Mariana Zorkina

Curriculum Vitae

Max Planck Institute
for the History of Science
Boltzmannstraße 22
14195 Berlin
Germany

EDUCATION

PhD	Asien-Orient-Institut, University of Zurich, 2026 Dissertation: Humans and the Order of Things in Early and Medieval China. Supervision: Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Behr
MA	Asian and African Studies *Summa cum laude*, St. Petersburg State University, 2012
BA	Asian and African Studies *Summa cum laude*, St. Petersburg State University, 2010

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2026 –	Postdoctoral Scholar, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
2023 – 2025	Visiting researcher, University of California Berkeley
2022 – 2023	Research assistant, University of Strasbourg
2019 – 2022	Lecturer. University of Zurich, Asien-Orient-Institut
2016 – 2019	Research assistant. University of Zurich, Asien-Orient-Institut
2014 – 2016	Lecturer. National Research University Higher School of Economics, School of Asian and African Studies, St. Petersburg
2010 – 2013	Lecturer. St. Petersburg State University, Faculty of Asian and African Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles

2024	Daoist Immortals as a Poetic Image in the Tang Dynasty: A Corpus Study. *Digital Humanities and Religions in Asia: An Introduction*, edited by L.W.C. van Lit and James Harry Morris, Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter, pp. 177-204.
2024	James Harry Morris and Mariana Zorkina. A Select Bibliography of Recent Chinese and Japanese Publications on Syriac Christianity: 2019/2020-2022. *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies*.
2018	Describing Objects in Tang Dynasty Poetic Language: a Study Based on Word Embeddings. *Journal of Chinese Literature and Culture* 5, no. 2: pp. 250 – 275.
2015	Perception of Immortals in Popular and Elite Daoism: the Case of Lü Dongbin. *St. Petersburg Annual of Asian and African Studies* 4: pp. 99 – 112.

2011 Evoljucija i struktura daosskogo rituala [The evolution and structure of Taoist rituals]. *Vestnik St. Petersburg University*, Series 13, no. 1: pp. 29 – 39.

2010 Tradicionnaja magija v daosskom rituale: zaklinanija, mudry, juevy shagi [Traditional magic in Taoist rituals: incantations, Mudras and Yu paces]. *Vestnik St. Petersburg University*, Series 13, no. 2: pp. 26 – 40.

Conference Proceedings

2015 Alexander Rostovtsev-Popiel and **Mariana Zorkina**, Kvantitativnoe issledovanie japonsko-russkoj leksikografii na materiale "Bol'šogo japonsko-russkogo slovarja" (pod red. N.I. Konrada) i ego èlektronnoj versii 'Warodaj' [Quantitative Research of Japanese-Russian Lexicography: a Case Study of the Great Japanese-Russian Dictionary (ed. by N. Konrad) and its Electronic Version 'Warodai')]. In *I International Youth Conference Methods of Exact Sciences in Asian and African Studies*. Saint- Petersburg, Izdatel'stvo RXGA: 28 – 38.

2011 Taoist garments in rituals and monastic life. In *The Silk Road, Papers from the International Conference, Organized by Confucius institute in Sofia, Bulgaria*. Sofia: Vizia Press: 162 – 165.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Papers

2026 Feats of Morality and Magic: Transforming Barbarians in Early and Medieval China. 37th Annual Conference of the German Association for Chinese Studies, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

2023 Researching Connections between Poetic Texts in Early and Medieval China with the CHI-KNOW-PO Tool. International Travels of Chinese Text: Global Perspectives and New Approaches to Chinese Textual Culture, National Library of Latvia

2023 The CHI-KNOW-PO Corpus Explorer – Tracking Meaningful Connections Between Concept Groups in Medieval Chinese Poetry. With Tilman Schalmey. Materials, Media, and Methods: Digital Issues in East Asian Studies, Ruprecht Karl University of Heidelberg

2022 Introduction to basic Python programming for Chinese Digital Humanities projects. With Tilman Schalmey. AILC Study days on Chinese Linguistics, University of Bergamo

2021 Dialogue with the canon: digital methods as a tool to articulate gender biases in traditional Chinese literary criticism. 23rd biennial conference of the European Association for Chinese Studies, Leipzig University

2021 The clichés, the in-jokes, the duplicates: finding intertextuality in Tang poetry. The Digital Orientalist's Virtual Workshop and Conference

2018 Discussant: "Phonorhetoric and Phonological Patterns as Text-Structuring Devices in Early Chinese Prose" by Jeffrey R. Tharsen. International workshop "Warp, Woof, Wen / Phoneme, Pattern, Pun: Structural Approaches to Early Chinese Texts," University of Zurich

2018 Computer-Aided Reading of the Figurative Language of Tang Poetry: A Case Study. 3rd Young Scholar's Forum, Sinology Department at the Goethe University Frankfurt

2018 Discovering the Obvious in Tang Dynasty 'Poems on Things' (yǒngwùshī 詠物詩): Extraction of Patterns and Clichés. Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies in the USA

2018 Usage of neural networks to study Tang dynasty poems on things. International Conference "Patterns and Networks in Classical Chinese Literature: Notes from the Digital Frontier," University of California

2015 Quantitative research of Japanese-Russian lexicography: a case study of the Great Japanese-Russian dictionary (ed. by N. Konrad) and its electronic version 'Warodai.' With Alexander Rostovtsev-Popiel. International Conference "Methods of exact sciences in Asian and African Studies," St. Petersburg, National Research University Higher School of Economics

2011 Daoist garments in rituals and monastic life. International conference "The Silk Road," St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia

Posters

2016 The imagery of Tang poems on things (yǒngwùshī 詠物詩): a semiotic approach. Summer School in Chinese Digital Humanities, Leiden

AWARDS AND HONORS

2015 "Best lecturer of the year," National Research University Higher School of Economics

2012 Nominated, Russian Government "Student of the year," Board of Academics of Faculty of Asian and African Studies, St. Petersburg State University

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2024 University of Zurich Candoc Grant

2023 University of Zurich Doc.Mobility Fellowship

2020 Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations Communications Fellowship

2016 – 2019 Swiss National Scientific Foundation, "The imagery of Tang 'poems on things' (yǒngwùshī 詠物詩): a semiotic approach." Grant 100015_163032

2015 Enhanced incentive stipend of the Higher School of Economics for winners of the "Best lecturer of the year" award

2011 – 2012 Enhanced incentive stipend of the Government of the Russian Federation

2011 Hànbàn stipend for participation in a training programme for teachers of Chinese as a foreign language (Běijīng University)

2010, 2011 Personal grants for publications as part of the project "Developing the scientific potential of the higher school." Confucius Institute at St. Petersburg State University

INVITED TALKS

2026 *The Digital Orientalist*: lessons from a decade of volunteer-led DH publishing. Digital Humanities Brown Bag Lunch Series, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

2026 Roadmap to a first DH project – an exercise on thinking about data. DGA Young Scholars Group Methodology Workshop for Early-Career Researchers in Asian Studies, University of Würzburg

2023 Women in Tang dynasty poetry: a computational perspective. University of Gothenburg

2021 Digital approaches in sinology. Ural Federal University

2021 The joy of reciprocal citations: the diverse knowledge on intertextuality that can be attained with only one computational tool. St. Petersburg, ITMO University

2019 A digital humanist's investigation: what did people in Medieval China think about cats and other animals? Moscow, Higher School of Economics: IV Moscow-Tartu Digital Humanities School National Research University Higher School of Economics

2019 Computers that read: using statistics and neural networks for a better understanding of medieval Chinese poetry. Moscow, Yandex: Data science seminar series

2018 Technological progress and arts: how computer analysis redefined the humanities. National Research University Higher School of Economics, School of Asian and African Studies, St. Petersburg

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Heidelberg University

Digital humanities methods for sinologists: from no-code tools to Python and AI, two-day workshop co-taught with Tilman Schalmey, 2026

University of Zurich

Eroticism in Chinese literature, 2020

Writing, reading and distributing texts in medieval China, 2019

Readings in Tang poetry, 2018

Classical Chinese reading group, 2017, 2021

Digital humanities approaches to sinology: texts, tools and theories, 2017

Approaches to sinology, 2016, 2017

Student paper supervision (Topic: "Network analysis of inter-character relationships in 'Dream of the Red Chamber' (Hónglóu mèng)"), 2017

National Research University Higher School of Economics

Data culture and digital humanities (1, 4 year BA), 2018, 2020

Daoism in Chinese culture, 2016

Chinese grammar, 2014 – 2016

Student paper supervision ("Methods of phonetic reconstruction of ancient Chinese," "Communist Party of China and Chinese literature in the 60–80s.," "Stylometric analysis of "Shanghai style" Literary Works by Zhang Ailing (1920-1995) and Wang Anyi (born 1954) based on Burrows's Delta." etc.), 2015, 2019

St. Petersburg State University

Translation techniques for newspapers, 2012

Basic Chinese, 2010 – 2012

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022 – 2023 Research assistant, CHI-KNOW-PO project: Knowledge and Poetry in Medieval China.

2015 – 2016 Junior associate, Chinese woodblock prints niánhuà (年畫): "Podgotovka èlektronnogo onlajn kataloga kitajskogo lubka i issledovanie rukopisnyx materialov akademika V. M. Alekseeva iz sobranija GMIR" [Preparation of an online catalogue of Chinese woodblock prints and research of handwritten materials of V. M. Alexeev from the collection of the State Museum of the History of Religion]. Russian Humanitarian Research Foundation scientific grant No. 15-21-10001. Supervised by Dr. Ekaterina Teryukova.

2011 – 2012 Junior associate, Yuán drama: "Poètika juan'skoj dramy nan'si. Poètičeskaja interpoljacija kak sredstvo xudožestvennogo izobraženija (na primere tvorčestva juan'skogo dramaturga Gao Czèčena" [The poetics of Yuán nánxì drama. Poetic interpolation as a means of literary depiction (the case of the 14th c. Yuán dramatist Gāo Zéchéng)]. Grant № MK-5299.2011.6. Supervised by Dr. Dmitrij Majackij.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2021 – Author and organiser of online lecture series "Methods in Sinology" sinologymethods.com

2022 – Board member at Digital Orientalist digitalorientalist.com

2020 – Author, editor, managing editor for Digital Orientalist

2021 – Organising committee for Digital Orientalist yearly conference

2020 Organizing committee for the DH2020 conference by Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO)

2020	Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations Communications team member
2020	Organizing committee for the conference of The German Association of Chinese Studies (DVCS)
2018 –	Reviewer for The Association for Computers and the Humanities (ACH) Conference 2019, 2020, 2021; for Digital Scholarship in the Humanities journal; for International Journal of Digital Humanities.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING (Selection)

2020	Data Science bootcamp, 'Propulsion'
2017	Second Moscow-Tartu School in Digital Humanities "Texts. Nets. Maps." Workshop on word embeddings, Higher School of Economics, Moscow
2016	Summer School in Chinese Digital Humanities, Leiden University

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

2020 –	Author of Russian language telegram channel "Digital sinologist"
2018 – 2020	Managing editor, author, supervisor of "education" and "digital humanities" columns in Russian popular science public page "System Block" (72000 subscribers in February 2020, short listed for the Enlightener Prize 2019) sysblok.ru
2018	Given talk: "Why study humanities?" High school "Alma Mater," St. Petersburg

MEDIA COVERAGE

2021	Invited podcast guest for Mawangbao (马网报), a major Russian resource on China magazeta.com/category/creative/podcasts
2019	Review on public lecture at the Higher School of Economics by *Knife Media* knife.media/digital-school
2017	Interview *Theory and Practice* for "Young scholars" section theoryandpractice.ru/posts/15270-molodye-uchenye-kitaist-mariana-zorkina-o-meste-byta-v-vostochnoy-poezii-i-riske-v-gumanitarnykh-naukakh

DIGITAL COMPETENCIES

Python: corpus analysis, data visualization, data science, machine learning, neural networks, working with API (word2vec, matplotlib, plotly, dash, nltk, tensorflow, requests libraries)

XML, TEI, json

R

SQL

Web development (basic knowledge): HTML, CSS, Bootstrap, JavaScript, jQuery, Django, PHP

LANGUAGES

Russian: native

English, Chinese, Classical Chinese: advanced

German: intermediate

Japanese, French: can read with dictionary