

Esther T. Hu

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Education

Ph.D., English Language and Literature, Cornell University, May 2005.
Concentration in English Poetry.

Exchange Scholar, Department of English, Harvard University, Spring 2004.

M.A., English Language and Literature, Cornell University, January 2003.

M.A. in Teaching (English), Duke University, September 1998.

B.A., *summa cum laude*, English and Music, Amherst College, May 1997.

Books

Soong Mayling and Wartime China, 1937-1945: Deploying Words as Weapons (Rowman & Littlefield/Bloomsbury, 2025). An interdisciplinary study focusing on the former First Lady of China's timely and critical contributions in the areas of war, women's work, and diplomacy during China's War of Resistance as inflected through gender and focalized through her speeches, essays, letters, telegrams, and news reports from around the world.

A Legacy of Grace and Resilience: Soong Mayling and her Era 佳美的腳蹤：宋美齡與她的時代 (Minguolishiwenhuaxueshe, 2023; 2nd Edition 2024), edited by Chen Liwen with English translation by Esther Hu. The most recent and comprehensive pictorial biography of Soong Mayling from global archives.

Articles, Translations, or Book Chapters

Hu, Esther T. "Transimperial Networks, Bible Translation, and Chinese Discourse," in *The Routledge Companion to Global Victorian Literature* (forthcoming, 2025).

Hu, Esther T. "Becoming Kuniong: Vocal Encounter and Female Missionary Work in Gutian, China (1893–1895)." In *Ordinary Oralities: Everyday Voices in History*, edited by Josephine Hoegaerts and Janice Schroeder, 17-30. Berlin & Boston: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2023. Open Access. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1515/97831111079370-002>

Hu, Esther T. "Critical Literacy, Place-Based Pedagogy, and Social Justice: Teaching Mildred Taylor's *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (1976) to Multilingual (ELL/L2/SWL) College

Students” (2700+ words). *English Leadership Quarterly*, Vol. 43.1 (August 2020): 15-18.

Hu, Esther T. (trans.) “Ten Thousand Scrolls of Books” (10,400+ words, including Translator’s Note). *Studies on Asia*, Vol. 7.1 (2022): 100-118. Open Access. DOI: <https://studiesonasia.scholasticahq.com/article/36728-ten-thousand-scrolls-of-books>

Hu, Esther T. (trans.) “The Photograph.” *Renditions*, the leading academic journal of Chinese Literature in English Translation, No. 91 (Spring 2019): 113-130.

Hu, Esther T. “Style: The Secret to Becoming a Successful Writer” (<https://www.bu.edu/teaching-writing/resources/style-the-secret-to-becoming-a-successful-writer/>). Writer and designer of Crossover Flipped Learning Module for use across all levels of the Boston University Writing Program, from multilingual beginners to advanced upper-level writers. Online exercises provide practical reinforcement for lessons. Script content informed by time-tested texts on the subject. Launched February 2020; multimodal publication.

Encyclopedia Entries

Hu, Esther T. From *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Victorian Women’s Writing*. Berlin: Springer Nature, 2022 (Print):

“Society for Promoting Female Education (FES) in China, India and the East (SPFEE/FES)”

“Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK)”

“Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (SPG)”

“China Inland Mission (CIM)”

“Lyric Poetry”

Reviews

Review of *The Hijacked War: The Story of Chinese POWs in the Korean War* (Stanford, 2020), *The Journal of Chinese Military History* 10 (2021): 81-84.

Review of *Voices from the Chinese Century: Public Intellectual Debate from Contemporary China* (Columbia, 2020) (2500+ words), *China Review International: A Journal of Reviews of Scholarly Literature in Chinese Studies*, Vol. 25.3 (October 2020): 251-257.

Review of *Literary Representations of Christianity in Late Qing and Republican China* by Lai, John T.P., *Religion and the Arts* 24, 4 (2020): 435-438. DOI:<https://doi.org/10.1163/15685292-02404007>

Academic Appointments

Boston University, Boston MA

Lecturer (Assistant Professor), College of Arts and Sciences Writing Program (Spring 2006-Fall 2010; Spring 2014-Spring 2023), College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Department of World Language and Literatures M.F.A Program in Literary Translation (Fall 2022), and/or College of Arts and Sciences Department of English (Fall 2021-Spring 2022)

Writing Associate, Business Writing, School of Management (Fall 2006-Spring 2007)

Assistant Professor in the Humanities, College of General Studies, Fall 2005

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Instructor, John S. Knight Institute First-Year Writing Seminars, Fall 2003; Fall 2000-Spring 2001 (*Seminars: Shakespeare; Biblical Women and Other Heroines*)

Chung Yuan Christian University, Chungli, Taiwan (Fall 1998-Spring 1999)

Lecturer, Center of Humanities and Education (full-time position for English)

Speech and English Correspondence Writer for the University President, Office of the University President

Academic (Research) Affiliations

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Associate in Research, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies (2018-present)

Boston University, Boston, MA

Senior Fellow, International History Institute (2019-present)

Affiliated Faculty, Center for the Study of Asia, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies (2008-present)

Academic Honors

Shin Yong-Jin Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching and Scholarship, Spring 2003. Awarded to one doctoral student every year by the Department of English, Cornell University.

B.A., *summa cum laude*, Amherst College, 1997.

Stephen E. Whicher Prize for the Best Essay on an American Topic (1996-1997) for thesis on Marianne Moore's poetry, Amherst College, 1997.

Grants and Fellowships

Professional Development Award, Center for Teaching and Learning, 2023.

Sage Completion Fellowship, Mellon Foundation, Fall 2002, Spring 2004.

Sage Graduate Fellowship, Cornell University, 1999-2000.

Duke Graduate School Sulzberger Prize, Duke University, 1998.

Duke Master of Arts in Teaching Departmental Fellowship, Duke University, 1997.

Amherst Memorial Fellowship for Graduate Studies, Amherst College, 1997.

Courses Taught

Graduate

“Chinese Literary Translation Workshop” (LC 586), Department of World

Languages and Literatures (Fall 2022)

Focusing on literary translation of enduring classical and contemporary Chinese masterpieces, as well as participants' own translations, the course aims to provide students with a broad knowledge base in Chinese literary translation while addressing historical and theoretical questions through the practice of translation. Created and launched in Fall 2022 for the new MFA in literary translation (Chinese to English); taught first graduate cohort at Boston University.

Undergraduate

“Reading Shakespeare,” College of Arts and Sciences Department of English (Fall 2021; Spring 2022)

This course offers a critical introduction to Shakespeare through intensive analyses of seven plays with attention to literary sources, early modern stagecraft, performance history, and contemporary film adaptation. Fulfills a single unit in each of the following BU Hub areas: *Aesthetic Exploration*, *Historical Consciousness*, *Critical Thinking*. Students from my courses have gone on to produce their own play through the BU Shakespeare Society: in Fall 2022, one played Polonius and another co-directed *The Tragedy of Hamlet* (<https://bardbu.wixsite.com/bushakespeare/past-productions>).

“Love, Friendship, Money, and Identity: Universal Themes in British and American Literature,” College of Arts and Sciences Writing Program (WR 100 ESL, Spring, 2014- Spring, 2018; WR 120 ESL, Fall, 2018-Spring 2021 [Fall 2020 WR 120 Postponed Due to Covid-19]); subsequently offered as WR 120 (Fall 2021-Spring 2023):

What is love? What constitutes true friendship? How much is one willing to risk for the sake of family and community? What is the relationship between the nation and the self? In this course we explore responses to enduring questions by reading British and American literature spanning a variety of genres and periods. Texts include Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*, Charles Dickens’s *A Christmas Carol*, Mildred Taylor’s *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, excerpts from Virginia Woolf’s *The Common Reader*, and letters and speeches by George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Themes in Victorian Literature: Love, Marriage, Money, and Identity,” College of Arts and Sciences Writing Program (Previously offered as WR 100 (Fall 2006, Fall 2008) and WR 150 (Spring 2007, Spring 2008, Spring 2009) and offered as WR 120 (Spring 2022-Fall 2022)

Victorian writers used the resources of prose and poetry to explore social issues that were on the minds of contemporary readers. The role of women in society, conventions of courtship and marriage, economic inequality, religious convictions and doubts, discoveries of science, expansion of empire, and the maturation of the individual are all topics that receive vivid treatment in the literature of the period. Readings include Charles Dickens’s *A Christmas Carol*, Cornelia Sorabji’s *Love and Life Behind the Purdah*, Anthony Trollope’s *The Warden* and Oscar Wilde’s *The Importance of Being Earnest* as well as excerpts by Queen Victoria, Charles Darwin, and Austen Henry Layard.

“Humanities 101” (College of General Studies, Fall 2005): Taught in the College of General Studies as part of the Humanities Team.

This course involved delivering both one-hour lectures and facilitating discussion groups and examining the classics in Western literature, art, and film. British writers included Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Milton. 100 students.

Upper-level undergraduate

“Children’s Literature in the Elementary Classroom” (WR 202, for juniors and seniors in the School of Education specializing in Special Education, Fall 2010)

This course surveyed the important genres of children’s literature, from playground verse, Biblical tales, to realistic fiction, with a particular focus on works of enduring historic and cultural significance and Newbery and Caldecott Medal winners. Students reviewed criteria for evaluating children’s literature, practiced literary analysis informed by the Massachusetts English Language Arts Curriculum Framework, and discussed ways to share literature effectively in the elementary classroom. Studies were enhanced by art, music, multimedia presentations and an interview with a children’s literature author.

“Biblical Women and Other Heroines” (WR 150, Spring 2006): An upper-level writing and research course investigating female protagonists who take risks for the sake of friendship and family, community and conviction. Texts taken from a wide variety of genres and time periods, including *The Bible*, *Antigone*, Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre*, *Charlotte’s Web*, and Mildred Taylor’s *Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry*.

Ellis University (Summers 2007, 2009)

“Modern Poetry,” Summer 2009. Upper-level online literature course covering modern British and American Poetry and poetics.

“British Romantic Poetry,” Summer 2007. Upper-level online literature course covering British Romantic poetry and poetics.

John S. Knight Institute First-Year Writing Seminars, Cornell University

First-Year Writing Seminars combine instruction in writing with the study of a specialized subject. I had sole responsibility for conducting the seminars listed below, including designing syllabi, lecturing, leading discussion, creating assignments, evaluating student work, and assigning final grades.

“Biblical Women and Other Heroines,” Fall, 2003

The design for this course received the Shin Yong-Jin Fellowship, awarded to one doctoral student in English per year for excellence in teaching and scholarship.

“Shakespeare,” Fall 2000, Spring 2001

Designed and taught courses on four Shakespearean plays.

Chung Yuan Christian University, Chungli, Taiwan, Fall 1998-Spring 1999

Full-time faculty. Taught “Freshman English” (a course focusing on reading comprehension, discussion and writing) to 100 students from the Department of Economic and Financial Law. Taught “Listening and Speaking in English” to 165 students in the Department of Psychology and the Department of Economic and Financial Law. Used bilingual delivery in Mandarin Chinese and English for lectures.

Selected Academic Presentations (2019-2024)

Hu, Esther T. “Shakespeare in the College Classroom” (Poster Session). National Convention of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Conference, “Heart, Hope, Humanity 2024,” 21-24 November 2024, Boston Convention and Event Center, Boston, Massachusetts.

Hu, Esther T. “Charlotte Yonge (1823-1901), Victorian Missions, and the Gutian Incident of 1895.” North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA), “EVENT 2024,” 21-23 September 2024, Boston College, Boston, Massachusetts.

Hu, Esther T. “Women’s Work during the War of Resistance (1937-1945): Soong Mayling and the Women’s Advisory Council, War Relief, and National Reconstruction.” Chinese Military History Society (CMHS) & Society of Military History (SMH) Annual Conference, 17-21 April 2024, Arlington, Virginia.

Hu, Esther T. “Victorian Kunions and Pioneer Chinese Christian Women: Gender, Christianity, and Literacy.” 3 April 2024, Center for the Study of Asia, Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts.

Hu, Esther T. “Military History and Gender: The Case of Chiang Soong Mayling, China, and World War Two” (Poster Session). American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Conference, 4-7 January 2024, San Francisco, California.

Hu, Esther T. “Soong Mayling, Wellesley, and World War Two: Transnational Friendship and Global Challenge.” Northeast Regional Conference for the Association of Asian Studies (AAS), 14 October, 2023, Wellesley College.

Hu, Esther T. “Victorian Women Poets and the Poetry of Experience: Voice, Performance, and Song.” The 4th Biannual International Network of the Study of Lyric (INSL) Conference (“Poetry. Experience. Attention.”), 6-8 June 2023, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway.

Hu, Esther T. “Charlotte Yonge (1823-1901)’s Transformations: Gender, Genre, and Victorian Mission.” Victorian Transformations, 24-25 May 2023, Leeds, United Kingdom.

Hu, Esther T. "Military History and Gender: The Case of Chiang Soong Mayling, China, and World War Two." Society of Military History (SMH) Annual Conference," 88th Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History Conference, "Rethinking Events in Twentieth-Century Chinese Military History," 23-26 March 2023, Fort Worth, TX and Online.

Hu, Esther T. and McKnight, Natalie. "The Unsettling Material/Spiritual Dialectic of Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* and His Defense of 'the Poor Man's Child.'" North American Victorian Studies Association Conference (NAVSA), 3-6 March 2022, Vancouver, Canada (Virtual).

Hu, Esther T. "Democratic Values to Live By: Rhetorical Strategies and Social Impact in the Speeches of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr.," Northeast Conference for College Composition & Communication (CCCC) Summer Conference, "Critical Literacies in the 21st Century Classroom," July 6-7, 2021, Boston University, Boston, MA. Also Session Organizer and Convenor for "Critical Literacies in the 21st Century Classroom: How Instructors Might Best Prepare Students to Participate in a Democratic Society that Depends on its Citizens' Abilities to Read Critically."

Hu, Esther T. "Teaching with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Archives for Multilingual Writers," Roundtable on "Teaching With Archives: Current and Past Pedagogical Practices", 52nd NeMLA (Northeast Modern Language Association) Annual Conference, March 11-14, 2021, Philadelphia, PA.

Hu, Esther T. "Intercultural Competence and Social Justice in the Writing Seminar: Reaching ELL/L2/SWL Students," Panel Paper ("Rethinking the Language Curriculum through Intercultural Competence and Social Justice, Part 2" [Pedagogy/Professional], 52nd NeMLA (Northeast Modern Language Association) Annual Conference, March 11-14, 2021, Philadelphia, PA.

Hu, Esther T. "In Her Own Words: Chiang Soong Mayling, China, and World War Two: National Reconstruction and Global Influence," Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Conference ("Variations on a Theme"), June 17-20, 2021, Arlington, VA (Virtual). Also Panel Organizer/Convenor for "War and the Military" and U. S. Diplomatic Relations: "Chiang Soong Mayling's Work in an Era of War and Nation-building."

Hu, Esther T. "Chinese Nationalists and Covert U.S. Operations during the Korean War (1951-1953)," Society of Chinese Military History Conference, May 14, 2021. Online.

Hu, Esther T. "History, Heritage, and Global Encounters: The Love Story of General Hu Zongnan and Dr. Ye Xiadi," Center for the Study of Asia, Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Veterans Day (November 11), 2020, Boston University, Boston, MA. Panel Organizer ("Chinese American Voices at Boston University: History, Heritage, and Global Encounters") and Moderator.

Hu, Esther T. "Work Among the Girls and Women, 1886-1895: A Case Study of an Irish Anglican Single Female Missionary in China," Virtual Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, October 16-18, 2020, East Asian Studies Center, Hamilton Lugar School of Global Int'l Studies,

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. Panel Co-host (“Western Sources in Asian History: Rethinking Histories of/through Outsiders in East and South Asia”).

Hu, Esther T. “Studying in China and the United States During World War Two: A Reading from Dr. Yeh Hsia-Ti’s (1914-1981) Autobiography (Chapter Two),” The Southwest Conference on Asian Studies, October 23-24, 2020, Virtual, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX.

Hu, Esther T. “A Reading of Confucian Scholar-General Hu Zongnan’s Love Story” (Part II), New England Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (NE-AAS), October 17, 2020, Online, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

Hu, Esther T. “Spiritual Friendship and late Victorian Anglican Missions in China: Theory and Praxis in the work of Elsie Marshall (1869-1895),” Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature (“The Art of Spiritual Friendship”), October 16-17, 2020, Online, Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, TX.

Hu, Esther T. “Charles Dickens and *The Life of Our Lord* (1934): Literature, Theology, and Moral Beauty” (Lightning Talk), #Dickens150: A Virtual Conference to Commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Dickens’s Death, 9 June 2020.

Hu, Esther T. “The Republic of China’s Contributions to Allied Victory and Democratic Freedoms,” Society of Chinese Military History Conference (“War as the Greatest Affair of State”), April 30, 2020. Virtual Conference.

Hu, Esther T. “Best Practices for Teaching Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* to Advanced Multilingual Writers,” Roundtable on Teaching and Engaging Shakespeare in the Classroom, Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) Annual Conference, March 5-8, 2020, Boston, MA.

Hu, Esther T. “The Republic of China’s Contributions to Allied Victory and the New Global Order, 1941-1953,” A New Deal for the World? Global Reconstruction After the Catastrophe, 1945-1955: A Joint Symposium of the International History Institute and the Institute for the Study of War and Democracy, National World War II Museum, December 3, 2019, Boston University, Boston, MA.

Hu, Esther T. “A Reading of Four-Star Chinese Nationalist General Hu Tsung-nan’s Love Story (Chapter One),” New England Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (“Chinese Thought from the 17th to the 20th Century”; AAS), November 1-2, 2019, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.

Hu, Esther T. “Gerard Manley Hopkins’s Eco-theological Poetry and Prose,” Ecology and Religion in 19th-Century Studies Conference (“Theology, Ecology, and Poetics”), September 18-21, 2019, Baylor University, Baylor, TX. Online.

Hu, Esther T. "Charlotte Yonge, Missionaries, and Cross-Cultural Friendship in Nineteenth-Century China," Northeast Victorian Studies Association Conference (NVSA; "Latitudes"), April 12-14, 2019, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.

Hu, Esther T. "Wrestling Jacob and the Angel of God in the Poetics of Christina Rossetti and Gerard Manley Hopkins," The Problem with God: Christianity and Literature in Tension: An International Meeting of the Conference on Christianity and Literature, March 29-30, 2019, Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

Creative Writing

Poetry

Hu, Esther T. "Sestina in Spring," composed during the Covid-19 pandemic. In *Among Winter Cranes: The Quarterly of the Christian Poetics Initiative*, Vol. 3 Issue 3 (Summer 2020): 1-3. Originally published by Yale University's Rivendell Institute.

Academic Service

Convenor and moderator, Victorianist Work-in-Progress/Boston Reading Group (May 2021-present). Organize and facilitate work-in-progress meetings during the academic year for faculty and researchers (PhD and above) for publication purposes. Also host and moderator for book launches. Meetings online and at Harvard University.

Teaching mentor, Boston University Writing Program (Spring 2008-Spring 2023). Shared syllabi and pedagogical feedback with junior colleagues; welcomed classroom observations from graduate student instructors; and informally provided personal and professional support to colleagues in a variety of ways.

Interviewer/Participant, Boston University Writing Program Leadership Searches (Spring 2008-Spring 2020). Interviewed candidates for the director as well as the ESL director positions, among others.

Chair, Library Committee, Center for the Study of Asia, Boston University (Spring-Fall, 2008). At the invitation of the Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, chaired and recruited members to investigate library resources of peer institutions and report on needs for colleagues working in Asian Studies at BU, among other tasks.

Professional Memberships

Society of Military History (SMH)

Chinese Military History Society (CMHS)

National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) (1998-present)

Association of Asian Studies (AAS)

American Historical Association (AHA), among others

References

Available upon Request