



# 2019-2020 HISTORY AWARDS

## CHARLES GATES MEMORIAL AWARD

### DR. ZHONGPING CHEN



The **Charles Gates Memorial Award** recognizes the most significant achievement among all articles published in the *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* during the previous year.

# Charles Gates Memorial Award

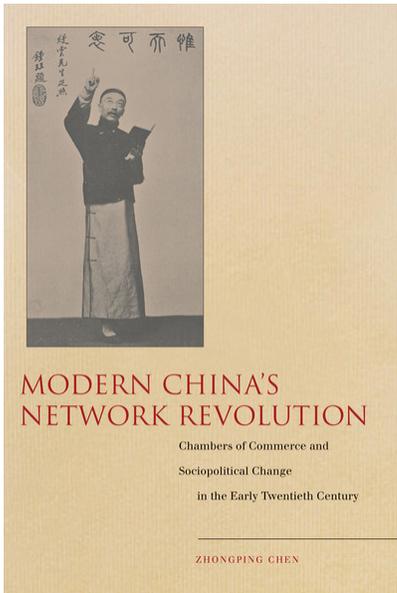


**The 2019-2020 Charles Gates Memorial Award is presented to Dr. Zhongping Chen.**

**Dr. Zhongping Chen** receives the 2019-2020 Charles Gates Memorial Award for his article, *Chinese Labor Contractors and Laborers of the Canadian Pacific Railway, 1880-1885*, published in the winter 2018/2019 issue of *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*. His research interests include the history of late Qing and early Republican China as well as the global Chinese diaspora. Dr. Chen's publications include dozens of journal articles and five books in Chinese and English.

Building on the work of earlier Chinese Canadian scholars, Dr. Chen has added a new component to the history of Chinese people in Canada and of the global Chinese diaspora by exposing the impact of Chinese people living overseas on Chinese political history. His work was the first to reveal how Canadian Chinatowns served as centers of overseas Chinese reforms from the 1880s.

# Charles Gates Memorial Award



Dr. Zhongping Chen is professor of Chinese history at the University of Victoria. His publications include dozens of journal articles and four books in Chinese and English, including the monograph *Modern China's Network Revolution: Chambers of Commerce and Sociopolitical Change in the Early Twentieth Century* (Stanford University Press, 2011). He has been working on a new manuscript, *The Rise, Reform and Revolution of the Transpacific Chinese Diaspora, 1788-1918*.

Dr. Chen maintains a busy research and academic schedule in both Canada and China. As an historian, he has produced new research based in Canadian, Chinese, American and other archives to reinterpret the past and tell new stories about the history of Canada, China and the Indian Ocean.

Dr. Chen received his master's degree in history from Nanjing University and became a lecturer at Nanjing Normal University in 1984. By 1992, he had published 17 scholarly articles in Chinese. These articles have revealed the unique historical pattern of rural commercialization, industrialization and urbanization in the most advanced area of China, the Lower Yangzi River region (Jiangnan) from 1368-1840.

Dr. Chen's book *Modern China's Network Revolution* is a comprehensive examination of the early history of chambers of commerce in modern China, and it proposes a new network approach. This book used an innovative method that is impacting scholars using network analyses in many different countries and time periods. In 2016, Chen received a special invitation from Zhejiang University to deliver a public lecture on this theoretical issue at its prestigious Oriental Forum.

# Charles Gates Memorial Award



Dr. Chen shared, “The stories that I write seek to reframe how Canadians and Chinese understand their own histories and how those histories have shaped the present. Knowing how we got to where we are today gives us the power to adjust the status quo and shape the future.’

With funding from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Dr. Chen has helped reinterpret the history of Chinese workers on the Canadian Pacific Railway, looking particularly at both working conditions and how Chinese merchant labor contractors played a key role in procuring, supporting and exploiting Chinese laborers.

Dr. Chen’s research and teachings have created a new, more accurate and well-rounded understanding of China from its past to the present, of Chinese Canadian history, and particularly the role of the Chinese Canadian community.