

**CURRICULUM VITAE****TING HUI LAU**Email: [tinghui.lau@yale-nus.edu.sg](mailto:tinghui.lau@yale-nus.edu.sg) Tel: +65 8110-7626**APPOINTMENTS**

2021 Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Yale-NUS College, National University of Singapore

**EDUCATION**

2020 PhD Anthropology, Cornell University  
Under the supervision of Magnus Fiskesjö (Chair), Andrew Willford, Lucinda Ramberg, and Steven Sangren

Dissertation title: “Colonial Wounds, Development, and the Politics of Affliction on the China-Myanmar Border”

2015 MA Anthropology, Cornell University (en route to PhD)

2009 BA Land Economy, specialization in customary land tenure studies, University of Cambridge (First-Class Honors)

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Sociocultural anthropology  
Psychological and medical anthropology  
Environmental anthropology  
Political Anthropology  
East /Southeast Asia borderlands

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS*****Articles under Review***

“Conjuring Spirits: The Melancholic Refusal of Indigenous Lisu Alcohol-Drinking Men on the China-Myanmar Border.” *Journal of Royal Anthropological Institute*. (Revise and resubmit)

“Doing Medicine: Forced Sterilization, Chronic Pain, and Strength Loss Among the Lisu in Southwest China.” (Under review)

***Articles under Preparation***

“‘Can’t Tell Anything Anymore’: Existential Vertigo and Rapid Social Change in China’s Ethnic Rural Peripheries.”

“Unnatural Disasters: Landslides, Flash Floods, and Infrastructure Development on the China-Myanmar Border.” (To be workshopped at the China Made: Asian Infrastructures and the ‘China Model’ of Development Workshop, Singapore, 19–21 May 2021.)

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS*****Book Reviews***

2020            Review of *The Lisu: Far from the Ruler*, by Michele Zack in *Journal of Royal Anthropological Institute* 25(4).

**ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS**

2018–19        SAGE Doctoral Fellowship, Cornell University

2016-17        Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant

2015–17        National Science Foundation (NSF), Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant

2015            Cornell East Asia Program Travel Grant

2014            C.V. Starr Fellowship, Cornell East Asia Program, spring semester.

2014            Lemelson Fellowship, Psychological Anthropology Society, American Anthropological Association.

2014            Cornell Graduate School Summer Foreign Language Instruction Grant

2013            Cornell Institute for Social Sciences Research Grant

2013            Association for Asian Studies, China and Inner Asia Council (CIAC) Small Grant

2013            Cornell Mario Einaudi International Research Travel Grant

2013            Cornell East Asia Program Lam Family Travel Grant

2012–2013     SAGE Doctoral Fellowship, Cornell University

2008            Gordon Cameron Award (top student in Regional Economics)

2006–2009     Cambridge Commonwealth Trust Scholar

**PRESENTATIONS**

“Rituals of Care, Acts of Affliction.” To be presented as part of a roundtable on “Therapeutic Politics of Care: New Ethnographies of Asia.” To be presented at the American Anthropological Association (AAA) 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, 17–21 November 2021.

“Unnatural Disasters: Landslides, Flash Floods, and Infrastructure Development on the China-Myanmar border.” To be presented at the China Made: Asian Infrastructures and the ‘China Model’ of Development Workshop, a three-year initiative funded by The Henry Luce Foundation. Co-hosted by the Center for Asian Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder, the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore, and the Asian Institute at the University of Toronto. Singapore, 19–21 May 2021.

“Rituals of Care, Acts of Affliction.” To be presented as part of a roundtable on “Therapeutic Politics of Care: New Ethnographies of Asia” at the Association for Asian Studies meeting, 25–28 March 2021.

“Review of Felicity Aulino’s *Rituals of Care*,” presented as part of a roundtable on “Therapeutic Politics of Care: New Ethnographies of Asia” for the Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University, New York, USA. 20 November 2020.

“Zones of Disaster: Christianity, Development, and Environmental Degradation on the China-Burma border.” East Asian Anthropology Association Conference, Taiwan. 28–29 November (Cancelled due to COVID-19).

“Unnatural Disasters: Landslides, Collapsed Mines, and Flash Floods in Southwest China.” American Anthropological Association (AAA) 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada. 21 November 2019.

“Colonial Afflictions: Strength Loss and Indigenous Theories of Well-Being on China’s Ethnic Borderlands.” To be presented at Indigenous Psychology and Mental Health in China Workshop, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada. 23–24 November 2019.

“Leftover Men: Self-Abjection, Death, and Haunting on the China-Burma Border.” Society for East Asian Anthropology (SEAA) Meeting, Tokyo, Japan. 2 August 2019.

“Haunted Modernities: Fiends, Ghosts, and Headless Witches on the China–Burma Border.” Society for Psychological Anthropology (SPA) Early Career Scholar Writing Workshop, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM. 7 April 2019.

“Counting and Recounting Dead Bodies: Uncanny Discourses of Death and the Displacement of Anxieties about Development in Rural Southwest China.” American Anthropological Association (AAA) 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA. 16 November 2018.

“The Body Snatchers: Rumor and the State in Southwest China.” Annual Conference of the Australian Anthropological Society/Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth/Association of Social Anthropologist of Aotearoa/New Zealand Adelaide (AAS/ASA/ASAA), Adelaide, Australia. 14 December 2017.

“Lisu and Nu Minority Experiences of Mobility and Social Change in China.” 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual ASIANetwork Conference, Chicago, IL. 11 April 2014.

“Youthful Passions: Love and Dating among Lisu Minority Youth in Southwest China.” American Anthropological Association (AAA) 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. 20 November 2013.

“State Classification of Ethnicity and Local Ways of Being Ethnic in Southwest China,”

2013 Columbia University Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, New York, NY. 15 February 2013.

### **CAMPUS AND DEPARTMENTAL TALKS**

“Wounds of Progress: Colonial Development and the Politics of Development.” Institute of Asian Studies, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, 13 March 2020.

“Wounds of Progress: Colonial Development and the Politics of Development.” Yale-NUS College, National University of Singapore, Singapore. 25 January 2020.

“Social Death and Cultural Loss among the Lisu on the China-Burma Border.” Cornell University Southeast Asia Program Gatty Lecture Speaker Series, Ithaca, New York. 24 October 2019.

“Colonial Wounds: Power, Community, and Social Change on the China-Burma Border.” Cornell University Department of Anthropology Colloquium Series, Ithaca, New York. 18 October 2019.

“马来西亚华人的困惑：经验和身份分类的紧张和矛盾” [Malaysian Chinese Troubles: Tension and Contradictions between Experience and Identity Categories]. Kuige Society Colloquium, Yunnan Minzu University, Kunming, China. 5 January 2016. (Presented in Mandarin Chinese.)

### **TEACHING AWARD**

James Slevin Teaching Award (Spring Semester 2019): Awarded by the Cornell University Knight Writing Institute for excellence in course planning and assignment design.

### **TEACHING AREAS**

Psychological Anthropology  
 Anthropology of Development  
 Indigeneity and Sojourning in Southeast Asia  
 Environmental Anthropology  
 Borderland Ethnographies

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### ***Head of Course***

“Power and Intimacy in Modern Southeast Asia,” First-Year Writing Seminar, Cornell University, Spring 2019.

#### ***Teaching Assistantships***

“Sex and Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspectives,” Anthropology/Feminist and Gender Sexualities Studies/LGBT Studies, Cornell University, Fall 2014.

“Ancient Peoples and Places,” Anthropology/Archeology, Cornell University, Spring 2015.

“Medicine, Culture, and Society,” Anthropology, Cornell University, Fall 2015.

***Other Experience***

Guest facilitator for “Medical Anthropology: The Cannon,” Professor Marcia C. Inhorn, Yale-NUS College, 30 January 2018 and 2 February 2018.

Guest lecturer for “Ethnographic Methods,” Professor Stuart Strange, Yale-NUS College, Singapore; 31 October 2017 and 16 March 2018.

**NGO AND UNITED NATIONS RESEARCH REPORT CONSULTANCY**

Assisted in the research for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation (FAO) 2013 gender and responsible land governance implementation guide, *Governing Land for Women and Men*.

Assisted in the development of the FAO’s *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure*. The voluntary guidelines involved five years of research, consultations, and intergovernmental negotiations.

**DEPARTMENTAL & PROGRAM SERVICES**

Cornell Anthropology Graduate Student Association (Treasurer 2013–2014).

Cornell Southeast Asia Program Gatty Lecture Podcast Series (Invited participant, Fall 2019)

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/OUTREACH**

Volunteer English teacher for It’s Raining Raincoats, a Singapore migrant worker initiative (May-Dec 2020)

Completed Ithaca’s Suicide Prevention & Crisis Service Suicide Prevention Training. (Spring 2019)

Attended counselling training for Cornell EARS (Empathy, Assistance, and Referral Service (Fall 2013).

Volunteer Malay teacher on behalf of Cornell Southeast Asia Program to introduce elementary students to Malaysia and Malay language at Lansing Elementary School Children (Spring 2013).

Nightline volunteer at the Cambridge Nightline, a listening and emotional support service for Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin Universities (2006–2009).

**PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT**

Land Tenure Consultant, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, Rome, Italy, Jan 2010–Feb 2012.

Mental Health Worker, Fugong Mental Health Community, Yunnan, China, Aug 2009–Dec 2009.

Intern, Tenaganita, Migrant Rights Organization (Malaysia), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Dec 2009–Jan 2010.

Intern, Central Bank of Malaysia (Bank Negara Malaysia), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Aug 2008–Sep 2008.

Intern, KPMG LLP, Liverpool, UK, Jun 2008–Aug 2008. (Declined job offer for Junior Associate position at the London Office).

## **LANGUAGES**

English: native

Chinese (Mandarin): native

Chinese (Hokkien): heritage

Northern Lisu: speaking–proficient, reading–intermediate, writing–intermediate

Malay (Bahasa Malaysia): speaking–proficient, reading–intermediate, writing–intermediate.

Burmese: basic (2 years of academic study)

Italian: basic (2 years of academic study)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Anthropological Association (AAA)

Society for Psychological Anthropology (SPA)

Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA)

Society for East Asian Anthropology (SEAA)

Anthropology and Environment Society (AES)

Association for Asian Studies (AAS)