

## Meiwen Chen

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De Clercqstraat 26,  
3904 HS, Veenendaal,  
the Netherlands



**Field/Discipline:** Chinese Ethnic Minority, Anthropology, Sinology, Area Studies

**Expertise:** Anthropology of Religion, Cultural Anthropology, Gender Studies, Ritual Studies, Minority Literature

### EDUCATION

*Leiden University Institute for Area Studies, Leiden, the Netherlands*

**Ph.D. in Area Studies (Chinese Studies) 2016**

Thesis topic: “Gendered Ritual and Performative Literacy: Yao Women, Goddesses of Fertility, and the Chinese Imperial State”

*National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan*

**M.A. in Anthropology 2002**

Thesis topic: “Conceptualizations of Personhood and the Origins of Life as seen in Naming Traditions among the Pangu Yao of Tianlin, Guangxi”

Honors: Thesis passed “with distinction”, Professor Wong Songxing memorial award (see also below “Publications and Papers”).

*Fu Jen Catholic University, Hsinchuang, Taipei, Taiwan*

**B.A. in Religion 1998**

Areas of Concentration: Daoism, Communal Religious Traditions, Ethnography  
Minor: English

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*The Department of Religious Studies, Fu Jen Catholic University,  
Hsinchuang, Taipei, Taiwan*

**Instructor** – “Introduction to The Theories of Religious Studies” and “State, Religion, and Modern Adaptation: Seminar on Religions of Chinese Ethnic Minorities” (ongoing) **Feb-Jun 2017**

*The Department of Chinese Studies, Leiden University, the Netherlands* **2012**

**Instructor** – “Chinese Ethnic Minorities: Histories and Cultures” (4.5 out of 5, see course evaluation)

*Yonghe Community University, Taipei, Taiwan*

**Instructor** – “Cultures and Films” and “Eighteen Skills for Reading” **2005–2003**

*Nanya Technical School, Zhongli, Taiwan (Now Taoyuan Innovation Institute of Technology)*

**Instructor** – “General Introduction on Arts” and “General Introduction to Chinese Literature” **2003**

## RELATED RESEARCH/WORKING EXPERIENCE

*National Chiao Tung University (Project for ROC National Science Council [Now Ministry of Science and Technology]). Hsinchu, Taiwan* **2009-2008**

**Research Assistant** - “Recreation, Work and Everyday Life: Courtship Culture in Miao Society, Guizhou, PRC” (Organized by Professor Meiling Chien, Project Number: NSC 97-2420-H-009-001)

*National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan*

**Research Assistant** - “Kinship Terminology Survey Research on Minority Peoples in Southwestern China.” **2006**  
(Organized by Professor James Wilkerson, Funded by **2003**  
Institute of Anthropology, National Tsing Hua University, **2001**  
ROC National Science Council [Now Ministry of Science  
and Technology], and Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for  
International Scholarly Exchange)

*National Chiao Tung University (Project for ROC  
National Science Council [Now Ministry of Science and  
Technology]). Hsinchu, Taiwan*

**Research Assistant** - “Genealogies, Epitaphs, and Local Legends: The Historical and Ancestral Identities of the Aristocratic Families in West Yunnan.” (Organized by Professor Rui-chi Lien, Project Number: NSC 95-2411-H-009-008) **2007–2006**

*Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Nangang, Taipei, Taiwan*

**Research Assistant** - Research Group “Rethinking Boundaries: Historical and Cultural Processes at the Chinese Margins.” (Organized by Professor Ts’ui-P’ing Ho) **2004-2003**

*Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica (Project for ROC National Science Council), Nangang, Taipei, Taiwan*

**Researcher**- Project “Naming, Title and Collective Memory in Southeast Asia.” (Co-organized by Professor Bien Chiang and Lau-Fong Mak, Project Number: NSC 91-2412-H-001-028) **2004– 2002**

*National Hansheng Radio Station and Education Radio Station, Taipei, Taiwan*

**Program Host** – “Ethnic Kaleidoscope: Introduction on Minority Peoples in China and Austronesians in Taiwan.” **2003-2002**

AWARDS

<b>Fellowships for Doctoral Candidate in the Humanities and Sciences.</b> Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.	2014-2015
<b>Funding for Publication.</b> The Center for Yao Studies, Guangxi University for Nationalities. China.	2014-2015
<b>Overseas Study Scholarship.</b> Ministry of Education, Taiwan.	2012-2014
<b>Dissertation Fellowships for ROC Students Abroad.</b> Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, Taiwan.	2012-2013
<b>Excellent Students Study Abroad Program.</b> Enacting Heaven Temple Cultural and Educational Foundation. Taipei, Taiwan.	2009-2011
<b>Graduate Students Study Abroad Program.</b> National Science Council [Now Ministry of Science and Technology], The Executive Yuan of the Republic of China (Taiwan).	2008
<b>Graduate Students Study Abroad Program.</b> Ministry of Education, Republic of China (Taiwan). (Relinquished)	2008
<b>Ph.D Scholarship.</b> Chung Hwa Rotary Educational Foundation. Taipei, Taiwan.	2008 – 2007
<b>Ph.D Scholarship for International Academic Exchange.</b> National Tsing Hua University. Taipei, Taiwan.	2007

- Grants for Doctoral and Master's Students for Short-term Training Overseas.** Presenting “Integrating Skills, Softening Boundaries: Rethinking Ritual Hierarchies Among Religious Specialists in Southern China and Taiwan” at the Sixteenth Annual Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, Columbia University, New York. Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange. 2007-2006
- MA Thesis Award.** Professor Wong Songxing memorial foundation. Taiwan Anthropological and Ethnological Association. Taipei, Taiwan 2002
- Thesis Field Research Grant.** Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, National Tsing Hua University, and National Taiwan University Joint Project. 2001 -2000
- Pre-proposal Fieldwork Grant.** Thesis Fieldwork Grant. Upland and Lowland Societies and Cultures in Monsoon Asia. Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica and National Tsing Hua University Joint Project. 2001-1999

### **Languages**

Mandarin – native speaker

Southern Min (Hokkien) – native speaker

English – speak fluently and read/write with high proficiency

Iu-Mien (Pan Yao) language – listening and speaking competence

Dutch –beginner

### **Publications and Papers**

#### DISSERTATION

*Gendered Ritual and Performative Literacy: Yao Women, Goddesses of Fertility, and the Chinese Imperial State.* PhD thesis (the Netherlands: Leiden University, 2016).

BOOK

In press Conceptualizations of Personhood and the Origins of Life as seen in Naming Traditions among the Pan Yao of Tianlin, Guangxi (Cong mingming tan Guangxi Tianlin Panyao rende goucheng yu shengming de lai yuan 从命名谈广西田林盘瑶人的构成与生命的来源). (revised and reprint in simplified Chinese).

2003 Conceptualizations of Personhood and the Origins of Life as seen in Naming Traditions among the Pangu Yao of Tianlin, Guangxi (Cong mingming tan Guangxi Tianlin Panguyao rende goucheng yu shengming de lai yuan 從命名談廣西田林盤古瑤人的構成與生命的來源). Taipei: Tangshan.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

2015 Religion as a Civilizing Process? Rethinking Yao Religious Culture and Ritual Manuscripts'. *The Journal of Chinese Ritual, Theatre and Folklore* 187: 155-209. (TSSCI).

2011 Constructed History: Ethnic Yao in Modern China. *Leidschrift* 26.1: 93-108.

BOOK REVIEWS

2011 Faiths on Display: Religion, Tourism, and the Chinese State. Tim Oakes and Donald S. Sutton (eds). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2010. *China Information*, 25: 293-295.

2009 Asian Borderlands: The Transformation of Qing China's Yunnan Frontier. C. Patterson Giersch. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2006. *Taiwan Journal of Anthropology*, 7.2: 197-200. (in Chinese)

WEBSITE ARTICLE

2009 Introduction to the Yao. <http://ethno.ihp.sinica.edu.tw/frameD.htm> (in Chinese)

### CONFERENCE PAPERS

2016 Xingbiehua de “tazhe” guan: Shi lun Mien Yao zhixi *Panwang Dage* zhong de diguo/guojia guan (Gendering the Others: A Preliminary Discussion of Mien’s Conceptualizations of Chinese Empire/State as Seen in *The Big Song for King Pan*, 性別化的「他者」觀：試論勉瑤支系《盤王大歌》中的帝國/國家觀). Paper Presented at the 7th International Forum on Sino-Southeast Asian Ethnic Groups IFSSAEG . College of Ethnology and Sociology, Guangxi University for Nationalities, 28-30 October 2016.

2016 “Framing” the King Pan: Plural Concepts of Religion in Creating a Pan-Yao Identity. Paper presented at the International Conference “Secularisms and the Formations of Religion in Asia: Pluralism, Globalization, Modernities.” HSS Global Asia Research Cluster, Nanyang Technological University, 29 February-1 March 2016.

2015 Panyao *Panwang Dage* zhong de “ji” yu “yiji” guan: Xingbie, yishi, yu zuqun (Conceptualizations of ‘Self’ and ‘Other’ in *The Big Song for King Pan* of Pan Yao: Gender, Ritual, and Ethnicity, 盤瑤盤王大歌中的「己」與「異己」觀：性別、儀式與族群). Paper Presented at The Fourth Symposium on Ethnicity, History and Regional Society, 20-21 November 2015. Institute of Taiwan History, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.

2014 Writing and Materiality in Yao Sociality: Literacy, Manuscripts, and Otherness. Paper Presented at LIAS CA-DS Graduate Conference, 10-11 May 2014. Leiden Institute for Area Studies, Leiden University, Leiden, the Netherlands.

2012 Yaoluan de chongxin jieding: Yao liyi shijie zhong de luan, zei yu guan (Redefining the Violence the Yao Have Experienced: Violence, the Thief and the Official in Yao Writings, 「瑤亂」的重新界定：瑤禮儀世界中的亂、賊與

官). Paper Presented at The 2012 Annual Meeting of Taiwan Society for Anthropology and Ethnology, 6-7 October 2012. Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.

2011 Yao Literacy and the Value of Women: Yao Ritual Manuscripts Across Asian Borderlands. Paper Presented at Rombouts Graduate Conference: Globalization and Glocalization in China, 6-7 September 2011. Leiden Institute for Area Studies, Leiden, the Netherlands.

2009 Between Sacred and Secular: Mien Ceremonial Paintings as Wealth and/or Commodities. Paper Presented at the SEAA Taipei 2009 conference, Society for East Asian Anthropology, American Anthropological Association, 2-5 July 2009. Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.

2007 Integrating Skills, Softening Boundaries: Rethinking Ritual Hierarchies Among Religious Specialists in Southern China and Taiwan. Paper Presented at the Sixteenth Annual Graduate Student Conference on East Asia, 9-10 February 2007. Columbia University, New York, USA.

2006 The Preliminary Analysis of Sanjiang Dong's Relationship Terminology. Draft Paper Presented at the Closing Session of Writer's Workshop Directed by Prof. Robert Parkin as Writer in Residence in the Institute of Anthropology, National Tsing Hua University, 31 August 2006. Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu, Taiwan.