

Wei N. Gan

Department of Anthropology
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EDUCATION

- (expected) 2025 Ph.D., Anthropology
 Princeton University
 Dissertation: *Funding Asian America: Philanthroactivism, Racial Empowerment, and the Price of Justice*
 Committee: Julia Elyachar, João G. Biehl, Elizabeth A. Davis
- 2009 B.A., Cultural Anthropology, Psychology, Human Development
 Duke University
 Graduation with Distinction; *cum laude*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Philanthropy; social impact; nonprofit organizations; advocacy and activism; humanitarianism; economic anthropology; anthropology of ethics; memory; citizenship; speculative futures; Asian America; United States; China

PUBLICATIONS

- 2019 Xing, J. and Wei N. Gan. "China's *Shan'er dai*: The Formation and Transformation of Philanthropy." *China Nonprofit Review* 11, no. 2 (2019): 235-257.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Princeton University

- 2020-2023 Doctoral Dissertation Field Research, supervised by João Biehl and Julia Elyachar
- Conduct ethnographic fieldwork in Washington, D.C., among Chinese American and Asian American philanthropic, nonprofit, social justice, and advocacy organizations
 - Conduct ethnographic fieldwork via digital and virtual platforms with philanthropic, nonprofit, and other organizations in the social and impact sectors
- 2018-2019 Pre-Dissertation Field Research, supervised by João Biehl and Julia Elyachar
- Conducted ethnographic fieldwork in New York, NY; Beijing, China; Nanjing, China; and Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, among Chinese and Chinese American philanthropic, nonprofit, and civil organizations

Duke University

- 2008-2009 Senior thesis, “‘Conspiracy Theory’: Ethical Projects and Orders of Truth,” supervised by Katherine Ewing, Elizabeth Davis, and Heather Settle
- Produced ethnography of conspiracy theorists using participant-observation, interviews, and digital and archival research
 - Conducted fieldwork in Austin, Dallas, and Houston, TX
- 2008 Final project, “North Carolina Stop Torture Now: To the Community of Humanity”
- Conducted ethnographic research with NCSTN, a Raleigh, NC, activist organization fighting and raising awareness of extraordinary rendition
- 2007 Final project, “Negotiating Uncertainty”
- Conducted ethnographic research at John Umstead Psychiatric Hospital in Butner, NC

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Princeton University

Assistant Instructor

- Fall 2024 Introduction to Anthropology (Instructor: Glenn H. Shepard, Jr.)
- Fall 2022 Ethnography, Evidence, Experience (Instructor: Durba Chattaraj)
- Spring 2021 The Ethnographer’s Craft (Instructor: Laurence Ralph)
- Fall 2020 Introduction to Anthropology (Instructor: Agustín Fuentes)

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

	<i>Princeton University</i>
2023	Dean's Completion Fellowship
2017-2020; 2021-2023	Princeton University Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences
2020-2021	Mr. and Mrs. Yan Huo *94*95 Graduate Fellowship
	<i>Duke University</i>
2009	Judith McDade Prize for the most distinguished record in the major of Cultural Anthropology
2005-2009	University Scholars Program

CONFERENCES AND PAPER PRESENTATIONS

2024	<i>American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting</i> , Tampa, Nov 22 "Soliciting Sentiment: Between Anthropology, Philanthropy, and Racial Justice"
2023	<i>American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting</i> , Toronto, ON, Nov 18 "Funding racial justice: philanthroactivism in Asian America"
2023	<i>Society for Economic Anthropology, Annual Meeting</i> , Northwestern University, May 20 "Claiming Power: Philanthropy and Asian American Activism"
2023	<i>American Ethnological Society, Annual Spring Conference</i> , Princeton University, March 25 "Philanthropy, Asian American Activism, and the Moral Indeterminacy of Capital"
2022	<i>American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting</i> , Seattle, Nov 10 & 11 "Sponsor-ability: Corporate Philanthropy and Fundraising for Asian American Nonprofits" "Conversations across generations: Anthropology in times of crisis, then and now" (Roundtable Discussant)
2022	<i>European Association of Social Anthropologists, Biennial Conference</i> , Queen's University Belfast, July 27 (Virtual) "Claiming Power: The Asian American Foundation and Political Empowerment through Philanthropy"
2021	<i>American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting</i> , Baltimore, Nov 18 & 17 "From Being Marginalized to Being the Margin of Victory: Becoming (Asian) American Through Legislation and Policy" "Philanthropy and Social Finance in China" (Organizer/Chair/Discussant)

- 2019 *American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting*, Vancouver, BC, Nov 20
“Chinese “public interest:” social value and the emergent political”
- 2018 *American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting*, San Jose, Nov 15
“Spirit of Charity: The Moral Economy of Chinese Philanthrocapitalism”
- 2009 *American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA, Dec 4
(Invited) “First Rites: Innovative Undergraduate Research in Anthropology”

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- 2009-2010; American Anthropological Association
2017-present
2018-present Society for Economic Anthropology

NONPROFIT AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION EXPERIENCE

- 2022-2023 **Deputy Executive Director**
2021-2022 **Project Director**
1882 Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- 2021-2023 **Vice President of Education and Cultural Affairs**
OCA Greater Washington DC – Asian Pacific American Advocates, Washington, D.C.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2022-present **Tutor**
Mentors for International Young Scholars [Online]
- 2014-2017 **Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder**
three little birds nyc, LLC, New York, NY
- 2011-2014; **Bartender**
2016-2017 *Bar and Restaurant*, New York, NY
- 2011-2014 **Writer and Editor**
Freelance, New York, NY
- 2011-2012 **Writer**
Coats, New York, NY
- 2009-2011 **Research Coordinator**
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

LANGUAGES

English: Native

Chinese (Mandarin): Native