

**Alumni Profile**

**Sarah Mellors – History Phd Program**



**Career**

Please provide a brief overview of your career path since graduating from UCI.

*Since graduating from UCI in the summer of 2018, I have started a position as Assistant Professor of History at Missouri State University, where I teach Chinese, East Asian, and modern world history to undergraduates and M.A. students*

What made you get into the career that you are in?

*I chose this career because I love researching modern China. While I could have pursued a career in government or some other research-related field, teaching is one of the most gratifying activities I know of. I wanted to combine my passion for research with the opportunity to share my knowledge with*

*students and gain their insights.*

How do you hope to make a difference?

*I am committed to more equitable access to higher education. I hope to reach and inspire a broad and diverse student demographic. For me, conveying the enduring importance of studying history to students of all types, especially those who are skeptical or uninformed, is critical.*

**Your Time at UCI**

When did you attend UCI?

*2013-2018*

What program were you in?

*History*

Why did you choose to come to UCI?

*I came to UCI because I wanted to work on both modern Chinese and world history, two of the history department's strengths. I also wanted to work with advisors who see themselves as both academics and public intellectuals.*

## **Reflections**

What made you decide to pursue a graduate degree?

*About 3 or 4 years out of college, I realized that I wanted to pursue deeper intellectual questions and that the only way I could do that was with the guidance of faculty members in a graduate program.*

## **Alumni Life**

What advice do you have for a new graduate student?

*I would suggest that new graduate students cultivate mentoring relationships with classmates and faculty, both of whom can offer advice in overcoming the many challenges of graduate school.*

What was your biggest obstacle transitioning from life of a graduate student to your career?

*I am still right in the midst of this transition, but what I am coming to realize (people told me this but I didn't fully understand what they meant) is that graduate school is the time to experiment, have fun with research, and even fail. The stakes only get higher as a faculty member, and the responsibilities multiply exponentially, so enjoy graduate school while it lasts!*