Shirley Chan
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Biography

Dr Shirley Chan is Associate Professor in Global Cultures and Languages at Macquarie University. Trained in Sinology and International Studies, with undergraduate formation under Pierre Ryckmans (Simon Leys) and doctoral supervision under Derek Herforth, she works at the intersection of Chinese political philosophy, intellectual history, and cultural thought. Her current research examines crisis and leadership from a Chinese cultural perspective, with particular attention to how China's philosophical traditions conceptualise governance, responsibility, and social order.
Her work has received national and international recognition through both scholarly research and public engagement. She has contributed to media and educational platforms including the BBC (UK), ABC, SBS, MOOCs, and Coursera, and has delivered invited lectures at museums, cultural institutions, and universities in Australia and internationally.
Dr Chan has held competitive international fellowships and visiting appointments at Columbia University, the University of Cambridge, the University of Bern, Tsinghua University, National Taiwan University, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She has served as President of the Chinese Studies Association of Australia and has held editorial roles with leading journals including the *Journal of the Oriental Society of Australia*, *Bamboo and Silk*, and the *Journal of Chinese Philosophy*.
Through her research, teaching, and public engagement, she contributes to a deeper understanding of Chinese culture in global contexts and to dialogue across cultures, traditions, and communities. She welcomes enquiries from prospective HDR students and researchers working in related areas.

Qualifications

PhD in Sinology and the History of Ideas, with research expertise in classical Chinese philosophy, Early Confucianism, and Chinese intellectual history., University of Sydney
1995 → 2001

Master of International Studies, Department of Government and Public Administration, University of Sydney

BA (Asian Studies), Chinese Studies, Social Antropology, Japanese Studies, University of Sydney

1 Jan 2018 HDR Supervision Orientation 2018-2020, HDR30

28 Feb 2014 HDR Supervision Training (Historic Record), HDR99

7 Aug 2013 HDR Supervision Training (Historic Record), HDR99

26 Oct 2011 HDR Supervision Training (Historic Record), HDR99

4 May 2011 HDR Supervision Training (Historic Record), HDR99

1 Jan 2009 HDR Supervision Training (Historic Record), HDR99

Research output

Reimagining transport decarbonisation through Daoism: governance, modelling, and attunement
Chan, T. H. Y., Tsoi, K. H. & Chan, S., Oct 2026, In: Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice. 212, p. 1-20 20 p., 105142.

Into the Parallage: harnessing abundance, plurality and divergence in AI translation of ancient texts
Baker, G., Chan, S., Raido, V. E. & Hawes, G., 27 Jul 2026. 4 p.

Statecraft as a living body: responding to crisis and (dis)order in the Lüshi Chunqiu
Chan, S., 2 Mar 2025, (Accepted/In press) *Dao Companion to the Lüshi Chunqiu.* Sellmann, J. D. & Jacoby, M. (eds.). Cham, Switzerland: Springer, Springer Nature, 40 p. (Dao Companions to Chinese Philosophy).

延續不朽: 郭店楚簡的書寫與權威
Chan, S., 13 Feb 2025, (Accepted/In press) In: HKU Journal of Chinese Studies. 3, 1, 22 p.

《郭店楚竹书老子校注》评介
Chan, S., 26 Jun 2024, (Accepted/In press) *遠影碧空集*. Hubei Education Press, p. 133-136 3 p.

通過出土文獻思考人性與文化建構
Chan, S., Jun 2024, (Accepted/In press) In: 道家文化研究 = Daojia Wenhua Yanjiu (Taoist Culture Research). 36, 18 p.

Chinese studies in Australia: an Antipodean school of education and research
Chey, J. & Chan, S., 1 Apr 2024, (Accepted/In press) *How Australia is studied in China.* Hu, R. & Hu, D. (eds.). London ; New York: Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group, p. 144-159 16 p. (Routledge Contemporary China Series).

Texts, historicity and metaphors in early China: reading Tang Resides Near the Mound of Tang (Tang chuyu Tangqiu 湯處於湯丘) in the Tsinghua collection of Warring States bamboo manuscripts
Chan, S., 2024, *Metaphor and meaning: thinking through early China with Sarah Allan.* Cook, C. A., Foster, C. J. & Blader, S. (eds.). Albany, USA: State University of New York Press, p. 163-188 26 p. (SUNY series in Chinese Philosophy and Culture).

Humour as rhetorical discourse in ancient Chinese philosophy: the works of Mencius
Chan, S., 2022, *Humour in Asian cultures: tradition and context.* Davis, J. M. (ed.). London ; New York: Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group, p. 19-39 21 p. (Routledge Studies on Asia in the World).

Texts, historicity and metaphor in early China: reading "Tang Resides Near the Mound of Tang" (Tang Chuyu Tangqiu 湯處於湯丘) in the Tsinghua Collection of the Warring States (475–221 BCE) Bamboo Manuscripts
Chan, S. W., Sept 2020, (Accepted/In press) *Thinking about early China with Sarah Allan.* Cook, C., Foster, C. & Blader, S. (eds.). Albany, New York: State University of New York Press, p. 689-720 32 p.

From nothing to something: Reading the Shanghai Museum's *Hengxian* 恆先 (Constancy, at the Outset)
Chan, S., Apr 2020, *Reading through recovered ancient Chinese manuscripts.* Chan, S. (ed.). Sydney: Oriental Society of Australia, p. 19-40 22 p.

Preface
Chan, S., Apr 2020, *Reading through recovered ancient Chinese manuscripts.* Chan, S. (ed.). Sydney: Oriental Society of Australia, p. vii-xvi 10 p.

Reading through recovered ancient Chinese manuscripts
Chan, S. (Editor), Apr 2020, Sydney: Oriental Society of Australia. 360 p.

A British legacy or modern university crisis? Chinese studies in Australian universities
Chan, S., 22 Feb 2019, (Accepted/In press) *Colonial legacies and contemporary studies of China and Chineseness: unlearning binaries, strategizing self.* Shih, C.-Y. (ed.). Singapore: World Scientific Publishing, 25 p.

Dao companion to the excavated Guodian bamboo manuscripts
Chan, S. (Editor), 2019, Cham, Switzerland: Springer, Springer Nature. 375 p. (Dao Companions to Chinese Philosophy; vol. 10)

Daoist nature or Confucian nurture: moral development in the *Yucong* 語叢 (*Thicket of Sayings*)
Chan, S., 2019, *Dao companion to the excavated Guodian bamboo manuscripts.* Chan, S. (ed.). Cham, Switzerland: Springer, Springer Nature, p. 259-283 25 p. (Dao Companions to Chinese Philosophy; vol. 10).

Introduction: the excavated Guodian 郭店 bamboo manuscripts
Chan, S., 2019, *Dao companion to the excavated Guodian bamboo manuscripts.* Chan, S. (ed.). Cham, Switzerland: Springer, Springer Nature, p. 1-17 17 p. (Dao Companions to Chinese Philosophy; vol. 10).

Xing 性 and Qing 情: human nature and moral cultivation in the Guodian text *Xing zi ming chu* 性自命出 (*Nature Derives from Endowment*)
Chan, S., 2019, *Dao companion to the excavated Guodian bamboo manuscripts.* Chan, S. (ed.). Cham, Switzerland: Springer, Springer Nature, p. 213-237 25 p. (Dao Companions to Chinese Philosophy; vol. 10).

Shenti yu zhiguo: 身體與治國: Shidu Qinghuajian "Taizai Chimen" Jianlun ji 試讀清華簡《湯在啻門》兼論「疾」
Chan, S., 2018, (Accepted/In press) *Human Nature, Morality, and Fate in the Tsinghua University Bamboo Manuscripts, Ming xun 命訓, Tang chu yu Tangqiu 湯處於湯丘, Tang zai Chimen 湯在 啻門, and Yin Gaozong wen yu san shou 殷高宗問於三壽: 人性、道德與命運:《清華大學藏戰國竹簡》中的《命訓》、《湯處於湯丘》、《湯在 啻門》與《殷高宗問於三壽》*. Allan, S. & Lüdke, M. (eds.). Shanghai: Shanghai Zhongxi Book Company, 11 p.

從天道到人道: 中國出土竹書的視野
Chan, S., 2018, *出土文獻與中國古典學*. Centre for Excavated Texts and Philology, F. U. & Yale-NUS College, C. F. S. (eds.). Shanghai: Shanghai Zhongxi Book Company, p. 321-327 7 p.

Eastern Zhou (770–256 BC)
Chan, S., 2017, *Encyclopedia of Chinese history*. Dillon, M. (ed.). London ; New York: Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group, p. 175 1 p.

Zhongyong
Chan, S., 2017, *Encyclopedia of Chinese history*. Dillon, M. (ed.). London ; New York: Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group, p. 820-821 2 p.

Zhou Gong (?–1032 BC?)
Chan, S., 2017, *Encyclopedia of Chinese history*. Dillon, M. (ed.). London ; New York: Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group, p. 825-826 2 p.

Zhou Li
Chan, S., 2017, *Encyclopedia of Chinese history*. Dillon, M. (ed.). London ; New York: Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group, p. 824-825 2 p.

如琢如磨: 《論語》中的人性與道德修養
Chan, S., 2017, *極高明而道中庸: 四書的思想世界* . Cheng, Z. & Liang, T. (eds.). Beijing: Chinese Social Sciences Press, p. 221-232 12 p.

From cosmology to humanity: a perspective from the recovered bamboo manuscripts in China
Chan, S., 2016, *Learning from the Other: Australian and Chinese perspectives on philosophy*. Makeham, J. (ed.). Canberra: Australian Academy of the Humanities, p. 81-89 9 p.

論《恆先》篇"恆"的概念與政治思想
Chan, S., 2016, *顯微闡幽: 古典文獻的探故與求新*. Liao, M. C., Zhong, Q. C., Li, R. & Huang, T. T. (eds.). Guangzhou, China: Shantou University Press, p. 55-64 10 p.

Shendu and qingdu: Reading the recovered bamboo and silk manuscripts
Chan, S. & Lee, D., 27 Jan 2015, In: Frontiers of Philosophy in China. 10, 1, p. 4-20 17 p.

Lin Yutang: reinterpreting the ancients for moderns
Chan, S. & Lee, D., 2015, In: Journal of the Oriental Society of Australia. 47, p. 116-137 22 p.

Oneness: reading the "All things are flowing in form (Fan Wu Liu Xing) 凡物流形" (with a translation)
Chan, S., 2015, In: International communication of Chinese culture. 2, 3, p. 285-299 15 p.

Philosophy on bamboo: text and the production of meaning in early China
Chan, S., 2014, In: Journal of Chinese studies. 59, p. 247-252 6 p.

Ruzhuo rumo: Lunyu zhong de renxing yu daode xiuyang
Chan, S., 2014, In: Zhongguo zhe xue shi = History of Chinese philosophy. 2014, 4, p. 12-19 8 p.

Willow catkins: Festschrift for Dr Lily Xiao Hong Lee on the occasion of her 75th birthday
Chan, S. (Editor), Hendrischke, B. (Editor) & Wiles, S. (Editor), 2014, Sydney: Oriental Society of Australia. 402 p.

天、人、性: 讀郭店楚簡與上博竹簡
Chan, S., Liao, M.-C. & Li, R., 2014, Shanghai: Shanghai Classics Publishing House. 284 p.

Introduction: Discovering and rediscovering the *Four Books*
Chan, S., Jun 2013, In: Journal of Chinese Philosophy. 40, 2, p. 224-233 10 p.

保君德訓向"中"求: 讀清華簡《保訓》
Chan, S., 2013, *簡帛·經典·古史*. Chen, Z. (ed.). Shanghai: Shanghai Classics Publishing House, p. 209-216 8 p.

Zhong (sic) and Ideal Rulership in the Baoxun (sic) (Instructions for Preservation) Text of the Tsinghua Collection of Bamboo Slip Manuscripts
Chan, S., Jun 2012, In: Dao. 11, 2, p. 129-145 17 p.

Cosmology, society, and humanity: Tian in the Guodian texts (part II)
Chan, S., Mar 2012, In: Journal of Chinese Philosophy. 39, 1, p. 106-120 15 p.

Equilibrium in classical Confucian “Economy”
Chan, S., 2012, In: Open journal of philosophy. 2, 2, p. 100-106 7 p.

Polishing the jade: 'Xing' (human nature) and moral cultivation in the Analects
Chan, S., 2012, In: Journal of the Oriental Society of Australia. 44, p. 16-40 25 p.

Cosmology, society, and humanity: Tian in the Guodian texts (part I)
Chan, S., Dec 2011, In: Journal of Chinese Philosophy. 38, Suppl. 1, p. 64-77 14 p.

Rethinking early Chinese thought
Chan, S., Oct 2011, In: Asian Studies Association of Australia (ASAA) e-bulletin . October 2011, p. 19-22 3 p.

Guodian chu zhushu Laozi jiaozhu (Annotated commentaries of the Laozi from the Guodian Chu Bamboo Slips)
Chan, S., 2011, In: Journal of the Oriental Society of Australia. 43, p. 177-181 5 p.

Identifying daoist humour: Reading the Liezi
Chan, S., 2011, *Humour in Chinese Life and Letters.* Chey, J. & Davis, J. M. (eds.). Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, HKU, Vol. 1. p. 73-88 16 p.

A Reassessment of Early Confucianism in Light of Newly Excavated Manuscripts
Chan, S., 2010, In: China Review International: a journal of reviews of scholarly literature in Chinese studies. 16, 3, p. 304-308 5 p.

Exegesis of the Baoxun Text in the bamboo slip manuscripts acquired by Tsinghua University
Liao, M. & Chan, S., 2010, In: Zhongguo zhe xue shi = History of Chinese philosophy. 2010, 3, p. 5-13 9 p.

Guodian Chujian de tian ren guan xi ji 'Ming' de han yi
Chan, S., 2010, *Chu di jian bo si xiang yan jiu: di si ji = Studies of the bamboo and silk manuscripts from the Chu.* Ding, S. & Xia, S. (eds.). Wuhan, China: Chong wen shu ju, Vol. 4. p. 52-71 20 p.

Human nature and moral cultivation in the Guodian (Chinese source) text of the Xing Zi Ming Chu (Chinese source) (Nature Derives from Mandate)

Chan, S., Nov 2009, In: Dao. 8, 4, p. 361-382 22 p.

The ruler/ruled relationship in the Ziyi (Black Robe) contained in the newly excavated guodian chu slip-texts
Chan, S., 2009, In: Journal of Asian History. 43, 1, p. 19-30 12 p.

Guodian chu jian zhong "Ziyi" de zheng zhi si wei - yu Rujia Lunyu he Mengzi de bi jiao
Chan, S., 2007, *Chu di chu tu jian bo wen xian si xiang yan jiu.* Sixin, D. (ed.). Hubei, China: Hubei Education Press, Vol. 3. p. 501-508 8 p.

The Confucian Shi, official service, and the Confucian Analects
Chan, S., 2004, Lewiston, New York: The Edwin Mellen Press. (Chinese studies; vol. 38)

Bai Shuxiang
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 12-13 2 p.

Bai Yushuang
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 16-18 3 p.

Ding Guoxian
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 137-138 2 p.

Fan Ruijuan
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 160-162 3 p.

Gong Li
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 175-178 4 p.

Gu Yuezhen
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 186-188 3 p.

Hongxian Nu
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 214-215 2 p.

Liu Xiaoqing
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 363-365 3 p.

Ruan Lingyu
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 435-437 3 p.

Teng Li-chun
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 513-514 2 p.

The Fundamental system of thought in the Confucian Analects
Chan, S. W., 2003, *Ru xue yu shi jie wen ming: guo ji xue shu hui yi lun wen xuan ji = Confucianism and world civilization.* Chen, R. (ed.). Singapore: National University of Singapore, Vol. 2. p. 985-1001 17 p.

Xia Juhua
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 571-571
1 p.

Xu Yulan
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 604-606
3 p.

Yan Fengying
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 609-610
2 p.

Yan Huizhu
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 610-611
2 p.

Yuan Xuefen
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 656-658
3 p.

Zhang Quan
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 693-694
2 p.

Zhao Yanxia
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 703-704
2 p.

Zhou Shun
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 712-713
2 p.

Zhu Lin
Chan, S., 2003, *Biographical Dictionary of Chinese Women.* Lily Xiao Hong Lee (ed.). New York: M. E. Sharpe, p. 721-723
3 p.

Awards

Projects

Ancient Cultures Research Centre (MQACRC)
Neil, B. (Primary Chief Investigator), Choat, M. (Chief Investigator), Behlmer-Loprieno, H. (Chief Investigator), Chan, S. (Chief Investigator), Kanawati, N. (Chief Investigator), Evans, T. (Chief Investigator), Evans, L. (Chief Investigator), Gillett, A. (Chief Investigator), Gore, D. (Chief Investigator), McKechnie, P. (Chief Investigator), Kohler, C. (Chief Investigator), Mikkelsen, G. (Chief Investigator), Ockinga, B. (Chief Investigator), Parry, K. (Chief Investigator) & Sheedy, K. (Chief Investigator)
1/01/09 → …

MQRC: Centre for Ancient Cultural Heritage and Environment (CACHE) - MQRC 2019
Power, R. (Chief Investigator), Sowada, K. (Centre Deputy Director), Ens, E. (Centre Deputy Director), Keegan, P. (Chief Investigator), Choat, M. (Chief Investigator), Salvemini, F. (Chief Investigator), Davis, G. (Chief Investigator), Sheedy, K. (Chief Investigator), Neil, B. (Director), Herberstein, M. (Chief Investigator), Carthey, A. (Chief Investigator), Evans, L. (Chief Investigator), Pryke, L. (Chief Investigator), Kotarba, A. (Chief Investigator), Ralph, T. (Chief Investigator), O'Gorman, E. (Chief Investigator), Worthington, I. (Chief Investigator), Alvarez-Mon, J. (Chief Investigator), Ockinga, B. (Chief Investigator), Keimer, K. (Chief Investigator), Anagnostou, E. (Chief Investigator), Beness, L. (Chief Investigator),

Yuen-Collingridge, R. (Chief Investigator), Gore, D. (Chief Investigator), Sowada, K. (Chief Investigator), Chan, S. (Chief Investigator), Binder, S. (Chief Investigator), Woods, A. (Chief Investigator), Hardtke, F. (Associate Investigator), Di Biase-Dyson, C. (Associate Investigator), Mourad-Cizek, A.-L. (Associate Investigator), Westaway, K. (Associate Investigator), Handley, H. (Associate Investigator), Haynes, P. (Associate Investigator), Rampe, M. (Associate Investigator), Lupack, S. (Associate Investigator), Murray, T. (Associate Investigator), Ross, S. (Associate Investigator), Kosnik, M. (Associate Investigator), Russell, S. (Associate Investigator), Miller, F. (Associate Investigator), McLean, J. (Associate Investigator), Houston, D. (Associate Investigator), Collinson, I. (Associate Investigator), Suchet-Pearson, S. (Associate Investigator) & Taylor, M. (Associate Investigator)
1/01/19 → 31/12/22

China Knowledge: Intellectual history of China studies/Sinology in Asia, Australia and New Zealand
Chan, S. (Primary Chief Investigator), Keating, P. (Primary Chief Investigator) & Shih, C.-Y. (Primary Chief Investigator)
1/08/17 → 1/08/20

Conceptualizing Crisis in Chinese Culture (Li Chinese Studies Fund)
Chan, S. (Primary Chief Investigator)
1/10/25 → 31/12/29

Crisis in Early China
Chan, S. (Primary Chief Investigator)
15/11/25 → 15/07/26

Crisis management in ancient Chinese mythology
Chan, S. (Primary Chief Investigator)
9/06/23 → 28/02/25

Early Chinese Thought in the Newly Discovered Ancient Bamboo Manuscripts
Chan, S. W. (Primary Chief Investigator)
1/07/10 → 30/06/12

Into the Parallage: harnessing AI abundance in translation tasks
Hawes, G. (Primary Chief Investigator), Baker, G. (Chief Investigator), Jower, G. (Research Assistant), Enriquez Raido, V. (Primary Chief Investigator) & Chan, S. (Chief Investigator)
1/03/26 → 1/03/27

Nature and Virtue: Chinese Cosmology in the Newly Recovered Ancient Bamboo Slip Manuscripts
Chan, S. W. (Primary Chief Investigator)
12/07/15 → 11/01/16

The Warring States (475-221 BC) Bamboo Manuscripts and Early Chinese Thought
Chan, S. W. (Primary Chief Investigator)
1/01/12 → 30/06/12

Translation and interpretation of the confucian texts in the excavated 4th century BCE Guodian chu bamboo slip from China
Chan, S. W. (Primary Chief Investigator)
1/07/09 → 30/07/11