

## **Xun Ril Li**

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March 2025

### **EDUCATION**

- Ph.D.  
Expected 2027      Adult Education and Community Development,  
Collaborative Specialization in Women and Gender's Studies.  
University of Toronto, Canada.  
Supervisor: Dr. Hye-Su Kuk  
Co-Supervisor: Dr. Kiran Mirchandani  
Committee members: Dr. Shana Ye and Dr. Nelesi Rodrigues
- M.A.  
2021      Literacy Education. Mount Saint Vincent University, Canada.  
Supervisor: Dr. Marnina Gonick  
[Thesis] *Exploring the interrelationship between an international student's hip-hop literacies and learner identities.*
- B.A.  
2017      Musicology, Arts Management. Wuhan Conservatory of Music, China.  
Supervisor: Sun Fan  
[Thesis] *Documenting folklore and music in the last gunner's tribe in China.*  
Awarded the Hubei Provincial Outstanding Dissertation Award by the Provincial Government of Hubei, China.

### **RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS**

#### **Refereed Contributions**

Li, X. (forthcoming). Chinese Migrants' LGBTQ Storytelling practices on Xiaohongshu (RED). In Torres, R. A. & Lam, A. (Eds), *Asia on the Margins: Redefining Belonging in Western Colonial Societies*. Woodbridge: CDS Press.

#### **Manuscript in Preparation**

[in preparation] Kempf, A., Li, X., & Lavia, D. (n.d.). Managing the Racialized Shadows of Canadian Schooling: Undocumented Students' Practices of Strategic Self-Invisibilization. *Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees*

[in preparation] Li, X. (n.d.). TikTok Refugees and Cyber Coloniality: Rethinking Language, Power, and Public Pedagogy on Xiaohongshu. In Trifonas, P. (ed), *International Handbook of Theory and Research in Digital Media and Education*. Springer.

## **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS**

- 2025 School of Graduate Studies Conference Grant (\$240), University of Toronto.  
2023- University of Toronto Fellowship (\$20,100.53), Department of Leadership, Higher  
2025 And Adult Education.  
2024 School of Graduate Studies Conference Grant (\$1020, declined), University of  
Toronto.  
2017 Academic Prize: Hubei Provincial Outstanding Dissertation Award, Provincial  
Government of Hubei, China.

## **CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES**

### **Paper Presentations**

- Li, X. (December 8, 2024). Play and Gender Roles: The Aesthetic of Chinese Lesbian Domesticity [paper presentation]. *The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Gender Studies and Sexuality*, Paris, France.
- Kempf, A. & Li, X. (June 15, 2024). At the Intersections of Invisibility and Agency: Learning and Being Among Precarious Status Immigration Students [paper presentation]. *Canadian Society for the Study of Education; Canadian Association for Social Justice Education*. Congress of the Federation for the Humanities & Social Sciences, Montreal, Quebec.
- Kempf, A. & Li, X. (June 15, 2024). Schooling Experiences of Ontario Youth with precarious Immigration Status: Implications for Teacher Education [paper presentation]. *Canadian Society for the Study of Education; Canadian Association for Teacher Education*. Congress of the Federation for the Humanities & Social Sciences, Montreal, Quebec
- Li, X. (March 22, 2024). Rhymes Beyond Borders: Unveiling Dialogic Meaning-Making and Defiant Spaces through Hip-Hop Literacies [paper presentation]. *2024 Graduate Student Research Conference (GRSC)*, OISE, Toronto, Ontario.

### **Other Conference Activities**

- Li, X. (June 18, 2024). (Re)Visualizing Dialogic Informal Learning: Political Webcomics on Social Media [poster presentation]. *2024 Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education (CASAE) Annual Conference*, Montreal, Quebec.
- Li, X. (March 23, 2024). Exploring Differences and Belonging through a Poker Game [workshop]. *2024 GRSC*, OISE, Toronto, Ontario.
- Li, X. (March 23, 2024). #WebComics: Fostering Global Dialogue through Political Webcomics on Instagram [art exhibition]. *2024 GRSC*, OISE, Toronto, Ontario.

## **OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

- March 2025 Roundtable Discussant, “Book Launch: Queer Chimerica” at the Women and Gender’s Studies Institute and the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies at the University of Toronto.
- January 2025 Course Guest Speaker, “Managing the Shadows: Precarious Students’ Practices of Strategic Hiding” for CTL7019 Supporting English Language Learners at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto.
- October 2024 Course Guest Speaker, “Precarious Status Student in Ontario Schools” at OISE.

## **RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

### **Graduate Assistant, OISE, University of Toronto**

*Fall 2023 - Winter 2025*

Project: Educational Experiences of Youth with Precarious Immigration Status

Report to Dr. Arlo Kempf

- Analyze survey and interview data using thematic analysis.
- Conduct literature reviews and prepare manuscripts for journal articles, drafting sections including findings, discussion, and theoretical framework.
- Organize project meetings, agendas, and track deadlines to maintain steady progress.
- Developed project-related materials (posters, presentation slides) for both academic and community audiences.
- Received extensive training on qualitative data analysis and coding, mixed methods research design, and ethical research conduct with precarious populations.

### **Teaching Assistant, OISE, University of Toronto**

*Fall 2024 - Winter 2025*

CTL7019: Supporting English Learners (graduate level)

Report to Dr. Thursica Kovinthan Levi

- Deliver weekly tutorials to teacher candidates, bridging course materials with practical strategies for teaching marginalized and newcomer communities.
- Provide feedback to Teacher Candidates, helping them improve lesson planning and foster inclusive classrooms.

### **Student Investigator-Master’s Thesis, Mount Saint Vincent University**

*2021*

Project: Qualitative case study exploring the interrelationship between an international student’s hip-hop literacies and learner identities.

- Experienced in multiple semi-structured interviews, multimodal data collection (essays, presentation slides, observational notes).
- Increased familiarity with triangulating data sources (interviews, textual artifacts).
- Received extensive training on research ethics and gained experience in developing research ethics protocols for working with relatively precarious populations.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Young Adult Support Coordinator / Family Case Manager, Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia (ISANS)**

*April 2022 – June 2023*

- Counseled government-assisted refugees on settlement needs (housing, healthcare, education, employment, family reunion, etc.).
- Initiated and led LGBT newcomer support programs, collaborating with local settlement agencies like Rainbow Refugee.
- Organized skill-building workshops (applying for GST, Child Benefits, career programs). Built leadership and project coordination skills (developing new programs, leading workshops).

### **Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) Instructor & Instructional Designer at ISANS**

*September 2021 – July 2023*

- Taught LINC programs, including specialized modules (adult literacy, workplace-specific).
- Designed online digital literacy courses for newcomers, navigating multiple e-learning platforms.
- Created tailored learning materials to address newcomers' everyday communication challenges.

### **Board Member, Supporting Queer Newcomers Committee Halifax**

*2021*

- Created and delivered workshops tailored to queer newcomers (orientation to public transport, healthcare navigation, etc.).
- Advocated for inclusive resources and awareness around queer-specific settlement challenges. Collaborated with local providers to support LGBT newcomers.

## **LANGUAGES**

English (full academic fluency)

Cantonese Chinese (full academic fluency)

Mandarin Chinese (full academic fluency)

Korean (Read: can read academic materials with a dictionary)