

# Eric S. Henry, PhD.

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*Department of Anthropology*

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**RESEARCH INTERESTS: China, Linguistics, Language Education, Global English, Modernity, Cosmopolitanism**

## **EDUCATION**

PhD. Cornell University, Anthropology (Chair: P. Steven Sangren), 2008  
Dissertation: Speaking English in Shenyang: Language and the Cosmopolitan Imagination in China.

M.Sc. University of Oxford, Social Anthropology (Chair: Marcus Banks), 1999  
Thesis: Party, Money, and Power: Elite Culture in Modern China

B.A. (Hons.) Wilfrid Laurier University, Anthropology (Chair: Andrew Lyons), 1998  
Thesis: Variations on the Theme of Experience in Modern Ethnography

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Associate Professor (Tenured), Saint Mary's University (2017 – present)

Assistant Professor (Tenure-track), Saint Mary's University (2012-2017)

Assistant Professor, Limited Term Appointment/Contract Instructor, Carleton University (2008-2012)

Graduate Student Instructor, Cornell University (First Year Writing Seminar) (2007)

Teaching Assistant, Cornell University (2003-06)

ESL Teacher, Guan Ya Education Group, Shenyang, China (2001-2002)

Lecturer, Wilfrid Laurier University (2000)

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 Saint Mary's University FGSR Small Internal Grants in Aid of Research, \$1500  
Supplementary International Conference Participation Travel Grant, Saint Mary's University, \$1000  
SMUworks Grant for Research Assistantship (Summer), Saint Mary's University, \$2160
- 2022 Canada-China Scholar's Exchange Program, Canadian Bureau for International Education, \$11,500 (declined)
- 2015 Supplementary International Conference Participation Travel Grant, Saint Mary's University, \$1000
- 2014 SMUworks Grant for Research Assistantship (Fall/Winter), Saint Mary's University, \$2500  
SMUworks Grant for Research Assistantship (Summer), Saint Mary's University, \$1500
- 2012 New Faculty Start-up Grant, Saint Mary's University, \$4750
- 2011 SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship, \$23,400
- 2007 Starr Fellowship, Cornell University, \$5000  
Summer Research Travel Grant, Cornell East Asia Program, \$2500
- 2005 SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, \$10,000  
Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Doctoral Fellowship, \$15,270
- 2004 Lee Teng-hui Fellowship in World Affairs, Cornell University, \$5000  
International Research Travel Grant, Cornell University, \$2500

## ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

### Refereed Publications:

- 2023 Hey ChatGPT! Write Me an Article about Your Effects on Academic Writing. *Anthropology Now* 15(1): 79-83. (Reprinted in *World Council of Anthropological Associations Newsletter* 19: 2).
- 2022 The Long March to the White Paper Revolution: Understanding Recent COVID Protests in China. *Anthropology Now* 14(3): 175-182.

- 2021 Narrating the Future Self: Strategic Stylization and Cosmopolitan Desire in Chinese IELTS Preparation Classes. In *Unpacking Discourses on Chineseness: The Cultural Politics of Language and Identity in Globalizing China*. Shuang Gao and Xuan Wang (eds.), pp. 106-125. Bristol: Multilingual Matters.
- The Future Conditional: Building an English-Speaking Society in Northeast China*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- 2020 The Otherness of Talk: Raciolinguistics and the White Foreign Body of English in China. *Anthropological Forum* 30(4): 377-397.
- Reconstituting China in a Time of Pandemic. *Anthropology Now* 12(1): 50-54.
- 2016 The Local Purposes of a Global Language: English as an Intracultural Communicative Medium in China. In *The Cultural and Intercultural Dimensions of English as a Lingua Franca*. Prue Holmes and Fred Dervin (eds.), pp. 180-200. Bristol: Multilingual Matters.
- 2015 “Just an Old Joke”: Chinglish, Narrative and Linguistic Inequality in the Chinese English Classroom. In *Unequal Englishes Across Multilingual Spaces*. Ruanni Tupas (ed.), pp. 95-110. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- 2013 Emissaries of the Modern: The Foreign Teacher in Urban China. *City & Society* 25(2): 216-234.
- Lending Words: Foreign Language Education and Teachers in Republican Peking. In *Foreigners and Foreign Institutions in Republican China*. Anne-Marie Brady and Doug Brown (eds.), pp. 52-71. London: Routledge.
- 2012 When Dragon Met Jasmine: Domesticating English Names in Chinese Social Interaction. *Anthropologica* 54(1): 107-117.
- 2010 Interpretations of ‘Chinglish’: Native Speakers, Language Learners and the Enregisterment of a Stigmatized Code. *Language in Society* 39(5): 669-688.
- Edward Burtynsky’s China Photographs: A Multidisciplinary Reading. With Patricia Ballamingie, Xiaobei Chen and Diana Nemiroff. *Environments* 37(2): 67-94.
- 2009 The Beggar’s Play: Poverty, Coercion and Performance in Shenyang, China. *Anthropological Quarterly* 82(1): 7-35.

### Conference Participation:

- 2024 Roundtable (Organizer): Precarious Labour in Canadian Anthropology. Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) Annual Conference, University of British Columbia Okanagan, May 18. Kelowna, BC.

- 2023 My Death Threat: Digital Anonymity, Institutional Frameworks and Malicious Discourse. Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCAS) Annual Conference, Nov. 15-19, Toronto, ON.
- Golden Aspirations on the Yangtze: Intercultural Encounters in English-Medium Classrooms at Republican-Era Ginling College. Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Champaign, IL.
- 2022 Chronotopic Modernity: Language Choices and Landscape in Shenyang, China. Atlantic Provinces Linguistics Association (APLA) Annual Conference, Saint Mary's University, Nov. 4-5.
- From Freedom Convoys to Kroeber Hall: Denotational Bullshit and the "Cancel Culture" Bogeyman. Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCAS) Annual Conference, University of Regina, May 11. Online Conference.
- 2021 "The Perfection Devise with the Mountain Tendency": Interactional affinity and the Ideological Coherence of Language. Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCAS) Annual Conference, University of Guelph, May 12. Online Conference
- Workshop Facilitator: Research Ethics Board Applications for Anthropologists. Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCAS) Annual Conference, University of Guelph, May 12. Online Conference
- 2018 Roundtable: Publishing in Anthropology. Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCAS) Annual Conference, Universidad de Oriente, May 19. Santiago, Cuba.
- 2017 English Moderns: Passages from Local to Global in Chinese EFL Classrooms. TESL Nova Scotia Fall Conference, Dalhousie University, November 4. Halifax, NS.
- Roundtable (Organizer): Voices of the Precariat. Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCAS) Annual Conference, University of Ottawa, May 4. Ottawa, ON.
- 2016 The Parable of the Insolent Student: Value, Materiality, and the Moral Economy of Words. Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCAS) Annual Conference, May 11-15, Halifax, NS.
- 2015 Buying a Share in the New World: Co-narrating Neoliberal Futures in the Chinese English Classroom. American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting, Nov. 18-22, Denver, CO.
- A Person of Quality: Envisioning Future Chinese Selves in Language Preparation for Study Abroad. The Culture of Study Abroad for Second Languages, July 14-17, Halifax, NS.
- Walls of Words: Languages and Landscape in Urban China. Canadian Anthropology

Society (CASCA) Annual Conference, May 13-16, Quebec City, QC.

2013 Sunny's Smile and Grace's Elegance: Indexicality in Chinese English Names. American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting, Nov. 20-25. Chicago, IL.

2012 The Local Life of a Global Language: English in China. Atlantic Provinces Linguistic Association Annual Meeting, Nov. 2-3. Halifax, NS.

Missionary Educators, Chinese Students and Language Teaching: Making China Modern. Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Meeting, March 15-18. Toronto, ON.

2011 The Mishaps of Xiaoming: Chinese Chinglish Jokes and the Normalization of Pathology. American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting, Nov. 16-20. Montreal, QC.

Acquiring a "Foreign" Tongue: Language, Cosmopolitanism and Modernity in China's Northeast. Language, Interaction and Social Relations (LISR), April 8-10. Mississauga, ON.

2010 "The Smell of the Orient": Cultural Critiques and Connections in 1920s Peking Language Classrooms. Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) Annual Conference, June 1-3. Montreal, QC.

2009 Language Experts: Deciding What is (and What is Not) English in China. Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) Annual Conference, May 13-16. Vancouver, BC.

2008 Nationalism and Transnationalism Among China's English Speakers. Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) Annual Conference, May 8-10. Ottawa, ON.

2007 Narratives of Self-Development in the Imagined Geographies of Modern China. American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting, Nov. 28 – Dec. 2. Washington, D.C.

The Modern Subject Speaks English: Cosmopolitanism and Language Learning Rhetoric in China. New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) October 26-27. Binghamton, NY.

The Linguistic Construction of Cosmopolitanism. Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) Annual Conference, May 8-12. Toronto, ON.

2006 Lending Words to the Modern Subject: English in Republican China. New York Conference of Asian Studies (NYCAS) October 6-7. Canton, NY.

2003 Speaking English in China: Self-Cultivation and Globalization in Popular Learning Practices. American Anthropological Association (AAA) Annual Meeting, November 19-23. Chicago, Ill.

The English Corner: Unofficial Culture and Self-Cultivation in the Streets of Shenyang. New York Conference of Asian Studies (NYCAS) October 17-18. Buffalo, NY.

Teachers and Teaching in Northeastern China. UNESCO 2003 Conference on Intercultural Education, June 14-18. Jyväskylä, Finland.

### Non-Refereed Publications:

2021 Review: A Death in the Rainforest: How a Language and a Way of Life Came to an End in Papua New Guinea, by Don Kulick. *Anthropologica* 63(2).

2020 Review: Transforming Indigeneity: Urbanization and Language Revitalization in the Brazilian Amazon, by Sarah Shulist. *Anthropologica* 62(1): 212-213.

2017 Canada 150 Research Chairs and the Devaluation of Canadian Talent. *Culture: The Canadian Anthropology Society Newsletter* 11(2).

<https://cascacultureblog.wordpress.com/2017/10/23/canada-150-research-chairs/>

Targaryen Ethics: A Case Study in Linguistic Appropriation Using “Game of Thrones.” *Culture: The Canadian Anthropology Society Newsletter* 11(1).

2016 Is “Political Correctness” Destroying Canadians’ Right to Free Speech? *How We Live Matters* (Canadian Centre for Ethics in Public Affairs). <http://www.ccepa.ca/blog/?p=482>

Language on the Orient Express: A Guide to Mandarin for English Teachers. *Contact: English Language Learning Magazine* (TESL Ontario) 42(3): 34-39.

<http://www.teslontario.net/uploads/publications/contact/ContactSummer2016.pdf>

2015 What Do You Call a Bowl of Boiled Oats? *Teaching & Learning* (Saint Mary’s University) 25(2): 5-6. <http://www.smu.ca/webfiles/Volume25number2Winter2015.pdf>

The Local Life of a Global Language: English in China. *Papers from the Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Provinces Linguistic Association* 36: 33-38.

2014 The Sorrow of the Tweepers and the Burning of the Chanters. *Culture: The Canadian Anthropology Society Newsletter* 8(1): 5-6.

2008 Review: Tanners of Taiwan: Life Strategies and National Culture, by Scott Simon. *Anthropologica* 50(1): 181-182.

2007 Review: Chinese Women and Rural Development: Sixty Years of Change in Lu Village, Yunnan, by Laurel Bossen. *Anthropologica* 49(2): 314-315.

The Anthropology of Global English. *Anthropology News* 48(6): 39-40.

2000 Review: Art and Agency: An Anthropological Theory, by Alfred Gell. *Nexus* 14(1): 135-138.

**Invited Talks:**

- 2024 The Otherness of Talk: Race, Identity, and Language in China's English Classrooms. SOSA Speaker Series, Dalhousie University, March 15, Halifax, NS
- 2022 The Whiteness of English: Raciolinguistic Chronotopes in Contemporary China. International Workshop: Researching Whiteness in a Transnational Pandemic Context, University of Amsterdam, Dec. 1-2.
- 2016 Global English Between China and Canada. Beijing Normal University Zhuhai (BNUZ) Summer Institute Student Workshop, Saint Mary's University, July 28. Halifax, NS.
- Language and Globalization in China. Special Topics Speaker, Academic Writing and English Language Learners Conference, Saint Mary's University, April 29. Halifax, NS.
- Got English?: Language and Globalization in China. Keynote Speaker, International Student Services Global Month, Saint Mary's University, February 25. Halifax, NS.
- 2013 Got English?: Language and Modernity in China. Anthropology Week Invited Talk, Saint Mary's University, February 28. Halifax, NS.
- 2012 The Foreign Adventures of Xiaoming: Narrative, Agency and the English Modern in Northeastern China. Saint Mary's University, Department of Anthropology, March 14. Halifax, NS.
- 2011 What Happened to Language? Rethinking Discourse in Social Research. IDEAS 2011 Invited Talk, Carleton University Department of Sociology and Anthropology, February 15. Ottawa, ON.
- 2010 英语成为中国语言的转型 (The Transformation of English into a Chinese language). Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Invited Lecture, July 15. Beijing, China.
- "Reading" Edward Burtynsky's China Photographs from an Anthropological Perspective. Panel Discussion, Carleton University Art Gallery, January 24. Ottawa, ON.
- 2009 ESL and the Social Aesthetics of Language. Invited Talk, Whittier College, Department of Anthropology, April 24. Whittier, CA.
- 2008 Crazy for English: Language Learning and Self-Fashioning in Shenyang, China. Invited Talk, National University of Singapore, University Scholars Programme, October, 17. Singapore.
- 2007 Speaking English in Shenyang. Invited Talk, Western Washington University, Department of Anthropology, October 19. Bellingham, WA.

## Media Appearances:

- 2021 How Did Slang Become the Norm? *Poko Ponders* (Podcast – Saltwire Media).  
<https://www.saltwire.com/atlantic-canada/lifestyles/poko-ponders-how-did-slang-become-the-norm-100610697/>
- Author Interview (with Andy Zhenzhou Tan) on The Future Conditional. *CaMP Anthropology Blog*. <https://campanthropology.org/2021/08/02/eric-henry-the-future-conditional/>
- Page 99 Test Discussion. *The Page 99 Test Blog*.  
<https://page99test.blogspot.com/2021/08/eric-s-henrys-future-conditional.html>
- 2018 Say it With a Symbol. *CTV News*. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1440718>
- 2017 Dalhousie's Accent Clinic sending mixed messages. *The Coast*.  
<https://www.thecoast.ca/halifax/dalhousies-accent-clinic-sending-mixed-messages/Content?oid=11609627>
- Can language be as fluid as gender? *CBC Radio*.  
<http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1103754819626>
- 2014 Mother tongue: Haligonians are discovering their roots by learning their ancestral languages. *Halifax Magazine*  
<http://halifaxmag.com/cover/mother-tongue/>

## LANGUAGES

English – Native speaker

Mandarin Chinese – Six years of study (Liaoning University, Cornell University). Written and spoken competence.

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

### Scholarly Organizations:

Coordinator, LingAnthLing Network, Canadian Anthropology Society. 2023-  
Chair, Labour Committee, Canadian Anthropology Society. 2022-  
Senior Editorial Board, *Journal of Undergraduate Ethnography*. 2017-  
Anglophone Member-at-Large, Canadian Anthropology Society Executive Committee. 2016-  
2018  
Co-Editor (Anglophone), *Culture: Newsletter of the Canadian Anthropology Society*. 2016-2018

### Academic Advising:



Undergraduate Honours Thesis Committee Chair

- Jordan McLean, The Importance of Language to Minorities in Urban Areas: Acadian Identity in Halifax. 2022 (Anthropology)
- Katherine Lütz, The Rock-Art of Point Pleasant Park in Halifax, Nova Scotia. 2019 (Anthropology)
- Brianna Nickerson, Fictive Kinship in a Sorority. 2018 (Anthropology)
- Kieran Walker, Why learn Irish?. 2018 (Anthropology)

Undergraduate Honours Thesis Committee Member

- Charlotte Ens, Becoming a Critically Engaged Storyteller: An Interrogation of ArcGIS StoryMaps as a Public Communication Tool in Archaeology. 2024 (Anthropology)
- Olivia Denman, Hygge and Denmark. 2020 (Anthropology)
- Rebecca Payne, Reuse and Reoccupation in the Sabine Valley: Analyzing the Villa of Titus and Baths of Vespasian. 2020 (Anthropology)
- Ashley Feltmate, Sociopragmatics of #WhyIDidntReport Tweets. 2019 (Linguistics)
- Madison Oullette, “New” Adult: Power and Gender in New Adult Romances. 2018 (Linguistics)
- Laura Freeman Marr, The Ritual Origins of the Roof Box at Newgrange. 2018 (Anthropology)
- Dai Davies, Coming Out: A Rite of Passage Toward the Creation of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identities. 2014 (Anthropology)
- Magdalene Bitter-Suermann, Food, Modernity, and Identity in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. 2014 (Anthropology)

**Saint Mary’s University:**

Canadian Director, Confucius Institute at Saint Mary’s University. 2018-2024

Research Ethics Board. 2017-2022

Research Ethics Board Vice-Chair. 2020-2022

Department of Anthropology Honours Program Coordinator. 2018-

Senate Ad-Hoc Committee on the Institutional Strategic Plan. 2016

Academic Senate. 2016-2017

Senate Elections Committee. 2016-2017

Senate Committee on Academic Regulations. 2015-2019

Search Committee, Tier II Canada Research Chair in Atlantic Canada Communities. 2013

**Peer Review:**

Routledge (1 book proposal, 2 book manuscripts) 2017-2024

Current Anthropology (1 article) 2024

Anthropology of Food (1 article) 2024

American Ethnologist (2 articles) 2020-2024

Journal of Undergraduate Ethnography (6 articles) 2017-2024

Critical Studies in Education (1 article) 2024

Dorothy Killam Fellowship Reviewer (1 grant application) 2023

RELC Journal (1 article) 2023

Cultural Anthropology (1 article) 2023  
American Anthropologist (1 article) 2022  
Anthropology Now (1 article) 2022  
Asian Anthropology (3 articles) 2019-2023  
Taylor & Francis (1 book proposal) 2023  
Power and Education (1 article) 2021  
The Sungkyun Journal of East Asian Studies (1 article) 2021  
International Journal of Critical Indigenous Studies (1 article) 2020  
Reinforcing Women In Research (REWIRE) Postdoctoral Grant Reviewer (1 grant application),  
University of Vienna 2020  
Social and Cultural Geography (1 article) 2019  
University of Nebraska (1 book manuscript) 2018  
Palgrave Macmillan (1 book proposal) 2016  
China Perspectives (1 article) 2014  
Canadian Journal of Sociology (1 article) 2013  
Political and Legal Anthropology Review (1 article) 2007

**Conference Organization:**

Tensions, Conflicts, Transformations: Chinese Worlds in the Post-Reform Era, Cornell  
University. 2004  
Panel Organizer/Chair (with Sarah Shulist, Queen's University), "Entangled Languages,"  
Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) Annual Conference, University of Guelph  
(online). 2021.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Canadian Anthropology Society/Société Canadienne d'Anthropologie (CASCA)