MARGARET RAUCH FREI

Ph.D. Candidate in the History Department at Boston University | mrauch2@bu.edu
Interdisciplinary researcher studying women's education in China using digital methodologies

EDUCATION

Boston University, Boston, MA
Ph.D. Candidate, History **2022–Present**
M.A., History **2022–2025**

Fields: Chinese History; Christianity in China; Women and Gender; Computational Humanities
Dissertation: American Catholic Sisters, Chinese Lay Teachers, and the Cultivation of the 'New Woman,' 1920 – 1950
Advisor: Eugenio Menegon

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN
B.S., Computer Science and Supplemental Major in Chinese **2018–2022**
Stamps Scholar (full-tuition merit scholarship)**;** GPA: 3.957

SKILLS AND COURSES

Languages: Working Proficiency in Mandarin (traditional and simplified), studying French and Classical Chinese

Technical Skills: natural language processing, machine learning, data visualization, data collection and cleaning, AI prompt engineering, GitHub, Python, C++, Java, version control

Graduate Course Work
History Courses: Chinese Historiography, Historian's Craft, History of Republican China, Transnational History of Asia, European Historiography, African Historiography, American Historiography
Theology Courses: Introduction to the History of Christian Mission, Global Christianity, East Asian Christianity, Catholicism in Modern China (Boston College)
Translation Courses: Chinese Translation Workshop, Translation Seminar
Digital Humanities Courses: Digital Humanities Capstone Project Course (Boston College)
Literature Courses: Literature of Republican China, Masterpieces of Modern Chinese Literature (audited at Harvard)

Undergraduate Course Work
Chinese: Advanced Chinese 5, Classical Chinese, Intro to Chinese Literature, Digital Empires (digital humanities course on Western Han), Intro to Modern Chinese Literature, Evolution of Chinese Characters (taken in Taiwan)
Technical Courses: algorithms, databases, machine learning, neural networks, natural language processing, compilers

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Boston University Teaching Fellow: Digital Humanities and Social Sciences Introduction **Spring 2026**
- Designed and taught a new course in collaboration with Eugenio Menegon to teach students proficiency in digital communication, computational research, and practical tools for digital archiving, website development, database design, spatial analysis, text encoding, natural language processing, and social network analysis.
- Crafted unique assignments to teach humanities students technical skills with special attention to incorporating AI ethically without stunting learning.
- Prepared and delivered all but two lectures, guiding the trajectory of student learning throughout the semester
- Ensured course syllabus matched three content areas in Boston University's university-wide general education program called HUB (Social Inquiry I, Digital/Multimedia Expression, Research and Information Literacy) and obtained approval from HUB curriculum committee.

Chicago Jesuit Academy, Classroom Assistant, Chicago, IL **Summer of 2021**
- Provided in-classroom support identifying and addressing learning deficiencies in 8th grade math classroom
- Worked independently with small groups of students to strengthen math skills

St. Andre Bessette Remedial Secondary School Teacher Kitete, Tanzania **Summer 2019**
- Taught English to a class of eleven high school students, tutored students individually each evening
- Received grant from IMC Charitable Foundation to start a robotics class which met daily and taught students basic computer, programming, English, logic, teamwork and math skills
- Developed individualized curriculum for English and robotics class

PUBLICATIONS

Margaret Rauch Frei. Review: Treasury of Lives. *Reviews in Digital Humanities*, VII(5). 2026. https://doi.org/10.21428/3e88f64f.78cd6bb3

Alex Mayfield, **Greta Frei**, Daryl Ireland, and Eugenio Menegon. "Project Overview: China Historical Chrisitan Database." *Reviews in Digital Humanities*, VII(2/3). 2026. https://doi.org/10.21428/3e88f64f.37f955a2

Margaret Frei. Review of *Historic Houses of Worship in Peril* by Thomas Frank. *Historical Journal of Massachusetts,* vol. 54, no. 1, January 2026.

Alex Mayfield, **Margaret Frei**, Daryl Ireland, and Eugenio Menegon. 2024. "The China Historical Christian Database: A Dataset Quantifying Christianity in China from 1550 to 1950" *Data* 9, no. 6: 76. https://doi.org/10.3390/data9060076

Darly Ireland, Alex Mayfield, Eugenio Menegon, and **Greta Rauch**. "绘制中国基督教遗产：中国基督教历史资料库的故事." *Christian Times* 基督時報. December 21, 2023. 绘制中国基督教遗产：中国基督教历史资料库的故事-基督时报-基督教资讯平台 (christiantimes.cn)

Daryl Ireland, Alex Mayfield, Eugenio Menegon, and **Greta Rauch**. "Mapping China's Christian Legacy: The Story of the China Historical Christian Database." ChinaSource (blog), November 10, 2023. https://www.chinasource.org/resource-library/blog-entries/mapping-chinas-christian-legacy/.

Margaret Rauch. "Jujue taren de liwu" 拒絕他人的禮物 [Refusing the gifts of others] in *West Meets East : 100 Essays from University Students in the USA* edited by Li-cheng Gu. Beijing Language and Culture University Press. 2023.
Margaret Rauch. Review of *Zhang Yijing (1871–1931) and the Search for a Chinese Christian Identity* by Jue Wang in *International Bulletin of Mission Research*. London, England: Sage Publications, 2023.

Published contributing author of paper "Measuring Human Perception to Improve Handwritten Document Transcription," in *IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence,* vol. 44, no. 10, pp. 6594-6601, 1 Oct. 2022, doi: 10.1109/TPAMI.2021.3092688.

PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

Margaret Frei. Review of *Christianity and Education in Modern China* edited by Wong Man Kong and George Kam Wah Mak in *Journal of World* Christianity.

Margaret Frei. "Dreamers of Yüanling": Shen Tsui Girls Catholic School and Women's Education in Rural China, 1934–1951." Received a "Revise and Resubmit" from *History of Education Quarterly*. Awaiting next round of feedback.

Margaret Frei, Alex Mayfield, and Valya Kuskova. "Let the Sisters Speak! Insights from One-Mode and Two-Mode Network Analyses of the Steyler Missionaries in China." Under review at *Social Networks*.

INVITED LECTURES

Boston College Course on Modern China: "Forming 'New Women:' American Catholic Girls Schools in China, 1920 – 1950" **October 2026**
Boston University Center for the Humanities Digital Humanities Initiative: "Reimaging the Humanities: Digital Tools for Asking New Questions" **November 2025**
Boston University School of Theology Library Tech Talk Tuesday: "The China Historical Chrisitan Database: A Powerful Platform for Digital Research" (co-presented with Daryl Ireland) **March 2025**
American Council of Learned Societies Open Databases Technology Workshop: "Breaking Down the CHCD Stack: Moving Towards Best Practices" (co-presented with Alex Mayfield) **February 2025**
Boston University Center for the Humanities Digital Humanities Initiative: "Reimaging the Humanities: Digital Tools for Asking New Questions" **October 2024**
Boston University Anna Howard Shaw Center: "Liu Hsia's Song of Life: A Taiwanese Christian Woman's Fight for Disability Rights" **November 2024**

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

International Workshop on Chinese Christian Women Writers at the Academy for International Ecumenism at the University of Hamburg: "'The Wheelchair Warrior': Liu Hsia' and Disability Rights Advocacy under Taiwanese Martial Law, 1954-1982" **July 2026**

From Colony to Nation: Catholicism and Christianity in Taiwan (1600-1987) at Boston University: "'The Wheelchair Warrior': Liu Hsia' and Disability Rights Advocacy under Taiwanese Martial Law, 1954-1982" **April 2026**

Symposium of International Database Projects at Koré University in Enna, Sicily: "The China Historical Christian Database" (Co-presented with Eugenio Menegon) **December 2025**

History of Education Society Annual Meeting "A School Between Worlds: Saint Therese Catholic School as a Case Study in the History of Chinese Education in Wartime China, 1934–1951" **November 2025**

US China Catholic Association 29th Annual Conference "Fostering Friendship through Scholarship: Lessons from the China Historical Christian Database." **August 2024**

New England Region Association for Asian Studies "Finding Resolution through Conversion: How Suffering in Su Xuelin's Novel Heart of Thorns Motivates a Unique Combination of Catholicism, Confucianism, and May Fourth Ideals" **October 2023**

Tools of the Trade: The Way Forward Digital Humanities Conference at Harvard, "The China Historical Christian Database" (Co-presented with Eugenio Menegon) **March 2023**

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

China Historical Christian Database, Principal Investigator, Boston, MA **2023 – Present**

- Select and manage student workers, support their growth as researchers, and form a positive group culture
- Guide data cleaning project with the goal of improving data accuracy and expanding data contents
- Implement new features that make the database more accessible and more powerful for researchers
- Host weekly office hours to debug software, discuss data collection, and build a collaborative team culture
- Mentor undergraduate students interested in graduate school, digital humanities, and software development
- Partnered with other principal investigators to determine the long-term development plan for the CHCD
- Created an internship program for Computer Science students interested in contributing to the CHCD
- Led the planning and writing of an application to the National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Humanities Advancement Grant (grant program canceled before results were released)

iEARN Summer Chines Program Resident Director, Kaohsiung, Taiwan **Summer 2022**

- Guided 30 students through the US State Department's National Security Language Program for Youth (NSLI-Y)'s summer intensive language experience at Wenzao University
- Provided support to students navigating language courses, peer relationships, and host family placements
- Handled governmental and organizational Covid protocols, cooperated with an international team

Notre Dame Campus Ministry, Anchor Intern, Notre Dame, IN **2021 - 2022**

- Coordinate student team to run course for college students interested in learning about the Catholic faith
- Responsible for planning presentations, organizing the leadership team, and meeting with individual students
- Help run a campus-wide retreat for first year students

Microsoft, Explorer Intern Bellevue, WA (remote) **Summer 2020**

- Collaborated with group to design capability to schedule messages to send in the future in Microsoft Teams
- Worked with teammates to implement the backend support for this feature
- Learned how to work efficiently and effectively in a remote environment

Ocient, Software Development Intern Chicago, IL **Summers 2017 and 2018**

- Redesigned the database configuration tool to allow for integration with test suite
- Collaborated with group to redesign benchmarking suite to test the cost of various database operations
- Integrated the new benchmarking code to automatically run on Linux server and interface with Github
- Wrote comprehensive documentation to detail how new features work internally and externally

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Boston University Graduate Research in the U.S. Fellowship **2026**

$4,800 to support archival research for my dissertation on American Catholic girls' schools

Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism Mother Theodore Guerin Research Travel Grants

$1,500 to support archival research for my dissertation on American Catholic girls' schools **2026**

Rafik B. Hariri Institute for Computing and Computational Science & Engineering Graduate Fellow **2023**
First graduate student in humanities to receive this research fellowship. $10,000 research account.
Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, Taiwan (declined to start PhD at Boston University) **2022**
Yenching Academy Scholar (declined to start PhD at Boston University) **2022**
NSLI-Y (National Security Language Initiative for Youth) Scholarship, U.S. Department of State
- Mandarin Chinese, Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, Kaohsiung, Taiwan **2017 - 2018**
- Mandarin Chinese, Beijing Normal University, Zhuhai, China **Summer 2015**

funded by grants from Notre Dame's Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies and the
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program DaVinci Grant, Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, University of Notre Dame **Summer 2021**
$4,500 to undergraduate research project entitled "Translation of *Thorny Heart* by Su Xuelin."
Liu Institute's Roberts Endowment for Undergraduate Research in Asia **Summer 2021**
$2,000 to undergraduate research project entitled "Translation of *Thorny Heart* by Su Xuelin."

OTHER AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS

History Department Outstanding Teaching Fellow **2026**
Liu Family Distinguished Achievement Award in East Asian Studies (sole recipient) **2022**
Outstanding Senior in the Computer Science Department (one of five) **2022**
Outstanding Senior in the East Asian Languages & Cultures Department (one of two in Chinese studies) **2022**
Outstanding Senior Paper in the Chinese Department (one of two) **2022**
Dean's List, received seven semesters while at Notre Dame **2018 - 2022**
Interview for Notre Dame Chinese Department informational video **2021**
U.S. Department of State's American Abroad Student of the Month, March **2018**
12th Place in Mandarin Speech Competition in Taipei **2017**

EXTRACURRICULARS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

FIRST Robotics Program: event volunteer and team mentor **2010 - Present**
- Founded robotics team at Saint Ignatius College Prep with over 60 members, raising over $30,000 and leading the team to an appearance at the World Championship.
- Ran coding workshops, emcee, translate, and referee for teams in the US and Taiwan

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

History of Education Society (current member of the Graduate Student Board)
American Catholic Historical Association