

# Eric Gu | Ph.D. Student, Department of Anthropology, UC Irvine

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I am a PhD student in anthropology studying religious right-wing social media influencers in the US and East Asia and how they evangelize, convert, and debate others online. Primarily trained in ethnography and aided by mixed-methods approaches to big data, I seek to paint a richer picture of how religion, politics, and culture intersect and evolve amid changing global flows of social media and international movement.

## Education

**University of California, Irvine** Irvine, CA  
2024-2031  
*Candidate for PhD in Anthropology*

Dissertation Title: *Debate Me, Bro: Religious and Political Conversion in the Transnational Right*  
• Long US-China Institute Graduate Research Grant, 2025  
• UCI Cascading Mentorship Fellowship, 2024

**University of Chicago** Chicago, IL  
2022-2023  
*MA Social Sciences, Anthropology Concentration*

Thesis Title: *Escaping the Matrix of Mammon: Eastern Orthodox Men and the Online Battlefield of Debate and Conversion*

**Northeastern University** Boston, MA  
2017-2021  
*BS Linguistics and Cultural Anthropology*  
Honor's Thesis Title: *Posting in the Age of Anxiety: Qanon and the Digital Production of Conspiracies as Political Community*  
• Minor in Computer Science  
• Department Prize in Sociology and Anthropology, 2021

## Research and Academic Work Experience

**Research Assistant** Northeastern University  
2020-2021  
*Communication Media and Marginalization Lab (CoMM)*  
• Learned and assisted in data collection and network analysis for multiple studies  
• Coded for quantitative studies of political discourse on Twitter

**Lab Manager Assistant** Boston College  
2019-2020  
*Language Learning Lab (L3@BC)*  
Six month full-time co-op internship assisting with multiple projects and operations at a cognitive science lab on language acquisition.  
• Implemented designs for online MTurk experiments using Python and HTML+Javascript  
• Taught research assistants programming in R and Python for analysis of large data sets  
• Re-organized lab wiki and file management system for efficient workflow

**Research Assistant** Northeastern University  
2018-2019  
*Digital Archive of Indigenous Language Persistence (DALIP)*  
• Learned Cherokee syllabary and grammar to transcribe and translate Cherokee manuscripts  
• Assisting in early development of archival plans and community engagement resources

## Non-Academic Work Experience

### Freelance Translator

*EN<>ZH-CN Localization*

Remote

2015-

I have worked as an in-house and freelance translator between English and Chinese (Simplified), specializing in video games. My emphasis is on enriching interpretations of works by localizing them to suit different cultural contexts.

- Translated, localized, proofread, and conducted LQA using industry standard CAT tools
- Localized multiple well-known AAA and mobile video games
- Consulted and facilitated communication between Chinese and English-speaking divisions of companies to improve efficiency and avoid cultural misunderstandings

## Service and Volunteering

### DECADE Student Representative

UC Irvine

2024-

*The Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience (DECADE)*

- Collects information about student and faculty concerns about diversity and inclusivity
- Collaborates with other faculty and graduate student representatives to organize events that foster an inclusive academic environment
- Works with representatives from other departments to build interdisciplinary spaces across disciplines

### Wikipedia Contributor

Remote

2020-

*The Wikipedia Foundation*

- Writes articles that break down academic and complex topics into easily accessible language
- Edits, proofreads, and adds citations to other articles to prevent misinformation and improve writing quality

## Languages

- English (Native)
- Japanese (Working Proficiency)
- Mandarin (Fluent)
- Spanish (Beginner)

## Other Skills and Tools

- Programming languages for data science (Python, R)
- Programming languages for web development (HTML+CSS, JavaScript)
  - Coded and maintain a personal website and blog at [ecgu.github.io](https://ecgu.github.io).
- Productivity suites (Microsoft Excel, LibreOffice Calc, etc)
- Video production and image editing (Adobe Photoshop, Premiere, Illustrator, Audacity, etc)
  - Produced videos, design posters, and digitally edited images, video, and audio for academic, work, and hobby purposes ranging from recruitment fliers for lab experiments to promotional videos for video game companies