

Xun Ril Li

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April 2025

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Adult Education and Community Development,
Expected 2027 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
[Thesis] *Folded into Red: Cultural Production of Chinese Lesbianism in Digital Spaces*
- M.A. Literacy Education. Mount Saint Vincent University, Canada.
2021
- Supervisor: Dr. Marnina Gonick
Committee member: Dr. Michael McGuire
[Thesis] *Exploring the interrelationship between an international student's hip-hop literacies and learner identities.*
- B.A. Musicology, Arts Management. Wuhan Conservatory of Music, China.
2017
- 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

Journal Publications

Li, X.R., Lavia, D., & Kempf, A. (Submitted). Managing (in) the Shadows of Canadian Schooling: Undocumented Students' Strategic Self-Invisibilization. Canadian Journal of Education.

Li, X.R. (2025). [Review of the book *Queer Chimerica: A Speculative Auto/Ethnography of the Cool Child*, by S. Ye]. Sexualities.

Book Chapters

Li, X.R. (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.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Li, X.R. (2025). *Commodified Dreams and Permanent Temporariness: Racialized Precarity in Canada's PGWP and Tuition Fee Regimes* [Manuscript in Preparation].

Li, X.R. (2025). *Rhymes Beyond Borders: Unveiling Dialogic Meaning-Making and Defiant Spaces through Hip-Hop Literacies* [Manuscript in Preparation].

Li, X.R., Lavia, D., & Kempf, A. (2025). *Beyond 'Safety': How Ontario Schools Fail—and Can Support—Students with Precarious Immigration Status* [Manuscript in Preparation].

Li, X.R. (2025). *TikTok Refugees and Cyber Coloniality: Rethinking Language, Power, and Public Pedagogy on Xiaohongshu* [Manuscript in Preparation].

Li, X.R. (2025). *Digital Lifelines, COVID Memories: Chinese Lesbians Reflecting on Community and Care in Pandemic Times* [Manuscript in Preparation].

Li, X.R. & Zhang, Y. (2025). *Pillow Princess, or Passive Dominance? The Agency Within and Beyond the Bedroom* [Manuscript in Preparation].

Li, X.R. (2025). *Play and Gender Roles: The Aesthetic of Chinese Lesbian Domesticity* [Manuscript in Preparation].

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.R. (December 8, 2024). Play and Gender Roles: The Aesthetic of Chinese Lesbian Domesticity [paper presentation]. *The 5th International Conference on Gender Studies and Sexuality*, Paris, France.

Kempf, A. & **Li, X.R.** (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.R.** (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.R. (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.

Workshops & Posters

Li, X.R. (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.R. (March 23, 2024). Exploring Differences and Belonging through a Poker Game [workshop]. *2024 GRSC*, OISE, Toronto, Ontario.

Li, X.R. (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, University of Toronto.

RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant, OISE, University of Toronto

Fall 2023 - Summer 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 in the Master of Teaching Program, 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.

Head of Teaching Assistants, Huazhong University of Science and Technology

Summer 2016

Course: Academic English Communication, Research, & Writing (undergraduate level)

- Supervised and supported a team of 6 TAs in delivering intensive academic English instruction and tutorials.
- Coordinated daily teaching plans and liaised between instructors and staff.
- Facilitated workshops and provided individualized student support in research, writing, and presentation skills.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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

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, Halifax, Canada

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, Halifax, Canada 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.

Instructor, University Direct Entry Programs at Masters Education Consultant Inc., Wuhan, China

2017-2021

- Taught English as an Additional language (advanced level) to high school students

preparing for direct entry to Ivy League and top 985/211 Chinese universities.

- Focused on academic writing, critical thinking, and interview skills to support cross-cultural academic success.

Director & Executive Producer, *Corpse Bride the Musical*, Wuhan, China
2016

- Oversaw full-cycle production planning, coordinating and directing rehearsals, set design, music direction, and performance logistics to ensure an on-time, high-quality premiere under tight deadlines.
- Balanced creative direction with logistics, handling scheduling, budgeting, and communications across over 30 cast members.

Licensing Manager & Head Instructor, *Broadway Baby Inc*, Wuhan, China
2014-2017

- Managed rehearsal logistics and production flow for youth musical theatre, including *Annie: The Musical* (first Mandarin Chinese adaptation).
- Led instruction in Dance Techniques, Musical Theatre, Acting, and Text Analysis for children under 14.
- Coordinated a team of instructors to ensure integrated training across performance disciplines.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Volunteer Graphic Designer, No Pride in Policing Coalition, Toronto, Canada
Summer 2024

- Designed visual materials including social media graphics, posters, and flyers to support community advocacy and protest actions.
- Collaborated with organizers to translate political messaging into accessible and impactful visual formats.

Board Member & Event Planner, Atlantic Spinners Art & Dance Society for Refugee Women, Halifax, Canada
2021-2022

- Coordinated arts-based workshops and outing days for refugee women, including painting, knitting, poetry, and music therapy, fostering storytelling, healing, and community-building.
- Collaborated with artists and facilitators to create inclusive spaces addressing trauma, resilience, and cultural expression through creative practice.

**Board Member, Supporting Queer Newcomers Committee Halifax, Halifax, Canada
2022**

- 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.

SELECTED TRAINING

Research

Qualitative Data Analysis (Thematic Analysis) – Training with Dr. Arlo Kempf
University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, 2023 & 2024

NVivo for Qualitative Research – Hands-on Training
University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, 2024

Ethical Research Conduct
Research Ethics Boards at University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, 2024 & 2025

Teaching

CELTA (Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults) – Grade B (Top 25%)
Cambridge Assessment English, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 2017

Skill Development: Critical Reading & Reflection
Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, 2024

Discussion-based Tutorials
Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, 2024

Trauma-Informed Approach in EAL Literacy Classrooms
ISANS, Halifax, Canada

Bringing First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Content into the EAL Classroom
ISANS, Halifax, Canada

IRCC Introduction to Portfolio-Based Language Assessment
Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks, Halifax, Canada

Equity

Building Intercultural Competence Workshop

ISANS, Halifax, Canada, 2021

National GAR Case Management – Client Support Services: Intensive Case Management Training

YMCA, Toronto, Canada, 2022

Creating Positive Spaces for LGBTQIA+ Newcomers – Level 2

Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI), Toronto, Canada, 2022

Developing Trans and Non-Binary Newcomer Supports in Ottawa and Beyond

OCASI, Toronto, Canada, 2022

Understanding and Responding to Sexual Violence in Immigrant and Refugee Communities – Level 2

OCASI, Toronto, Canada, 2022

LANGUAGES

English (full academic fluency)

Cantonese Chinese (full academic fluency)

Mandarin Chinese (full academic fluency)

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