

Zachary M. Howlett

Yale-NUS College, National University of Singapore
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Yale-NUS College, National University of Singapore, July 2017–present.

Courtesy Joint Appointment, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, National University of Singapore, November 2021–present.

Associate, Centre for Family and Population Research, National University of Singapore, October 2022–present.

Academy Scholar, Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, 2016/17 and 2019/20.

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Councilor, Board of the Society for East Asian Anthropology (SEAA) of the American Anthropological Association (AAA), 2022-24 (three-year elected position).

ADMINISTRATION

Head of Studies, Anthropology Major, Yale-NUS College, 2020/21.

EDUCATION

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA

PhD, Anthropology, 2008–2016.

Dissertation Committee: P. Steven Sangren (chair), Magnus Fiskesjö, TJ Hinrichs.

MA, Anthropology, in passing, 2011.

Xiamen University, Xiamen, Fujian Province, China

Research Affiliate, Department of Anthropology, 2011–2013.

Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, USA

BA, German Studies, *magna cum laude*, 1998.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- Sociocultural anthropology.
- China and overseas Chinese.
- Education and social inequality.
- Domestic and multinational migration.
- Marriage, gender, and demographic change
- Reception of state-sponsored narratives and disinformation.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Book

- April 2021 *Meritocracy and Its Discontents: Anxiety and the National College Entrance Exam in China*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Forthcoming 2024 in Russian translation, Academic Studies Press (Cambridge, MA).
 - Reviewed in *Developing Economies* (January 2022), *Critical Inquiry* (January 2022), *China Journal* (January 2022), *East China Normal University Review of Education* (July 2022), *China Quarterly* (August 2022), and *Asian Journal of Social Sciences* (March 2023).
 - Reviewed in Chinese for [结绳志 *Tying Knots*](#) (June 2021), a blog popularizing anthropology for Mandarin speakers.

Articles

- August 2023 “Diligent Daughters: Women’s Educational Outperformance in Contemporary China.” *Modern China*. Online first.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00977004231189852>
- March 2023 “Gaokao Warriors: Disciplined Struggle in China’s College Entrance Exam.” *Anthropology & Education Quarterly* 54 (1): 22–39.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/aeq.12442>
- September 2022 “Performative Secularism: School-Sponsored Prayer in China’s National College Entrance Exam.” *Critical Asian Studies* 54 (3): 441–69. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14672715.2022.2099439>
- May 2022 “Fateful Rite of Passage: Charismatic Ratification of Elite Merit in China’s National College Entrance Exam.” *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 12 (1): 154–69. <https://doi.org/10.1086/719267>

Chapters in Edited Volumes

- August 2022 “The National College Entrance Exam and the Myth of Meritocracy in Post-Mao China.” In *Making Meritocracy in China and India*, edited by Tarun Khanna and Michael Szonyi, 206–30. London: Oxford University Press.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197602461.003.0010>
- December 2021 “Tactics of Marriage Delay in China: Education, Rural-to-Urban Migration, and ‘Leftover Women.’” In *Waithood: Gender, Education, and Global Delays in Marriage*, edited by Marcia C. Inhorn and Nancy Smith-Hefner, 177–99. New York: Berghahn.
<https://doi.org/10.1515/9781789209006-010>
- July 2017 “China’s Examination Fever and the Fabrication of Fairness: ‘My Generation Was Raised on Poison Milk.’” In *Emptiness and Fullness: Ethnographies of Lack and Desire in Contemporary China*, edited by Susanne Bregnbæk and Mikkel Bunkenborg, 15–34. New York: Berghahn. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctvw04cq.5>

Second Book Project

“Navigating the Bipolarverse: Chinese Student Migration in an Era of Superpower Competition”

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Government Testimony

February 2023 “Meritocracy, Political Legitimacy, and the National College Entrance Exam in China.” Written testimony prepared for the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, a Congressionally chartered agency that advises the US Congress on relations with China.
https://www.uscc.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/Zachary_Howlett_Testimony.pdf

Book Reviews

April 2023 Invited review of *Dreams of Flight: The Lives of Chinese Women in the West* (Duke University Press, 2022) by Fran Martin. *The Asian Journal of Social Sciences*. Online first.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajss.2023.03.014>

March 2023 Invited review of *Study Gods: How the New Chinese Elite Prepare for Global Competition* (Princeton University Press, 2022) by Yi-Lin Chiang. *The China Quarterly* 254 (June): 527–28.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305741023000425>

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

2022 Tan Chin Tuan Foundation Yale-NUS Seed Grant for China-related Research, SG\$89,644 (US\$66,750).

2020 Yale-NUS Book Subvention Grant.

2019/20 & 2016/17 Academy Scholarship, Harvard Academy of International and Area Studies, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (two-year fellowship served non-consecutively).

2017–22 Yale-NUS Start Up Grant.

2016 Hu Shih Fellowship in Chinese Studies, East Asia Program, Cornell University.

2015 National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship Finalist.

2011/12 Mellon Foundation/International Institute of Education (IIE) Graduate Research Fellowship (awarded to replace the Fulbright-Hays DDRA Fellowship following 2011 Congressional budget cuts).

2009–14 U.S. Department of Education Jacob K. Javits Fellowship (four-year fellowship to support PhD studies).

- 2009 Lam Family Award for South China Field Research Grant, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, Cornell University.
- 2008/09 Cornell University Sage Doctoral Fellowship.
- 1998/99 German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Postbaccalaureate Research Fellowship.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION AND INVITED TALKS

Government Testimony

- 2023 Invited to testify before the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, a Congressionally chartered agency that advises the US Congress on relations with China. Testified at the hearing [“China’s Challenges and Capabilities in Educating and Training the Next Generation Workforce,”](#) Washington, DC. February 23.

Panels Organized

- 2023 “Continuity and Change in East Asian Families.” A panel accepted for the American Anthropological Association Meeting/Canadian Anthropology Society Annual Meeting (“Transitions”), in Toronto. November 15–19.
- 2022 “Demographic Transitions in East Asia.” An invited panel organized for the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (“Unsettling Landscapes”) in Seattle, WA. November 9.
- 2021 “Comparing Cultures of Education in East Asia.” A panel organized for the American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting (“Truth and Responsibility”) in Baltimore, MD. November 19.
- 2021 “Comparing Cultures of Education in East Asia: Anthropological and Ethnographic Perspectives.” A panel organized for the Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference in Seattle, WA. March 22.
- 2020 “Comparing Cultures of Education in Asia: Anthropological and Ethnographic Perspectives.” A panel organized for the AAS-in-Asia Meeting (“Asia at the Crossroads”) in Kobe, Japan (held virtually due to Covid-19). September 1.
- 2019 “Agency and Gender in Global Educational Contexts.” A panel organized for the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (“Changing Climates”) in Vancouver, Canada. November 23.
- 2019 “Marriage, Mobility, and Death in East Asia.” An invited panel organized for the Society for East Asian Anthropology (SEAA) Biannual Regional Conference (“East Asian Anthropology Now and Into the Future: Transformations, Dynamics, and Challenges”), in Tokyo, Japan. August 2.
- 2018 “The Intimate Life of the State: Demographic Transition in East Asia.” A panel organized for the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (“Change in the Anthropological Imagination”), in San Jose, CA. November 16.

2017 “The Politics of Truth after the Fact: Shifting States in a Post-Fact World.” A 12-member (triple-session) panel co-organized with Gerry Groot, University of Adelaide, for the AAS/ASA/ASAANZ 2017 Annual Meeting (“Shifting States”), Adelaide, Australia. December 12.

Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

2023 “Springboard Singapore: Chinese Student Migration in an Era of Geopolitical Uncertainty.” A paper to be presented on the accepted panel “Continuity and Change in East Asian Families” at the American Anthropological Association Meeting/Canadian Anthropology Society Annual Meeting (“Transitions”), Toronto. November 15–19.

2023 Attended a book workshop conference to provide feedback on “Dream Chasers: Becoming Urban in the New China,” a manuscript by Willy Sier, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Utrecht University, Netherlands. May 4.

2023 “Moving through the Multipolarverse: Chinese Student Migration in an Era of Superpower Competition.” A talk presented at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany. May 2.

2023 “Moving through the Multipolarverse: Chinese Student Migration in an Era of Superpower Competition.” A talk presented at the conference “China – Ethics and Society,” Aarhus University, Denmark. April 24.

2022 “Queering the Patriline: Marriage Delays and Daughterly Filiality among Educated Transmigrant Chinese Women.” A paper presented on the panel “Demographic Transitions in East Asia” at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (“Unsettling Landscapes”) in Seattle, WA. November 9–13.

2022 “Queering the Patriline: Marriage Delays and Daughterly Filiality among Educated Transmigrant Chinese Women.” A paper presented virtually on the panel “Ethnographies of Uncertainty: Risk, Anxiety, and Hope in Asia” at the East Asian Anthropological Association Meeting (“Asia Re-Connecting? Crisis, Intimacy, and Critique) in Taipei. October 15–17.

2022 “Fateful Rite of Passage: The National College Entrance Exam and the Myth of Meritocracy in China.” Department of Chinese Studies Book Talk Series, National University of Singapore. March 2.

2021 “Fateful Rite of Passage: The National College Entrance Examination and the Myth of Meritocracy in Contemporary China” A paper presented on the panel “Comparing Cultures of East Asia” at the American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting (“Truth and Responsibility”) in Baltimore, MD. November 19.

2021 “The Magic of Meritocracy: China’s College Entrance Exam as a Spiritual Bulwark against Moral Crisis” A paper presented at the “Spiritual Crisis and Moral Transformation in Contemporary China Workshop” in Rochester, NY. Organized by John Osburg. November 12.

- 2021 “The Magic of Meritocracy: China’s College Entrance Exam as a Spiritual Bulwark against Moral Crisis.” A paper presented at the conference “Sites and Processes of Ethical Learning: Religion and Self-Making in Asia,” Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. November 1.
- 2021 “Meritocracy and Its Discontents: Anxiety and the National College Entrance Exam in China.” A talk given virtually to faculty and students at Yale Education Studies, Yale University. April 21.
- 2021 “Meritocracy and Its Discontents: Anxiety and the National College Entrance Exam in China.” A talk presented virtually for the Duke-Kunshan University/Yale-NUS College Bridge Seminar. April 23.
- 2021 “The National College Entrance Exam and the Moral Crisis of Meritocracy in Post-Mao China.” A paper presented virtually on the panel “Comparing Cultures of Education in Asia” at the Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting. March 22.
- 2020 “The National College Entrance Exam and the Moral Crisis of Meritocracy in Post-Mao China.” A paper presented virtually on the panel “What Shapes the Contest: Demystifying Meritocratic Examinations in China” at the Southwest Conference on Asian Studies. October 24.
- 2020 “Fateful Rite of Passage: The National College Entrance Examination and the Myth of Meritocracy in Contemporary China.” A paper presented on the panel “Comparing Cultures of Education in Asia” at the AAS-in-Asia Meeting in Kobe, Japan (held virtually due to Covid-19). September 1.
- 2020 “‘Bare Sticks’ and ‘Leftover Women’: Gender, Education, and Changing Patterns of Marriage in China.” Asia Fellows Seminar, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University. February 27.
- 2019 “The Politics of Filial Piety: Rural-to-Urban Migration and Women’s Educational Aspirations in Contemporary China.” A paper presented on the panel “Agency and Gender in Global Educational Contexts” at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (“Changing Climates”) in Vancouver, Canada. November 23.
- 2019 “The Politics of Filial Piety: Rural-to-Urban Migration, Education, and ‘Leftover Women’ in Contemporary China.” A paper presented on the panel “Marriage, Mobility, and Death in East Asia” at the Society for East Asian Anthropology (SEAA) Biannual Regional Conference (“East Asian Anthropology Now and Into the Future”) in Tokyo, Japan. August 2.
- 2019 “Counterfeit Boyfriends and Ghost Brides: Education, Rural-to-Urban Migration, and Delayed Marriage in Contemporary China.” A paper presented on the panel “Shifting Marriage Patterns in Asia: Love, Law, and the New Middle Class” at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado. March 23.

- 2018 “Fateful Rite of Passage: The National College Entrance Examination and the Myth of Meritocracy in Post-Mao China.” A paper presented for the Meritocracy in India and China Workshop organized by the Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute and the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University. Harvard Center India, New Delhi, India. November 27–29.
- 2018 “Counterfeit Boyfriends and Ghost Brides: Education, Rural-to-Urban Migration, and Delayed Marriage in Contemporary China.” A paper presented on the panel “Demographic Transition in East Asia” at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (“Change in the Anthropological Imagination”) in San Jose, CA. November 16.
- 2018 “Counterfeit Boyfriends and Ghost Brides: Education, Rural-to-Urban Migration, and Delayed Marriage in Contemporary China.” Yale-NUS Gender Cluster Workshop. October 15.
- 2018 “Counterfeit Boyfriends and Ghost Brides: Education, Rural-to-Urban Migration, and Delayed Marriage in Contemporary China.” A paper presented at the conference “Gender, Education, and Global Delays in Marriage,” organized by Marcia Inhorn and Nancy Smith-Hefner for the Yale MacMillan Center, Yale University. September 27-29.
- 2018 “Fateful Rite of Passage: The National College Entrance Examination and the Myth of Meritocracy in Post-Mao China.” A paper presented for the Meritocracy in India and China Workshop organized by the Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute and the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University. Harvard Center Shanghai, Shanghai, China. May 16–17.
- 2017 “Beyond Cynicism and Performance: False Confidence and State Secrecy in China’s National College Entrance Exam.” A paper presented on the panel “The Politics of Truth after the Fact: Shifting States in a Post-Fact World” at the AAS/ASA/ASAANZ Annual Meeting (“Shifting States”), Adelaide, Australia. December 12.
- 2017 “Fateful Rite of Passage: The National College Entrance Examination and the Ideology of Meritocracy in Post-Mao China.” Asia Fellows Seminar, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University. April 24.
- 2017 “Fateful Rite of Passage: The National College Entrance Examination and the Ideology of Meritocracy in Post-Mao China.” Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, Weatherhead Center, Harvard University. March 28.
- 2017 “Fateful Rite of Passage: The National College Entrance Examination and the Ideology of Meritocracy in Post-Mao China.” Yale-NUS College, Singapore. February 6.
- 2016 “Geographical and Contextual Variation in Attitudes toward Education Policy: The Negotiation of Front-Stage Secularism with Backstage Religiosity in Chinese Public High Schools.” A paper presented on the invited panel

- “Theater, Performance, and Spectacle in Educational Policy Research” at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (“Evidence, Accident, Discovery”) in Minneapolis, MN. November 19.
- 2016 “Hope and Indeterminacy in Fateful Ritual: China’s National College Entrance Examination (Gaokao) and Political Legitimacy.” A paper presented on the panel “The Politics of Ritualization and the Ritualization of Hope” at the Association for Asian Studies in Asia Conference (“Asia in Motion: Horizons of Hope”) in Kyoto, Japan. June 26.
- 2016 “Gambling for Merit: Chinese Lottery Games as Instruments of Moral Self-Cultivation.” A paper presented at the Society for East Asian Anthropology (SEAA) Biannual Regional Conference (“East Asia and Tomorrow’s Anthropology”) in Hong Kong. June 19.
- 2016 “China’s National College Entrance Examination (Gaokao) as a Fateful Rite of Passage: ‘A Great Army Crossing a Narrow Plank Bridge.’” A public lecture delivered for the Cornell Contemporary China Initiative, Cornell University. February 22.
- 2015 “Legitimacy and Indeterminacy in Social Ritual: China’s National College Entrance Examination (Gaokao) as a Fateful Rite of Passage.” A paper presented on the panel “The Politics of Ritualization and the Ritualization of Politics in East Asia” at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (“Familiar Strange”) in Denver, CO. November 20.

PUBLIC TALKS, GUEST LECTURES, & COMMUNITY OUTREACHES

- 2022 “The National College Entrance Exam and the Myth of Meritocracy in China,” Monday Morning Lecture, Asian Civilizations Museum, Singapore. October 2.
- 2022 “Meritocracy and Its Discontents: Anxiety and the National College Entrance Exam in China.” A talk given virtually to a first-year writing seminar at Rice University. January 19.
- 2021 Invited podcast book talk interview on *Meritocracy and Its Discontents* for Tests and the Rest: College Admissions Industry Podcast (<https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/tests-and-the-rest/257-big-tests-as-fateful-fCJvSmZ3DPq/>). November 1.
- 2021 Invited podcast book talk interview on *Meritocracy and Its Discontents* for the New Books Network (<https://newbooksnetwork.com/meritocracy-and-its-discontents>). July 23.
- 2021 Invited podcast book talk interview on *Meritocracy and Its Discontents* for the Network for Research into Chinese Educational Mobilities. (<https://chineseedmobilities.com/podcasts-2/>). May 24.
- 2021 “Meritocracy and Its Discontents: Anxiety and the National College Entrance Exam in China.” A talk given virtually to Yale-NUS Centre for International & Professional Experience (CIPE) Summer Research Programme Students. June 23.

- 2016 “The Civil Examination and the Emergence of the Scholar-Gentry Elite: Mobility and Political Legitimacy during the Tang–Song Transition.” A guest lecture for the survey course “Imperial Chinese History,” Cornell University. April 4.
- 2014 “China’s Culture of Meritocracy: Historical Continuity and Change.” A guest lecture for the undergraduate course “History and Myth: The Rise of China,” Cornell University. November 13.
- 2013 “The College Entrance Examination and Chinese Meritocracy—Reality or Ideal?” Public lecture at a rural Chinese high school. Guoguang High School English Department, Meishan, Fujian Province, China. June 13.
- 2012 “*Zhong-Mei daxue jiaoyu de kuawenhua bijiao*” [A cross-cultural comparison of college education in the United States and China]. In English and Chinese. Public lecture at Zhangzhou Normal University, Zhangzhou, Fujian Province, China. February 23.
- 2011 “*Gaokao yu Zhongguo shehui de zai shengchan*” [The College Entrance Examination and social reproduction in China]. In Chinese. Presentation at the Doctoral Student Salon, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Xiamen University, Xiamen, Fujian Province, China. December 20.
- 2011 “*Cong renleixue shijiao lai kan Gaokao yanjiu*” [Anthropological perspectives on researching the Chinese College Entrance Examination]. In Chinese. Presentation at the Graduate Student Workshop, Department of Anthropology, Xiamen University, Xiamen, Fujian Province, China. November 18.
- 2010 “The Chinese National College Entrance Examination.” Ithaca High School Mandarin Class Speaker’s Bureau. Outreach organized by the Cornell University Einaudi Center for International Studies. Co-delivered with Weifeng Chen, a visiting scholar from China. Ithaca High School, Ithaca, NY. November 9.
- 2010 “Chinese Wedding Traditions.” Outreach organized by the Cornell Einaudi Center for International Studies. Candor Middle School, Candor, NY. February 22.

FIELDWORK

- Jan 2023–
present Overseeing a team of three research assistants to examine the experiences of multinational student migrants from China who use Singapore as a migration hub.
- Dec 2017 Completed three weeks of fieldwork in China on the Gaokao, education, and delayed marriage/demographic transition.
- Jun 2016 Fujian Province, China. Four weeks of summer fieldwork.
- Jan 2014 Fujian Province, China. Four weeks of follow-up dissertation research.

- 2011–13 Fujian Province, China. Two years of multi-sited fieldwork on the National College Entrance Examination (Gaokao) in a rural town, backwater prefectural capital, and large city.
- 2010 Fujian Province, China. Two months of summer fieldwork.
- 2009 Shanghai, China. Two months of summer fieldwork.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Aug 2022–present Member of Digital Legacy Project Steering Group appointed by College President, Yale-NUS College.
- Aug 2021–present Centre for International & Professional Experience (CIPE) Committee for Yenching/Schwarzman Fellowships.
- 2021/22 Global Social Thought curriculum planning committee. Worked in a team to plan a core module for NUS College until committee disbanded in June 2022.
- 2020/21 Head of Studies, Anthropology. Served Aug 2020–Jul 2021.
- 2019 Faculty co-facilitator of Student-Faculty Dialogue on Decolonizing Academia: With a student collaborator, Pragya Sethi, planned and led a breakout group discussion on inequality in the classroom. January 23.
- 2019/20 Faculty Editor for the Yale-NUS Undergraduate Journal (YNUJ), an undergraduate publication of the Yale-NUS Society for Academic Research (YNUJ) that showcases and promotes original student research.
- 2018/19 Committee on Faculty Affairs. Elected junior faculty representative for the Social Sciences Division. Represented the concerns of junior faculty to senior faculty and College leadership. Assisted senior faculty in revising the Faculty Handbook.
- 2018/19 Faculty Editor for the Yale-NUS Undergraduate Journal (YNUJ).
- 2018 Diversity Hiring Best Practices Initiative. Co-sponsor of successful initiative to implement diversity hiring guidelines for the Division of Social Sciences by following best practices at institutions with successful track records of improving diversity in faculty hires.
- 2017–19 Anthropology Major Website Webmaster. Responsible for revamping and maintaining the website in collaboration with student associates.
- 2017–19 Faculty Advisor for *Tònes*, an undergraduate multilingual literary magazine that promotes intercultural understanding and diversity.
- 2017/18 Yale-NUS Social Sciences Division Postdoctoral Fellowship Search Committee.
- 2016 Harvard University postdoctoral fellowship information session panelist. Served on a panel discussion advising current Harvard doctoral students on application strategies for postdoctoral fellowships. September 15.

- 2015 Cornell University graduate-student orientation facilitator. Nominated to be one of 80 graduate students, faculty, and staff across the university to facilitate orientation workshops for incoming graduate students. August 24.
- 2015 Cornell University Language Resource Center. Gave a recorded interview on language-learning strategies for an online course module. February 6.
- 2014/15 Cornell University Department of Anthropology Graduate Admissions Committee, graduate-student representative.
- 2010/11 Cornell Anthropology/Feminist Gender and Sexuality Faculty Search Committee, graduate-student representative.
- 2009/10 Cornell Anthropology Graduate Student Association, vice-president.
- 2009/10 Cornell Anthropology Colloquium Committee.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2022-23-24 Councilor, Board of the Society for East Asian Anthropology (SEAA) of the American Anthropological Association (AAA), 2022-23-24 (three-year elected position).
- 2022 Program Committee of the Society of East Asian Anthropology for the 2022 American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (“Unsettling Landscapes”).
- 2020 David Plath Media Award Selection Committee Member, Society for East Asian Anthropology of the American Anthropological Association.
- 2019 Served on the organizing committee for the Society for East Asian Anthropology of the American Anthropological Association Biannual Conference (“East Asian Anthropology Now and Into the Future: Transformations, Dynamics, and Challenges”). Tokyo, Japan. August 1-3.

Press for Which I Have Reviewed Book Manuscript

Cornell University Press – reviewed one manuscript, 2017.

Journals for Which I Have Reviewed Article Manuscripts

American Ethnologist
Current Anthropology
Ethnography
China Quarterly
Journal of Applied Linguistics
Qualitative Studies
Teaching and Teacher Education

TEACHING & ADVISING

Yale-NUS Courses Taught

Modern Social Thought (required Common Curriculum course for sophomores)

Language, Culture, Power

Anthropology of China

Anthropology of Education

Technology and Culture

Marriage and Kinship

Anthropological Imagination

[NB: See <https://www.yale-nus.edu.sg/newsroom/collaboration-in-the-classroom-examining-technological-issues-from-an-ethnographic-lens/> for a student-written Public Affairs piece on my Tech & Culture course.]

PhD Student Committee Membership

Active Anni Ni, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, National University of Singapore.

2022 Aloysius Foo, “Experiencing Meritocracy in Singapore: The Making of Scholars in a Neighborhood School,” National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University.

Summer Research Projects Supervised at Yale-NUS

2023 Yunrong Chen. “Navigating the Bipolarverse: Chinese Student Migration in Singapore.”

2021 Matthew Aviso. “Negotiating Chineseness: The Case of Filipino Migrants of Chinese Ethnicity in Singapore.”

Capstone Theses Supervised at Yale-NUS

2022/23 Matthew Aviso. “Bureaucratic Racialization: Documents, Translation, and the Filipino Chinese Migrant in Multiracial Singapore.”

2022/23 Salome Ong. “Build-To-Order: Desires and Uncertainties in Singapore’s Public Housing.”

2022/23 Gary Wee Wei Zong. “The Yale-NUS College Residential Experience: Possibilities of Selfhood in Singapore.”

2021/22 Steven Justin Tan Sy. “Sex Games and State Capitalism: The Masculinization of Formal and Informal Sex Education in Singapore.”

2021/22 Ng Aik Yang. “Weaving Past, Present, and Future: Designing Education from the Ground Up in Singapore.”

2020/21 Brianna Lynn Leatherwood. “Gender, Beauty, and Opportunity: An Ethnography of Small-Scale Cosmetic Stores in a Fourth-Tier Chinese City.”

2020/21 Larissa Joy Lee Cheng Wen. “Producing Good and Useful Citizens: Mental Health Education under the Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) Curriculum in Elite and Public Schools in Singapore.”

- 2020/21 Lim Wei Da Damon. “Eco-selves at the Farm: Green Capitalism, Resistance, and Eco-subjectivities.” Supervised Sem 2 only.
- 2018/19 Sim Gek Theng Danielle. “Language Revival and Its Challenges: Baba Malay in Singapore.”
- 2018/19 Wong Zhi Ying. “Constructions of Authenticity in Social Emotional Leadership Training.”
- 2018/19 Quay Jing Ying Serena. “Creating the College Self: A Study of Self-Presentation in Singaporean Higher Education.”
- 2017/18 Mark Wenyi Lee. “Making Play Professional: How Competitiveness Affects the Video Game Play Experience.”
- 2017/18 Jane Zhang. “‘Dare to Be Different’: An Ethnographic Study of Female Instagram Influencers in Singapore.”

Independent Research Modules Supervised at Yale-NUS

- 2017/18 Representations of Gangsterism in Singapore, Sem 1.

Head of Course at Cornell University

- Fall 2015 Limits of the Human: Apes, Aliens, and Artificial Intelligence. First-year writing seminar, Cornell University. Independently developed and supervised the course, which was ranked by student feedback in the top 25 of over 180 first-year writing seminars across the university—a pool that included classes taught by tenured faculty as well as by graduate students.

English as a Foreign Language (EFL)

- 2011–13 Volunteer English teacher at under-privileged rural and urban high schools in Fujian Province, China. Instructed classes of 50 to 60 high-school students in English while conducting doctoral dissertation fieldwork.
- 2005–08 Founding partner and senior curriculum designer at Business English Pod, Shanghai, China. Helped to grow the business into a global leader in business-oriented online EFL training materials.
- 2003–08 Freelance EFL instructor in multinational and joint-venture companies based in Shanghai, China. Developed, tailored, and delivered courses in English business communication, with a focus on writing and presentation skills.
- 2002–03 Senior EFL instructor for Informatics Professional Development Center (IPDC), Shanghai, China.
- 1999/2000 English lecturer, Wenzhou Medical College, Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, China. Taught English to classes of 50 to 60 undergraduate students. Conducted outreaches to local rural high schools.
- 1998/99 Business English trainer at Siemens, Berlin, Germany.

German as a Foreign Language

- Spring 1998 German language teaching assistant, Department of German Studies, Brown University. Led discussion and review sections in introductory German.

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese

- Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK) Advanced Level C (old Band 9), passed October 2007: An advanced comprehensive certification of linguistic competence (reading, writing, speaking, listening) administered under the auspices of the Beijing Language and Culture University for non-native learners of Chinese with over 3,000 hours of classroom training. Sufficient language-level certification for admission to social-science postgraduate programs in China.

German

- Advanced proficiency.
- Able to translate scholarly literature.

Scandinavian

- Proficiency in spoken **Danish**; reading proficiency in **Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian**.
- Able to translate scholarly materials from all three languages into English.
- Able to read and translate **Ancient Icelandic** with reference materials.

French: Reading ability sufficient for bibliographic research.

Arabic: One year of intensive college study.

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

American Anthropological Association (AAA)

Society for East Asian Anthropology (SEAA)

Council on Anthropology and Education (CAE)

Association for Political and Legal Anthropology (APLA)

Association for Asian Studies (AAS)