

## Richard Jean So

McGill University  
 Department of English  
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### EMPLOYMENT

- 2021 – Associate Professor w/ tenure, Department of English, McGill University
- 2018 – 2021 Assistant Professor, Department of English, McGill University
- 2017 – 2018 Early Career Fellow, Humanities Center, University of Pittsburgh
- 2010 – 2017 Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Chicago
- 2008 – 2010 Bolin Dissertation Fellow, Comparative Literature Program, Williams College

### EDUCATION

- 2002 – 2010 PhD in English & Comparative Literature, Columbia University (*distinction*)
- 1997 – 2001 BA in English & Economics, Brown University (*magna cum laude*)

Additional Training: U. of Michigan (linear models, maximum likelihood estimation, network analysis), U. of Washington (natural language processing, machine learning)

### PUBLICATIONS

#### *Books*

- TBD *Fast Culture, Slow Justice: Race and Writing in the Digital Age*  
 In progress
- 2021 *Redlining Culture: A Data History of Racial Inequality and Postwar Fiction*,  
 Columbia University Press. 90,000 words.  
 \* *New York Times* Op-Ed: [“Just How White is the Book Industry?”](#)  
 \* *The Nation*, [interview](#)  
 \* [Excerpt](#) from book at Literary Hub (lithub.com)  
 \* *ASAP Journal* “[Books in Conversation](#),” feature  
 \* New Books Network, [interview](#)  
 Reviews: *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Year’s Work in Critical and Cultural Theory*,  
*Publishing Research Quarterly*, *College and Research Libraries*, *Svenska Dagbladet*  
 (Sweden), *Literaturkritik* (Germany)
- 2016 *Transpacific Community: America, China, and the Rise and Fall of a Cultural Network*.  
 Columbia University Press. 105,000 words.

\* Awards: Modernist Studies Association, First Book Prize: Finalist

\* Interview: New Books Network, [link](#)

Reviewed in *Los Angeles Review of Books* (LARB), *American Literary History*, *American Literature*, *Journal of American Studies*, *Comparative Literature*, *Comparative Literature Studies*, *Journal of American-East Asian Relations*, *Frontiers of Literary Studies in China*, *Journal of Chinese Overseas*, *Journal of American History*, *Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews* (CLEAR), *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*

#### *Edited Special Issues of Journals*

- 2023 “Cultural Theory and Computation,” co-editor w/ Laura McGrath, Ted Underwood, and Chad Wellmon, special issue of *New Literary History*, forthcoming 2023.
- 2021 “Post-45 by the Numbers,” editor, joint special issue of *Post-45: Peer Reviewed* and *Journal of Cultural Analytics*, March 2021.

#### *Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles*

- 2023 “#BLM Insurgency, White Structures of Feeling, and the Fate of the 2020 “Racial Awakening.” With Long Le-Khac and Maria Antoniak, *New Literary History*, forthcoming.
- 2023 “Stories on Demand: #Covid and Writing Social Crisis in the Platform Age.” With Hoyt Long and Kaitlyn Todd. *Critical Inquiry*, forthcoming.
- 2021 “Narrative Theory for Computational Narrative Understanding.” With David Bamman and Andrew Piper. *Proceedings of the 2021 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing* (EMNLP).
- 2021 “Can We Map Culture?” w/ Ted Underwood, *Journal of Cultural Analytics*, June 17, 2021.
- 2020 “Race and Distant Reading,” w/ Edwin “Teddy” Roland, *Publications of the Modern Language Association* (PMLA), Vol. 135, Number 1, January 2020.
- 2019 “Economics, Race, and the Post-war American Novel: A Quantitative History,” w/ Dan Sinykin and Jessica Young, *American Literary History* (ALH). Vol. 24, Number 4, December 2019.
- 2019 “Race, Writing, and Computation: Racial Difference and the US Novel, 1880-2000,” w/ Hoyt Long and Yuancheng Zhu, *Journal of Cultural Analytics*, January 11, 2019.
- 2017 “All Models are Wrong,” *Publications of the Modern Language Association* (PMLA). Vol. 132, No. 3, May 2017, pp. 668-673.

- 2017 "The Invention of the Global MFA: Taiwanese Writers at Iowa, 1963-1979." *American Literary History (ALH)*. Fall 2017. Volume 29, Number 3, pp. 499-520.
- 2016 "Turbulent Flow: A Computational Model of World Literature." With Hoyt Long. *Modern Language Quarterly*. Volume 77, Number 3, pp. 345-367.
- 2016 "Literary Pattern Recognition: Modernism Between Close Reading and Machine Learning." With Hoyt Long. *Critical Inquiry*. Winter 2016. Volume 42, Number 2, pp. 235-267.
- 2013 "Literary Information Warfare: Eileen Chang, the State Department, and Cold War Media Aesthetics." *American Literature*. December 2013. Volume 85, Number 4, pp. 719-744.
- 2013 "Network Analysis and the Sociology of Modernism." With Hoyt Long. *boundary 2*. Summer 2013, Volume 40, Number 2, pp. 147-182.
- 2010 "Fictions of Natural Democracy: Pearl Buck, *The Good Earth*, and the Asian American Subject." *Representations*, Fall 2010, Volume 112, pp. 87-111.
- 2010 "Collaboration and Translation: Lin Yutang and the Archive of Asian American Fiction." *Modern Fiction Studies*, Spring 2010, Volume 56, Number 1, pp. 40-62.
- 2008 "Chinese Exclusion Fiction and Global Histories of Race: HT Tsiang and Theodore Dreiser." *Genre*, Fall 2008, Volume 39, Number 4, pp. 1-25

#### *Public Writing*

- 2020 "Just How White is the Book Industry?" With Gus Wezerek. *New York Times*, December 11, 2020.
- 2020 "The Inertia of Whiteness in the World of Postwar Publishing," *Literary Hub*, December 15, 2020 (excerpt from *Redlining Culture*).
- 2016 "Study Shows Books Can Bring Democrats and Republicans Together." With Andrew Piper. *The Guardian*, October 12, 2016.
- 2016 "Beyond Resistance: Towards a Future History of Digital Humanities." With Juliana Spahr and Andrew Piper. *LA Review of Books*, May 11, 2016.
- 2016 "Women Write about Family, Men Write about War." With Andrew Piper. *The New Republic*, April 8, 2016.
- 2016 "How has the MFA Changed the Contemporary Novel?" With Andrew Piper. *The Atlantic Monthly*, March 6, 2015.

2015 “Quantifying the Weepy Bestseller: Are Commercial Novels Really More Sentimental than Literary Fiction?” With Andrew Piper. *The New Republic*, December 17, 2015.

2014 “Cents and Sensibility: Trust Thomas Piketty on Income Inequality. Ignore What He Says About Literature.” With Ted Underwood and Hoyt Long. *Slate*, December 10, 2014.

*Short Essays and Reviews*

2021 “Contemporary Culture after Data Science,” introduction to special issue on “Post-45 by the Numbers,” *Post45: Peer Reviewed* and *Journal of Cultural Analytics*, March 2021.

2019 “Trust in Numbers: A Response to Nan Da,” *Critical Inquiry* online forum on Nan Da’s “The Computational Case Against Computational Literary Criticism,” March 2019.

2017 “Lao She.” *New Literary History of Modern China*, edited by David Wang, Harvard University Press, 2016.

2014 Review of Eileen Chang: *Romancing Languages, Cultures, and Genres*. *Journal of Asian Studies*, May 2014, Volume 73, Number 2, pp. 531-532.

2011 “Gu Cheng.” Invited submission to Guest Editor’s Column on “Library Walk” Exhibit. *PMLA*, January 2011, Volume 126, Number 1, pp. 4-5.

2006 Review of Lawrence and Cheung, eds. *Recovered Legacies: Authority and Identity in Early Asian American Literature*. *American Studies*, Winter 2006.

*Interviews*

2021 “The History of Book Publishing is a History of Racial Inequality,” *The Nation*, May 2021 <https://www.thenation.com/article/culture/richard-jean-so-redlining-culture-interview/>

2021 “Redlining Culture: An Interview,” *McGill Magazine*, March 2021 <https://mcgillnews.mcgill.ca/s/1762/news/interior.aspx?gid=2&pgid=2337>

2019 “Cultural Analytics, Literary Studies, and Race,” *The Dissenter*, December 2019 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaaNQBH-Xzg>

2016 “Novel Data,” *University of Chicago Magazine*, May 2016 <https://mag.uchicago.edu/arts-humanities/novel-data>

2016 “Digital in the Humanities: An Interview with Richard Jean So,” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, April 28, 2016, <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/the-digital-in-the-humanities-an-interview-with-richard-jean-so/#!>

- 2016 “Hoyt Long and Richard So on Close Reading, Machine Learning, and Patterns in Literature,” *Critical Inquiry*, Winter 2016,  
[http://criticalinquiry.uchicago.edu/hoyt\\_long\\_and\\_richard\\_so\\_on\\_close\\_reading\\_machine\\_learning\\_and\\_patterns\\_in/](http://criticalinquiry.uchicago.edu/hoyt_long_and_richard_so_on_close_reading_machine_learning_and_patterns_in/)

#### *FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS*

- 2022 Faculty Fellowship, Tanner Humanities Center, University of Utah (declined)  
 2017 Modernist Studies Association (MSA), First Book Prize, Finalist  
 2017 Early Career Residential Fellowship, Humanities Center, University of Pittsburgh  
 2012 Faculty Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)  
 2012 Faculty Fellowship, Franke Humanities Institute, University of Chicago  
 2008 Charles Gaius Bolin Dissertation Fellowship, Williams College  
 2007 Mrs. Giles Whiting Dissertation Fellowship, Whiting Foundation  
 2007 International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF), Social Sciences Research Council (SSRC)  
 2007 Dissertation Research Fellowship (declined), Fulbright IIE  
 2001 Ratcliffe Hicks Prize for Top English Student, Brown University  
 2001 Preston Gurney Prize for Literary Criticism, Brown University

#### *GRANTS*

- 2022 – 2024 “Cultural Studies in the Platform Age,” (Co-PI with Hoyt Long and Aarthi Vadde) Franke Humanities Institute, University of Chicago, Faculty Development Grant, \$30,000  
 2020 “Cultural Analytics: Narrative and Society,” Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Connections Grant, \$24,189.  
 2020 – 2021 “Redlining Culture: A Data History of Race and American Fiction,” McGill University, Social Science and Humanities Accelerator Grant, \$10,000  
 2020 “Artificial Intelligence, Democracy, and Culture,” McGill University, Seed Funding from the Arts Faculty, \$8,000  
 2019 – 2023 “Redlining Culture: A Data History of Race and US Fiction,” Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Insight Grant (IG), \$60,226  
 2017 – 2018 Hathitrust Research Center, Advanced Collaborative Research Grant  
 2017 – 2020 Co-Principal Investigator, Grant to Create “Textual Optics Lab” at the University of Chicago, Neubauer Collegium, University of Chicago (\$250,000)

- 2016 – 2020 Co-Principal Investigator, Grant for Digitization of Republican-Era Chinese Journals at the Shanghai Public Library, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago (\$20,000)
- 2014 – 2016 Co-Principal Investigator, Grant for “Computational Approaches to American Literature,” Metaknowledge Project and Templeton Foundation (\$100,000)
- 2014 – 2016 Co-Principal Investigator, Seed Grant for “Global *Poetry*,” Global Midwest, Humanities Without Borders Initiative, Mellon Foundation (\$10,000)
- 2012 – 2014 Co-Principal Investigator, Grant for “Global Literary Networks,” a Digital Humanities Project, Neubauer Collegium, University of Chicago (\$50,000)

#### EDITORIAL POSITIONS

- 2021 – *Computational Literary Studies*, Editorial Board Member
- 2019 – Hathitrust, Board Member
- 2018 – *Public Books*, Digital Humanities Section Editor
- 2016 – Post-45, Board Member
- 2016 – *Journal of Cultural Analytics*, Editorial Board Member
- 2010 – 2014 *Boundary 2*, Assistant Editor

#### NATURAL AND PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

- Natural: Chinese, near fluent (read, write, speak).
- Programming: Python (primary), R

#### RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Cultural analytics, digital humanities, contemporary American culture, Internet culture, Asian American Literature and Culture

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2018 – Assistant Professor, Department of English, McGill University  
 “Introduction to Cultural Studies,” Fall 2019, Fall 2020  
 “Introduction to Literary Text Mining,” (Graduate), Fall 2019, Fall 2020  
 “Introduction to Digital Humanities,” Winter 2020  
 “Asian-American and Asian-Canadian Literatures,” Fall 2019, Winter 2020  
 “Introduction to Cultural Studies,” Fall 2018  
 “Debates in the Digital Humanities,” (Graduate), Fall 2018  
 “Data and Culture,” Winter 2018  
 “Asian-American and Asian-Canadian Literatures,” Winter 2018
- 2010 – 2017 Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Chicago  
 “Text, Archive, Data: Methods in Literary Study from the New Criticism to the Digital Humanities,” (Graduate), Winter 2017



- 2022 “How a Pandemic Becomes a Story: Narrative in the Digital Age,” Humanities Center & CESTA lecture, Stanford University, October 2022
- 2022 “Racial Critique, Data Science, and Literary Studies,” University of Central Florida, International Society for Empirical Study of Literature, Keynote, July 2022 (Moved to Virtual)
- 2022 “White Online Publics, Black Discourse Insurgency, and the Fate of Summer 2020,” University of Virginia, *New Literary History* Forum on “Computation and Critical Theory,” May 2022
- 2022 “Racial Critique, Data Science and Literary Studies,” Education University of Hong Kong, Digital Humanities Cluster, Invited Lecture, May 2022
- 2022 “Racial Critique, Data Science and Literary Studies,” Uppsala University, Sweden, English Department, Invited Lecture, May 2022
- 2022 “Racial Critique, Data Science and Literary Studies,” Department of English, Duke University, Invited Lecture, April 2022
- 2022 “Redlining Culture: Book Talk,” Mellon Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, March 2022
- 2022 “Rise of the Asian American Novel: A Computational History,” University of Virginia, English Department, Invited Lecture, March 2022
- 2022 “Digital Methods for the Study of Race and Literature,” Birkbeck, University of London, February 2022 (Virtual – rescheduled to May 2022)
- 2022 “What do 90 Million Readers Think?” Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, January 2022
- 2021 “How a Pandemic Becomes a Story,” Korea University, South Korea December 2021 (Remote)
- 2021 “Digital Humanities Approaches to World Literature,” Tsinghua University, China, November 2021 (Remote)
- 2021 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP) Dominican Republic (virtual presentation) “Narrative Theory for Computational Narrative Understanding,” November 2021



- 2021 Double Exposure Investigative Film Festival and Symposium, New York City "Beyond Inclusion: Challenging Entrenched Institutions," Invited Speaker (virtual), October 2021
- 2021 "How a Pandemic Becomes a Story," NEH Advanced Institute in Humanities Analytics, Santa Fe Institute, July 2021 (Remote)
- 2021 "Redlining Culture," Summer Book Series, Center for Study of Race and Ethnicity, Brown University, May 2021 (Remote)
- 2021 "Race and Publishing," Bard College, April 2021 (Remote)
- 2021 "On *Redlining Culture*," Emory University, February 2021 (Remote)
- 2021 "Race and Computational Literary Criticism," Claremont Graduate University, February 2021 (Remote)
- 2020 "Signal and Noise," Digital Literary Studies Conference, Aarhus University, Denmark, September 2020 (Remote)
- 2020 "Computational Narratology," Workshop on Narrative and Society, University of Chicago, February 2020
- 2020 "Difference and Data," Panel on "Critical Theory and Computation," Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, January 2020
- 2019 "Imagined Communities After Reddit," NovelTM Annual Meeting, Banff, Canada, October 2019
- 2019 "On Inequality," Post-45 Annual Meeting, University of Notre Dame, September 2019
- 2019 "Race and Distant Reading," Genealogies of Distant Reading Workshop, Pennsylvania State University, August 2019
- 2019 "Critical Race Theory and Computational Narratology," (Keynote) Annual Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics, Narrative Understanding Workshop, Minneapolis, June 2019
- 2019 "Book History, Racial Inequality, Computational Method," (Keynote) Rare Book School, University of Virginia, May 2019
- 2019 "The Invention of the Global MFA," Tsukuba University, Tokyo, Japan March 2019

- 2019        “Redlining Publishing,” Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, January 2019
- 2019        “The Geometry of Whiteness,” Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, January 2019
- 2018        “Roman Jakobson, 2018,” Undead Texts Conference, Columbia University, November 2018
- 2018        “The Geometry of Whiteness,” NovelTM Conference, “Novel Worlds,” McGill University, October 2018
- 2018        “The Geometry of Whiteness: Bridging the Gap Between Critical Race Studies and Cultural Analytics,” The Humanities in the Age of Big Data, University of Illinois at Urbana, October 2018
- 2018        “Computation and the Critique of Race,” Humanities Center Colloquium Series, University of Pittsburgh, April 2018
- 2018        “Race and Distant Reading,” Department of Comparative Literature, Luncheon Series, Pennsylvania State University, April 2018
- 2018        “Race and Distant Reading,” English Department, McGill University, March 2017
- 2018        “Modeling Racial Difference: Between Close Reading and Computation,” Humanities Lecture, Boston University, February 2017
- 2018        “Distant Reading and Race,” English Department Lecture, Miami University, February 2017
- 2018        “Distant Reading and Race,” American Cultures Workshop, Harvard University, January 2017
- 2017        “Distant Reading and Race,” Humanities Digital Workshop,” Washington University of St. Louis, December 2017
- 2017        “Distant Reading and Race,” Digital Humanities Workshop, Notre Dame University, November 2017
- 2017        “The Racial Logic of Literary Distinction,” Post-45 Annual Meeting, Wesleyan University, November 2017
- 2017        “Distant Reading and Race,” Humanities Center, University of Pittsburgh, September 2017
- 2017        “Digital Humanities: Some Lessons,” Digital Humanities Laboratory, Northwestern University, September 2018

- 2017 “Race and Distant Reading,” Digital Humanities Institute, University of California at Berkeley, August 2017
- 2017 “A Computational Model of the Contemporary: Narrative, Objects, Persons,” (with David Bamman) Cultural Analytics Conference, University of Notre Dame, May 2017
- 2017 “Can Computation Change the Study of Chinese Culture and History?” Harvard University, May 2017
- 2017 “Globalization of the MFA: East Asian Writers at Iowa,” Purdue University, April 2017
- 2017 “The Data of Cultural Inequality,” (with Andrew Piper) Temple University, April 2017
- 2017 “The Empathetic World: Cold War Media Theory and Literature Across the Pacific,” Cornell University, February 2017
- 2016 “Dark Data: Modeling Racial Discourse in the US Novel,” Culture Analytics Conference: Text, UCLA, Institute for Pure and Applied Math, May 2016
- 2016 “Dark Data: Modeling Racial Discourse in the US Novel,” University of Pennsylvania, Price Lab for the Digital Humanities, April 2016
- 2016 “Turbulent Flow: A Computational Model of World Literature,” University of Pennsylvania, Department of English, April 2016
- 2016 “White Mythologies,” Roundtable, The Contemporary, Princeton University, April 2016
- 2016 “Data Data: Racial Discourse in the US Novel, Computationally,” Workshop on Theory and Media, Yale University, March 2016
- 2016 “Dark Data: Modeling Racial Discourse in the US Novel,” Stanford University, Stanford Literary Lab, March 2016
- 2016 “Computational Approaches to Japanese and Chinese Literature,” Stanford University, DH-Asia, March 2016
- 2016 “How to Teach an Oriental to be Creative,” Lecture Series, University of Chicago, Department of Comparative Literature, February 2016

#### *UNIVERSITY SERVICE*

- 2020 – 2022 McGill University, Graduate Admissions Committee, Member

2019 – 2020	McGill University, Ad Hoc Constitutional Review Committee, Member
2019 – 2021	McGill University, B.A. & Sc. Program Administration Committee, Member
2019 – 2021	McGill University, English Department, Job Placement Officer
2019	McGill University, English Department, Faculty Colloquium, Committee Member
2018 – 2019	McGill University, English Department, American Literature Search, Committee Member
2014 – 2017	University of Chicago, Co-Founder and Co-Director, Digital Humanities Forum
2011 – 2017	University of Chicago, Faculty Member, China Committee of the Center for East Asian Studies Program
2015	University of Chicago, Americanist Reading Group, Open Job Search Committee Member, Junior and Senior Faculty in Multiple Fields
2015	University of Chicago, Job Search Committee Member, Junior Faculty in Narrative Theory
2014	University of Chicago, Job Search Committee Member, Junior Faculty in Latino/a Literatures
2012 – 2013	University of Chicago, Faculty Member, Working Group on the Digital Humanities
2012 – 2013	University of Chicago, Faculty Co-sponsor, New Media Workshop
2012	University of Chicago, Graduate Admissions
2011	University of Chicago, Job Search Committee Member, Junior Faculty in Global Literatures in English
2011	University of Chicago, Committee Member, Undergraduate Curriculum Review
2011 – 2012	University of Chicago, Faculty Co-sponsor, American Literature and Cultures Workshop
2010	University of Chicago, Job Search Committee Member, Junior Faculty in Transnational American Literature
2010	University of Chicago, Committee Member, Graduate Curriculum Review

*PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS*

Modern Language Association

Post-45

Association for the Study of the Arts in the Present (ASAP)

North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL)

*REFERENCES*

James English, John Welsh Centennial Professor of English, Department of English,  
University of Pennsylvania, [jenglish@english.upenn.edu](mailto:jenglish@english.upenn.edu)

Alan Y. Liu, Distinguished Professor, Department of English, University of California at  
Santa Barbara, [ayliu.ucsb@gmail.com](mailto:ayliu.ucsb@gmail.com)

Ted Underwood, Professor, Department of English and the School of Information,  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, [tunder@illinois.edu](mailto:tunder@illinois.edu)