

LAP MINH SIU
CURRICULUM VITAE

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EDUCATION

M.A. in Anthropology, *Summa Sum Laude*, Texas Tech University (December 2009)
Thesis Title: Developing the First Preliminary Dictionary of North American Jarai (GPA 4.00)
B.A. in Anthropology, *Magna Cum Laude*, Texas Tech University (May 2007)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Gerald Cannon Hickey Scholarship, the Vietnam Center, Texas Tech University,
2004 – 2009
AT & T Chancellor's Endowed Fellowship, Graduate School, Texas Tech University,
2007 – 2008
H. Y. Price Scholarship, College of Arts & Sciences, Texas Tech University,
2006 – 2007

ACADEMIC AWARDS & HONORS

President's Honor List, Spring 2005, Fall 2005, & Spring 2006
Dean's Honor List, (Arts & Sciences), Fall 2006

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Instructor, Global Forces and Local Peoples, Cultural Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology, Anthropology at the Movies. Department of Sociology, Anthropology, & Social Work, Texas Tech University, January 2010 – present

Research Assistant/Language Consultant (Jarai). Department of Sociology, Anthropology, & Social Work, Texas Tech University, June 2007 – December 2009

Collaborating on development of descriptive and pedagogical grammar of Jarai language – an indigenous language of Vietnam and spoken by over 3000 refugees in the United States and Canada.

Jarai-Rhade Language Fonts Consultant. Linguist's Software, Inc., July – September 2008

Assisted with the development and implementation of fonts for the Jarai and Rhade languages (www.linguistsoftware.com).

Student/Language Consultant (Jarai). The Vietnam Center and Department of Sociology, Anthropology, & Social Work, Texas Tech University, January – May 2007

Collaborating on development of descriptive and pedagogical grammar of Jarai language – an indigenous language of Vietnam and spoken by over 3000 refugees in the United States and Canada.

Immigration and Family Reunification Coordinator. The Montagnard Human Rights Organization, Raleigh, North Carolina, September 2003 – 2004

Assisted Montagnard refugees throughout North Carolina in completing the necessary immigration paperwork to bring their families from Vietnam to the United States. Responsibilities included translation of official Vietnamese documents into English, human rights advocacy work with the US Congress and State Department

Caseworker. Interfaith Refugee Ministry, New Bern, North Carolina, 2002 – 2003

Assisted newly arrived Montagnard refugees with all aspects of adjustment to life in America, including acquiring jobs, learning English, driver education, and completion of immigration paperwork. Acted as interpreter between refugees and employers, church sponsors, doctors, volunteers, etc.

Americorps Volunteer. Lutheran Family Services, Raleigh, North Carolina, 2000 – 2001

Provided services to refugees from all over the world. Provided assistance in obtaining Medicaid, Medicare, identification cards, social security cards, and permanent resident cards. Acted as interpreter for refugees and employers, doctors, etc.

TRANSLATION EXPERIENCE

- 2009 – 2015. Language consultant and interpreter for Jarai language research project. The project involves translating and/or interpreting Jarai poems, legends, songs, riddles, expressions, echo words, reduplications, stories, and also help analyze complex grammar (from Jarai to English or English to Jarai). For Joshua Jensen, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Texas at Arlington.
- 2000 – present. Translated personal letters, birth certificates, marriage certificates, Drivers Handbook, U.S. Census forms, medical records, and other important documents (from Jarai to English; English to Jarai; Vietnamese to English). Currently working on editing Jarai-English dictionary; translator/interpreter for Xtra Mile Interpreting and Choice Translating.
- 2015 – present. Telephone interpretation for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) based in Bangkok, Thailand. Interpreting for Jarai asylum seekers who fled Vietnam to Thailand due to religious and political persecution.

PUBLICATIONS

- Siu, Lap M., Williams, Jeffrey P. “The Aesthetics of Jarai Echo Morphology.” *The Aesthetic of Grammar: Sounds and Meaning in the Language of Mainland Southeast Asia*. Ed. Jeffrey P. Williams. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014. 191-207. Print.
- Siu, Lap M., Williams, Jeffrey P. (Summer 2010). Anăk Čř Čhiăng: The Original People of Vietnam’s Central Highlands of Vietnam. In *Asian Music: Journal of the Society for Asian Music*. V. 41, N. 2. University of Texas Press, Austin.
- Siu, Lap M. (2010). A Preliminary Jarai-English Dictionary. TshwaneDje Language Software and Services. Stellenbosch, South Africa. Retrieved July 1, 2010, from <http://dictionaryq.com/jarai>
- Siu, Lap M., Jensen, Joshua (2010). *Jarai: Introduction, Dialects, Structure, Writing, Did You Know? Resources*. About World Languages. Dulles, Virginia, United States. Retrieved November 12, 2010, from <http://www.aboutworldlanguages.com/Jarai/>

RECORDINGS

Siu, Lap M. (2006). *Anăk Čř Čhiăng: The Original People of Vietnam's Central Highlands*. One compact disk, 43 minutes. Montagnard Culture Group, 2280900028.

As a member of the Montagnard Culture Group, I played Čing Ensemble instruments on track 12 and sang (Goyut-Friends) on track 11 on this recording of Montagnard music in North America.

Siu, Lap M. (2011). *Abandoned Allies*. One digital versatile disc (DVD), 59 minutes. A film produced and directed by Camden Watts.

I am one of the Montagnards featured in this documentary. Abandoned Allies explores the relationship between the U.S. Special Forces soldiers and their loyal allies, the Montagnard people. On the battlegrounds in the central highlands during the Vietnam War, close friendships were created that still exist today-- despite the disappointment of broken promises that led to the abandonment of these American allies.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Life in A New Land: *Montagnard Cultural Identity and Cultural Adaptation in the United States*. 7th Triennial Vietnam Symposium. Vietnam Center, Texas Tech University, March 10 –12, 2011

“Jarai Culture in Vietnam in the Aftermath of War.” The Impact of Culture, Ethnicity, Race and Religion in Vietnam War. Vietnam Center, Texas Tech University, March 23 – 24, 2007

GUEST LECTURES

Discussed history and cultures of African Americans, Indian Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, Arab Americans, and Jewish Americans. For *Multicultural America (ANTH 1302)*, Instructor Lauren Whitman, Texas Tech University, March 2011 to May 2011.

“Who are the Montagnards? An Overview of Montagnard History, Immigration and Cultural Adjustment of the Montagnard Refugees in the United States.” For *Social Work with Diversity Population (SW 3331)*, Dr. Margaret Elbow, Texas Tech University, November 2007

“The Jarai People, Language, and My Current Work on the Jarai-English Dictionary.” For *Anthropological Linguistics (Anth 3305/5352)*, Dr. Valerie Guerin, Texas Tech University, October 17, 2008

“The Vietnam War.” Perspectives on the Vietnam War from the North Vietnamese, South Vietnamese, Americans, and the Montagnards. For *Introduction to Fiction (English 2307, sections 25 and 27)*, Dr. Irenna Chang, Texas Tech University, October 2008.

PROFFESIONAL TEACHING DEVELOPMENT

Attended the following teaching conferences hosted by the Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Center, Texas Tech University.

Vanos, Jennifer. February 28, 2014. “Reversing the Roles in the Classroom: *Teaching with Guided Participation for Student Led-Learning.*” The 10th Annual Advancing Teaching and Learning Conference sponsored by the Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Center (TLPDC). Lubbock, Texas Tech University.

Burris Scott, Carraway Candis. February 28, 2014. “*What the Best Teachers Do: Engaging Students in the Classroom.*” The 10th Annual Advancing Teaching and Learning Conference sponsored by the Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Center (TLPDC). Lubbock, Texas Tech University.

Kuh, George (keynote speaker). February 28, 2014. “*Promising Practices in Student Engagement and Retention.*” The 10th Annual Advancing Teaching and Learning Conference sponsored by the Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Center (TLPDC). Lubbock, Texas Tech University.

Bain, Ken (keynote speaker). February 27, 2015. “*Helping Our Students Become Better Learners.*” The 11th Annual Advancing Teaching and Learning Conference hosted by The Teaching, Learning, and Professional Development Center (TLPDC). Lubbock, Texas Tech University.

Brookfield, Stephen (keynote speaker). March 4, 2016. “*Teaching for Critical Thinking.*” The 12th Annual Advancing Teaching and Learning Conference sponsored by the Teaching, Learning and Professional Development Center (TLPDC). Lubbock, Texas Tech University.

Winkelmes, Mary-Ann (Keynote speaker). March 3, 2017. “*Using Transparent Assignments to Increase Student Success.*” The 13th Annual Advancing Teaching and Learning Conference sponsored by the Teaching, Learning and Professional Development Center (TLPDC). Lubbock, Texas Tech University.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Jarai	native speaker
Vietnamese	fluent speaker, reader, writer
English	fluent speaker, reader, writer
Rhade	fluent speaker, reader
Bahnar	basic reader
French	two years college-level study

*Last updated May 25, 2017.