



## Mei-Wen Chen (陳玫紋)

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### Education

Ph.D. in Asian Studies, Institute for Area Studies, Leiden University, the Netherlands, 2016

M.A. in Anthropology, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan, 2002

B.A. in Religious Studies, Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan, 1998

Minor: English and American Literature

### Research Interests

Yao Daoism

Gender and Religion

Ethnic Relations and History

Ritual Manuscripts and Vernacular Literature

Comparative Studies in Taiwan, South China, and Southeast Asia

### Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan  
(2022.02–present)

Postdoctoral Fellow, Asia Africa Institute, University of Hamburg, Germany (2019.07–  
2020.06)

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Fu Jen Catholic University,  
Taiwan (2017.02–07)

Lecturer, Department of Chinese Studies, Leiden University, the Netherlands (2013.02–07)  
Research Assistant, Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan (2002.07–2004.02)

### **Publications - Books**

Gendered Ritual and Performative Literacy: Yao Women, Goddesses of Fertility, and the Chinese Imperial State. Forthcoming. Peter Lang Publishing.

2018. Conceptualizations of Personhood and the Origins of Life as seen in Naming Traditions among the Pan Yao of Tianlin, Guangxi (从命名谈广西田林盘瑶的人观建构与生命来源). Beijing: Minzu Press.

### **Publications - Book Chapters**

2024. "Collections of Yao Manuscripts in Western Institutions." In Vernacular Chinese-Character Manuscripts from East and Southeast Asia, edited by David Holm, 115–147. Berlin: De Gruyter.

### **Publications - Journal Articles**

Forthcoming, 2025. "Introduction: New Paradigms in Yao Religion and Culture Studies." *Min-su ch'ü-i* 228.

2022. "The Peach Spring Grotto in Yao Daoism: The Ritual of 'Repaying a Debt to the Supreme Parents of Flowers' in Mien Society of Guangxi, China." *Studies in Chinese Religions* 19: 201–244.

2021. "Religion and Gender: Yao Female Singers and Their Relation with Panhu." *Newsletter of Yao Studies*, Kanagawa University, Japan 8: 42–52.

2015. "Religion as a Civilizing Process? Rethinking Yao Religious Culture and Ritual Manuscripts." *Min-su ch'ü-i* 187: 155–209.

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

### **Publications - Conference Papers (Selected)**

2024. "Daoization of Panhu in Mien 'Pinghuang Juandie': A Preliminary Study." International Conference on Daoism at the Margins, Fu Jen Catholic University, Taiwan. (11.08-11.09)

2024. "Narrative Traditions of Panhu in Mien 'Pinghuang Juandie'." International Conference on the Diversity and Unity of the Yao, Kanagawa University, Japan. (10.11-10.12)

2023. "Where is Meishan? Mien 'Meishan Teachings,' Afterlife Views, and Connections to Lüshan Teachings." National Chi Nan University, Taiwan. (10.27-10.28)

2019. "Religion and Gender: Yao Female Singers and Their Relation with Panhu." ICAS 11, Leiden, the Netherlands. (07.16-07.19)

2017. "Multiple Narratives and Contemporary Practices of the Ancestor God Panhu among the Yao." Taiwan Society of Anthropology and Ethnology Annual Conference, Academia Sinica, Taiwan.(10.21-10.22)

## **Publications - Book Reviews**

2017. Review of Goddess on the Frontier by Megan Bryson. Journal of the American Academy of Religion 85.4: 1181–1183.

2011. Review of Faiths on Display, edited by Tim Oakes and Donald S. Sutton. China Information 25.3: 293–295.

2009. Review of Asian Borderlands by C. Patterson Giersch. Taiwan Journal of Anthropology 7.2: 197–200.

## **Fellowships and Awards**

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation, Europe (2018–2019)

Fellowships for Doctoral Candidates in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taiwan (2014–2015)

Publication Grant, Yao Studies Research Center, Guangxi University for Nationalities, China (2014–2015)

Taiwan Ministry of Education Overseas Study Scholarship (2012–2014)

Doctoral Fellowships, Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation, Europe (2012–2013)

Elite Student Program, Hsing Tian Kong Cultural and Educational Foundation (2009–2011)

Ministry of Science and Technology Overseas Project for Graduate Research, Taiwan (2008–2009)

Scholarship for Students in Master and Doctoral Degree Program, Taiwan (2007–2008)

## **Grants and Projects**

Fertility and Healing in a Cross-border Context: A Comparative Study of the Ritual Master Tradition among the Mien in Northwest Guangxi, China, and Northern Vietnam, NSTC 113-2410-H-030-099, 2024–2025

Religious Landscape, Healing and Society, Ministry of Education Humanities and Social Science Benchmark Program, 2023–2024

### Academic Service

Board of directors, Society for the Study of Chinese Religions (SSCR), 2023–present

Peer Reviewer for NTU Journal of Women’s and Gender Studies, Fo Guang Journal Of Humanities, and Fu Jen Religious Studies, 2022–2023

Reviewer, Journal of History and Anthropology, 2020

Reviewer, NSTC Taiwanese Overseas Pioneers Grants, 2019

### Community Engagement and Volunteering

Board Member, Oranje Express, 2022–present

Volunteer, Goed Voor Elkaar Day Care Center, Veenendaal, 2018–2019

Volunteer, Hospice Issoria, Leiden, 2011–2012

### Languages

Mandarin: Native

Hokkien: Native

English: Fluent (IELTS 7.5)

Yao (Mien): Conversational

Dutch: Conversational (CEFR A2-B1)

Last updated: March 25, 2025