

Chun-Yi SUM 沈頌怡

curriculum vitae

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CURRENT POSITION

2020– Lecturer, Division of Social Science, College of General Studies, and
Faculty Affiliate, Department of Anthropology, Boston University

POSITIONS HELD

2019–2020 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Rochester

2016–2018 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Human Family and Evolutionary Demography Lab,
Department of Anthropology, University of New Mexico

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Cultural Anthropology, Boston University, 2015

M.A., Cultural Anthropology, Boston University, 2011

B.A., Sociology and Anthropology (Honors in Anthropology), Washington and Lee University, 2008,

RESEARCH AREAS

Identity, Youth, Ethnicity and Indigeneity, Gender, Kinship and Family, Affects and Emotions,
Morality, Citizenship, Education, Socialism, Mosuo (Na), China

TEACHING INTERESTS

Kinship and Gender, Ethnicity and Identity, Social Inequality, Political Anthropology, Psychological
Anthropology, China and East Asia

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles (Single- or First-Authored)

- 2022 “Hierarchy, Resentment, and Pride: Politics of Identity and Belonging among Mosuo, Yi, and Han in Southwest China,” with Tami Blumenfield, Mary K. Shenk, and Siobhán M. Mattison, *Modern China* 48(3): 568–92 (doi:10.1177/00977004211017814)
- 2021 “Politics of Indifference: Mourning Wang Yue in Late Socialist China,” *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 11(3): 986–99 (doi: 10.1086/717569)
- 2018 “From Water to Tears: Extracurricular Activities and the Search for Substance in China’s Universities,” *Children’s Geographies* 16(1):15–26 (doi:10.1080/14733285.2017.1380166)
Reprinted in *Realities and Aspirations for Asian Youth: Education, Training, Employment*, ed. Suzanne Naafs and Tracey Skelton (Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2019), pp. 15–26
- 2018 “A Great Leap of Faith: Limits to China’s University Cities,” *Urban Studies* 55(7):1460–76 (doi: 10.1177/0042098017716845)
- 2017 “Suffering and Tears: Authenticity and Student Volunteerism in Post-Reform China,” *Ethos* 45(3): 409–29 (doi: 10.1111/etho.12172)

Book Chapters

- I.P. “Beyond romantic partnerships: *Sese*, gender egalitarianism, and kinship diversity in Mosuo society,” with Tami Blumenfield and Siobhán M. Mattison, *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective* (8th Edition), ed. Adrienne E. Strong and Richard Powis. Routledge.

Peer-Reviewed Articles (Coauthored)

- 2023 Siobhán M. Mattison, Neil MacLaren, **Chun-Yi Sum**, Peter Mattison, Ruizhe Liu, Mary Shenk, Tami Blumenfield, Mingjie Su, Hui Li, and Katherine Wander, “Market Integration, Income Inequality, and Kinship System among the Mosuo of China,” *Evolutionary Human Sciences* 5, e4 (doi: 10.1017/ehs.2022.52)
- 2023 Mattison, Siobhan M., Peter M. Mattison, Bret A. Beheim, Ruizhe Liu, Tami Blumenfield, **Chun-Yi Sum**, Mary K. Shenk, Edmond Seabright, and Sarah Alami, “Gender Disparities in Material and Educational Resources Differ by Kinship System,” *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 378: 1883 (doi: 10.1098/rstb.2022.0299)
- 2023 Cody T. Ross, Paul L. Hooper, Jennifer E. Smith, Eric Alden Smith, Sergey Gavrillets, John Ziker, Fatema tuz Zohora, Dimitris Xygalatas, Emily E. Wroblewski, Brian Wood, Bruce Winterhalder, Aiyana K. Willard, Kai P. Willfürer, Kara Walker, Christopher von Rueden, Bapu Vaitla, Eckart Voland, Claudia Valleggia, Samuel Urlacher, Mary Towner, Karen B. Strier, Kathrine Starkweather, **Chun-Yi Sum**, Shane Scaggs, Lawrence Sugiyama, Dan Smith, Jonathan Salerno, Mary Shenk, Ed Seabright, Rebecca Sear, Ryan Schacht, Brooke Scelza, Caissa Revilla-Minaya, Daniel Redhead, Felicia Madimenos, Benjamin Grant Purzycki, Anne Pisor, Anne Pusey, Susan Perry, Abigail Page, Eleanor A. Power, Jenni Pettay, Luis Pacheco Cobos, Seung-Yun Oh, Kathryn Oths, David Nolin, Daniel Nettle, Christina Moya, Rita A. McNamara, Richard McElreath, Frank Marlowe, Karl J. Mertens, Shane Macfarlan, Andrea Bamberg Migliano, Siobhan Mattison, Eric Massengill, Ruizhe Liu, Sheina Lew-Levy, Joseph Lanning, Virpi Lummaa, Melissa Liebert, Roberto Lizarralde, Paul Leslie, Karen Kramer, Jeremy Koster, Hillard S. Kaplan, Adrian V. Jaeggi, A. Magdalena Hurtado, Barry Hewlett, Thomas Headland, Janet Headland, Samuli Helle, Kim Hill, Michael Gurven, Russell Greaves, Christopher D. Golden, Gianluca Grimalda, Mhairi Gibson, Irene Godoy, Claire El Mouden, Patricia Draper, Mark Dyble, Sean Downey, Angelina L. DeMarco, Mateus Dapitia, Helen Elizabeth Davis, Stefani Crabtree, Julia Clark, Heidi Colleran, Carmen Cortez, Emma Cohen, Gregory Clark, Mark A. Caudell, Chelsea E. Carminito, Jamsranjav Bayarsaikhan, John Bunce, Samuel Bowles, Nicholas Blurton-Jones, Bret Beheim, Stephen Beckerman, Adam Boyette, Tami Blumenfield, Quentin Atkinson, Coren Apicella, Nurul Alam, and Monique Borgerhoff Mulder. “Reproductive Inequality in Humans and Other Mammals,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 120 (22) e2220124120 (doi: 10.1073/pnas.2220124120)
- 2023 Siobhán M. Mattison, Neil MacLaren, **Chun-Yi Sum**, Tami Blumenfield, Katherine Wander, “Does gender structure social networks across domains of cooperation? An exploration of gendered networks among matrilineal and patrilineal Mosuo,” *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* 378: 1868 (doi: 10.1098/rstb.2021.0436)
- 2022 Siobhán M. Mattison, Darragh Hare, Neil G. MacLaren, Adam Z. Reynolds, **Chun-Yi Sum**, Ruizhe Liu, Mary K. Shenk, Tami Blumenfield, Mingjie Su, Hui Li, Katherine Wander. “Context-specificity of ‘Market Integration’ among the Matrilineal Mosuo of Southwest China,” *Current Anthropology* 63(1): 118–24 (doi: 10.1086/719266)
- 2021 Siobhán M. Mattison, **Chun-Yi Sum**, Adam Z. Reynolds, Gabrielle D. Baca, Tami Blumenfield, Sara Niedbalski, Ruizhe Liu, Meng Zhang, Lige Liu, Lin Wei, Mingjie Su, Hui Li, Mary K. Shenk, Katherine Wander. “Using Evolutionary Theory to Hypothesize a Transition from Patriline to Matriline and Back Again among the Ethnic Mosuo of Southwest China,” *Matrix: A Journal for Matricultural Studies* 2(1): 90–117. https://www.networkonculture.ca/activities/matrix/issues/vol2_iss1.
- 2021 Siobhán M. Mattison, Neil G. MacLaren, Ruizhe Liu, Adam Reynolds, Gabrielle D. Baca,

Peter M. Mattison, Meng Zhang, **Chun-Yi Sum**, Mary K. Shenk, Tami Blumenfield, Christopher von Rueden, and Katherine Wander. "Gender Differences in Social Networks Based on Prevailing Kinship Norms in the Mosuo of China," *Social Sciences* 10(7): 253–71. (doi: 10.3390/socsci10070253)

Reprinted in *The Behavioral Ecology of the Family*, ed. Paula Sheppard and Kristin Snopkowski (Basel, Switzerland: MDPI, 2021), pp. 15–26.

- 2020 Adam Z. Reynolds, Katherine Wander, **Chun-Yi Sum**, Mingjie Su, Melissa Emery Thompson, Paul L. Hooper, Hui Li, Mary K. Shenk, Katherine E. Starkweather, Tami Blumenfield, Siobhán M. Mattison. "Matriliny Reverses Gender Disparities in Inflammation and Hypertension among the Mosuo of China," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 117(48): 30324–30327. (doi: 10.1073/pnas.2014403117)
- 2020 Wander, Katherine, Mingjie Su, Peter Mattison, **Chun-Yi Sum**, Christopher C. Witt, Mary K. Shenk, Tami Blumenfield, Hui Li, and Siobhán M. Mattison. "High-Altitude Adaptations Mitigate Risk for Hypertension and Diabetes-associated Anemia." *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* 172: 156–64. (doi: 10.1002/ajpa.24032)
- 2020 Scelza, Brooke A., Sean P. Prall, Tami Blumenfield, Alyssa N. Crittenden, Michael Gurven, Michelle Kline, Jeremy Koster, Geoff Kunshnick, Siobhán M. Mattison, Elizabeth Pillsworth, Mary K. Shenk, Katherine Starkweather, Jonathan Stieglitz, **Chun-Yi Sum**, Kyoko Yamaguchi, and Richard McElreath, "Patterns of Paternal Investment Predict Cross-Cultural Variation in Jealous Response," *Nature Human Behavior* 4(1): 20–26 (doi: 10.1038/s41562-019-0654-y)
- 2019 Koster, Jeremy, Dieter Lukas, David Nolin, Eleanor Power, Alexandra Alvergne, Ruth Mace, Cody T. Ross, Karen Kramer, Russell Greaves, Mark Caudell, Shane Macfarlan, Eric Schniter, Robert Quinlan, Siobhan Mattison, Adam Reynolds, **Chun-Yi Sum**, and Eric Massengill. "Kinship Ties across the Lifespan in Human Communities." *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, July 15, 2019, 374 (1780): 20180069 (doi: 10.1098/rstb.2018.0069)
- 2018 Blumenfield, Tami, **Chun-Yi Sum**, Mary K. Shenk, Siobhan Mattison. "Poverty Alleviation and Mobility in Southwest China: Examining Effects of Market Transition and State Policies in Mosuo Communities." *Urban Anthropology and Studies of Cultural Systems and World Economic Development* 47 (3–4): 259–99.

Editor-Reviewed Essays

- 2022 "Greater China," *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*, ed. George Ritzer and Chris Rojek. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell. (doi: 10.1002/9781405165518.wbeos1837)
- 2020 "Words Fail, but the Heart does not," Comment on "Ethics of the Heart: Moral Breakdown and the Aporia of Chinese Volunteers" (by Rundong Ning and David A. Palmer), *Current Anthropology* 61(4): 395–417.

Book Reviews

- 2019 Review of C. Patterson Giersch's *Corporate Conquests: Business, the State, and the Origins of Ethnic Inequality in Southwest China* (Stanford University Press, 2020), *China Review International* 26 (1): 67–71.
- 2018 Review of Jing Xu's *The Good Child: Moral Development in a Chinese Preschool* (Stanford University Press, 2017), *Journal of Anthropological Research* 74(2): 263–65.

Forthcoming (chapters accepted by book editors)

- Chun-Yi Sum**, "The Subversiveness of Good Intention: An Ethnographic Study of Political Agency and Space-Making Strategies among University Student Cadres"

Chun-Yi Sum and Jason Jiansheng Li, “Iron Brother and Dear Customers: Fictive Kinship in Urban China” (In edited volume *Family Beyond Family: Varieties of Kinship Experience*)

Public Anthropology and Editorials (in Chinese; Selected)

Ming Pao Newspaper, Hong Kong

2011 “Reflections in Guangzhou City, When the Subway Broke Down,” November 29

2009 “*Super Girl* Singing Competitions on Television: Comments on Popular Culture in Hong Kong and Mainland China,” September 4

2009 “Uncovering the Desire to Read: Book Cultures in Hong Kong Book Fair and a Rural Chinese Primary School,” July 30

2009 “Swine Flu Scare: Thirty Hours in Quarantine,” June 15

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

2023 Exploratory Research in Yunnan, China

3.5 weeks of exploratory work to develop a new research project on hope and affective governance in Mosuo villages (Supported by “Learn More Research Grant,” BU Diversity and Inclusion)

2017–2018 Demographic Survey and Social Network Research in Yunnan, China

Collected demographic and social network data, in a survey conducted with over 500 Mosuo families, during two research trips totalling nine months (Postdoctoral researcher on NSF-funded project “A multidimensional investigation of the dynamics of market transition and social change in rural China”)

2011–2012 Ethnographic Research in Guangzhou City, China

Sixteen months of ethnographic research investigating morality and civic responsibility among student volunteers in a Chinese university (Supported by Wenner-Gren Foundation and Boston University)

2009 Exploratory Research in Hunan, China

Two months of ethnographic research on civic education in a rural primary school

2007 Undergraduate Honors Thesis Fieldwork in Chicago, USA and Hong Kong

Three months of multi-site research examining identity and belonging in diasporic communities

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Gender and Sexuality in Anthropological Perspective

China: Traditions and Transitions / Chinese Society after Mao

Ethnicity and Identity

Anthropology of Travel and Tourism (Community-Engage Course)

Contemporary Issues and Anthropology: Social Inequality

Politics, Economics, and Social Change in the West (includes Summer Semester in London)

Introduction to East Asian Studies

Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism: Intellectual History of China

Mentoring Experience

Undergraduate Research Experience, College of General Studies, Boston University (Spring 2023)

Faculty Mentor, Senior Teaching Fellow, Anthropology, Boston University (2021–2022)

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee, Boston University (Anthropology, 2021–2022), University of Rochester (Anthropology, 2019–2020) and Clark University (History, 2016)

Undergraduate Independent Studies and Senior Thesis Advisor, Anthropology, Boston University (2021–2022)

Academic Advisor (First-Year Students in Humanities), University of Rochester, 2019–2020

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Book Review Editor, *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, Harvard-Yenching Institute (2018–2023)

Manuscript Referee for Palgrave MacMillan, Routledge, *American Anthropologist*, *Current Anthropology*, *Ethos*, *Children's Geographies*, *Urban Studies*, *Human Organization*, *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*, and *China: An International Journal*

Committee member for Cultural Anthropology Program, National Science Foundation

INVITED LECTURES

- 2022 & 2023 “What is Good Citizenship, in China and the USA?” Common Ground Workshop series, March 24, 2022 & April 12, 2024, College of General Studies, Boston University
- 2021 “Politics of Indifference: Mourning Wang Yue in Late Socialist China,” Anthropology Departmental Seminar, September 24, Boston University
- 2021 “Kinship Matters: Gender and Health in Two Mosuo Populations in Southwest China,” Faculty Research Presentation, March 19, College of General Studies, Boston University
- 2019 “Making Space: Youthful Aspirations and Extracurricular Sociability in a Chinese University,” Summer Institute for Chinese Studies, May 28, University of Pittsburgh
- 2018 “Demystifying Matriliney: Gender, Ethnicity, and Tourism in Southwest China,” November 28, Bridgewater State University
- 2016 “Democracy in Action? Electoral Experiments in Post-Tiananmen China,” October 31, Rajawali Fellows Seminar Series, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Harvard University
- 2016 “Does Market Integration Give Rise to Social Inequality? The Case of Mosuo in Southwestern China,” Anthropology Departmental Seminar, October 28, Boston University
- 2016 “Vote of No Confidence: Elections and Democracy in a Chinese University,” Anthropology Departmental Seminar, September 22, University of New Mexico
- 2015 “From Water to Tears: In Search for Substance in China's Universities,” February 4, Department of Anthropology, Skidmore College
- 2012 “A Higher Platform? Hopes and Disappointments in On-Campus Organizational Activities among College Students in China,” Song Qingling Center for Education in Philanthropy, December 11, Beijing Normal University, Zhuhai, China
- 2012 “Research Methods: on Ethnographic Interview,” Summer Research Program on Grassroots China, July 11, Liao Bingxiong Humanity Development Fund, Guangzhou, China

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

Conference Papers Presented

- 2023 “‘Thank you, Poverty’: Gratitude and the Making of a Spiritual Crisis in Rural China,” November 18, American Anthropological Association / Canada Anthropology Society Annual Conference (Toronto, ON)
- 2023 “We are a Happy, Loving Family: Language of Kinship among University Students in China,” March 19, Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference (Boston, MA)
- 2022 “Politics of Citizenship: Ethnographic Study of Chinese Communist Youth League,” September 15–18, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Montreal)
- 2022 “The Art of Managing ‘Order from Above’: An Ethnographic Study of CYL-Affiliated Student Officers on a Chinese University Campus,” September 8–9, Workshop on Youth Political Mobilization and Socialization in Contemporary China, Harvard Kennedy School (Zoom)

- 2022 “Poverty Eradication, China 2020: Lessons Learned about the Global Battle against Poverty?”
March 31, “The Influence of Market Integration on Escalating Inequality in
Small-Scale Societies” Research Seminar, School for Advanced Research (Santa Fe, NM)
- 2021 “Comparative Citizenship: Toward a Comparative Agenda in Globalizing Asia,”
March 22, Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference (Online) & November 19,
American Anthropological Association Annual Conference (Baltimore, MD)
- 2021 “*Daode*: A Keyword Approach to China’s Moral Crisis,” Spiritual Crisis and Moral
Transformation in Contemporary China Workshop, November 12–13, University of
Rochester (Rochester, NY)
- 2020 “Neither Red nor Expert: Navigating Meritocracy on a Chinese University Campus,” August
31, AAS-in-Asia (Online)
- 2019 “A Toast to Adulthood: College Students’ Guide to Merrymaking in Postreform China,”
November 20, American Anthropological Association / Canada Anthropology Society
Annual Meeting (Vancouver, BC)
- 2019 “Road Accidents and Ethnic Encounters in Southwest China,” October 5, Engage
Anthropology Conference, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 2019 “Migration and Gender Relations among Patrilineal Mosuo in Southwest China,” April 6,
Global Asia 5 Conference, Pennsylvania State University
- 2018 “Extracurricular Organizations and the Limits of Youthful Idealism in Urban China,” October
27, Third Conference on Anthropology and Education, Teachers College, Columbia
University
- 2017 “Identity and Community in a Mosuo Dance Ritual,” December 3, American Anthropological
Association Annual Meeting (Washington DC)
- 2016 “Freedom and Agency in China’s Moral Crisis,” November 16-20, American Anthropological
Association Annual Meeting (Minneapolis, MN)
- 2016 “The Ethics of Time Management among Chinese University Students,” June 19-22, Society
for East Asian Anthropology (Hong Kong)
- 2016 “Paradoxical Ethics in Youth Volunteerism among Chinese University Students,” June 24-27,
Association of Asia Studies (Asia) Conference (Kyoto, Japan)
- 2016 “The Survey Boxes Left Unchecked: Learning about Aspirations among Chinese University
Students,” February 26-27, Annual Ethnography in Education Research Forum, Graduate
School of Education, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA)
- 2015 “Kinship and Emotion in Extra-Curricular Organizations in Chinese Universities,” November
18–22, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (Denver, CO)
- 2015 “Land-Use Contestations in a University City in China,” May 8–9. Urban China Research
Network, Conference at Brown University (Providence, RI)
- 2015 “Negotiating Moral Responsibilities: Plagiarism and Cheating in a Chinese University,” April
9–12, Society for Psychological Anthropology Biennial Meetings (Boston, MA)
- 2013 “The Changing Faces of *Lei Feng*: State-led Volunteerism among College Students in China,”
November 19–24, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL)
- 2012 “We are just Waiting Around: Political Participation among China’s ‘Apathetic’ Generation,”
July 6–8, East Asian Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (Hong Kong)

Poster Presentations

- 2018 “Kinship mediates the Relationship between Market Integration and Social Inequality in the
Mosuo of Southwest China” (with Siobhán Mattison, Adam Reynolds, Tami Blumenfield,

and Mary Shenk), April 10–15, American Association of Physical Anthropologists Annual Meeting (Austin, TX)

- 2008 “Brewing the Diasporic Nation: Nation Building in Cha Chaan Teng in Hong Kong and Chinatown in Chicago,” November 19–23, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (Washington DC)

Organized Sessions

- 2020 Panel Chair, “What Shapes the Contest: Demystifying Meritocratic Examinations in China,” October 24, Southwest Conference on Asian Studies (Online)
- 2019 Panel Organizer and Chair, “Whither Goes the Road: Navigating Modernity and Marginality in Times of Sociopolitical Transition,” October 5, Engaging Anthropology Conference, University of Massachusetts Amherst, MA
- 2016 Panel Co-organizer (with Gil Hizi), “Ideals and Practices of Self-Cultivation in East Asian Societies,” June 24–27, Association for Asian Studies (Asia) Conference, Kyoto, Japan
- 2015 Panel Co-organizer (with Hwuy-min Lucia Liu), “The Social Production of Tears: Perspectives from Chinese Societies,” March 26–29, Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Chicago, IL

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Designing Antiracist Curricular Fellowship Program, 2022–2023, Boston University

Summer Institute for Chinese Studies, 2019, University of Pittsburgh

Training Transformational Teachers Program, 2014, Emerson College, Boston, MA.

Certificate in Development Project Management Institute, 2006, Middlebury Institute of International Studies, Monterey, CA.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2013–2016 (multiple periods) Adjunct Instructor at Boston University, Emerson College, Northeastern University, and Clark University
- 2013–2015 Assistant to the Director, Center for Mobile Communication Studies, College of Communication, Boston University
- 2010–2012 Freelance Columnist, *Hong Kong Economic Journal* and *Ming Pao* Newspaper
- 2009–2010 Language interpreter, Summer Institute for the Study of Global Religions in China, Fudan University, Shanghai, China
- 2007 Ethnographic researcher and volunteer, Chinese American Service League, Chicago
- 2006 Practicum in Development Project Management, PACT Ecuador

LANGUAGES

English, Cantonese, Mandarin Chinese

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

American Anthropological Association, Association for Asian Studies