

Covell Meyskens (柯尚哲)  
Associate Professor  
Naval Postgraduate School  
Department of National Security Affairs  
1 University Circle, Monterey, CA  
(305) 608-8291  
[cfmeyskens@gmail.com](mailto:cfmeyskens@gmail.com)

## **EDUCATION**

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2015	Ph.D. in History University of Chicago
2007	M.A. in History University of Chicago
2004	M.A. in Philosophy University of Paris 8
2002	B.A. in Philosophy University of California, Santa Cruz

## **PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

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2022 – present	Associate Professor of Chinese History Naval Postgraduate School Department of National Security Affairs
2015 – 2022	Assistant Professor of Chinese History Naval Postgraduate School Department of National Security Affairs

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Books**

2020	<i>Mao's Third Front: The Militarization of Cold War China</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.
In progress	<i>The Three Gorges Dam: Building a Developmental Engine for China and the World</i> .

### **Journal Articles**

2022	“Dreaming of a Three Gorges Dam amid the Troubles of Republican China.” <i>Journal of Modern Chinese History</i> Vol. 15 (2022): 176-194.
2021	“From Mao’s Third Front to Xi’s Belt and Road Initiative.” <i>Made in China Journal</i> , Volume 6, Issue 2 (2021): 167-179.
2021	“Rethinking the Political Economy of Development in Mao’s China.” <i>positions: asia critique</i> (November 2021): 1-19.
2020	“Experiencing the Cold War at Shanghai’s Secret Military Industrial Complex.” <i>Cold War History</i> (2020): 1-19.

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- 2019 “Chinese Views of the Nuclear Endgame in North Korea.” *Nonproliferation Review* Vol. 26, No. 5/6 (2019): 1-19. (Winner of Doreen and Jim McElvany Nonproliferation Award)
- 2015 “Third Front Railroads and Industrial Modernity in Late Maoist China.” *Twentieth Century China* 40 (2015): 238-260.
- 2005 “Guerre et Race dans le Pacifique: Signes et Pratiques (War and Race in the Pacific: Signs and Practices).” *Drôle d'époque* 16 (2005): 1-17.
- 2005 “Le monde selon Katrina (The World according to Hurricane Katrina).” *Drôle d'époque* 17 (2005) : 1-2.
- 2005 “Liquidité, capital, souveraineté (Liquidity, Capital, Sovereignty).” *Lignes* 16 (2005): 60-72.

### **Book Chapters**

- 2022 “The Makings of Cold War China’s Motor City.” In *Material Contradictions in Mao’s China*, edited by Jennifer Althenger and Denise Ho, 1-24. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2022.
- 2022 “1964: The Third Front Campaign.” In *Proletarian China: A Century of Chinese Labour*, edited by Ivan Franceschini, Kevin Lin, Nicholas Loubere, and Christian Sorace, 366-374. Canberra: Australian University Press, 2022.
- 2021 “Mao Zedong: Communist Party Dictatorship (1893-1976).” In *Dictators and Autocrats: How they obtained power and managed holding onto it*, edited by Klaus Larres, 1-14. London: Routledge, 2021.
- 2019 “Labour.” In *The Afterlives of Chinese Communism*, edited by Christian Sorace and Nicholas Loubere, 103-109. Canberra: Australian University Press, 2019.
- 2018 “Building a Dam for China in the Three Gorges Region, 1919-1971.” In *Water, Technology, and the Nation-State*, edited by Filippo Menga and Erik Swyngedouw, 207-222. London: Routledge, 2018.

### **Review Essays**

- 2018 “Inequality and Social Stratification in Mao’s China.” *Twentieth Century China* 43 (2018): 196-203.
- 2013 “Cong oumei guandian kan sanxian jianshe (Western Perspectives on the Third Front).” In *Zhongguo gongchandang yu sanxian jianshe (The Chinese*

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*Communist Party and the Third Front*), edited by Chen Xi, 569-579. Beijing: Zhonggong dangshi chubanshe, 2013.

2014 “Searching for Security: Prospects for Peace in Sino-Foreign Relations.” *Journal of International and Global Studies* 5 (2014): 96-100.

### **Mass Media Publications**

2020 “There Never Was a Cold War China.” *The Wilson Center*, Cold War International History Project, September 9, 2020.  
<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/there-never-was-cold-war-china>

2015 – present Website curator, *Everyday Life in Maoist China*,  
<https://everydaylifeinmaoistchina.org/>

### **Teaching Materials**

2021 Co-edited with Brian DeMare second volume of special issue on teaching PRC History for *The PRC History Review*.

2019 Co-edited with Brian DeMare first volume of special issue on teaching PRC History for *The PRC History Review*.

2019 “Bringing the Cold War into Teaching on Mao’s China, Vol. 1.” *The PRC History Review* Vol. 4, No. 2 (2019): 14-16.

### **Interviews**

2016 “Where Mao Meets the Mundane,” *The New York Times*, August 17, 2016.

2016 “Everyday Life in Mao’s China,” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, January 17, 2016.

2005 “Pourquoi Hiroshima? (Why Hiroshima?).” *France Culture*. Interview on French national radio about the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 2005.

### **Manuscripts under Review**

2022 Coediting with Pete Millwood a special issue on Cold War China and decolonization for the journal *Cold War History*.  
(Special issue currently under review)

2022 “After Empire?: Cold War Scholarship on Mao’s China.” *Cold War History*.  
(For the above special issue. Revise and resubmit)

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2021 “Marveling at a World So Changed: The Three Gorges Dam Project in Mao’s China.” In *How Maoism Was Made: Reconstructing China, 1949-1965*, edited by Aaron Moore and Jennifer Altehenger. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Under review)

### **Manuscripts in Preparation**

“The Gezhouba Dam and Post-Mao China’s Technocratic Rise.”

“China-Watching from 30,000 Feet: American Aerial Surveillance of Cold War China.”

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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2021	Naval Postgraduate School International Military Education and Training Program Development of course on Science, Technology, and Society in China
2021	Naval Postgraduate School LCDR David L. Williams Award for Excellence in Teaching
2020	James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies Doreen and Jim McElvany Nonproliferation Award for Best Article of the Year
2019-2020	Naval Postgraduate School Naval Research Program Grant Research project on port development in China’s Belt and Road Initiative
2018-2019	Naval Postgraduate School Teaching Fellows Program
2018	Defense Threat Reduction Agency Project on Advanced Systems and Concepts for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Research project on Chinese views of North Korea’s nuclear weapons program
2015-2017	Naval Postgraduate School  Research Initiation Program Fellowship
2015	North Carolina State University at Raleigh  Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship in Chinese History (declined)

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- 2015 National Chiao Tung University, Institute of Social Research and Cultural Studies  
Postdoctoral Fellowship(declined)
- 2014 Association for Asian Studies  
China and Inner Asia Council Small Grant (declined)
- 2013 University of Chicago  
Chinese Studies Dissertation Fellowship
- 2013 Fulbright-Hays Commission  
Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship
- 2013 Renmin University  
Visiting Scholar, School of Marxism Studies
- 2012-2013 Academica Sinica  
Visiting Scholar, Institute of Modern History
- 2011-2012 Fulbright Institute of International Education  
Fulbright Fellowship, Sichuan University
- 2008-2010 University of Chicago  
Academic Year Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship
- 2007-2008 Republic of China, Ministry of Education  
Chinese Language Scholarship

### **INVITED TALKS**

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- 2022 “Transforming the Yangtze into a Hydropower Engine for China.” Center  
for Chinese Studies, University of California, Berkeley, November 4.
- 2022 “Securitized Development in Modern China: From World War II to the Belt  
and Road Initiative.” East Asian Histories workshop, University of Chicago,  
June 1.
- 2021 “Marveling at a World So Changed:” The Three Gorges Dam Project in  
Mao’s China.” Workshop on How Maoism was Made, University of  
Edinburgh, June 25.
- 2021 “Mao’s Third Front: The Militarization of Cold War China.” Lau China  
Institute lecture series, King’s College London, April 28.

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- 2021 “Mao’s Third Front: The Militarization of Cold War China.” Sustainable Urbanization Lab lecture series, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, April 27.
- 2021 “Experiencing the Cold War at a Secret Chinese Military Industrial Complex.” Professor Tan Ying Jia’s course on science, technology, and society in modern China, Wesleyan University, April 22.
- 2021 “Mao’s Third Front: The Militarization of Cold War China.” Centre for Chinese Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong, March 18.
- 2021 “Mao’s Third Front: The Militarization of Cold War China.” East Asia by the Book lecture series, University of Chicago, February 11.
- 2020 “Mao’s Third Front: The Militarization of Cold War China.” Modern Chinese History lecture series, Harvard University’s Fairbank Center, November 10.
- 2020 “Everyday Life in a Third Front Town.” Professor Sarah Mellors’ course on modern Chinese history, Missouri State University, November 4.
- 2020 “Dreaming of a Three Gorges Dam amid the Troubles of Republican China.” Workshop on Sino-American Relations at the Grassroots in the 1940s, University of California, Berkeley, September 3-6.
- 2019 “The History of China’s Three Gorges Dam.” Professor Micah Muscolino’s course on Chinese environmental history, University of California, San Diego, February 26.
- 2019 “Hydraulic Dreams: Chinese and American Planning for the Three Gorges Dam, 1919-1949.” Workshop on Sino-American Relations at the Grassroots in the 1940s, Duke Kunshan University, China, July 11-13.
- 2019 “Everyday Life in a Third Front Steel Town.” Workshop on the Oral History of Cold War Asia, National University of Singapore, June 21-22.
- 2019 “The Materiality of China’s Second Auto Works.” Workshop on Material Culture in Mao’s China, King’s College London, May 17-18.
- 2018 “How to Make a Maoist City: The Case of Panzhihua.” Workshop on Material Culture in Mao’s China, Yale University, September 7-9.

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- 2018 “Maoist Man and its Discontents: The Case of the Third Front.” Workshop on How Maoism was Made, British Academy, London, November 29.
- 2017 “Mao’s Garrison State: Security and Development in Cold War China.” Capitalism and its Alternatives lecture Series, University of California, San Diego, International Institute, November 20.
- 2017 “The Coming of the Third Front.” University of Chicago’s East Asia Transregional Histories workshop, March 30.
- 2016 “Securing Maoist China: The Cold War, Late Development, and the Third Front.” Workshop on Governmentality in Mao’s China, University of British Columbia, Canada, September 17.
- 2016 “China’s Cold War and the Third Front.” University of San Francisco, April 20.
- 2016 “The Cold War and Late Maoism’s War Machine.” Conference on Cold War Developmentalism in Global Perspective, University of Mississippi, March 3-5.
- 2007 “Against Racism?: The Oriental Ambiguities of Office of War Information Lessons in Japanese-American Relations.” Nagoya American Studies Summer Seminar, Japan, July.
- 2005 “Ghosts in the Tides: From the Yellow Peril to Nagasaki.” National Chiao Tung University’s workshop on Pologos/Stasis, Yilan, Taiwan, June 24-27.

## **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

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### **Organized Events**

- 2023 Covell Meyskens and Pete Milwood. “A Post-Mao Paradigm Shift?: Science and Technology in Late Twentieth Century China.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Boston, March 16-19.
- 2022 One-day conference on great power competition organized for the U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, August 16.
- 2022 One-day conference on great power competition organized for the U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, August 9.
- 2021 Abigail Coplin and Covell Meyskens. “The Business of Chinese Science: Global Engagement and Nationalist Imaginaries.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Seattle, March 26.

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- 2021 – present Annual four-day conference on great power competition organized for the U.S. Defense Contract Audit Agency.
- 2020 Katrin Heilmann and Covell Meyskens. “Experiences of War in Modern China: From World War II to the Present Day.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Boston, March 21.
- 2018 Brian Lander and Covell Meyskens. “Living with the Yangzi: Technology, State Power, and Environmental Change in the Lowlands of Central China.” Annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington, D.C., March 23.
- 2018 – 2019 Organized annual three-day conference on great power competition organized for the U.S. Defense Contract Audit Agency.
- 2017 Covell Meyskens and Nancy Reynolds. “Hydropower, Nationalism, and Foreign Expertise in Africa and Asia.” Annual meeting of the American Society of Environmental History, Chicago, March 30.
- 2017 “The Cold War and East Asian Developmental States.” Annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Toronto, Canada, March 17.
- 2015 Covell Meyskens and Limin Teh. “Industrial Citizenship in Maoist China.” Annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Chicago, March 29.
- 2014 “Building the State West: Sovereignty, Development, and Integration in Twentieth Century China.” Annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Philadelphia, March 29.

### **Papers Presented**

- 2023 “Transforming the Yangzi River into a Hydroelectric Engine for China and the World.” Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Boston, March 16-19.
- 2022 “Rethinking the Historiography of Cold War China through the Lens of Decolonization.” Annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Honolulu, March 27.
- 2021 “The Meaning of War in Late Imperial and Modern China.” Roundtable for the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, March 26.



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- 2021 “Experiencing the Cold War at Shanghai’s Secret Military Industrial Complex.” Annual meeting of the American Historical Association, Seattle, January 7-10, 2021. (Cancelled due to COVID-19)
- 2020 “The Building of the Gezhouba Dam: From Maoist Disaster to Post-Mao Success Story.” Annual meeting of the International Committee on History and Technology, Eindhoven, Netherlands, July 13-18. (Cancelled due to COVID-19)
- 2020 “Defending Shanghai from Afar: Anhui’s Small Third Front.” Annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Boston, March 21.
- 2019 “The Makings of Cold War China’s Motor City.” Annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Denver, March 24.
- 2018 “Building a Dam for China in the Three Gorges Region.” Annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington, D.C., March 23.
- 2017 “Mao’s Developmental Garrison State.” American Historical Association Pacific Branch, California State University, Northridge, August 4.
- 2017 “Building a Hydraulic Engine: Late Development, Water Nationalism, and China’s Gezhouba Dam.” Annual meeting of the American Society of Environmental History, Chicago, March 30.
- 2017 “The Cold War and Maoist China’s Developmental Garrison State.” Annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Toronto, Canada, March 17.
- 2015 “The Cold War and Late Maoism’s Industrial Geography of Fear.” University of Chicago East Asia Transregional Histories Workshop, Chicago, June 5.
- 2015 “Living in Mao’s Town: Everyday Life and Hardship in Panzhihua, 1964-1980.” Annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Chicago, March 29.
- 2014 “Guerilla Urbanism: Panzhihua and the Alternate Socialist Form of Late Maoist Urbanity.” University of Chicago East Asia Transregional Histories Workshop, Chicago, May 18.

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- 2014 “Technology and National Security in East Asia’s Long Twentieth Century.” University of Chicago roundtable on Christopher Bayly’s Twentieth Century World History, Chicago, April 21.
- 2014 “Third Front Railroads and State-Building in Western China.” Annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Philadelphia, March 29.
- 2013 “Lines of the State: Third Front Railroads and the Production of Industrial Sovereignty in Western China.” Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, PRC History Workshop, Taipei, Taiwan, October 1.
- 2013 “The Dialectic of Amity and Enmity.” University of Chicago conference on “Rethinking Amity” in honor of Michael Geyer, Chicago, April 20.
- 2011 “Revolution as Experience: Norms and Memories.” Sichuan University conference on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1911 Revolution, Chengdu, China, September 25.
- 2006 “Ghosts in the Tides: From the Yellow Peril to Nagasaki.” Annual meeting of the Popular Culture Association and American Culture Association, Atlanta, April.

### **Public Talks**

- 2019 “China’s Rise and Great Power Competition in East Asia.” World Affairs Council, Monterey, California, November 19.
- 2018 – present “China’s Rise and Great Power Competition in East Asia.” Annual lecture given at the Defense Contract Audit Agency Leadership Development Conference, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, November.
- 2017 – 2019 “The Rise of China.” Triannual lectures given at the NAVAIR Leadership Development Program, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Master’s Courses Taught**

- 2015 – present History of Modern East Asia  
Politics in Modern China  
Nationalism and Revolution  
Science, Technology, and Society in Modern China

#### **Master’s Thesis Advising**

- 2022 Theses in progress (7)
- 2015 – 2021 Completed theses (36)

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## **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

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### **Departmental**

- 2021 – present      Doctoral Committee, Department of National Security Affairs.
- 2021 – present      Academic Associate of Strategic Studies Curriculum, Department of National Security Affairs.
- 2020 – present      Academic Associate of East Asia and Indo-Pacific Studies Curriculum, Department of National Security Affairs.
- 2019                  Doctoral Committee, Department of National Security Affairs.
- 2019                  Committee to evaluate the teaching of social science research methods in core courses, Department of National Security Affairs.navair

### **National/International**

- April 2022            Book reviewer for *Twentieth Century China*.
- September 2020    Manuscript reviewer for Palgrave Macmillan.
- 2020 – present      Website curator, *Everyday Life in Mao's China*,  
<https://everydaylifeinmaoistchina.org/>
- August 2020        Article reviewer for *Twentieth Century China*.
- January 2020        Article reviewer for *Twentieth Century China*.
- May 2019            Article reviewer for *positions: asia critique*.
- May 2018            Book reviewer for *Twentieth Century China*.