

PAOLA DEMATTÈ

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2012 – present Professor
2018 – 2019 Chief Critic, RISD European Honors Program, Rome, Italy
2007 – 2012 Associate Professor
2000 – 2007 Assistant Professor

RISD ADMINISTRATION

2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2012, 2013, 2019. HAVC (THAD) 101-102 administrator
2002 - 2004, 2009-2010. HAVC (THAD) graduate and undergraduate concentration advisor and coordinator, RISD

EDUCATION

1996 Ph.D. Archaeology, Archaeology Interdepartmental Program, UCLA. Dissertation: *The Origins of Chinese Writing. Archaeological and textual analysis.*
1991 M.A. Archaeology, Archaeology Interdepartmental Program, UCLA. Thesis: *The tomb guardian statue in the Warring States tombs of the Chu state.*
1988 *Laurea*, East Asian Languages and Literature (Chinese) Università degli Studi di Venezia "Ca' Foscari" (Venice, Italy) Thesis: *L'Arte di Chu. Aspetti dello Sviluppo Storico Artistico e Iconografico nella Valle del Fiume Azzurro, summa cum laude* (110/110 e lode).

OTHER/PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

2013 (Spring) Visiting associate professor, Anthropology department, UCLA.
2007 – 2008 Curator of "China on Paper", Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles.
2000 (Spring) Visiting Assistant Professor, Asian Languages and Cultures, UCLA.
1998 – 2000 World Bank consultant, Chongqing Urban Environment Project, China.
1996 – 1999 Research Associate, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles.
1995 – 1996 Guest Assistant Curator of *Stones from Heaven. Ancient Chinese Jade*, Exhibitions Department, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.
1993: Summer Internship for Graduate Students, Asian Art department, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

EDUCATION NON-DEGREE

1993 (Fall) Archaeology department, Beijing University, China.
1989 – 1990 Art History department, UC Berkeley (1 year exchange program).
1986 – 1987 Theory of Arts department, Central Academy of Design, Beijing, China.
1985 (Fall) History department, Liaoning University, Shenyang, China.
1984 (Fall) Beijing Language Institute, Beijing, China.

AFFILIATIONS + MEMBERSHIPS

1996 – 2022 Society for American Archaeology, Washington D.C.
2003 – 2015 Research Associate/Fellow/Visiting Professor, Cotsen Inst. of Archaeology, UCLA.
2001 – 2014 Associate in Research, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University.
1989 – 2010 Istituto Italiano per l'Africa e l'Oriente, Is. I.A.O. (Is.M.E.O.) Rome.

PUBLICATIONS

books

[The origins of Chinese writing, Oxford University Press, 2022](#) (ISBN-10: 0197635768)

[China on Paper \(co-authored with Marcia Reed\). Getty Publications, Los Angeles, 2007](#) (re-issued in paperback 2011). Author of two chapters and related catalogue entries, co-author of introduction and one additional chapter. Co-curator of the exhibition.

- Winner of the 2009 Leab Award, of the American Library Associations.
- Review by N.J. Newby, *International Map Collector Society Journal*, Spring 2008.
- Review by Craig Clunas "Making China Visible", *Art History* 2009 vol. 32/3:629-635.
- Review by Siyu Meng *Publishing Research Quarterly* 2011 vol 27/303.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12109-011-9226-3>.

- Review by Stephen McDowall, *Asian Studies Review* 2012 vol. 36:271-72.

Jesuit maps of the word (manuscript in progress)

Rock art in China (manuscript in progress)

articles (peer reviewed)

"A Confucian education for Europeans" *Art Bulletin* vol. 98/1 (March 2016), 43-71.

"Travel and Landscape: The Zuo River Valley rock art, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China" *Antiquity* 89/345 (June 2015), 613-28.

"After the Flood. Cultural heritage and cultural politics in the Chongqing municipality and the Three Gorges areas, China" *Future Anterior* 9/1 (Summer 2012), 49-64.

"The petroglyphs of Helankou, Ningxia province, western China." *Rock Art Research* 28/11 (2011). (Translated into Chinese in *Shijie Yanhua*, June 15 2010), 20-25.

"The origins of Chinese writing: signs and symbols in archaeological context", *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 20/2 (2010), 211-228.

"The Chinese Jade Age: Between archaeology and antiquarianism." *Journal of Social Archaeology* 6/2 (2006), 202-226.

"Beyond Shamanism: Landscape and Self-Expression in the Petroglyphs of Inner Mongolia and Ningxia (China)" *Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 14/1 (2004), 1-20.

"The Role of Writing in the Process of State Formation in Late Neolithic China." *East and West* 49/1-4 (1999), 241-272.

"Longshan Urbanism. The Role of Cities in Pre-dynastic China." *Asian Perspectives* 39/1 (1999) 119-153.

"Antler and Tongue. New Archaeological Evidence in the Study of the Chu Tomb Guardian." *East and West* 44 (1994) 353-404.

book chapters

"Ad maiorem dei gloriam: Jesuit mapping in China between Ricci and Verbiest" in *Cartography and Cultural Exchanges*, Laura Hostetler ed., monograph series *Studies of the History of Christianity in East Asia*, EJ Brill forthcoming 2022.

(with R. G. Lesure) "The Stone Ornaments" in *Excavations at Paso de la Amada, Mexico: Subsistence, Social Organization, and Inequality in an Initial Formative Community*. Richard G. Lesure ed. The Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA, 2021, pp. 263-75.

"Itinerant Creeds: the Chinese northern frontier" in *Locality of Sacrality: Theoretical Approaches to the Emplacement of Religion* Claudia Moser & Cecilia Feldman eds. Joukowski Institute Publication 3, Oxford: Oxbow Books 2014, pp. 57-73.

"Ai Weiwei's Circle of Animals and the Cycle of Animals" in *Ai Weiwei: Circle of Animals*. Susan Delson ed. Prestel, NY 2011.

"Emperors and Scholars: collecting cultures and late imperial antiquarianism" Chapter 12, in *Collecting China: Collecting China. The World, China, and a Short History of Collecting*, V. Rujivacharakul (ed.) University of Delaware Press, 2011.

"Archaeology in China" "Introduction to prehistoric China" "Early humans in East Asia", "Origins of Chinese writing" in: *China: The World Oldest Civilization Revealed*. Lone Cove, Australia: Global Book Publ. 2008.

"Early Chinese dynasties", "Zhengzhou", "Anyang", "Sanxingdui", "Zhouyuan" in: *Archaeologica: The World's Most Significant Sites and Cultural Treasures*. Lone Cove, Australia: Global Book Publ. 2007, pp. 246-253.

"Writing the Landscape: Petroglyphs of Inner Mongolia and Ningxia Province (China)" *Colloquia Pontica* vol. 13 (*Beyond the Steppe and the Sown. Proceedings of the 2002 Chicago Conference on Eurasian Archaeology*) David Peterson et al ed. Brill, 2006, chapter 16, pp. 300-313.

other publications

"The Cicadas of Lady Nan", Double take, *Manual*, forthcoming Fall 2022.

(co-authored with Marco Meccarelli) "Cina. Il racconto delle rocce." *Archeo* 6, pp. 56-68, 2014.

"Review of *Bangudae: Petroglyph panels in Ulsan, Korea, in the context of world rock art* Bangudae Petroglyph Institute, University of Ulsan, Hollym 2013" *La Pintura, the quarterly bulletin of the American Rock Art Research Association* 40/1 (2014).

"Lan-Chiann Wu: A woman painter in the Chinese ink and brush tradition" *Global Art Magazine* August 27, 2012 <http://www.globalartmagazine.com/en/lan-chiannwu.html>

"Review of the Cambridge History of Ancient China: from the Origins of Civilization to 221 B.C. Loewe M. and Shaughnessy E. editors" *American Antiquity* 65 (2000), 206.

(in collaboration with museum staff) *Stones from Heaven. Ancient Chinese Jades*. Exhibition catalog. Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 1997.

"China: History of Archaeology since 1950." *Oxford Companion to Archaeology*. Oxford University Press (1996), 302-304.

GRANTS/AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS

2017 NEH Summer Institute: *Beyond East and West*, Indiana University, Bloomington, June 19-July 7.

2017 Humanities Grant, RISD, library research on Jesuit mapping activities in China (British Library, Bibliothèque National de France, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Archivio di Stato di Torino, Biblioteca Ambrosiana Milano, Biblioteca Braidense Milano)

2016 Humanities Grant, RISD, field research on the Silk Road in Xinjiang, China.

2010 Asian Cultural Council grant - Humanities Fellowship Program. For conservation and documentation of the Xumishan Buddhist grottoes, Ningxia, China.

2008 Professional Development Grant, RISD, research on the Xumishan Buddhist grottoes,

Ningxia, China.

2007 Cho research grant, RISD, travel research on China's contemporary art.

2004 Professional Development Grant, RISD, research on Jesuit art in China, National Library of China, Beijing.

2003 Humanities Grant, RISD, research on the Jesuits in China, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Rome.

2001 Professional Development Grant, RISD, research on petroglyphs in China.

2000 UCLA Office of Instructional Development Mini Grants.

1999 Ahmanson Grant for Field Research, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA.

1997 Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation Summer Post Doctoral Fellowship, Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies, Taipei.

1994-95 UCLA Chancellor Dissertation Year Fellowship.

1994-95 Phi Beta Kappa Fellowship.

1993 UCLA Friends of Archaeology Grant, field research in north China.

1992 UCLA Friends of Archaeology Grant, field research in Inner Mongolia, China.

1990-94 Italian University and Scientific Research Ministry Scholarship for Post-Graduate Studies Abroad.

1991-94 UCLA Non-Resident Tuition Fellowship.

1989-91 Fulbright Travel Grant to study at the University of California.

1989-90 University of California E.A.P. Reciprocity Scholarship.

1985-87 Italian Foreign Affairs Ministry scholarship for the People's Republic of China.

LECTURES & CONFERENCES

"L'Origine della scrittura cinese" Invited seminar, Università degli Studi di Catania, Ragusa, Italy, May 30, 2022.

"Prehistoric human representation in China" Invited presentation for session 238 Human visual archives, globally. Materials, forms and meanings of human representations in ancient times, European Archaeology Association, Kiel, Germany. September 8-11 2021

"Neolithic and Bronze Age evidence for the origins of Chinese writing" Invited lecture for the *100 years Chinese Archaeology Lecture Series 2021*, Universität Heidelberg, Institut für Sinologie. May 21, 2021.

[The origins of Chinese writing: an alternative view](#). Invited SCRIBO Seminar, Università degli Studi di Bologna. March 4, 2021.

"Porcellana bianca e blu. Oltre i confini: identità, ibridazione, appropriazione, assimilazione (VIII-XVI secc.)" Zoom seminar in the department of Storia Antropologia Religioni, "Sapienza" Università di Roma, Friday June 5th, 2020.

"What is rock art?" IFRAO Congress, Valcamonica, Boario Terme (BS), August 29-Sept 2, 2018.

"Chinese writing: origins, nature, and history" invited lecture at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford University, Oxford UK. April 27, 2017.

"文字是什么?" (What is writing? The origins of Chinese writing in a global context) invited lecture in Chinese, History department, Fudan University, Shanghai, China, May 13, 2016.

"From Ricci to Verbiest: Mapping and geographic research by Giulio Aleni, Francesco Sambiasi, Niccolò Longobardi, Manuel Diaz and others" invited paper presented at *Reimagining the Globe and Cultural Exchange: From the World Maps of Ricci and Verbiest to Google Earth. An International Symposium on Cartography and East-West Cultural Exchange*. University of San Francisco, April 22-24, 2016.

"Ritual Landscapes in Prehistoric China" Sponsored Symposium Rock Art and Sacred Places, Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Orlando, April 6-10, 2016.

“Engels, Bachofen and Gimbutas in China: Interpreting the prehistoric human figure through a western lens” International symposium *Trans-Mediterranean Humans. Rethinking human representation in the Neolithic and Bronze Age around the Mediterranean Sea*. Università di Alghero – Sassari, Sardinia, Italy, October 27-29, 2015.

“Archaeology of the Buddhist landscape at the Xumishan caves, Ningxia China” Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Honolulu, April 3-7, 2013.

Discussant at the conference *World Prehistory and Ancient Arts: The Pan'gudae Petroglyphs of Ulsan, Korea* hosted by the Early Korea Project of the Korea Institute, Harvard University and sponsored by the Bangudae Petroglyphs Institute of Ulsan University. Cambridge, MA, April 26-27, 2012.

“Red Images: the rock art of the Zuo River in Guangxi, southern China” *Sponsored Symposium on Rock Art*, Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Memphis, April 19, 2012.

“Itinerant Creeds: the Chinese northern frontier” presented at the symposium *Locality of Sacrality: Theoretical Approaches to the Emplacement of Religion*, Theoretical Archaeology Group, Brown University, April 30-May 2, 2010.

“What is rock art? Evidence from China” invited speaker, International Distinguished Lecture, Nevada Rock Art Foundation, Reno & Las Vegas, Jan. 22-24, 2010.

“The petroglyphs of Helankou, Ningxia, western China” meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Atlanta April 21-26, 2009.

“The Buddhist grottoes of Xumishan, Ningxia, China: issues of preservation” Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA, April 4, 2009.

“The origins of Chinese writing: signs and symbols in archaeological context” Society for East Asian Archaeology, Beijing, June 3-6 2008.

“Un'educazione confuciana per aristocratici europei” invited speaker, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia, Dipartimento di Studi Orientali, Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza”, Rome, February 12, 2008.

“A Confucian education. The French translations of the *Shengjitu* and *Dijian tushuo*.” Speaker and organizer of *Papers on China* Symposium, Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, December 13-14, 2008.

“The origins of Chinese writing: signs and symbols in archaeological context” Meeting of the European Archaeological Association, Zara, Croatia, September 18-20, 2007.

“Alternative identities in archaeology” meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Austin, TX, April 25-29, 2007.

“Emperors and scholars: Antiquarian and collecting practices in the Qing period.” invited paper, “Collecting ‘China’. Objects, materialities, & multicultural collectors.” conference, University of Delaware & Winterthur Museum, September 29-30, 2006.

“Imagery and belief in ancient China” Department of Anthropology, Harvard University. December 2, 2005.

“Rock art in China.” Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA, April 29, 2005.

“Archaeology and Religion: the case of ancient China.” meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Montreal, April 1- 4, 2004.

“From Astronomy to Heaven. Jesuit science and the conversion of China.” New England Association for Asian Studies, Harvard University, October 24 -26 2003.

“Shamanism and the Petroglyphs of Ningxia and Inner Mongolia.” Invited paper, New England East Asian Art History Seminar, Fairbank Center for East Asian Research, Harvard University, April 19, 2003.

“Writing the landscape: the petroglyphs of Inner Mongolia and Ningxia province (China).” First International Conference of Eurasian Archaeology, University of Chicago, May 3-4, 2002.

"The Petroglyphs of North-western China." meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, New Orleans, April 18- 23, 2001.

"Cultural Heritage and cultural politics in the Chongqing and Three Gorges area." meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Philadelphia, April 5-9, 2000.

"The Chinese Jade Age: between archaeology and antiquarianism." Institute of Archaeology, UCLA, March 3, 2000.

"The Chongqing Cultural Heritage: A Project in International Cooperation." Report presented at the international conference "Financing, Resources and the Economics of Culture in Sustainable Development." The Government of Italy and the World Bank in cooperation with UNESCO, Florence, October 4-7 1999.

"The Cultural Heritage and Archaeology of China's Three Gorges." Loyola Marymount University, February 16th, 1999.

"Longshan Era Urbanism." Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA, March 19th, 1999.

"Endangered Cultural Heritage Sites in the Chongqing and Three Gorges Area" J. P. Getty Research Institute, May 18, 1998.

"The Role of Writing in the Process of State Formation in Late Neolithic China." meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Nashville, April 2- 6, 1997.

"Longshan Urbanism." Anthropology Dept, Harvard University, March 18, 1997.

"Rock Art of Inner Mongolia." Annual Symposium of the UCLA Friends of Archaeology, UCLA 1993.

"Antler and Tongue Revisited: New Archaeological Evidence from the Warring States Tombs of the Chu kingdom." Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Pacific Coast. California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, June 19-21, 1992.

with Rainer Berger, Adam T. Kessler, & Sammy Y. K. Lee "Carbon-14 dating of Medieval Chinese Carpets." 28th International Symposium on Archaeometry, UCLA, March 23-27, 1992.

FIELDWORK & SURVEYS

2015 April: laboratory analysis of jade ornaments, San Cristobal, Chiapas, Mexico

2010 June: fieldwork, Xumishan, Guyuan, Ningxia, China

2008 June: documentation, Xumishan, Guyuan, Ningxia, China

2003 August. Excavation and laboratory research of Formative sites (Prof. Richard Lesure, UCLA project), Apizaco, Tlaxcala, Mexico.

2002 June: survey of petroglyph sites: Ningxia, Inner Mongolia, and Gansu, China.

2001 August: Ceramic artifacts analysis, Apizaco, Tlaxcala, Mexico.

2000 August: Excavation of Neolithic to Bronze Age site at Bus del Buson (Soprintendenza Archeologica del Veneto), Belluno, Italy.

2000 June: Archaeological research on petroglyphs, Inner Mongolia & Ningxia, China.

February 1998 - June 2000: various surveys of historic and archaeological sites in the Chongqing Municipality for the World Bank "Chongqing Urban Environment Project - Cultural Heritage Component".

1997 August: Archaeological research at Yuan Shang Du, Inner Mongolia.

September 1993 - January 1994 Archaeological research in Henan, Shandong and Shaanxi, China.

1992 October: Archaeological research in Inner Mongolia, China.

1991 June-July: Excavation of Roman and Medieval housing and religious structures, Belluno, Veneto, Italy (Soprintendenza Archeologica del Veneto).

1991 Spring: Excavation of a Native American settlement, Little Lake, Inyo, California.

COMMITTEES & CAMPUS SERVICE

2011 - 2012 Design Historian search committee, chair, RISD
2010 - 2011 International Studies committee, RISD
2008 - 2009 Committee on faculty appointments, RISD
2000 - 2001, 2002- 2006 European Honors Program committee, RISD
2001 - 2002 African Art search committee, RISD
1997 - 1999 Lee Foundation Lecture Series Advisory Committee, Los Angeles
1996 - 1999 Conceptual Group, J.P. Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles.

MISCELLANEOUS

2000 Consultant for the History Channel documentary "China's Great Dam: Taming the Dragon", Perpetual Motion Films, Los Angeles.

LANGUAGES

fluent: Italian, English, Mandarin Chinese.
reading and basic: French, German, Spanish.
ancient languages: Classical Chinese, Latin (basic).