Profiles of the Ricci Institute Research Fellows (2014–2020)

2019 Ricci Doctoral Fellows:

LIU Yifu 刘奕夫 (2019 Ricci Doctoral Fellow, Ph.D. candidate, Princeton University). Mr. Liu’s research examines the motives and methods of the French Jesuits revealed in the “Essai sur l'Architecture Chinoise,” perhaps the first theoretical treatise on Chinese architecture in a Western language. The text reveals the unique role of the Jesuits as agents of cultural exchange between East and West and their accurate accounts of Chinese civilization through architectural designs. Mr. Liu explores the Jesuit vision of China in 18th-century France through the visual production of art, architecture, and technology.

LEE Songhee 李松熙 (2019 Ricci Doctoral Research Fellow, Ph.D. candidate, Korea University, Seoul). Ms. Songhee Lee’s research examines different editions of Ricci’s essential text, Tianzhu shiyi 天主實義 (True Meaning of the Lord of Heaven) and competing aims of MEP and Jesuit missionaries in mid-late 19th-century China and Korea. Ms. Songhee Lee analyzes the influential role of Jesuit books, such as Ricci’s Tianzhu shiyi, in China and Korea, as well as their effect on Christian thought, language, and interpretation in late Joseon culture.

LEE Jae-shin 李在信 (2019 Ricci Doctoral Research Fellow, Ph.D. candidate, Fudan University). Mr. Jae-Shin Lee’s research analyzes Francisco Furtado 傅汎際 (1578-1653) and Li Zhizao's 李之藻 (1565-1630) Huanyouquan 實有诠, a Chinese translation of Aristotle’s De Caelo. His research explores the reasons and consequences of Furtado’s inserting Huanyouquan Volume 1, which discusses theological topics such as the demonstration of the divine existence, omnipotence of God, and creation of the world in the Bible. He tries to investigate the transformation of “Location of faith” and “Faith time” in the Christianity tradition from a post-missionary perspective.
2019 Luce Post-Doctoral Fellows:

Daniel Phillip CANARIS, Ph.D. (2019 Luce Post-Doctoral Fellow, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou). Dr. Canaris’ research analyzes the history of accommodation of Christianity with Confucian doctrines and rituals through the pioneering work of Michele Ruggieri (1543–1607). Dr. Canaris delves deeper into the inception of the China mission by examining the first European work printed in Chinese, Ruggieri’s Tianzhu shilu 天主實錄 (True Record of the Lord of Heaven). He explores how Ruggieri appealed to shared ethical perspectives that in his view were not culturally contingent but universally valid and portrayed his missionary activity as the fulfillment of Confucian norms.

WU Hsin-Fang 吳欣芳, Ph.D. (2019 Luce Post-Doctoral Fellow, Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan). Dr. Wu Hsin-fang’s research examines a ten-year debate over the authorship of a two-volume book, Histoire de la mission de Pékin, published in 1923 and 1925. Dr. Wu explores the decade-long debate over the authorship of this notoriously anti-Jesuit text and the revelation that the author was the Lazarist China missioner, Jean-Marie Vincent Planchet 包士傑, C.M. Her research looks into the details of the investigations surrounding this book in the 1920s, and how it dragged the missionaries in China, Chinese Christians, and the Vatican into a revival of intra-order conflicts over their interpretations of the past.

WANG Xueying 王雪迎, Ph.D. (2019 Luce Post-Doctoral Fellow, Loyola University Chicago). Dr. Wang Xueying’s research explores the writings of the 17th-century convert Yan Mo 嚴謨, among the most prolific Chinese writers of the Chinese Rites Controversy. Yan Mo wrote several treatises to defend Chinese ancestral rites and observation of the protocols of filial piety, at the request of Jesuit missionaries. Dr. Wang Xueying argues that Yan makes special contributions to the debate by drawing attention to filial piety as the underpinning principle of ancestral rites. Her research focuses on the Chinese Rites Controversy through a concentration of works by the Chinese Christian literati and the theology of inculturation as conceived through the use of Chinese classical traditions.
2018 Ricci Doctoral Fellows:

Luo Fusheng 羅福生 (2018 Ricci Doctoral Fellows, Ph.D. candidate, University of Michigan–Ann Arbor). Mr. Luo Fusheng’s research examines the treaty-port property regime that emerged in Guangzhou and Shanghai in the second half of the nineteenth century. As part of his dissertation topic “Land Markets, Semi-Colonial Law, and Chinese Industrialization in Shanghai and Guangzhou, 1830-1950” Mr. Luo Fusheng uses archival materials, including land deeds, from the Canton Diocese housed at the Ricci Institute in order to detail the hybrid contractual form of property acquisition used by the Paris Foreign Missions Society (MEP) during the Republican period.

Anna STROB (2018 Ricci Doctoral Research Fellow, Ph.D. candidate, Universität Tübingen, Germany). Ms. Anna Strob’s research analyzes the introduction of Aristotelian terminology by Alfonso Vagnone’s Kongji gezhi 空際格致, written in 1633, to Late Ming China. Her research explores Vagnone’s rendering of Aristotelian terminology expressing concepts rooted in late Renaissance thought and how it resonated with the philosophical concepts of Chinese readers of the period. Ms. Anna Strob’s findings propose a more nuanced evaluation of Jesuit translation strategy and their approach to the cultural and intellectual atmosphere of late Ming China.

Jiang Qingfan 蔣晴梵 (2018 Ricci Doctoral Fellows, Ph.D. candidate, Columbia University, NYC). Ms. Jiang Qingfan’s research is an analysis of the reception and response to Western music and music theory at Kangxi’s court during the 18th century. As part of her dissertation topic “Missionaries, Musical Knowledge, and the Making of Encyclopedias in Eighteenth-Century China and Europe” Ms. Jiang Qingfan focuses on Thomas Pereira’s Lüli Zuanyao 律呂纂要 in order to synchronize musical form to the broader context of the Chinese origin of Western learning in the early Qing dynasty.
YIN Peng 尹鹏 (2018 Ricci Doctoral Research Fellow, Harvard University). Mr. Yin Peng’s research provides an in-depth analysis that combines Ricci's linguistic sensitivity and textual sophistication alongside his bold theological innovations. Mr. Yin Peng discusses how Ricci's deft translations provide a complex reworking of the Thomist account of the interlocking of intellect and will and creatively re-described the chief theological and cardinal virtues of "caritas" and "iustitia" in terms of 仁 (ren) and 義 (yi). His research positions Matteo Ricci as a model for comparative religious ethics.

2018 Luce Post-Doctoral Fellows:

YU Yating 余雅婷, Ph.D. (2018 Luce Post-Doctoral Fellow, Kansai University, Osaka). Dr. Yu Yating’s research provides a detailed analysis on the Dicionário Português-Chinês 葡漢辭典 by Matteo Ricci and Michele Ruggieri. Dr. Yu Yating examines the fundamental role that language, lexicography, and semantics played in cultural encounters between Jesuits and Ming and Qing China. Her research provides analysis into the Jesuit China mission, East-West exchange, and the foundations of Sinology.

SOH JeanHyoung 소진형 (蘇眞瑩), Ph.D. (2018 Luce Post-Doctoral Fellow, Seoul National University). Dr. Soh JeanHyoung’s research examines Matteo Ricci’s Jihe yuanben 几何原本 (1607) and Francisco Furtado’s Minglitan 名理探 (1631), which are derived from the Commentaria in Euclidis elementa Geometrica and the Commentarii Collegii Conimbricensis Societate Jesu in Universam Dialecticam respectively. Dr. Soh JeanHyoung explores the influence of these texts in China and Korea, as well as the transmission and reception of Aristotle’s logic in East Asia. Her research takes note of the differing conceptual approaches in establishing Aristotelian logic in the Chinese intellectual sphere, offering further insights into the Jesuit struggle to adjust to Chinese linguistic and cultural conventions.
CHEN Yanrong 陳妍蓉, Ph.D. (2018 Luce Post-Doctoral Fellow, Katolieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL), Belgium). Dr. Chen Yanrong’s research analyzes the indigenous term Shengjing 聖經 and its evolving referents from the sixteenth century until its current understanding as a Christian term. Dr. Chen Yanrong examines the reception of the Bible and its role in building a Christian textual community in late imperial China. Her research provides a nuanced rethinking of the role of the Bible in China.

Steve PIERAGASTINI (2018 Luce Post-Doctoral Fellow, Brandeis University/post Ph.D. Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles). Dr. Steve Pieragastini’s research examines the competing aims and interests of the French Jesuits in Shanghai. Pieragastini evaluates the greater impacts from issues of religion, property, and governance on Jesuit Chinese relations during the turbulent period of 1842-1957. His research positions the French Jesuits experience in Shanghai as representative of the larger role of the Catholic Church in modern Chinese and global history.

2017 Ricci Doctoral Fellows:

Heeyoung CHUNG (2017 Ricci Doctoral Research Fellow, Ph.D. candidate, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley). Ms. Heeyoung Chung’s research explores the early Korean contacts with the Catholic Church and the development of women’s consciousness in late Joseon Korea. Ms. Heeyoung Chung discusses the impact of the yangban 양반 class, the influence of books written in Chinese by Jesuit missionaries, and the Silhak 실학 (實學) movement on women scholars. Her research focuses on women scholars such as Im Yunjidang 任允摯堂 (1721-1793) to highlight the influences stemming from Korea’s contact with the Catholic Church.

GUO Sheng-ping 郭勝平 (2017 Ricci Doctoral Research Fellow, Ph.D. candidate, Emmanuel College, University of Toronto). Mr. Guo Sheng-ping’s research discusses the historical issues of Christianity and the Catholic Church as they interacted with Confucianism in the late Ming dynasty. Mr. Guo Sheng-ping examines accommodations by Matteo Ricci and his colleagues regarding lineage patterns of conversion, ancestral worship rituals, and the religiosity of Confucianism. His research analyzes the complex relationship of Christianity and the Catholic Church with Confucianism, and the differing lineages that continue from the 16th century to the present.
Florin-Stefan MORAR, Ph.D. (2017 Ricci Doctoral Research Fellow, Ph.D. candidate, Harvard University/Assistant Prof. post Ph.D. 2019 City University of Hong Kong). Florin-Stefan Morar’s research examines the history and meaning of "The Map of Observing the Mysteries of the Heaven and Earth," a 1603 world map in eight panels by the Ming dynasty military official Li Yingshi 李應試 based on Matteo Ricci's 1602 version. His research observes the map’s inclusion of Old Manchu text added to several key segments as illustration of the process of knowledge circulating between China and early modern Europe. Mr. Florin-Stefan Morar’s research analyzes cartographic works made through collaboration between European Jesuit Savants and Chinese scholars through the lens of the global history of science.

WANG Xiliang 王喜亮 (2017 Ricci Doctoral Research Fellow Ph.D. candidate, Fudan University). Mr. Wang Xiliang’s research focuses on the reciprocal effects of books between Christian missionaries and Chinese literati in Ming China. He examines the adapted art, imagery, and terminologies of the Jesuit Missions of the late Ming and early Qing dynasties found in the illustrated works of Dias and Aleni. Mr. Wang Xiliang further explores the negative use of these images and the Chinese reaction against Christianity in the texts Poxie ji 破邪集 and Budeyi 不得已.

2017 Malatesta Research Fellowship:

MO Wei 莫為 (2017 Malatesta Research Fellow, Ph.D. candidate, Shanghai Normal University). Ms. Mo Wei’s research is titled “The Disappeared and Never Disappearing T'ou-Sè-Wè: Historical Remains from Memory of T'ou-Sè-Wè Orphanage.” Her research examines the history, foundation, and contributions of the Jesuit workshops to Shanghai culture. Ms. Mo Wei traces the careers of several of the most illustrious of graduates from the orphanage and the lasting influence they had on Chinese art.
2017 Luce Post-Doctoral Fellows:

Joseph HO, Ph.D. (2017 Luce Post-Doctoral Fellow, Albion College). Dr. Joseph Ho’s research explores the vernacular visual practices of American Christian missionaries in modern China and Taiwan. Dr. Joseph Ho observes the photographic technology and visual practices of the 20th century to draw out concepts of American missionary conceptualizations of China and Taiwan. His research takes an in-depth examination of the complex contexts and relationships between camera, subject, and culture.

CHEN Xinyu 陳欣雨 (2017 Luce Post-Doctoral Fellow, Beijing Administrative College, China). Dr. Chen Xinyu’s research focuses on the relationship between Christianity and Yijing during the Qing Dynasty. Dr. Chen Xinyu provides details into the history of the Zhalan cemetery, established in honor of Matteo Ricci in 1614, and continued up to the present day. Her research closely examines the Chinese and Latin texts on the 63 surviving cenotaphs and provides an overview of the considerable variation in their contents and details.

2016 Ricci Doctoral Fellows:

Giuseppe MARINO, Ph.D. (2016 Ricci Doctoral Research Fellow, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain/University of Tokyo/post Ph.D.–Fudan University). Dr. Giuseppe Marino’s research analyzes a 1588 fifteen-page list of items designed to function in complex and even contradictory ways to be acquired in Europe and presented to the emperor of China. The 1588 handwritten note was signed by Alessandro Valignano and delivered by Michele Ruggieri. This largely forgotten manuscript marks a crucial point in the China mission. Dr. Marino’s research analyzes the symbolic purpose of these selected items and provides evidence several of the objects were in fact presented to the Court, as revealed in a memorial by Matteo Ricci.
XIE Mingguang 謝明光, Ph.D. (2016 Ricci Doctoral Research Fellow, Beijing Foreign Studies University). Dr. Xie Mingguang’s research examines the textual history of *Della entrata della compagnia di Giesù e Christianità nella Cina* to *De Christiana Expeditione apud Sinas suscepta ab Societate Iesu*. Dr. Xie Mingguang explores this famous work based on the Italian manuscript of Matteo Ricci, its compilation and publication in Latin by Nicholas Trigault, and the role of Niccolò Longobardi’s differing opinions on the Jesuit China mission.

Daniel CANARIS, Ph.D. (2016 Ricci Doctoral Research Fellow, Ph.D candidate, University of Sydney/post Ph.D – Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou). Mr. Daniel Canaris’ research discusses the theological significance of Vico’s discussion of Confucianism in the 1725, 1730 and 1744 editions of the *Principi di Scienza Nuova*. Mr. Daniel Canaris examines the imagined role of the Scythians as ancestors of the Chinese, and broader influence such interpretations had on the Chinese Rites controversy, and Jesuit accommodations.

2015 Ricci Doctoral Fellows:


CHEN Yufang 陳玉芳, Ph.D. (2015 Ricci Doctoral Research Fellow, University of Macau). Dr. Chen Yufang’s research examines the China Jesuits’ strategy of pursuing imperial toleration during the late Ming and early Qing period. Her research analyzes the assorted methods used by imperial court Jesuits to secure the acceptance of the Catholic Church in China during the late Ming and early Qing periods.
Giulia Falato, Ph.D. (2015 Ricci Doctoral Research Fellow, Ph.D. candidate, University of Rome “La Sapienza”/post Ph.D. University of Oxford). Dr. Giulia Falato’s research analyzes in-depth the Italian Jesuit Alfonso Vagnone’s S.J. (1566–1640) Tongyou Jiaoyu 童幼教育 (On the Education of Children). Ms. Giulia Falato examines the sources which influenced Vagnone’s work to highlight the connection between late Ming education and Western Renaissance chreia and pedagogy from the late 16th to the early 17th centuries.