Est*; *The Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*; *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*; *Education About Asia*; *Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, *H-NET Book Reviews*.

Short essays on "Vietnamese Historiography" and "Dao Duy Anh" in Daniel Woolf, ed., *A Global Encyclopedia of Historical Writing* (New York: Garland, 1998).

Podcasts, Media Op-Eds, Essays, and Reports

The First Vietnam War: Violence, Sovereignty, and the Fracture of the South, 1945-56, New Books Network podcast, December 1, 2021. Interviewed by Professor Patrick Jory, University of Queensland, Australia.

URL: <https://newbooksnetwork.com/the-first-vietnam-war>

"Why White Supremacists Still Glorify a Racist Alumnus", *GW Hatchet*, January 15th, 2014.

URL:

<https://www.gwhatchet.com/2014/01/15/op-ed-how-mandelas-death-revived-ideas-from-gw/>

"'Treason' on Trial? Political Repression, the Vietnamese State, and the Blogosphere in Vietnam Today." Sigur Center for Asian Studies, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University. January 14, 2010. (This lecture has been summarized in Vietnamese as "Thuyết trình về đối kháng chính trị" [Lecture on political opposition], BBC Vietnamese service January 17, 2010, which then was copied at numerous Vietnamese language websites around the world

(https://www.bbc.com/vietnamese/vietnam/2010/01/100117_trials_mchale_comment).

"Torture in Iraq: Lessons from Algeria," op-ed published by the History News Service. Appeared in a variety of newspapers, including *The Columbian* (Vancouver, WA), June 7; *The Wilmington Star News* (N.C.), June 18, 2004; *The Fredricksburg Lance-Star* (VA), June 19, 2004; *Gazette Sunday Mail* (Charleston, WVA) June 27, 2004, *Peoria Journal Star* (central Illinois), July 25, 2004. Available at <https://origins.osu.edu/history-news/torture-iraq-lessons-algeria>

"Abducted To America," *The Washington Post*, 4 January 2003

(<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/opinions/2003/01/04/abducted-to-america/324239db-96be-47b3-8000-d55693a97645/>)

I have been quoted by press outlets in Vietnam, Cambodia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Russia, Spain, the United Kingdom, Chile, and the United States (NPR, Radio Free Asia, and the Voice of America).

Selected List of Presentations:

Keynote Addresses:

"Barbarian Europe and Cosmopolitan Colonies? Understanding Colonial Public Spheres." Keynote address, conference on "Print Media in the Colonial World," Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK, April 16-17, 2015.

"Vietnam 1975 and its Legacy: Successful Unification, Problematic Reconciliation?" Co-keynote speech, "Unification of the Mind" conference on paths to Korean Re-Unification, sponsored by Emancipate North Koreans (ENOK) and North Koreans in the United States (NKUS), Arlington, VA June 21, 2013.

Invited Talks:

I have given invited talks in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Singapore, and Vietnam.

Book talk on *The First Vietnam War: Violence, Sovereignty, and the Fracture of the South*. March 10, 2022. Online. Fulbright University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

"Decolonization, Violence, and Institutional Collapse in the Mekong Delta, 1945-54." Conference on "Culture and Conflict," Arts and Humanities Research Council (UK) and the Library of Congress, Washington, DC, November 2015.

"Repenser le rôle des supplétifs dans les guerres d'Indochine et d'Algérie : Revendications identitaires et quête d'autonomie, 1945-62." [Rethinking the role of paramilitary forces in the wars for Indochina and Algeria: identity claims and the search for autonomy, 1945-62]. Presentation in French. Workshop on Colonialism and Decolonization: the Maghreb and Indochina, University of Québec at Montréal, October 3-4, 2014.

"Decolonization, Violence, and Sovereignty in an Out of the Way Place: The Western Mekong delta, 1945-54", Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Yale University. April 16, 2014.

"What Revolution Took Place in August 1945?" Conference on Revolution in Vietnam, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of California at Berkeley, November 11-12, 2011.

"Why are (some) Cambodians so anti-Vietnamese?" Wednesday Southeast Asia Forum, Johns Hopkins – SAIS, November 10, 2010.

“Cannibalism and Race Transformation in a Mekong Delta at War, 1945-52,” University of Wisconsin—Madison. July 1, 2009. An earlier version given at Calpoly – San Luis Obispo, May 17, 2007.

“Quan hệ Mỹ –Đông Nam Á: Quá khứ và tương lai” [US—Southeast Asian Relations, Past and Future]. Presented in Vietnamese. Center for Research on Vietnam and Southeast Asia, Vietnam National University – Social Sciences and Humanities, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, May 27, 2008.

“Religious Pluralism in Southeast Asia in Historical Perspective.” Conference on “Religion and the Rule of Law in Southeast Asia,” Institute of Religious Studies, Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences, Hanoi, Vietnam, November 3-4, 2007.

Other invited talks at Cornell University, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Berkeley, Yale, Duke University, Harvard University, Sciences-Po/ École Pratique des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris), University of Wisconsin-Madison, UCLA, University of Michigan, University of Washington, the University of Chicago, and the National University of Singapore.

Representative Talks at Professional Societies:

I have presented talks at conferences in the United States, Thailand, Vietnam, France, Canada, and the Netherlands.

“Buddhism in the Cambodian-Vietnamese Borderlands: Minh Đăng Quang and the Creation of a Mahayana-Theravada ‘Synthesis.’” Annual meeting, Association for Asian Studies. Honolulu, HI, March 25, 2022.

"The 1954 Assassination of Minh Đăng Quang, Founder of the Mendicant Order, and the Vagaries of Vietnamese Engagements with Cambodian Buddhism." Association for Asian Studies. Boston, March 20, 2020 (cancelled because of coronavirus).

"Sovereignty in a Time of Decolonization, 1945-1955." Association for Asian Studies, April 2, 2016.

“La violence corporelle dans le delta du Mékong” [Bodily violence in the Mekong delta], presentation at the Réseau Asie/ Asia Network conference, Paris (France), September 15, 2011.

“Rethinking Spatiality, Sovereignty, and Ethnic Conflict on the Mekong Delta Frontier, 1757-1945,” Annual conference, Association for Asian Studies, Honolulu, April 1, 2011. Earlier versions of this paper given at the University of California, Berkeley, April 2-3, 2010, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. September 11, 2009.

“Vietnamese, Africans, and Arabs: The First Indochina War (1945-54) and the Limits of Third-Worldism,” paper presented to the 2005 annual meeting of the Society for the History of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR), College Park, MD, June 23-25, 2005.

“African and Arab Colonial Soldiers in the First Indochina War: Probing the Limits of Third Worldist and Cold War Narratives,” Association for Asian Studies, Boston, March 23, 2007.

Selected Service to the Profession:

Outside discussant, manuscript workshop, for Kevin Li, "Entrepreneurs of Disorder: Gangsters, Revolutionaries, and Collaborators during the Decolonization of Vietnam, 1945-1955." Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University, 5 April 2021.

Outside evaluator for eight tenure cases and one third-year review.

Outside Dissertation Committee member in two cases (Yale University, 2008; Australian National University, 2020).

Service on panel to evaluate fellowship applications on Asia, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), summer 2017.

Member, Committee, Harry Benda Prize in Southeast Asian Studies, 2012-2015.

Outside evaluator of University of San Francisco Asian Studies Program, March 2010.

Member, International Editorial Board, *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, 2006-2012.

Elected Member, Executive Committee, Vietnam Studies Group, Association for Asian Studies, 1998-2001, 2007-2010.

Manuscript reviewer for *Sojourn* (Singapore); Cornell Southeast Asia Program publications; University of Hawaii Press; *Journal of Asian Studies* (multiple times); *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* (multiple times); *French Historical Studies*; *Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*; *War and Society* (multiple times); *Modern Asian Studies*;

Journal of Vietnamese Studies (multiple times); *Asian Studies Review* (Australia) (multiple times, last one in 2022).

Notable Service Outside the Profession:

Two to six lectures a year on Vietnam and Southeast Asia, Foreign Service Institute of the Department of State, most years from 1998 to 2020.

Collaborated with Terry Szuplat, speechwriter to President Barack Obama, by contributing cultural knowledge on Vietnam, and two critical translations, for Obama's speech in Hanoi, May 24, 2016.