

Meiwen 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)

Grants and Projects

A Transnational Comparative Study of Yao Goddess Worship and Daoist Ritual Practices: Big Data Analysis from Manuscripts to Reproductive Culture, Fu Jen Catholic University Research Grants, A0114015, 2025-2026.

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, National Science and Technology Council, Taiwan (NSTC 113-2410-H-030-099), 2024–2025

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

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)

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

2025. "Introduction: New Paradigms in Yao Religion and Culture Studies- Toward a Cross-Regional and Cross-Cultural Epistemic Turn." (導言：瑤族宗教與文化研究的新典範--跨地域與跨文化的知識轉向) *Min-su ch'ü-i 民俗曲藝* 229/230: 1-27.

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* 華人宗教研究 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* 民俗曲藝 187: 155–209.

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

Publications - Conference Papers (Selected)

2025. "Facilitator of Insights: Professor Barend ter Haar and the Growth of Yao Studies." The Third Glorisun Annual Forum-Beyond Civilizational Clash: The Coalescence of Human Civilizations, Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales (INALCO), Paris, France. (07.08-07.09)

2024. "The Daoization of Panhu in the Yao 'Charter of Emperor Ping': A Preliminary Study." (初探勉瑤《評皇券牒》中「盤瓠」道教化的過程). 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'." (勉瑤《評皇券牒》中的「盤瓠」及其敘事傳統分析). 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." (梅山何在？中國廣西勉瑤的「梅山教」死後世界觀及其與閩山教的關聯). National Chi Nan University, Taiwan. (10.27-10.28)

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

2016. "From a Dog to an Emperor: Framing the Yao Mythic Ancestor, King Pan (盤王, or Panhu 盤瓠)." Taiwan Society of Anthropology and Ethnology Annual Conference, National Taiwan University, Taiwan. (09.10-09.11)

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.

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: Oct 12, 2025