

# Zhan Chen

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## WORKING EXPERIENCE

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Beijing Normal University, Institute of Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social  
*Research Centre for History and Culture, in joint with*

BNU - Hong Kong Baptist University United International College                      Zhuhai, China  
*Centre of Foreign Languages and Cultures*    *Sep. 2021 –*

- Assistant Professor

## EDUCATION

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Harvard University    Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.  
*Postdoctoral Visiting Fellow*    *Dec. 2020 – Jun. 2021*

- Francis Jones Graduate Assistant for the New Alexandria Commentary Project

Harvard University    Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.  
*Ph.D., Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations*    *Sep. 2014 – Nov. 2020*

- Dissertation: An Investigation into the Syriac Translation of the Book of Isaiah  
Advisor: Prof. Andrew Teeter

Heidelberg University    Heidelberg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany  
*M.A., Biblical Studies (Grade:1.2)*    *Oct. 2011 – Aug. 2014*

- Thesis: Die Kultkritik in Amos 5,21-27 (Anti-cultic Theology in Amos 5:21-27)  
Advisor: Prof. Manfred Oeming

Tübingen University    Tübingen, Baden-Württemberg, Germany  
*Grundstudium, Philosophy/Theology (Grade:1.3)*    *Jul. 2008 – Aug. 2011*

- Thesis: A Survey on the Relationship between *theoria* and Practices  
Advisor: Prof. Holger Sturm

Peking University    Beijing, China  
*B.S., Mathematics*    *Sep. 2003 – Jul. 2007*

- Thesis: The History of Equation Solving and its Role in the Genesis of Group Theory  
Advisor: Prof. Houhong Fan

## MAJOR FIELDS OF INTEREST

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Textual Criticism, History of Bible Translation and Transmission;  
Hebrew, Syriac, and other Ancient Languages;  
Syriac Literature;  
Jewish/Christian History and Literature;  
Jewish Immigrants in Central Asia/China;  
The History of Scholarship in the 19th/Early 20th Century Europe;  
Digital Humanities Methods

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Introductory Ancient Greek	UIC, 2022-2023
Religion and the Arts: Western Traditions	UIC, 2022-2023
Latin Language and Roman Culture	UIC, 2022
World Religions: Ancient Traditions	UIC, 2021-2022
The Beginning of Western Civilization: A Journey In Time	UIC, 2021-2022
The Binding of Isaac in Jewish, Christian and Islamic Literature (TF)	Harvard University, 2021
Stories from the End of the World (TF)	Harvard University, 2020-2021
German for Rapid Reading	Lonely Reader (online course), 2018-2020
History of Ancient Israel	China Graduate School of Theology in Hongkong, 2018 Summer
From Hebrew Bible to Judaism II (TF)	Harvard University, 2018
The Hebrew Bible II (TF)	Harvard University, 2017-2018
First-Order Logic	Lonely Reader (online course), 2017 Summer
From Hebrew Bible to Judaism I (TF)	Harvard University, 2017
The Hebrew Bible I (TF)	Harvard University, 2016-2017

## RELEVANT LINGUISTIC SKILLS

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### **Modern Languages:**

- English (fluent)
- German (near native proficiency)
- French (good reading proficiency)
- Modern Hebrew (basic reading comprehension)
- Chinese (native)
- Persian (elementary reading proficiency)

### **Ancient Languages:**

- Classical Hebrew (good reading proficiency)
- Greek (reading proficiency for both Attic and Koine)
- Latin (reading proficiency)
- Aramaic (reading proficiency)
- Syriac (good reading proficiency)
- Ugaritic (elementary)
- Akkadian (one-year course)

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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Staff Research Fund	BNU - Hong Kong Baptist University United International College, 2022
Starting Research Fund	Beijing Normal University, 2021
Francis Jones Fellowship	Center for Hellenic Studies of Harvard University, 2021
Scholarship for Distinguished Students Abroad	Ministry of Education of China, 2020
Mandell L. Berman Fellowship	Harvard University, 2019
Study and Research Fellowship	Center of Jewish Studies of Harvard University, Summer 2016
Jens Aubery Westengard Fund	Harvard University, Summer 2015
Brot für die Welt Stipendium (Bread for the World)	Das Evangelische Werk, 2014
Diakonie Stipendium (Diakonie Fellowship)	Die Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland, 2011-2013
Junzheng Fellowship	Peking University, 2005-2006

## PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

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### Work-in-Progress:

- "An Investigation into the Peshitta of Isaiah," book manuscript.
- "Did the Writers of the Kaifeng Jews still know Hebrew (well)? Some New Readings of their Family Book," work in progress.
- "Theology of Wordplay? - A Case Study in the Peshitta of Isaiah," work in progress.

### Publication:

- "Christian Translator(s) under Jewish Garments? A Close Reading of the Syriac Version of Isaiah 25:6-8" (in Chinese), in *The Chinese Journal of Classical Studies* 6 (December 2020).
- Ernst Troeltsch: *Der Historismus und seine Überwindung* (Historicism and its Overcoming) and *Die Bedeutung des Protestantismus für die Entstehung der modernen Welt* (The Significance of Protestantism for the Rise of the Modern World), Chinese translation (Beijing: Huaxia Publishing House, 2020).
- "An Investigation into the Peshitta of Isaiah" (ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2020).
- "An Investigation into the Peshitta of Isaiah, an Abridged Introduction", in *The Harvard Theological Review* 114.4 (2021).
- "Jewish, or Christian? A New Perspective on the Peshitta of Isaiah", in *Logos and Pneuma*, Vol. 57 (2022).
- "Some Methodological Reflections on John Daniel Meades A Critical Edition of the Hexaplaric Fragments of Job 22-42, Origen's Hexapla.", in *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies* 25.1 (2022).
- "Are Angels Necessary for Jesus? Revisiting the Text Critical Issue of 22:43-44" (in Chinese), in *Biblical Literature Studies*, Vol. 25 (2022).

- "The Study of Translation Techniques: Applicable to Chinese Bible Translations?" (accepted).
- "Geza Vermes, a Jewish Venturer in Dead Sea Scrolls Research" (accepted).

**Conference Paper:**

- "The Peshitta of Isaiah as an Important Source for Textual Criticism," presented in the *Eighth North American Syriac Symposium*, Brown University, June 16-19, 2019.
- "The mixed Text of the Syriac Version(s) of Isaiah commented by Bar Salibi: A Theological Maneuver?" presented in the proceeding of *LOCEOC International Conference: Dionysius bar Salibi, a Polymath of the Syriac Renaissance*, Leuven University, November 8-10, 2021
- "Some Similarities between the Great Isaiah Scroll and the Peshitta of Isaiah" presented in the *Symposium on Chinese Biblical Literature Studies*, Kaifeng, August 14-17, 2022
- "The Influence of Dead Sea Scrolls Research upon Textual Criticism" presented in the *Symposium on Christian Religion: The Perspective of China and the World*, Guangzhou, October 29-30, 2022
- "The Study of Translation Techniques: Applicable to Chinese Bible Translations?" presented in the *The Translation and Transliteration of Sino-Western Classics: Comparative Perspective*, Hangzhou, December 10-11, 2022