

Chu May Paing

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

- In progress **PhD in Cultural Anthropology,**
University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Anthropology
Graduate certificates in Critical Media Practices; Culture, Language, and
Social Practices Program; Asian Studies
- 2020 **MA in Cultural Anthropology,**
University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Anthropology
Thesis: “Worldmaking Media: A Review on the Anthropology of Mediation
and the Case of Myanmar.” (Committee: Carla Jones (chair), Alison Cool,
Carole McGranahan)
- 2017 – 2019 **PhD Coursework in Linguistics,**
University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Linguistics
Prelim Exam Paper (Linguistics): “On Focus: Syntax-Semantic Interface in
Burmese Focus Sensitive Particles” (Advisor: Laura Michaelis-Cummings)
- 2017 **BA in General Linguistics (graduated with summa cum laude),**
Queens College, City University of New York
Honors Thesis: “To Know a Bāthā: Family Language Socialization among
Buddhist Burmese Immigrant Families in New York City” (Advisor: Miki
Makihara); Minors: Honors in Social Science and French
- 2015 **AA in Secondary Education,**
LaGuardia Community College, City University of New York
Area of Concentration: Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

ADDITIONAL COURSEWORKS

- 2022 **Theorizing Southeast Asian Archive**
Cornell Mini-GETSEA course by Dr. Judith Henchy
- 2018 **Summer Linguistics Institute**
University of California, Davis

SPECIALIZATIONS

affect, semiotics, anthropology of mediation, feminist anthropology, linguistic anthropology,
discourse analysis, decoloniality, language in the law, Southeast Asia (Myanmar)

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

- 2022 Jacob Volkman Human Rights Fellowship, Herstory Institute/Community
Writing Coalition
- 2019 – 2024 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (up to \$150,000)

2017 – 2021	CU Boulder Office of Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement Fellowship (\$4000)
2020 – 2021	CU Engage Arts and Humanities Fellowship (\$2000)
2020 – 2021	SEARG (Southeast Asia Research Group) Committee Pre-dissertation Fellowship (up to \$2000)
2020 – 2021	CAORC Inya Institute Pre-dissertation Fellowship (\$4275)
2019	Linguistic Society of America Summer Institute Fellowship (\$2500)
2019	CU Boulder Center to Advance Research and Teaching in the Social Sciences Grant (\$1000)
2016 – 2017	CUNY Pipeline Fellowship (up to \$6000)
2016 – 2017	Queens College Honors in the Social Sciences Fellowship
2015 – 2017	Queens College Transfer Honors Fellowship (up to \$5000)

HONORS & AWARDS

2023	Beverly Sears Graduate Research Award, University of Colorado Boulder (\$1000)
2021	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award, University of Colorado Boulder Graduate and Professional Student Association. (\$100)
2020	Schwalbe Travel Award, CU Boulder Center for Humanities and the Arts (\$1000)
2017	NSF Travel Award, International Gender and Language Association Conference (\$750)
2017	CU Boulder Graduate School Travel Award (\$500)
2017	The Molly Weinstein Prize, Queens College, CUNY (\$6000)
2017	R.M. R Hall Memorial Award, Department of Linguistics, Queens College, CUNY
2017	Excellence in French Award, Department of European Languages, Queens College, CUNY
2016 – 2017	Presidential Scholar, Queens College, CUNY
2016	Linakis Research Scholarship, Queens College, CUNY (\$1500)
2016 – 2017	Finch College Alumnae Foundation Scholarship (\$4000)
2015	Asian Pacific Islander American Scholarship, Wells Fargo Foundation (\$1000)
2015	Guttman Transfer Scholarship, CUNY (\$2000)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2019 – present	Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder Doctoral Researcher Conducted ethnographic research on semiotic culture of political communication in Myanmar.
2017 – 2019	Department of Linguistics, University of Colorado Boulder Doctoral Researcher

- 2015 – 2017 Conducted discourse analysis on the rhetoric of nationalism and gender in the Interfaith Marriage Law of Myanmar. Conducted a corpus study on eight Burmese focus sensitive particles and copy verb construction in Burmese.
Department of Linguistics, Queens College CUNY
Undergraduate Researcher
- 2016 Conducted year-long ethnographic research on Burmese heritage language maintenance with Sino-Burmese immigrant families in New York City.
Center for Integrated Language Communities (CILC), CUNY Graduate Center
Research Assistant
Coded 2500 survey results for heritage language maintenance research and assisted Drs. Tomonori Nagano, Alexandar Funk, and Eric Ketchum.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Summer 2022 Mellons May Undergraduate Fellowship Program, Queens College
Intro to Grad School Summer Bootcamp
Taught a workshop on hidden curricula of grad school to incoming Mellons May fellows.
- Spring 2022 Mellons May Undergraduate Fellowship Program, Queens College
Teaching Assistant – “Mellons May Critical Thinking Seminar”
TA’ed for a survey course on critical thinking topics such as critical race theory, postcolonialism, feminism for eleven Mellons May undergraduate fellows.
- Fall 2021 Mellons May Undergraduate Fellowship Program, Queens College
Teaching Assistant – “Mellons May Undergraduate Fellowship Seminar”
Supervised eleven Mellons May undergraduate fellows on graduate school application essays, scholarship essays.
- Spring 2021 Graceland University, Department of Psychology | Queens College, City University of New York, Department of Linguistics and Communication Disorders
Adjunct Instructor – “Cross-cultural Psychology,” “Language and Social Diversity”
Created curriculum for introduction to sociocultural linguistics and multicultural understandings of emotions. Taught undergraduate courses of approximately 30 students.
- 2017 - 2019 University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Linguistics
Teaching Assistant – “Languages of the World,” “Introduction to Linguistics,” “Language in US Society”
Collaborated on curriculum and exam development, met with students upon request, and graded all written work, including final exam papers.

2015-2017 LaGuardia Community College, CUNY, Center for Teaching and Learning
Student Success Mentor – “First Year Seminar”
 Administered lab practicum and met with students upon request.

SYLLABI DEVELOPED

- Language in Society (Spring University Myanmar)
- The Sociality of Feelings (Spring University Myanmar)
- Mellons May Undergraduate Fellowship Program Critical Thinking Seminar (Queens College, CUNY)
- Language and Social Diversity (Queens College, CUNY)
- Cross-cultural Psychology (Graceland University)

GUEST LECTURES

01/10/2023 **“Student Meet & Greet”** for *Community Leadership & Research Institute Program*, Thabyay Education Foundation, Myanmar

08/25/2022 **“Tickling Images: Dangerous Laughter as Viral Spread in Contemporary Myanmar”** for *Burma Study Center*, Chiang Mai, Thailand (in person)

03/29/2022 **“Tickling Images: Dangerous Laughter as Viral Spread in Contemporary Myanmar”** for *Origins of Contemporary Southeast Asia*, Center for Asian Studies, CU Boulder

03/27/2022 **“Feeling Anthropologically”** for *Citta Consultancy Internship Program* (in Burmese)

02/16/2022 **“The Politics of Doing Research with People”**, Thabyay Education Foundation (in Burmese)

02/09/2022 **“Decolonization in the context of Myanmar”** for *Reading Justice: Dictatorship and Opposition in Myanmar*, University of Wisconsin Madison

11/07/2021 **“Politics of Funny Burmese Memes”** for *Myanmar (Burma) Country Seminar*, Department of Anthropology, Cornell University

04/23/2021 **“Putting the Human back into Human Rights”** for *Comparative and Transnational Human Rights*, Department of Political Science, Drake University.

WORK EXPERIENCE

01/2023 – present Aruna Global South
Editor-in-chief & Communications Manager
 Oversaw the editorial process of Aruna Blog. Curated special publication series focused on issues impacting on Myanmar societies. Managed public outreach via website maintenance and social media platforms for the organization.

- 12/2020 – 12/2022 Aruna Global South
Co-director
 Directed programming initiatives highlighting underrepresented junior scholars working on Asian Global South. Organized working groups on the topics of global south, higher education in Myanmar, and more. Recruited junior researchers and thinkers interested in experimental modes of scholarship beyond academia.
- 12/2021 – 11/2022 Spring University Myanmar, School of Social Sciences and Humanities
Faculty & Co-Founder of School of Social Sciences and Humanities
 Taught courses on cultural anthropology, feminist anthropology, linguistic anthropology in Burmese. Managed and organized in-department administrative initiatives and pedagogical conversations. Recruited potential instructors and faculty for the School of Social Sciences and Humanities.
- 10/2021 – 04/2022 National Public Radio (NPR)
Development/Foundation Intern
 Assisted Director of Board Relations with documenting, drafting, organizing meetings for NPR Board of Trustees. Researched, interviewed, and documented data for NPR Foundation History Video Project.
- 09/2017 – 05/2019 The Literacy Practicum Program, Department of Linguistics, CU Boulder
Graduate Student Program Director
 Coordinated volunteering activities for CU undergraduate students, initiated contacts with local literacy organization partners, and oversaw a group of 3-4 MA students for administrative tasks.
- 10/2015 – 12/2015 Department of Anthropology, Queens College, CUNY
Administrative Assistant
 Assisted Dr. Larissa Swedell with converting primate research tapes into digital format.

SERVICE TO INTELLECTUAL AND ACTIVIST COMMUNITY

- 2022 – present **Core Member, [Tenggaran International](#)**
- 2022 – present **Board Member, [FORSEA \(Forces of Renewal Southeast Asia\)](#)**
- 2021 **Peer Reviewer**
- Ethos, Journal of the Society for Psychological Anthropology
- 2019 – 2020 Anthro Grad Student Association, Department of Anthropology, CU Boulder
Social Media Committee Lead
 Managed online presence of the department and the association. Promoted the department social media presence (from approx. 300 followers on both Facebook and Instagram to 678 on Facebook and 1075 on Instagram within one year).
- 2019 – 2020 Culture, Language, and Social Practice Program, Department of Linguistics, CU Boulder

Program Chair for Anthropology Society for Linguistic Anthropology Conference

Administered the graduate student paper competition and attended conference planning meetings.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & MENTORSHIP

- 2021 – present Refugee Language Project, Amarillo, TX
Burmese Language Consultant & Community Advocate (volunteer and contractor)
 Guided Burmese-speaking community members in Amarillo, TX in collecting stories for storybook project. Translated stories from English to Burmese.
- 2021 – 2022 EMBARC (Ethnic Minorities from Burma Advocacy and Resource Center), Des Moines, IA; SEAD (Southeast Asian Diaspora) Project, Minnesota, MN
Burmese Language Translator and Interpreter (contractor)
 Translated documents such as community flyers, announcements, bi-weekly community news, recorded voiceovers for community announcements, interpreted in different settings (citizenship interviews).
- 2021 Aruna Global South
Co-Founder
 Founded a community organization highlighting experimental scholarship on Asian Global South regions, cultures, languages, and societies.
- 2021 Baydar Collective
Co-founder and Content Creator (volunteer)
 Organized community fora to bring awareness about the current political and social struggles in Myanmar and in the diaspora in the US. Created educational content on Myanmar politics and history. Led community reading series and dialogues for Myanmar diaspora.
- 2019 – present Institute for Behavioral Sciences and The Graduate School, CU Boulder
Graduate Peer Mentor
 Advised incoming social science graduate students for adapting to graduate life, copy-edited their essays for applying NSF GRFP fellowships, met with students upon requests.
- 2019 – 2020 Chu Toe Toe Burmese Language Podcast and Blog
Co-host and Content Creator
 Wrote blogs on the issues of colonialism, gender, ethnicity, education in Myanmar in Burmese language. Co-hosted monthly podcast episodes in Burmese.
- 2019 – 2021 Radical BIPOC Femme/Womxn Collective, Boulder, CO
Founding Member
 Organized events and activism for black, interracial, and womxn of color in Boulder community.

- 2018 – 2021 Mango House, Aurora, CO; Richland County, Public Defender Office, SC; Saddha: Buddhists for Peace; Doa-a-Yae: Coalition for Civil Rights in Burma, Myanmar and diaspora
Language Consultant and Content Creator (volunteer)
 Translated Burmese-English documents, interpreted conversations for Rohingya refugee community and conversations for the public defenders in SC. Translated & interpreted for Burmese speakers during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- 2018 – 2020 Graduate Students of Color Collective, CU Boulder
Social Event Organizer
 Organized events and activism for graduate students and faculty of color for campus community.

PUBLICATIONS

- In preparation Isn't it What Buddha Says? Genre of Affective Hate Speech in Radical Buddhist Sermons of the Myanmar's 969 Movement.
- 2021 [Talking back to white "Burma Experts"](#). *Agitate Now!* University of Minnesota. (co-authored with Than Toe Aung). (*editor-reviewed*)
- 2020 ["Viral Satire as Public Feeling in Myanmar."](#) In "Pandemic Diaries: Affect and Crisis," Carla Jones, ed., *American Ethnologist website*, May 20. (*editor-reviewed*)
- 2020 In Need of Daughters of Good Lineage: Placing Gender in Burmese Buddhist Nationalist Discourse. *Journal of Southeast Asian Linguistics Society*. Special Issue. <https://evols.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10524/52466> (*editor-reviewed*)
- 2018 To Know a Bāthā: Family Language Socialization among Buddhist Burmese Immigrant Families in New York City. *Journal of Southeast Asian American Education and Advancement*, Vol 13: Issue 1, Article 10. (*peer-reviewed*)

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2021 *Demanding Images: Democracy, Mediation, and Image-events in Indonesia*. Duke University Press. Karen Strassler. 2020. *Asian Journal of Social Sciences*.
- 2020 [Myanmar's Buddhist-Muslim Crisis: Burman, Arakanese, and Rohingya Narratives of Siege and Fear](#). University of Hawai'i Press. John Clifford Holt. 2019. *Oxford Tea Circle*.
- 2018 *Deaf to the Marrow. Deaf Social Organizing and Citizenship in Viet Nam*. Gallaudet University Press. Audrey C. Cooper. 2017. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 Exposed Souls: Reflections from the Field in Chiang Mai, Thailand. *Inya Institute Winter Newsletter*. January 16.

- 2022 [Opinion: Is Neocolonial Education a Solution to “Military Slave Education”?](#)
FORSEA (Forces of Renewal Southeast Asia). June 22.
- 2022 [Witnessing is political: Picking off new shoots will not stop the spring.](#)
ArtsEquator. Poetry Collection Review. March 3.
- 2021 [Yet to be earned.](#) *Position Politics*.
- 2021 [Coping with the Coup while Poking Some Fun.](#) In University of Colorado
Boulder Center for Asian Studies Newsletter. March 1.
- 2020 [Exposed Soul.](#) *Pandemic Posts*. Center for Humanities and Arts. CU Boulder.
- 2020 [Ethnography: Rethinking from the Interstice.](#) Online Blog post. The New
Ethnographer. April 20, 2020. (*editor-reviewed*)
- 2019 [Subtitled Dreams.](#) Online Blog Post. Society for Linguistic Anthropology.
- 2016 Are You a Myanmarian, Myanmarese, or Myanmarish? Or Just a Burmese?
Newspaper Column (in Burmese). *Myanmar Gazette*. Issue. 93. P. A24.
September. (*editor-reviewed*)
- 2016 Me and My Linguistic Story. Newspaper Column (in Burmese). *Myanmar
Gazette*. Issue. 91. P. A24. 2016, July. (*editor-reviewed*)
- 2016 Nature? Or Nurture? Or Nature and Nurture? Newspaper Column (in
Burmese). *Myanmar Gazette*. Issue. 90. P. A24. May. (*editor-reviewed*)
- 2016 *Heritage Language Maintenance and Its Benefits*. Newspaper Column (in
Burmese). *Myanmar Gazette*. Issue 89. P. A24. April. (*editor-reviewed*)

CREATIVE WRITINGS (WRITTEN UNDER PEN NAME “MA CHINTHE”)

See more essays in Burmese at www.machinthe.com

- 2022 [မင်္ဂလာ \(Memory\)](#). In *Aruna Global South Blog* and *Jakarta Biennale
Moethauk Blog*,
- 2021 [ကူးဆက်ခြင်း \(Grafting\)](#). In *Jakarta Biennale Moethauk Blog*, Oct 5. (*poem,
originally in Burmese*).
- 2021 [ပစ်တိုင်းထောင် \(Pyitinehtaung\)](#). In *Aruna Global South Blog*, June 26. (*short
story, in Burmese*).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (*ONLINE)

- 2022 **“Isn’t it what Buddha says? Genre of Ultra-nationalist Burmese
Buddhist Hate Speech.”** In panel “Nationalism in the making: Revisiting
Gender, Religion, Memorials, and the Military in “Post-colonial” Burma.”
(Panel Organizer & Presenter).
SEATriP UC Riverside Graduate Student Conference, May 21.*
- 2021 **“AAA Roundtable: Truth, Responsibility, and Mental Health in
Anthropology.”** Organized by Beatriz M. Reyes-Foster, Miriam R. Dike,
& Rebecca Lester. (Presenter)
American Anthropological Association Conference, Baltimore, MD.
November 17-21.*

- 2021 ***“IBSC Roundtable: Access, Ethics, and Risk in Knowledge Production.”***
Organized by Rosalie Metro. (Presenter)
International Burma Studies Conference, Northern Illinois University,
DeKalb, IL. September 16-19.*
- 2021 ***“Talking back to white Researchers in Burma Studies.” (Outstanding Abstract Award)***
Co-presenter with Than Toe Aung.
International Graduate Student Conference, University of Hawaii at
Manoa. February 11-13.*
- 2020 ***“Secrets and foreign Agents: Myanmar’s Narratives of Belonging and Resistance.”***
Association of Asian Studies in Asia Conference, Kobe Convention
Center, Kobe, Japan. June 19-July 1.
(POSTPONED and unable to attend due to COVID-19 Outbreak)
- 2020 ***“Isn’t it What Buddha Says? Repositioning Myanmar’s Future in Wirathu’s Radical Buddhist Discourse.”***
Society for Linguistic Anthropology Conference, University of Colorado
Boulder. April 2-5. (POSTPONED and unable to attend due to COVID-19
Outbreak)
- 2020 ***“Secrets and Foreign Agents: Myanmar’s Narratives of Belonging and Resistance.”***
CU Boulder Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference, University of
Colorado Boulder. Feb 14-15.
- 2019 ***“Daughter of Good Lineage and Bitchy Prostitutes in Buddhist Nationalist Discourse.”***
Anthropology of Language Workshop on Mainland Southeast Asia
Languages, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia. Aug 19-21.
- 2019 ***“On Focus: Syntax-Semantic Interface in Burmese Focus Sensitive Particles.”***
Workshop on Constructional Morphology. Department of Linguistics,
University of Colorado Boulder. April 5.
- 2019 ***“Encompassing Language and Religion in Transnational Burmese Identities.”***
Conference on Asian Linguistic Anthropology, Pannasatra University of
Cambodia, Siam Reap, Cambodia. January 23-26.
- 2018 ***“Women in the Race and Religion Laws of Myanmar.”***
International Gender and Language Association (IGALA) 10th Annual
Conference, University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana. June 20-22.
- 2016 ***“To Know a Bāthā: Family Language Socialization among Buddhist Burmese Immigrants in New York City.”***
International Burma Studies Conference, Northern Illinois University,
DeKalb, IL. October 6-9.
- 2016 ***“Assessing the Knowledge of Burmese Classifiers among 1.5- and Second-Generation Burmese Children in New York City.”***
Undergraduate Linguistics and Language Studies Conference, Hunter College,
CUNY. May 6.

PUBLIC TALKS (*ONLINE)

- 2022 **“Choosing to leave: A Glimpse of Social Life among Exiled Activists in Chiang Mai, Thailand”** (public talk)
Inya Institute, Council for American Overseas Research Center Webinar Series. Inya Institute. September 29.
- 2022 **“Laughter as a Form of Political Resistance in Myanmar”** (guest panel lecturer)
The Art of Resistance in Asia Panel, Future of Democracy Conference, Harvard University. August 3.*
- 2022 **“ပညာတတ်ဆိုတာ ဘယ်လိုလူမျိုးလဲ? (Who is the educated?)”** (guest speaker)
 ပညာရေးပုံစံသစ်ဖြင့် အနာဂတ်သစ်ဆီသို့ (Towards a new future with new education Forum), *Freedom Fighters Myanmar* (in Burmese). May 28.*
- 2022 **“Rethinking Asian Global South.”** (guest speaker)
 Knowledge Production Studies Initiative (KPSI) and the Center of Geosocial and Cultural Research for Sustainable Development (GSCR), Walailak University, Thailand. April 28.*
- 2022 **“With Pyitinehtaung: Reading, Listening, and Feeling Myanmar’s Anti-coup Resistance.”** (community-engaged reading of short story “Pyitinehtaung”)
 African Roots Center. March 20.*
- 2022 **“Poetry against Tyranny: A Conversation with Three Burmese Poets.”** (moderator & discussant)
 Harvard Asia Center & Aruna Global South. Feb 4.*
- 2021 **“Burma in the Context of Global Uprising against Militarized Violence.”** (organizer and moderator)
 Aruna Global South and York Center for Asian Research. June 18.*
- 2021 **“Myanmar in Mind.”** (panelist)
 SEAD (Southeast Asian Diaspora) Project, May 25.*
- 2021 **“Queens College Asian American Heritage Month Celebration.”** (speaker)
 Queens College, Office of Alumni Relations, May 10.*
- 2021 **“The Political Crisis in Myanmar: Nuanced Perspectives on the Nation’s Past, Present, and Future.”** (organizer and moderator)
 Center for Asian Studies, CU Boulder and Aruna Global South, Feb 24.*
- 2021 **“Round Table on the Future of Myanmar’s Social Science Education and Research Culture.”** (organizer and panelist)
 Aruna Global South, postponed due to the military coup in Myanmar.*
- 2020 **“Together against anti-Blackness: Eradicating Discrimination in Latinx, Arab, Asian, and Indigenous Communities.”** (speaker for Asian communities)
 OLA Colorado (Observatorio des les América) Webinar, July 24.*
- 2020 **“Guided Dialogue on Racism and Privilege: Politics of Allyship.”** (organizer and moderator)

- 2019 Department of Anthropology, University of Colorado Boulder. June 19.*
“Legalizing Intimacy: The Effects of Myanmar Nationalist Anti-Rohingya Agenda.”
 Spring 2019 Luncheon Series, Center for Asian Studies, University of Colorado Boulder. February 7.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2021 [Opinions and Thoughts Burmese Podcast.](#) With Soe Ya Min.
 2021 [“On Feminism and Feminists of Myanmar’s Freedom Struggles.”](#) The Arts of Travel Podcast. March 16.
 2020 [“Immigrant Tales #1,”](#) Model Minority Uniquely American Podcast. December 29.
 2020 [“A One-way Ticket from Myanmar to the US.”](#) Asian Avenue Magazine. 15(7): July. (by Annie Van Dan).
 2018 [“Immigration at CU: Where is Home?”](#) University of Colorado Boulder CU Independent Student News. April 6. (by Devi Chung).

LANGUAGES

- Burmese – native language proficiency
- English – speak fluently and read/write with high proficiency
- French – intermediate reading proficiency

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association | Society for Cultural Anthropology | Association for Feminist Anthropology | Society for Visual Anthropology | American Ethnological Society | Society for Linguistic Anthropology | Linguistics Society of America Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics | Scholars of Color in Language Studies | National Association of Student Anthropologists