

# Mårten Söderblom Saarela 馬騰

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## Current position

2019– Assistant research fellow. Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica.  
中央研究院近代史研究所助研究員

## Education

2010–15 PhD East Asian Studies. Princeton University.

### *Dissertation:*

“Manchu and the Study of Language in China (1607–1911).”

### *Committee members:*

Benjamin A. Elman, Susan Naquin, Anthony T. Grafton (Princeton); Nicola Di Cosmo (Institute for Advanced Study); Mark C. Elliott (Harvard).

### *Examination fields:*

“Late Imperial China” (major, Benjamin A. Elman), “Pre-Modern Korea” (minor, Joy S. Kim), “Early Modern Japan” (minor, Federico Marcon).

2013 MA East Asian Studies. Princeton University.

2008–09 MA Sinology. SOAS (London).

2005–07 BA French (Chinese minor). Stockholm University.

## OTHER TRAINING

2014 Academia Sinica Winter Institute (“Into the Core of Traditional Chinese Scholarship”). January

2013–14 Senior Visiting Student. Peking University.

2012–13 Exchange Scholar Program. Harvard University.

2011 Second year Japanese language course. Hokkaido International Foundation. June–August.

2010 First year Japanese language course. Beloit College. June–August.

2010 Exchange student in Korean. Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. January–June.

2009 Non-degree studies in Korean. Stockholm University. August–December.

2007–08 Non-degree advanced course in Mandarin Chinese. Tongji University.

2004–05 Undergraduate studies in French. Université de la Sorbonne-Nouvelle–Paris 3.

2004 French language. Université Charles-de-Gaulle–Lille 3. January–June.

## Appointments held

2015–18 Postdoctoral fellow. Max Planck Institute for the History of Science.

## Research affiliations

- 2017 Visiting scholar. Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. December.  
2014 Special researcher. Kyujanggak, Seoul National University. May–June.  
2014 Visiting fellow. Institute for Advanced Study on Asia, University of Tokyo. April–May.

## Publications

### SINGLE-AUTHORED BOOKS

- 2020 *The Early Modern Travels of Manchu: A Script and Its Study in East Asia and Europe*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Reviewed in *Journal of Jesuit Studies* 8.1 (2021).

### CO-EDITED BOOKS

- 2020 With Henning Klöter. *Language Diversity in the Sinophone World: Historical Trajectories, Language Planning, and Multilingual Practices*. London: Routledge, 2021 (copyright year).

Reviewed at the MCLC Resource Center in 2021.

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2020 “Linguistic Compartmentalization and the Palace Memorial System in the Eighteenth Century.” *Late Imperial China* 41.2 (2020): 131–79.  
2020 “Joshua Marshman and the Study of Spoken Chinese.” *T’oung Pao* 106.3–4: 401–57.  
2020 “Public Inscriptions and Manchu Language Reform in the Early Qianlong Reign (1740s–60s).” *Saksaha* 16 (2019–2020): 31–53.  
2019 “A Guide to Mandarin, in Manchu: On a Partial Translation of *Guanhua zhinan* (1882) and Its Historical Context.” *East Asian Publishing and Society* 9: 1–28.  
2018 “‘Shooting Characters’: A Phonological Game and Its Uses in Late Imperial China.” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 138.2: 327–59.  
2017 “Mandarin over Manchu: Court-Sponsored Qing Lexicography and Its Subversion in Korea and Japan.” *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 77.2: 363–406.  
2016 “Alphabets *avant la lettre*: Phonographic Experiments in Late Imperial China.” *Twentieth-Century China* 41.3: 234–57.  
2014 “*Shier zitou jizhu* (Collected notes on the twelve heads): A Recently Discovered Work by Shen Qiliang.” *Saksaha* 12: 9–31.  
2014 “Shape and Sound: Organizing Dictionaries in Late Imperial China.” *Dictionaries: Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America* 35: 187–208.  
2014 “The Qing Tradition and the Return of Manchu Lexicography to China (1970s–1990s): The Example of Alphabetical Order.” *Historiographia Linguistica* 41.2/3: 323–54.  
2014 “‘Shi’er zitou’ yu Qingdai Manwen yuxue” 《十二字头》与清代满文语学 (The “twelve heads” and Manchu language studies in the Qing period). *Qingshi yanjiu* 清史研究 3: 1–11.  
2010 “Scholarly Discourse in Chen Li’s (1810–1882) Letters.” *Sungkyun Journal of East Asian Studies* 10.2: 169–89.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

- (2021) “Manchu Studies and the Jesuit Mission to China: Between Mandarin and Classical Chinese.” In *Empires des langues*. Edited by François Lachaud and Michela Bussotti. Paris: École française d’Extrême-Orient, forthcoming.  
2021 “Manchu Language.” In *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History*. Published online on March 25.

- 2020 With Henning Klöter. "Introduction: Language Diversity in the Sinophone World." In *Language Diversity in the Sinophone World* (see above), 1–10.
- 2020 "Manchu, Mandarin, and the Politicization of Spoken Language in Qing China." In *Language Diversity in the Sinophone World* (see above), 39–59.
- 2020 "Lexicography of the Entrenched Empire: Banihûn's and Pu-gong's *Manchu-Chinese Literary Ocean* (1821)." In *The Whole World in a Book: Dictionaries in the Nineteenth Century*, 218–35. Edited by Sarah Ogilvie and Gabriella Safran. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2019 "The Chinese Periphery to c. 1800." In *The Cambridge World History of Lexicography*, 202–22. Edited by John Considine. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 2014 "The Manchu Script and Information Management: Some Aspects of Qing China's Great Encounter with Alphabetic Literacy." In *Rethinking East Asian Languages, Vernaculars, and Literacies, 1000–1919*, 169–97. Edited by Benjamin A. Elman. Leiden: Brill.

#### BOOK REVIEWS

- 2019 Review of *China's Philological Turn: Scholars, Textualism, and the Dao in the Eighteenth Century* by Ori Sela. *History of Humanities* 4.2: 499–501.
- 2012 Review of *China in European Encyclopaedias, 1700–1850* by Georg Lehner. *Sungkyun Journal of East Asian Studies* 12.1: 96–9.

### Grants, honors & awards

- 2020 Ministry of Science and Technology Annual Excellent Talent Award  
科技部 109 年度優秀人才獎勵金, R.O.C. (Taiwan)
- 2019 Research Project for Junior Researchers Grant, Ministry of Science and Technology, R.O.C. (Taiwan)  
(1 year, worth US\$22,000)
- Project title: "Manchu Language Standardization and Qing Institutions during the Eighteenth Century"
- 2019 Initial Employment Academic Research Grant 新聘學術研究獎金, Academia Sinica
- 2018 Temporary Position for Principal Investigator (*Eigene Stelle*), German Research Foundation (DFG)  
(36 months, worth €267,000; declined)
- Project title: "China's Lost Language: The Vernacular of Northeast Asia under Inner Asian Rule, c. 1000–1644"
- 2015 Marjory Chadwick Buchanan Dissertation Prize, East Asian Studies Department,  
Princeton University
- 2014 Seoul National University International Center for Korean Studies Archives Travel Grant
- 2013 1<sup>st</sup> Prize for Conference Paper, Zhongguo Renmin Daxue Qingshi Yanjiu Suo Di Ba Jie Qingnian  
Xuezhe Luntan 中国人民大学清史研究所第八届青年学者论坛
- 2013–14 Chinese Government Scholarship
- 2011 Tsang Yee and Wai Kwan Chan So P\*71 Fellowship for Chinese History and Culture,  
Princeton University
- 2010–15 University Fellowship, Princeton University
- 2010 Merit grant from the Center for Human Values, Princeton University
- 2010 Director's Scholarship, Beloit College
- 2010 Stockholm University Scholarship for Student Mobility
- 2010 Global Exchange Scholarship, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies
- 2008–09 HSBC Scholarship, School of Oriental and African Studies
- 2007–08 Bilateral scholarship for study in China, Swedish Institute

## Presentations

### INVITED TALKS

- 2020 Contributor. “Book Launch: *Language Diversity in the Sinophone World*.” Online event. Universität Tübingen. 30 November.
- 2020 “The Story of the Manchu Movable Type from Paris: A Chapter in the History of Knowledge in the Eighteenth Century” 巴黎的滿文活字字體的故事：18世紀跨國知識史的一章. Northern Taiwan Ming-Qing history study group 北部明清史讀書會. National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei. August 15.
- 2020 Contributor. “New Books from New Authors in Late Imperial Chinese History.” Online event. Princeton University. May 7.
- 2019 “Language as a Topic of Study in Qing History.” Historiography Lecture Series. Part of the graduate seminar “Advanced Historical Theory and Practice.” University of Macau. October 22.
- 2019 “The Creation of a Manchu Vocabulary for Plants and Animals in the Eighteenth Century.” Part of the graduate seminar “Histories of Natural History in East Asia: An Overview.” Princeton University. April 18.
- 2018 “Leibniz’s Dream of a Manchu Encyclopedia and Kangxi’s *Mirror*, 1673–1708.” Universität Göttingen. June 13.
- 2018 “‘Carts Have Standard Gauges and Documents Standard Script’: Plurality and Unity of Writing in the Qing Empire (1644–1911) and Beyond.” Freie Universität Berlin. February 13.
- 2018 “Following Fuxi or Qubilai Khan? Origins of Written Manchu Before 1644 and Its Reimagining Thereafter.” Freie Universität Berlin. February 6.
- 2018 “Leibniz, the Kangxi Emperor, and the Manchu Dictionary.” International Campus, Zhejiang University. January 5.
- 2017 “Ordning i manchuiska ordböcker, från uppkomsten i sextonhundratalets Peking till den sällsamma vidareutvecklingen i det tidiga artonhundratalets Edo” (The story of Manchu lexicographic arrangement from its creation in seventeenth-century Beijing to its curious dénouement in Edo in the 1820s). Lund University. December 6.
- 2017 “Kineserna som lärde sig manchuiska: Soldater, ämbetsmän och de första läroböckerna i Qing-dynastins språk” (The Chinese who learned Manchu: Soldiers, officials, and the first textbooks in the language of the Qing dynasty). Stockholm University. October 9.
- 2017 “The Emperor is Listening: Spoken Language and Officialdom in Manchu China, 1644–1795.” Universität Heidelberg. June 20.
- 2017 “Manchu, Mandarin, and the Politicization of Spoken Language in Early- to Mid-Qing China.” Tel Aviv University. May 23.
- 2017 “When ‘Abundance Is a Fault’: The Manchu Script and the Search for Pedagogical Simplicity in China and Europe, 1670–1738.” University of Utah. April 12.
- 2016 “A Cultural History of The Manchu Script: Lists, Grids, and Metal Type in China and Europe, 1680s–1780s.” Universität Zürich. September 29.
- 2016 “Scripts, Statecraft, and the Place of Manchu in the Vision of a Chinese Empire.” Ruhr-Universität Bochum. July 13.
- 2015 “L’écriture mandchoue en tant que syllabaire ou alphabet : Une tentative de grammatologie comparée sino-européenne” (The Manchu script as syllabary or alphabet: An attempt at a comparative sino-european grammatology), as part of the graduate seminar “Histoire culturelle de la Chine (xvi<sup>e</sup> siècle–xix<sup>e</sup> siècle) : livres, éditeurs et publics.” École des hautes études en sciences sociales. December 17.
- 2015 “Manchuiska eller mandarin? Qing-imperiets språk i Korea och Japan” (Manchu or Mandarin? The languages of the Qing empire in Korea and Japan). University of Gothenburg. October 15.

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 With He Bian. “The Manchu Mirror and the Language of Natural History in High Qing China.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. March 22. Conference held online because of the 2019–21 coronavirus pandemic.

- 2020 “On the Manchu Names for Grasshoppers, Locusts, and a Few Other Bugs” 談談滿文指蝗蟲、蚱蜢等昆蟲的名稱. “The writing of animals in the East Asian cultural imagery” workshop 「東亞文化意象的動物書寫」工作坊. Academia Sinica, Taipei. December 8.
- 2020 “Character Counts: The Quantification of the Chinese Writing System in a Qing Bannerman’s Notebook.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. Boston. March 21. Conference canceled because of the 2019–21 coronavirus pandemic.
- 2019 “Local Linguistic Knowledge in Qing Gazetteers.” Knowing an Empire: Imperial Science in the Chinese and Spanish Empires, 1500–1800. Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin. November 21–22.
- 2019 “Studying Manchu in France: The Lexicography and Grammar of an Auxiliary language (1789–1870).” Mastering Languages / Taming the World: Bilingual Dictionaries and Lexicons in East Asia. Toyo Bunko, Tokyo. Co-organized with École française d’Extrême-Orient. October 27.
- 2019 “A Memorial from Derge, Imperial Agent in Xinjiang, on the Investigation and Arrest of the Chinese Exile Zhang Zhiye (1762).” Current Trends in Manchu Documentary Research. Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. September 17–18.
- 2019 “The Qianlong Emperor’s Criticism of Manchu Language Use.” Languages and Scripts in China: New Directions in Information and Communications History. Columbia University. April 19.
- 2018 “Joshua Marshman Reads the *Kangxi zidian* Rhyme Tables.” History of Science Society Annual Meeting. Seattle. November 1–4.
- 2018 “Language Reform and Manchu Usage in the Eighteenth Century: Some New Sources.” 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Conference of the European Association for Chinese Studies. Glasgow. August 29–Sept. 1.
- 2018 “Was There ‘Evidential Learning’ (*kaozheng xue*) in Manchu? A Look at Language Studies at the Qianlong Court.” Multilingual and Multimedia Translation in Qing China. University of California, Berkeley. June 1–2.
- 2018 “Allusion and Empire: Banihùn’s and Pu-gong’s *Manchu-Chinese Literary Ocean* (1821).” Nineteenth-Century Lexicography Conference. Stanford University. April 6–7.
- 2018 “Grammatology and the Manchu Script in Early Nineteenth-Century Paris: Langlès, Rémusat, Klaproth.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. Washington, D.C. March 22–25.
- 2018 “On the Manchu-Language Translation of *Guanhua zhinan* (A Guide to Mandarin) and Its Historical Background” 关于《官话指南》满语文译本及其历史背景. International Conference on Manchu and Sibe: Language, History, and Culture 满族·锡伯族语言历史文化国际研讨会. Northeast Normal University, Changchun. March 17–18.
- 2017 “Gottlieb Bayer’s (1694–1738) Alphabetic Decipherment of the Manchu Script.” 2017 Academia Sinica international conference on Ming-Qing studies 2017 中央研究院明清研究國際學術研討會. Taipei. December 18–20.
- 2017 “Xiong Shibo’s Study of Manchu Phonology at the Turn of the Eighteenth Century.” The Making of the Humanities vi. Oxford. September 28–30.
- 2017 “A Controversy over the Manchu Script.” 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the History of the Language Sciences. Paris. August 28–September 1.
- 2017 “A Guangxu Renaissance? Manchu Language Studies in the Late Qing and Their Republican Afterlife.” Rethinking Time in Modern China: A Sinological Intervention. Tel Aviv University. May 14–16.
- 2016 “A Cultural History of Manchu.” Sinophone Studies: New Directions. Harvard University. October 14–15.
- 2016 “Leibniz’s Hopes for a Manchu Encyclopedia and the Qing Imperial *Mirror* (*han-i araha manju gisun-i buleku bithe*) of 1708.” 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial Conference of the European Association for Chinese Studies. Saint Petersburg. August 23–27.
- 2016 “Louis-Mathieu Langlès and the Manchu Movable Type.” New Directions in Manchu Studies. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. May 6–7.
- 2016 “‘Shooting Characters’: A Phonological Game and Its Uses in Late Imperial China.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. Seattle. March 31–April 3.
- 2016 “The Rule of a Uniform Script.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting. Cambridge, Mass. March 17–20.

- 2015 “Multilingual Lexicography in Beijing, Seoul and Edo Following the Qing Conquest of Inner Asia.” 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the History of Science in East Asia. Paris. July 6–10.
- 2014 “On Alphabetical Order in Manchu Dictionaries of the Qing Period.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference. Philadelphia. March 27–30.
- 2013 “The ‘Twelve Heads’ and Manchu Language-Studies in the Qing Period” 《十二字头》与清代满文语学. Zhongguo Renmin Daxue Qingshi Yanjiu Suo Di Ba Jie Qingnian Xuezhelun 中国人民大學清史研究所第八屆青年學者論壇. Renmin University of China. December 29.
- 2013 “Organizing Dictionaries in Late Imperial China.” Dictionary Society of North America 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference. University of Georgia. May 22–25.
- 2013 “Alphabetic Principles and Chinese Characters in Qing Dictionaries.” 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Graduate Student Conference on East Asia. Columbia University. February 15–16.
- 2012 “Multilingual Phonology in the Expanding Qing Empire, 1683–1787.” China Undisciplined. University of California, Los Angeles. May 18–19.
- 2011 “Knowledge of Inner Asia in Chosŏn Korea.” History, Memory and the Politics of Memorialization in Contemporary Korea. Leiden University. October 24–27.

#### CAMPUS TALKS

- 2021 “Flora and Fauna in the *Mirror of the Manchu Language*: A Look at Words and Things in Eighteenth-Century China” 十八世紀中國的詞與物世界——以《清文鑑》草木蟲獸部為中心. Institute of Modern History seminar. March 18.
- 2020 “The Late-Qing Reform of the Chinese Writing System as Seen from a Bannerman’s Notebook” 從一本旗人的筆記來看晚清漢字書寫系統的改革. Joint workshop by the Urban History, Gender History, and History of Knowledge research groups. Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica. November 3.
- 2020 “*The Early Modern Travels of Manchu: A Script and Its Study in East Asia and Europe* 近代早期滿文在東亞與歐洲的流傳：一種文字及其知識史.” Book talk sponsored by the Western Learning and China Research Group 西學與中國研究群. Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica. September 3.
- 2019 “Names of Plants and Animals in Written Manchu” 植物與動物在滿文裡面的名稱. Western Learning and China Research Group colloquium. Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica. June 14.
- 2019 “Joshua Marshman’s (1768-1837) Chinese Philology in India” ... 在印度的中國語文學. Western Learning and China Research Group colloquium. Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica. February 14.
- 2015 “The European Invention of the Manchu Alphabet.” Department III colloquium. Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin. December 1.

#### Teaching experience

- 2017 “Linguistic Spaces in Early Modern Asia.” Graduate seminar in three sessions. Tel Aviv University. May 21–24.
- 2014 Teaching assistant for “History of East Asia to 1800.” Departments of History and East Asian Studies. Princeton University. Fall semester.

#### Other professional activities

- 2019– Regular participant. Manchu reading group 滿文讀書會. Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, and National Taiwan University.
- 2019 Discussant. “The Customs System and Modern China” 海關與近代中國. Conference held at the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica. November 28–29.
- 2018 Panel organizer. “Asia and the Global Origins of the Social Sciences, 1700–1900.” History of Science Society Annual Meeting. Seattle. November 1–4.

- 2015–17 Co-organizer (with Glenn Most and Dagmar Schäfer). “Thinking in Many Tongues.” Reading seminar meeting four times per year during two years. Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin.
- 2017 Discussant. “Translating Medicine in the Pre-modern World: Knowledge and Practice.” Conference held at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin. June 23–24.
- 2016 Co-organizer (with Fresco Sam-Sin). “Digital Manchu Lexicography: A First Meeting.” One-day event held at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin. December 16.
- 2016 Panel organizer. “Sound and Script: Phonological Scholarship and Intellectual Life in Early Modern East Asia.” Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Seattle. March 31–April 3.

## Service

### AT ACADEMIA SINICA

- 2020– Member of the editorial committee. *Ming-Qing yanjiu tongxun* 明清研究通訊 (Ming-Qing studies newsletter).
- 2020 External reviewer of job candidates at the Institute of Sociology and the Institute of Ethnology.

### TO THE FIELD

- 2021– Member of the editorial board. *Manxue lishi yuyan yanjiu jikan* 滿學歷史語言研究集刊.
- 2020– Member of the editorial board. *Journal of the European Association for Chinese Studies*.
- 2019– Co-editor. *Saksaha: A Journal of Manchu Studies*.

### Peer Review:

- Article and book-chapter manuscripts (*Zhongyang Yanjiuyuan Lishi Yuyan Yanjiusuo jikan* 中央研究院歷史語言研究所集刊; SHESL-HTL 2019 conference proceedings; *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, *Late Imperial China*, *Twentieth-Century China*, *Saksaha*, *European Journal of Chinese Studies*, Brill).
- Conference abstracts (22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Conference of the European Association for Chinese Studies; Colloque SHESL-HTL 2019).
- Grant proposals (pre-submission reviewer for two grant applications from University of Hong Kong faculty)