

David Jonathan Felt

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EMPLOYMENT

2022 Associate Professor of History at Brigham Young University (BYU)
2016 Assistant Professor of History at Brigham Young University
2014 Assistant Professor of History at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VT)

EDUCATION

2014 Ph.D., Stanford University, History
2008 M.A., University of Colorado at Boulder (CU), Chinese Language and Literature
2005 B.A., Brigham Young University, History, Magna Cum Laude with University Honors

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

2021 *Structures of the Earth: Metageographies of Early Medieval China*
(Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2022 “‘Truly a Distant and Dark Realm’: The Rinan-Linyi Borderland in the *Shuijing zhu*,” *East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine* 54, 238–67
2019 “Local Geographies and Ecumenical Regionalism,” *Chūgoku shigaku* 中國史學 (Studies in Chinese History) 29: 1–35
2017 “Metageography of the Northern and Southern Dynasties,” *T’oung Pao* 103.4–5: 334–387
2014 “Emotional Regime of the *Shishuo xinyu*,” *Early Medieval China Journal* 20: 60–82

Translations of Primary Sources

- 2026 “Selections from *Commentary on the Classic of Rivers*” in *China’s Environmental History: A Reader* (New York: Columbia University Press)

Translations of Secondary Scholarship

- 2019 “Local Society,” by Hou Xudong, trans. by David Jonathan Felt, in *Cambridge History of China*, Volume 2: *Six Dynasties* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press), 460–79.

Public Scholarship Publications

- 2023 “Power, Identity, and Maps: The Ancient East Asian Maps Collection at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Demonstrates the Power Held and Discursive Work Done by Mapmakers,” *JSTOR Daily*, Nov. 16

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

- 2025 Panel Respondent for “The Structuring Current and Transformative Interfaces: Water Experienced and Represented in (and beyond) Medieval China,” Medieval Academy of America, Cambridge, MA, March 22
- 2025 “Mark Edward Lewis and *The Construction of Space in Early China*,” Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Columbus, OH, March 15
- 2025 Panel Respondent for “Experiencing Water in Premodern China,” Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Columbus, OH, March 14
- 2020 “‘Truly and Distant and Dark Realm’: The Rinan-Linyi Borderland in the *Shuijing zhu*,” at Locality and Geographical Knowledge in Imperial China Workshop at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, Germany, July 1
- 2019 “Postimperial Metageographies of Early Medieval China” at Western Branch of the American Oriental Society Annual Conference, Davis, CA, Oct 26
- 2019 “*Shuijing zhu* on Southeast Asia” at Early Medieval China Group Mini-Conference, Denver, CO, March 21
- 2017 “Myth and Local Geographies” at Western Branch of the American Oriental Society Annual Conference, Tempe, AZ, Oct 20
- 2017 “The Development of Geographical Writing in the Six Dynasties,” at Designing Space: The Exercise of the Spatial Imagination in Pre-Modern China, Pittsburg, PA, May 26
- 2017 “Mountains in Early Medieval Culture” at Early Medieval China Group Mini-Conference, Toronto, Canada, March 16
- 2016 “He Chengtian’s ‘Essay on Securing the Border’ from the *Song shu*,” at Literary and Historical Approaches to Fifth Century Documents, Elling Eide Center, Sarasota, FL, Dec 10

- 2016 “The *Huayang guozhi* and Polycentric Ecumenicalism,” at Southeast Early China Roundtable Annual Conference, Charleston, SC, Oct 29
- 2016 “Two ‘Central Realms’: The World Model of the *Shuijing zhu*,” at American Oriental Society Annual Conference, Boston, MA, March 18
- 2015 “World Model of the *Shuijing zhu*,” at Southeast Early China Roundtable Annual Conference, Knoxville, TN, Nov 1
- 2015 “Metageography of the Northern and Southern Dynasties,” at Western Branch of the American Oriental Society Annual Conference, Boulder, CO, Oct 9
- 2015 “Supporting Early Career University Teachers: Group Mentoring to Build Confidence, Skills, and Community,” at 2015 Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, February 6
- 2014 “Development of Geographical Writing in the Six Dynasties,” at Southeast Early China Roundtable Annual Conference, Chapel Hill, NC, Nov 1
- 2013 “The Syncretistic Worldview of the *Shuijing zhu*,” at Western Branch of the American Oriental Society Annual Conference, Victoria, Canada, Oct 4
- 2013 “Post-Imperial Geography of the Northern and Southern Dynasties,” at Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, March 23

Panel Organizer

- 2016 “Empires of the North: Society, Religion, and Geography in the Northern Wei and Northern Zhou” at American Oriental Society Annual Conference, Boston, MA, March 18

Invited Scholarly Presentations

- 2019 “Postimperial Metageographies of Early Medieval China,” China Humanities Seminar, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, Sept 16
- 2017 “The Empire and the Ecumene: Regionalism after the Han Empire” at Workshop Series: ARCS: Asian Representations and Constructions of Space at Stanford University, Stanford, CA, Oct 26
- 2016 “De-centering the Middle Kingdom: Metageographies of Early Medieval China (ca. 200-600 CE),” University of Indiana, Bloomington, IN, Jan 21.
- 2015 “De-centering the Middle Kingdom: Metageographies of Early Medieval China (ca. 200-600 CE),” Brigham Young University, Provo, UT, Dec 9.
- 2015 “Decline and Fall of the Roman and Han Empires: Comparative Transitions of Late Antiquity in the Chinese and Mediterranean Worlds,” The Citadel, Charleston, SC, Nov 5
- 2014 “De-centering the Middle Kingdom: Writing Geography in Early Medieval China,” Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, January 23
- 2014 “De-centering the Middle Kingdom: Writing Geography in Early Medieval China,” Ball State University, Muncie, IN, January 14

Educational Outreach Presentations

- 2021 “Why Be a History Major,” panel discussion for National History Day, Utah Division of State History, April 23

- 2021 “The Historical Mulan,” Phi Alpha Theta hosted public lecture, Feb 11
 2019 “Chinese History: Myths and Reality” at Utah Council of Social Sciences
 Conference, West Jordan, UT, Nov 2
 2019 “Xi’an and Beijing,” lecture for National and International Student Teacher
 Program at BYU, May 9

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2017 Course Development Grant, Faculty Development Center, BYU
 2015–17 Assistant Professor Mentoring Grant, VT
 2016 Niles Research Grant, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAHS), VT
 2013–14 Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
 2013–14 Weter Fellowship, Stanford University Department of History
 2013 Stanford University Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) Summer Grant
 2012–13 Freeman Spogli Institute (FSI) for International Studies Dissertation
 Fellowship in Chinese Studies
 2012–13 Stanford University History Department Distinguished Scholar
 2008–13 Bell Family Stanford University Fellowship
 2009 Stanford University Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) Summer Grant
 2007 CU Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship
 2006–08 CU Dept. of East Asian Languages and Civilization Scholarship
 2005–06 Earhart Foundation Fellowship

TEACHING AWARDS & CERTIFICATES

- 2022 Martin B. Hickman FHSS Excellence in Teaching Award
 2012 Certificate in Teaching World History, Department of History, Stanford
 2008 Graduate Teacher Certificate, Graduate Teacher Program, CU
 2007 “The Best Should Teach” Silver Award, CU

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant/Associate Professor at BYU

- HIST 201: World Civilizations to 1500
- HIST 231: Intro to East Asian History
- HIST 340: Traditional China
- HIST 342: The Mongol Empire
- HIST 349: Asian Religion and Thought
- HIST 490: Capstone Research Seminar: Imperialism
- HIST 490: Capstone Research Seminar: Encounters with East Asia
- UNIV 101: BYU Foundations for Student Success

Assistant Professor at VT

HIST 2124: Issues in World History: The Mongols in World History

HIST 2355: Chinese History to 1600

HIST 2984: World History to 1500

Instructor at Stanford

HIST 92S: Sources and Methods: What is China, Who are Chinese?: Cultural Identity in Ancient and Medieval China

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**Leadership**

2020-23 Member of Board of Directors, Early Medieval China Group

Book Reviews

- 2024 “*The Art of Terrestrial Diagrams in Early China* by Michelle H. Wang, *The Portolan*, 120.2, 58–59
- 2024 *Ancient World Cultures: Their Lives, Lands, and Legends*, Five Ponds Press, 1st ed. 2017, 2nd ed. 2025
- 2023 “Local and Borderland Spaces in Early China,” a review of Maxim Korolkov’s *The Imperial Network in Ancient China*, Brian Lander’s *The King’s Harvest*, Ruth Mostern’s *The Yellow River*, Garret Olberding’s *Designing Boundaries in Early China*, in *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 82.2: 117–31.
- 2022 “*East Asian Cartographic Print Culture: The Late Ming Publishing Boom and its Trans-Regional Connections* by Alex Akin,” *China Review International* 27.2, 95–99
- 2018 “*Urbanization in Early and Medieval China: Gazetteers for the City of Suzhou* by Olivia Milburn,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 138.2: 442–43

UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENT SERVICE

- 2024-26 College Space Committee
- 2024-25 Department Search Committee
- 2022–24 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Committee
- 2020–24 Faculty-Student Mentorship Coordinator
- 2023 MC for Asian Studies Student Symposium, Provo, UT, Nov 4
- 2017–20 Phi Alpha Theta co-advisor, BYU
- 2016–17 Student Awards and Scholarship Committee, BYU
- 2015–16 Undergraduate Committee, Dept. of History, VT
- 2015 Chair, The Historians Writing Group, VT
- 2014 Co-author, course proposal for *Topics in Chinese History*, VT

2014–15 The Historians Writing Group, VT
2014–15 The Teaching Mentoring/Support Group, VT
2014 Co-author, course proposal for *Intro to World History* sequence, VT