

Jacob R. Hickman

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Education

- 2011 Ph.D. University of Chicago, Department of Comparative Human Development (Field of study: Psychological Anthropology / Cultural Psychology); Dissertation: "Morality and Personhood in the Hmong Diaspora: A Person-Centered Ethnography of Migration and Resettlement"; Dissertation Committee: Richard Shweder (Chair), Micere Keels, Don Kulick, Nicholas Tapp (External Examiner)
- 2007 M.A., Comparative Human Development, University of Chicago; Thesis: "The Moral Dimension of the Hmong Refugee Experience in America: A Three Ethics Approach"
- 2005 B.S./B.A., Psychology / Sociocultural Anthropology (double major), Brigham Young University

Positions Held

- 2018-Present Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Brigham Young University
- 2024-2027 Co-Editor-in-Chief (with Julia Cassaniti), *Ethos: Journal of the Society for Psychological Anthropology* (published by AAA)
- 2018-2019 Fulbright Senior Research Scholar, Department of Ethnology and Sociology, Yunnan University (China)
- 2011-2018 Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Brigham Young University
- 2010-2011 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Brigham Young University.
- 2010 Instructor, Department of Comparative Human Development, University of Chicago

Research Areas

Psychological anthropology, Cultural psychology, Anthropology of Religion, Visual Anthropology, and Political Anthropology; Hmong America and the global Hmong/Miao diaspora; Transnationalism, Migration, Diaspora; Revitalization and new religious movements; Moral beliefs, reasoning, and development; Personhood and Self; Ritual practice; Health, healing, and hybridity; Ethnic identity and Ethnonationalism; Thailand and Southeast Asia; China; American West; Northern Ireland

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

Shweder, Richard A., **Jacob R. Hickman**, and Les Beldo. (2025). Morality in Culture: The Fate of Moral Absolutes in History. In, *Cambridge Handbook of Moral Psychology*. Bertram Malle and Philip Robbins, Eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi: [10.1017/9781108894357.025](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108894357.025)

Hickman, Jacob R., and Joseph Webster. (In Press, expected 2025). Millenarianism. *The Oxford Handbook of the Anthropology of Religion*. Joel Robbins and Simon Coleman, Eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Cassaniti, Julia, and **Jacob R. Hickman**. (March 2025). Past present: A letter from the editors. *Ethos*, 53(1): 1-7. doi: [10.1111/etho.70002](https://doi.org/10.1111/etho.70002)

Hickman, Jacob R. (In Press, expected 2025). Existential Threat and Cosmological Innovation: New Religious Dynamics in the Hmong Diaspora. *Anthropological Quarterly*.

Hickman, Jacob R., and Jordan Haug. (Under Contract). Motivating Millenarianism: The Past, Present, and Future of the End of the World. In, *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Millennialism and Apocalypticism*. Tristan Sturm and Andrew Crome, Eds. New York: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Hickman, Jacob R. (2024). Restoring that which has never been: Hmong millenarianism and the re-invention of tradition. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 30(S1): 115-134. doi: [10.1111/1467-9655.14111](https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9655.14111)

Hickman, Jacob R. (2021). The Art of Being Governed: Apocalypse, Aspirational Statecraft, and the Health of the Hmong Body (Politic). *Anthropology and Medicine*, 28(1): 94-108. doi: [10.1080/13648470.2020.1833685](https://doi.org/10.1080/13648470.2020.1833685)

Starks, Shannon, Amber Nadal, **Jacob R. Hickman**, Sam Hardy. (2021). Moral values in moral psychology. *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology*, 41(1): 35-57. doi: [10.1037/teo0000172](https://doi.org/10.1037/teo0000172)

Hickman, Jacob R. (2019). Culture and Hermeneutic Moral Realism. In, *Hermeneutic Moral Realism in Psychology: Theory and Practice*. Brent Slife and Stephen Yanchar, Eds. Pp. 51-67. Routledge.

Hickman, Jacob R. (2017). Acculturation, Assimilation, and the ‘View From Anywheres’ in the Hmong Diaspora. In, *Universalism without Uniformity: Explorations in Mind and*

Culture. Julia Cassaniti and Usha Menon, Eds. Pp. 173-196. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Corbett, Cheryl, Jamie Gettys, Lynn Callister, and **Jacob R. Hickman**. (2017). The Meaning of Giving Birth: Voices of Hmong Women Living in Vietnam. *The Journal of Perinatal & Neonatal Nursing*, 31(3): 207-215. doi: [10.1097/JPN.0000000000000242](https://doi.org/10.1097/JPN.0000000000000242)

Hickman, Jacob R., and Allison DiBianca Fasoli. (2015). The Dynamics of Ethical Co-Occurrence in Hmong and American Evangelical Families: New Directions for Three Ethics Research. In, *Moral Development in a Global World: Research from a Cultural-Developmental Perspective*. Lene Arnett Jensen, Ed. Pp. 141-169. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Cassaniti, Julia, and **Jacob R. Hickman**. (2014). New Directions in the Anthropology of Morality. *Anthropological Theory*, 13(4): 251-262. doi: [10.1177/1463499614534371](https://doi.org/10.1177/1463499614534371)

Hickman, Jacob R. (2014). Ancestral Personhood and Moral Justification. *Anthropological Theory*, 13(4): 317-335. doi: [10.1177/1463499614534553](https://doi.org/10.1177/1463499614534553)

Hardy, Sam A., Lawrence J. Walker, Joseph A. Olsen, Ryan D. Woodbury, and **Jacob R. Hickman**. (2014). Moral Identity as Moral Ideal Self: Links to Adolescent Outcomes. *Developmental Psychology*, 50(1), 45-57. doi: [10.1037/a0033598](https://doi.org/10.1037/a0033598)

Hickman, Jacob R. (2011). Arts, Crafts, and Home Decorations in Hmong America (418-420); Hmong American Identity (435-437); Hmong American Names and Name Giving (439-440); Hmong American Narrative/Oral Folktale (440-441); Nature and Animals in Hmong America (442-443); Religion in Hmong American Communities (445-448); Hmong American Story Cloths (453-455); In, *Encyclopedia of Asian American Folklore*. Jonathan H. X. Lee and Kathleen Nadeau, Eds. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO. (a collection of ethnographic essays)

Hickman, Jacob R. (2010). Psychology and Anthropology. In, *21st Century Anthropology: A Reference Handbook*. H. James Birx, Ed. Pp. 950-959. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Hickman, Jacob R. (2007). "Is it the Spirit or the Body?": Syncretism of Health Beliefs among Hmong Immigrants to Alaska. *Annals of Anthropological Practice*, 27:176-195. (formerly, *NAPA Bulletin*) (Reprinted in: *Sacred Realms: Readings in the Anthropology of Religion*, Second Edition. (2009). R. Warmes, J. Garber, & R. J. McGee, Eds. New York: Oxford University Press.) doi: [10.1525/napa.2007.27.1.176](https://doi.org/10.1525/napa.2007.27.1.176)

Hickman, Jacob R. (2003). Inverse Typology and Ethnic Identity: An Analysis of Inverse Image Theory in Two Guatemalan Communities. *The Journal of the Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters* 80:153-172.

Films

Hickman, Jacob R. and Scott Christopherson (Executive Producers and Producers), Emma Wheeler Volz, Kate McKellar, Sophie Whitaker, Sarah Sowards Taylor, Scott

Christopherson (Directors). (2024). *At the Doorway* (15 minutes). Link to film: <https://vimeo.com/968488806/2e99aacdae>

Synopsis: In rural communities in Northern Thailand, Hmong women act as healers and mediators between spirits, ancestors, and their living posterity. These grandmothers, mothers, and daughters labor in their different roles to provide for and spiritually strengthen those around them. [Selected by jury for screening at the 2025 *Utah International Film Festival*, by academic peer review for screening at the 2024 *Hmong Studies Consortium Conference*, and currently being reviewed by other film festival juries. Also under review by Documentary Educational Resources for potential distribution.]

Yang, Manman, and **Jacob R. Hickman** (Directors). (2021). 芦笙絮语: *Playing for the Ancestors* (36 minutes). Link to film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VV3yywykReI>

Synopsis: The *qeej* is a Hmong instrument that plays more than notes. Its messages provide a spiritual code for the ancestors to sustain the symbiotic relationship between them and their descendants. *Qeej* artisans and practitioners on the borderland of China and Vietnam struggle to keep this vital mode of spiritual communication alive and thriving. [Selected by jury for screening at the *European Association of Social Anthropologists 2020 Film Programme* and *The Society for Visual Anthropology 2021 Film Festival*. We are currently marketing the film for potential distribution by ethnographic film resource distributors.]

Booher, Joshua (Director) and **Jacob R. Hickman** (Executive Producer). (Under Review). *The Third Thing* (20 minutes). Link to film: <https://vimeo.com/946378886/d71f22e407>

Synopsis: Musicians in Belfast have banded together to craft a distinct space that rejects the dichotomies that drive so much of politics and identity in Northern Ireland. This space opens up new possibilities for expression and identity. [Currently being reviewed by film festival juries.]

Finch, Anna, Samantha Elmer, Ethan Johnson, and **Jacob R. Hickman** (Directors). (In Postproduction). *A Violent Peace* (approximately 18 minutes).

Synopsis: Protestant bonfires in Northern Ireland are seen by many as a problematic vestige of ethnonationalism and conflict, while many Protestant leaders struggle to recast bonfires as a celebration of Protestant heritage and culture. Former paramilitary leaders and rank and file Protestant community members work to overcome the recurring specter of sectarian violence without sacrificing the celebration of their heritage. [Currently in postproduction.]

Vaj, Yaj Ceeb, and **Jacob R. Hickman** (Directors). (In Postproduction). *Returning Home* (67 minutes).

Synopsis: This feature-length film unpacks the cosmology of personhood encoded in a critical oral-ritual text—the *Txiv Xaiv (Plig)*—namely the three souls whose ultimate fates are managed through this and related rites. The film centers on a particular form of the *Txiv Xaiv Plig* that was preserved by a paramount Master, Shong Ger Thao, who passed down a critical version of the ritual to Xib Fwb Yaj Ceeb Vaj (co-director of the

film) before he passed away. This version of the ritual has the unique capacity to manage the soul of a person who did not receive a complete funeral and proper burial when they passed away, such as those who died in the Secret War and its aftermath.

Hickman, Jacob R., Beck Schulthies, and Jess Stephens (Directors). (In Postproduction) *L'akaad: The Moral Economy of the Button*.

Synopsis: This film project uses the commodity chain of L'akaad—meticulously hand-crocheted buttons—to provide an immersive view of the moral world of Moroccans. The women who crochet the buttons, and the merchants, tailors, and artisans who interact with them facilitate not only the trade of this Moroccan icon, but also the social and moral capital that accompanies its production and trade.

Shorter Essays

Hickman, Jacob R. (2016). The origins of culture. In, *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Theory in Psychology*. Harold L. Miller, ed. Pp. 203-207. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Hickman, Jacob R. (2013). Linton, Ralph (1893-1953). In, *Theory in Social and Cultural Anthropology*. Jon R. McGee and Richard L. Warms, Eds. Pp. 485-487. Los Angeles: Sage.

Hickman, Jacob R. (2009). Treating Hmong Children in America: Two Case Studies. In, *The Child: An Encyclopedic Companion*. Pp. 436-437. Richard A. Shweder, Ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Edited Works and Conferences Organized

Cassaniti, Julia, and **Jacob R. Hickman**, Eds. (2014). New Directions in the Anthropology of Morality. A Special Issue of *Anthropological Theory*, 13(4).

Hoskins, Janet (President), Joel Robbins (President-elect), **Jacob R. Hickman**, and Jonathan Hill (Organizing Committee). (2013). Biennial Meetings of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion. Pasadena, CA, April 11-14.

Hickman, Jacob R., Ed. (2016/2018). Venerated Pasts, Utopian Futures: Asian Millenarianism in the Here and Now and the Then and There. Workshop series organized with Title VI NRC funding from the BYU/University of Utah Intermountain Consortium for Asia Pacific Studies. Park City, Utah, October 1-2, 2016, and December 1-2, 2018. I am editing a volume from this collection.

Ma, David Teng Yueh, **Jacob R. Hickman**, Alexander Maywer, and Lorenz Gonschor. (2019). *Imagining Futures in the Asia Pacific* (The First International Conference on Asia-Pacific Ethnology and Anthropology, ICAPEA). Kunming, China.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Hickman, Jacob R. (Book Manuscript in Preparation). *Ancestral Futures: Morality and Migration Across the Hmong Diaspora*.

Hickman, Jacob R. (In preparation). Writing a New World into Being: Orthographic Ideology and Millenarian Religion in Hmong Society. Target journal: *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*.

Sharp-Wang, Hannah, and **Jacob R. Hickman**. (In Preparation). Spectra of Interiority and Belief: Religious Socialization and Models of Personhood. Target journal: *Ethos*.

(In preparation) Sovereignty, Morality, and Ontology: Moral World-Building across the Asia-Pacific. (With David Teng Yueh Ma).

(In Preparation) Between Citizens and Strangers: On Laïcité And Group Rights In The French Republic. (With Austin Gillett)

Courses Taught

ANTHR 101 Introduction to Social/Cultural Anthropology
 ANTHR 203 Contemporary Anthropological Theory
 ANTHR 327 Hmong Diaspora: Culture, History and Language
 ANTHR 341 Ethnonationalism and Southeast Asia
 ANTHR 420 Visual Anthropology
 ANTHR 421 Advanced Visual Anthropology: Analysis and Postproduction
 ANTHR 430 Moral and Ritual Institutions
 ANTHR 431 Kinship and Gender
 ANTHR 439 Psychological Anthropology
 ANTHR 440 The End of the World (as we know it)
 ANTHR 442 Ethnographic Research Designs and Methods
 ANTHR 450 Anthropology Seminar (speaker series)
 ANTHR 495 Ethnographic Field Project
 ANTHR 499 Ethnographic Writing (senior thesis)
 ANTHR 503 Contemporary Anthropological Theory (graduate)
 ANTHR 541 Southwest China/Southeast Asia Seminar (graduate)
 ANTHR 543 Ethnographic Data Analysis
 ANTHR 639 Psychological Anthropology (graduate)
 HMONG 102 First-year Language Study: Hmong
 HMONG 340 Introduction to Hmong Literature

Graduate Students Advised

Current:

Rufus (Soren) Pearce, MA Anthropology, 2026 (expected), **Chair**, “Everyday Eschatologies and Timpanogos Tribal Recognition”

Former:

- Ashley Lundquist, MA Anthropology, 2024, **Chair**, “Plants, Protests, Pachakuti: How Amazonian Plants Create Difference in the World”
- Quinn Christiansen, MA Anthropology, 2024, **Chair**, “The LDS Indian Placement Program: An Examination through an Experiential Lens”
- Yang Thai Vang (Yaj Ceeb Vaj), MA Anthropology, 2023, **Chair**, “Returning Home: The Thesis of a Master”
- Clayton van Woerkom, MA Anthropology, 2023, **Chair**, “Becoming Good: Muslims Pursuing Moral Personhood in a Rural French Town”
- David Frey, PhD Psychology, 2022, **Chair**, “Moral Foundations in Bunkerville and Malheur”
- Hannah Wang, MA Anthropology, 2022, **Chair**, “Authenticity without Belief in Western Tibetan Buddhist Practice”
- Venice Jardine, MA Anthropology, 2024, Committee, “‘I’ll Stay Where You Want Me To Stay’: How Latter-day Saints Navigate Conflicting Social Values While Remaining Committed to Their Faith”
- Luke Packer, MA Linguistics, 2023, Committee, “Open Liver Open Lung: Elaborate Expressions in White Hmong”
- Jacob Larson, MA Anthropology, 2022, Committee, “Lost in Translation: Implications for Translating Psychometric Tests as Seen With the Nunchi Scale”
- Jordan Hyde, PhD Psychology, 2016, Committee, “Examining Justifiable and Unjustifiable Cultural Biases in Psychological Science”
- Shannon Starks, PhD Psychology, 2016, Committee, “Moral Values in Moral Psychology? A Textual Analysis”
- Jacob Sparks, MA Recreation Management, 2014, Committee, “Motivation in Extreme Sports: A Study of Free-Solo Rock Climbers”

Conference and Workshop Presentations, Panels Organized

- 2025 Ancestral Futures: Hmong cosmologies of personhood, moral practice, and social change in the diaspora. Paper presented at the Society for Psychological Anthropology Biennial, Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, April 3-5.
- 2025 (with Elise Berman) Morality and Personhood in Contexts of Social Change and Existential Threat. Panel organized at the Society for Psychological Anthropology Biennial, Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, April 3-5.
- 2024 *Returning Home* (early cut film screening and discussion). Hmong Studies Consortium Conference, Merced, California, November 2.
- 2024 *At the Doorway* (final cut film screening and discussion). Hmong Studies Consortium Conference, Merced, California, November 2.
- 2023 What is deprivation, anyway?: On religion, class, and the End of the World. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Toronto, November 17.

- 2023 Discussant. Troubling Art: A Multimodal Approach to Understanding Sectarian and Anti-Sectarian Expression in Northern Ireland. Panel at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Toronto, November 17.
- 2023 Millenarian Dialectics of Knowledge and Desire: A Paradox at the End of the World. Paper presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Psychological Anthropology. San Diego, April 30.
- 2023 (with Sonya Pritzker) Installation: Ethnographic Methods for Engaging with Embodiment, Emotion, and Interaction. Installation at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Psychological Anthropology. San Diego, April 29.
- 2022 Sovereignty, Morality, and the Making of New Worlds. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Seattle, November 9.
- 2022 (with Yaj Ceeb Vaj) A Hmong Intellectual History Approach to Understanding Human Experience. Panel organized at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Honolulu, March 26.
- 2022 (with Yaj Ceeb Vaj) Ancestral Personhood and Hmong Intellectual History. Paper presented at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Honolulu, March 26.
- 2022 Discussant. Beyond Pandemic Politics: Rural Western Health Dynamics in Trying Times. Panel at the Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meetings, Salt Lake City, UT, March 23.
- 2022 What Field Schools Do: Ethnographic Pedagogy and Its Far-Reaching Impacts on both Basic and Applied Anthropological Practice. Paper presented at the Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meetings, Salt Lake City, UT, March 24.
- 2021 (with Greg Thompson) "The Fact of the Matter": Scientific Racism, Argumentization, and Ethnoepistemology in Considerations of Yellow Rain. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Baltimore, MD, November 19.
- 2021 Ordinary Politics, Extraordinary Ethics: A Moral Realist Account of How Religious Communities Cope with Existential Threat. Paper presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion. Virtual Conference, May 16.
- 2021 (with Yaj Ceeb Vaj) Ancestral Personhood and Hmong Intellectual History. Paper presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Psychological Anthropology. Virtual Conference, April 6.
- 2019 Writing a New World Into Being: Orthographic Ideology and Millenarian Religion in Hmong Society. Invited Workshop on *Languages in Mainland Southeast Asia*. University of Sydney, August 19.
- 2019 Ancestral Futures: Moral Realism Across the Hmong Diaspora. Invited workshop on *Moral Technologies: Expertise and the Self in China*. Southern University of Science and Technology, Shenzhen, China, May 24.
- 2019 The Road the Ancestors Take Home: Understanding Changing Traditions for Hmong Who

- Live on the Belt and Road and Remember the Chinese Homeland. *International Conference on Overseas Immigration and Building Community of Human Destiny*. South China Normal University, May 25.
- 2019 (With David Teng Yueh Ma) Sovereignty, Morality, and Ontology: Moral World-Building across the Asia-Pacific. Keynote address at *Imagining Futures in the Asia Pacific* (The First International Conference on Asia-Pacific Ethnology and Anthropology, ICAPEA). Kunming, China, May 22.
- 2018 (with Brent Slife and Jeffrey Reber) The Perils of Not Taking Ourselves Seriously: Ontological Reflexivity in Psychological and Anthropological Scholarship. Paper presented at the Annual Mid-Winter Meetings of the Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology. Phoenix, AZ, March 5.
- 2017 A Once and Future Kingdom: Temporal Coalescence in Hmong Millenarian World-Building. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, December 1.
- 2017 The Ancestors Don't Live in Hell: On Distinct Modes of Understanding Among Hmong Christians in Thailand (and elsewhere). Presentation at the 13th International Conference for Thai Studies. Chiang Mai, Thailand, July 15-18.
- 2017 A Theory of Culture to Underwrite a Theory of Hermeneutic Moral Realism. Workshop presentation of a chapter for a volume on "Hermeneutic Moral Realism." Brent Slife and Stephen Yanchar, Organizers and Editors. Brigham Young University, April 20-21.
- 2017 Ordinary Ethics and Moral Realism: What about a 'Psychological Turn' in the Anthropology of Deontology? (with Greg Thompson). Panel organized at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, New Orleans, March 9.
- 2017 Taking Moral Realism Seriously. Paper Presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, New Orleans, March 9.
- 2017 The Re-Invention of Tradition and the Making of a Hmong Millennium. Paper presented at the Fourth Biennial Hmong Studies Consortium Conference. Chiang Mai University, Thailand, January 3.
- 2016 The Ancestors Don't Live in Hell: On a Hmong Ethnoepistemology of Believing and Other Forms of Knowing. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN, November 18.
- 2016 Sovereignty and Rebellion, Agency and Context: Making Sense of the Hmong Diaspora (through engagements with the work of Nicholas Tapp). Roundtable organized at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, MN, November 18.
- 2016 The Making of a Hmong Millennium: Economies of Recognition in a Diasporic Religious Community. Paper presented at an invited workshop on "Religious Authority Beyond the Nation" at the University of Manchester, April 27.

- 2015 Millenarian Technologies of the Self: Agency in Hmong Religious Movements. Paper presentation at an invited workshop on The Morality of Millenarianism. Queen's University, Belfast, August 28.
- 2015 Of Traditionalism and Transnationalism: 'Traditional' Morality and Diasporic Reality. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association Meetings, Denver, CO, November 18.
- 2015 Tradition, Agency and Emotion in Hmong Moral Discourse (with Austin Gillett). Paper Presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, San Diego, April 18.
- 2015 The Fifth Pillar of World Religions: Moral Agency over Time in Hmong Millenarianism. Paper Presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, San Diego, April 18.
- 2015 The Morality of Millenarianism: Agency, Ethics, Diachronicity, and Other Underplayed Concepts. Panel Co-Organized (with Joseph Webster) at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, San Diego, April 18.
- 2015 Psychological Anthropology at the Ontological Turn: Intersections, Critiques, and New Developments. Panel organized at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Psychological Anthropology. Boston, April 11.
- 2015 A Moral (Psychological) Anthropology for the Ontological Turn. Paper Presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Psychological Anthropology. Boston, April 11.
- 2014 Legitimate Pasts, Utopian Futures: New Religious Dynamics in the Hmong Diaspora. Paper presentation at the Asia Pacific Sociological Association Meetings (APSA)—Transforming Societies: Contestations and Convergences in Asia and the Pacific. Chiang Mai, Thailand, February 16.
- 2014 A Cultural-Developmental Approach to Understanding the Moral Development of Migrant Youth: Evidence from the Hmong Diaspora. Paper presented at the Society for Research on Adolescence Biennial Meetings. Austin, Texas, March 20.
- 2014 Acculturation, Assimilation, and the 'View From Manywheres' in the Hmong Diaspora. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, December 4.
- 2013 The Art of Being Governed: Managing the Soul of General Vang Pao through the Rituals of Aspirational Statecraft. Paper Presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Pasadena, CA, April 13; and the "Hmong Across Borders" Conference at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, October 5.
- 2013 Landscapes of Recognition in Hmong Religious Revitalization and Political Organization. Paper Presented at the Biennial Meetings of the Society for Psychological Anthropology, San Diego, April 5.

- 2012 Reading the Past and Writing the Future: Asian Religious Revitalization Movements. Panel Organized at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 15.
- 2012 Political, Religious, and Linguistic Utopias: What Do Hmong Messianic Movements Have to Say about Religious Revitalization? Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 15.
- 2011 Ethical Imbrication and Its Ethnographic Implications. Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Montréal, QC, November 16.
- 2011 Transnational Ritual Networks and Messianic Religion in the Hmong Diaspora. Manuscript prepared for an invited workshop on “Transnational Religion, Missionization and Refugee Migrants” at the Max Planck Institute for Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, Germany, Oct. 6-7.
- 2011 Current Work in Person-Centered Ethnography: Tensions Between Subjects and their Milieux. Panel Organized at the Society for Psychological Anthropology Biennial Meetings. Santa Monica, CA, March 31.
- 2011 Hmong Moral Models and Their Discontents. Paper presented at the Society for Psychological Anthropology Biennial Meetings. Santa Monica, CA, March 31.
- 2011 “To Zomia or Not to Zomia?” Critical Ethnographic and Historical Perspectives. Roundtable Panel and Discussion organized (to assess the relevance of James C. Scott’s recent thesis to empirical perspectives on the Hmong) at the “Hmong in Comparative Contexts Conference.” Madison, WI, March 5.
- 2010 Of Traditionalism and Transnationalism: Constructing “Hmong-ness” in the Diaspora. Paper Presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, LA, November 17.
- 2010 Grounding Diaspora: Bridging Community and Academic Perspectives - A Roundtable Discussion (Panelist and Co-Organizer). The Third International Conference on Hmong Studies, St. Paul, MN, April 9-11.
- 2010 The Development of Autonomy, Community, and Divinity in the Context of Hmong Migration(s) and Across Generations. Paper Presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, Philadelphia, PA, March 11.
- 2009 Toward an Anthropology of Morality (Co-Organizer and Co-Chair). Panel Organized at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, PA, December 5.
- 2009 Resettlement and Changing Moral Discourse among Hmong in Northern Thailand. Paper Presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Philadelphia, PA, December 5.
- 2008 Migration and Moral Development in the Hmong Diaspora. Paper presented at Childhood & Migration: An Interdisciplinary Conference. Philadelphia, PA, June 20-22.

- 2008 Hmong Discourses of Community and Autonomy: An Intergenerational Comparison. Paper presented at the Second International Conference on Hmong Studies, St. Paul, Minnesota, April 11.
- 2006 “Tus dab ua losis lub cev ua xwb?” Syncretism of Health Beliefs among Hmong Immigrants to Alaska. Paper presented at the First International Conference on Hmong Studies, St. Paul, Minnesota, March 11.
- 2006 Authoritative Knowledge and Developing Syncretism in Health Beliefs: The Hmong of Anchorage, Alaska. Paper presented at the 66th Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology, Vancouver, BC, March 30.
- 2005 Socioeconomic and Ethnic Restructuring in Highland Guatemala: The Past and Present States of Ethnicity and Identity. John Hawkins, Co-Author. Paper Presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC, December 1.
- 2005 “Is it the Spirit or the Body?”: Syncretism of Health Beliefs among Hmong Immigrants to Alaska. Paper presented at the 65th Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology, Santa Fe, New Mexico, April 6.
- 2004 “Para Dios, todos somos iguales”: Religion, Education, and Ethnic Ambiguity in Guatemala. Paper presented at the XXV International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Las Vegas, October 8.
- 2004 Discussant. Religious Transformations in Guatemala III: Evangelical Protestantism and its Attractions. Organized Session at the XXV International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Las Vegas, October 8.
- 2004 Imperialism in Psychotherapy: Philosophical and Anthropological Implications to Cross-Cultural Paradigms. Poster presentation at the Third Annual Brigham Young University Psychology Research Conference, Provo, Utah, March 30.
- 2003 Inverse Typology and Ethnic Identity: An Analysis of Inverse Image Theory in Two Guatemalan Communities. Paper presented at the 102nd Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, November 23.

Invited Lectures

- 2023 Restoring That Which Has Never Been: Hmong Millenarianism and the Reinvention of Tradition. Invited lecture at the Kennedy Center for International Studies, Brigham Young University, October 13.
- 2022 (with Sarah Sowards Taylor and Sierra Harrison) Culture and Health: From Interpretation to Intervention. Invited keynote lecture at the University of Utah Health Regional Affiliate Symposium. October 12.

- 2022 Writing a New World into Being: Orthographic Ideology and Millenarian Religion in Hmong Society. Hmong Studies Consortium and Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison. February 8.
- 2019 Hmong Religious Change in Southeast Asia. Invited Lecture at The Institute of Religious Studies, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, China, July 26.
- 2019 The Ancestors Don't Live in Hell: Culture and Christianity across the Hmong Diaspora. Chiang Mai University, Thailand, January 9.
- 2018-2019 Working Papers Lecture Series, School of Ethnology and Sociology, Yunnan University, China.
- 2018 Ancestral Pasts, Ancestral Futures: Comparative Perspectives on Moral Personhood Across the Hmong Diaspora. Invited Lecture at Minzu University, Beijing, December 6.
- 2018 Ancestral Pasts, Ancestral Futures: Comparative Perspectives on Moral Personhood Across the Hmong Diaspora. Invited Presentation in the "Comparative Moralities Workshop" at East China Normal University, Shanghai, November 10.
- 2017 The Ancestors Don't Live in Hell: On 'Belief' and 'Ontology' as Distinct Modes of Understanding. Invited Lecture at the Department of Anthropology, Washington State University, February 2.
- 2015 Hmong Millenarianism as the Fifth Pillar of World Religions. Invited Lecture at the Ethnology Institute, Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences. Kunming, China, July 24.
- 2015 Ancestral Pasts, Ancestral Futures: Understanding Cultural Change in the Context of Life Course Development. Invited Lecture at the Asia Center, University of Utah, March 6.
- 2012 Morality and Life-Course Development in the Hmong Diaspora (Or, Why Anthropologists Should Engage Directly with Acculturation and Assimilation Theory, Again). Invited Lecture at the School of Human Evolution and Social Change colloquium, Arizona State University, November 2.
- 2012 Legitimate Pasts, Utopian Futures: New Religious Dynamics in the Hmong Diaspora. Invited Lecture at the Center for Ethnic Studies and Development, Chiang Mai University, July 16.
- 2012 Legitimate Pasts, Utopian Futures: New Religious Dynamics in the Hmong Diaspora. Invited Lecture at the Comparative Human Development Workshop, University of Chicago, January 31.
- 2011 Transnational Ritual Networks and Messianic Religion in the Hmong Diaspora. Invited Lecture in the International Field Studies Lecture Series, David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies, Brigham Young University, November 4.
- 2010 Ancestral Personhood and Moral Justification in Hmong Transnationalism. Invited Lecture in the Department of Psychology, Brigham Young University, September 28.

2008 Morality and Personhood in the Hmong Diaspora: Understanding the Person-Culture Dialectic in Migration Contexts. Workshop Presentation at the Culture, Life Course, and Mental Health Workshop in the Department of Comparative Human Development, University of Chicago, February 12.

2007 Hmong Health-Seeking Practices and Recommendations for Health Care Workers. Presentations to Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center and Providence Family Clinical staff, Anchorage, Alaska.

Professional Service and Committee Assignments

National / International

2024-2027 **Co-Editor-in-Chief** (with Julia Cassaniti), *Ethos: Journal of the Society for Psychological Anthropology* (published by the American Anthropological Association)

2024-Present **Treasurer**, Society for the Anthropology of Religion, American Anthropological Association

2024, 2012 **Juror**, The Clifford Geertz Prize in the Anthropology of Religion (book prize committee), Society for the Anthropology of Religion, American Anthropological Association

2020-2021 **Review Panel**, Fulbright / Institute of International Education Peer Review Committee – Anthropology

2014-2017 **Panelist**, Lemelson Research Grant Selection Committee, Society for Psychological Anthropology (a section of the American Anthropological Association)

2012-14 **Board Member**, Society for the Anthropology of Religion (a section of the American Anthropological Association)

University and College

2019-2022 **Committee Member**, Rank and Status Committee, College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences, Brigham Young University

2014-2017 **Committee Member** (from 2015, **Alternate Member**), Institutional Review Board, Brigham Young University

2012-15 **Committee Member**, Research Committee, College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences, Brigham Young University

Department

2023-Present (2015-2018, 2020-2021) **Coordinator**, Department of Anthropology Seminar, Brigham Young University

2023-Present **Member**, Experiential Learning Funds Committee, Department of Anthropology, Brigham Young University

2022-Present **Honors Coordinator**, Department of Anthropology, Brigham Young University

2019, 2021, 2023 **Search Committee Chair**, Department of Anthropology, Brigham Young University

2019-2023 **Committee Chair**, Department of Anthropology committee to negotiate and re-draft Anthropology Rank and Status standards document

2012-15 **Curriculum Committee Chair**, Department of Anthropology, Brigham Young University

2013-15 Department of Anthropology **Website Redesign**, Brigham Young University

2011-14 Anthropology Library Collections **Liaison** to the Department of Anthropology, Brigham Young University

2011-13 Field School Program **Coordinator**, Department of Anthropology, Brigham Young University

2010 C2G Undergraduate Research Grant Selection **Committee Chair**, Department of Anthropology, Brigham Young University

2006-7 **Co-coordinator**; Culture, Life Course, and Mental Health Workshop, Department of Comparative Human Development, University of Chicago

Honors, Awards, Grants, & Scholarships (selection)

2024 MEG Grant (funded, \$20,000) and Kennedy Center Research Grant (funded, \$3,500), “Ancestral Futures and Returning Home: Migrations of Souls and Knowledge across the Global Hmong Diaspora.”

2024 (with Becky Schulthies) Emmeline B. Wells (funded), MEG (denied), and Clark (denied) University grants. “The Moral Economy of the Button: Women’s Labor as a Window into Religion, Family, and Nation” (\$25,000, funded)

2020-2024 (with Becky Schulthies in 2023) Shallit Research Grants, Department of Anthropology, BYU (\$40,000 funded over 5 years)

2019-2020 FHSS Research Grants, “Existential Threat and Building Moral Worlds: A Comparison of the American West and Southeast Asia” (\$13,000 funded)

2024, 2020 & 2019 Kennedy Center Research Grants (\$12,800 funded)

2020 Luce Foundation Initiative on Southeast Asia (\$567,380; not funded)

2018-2019 Fulbright Research Fellowship (affiliated with Yunnan University, China) (\$120,830 funded)

- 2018 Mentoring Environment Grant (MEG), Office of Research and Creative Activities, Brigham Young University (\$20,000 funded)
- 2018 Kennedy Center Faculty Research Grant (\$5,000, funded)
- 2017 FHSS Research Grant, College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences, Brigham Young University (\$6,500 funded)
- 2016 Intermountain Consortium for Asian and Pacific Studies (IMCAPS) grant (a Title VI National Resource Center) for a workshop, “Venerated Pasts, Utopian Futures: Asian Millenarianism in the Here and Now and the Then and There” (\$9,000 funded)
- 2015 Mentoring Environment Grant (MEG), Office of Research and Creative Activities, Brigham Young University (\$20,000 funded)
- 2013 Mentoring Environment Grant (MEG), Office of Research and Creative Activities, Brigham Young University (\$20,000) funded
- 2010 Mellon Foundation/Social Sciences Dissertation-Year Fellowship. University of Chicago, Social Sciences Division (\$20,000 plus tuition, funded but declined)
- 2009 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (NSF DDIG): Morality and Personhood in the Hmong Diaspora: A Person-Centered Ethnographic Approach (\$15,000 funded)
- 2008 University of Chicago Committee on South Asian Studies (COSAS) Research Grant for preliminary and early fieldwork in Thailand (\$7,000 funded)
- 2007 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF GRFP, \$122,500 funded)
- 2006 Graduate Achievement Fellowship. University of Chicago, Social Sciences Division (\$10,000 funded)
- 2006 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Summer fellowship to study Hmong at the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI; \$5,000 funded)
- 2006 Foreign Language Enhancement Program (FLEP) Fellowship to study Hmong at the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI), (\$2,000, funded but declined)
- 2005 First Place, NAPA Student Achievement Award, National Association for the Practice of Anthropology (American Anthropological Association)
- 2004 Carrie Hunter Tate Award Recipient, National Association of Student Anthropologists (American Anthropological Association)
- 2004 Shallit Memorial Research Grant Recipient, Anthropology Department, Brigham Young University (\$1,500)

- 2004 ORCA (Office of Research and Creative Activities) Mentored-Research Grant recipient for original research project, Brigham Young University (\$1,500)
- 2003 Fieldwork in Guatemala, May-August, Funded by the National Science Foundation
- 2002 Fieldwork in Guatemala, May-August, Funded by Jacobs Mentoring Grant, Brigham Young University
- 1998-9 Vice Presidential Scholarship Recipient, Utah Valley State College, Department of Behavioral Science

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

American Ethnologist	HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory
Anthropological Quarterly	Journal of Adolescent Research
Asian Journal of Comparative Politics	Journal of Refugee Studies
Asian Studies Review	Mental Health, Religion, and Culture
Cultural Anthropology	National Science Foundation
Comparative Studies in Society and History	New Dir. for Child and Adolescent Dev.
Ethos	Religion
Fulbright / IIE	

Ethnographic Field Schools Directed*

- 2024 Visual Anthropology Field School in Morocco (6 weeks, with Becky Schulthies). Enrolled 13 undergraduate and 13 graduate students (Moroccan and American).
- 2023 Northern Ireland Visual Anthropology Field School (3 months, with Joseph Webster). Enrolled 16 undergraduate students.
- 2022 Hmong Diaspora Ethnographic Field School: Northern Thailand (3 months). Enrolled 6 undergraduate students.
- 2020 Virtual Ethnographic Field School: Utah (2 months). Enrolled 12 undergraduate students.
- 2018 Northern Ireland Ethnographic Field School: Religion and Conflict Transformation (3 months, with Joseph Webster). Enrolled 12 undergraduate and 2 graduate students.
- 2017 Hmong Diaspora Ethnographic Field School and Internship Program: Northern Thailand (3 months, with Jordan Haug). Enrolled 15 undergraduate students.
- 2016 Hmong Diaspora Ethnographic Field School: France (3 months, with John Hawkins). Enrolled 12 undergraduate students.
- 2015 Hmong Diaspora Ethnographic Field School: Vietnam and China (3 months, with Eric Hyer and Mai See Thao). Enrolled 18 undergraduate and 2 graduate students.

2013 Hmong Diaspora Ethnographic Field School: Northern Thailand (3 months). Enrolled 10 undergraduate students.

2012 Hmong Diaspora Ethnographic Field School: Northern Thailand (3 months). Enrolled 7 undergraduate and 2 graduate students.

**Trained a total of 140 students across 10 field schools between 6 weeks and 3 months for each program*

Ethnographic Fieldwork (beyond Field Schools)

2020 Fieldwork in Southern Utah / Northern Arizona (2 months).

2019 Fieldwork with Hmong in Australia (1 month).

2018-2019 Fieldwork in Yunnan, China under Fulbright Fellowship (11 months).

2016 Fieldwork in a Hmong community in Central France (1 months).

2014 Preliminary ethnographic fieldwork in China and Vietnam (1 month).

2008-10 Dissertation fieldwork in Thailand and the United States (21 months). My comparative ethnography of Hmong refugee resettlement communities in both locations included 12 months in a Hmong village in northern Thailand and 9 months in a Hmong community in Minnesota. I also conducted interviews during short trips to Hmong communities in Vietnam, Laos, and Southwestern China.

2007 Preliminary Dissertation Fieldwork in Northern Thailand (1 month). I surveyed over 30 Hmong villages in 6 provinces of northern Thailand, conducting interviews and assessing demographics of each village.

2006-7 Fieldwork in Wisconsin (2 months). I conducted my MA thesis research on intergenerational differences in moral reasoning among Hmong immigrant families throughout Wisconsin.

2004 Fieldwork in Alaska (2 months), funded by a BYU ORCA Mentoring Grant. I researched Hmong health care beliefs and practices, including the syncretism of folk and Western health concepts, diagnostic techniques, and health care seeking behaviors among Hmong refugees in Anchorage, Alaska.

2003 Fieldwork in Guatemala (3 months), funded by the National Science Foundation. I conducted a longitudinal study of thirty years of social/cultural change (against a baseline of data collected by John Hawkins in 1973) in two western highland communities with regards to ethnic conceptualizations, religion, household economics, education, migration, and kinship.

2003-4 Research Assistant, Dr. Harold Miller, Brigham Young University (4 months). I collected archival data for Dr. Miller on a sample of 150 historical figures as part of a historical personality research study.

2002 Fieldwork in Guatemala (3 months). Funded by a BYU Jacobs Mentoring Grant. I conducted a psychological evaluation of John Hawkins' Inverse Image Theory in which I tested for personality differences between Guatemalan Indians and Ladinos. This project led me to rely more heavily on ethnographic methods for investigating community differences and was influential in my turn toward psychological anthropology.

Membership in Professional Organizations

Association for Asian Studies
American Anthropological Association
Society for Psychological Anthropology
Society for the Anthropology of Religion
Society for Visual Anthropology
Society for Research on Adolescence
National Association for the Practice of Anthropology
Society for Applied Anthropology

Languages

English (native)
Hmong (advanced speaking, reading and writing)
Spanish (advanced speaking, reading and writing)
Thai (beginning speaking)
Mandarin Chinese (beginning speaking)