

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

Candidate for PhD in Anthropology

2024-2031

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

MA Social Sciences, Anthropology Concentration

2022-2023

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

Northeastern University

Boston, MA

BS Linguistics and Cultural Anthropology

2017-2021

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

Communication Media and Marginalization Lab (CoMM)

2020-2021

- 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

Language Learning Lab (L3@BC)

2019-2020

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

Digital Archive of Indigenous Language Persistence (DALIP)

2018-2019

- 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

Remote

EN<>ZH-CN Localization

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

The Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience (DECADE)

2024-

- 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

The Wikipedia Foundation

2020-

- 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)
- Mandarin (Fluent)
- Japanese (Working Proficiency)
- 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.
- 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