

Spencer C. Chen

Curriculum Vitae
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Department of Anthropology
Hamilton College
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2023-Present Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Hamilton College

EDUCATION

Degrees

2023 Ph.D., Anthropology, University of California, Los Angeles, USA
2015 M.A., Applied Linguistics, University of California, Los Angeles, USA
2011 B.A., Foreign Languages and Literatures (Linguistics), National Taiwan University, Taiwan

Other Education

2010-2011 International Studies Certificate, Tokyo Gakugei University, Tokyo, Japan

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Linguistic anthropology; media anthropology; anthropology of play; conversation analysis; queer and sexuality studies; language ideologies; identity; performance; creative industries; social media; intertextuality; gossip; audiovisual creativity; voice acting; dubbing; toys; gaymers; ethnolinguistics; Sinophone; Taiwan; Japan; Philippines

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Accepted* **Chen, S.** "Engineering the Decolonial Voice: Infrastructural Audibility and Taigi Dubbing in Taiwan." *Language, Culture and Society*.
- 2025 **Chen, S.** Engineering the "Perfect" Dubbing Lines through Recording and Editing. *Applied Linguistics* 46(5): 791–809. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/applin/amae073>.
- 2022 **Chen, S.** "From Mandarin Monopoly to Sinitic Polypoly: The Story of Dubbing *Peiyin* in Postwar Taiwan." *International Journal of Taiwan Studies* 5(2): 308–331. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1163/24688800-05020004>.
- 2021 Lim, J., **Chen, S.**, & Hiramoto M. "'You don't ask me to speak Mandarin, okay?': Ideologies of language and race among Chinese Singaporeans." *Language & Communication* 76: 100–110. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.langcom.2020.10.003>.
- 2018 **Chen, S.** "Visualizing language ideologies and verbalizing perceived linguistic boundaries: The case of Mandarin Chinese in contemporary Taiwan." *Global Chinese* 4(1): 11–36. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1515/glochi-2018-0002>.

Book Review

- 2023 **Chen, S.** Review of *Onscreen/Offscreen*, by Constantine V. Nakassis, *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/jola.12390>.
- 2021 **Chen, S.** Review of *Gender, Neoliberalism and Distinction through Linguistic Capital: Taiwanese Narratives of Struggle and Strategy*, by Mark Fifer Seilhamer, *Journal of Sociolinguistics*. 25(1): 106–109. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/josl.12452>.

Manuscripts Under Revision

Chen, S. and C. Higgins. “‘#grindrlife’: Modulated Sociality, Narrated Intimacies, and Mediated Desires on Grindr.” *Journal of Anthropological Research*. (Under Review; Co-editor for Special Issue).

Chen, S. “Playing Desire: Gay Visual Novels, Queer Ethnofiction, and the Anthropology of Platformed Play.” *Anthropology of Play and Games Handbook* (Invited; Under contract with Routledge; Submission Scheduled for October 2026)

Chen, S. Shamed into Linguistic Insecurity: Language Socialization of Voice-Acting Novices in Taiwan. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*. (Invited; Submission Scheduled for November 2026).

Chen, S. “Hearing One Register: Dubbing Mandarin and Ideological Listening in Taiwan.” *Tongues of Taiwan*. (Invited; Under contract with Springer; Submission Scheduled for January 2027).

Chen, S. and C. Higgins. “Auditing Intimacy: Legibility and the Semiotics of Surveillance on Grindr.” *Sex, gender and Biopolitics: Discourse and the Regulation of Intimate Life*. (Invited; Under contract with Bloomsbury; Submission Scheduled for March 2027).

Manuscripts in Development

Chen, S., and C. Higgins. “‘kamala IS brat’: Intertextual Precarity and Audiovisual Assemblages in Platformed Media.”

Chen, S., and L. Manning. “Talking Without Looking: Gaze Aversion and the Organization of Gossip.”

Chen, S. “Reorienting the Frame: Virtual Reality and the Semiotics of Ethnographic Experience.”

HONORS AND AWARDS

2022 Winner, John Gumperz Graduate Student Essay Prize, Society for Linguistic Anthropology
“Shamed into Linguistic Insecurity: Language Socialization of Voice-Acting Novices in Taiwan.”

2016 Dean of Humanities Scholar Award, Humanities Division, UCLA

2015 Dean of Humanities Scholar Award, Humanities Division, UCLA

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

External – (Inter)National and International Fellowships

2020-21 The Taiwanese Overseas Pioneers Grant, **Ministry of Science and Technology, Taiwan**

2020 The Chiu Scholarly Exchange Program, **Oregon State University**

2019-20 Academia Sinica Fellowship, Institute of Ethnology, **Academia Sinica, Taiwan**

2018-19 NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (DDIG-1824089), **National Science Foundation**

2018 Taiwan Studies Fellowship, **Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles (TECO LA)**

Internal – University Fellowships

2026 The Gertrude F. Bristol Faculty Fellowship, Hamilton College

2025 Christian A. Johnson Fund, Faculty Teacher-Scholar Award (FTSA), Hamilton College

2024 Christian A. Johnson Fund, Faculty Teacher-Scholar Award (FTSA), Hamilton College

2024 Williams-Watrous-Couper Fund, Hamilton College

2024 Dr. Edgardo Yordán Humanities Faculty Research Grant, Hamilton College

2024 Class of 1966 Career Development Award, Hamilton College

2023 Faculty Teacher-Scholar Award (FTSA), Hamilton College

2023 The Collegium of University Teaching Fellows (CUTF), UCLA

2022-23 The J. Yang and Family Centennial Scholarship, UCLA Asia Pacific Center & the J. Yang and Family Foundation

2021-22 Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA Graduate Division

2021 Taiwan Studies Lectureship Graduate Research Fellowship, UCLA Asia Pacific Center

2020-21 The J. Yang Scholarship, UCLA Asia Pacific Center & the J. Yang and Family Foundation

- 2019 Taiwan Studies Lectureship Graduate Research Fellowship, UCLA Asia Pacific Center
& Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles (TECO LA)
- 2018 Dissertation Fieldwork Fellowship for International Studies, UCLA International Institute
- 2017-18 Graduate Research Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division
- 2017 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division
- 2016 Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division
- 2016 Taiwan Studies Lectureship Graduate Research Fellowship, UCLA Asia Pacific Center
& Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles (TECO LA)

Internal – Departmental Fellowships

- 2020 Anthropology Department Summer Research Grant, UCLA
- 2016 Anthropology Department Summer Research Grant, UCLA
- 2015-16 Anthropology Department University Fellowship, UCLA

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2026.5 “*Taigi* on Track: Colonial Afterlives and Voice Labor in Taiwan’s Dubbing Mediascape.” Invited Presentation for “Tongues of Taiwan: Culture and Identity between Languages and Empires,” Asia Pacific Center, UCLA. May 29–30.
- 2026.3 “Standardness Without Standards: Linguistic Neutrality and Vocal Professionalization in Taiwan’s Dubbing Industry.” Invited Talk for the Linguistic Anthropology Reading Group, University of London and University College London. March 16.
- 2025.4 “‘Accent or Not’: Language Politics in Dubbing.” Guest lecture for Literature & Creative Writing (LIT 344W: ‘earing Accents), Hamilton College. April 14.
- 2024.2 “Sinitic Polypoly: Taiwan’s Dubbing Industry and Sociolinguistic Landscape.” Guest lecture for Asian Studies (ASIAN 63: History of the Chinese Language), University of Wisconsin-Madison. Feb 27.
- 2023.11 “Parameterization of Voices in Taiwan’s Dubbing Performance.” Invited Presentation for “Language Work in the Movies: A Round Table,” Department of English, University of Bern, Switzerland. Nov 9.
- 2022.3 “Disembodiment in Taiwanese Voice Acting *Peiyin*.” Presentation at Discourse Lab, Department of Anthropology, UCLA. Mar 10.
- 2020.7 “Learning How to “Speak”: Language Socialization of *Peiyin* Novices through Shaming (學會怎麼「說話」：論羞恥感對於配音新手的語言社會化的影響).” Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan. Jul 6. [Talk given in Mandarin Chinese].
- 2019.5 “Language, Voice, and Sound: Introduction to an Anthropology of Voice.” Invited talk at the Institute of Anthropology, National Tsinghua University, Taiwan. May 15.
- 2017.6 “From ‘Cool Japan (クールジャパン)’ to Glocalization: An Introduction to Cultural Production.” Guest lecture at Anthropology S175 (Japan through Time and in its Places), UCLA. Jun 5.
- 2017.4 “Dubbing as a linguistic practice: examining standard language ideologies in Taiwan’s voice-over industry.” Presentation at Discourse Lab, Department of Anthropology, UCLA. Apr 26.

Conference Paper Presentations

- (2026.11) “Figures of Longing: Antique Toy Collecting and the Chronotopic Reconstruction of Play.” Anthropological Association (AAA) 2026 Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO.
- 2026.9 “#grindrlife: Modulated Sociality, Narrated Intimacies, and Mediated Desires on Grindr.” Lavender Languages & Linguistics 32, University of Edinburgh, UK. *Co-Authoring presentation with Carter Higgins (Hamilton College).
- 2026.4 “Postcolonial Soundstage: Heritage Performance and Authority in Taiwan’s Dubbing Industry.” The 23rd European Association of Taiwan Studies (EATS) Annual Conference, University of Portsmouth, UK.

- 2025.11 “Dubbing Taiwan: Voice, Identity, and the Paradoxes of Decolonization in Taiwan’s Voiceover Production.” Anthropological Association (AAA) 2025 Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- 2025.11 “Voicing Heritage: Negotiating Taiwanese Identity and Colonial Ideologies in Taiwan’s Dubbing Industry.” World Anthropological Union (WAU) 2025 Congress, Antigua, Guatemala.
- 2025.05 “Lucrative Plurality: Commodifying Variations in Taiwan’s Dubbing Production.” Society of Linguistic Anthropology 3rd Meeting, University of Chicago, IL.
- 2025.02 “Ethnolinguistics of ‘Dubbing Mandarin (*peiyin qiang*)’ in Taiwan.” Global Asias 3rd Annual Conference, University of California, Irvine.
- 2024.11 “Parameterization of Affect-Encoded Voices in Taiwan’s Dubbing Performance.” American Anthropological Association (AAA) 2024 Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL.
- 2022.11 “Shamed into Linguistic Insecurity: Language Socialization of Voice-Acting Novices in Taiwan.” American Anthropological Association (AAA) 2022 Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.
- 2021.11 “Animating Characters with and through Voices: Performative Animativity in Taiwanese Voice Acting.” American Anthropological Association (AAA) 2021 Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
- 2021.06 “Toward an anthropology of trans-creativity: An ethnographic study of dubbing professionals who trans-create the filmic soundscape.” Sociolinguistics Symposium 23. University of Hong Kong, HK, China.
- 2019.11 “Acoustic labor and auditory pleasure: The push and pull factors in the making of Taiwan’s dubbing media.” American Anthropological Association (AAA) 2019 Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada.
- 2019.06 “From monopoly to polypoly: The story of Mandarin in Postwar Taiwan’s dubbing industry.” The 16th International Pragmatics Conference (IPrA). The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, China.
- 2019.04 “The politics of representation in and through the making of Mandarin dubbing in postwar Taiwan.” Sinophone Studies: Interdisciplinary Perspectives and Critical Reflections, University of California, Los Angeles. Los Angeles, CA.
- 2019.03 “When cultural production meets standardization project: The making of Mandarin in the Postwar Taiwanese dubbing industry.” Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2017.12 “Playing with voices: an inspection of code-switching in Taiwan’s voice-over industry.” American Anthropological Association (AAA) 2017 Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 2017.06 “‘Standard Mandarin’ as an ideologically construed language: A case of Taiwan’s voice-over industry.” The 29th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (NACCL-29), Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 2016.11 “The ‘benign’ standard language ideology: Animation dubbing and its sociolinguistic implications and significances in Taiwan.” American Anthropological Association (AAA) 2016 Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2016.06 “Re-/Constructing linguistic identities and boundary through map drawing.” Sociolinguistics Symposium (SS) 21, Universidad de Murcia, Spain.
- 2016.04 “Ideologies and identities as ‘different’ Mandarin-speaking people: Folk conceptualization of Taiwan Mandarin and boundary maintenance.” Language, Indexicality and Belonging, Linguistic Anthropology Conference, University of Oxford, United Kingdom.
- 2016.04 “Visualizing language ideologies: The interplay between perceptual linguistic geography of Mandarin and identity construction.” American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL), Orlando, FL.
- 2015.10 “Language ideologies on maps: Linguistic geographic perceptions of Mandarin Varieties and Taiwanese identities.” Culture, Language and Social Practice IV Conference, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO.
- 2015.06 “Redefining Taiwan Mandarin: language ideologies of Taiwan in change.” North American Taiwan Studies Association (NATSA) 21st Conference, Harvard University, Boston, MA.
- 2011.07 “Manga, the zeitgeist of the twenty-first century.” ISEP 2010-2011 Student Research Colloquium. Tokyo Gakugei University, Tokyo, Japan.

TEACHING

Instructor of Record, 2023-Present, Hamilton College

2026–2027	<i>Lavender Anthropology: Social Theory and Queer Ethnography</i> <i>Anthropology of Play</i> (Co-taught with Chenyu Wang) <i>Senior Thesis in Cultural Anthropology</i> <i>Anthropology of Audiovisual Entertainment</i> <i>Principles in Social and Cultural Anthropology</i>
2025-2026	<i>Principles in Social and Cultural Anthropology</i> <i>Anthropology of Audiovisual Entertainment</i> <i>Communication and Culture</i> <i>Ethnography of Communication</i> <i>Language, Gender, and Sexuality</i>
2024-2025	<i>Talk in Action</i> <i>Anthropology of Audiovisual Entertainment</i> <i>Principles in Social and Cultural Anthropology</i> <i>Communication and Culture</i>
2023-2024	<i>Anthropology of Audiovisual Entertainment</i> <i>Ethnography of Communication</i> <i>Principles in Social and Cultural Anthropology</i> <i>Communication and Culture</i>

Instructor of Record, 2020-2023, UCLA

2023 Spring	<i>Audiovisual Creativity in the Contemporary World</i>
2022 Summer	<i>Gender and Language in Society</i> <i>Culture & Communication</i>
2021 Summer	<i>Culture & Communication</i>
2020 Summer	<i>Culture & Communication</i>

Teaching Apprentice (Fellow, Associate, Assistant, Reader), 2015-2021, UCLA

- Linguistic Anthropology Courses: *Culture & Communication, Language and Work*
- Cultural Anthropology Courses: *Field Methods in Cultural Anthropology, Anthropology of Japan*
- Archaeology Course: *Cities Past and Present*

Teaching Assistant, 2009, National Taiwan University

- Required Core Course: *Freshman English*

SERVICES

Disciplinary

2026–	Manuscript Reviewer , <i>Humanities and Social Sciences Communications</i>
2025–	Manuscript Reviewer , <i>Applied Linguistics</i>
2025–	Manuscript Reviewer , <i>Journal of Sociolinguistics</i>
2024–	Manuscript Reviewer , <i>Journal of Language, Identity & Education</i>
2023–	Manuscript Reviewer , <i>Journal of Linguistic Anthropology</i>
2020–	Manuscript Reviewer , <i>Gender and Language</i>
2020–	Manuscript Reviewer , <i>Language & Communication</i>
2019–	Manuscript Reviewer , <i>Journal of Language and Sexuality</i>

Professional Organizations

- 2016-2017 **Program Co-Director**, NATSA 2017 Conference, North American Taiwan Studies Association.
2015-2016 **Program Commissioner**, NATSA 2016 Conference, North American Taiwan Studies Association.
2014-2015 **Program Commissioner**, The 27th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics at UCLA

University

- 2026–2029 **Human Subjects Institutional Review Board**, Hamilton College.
2025-2026 **Committee on Student Awards and Prizes**, Hamilton College
2025- **Faculty Advisor, Asian Student Union**, Hamilton College
2023-2026 **Linguistics Program Committee**, Hamilton College
2015-2017 **Editor**, *Crossroads*, UCLA Center for Language, Interaction, and Culture.
2010-2011 **English Language Tutor**, English Lunch Forum, Tokyo Gakugei University, Tokyo, Japan.

Departmental

- 2017-2018 **Student Coordinator**, Discourse Laboratory, Department of Anthropology, UCLA.
2007-2009 **Script Transcriber**, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, National Taiwan University

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2017-2019 **Book Manuscript Reader/Editor**, Dr. Mariko Tamanoi, Department of Anthropology, UCLA.
2010 **Head Research Assistant**, Depart. of Foreign Languages & Literatures, National Taiwan University
PI: Dr. Jai-Ling Hsu | Project: The Corpus of Taiwan Magazine Advertising

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- 2026.6–8 2 months, pilot and follow-up research in Taipei and Kaohsiung, Taiwan.
2025.5-8 3 months, follow-up research in Taipei, Taiwan, and pilot research in Fukuoka, Japan
2025.6 2 weeks, ethno-linguistic and -archaeological research in Kalinga, Philippines
2024.5-8 3 months, pilot and follow-up research in Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan, and Taipei, Taiwan
2023.9- On-going, video ethnographic research in Clinton, New York, USA
2023.7 1 month, follow-up research in Taipei, Taiwan
2021.1-7 6 months, dissertation follow-up research in Taipei, Taiwan
2018-2020 24 months, dissertation research in Taipei, Taiwan
2017.5-10 4 months, pre-dissertation research in Taipei, Taiwan
2016.6-9 3 months, pre-dissertation research in Taipei, Taiwan
2015.6-8 2 months, assisting research on Paiwanic ethno-linguistics in Pindung, Taiwan
2014.6-9 3 months, research on language and tourism in Taipei, Taiwan
2010-2011 12 months, research on Japanese pop culture in Tokyo, Japan

LANGUAGES

English (Native), **Mandarin Chinese** (Native), **Taiwanese Hokkien** (Near Native; Heritage), **Japanese** (Advanced, Japanese Language Proficiency Test, Level 1, 2009), **Paiwanese** (Fieldwork knowledge), **Vietnamese** (Beginning, 1-year class experience.).

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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| American Anthropological Association (AAA) | Association for Asian Studies (AAS) |
| Society for Linguistic Anthropology (SLA) | International Pragmatics Association (IPrA) |
| Linguistic Society of America (LSA) | Society of Sinophone Studies (S3) |
| Society for Cultural Anthropology (SCA) | North American Taiwan Studies Association (NATSA) |

REFERENCES

Dr. Paul V. Kroskrity, *Distinguished Professor*, Anthropology, UCLA
paulvk@anthro.ucla.edu | (310) 825-6237

Dr. Elinor Ochs, *Distinguished Research Professor*, Anthropology, UCLA
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Dr. Yunxiang Yan, *Distinguished Professor*, Anthropology, UCLA
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Dr. Chaise LaDousa, *Professor*, Anthropology, Hamilton College
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Dr. Hongyin Tao, *Professor*, Asian Languages & Cultures, UCLA
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