

Cohort Year: 2014

Degrees:

M.A. Heilongjiang University, 2014, History

B.A. University of Florida, 2005, English

Curriculum Vitae

Advisors: Jeffrey Wasserstrom and Emily Baum

First Field: Modern China/East Asian History

Second Field: World History

Thematic Emphasis: Children and childhood in the twentieth century; uniformed youth movements

Dissertation Topic

My dissertation examines global youth militarization from the end of the first world war through the completion of the second, with an emphasis on young children living in Chinese Communist-held areas. By viewing militarization not only as a mechanism that prompted children to enlist in military service, but also as tropes employed by society to help children understand war and their place in it, I historicize the development of the Communist Children's League—an organization that orchestrated the daily lives of children aged seven to fifteen—within the context of interwar globalization, national revolution, and world-wide conflict.

I engage with the growing body of literature that uses age as a category of historical analysis. While age is more mutable and less encompassing of our identities, like gender it has performative, institutional, symbolic, subjective, and normative functions. Like gender, age is also a social construct with historic variability across geographic and temporal boundaries. As a category of analysis, age possesses its own unique perspectives. It reinforces a system of power relationships and carries with it, in the case of children, assumptions of immaturity, irresponsibility, and incomplete development, or, in the case of the elderly, enfeeblement, decrepitude, and loss of virility and fertility. That most historians today would agree that including gender in our historical narratives is imperative, the same is not yet said about age.

Grants and Fellowships

University of California, Irvine, Charles and Ann Quilter Grant (2015)

University of California, Irvine, Center of Asian Studies Research Support Grant (2015)

Hoover Institution Silas Palmer Research Fellowship (2015)

Stanford East Asia Library Travel Grant (2015)

University of California, Irvine, Regents' Fellowship (2014-15)

China Scholarship Council, Full Scholarship for M.A. Studies (2011-14)

Conferences

AAS-in-Asia Conference, Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan (June 2016)

"Reimagining the Child: Next Steps in the Study of Childhood(s)," Rutgers University, Camden, New Jersey (April 2016)

Berkeley-Stanford Graduate Student Conference in Modern Chinese Humanities, University of California, Berkeley (April 2016)

Western Conference at the Association for Asian Studies, University of Utah, Salt Lake City (October 2015)

"Life Strategies, Identity Formations, and Political Crises in Socialist China, 1949-1989," University of California, San Diego (June 2015)

Personal Website

www.KyleEDavid.com