

**MICAH F. MORTON**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

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Department of Anthropology  
Stevens Building Rm. 190  
Northern Illinois University  
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DeKalb, IL, USA 60115-2828

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**EDUCATION**

- 2015                    Ph.D., Cultural Anthropology  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA  
Dissertation Title: “From Blood to Fruit: Crypto-nationalism and Reformations of the Ancestral Burden in the Akha World of Mainland Southeast Asia and Southwest China”.  
Dissertation Advisor: Katherine A. Bowie, Ph.D.
- 2003                    M.A., Ecological Anthropology  
University of Hawai’i at Manoa, Honolulu, HI, USA  
Conducted research on Buddhist ecologies in Thailand under the direction of Leslie E. Sponsel, Ph.D.
- 2000                    B.S., Biology with a minor in Cultural Ecology  
Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA, USA

**CURRENT POSITIONS**

- 2020-present    Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology and Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, USA
- 2022-present    Chair, Thai Studies Committee, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, USA

**PUBLICATIONS**

- Forthcoming “Stoking the flames of ethnic politics?: Translating Indigeneity into post/neo-colonial Myanmar/Burma,” *Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia*.
- 2023    “The Buffalo Skin Written Word: The cultural politics of orality and the written word in mainland Southeast Asia,” *South East Asia Research* 31(1):1-18.  
(<https://doi.org/10.1080/0967828X.2023.2193705>)
- 2023    “Multiculturalism from below: Indigeneity and the struggle for recognition in Thailand,” *Journal of Anthropological Research* 79(1):3-30.  
(<https://doi.org/10.1086/723074>)

**PUBLICATIONS (continued)**

- 2022 “Crypto-Nationalism in the Akha World of the Upper Mekong Region w/ Micah Morton,” *Southeast Asia Crossroads Podcast*, Northern Illinois University Center for Southeast Asian Studies, February 20. (with Eric Jones). (<https://soundcloud.com/seacrossroads/reframing-the-borders-of-belonging-crypto-nationalism-in-the-akha-world-of-the-upper-mekong-region>)
- 2020 "Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Shifting State-Society Relations and Emerging Resource Frontiers in China's Southwest Borderlands," *Asian Ethnology* 79 (2): 333-355 (co-authored with Jianhua Wang [Aryoeq Nyawrbyeivq]). (<https://asianethnology.org/articles/2301>)
- 2019 “From Hill Tribes to Indigenous Peoples: The Localization of a Global Movement in Thailand,” *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 50 (1): 7-31 (co-authored with Ian G. Baird). (<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022463419000031>)
- 2017 “Reframing the Boundaries of Indigeneity: State-based ontologies and assertions of distinction and compatibility in Thailand,” *American Anthropologist* 119 (4): 684-696. (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/aman.12948/full>)
- 2017 “The Rising Politics of Indigeneity in Southeast Asia,” *Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Trends* 14/2017. (<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/rising-politics-of-indigeneity-in-southeast-asia/5572F4E334CAF5FADB76BB52766A9289> & [https://www.iseas.edu.sg/images/pdf/TRS14\\_17.pdf](https://www.iseas.edu.sg/images/pdf/TRS14_17.pdf))
- 2017 “Indigenous Peoples’ shifting engagements with the Thai State,” *International Institute of Asian Studies Newsletter* 78, Autumn 2017: 17. (<https://ias.asia/the-newsletter/article/indigenous-peoples-shifting-engagements-thai-state>)
- 2017 “Indigenous peoples work to raise their status in a reforming Myanmar,” *Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Perspective* 33, 22 May 2017. ([https://www.iseas.edu.sg/images/pdf/ISEAS\\_Perspective\\_2017\\_33.pdf](https://www.iseas.edu.sg/images/pdf/ISEAS_Perspective_2017_33.pdf))
- 2016 “The Indigenous peoples’ movement in Thailand expands,” *Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Perspective* 68, 16 December 2016. ([https://www.iseas.edu.sg/images/pdf/ISEAS\\_Perspective\\_2016\\_68.pdf](https://www.iseas.edu.sg/images/pdf/ISEAS_Perspective_2016_68.pdf))
- 2016 “Decolonizing Methods: Akha Articulations of Indigeneity in the Upper Mekong Region,” *Asian Ethnicity* 17 (4): 580-595. (co-authored with Jianhua Wang [Aryoeq Nyawrbyeivq] and Haiying Li [Miqsawr Pyawqganr]; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14631369.2016.1150775>)

**PUBLICATIONS (continued)**

- 2015 “ ‘All Akha are Hani, but not all Hani are Akha’: State-minority articulations of the ‘nation’ in the Sino-Southeast Asian borderlands,” *Chinese Southern Diaspora Studies* 7: 37-57. ([https://ch-old.anu.edu.au/publications/csds/csds2014/csds2014\\_06.pdf](https://ch-old.anu.edu.au/publications/csds/csds2014/csds2014_06.pdf))
- 2013 “ ‘If you come often, we are like relatives; if you come rarely, we are like strangers’: Reformations of Akhaness in the Upper Mekong Region,” *ASEAS – Austrian Journal of South-East Asian Studies* 6 (1): 29-59. (<https://doi.org/10.14764/10.ASEAS-6.1-3>)
- 2012 “*Aqkaq Tseir Kaq Ti Kaq Ma - Ten Akha Are United as One?*” Center for Global Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison ([essay](#) and [short-film production](#))
- 2010 “Negotiating the Changing Space of ‘Zomia’: A Preliminary Discussion on the Role of Language in Akha Identitarian Politics,” *Rian Thai: International Journal of Thai Studies* 3:97-133. (<http://www.rianthaijournal.org/book/rian-thai-volume-3-2010/>)
- 2009 “Talk to the people on the streets, NOT the people in the suites’: Reflections on Collaborations with ‘Mr. Black’,” *Collaborative Anthropologies* 2: 147-176. (co-authored with E.L. Thomas-Smith [A.K.A. “Mr. Black”]; <https://doi.org/10.1353/cla.0.0029>)
- 2007 “A Conversation with an SP Volunteer,” *StreetPulse: Homeless Cooperative Newspaper*, March: 8. (co-authored with E.L. Thomas-Smith).
- 2007 “Step 4. Collect audience information relevant to the environmental practice and specific behaviors.” In *Changing Public Behavior: Increasing Citizen Involvement Using Target Audience Information*. National Extension Water Outreach Education, Division of Cooperative Extension of the University of Wisconsin-Extension. (<http://fyi.uwex.edu/wateroutreach/changing-public-behavior/self-study-module/619-2/>)

**Book Reviews**

2022. Invited Review of Mayfair Yang. 2020. *Re-enchanting Modernity: Ritual Economy and Society in Wenzhou, China*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. In *Anthropos* 117(2):598-599.
2018. Invited Review of Michelle Zack. 2017. *The Lisu: Far from the ruler*. Louisville, CO: University Press of Colorado. In *Anthropology Book Forum*, American Anthropological Association. (<http://www.anthropology-news.org/?book-review=no-longer-far-from-the-ruler-a-then-and-now-portrayal-of-the-indigenous-lisu-of-mainland-southeast-asia-and-southwest-china>)

**Book Manuscripts Under Review**

Born-Again Pagans: Ancestral Resurgences in a Borderlands Cosmos

**Articles in Preparation**

From Legibility to Resurgence: Indigenous Governmentality from Below in Thailand

Crypto-Nationalism: Contemporary Identity Politics Betwixt and Between the Nation and State

Being Akha, Becoming Modern: Transregional religious networks and the making of divergent Akha Worlds in the Upper Mekong Region

Alter-Indigeneities: Of the wai and the handshake

“Maintaining the lines:” Shamans (Nyirpaq), Ancestral Resurgences, and Cultural Change in the Akha World of Mainland Southeast Asia and Southwest China

**AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

**Post-Doctoral Fellowships**

2016 Visiting Fellowship, Thailand and Myanmar Studies Programs  
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore

2015 John D. Montgomery Post-Doctoral Fellowship  
Theme: Indigenous Development, Pacific Basin Research Center,  
Soka University of America (Declined Award)

**National Grants and Fellowships (USA)**

2013 - 2014 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship  
The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation

2011 - 2012 Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant  
The Wenner-Gren Foundation

2010 - 2011 Fulbright Institute of International Education Fellowship  
Thailand, U.S. State Department

**Grants and Awards from Northern Illinois University**

2023 Outstanding Professor Award, NIU Department of Anthropology,  
2022-2023 academic year

2021 National Resource Center International Travel Fund, Center for  
Southeast Asian Studies, February 8.

**Grants and Awards from the State University of New York at Oswego**

2019 Faculty Scholarly and Creative Grant for project on “New and  
Emerging Global Indigenous Solidarities,” December 3.

2019 Outstanding Professorship Award, SUNY-Oswego Resident Hall Association, April 25.

**Grants and Awards from Le Moyne College**

2015-2016 Core Course Development Funds for the spring 2016 interdisciplinary anthropological and religious studies course Anthropology/Peace and Global Studies 325 Religious and Cultural Ecologies; Le Moyne Core Committee

**Grants and Fellowships from the University of Wisconsin-Madison**

2014 Vilas Conference Presentation Grant  
Graduate Student Collaborative

2014 Graduate Student International Travel Grant  
Division of International Studies

2013 Vilas Conference Presentation Grant  
Graduate Student Collaborative

2013 - 2014 Charlotte W. Newcombe Dissertation Fellow  
Institute for Research in the Humanities

2013 - 2014 Dana-Allen Dissertation Fellowship  
Institute for Research in the Humanities (Declined Award)

2013 - 2014 Center Fellowship  
Center for Southeast Asian Studies (Declined Award)

2013 Mellon-Wisconsin Summer Fellowship, Graduate School

2012 - 2013 Award for Academic Meetings and Research Expenses  
Anthropology Department

2012 Vilas Research Travel Award, Graduate Student Collaborative

2009 Scott Kloeck-Jenson Travel Grant, Center for Global Studies

2009 Field Research Award, Center for Southeast Asian Studies

**Other Grants**

2017 Grant to participate in the Asian Studies Summer Institute on "Trans Asian Indigeneity," The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, USA, June 18-24, 2017.

2017 10<sup>th</sup> International Convention of Asian Scholars Conference Grant, International Institute of Asian Studies

2009 The Empowering Network for International Thai Studies Scholarship, Institute of Thai Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.

### **Language Training Fellowships and Awards**

2009 Nominated for the Usha Mahajani Memorial Award for outstanding graduate student at the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute for achievement in Burmese language study.

2009 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for Burmese Myanmar, U.S. Department of Education

2008 - 2009 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for Thai Thailand, U.S. Department of Education

2007 - 2008 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for Thai Thailand, U.S. Department of Education

2003 Grant for the Advanced Study of Thai Language, Consortium for the Advanced Study of Thai and U.S. Department of Education

2002 - 2003 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for Thai Thailand, U.S. Department of Education

2001 - 2002 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship for Thai Thailand, U.S. Department of Education

### **Other Honors and Awards**

2003 Distinguished Service Award, East-West Center, Honolulu, HI

2001-2003 Graduate Student Affiliate, East-West Center, Honolulu, HI

### **PRIOR TEACHING AND ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

2018-2020 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, The State University of New York at Oswego, Oswego, NY, USA

2017- 2018 Associate Researcher, Trans-Himalayan Cultural and Ecological Diversity Project, Center for Trans-Himalayan Studies, Yunnan Nationalities University, Kunming, China, September 2017 – August 2018.

2017 - 2018 Associate Fellow, Thailand and Myanmar Studies Programs Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, September 2017 - August 2018.

- 2016 – 2017 Visiting Fellow, Thailand and Myanmar Studies Programs  
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, September 2016  
- August 2017.
- 2015 - 2016 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology,  
Criminology, and Sociology, Le Moyne College, August 2015 –  
June 2016.
- 2014 - 2015 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, August 2014 - May 2015.
- 2012 - 2013 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, August 2012 – May 2013.
- 2006 - 2008 Project Assistant for project to develop social science methods for  
environmental outreach work, Environmental Resources Center,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison, August 2006 - May 2008.
- 2005 - 2006 Academic Director and Instructor, Thai and Southeast Asian  
Studies Certificate Program, Payap University, Chiang Mai,  
Thailand, July 2005 - July 2006.
- 2004 - 2005 Program Coordinator and Instructor, Thai and Southeast  
Asian Studies Certificate Program, Payap University, Chiang  
Mai, Thailand, July 2004 - July 2005.
- 2004 - 2006 In-Country Service Learning Instructor and Advisor,  
International Partnership for Service Learning (IPSL), Payap  
University, Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- 2004 - 2006 In-Country Independent Study Instructor and Advisor,  
LEXIA International, Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

- Fall 2023 ANTH 333 The Art of Living and Dying; SEAS 490/590  
Indigeneity in Southeast Asia
- Spring 2023 ANTH 460/560 Methods in Ethnography  
SEAS 625 Southeast Asia: Multidisciplinary Perspectives
- Fall 2022 Anthropology 333 The Art of Living and Dying  
Anthropology 451/551 History and Theory of Anthropology
- Spring 2022 Anthropology 407/507 Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia;  
Anthropology 460/560 Methods in Ethnography

Fall 2021	Anthropology 328/790 Anthropology of Religion
Spring 2021	Anthropology 220 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Fall 2020	Southeast Asian Studies 225 Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World
Spring 2020	Anthropology 301 Anthropological Theory, Part II; Anthropology 368 Death and Dying: A Cross-Cultural Perspective; Anthropology 452 Religion and Magic
Fall 2019	Anthropology 112 Cultural Anthropology; Anthropology 210 History of Ethnological Theory; Anthropology/Gender and Women's Studies 300 Sex and Gender Across Cultures
Spring 2019	Anthropology 112 Cultural Anthropology; Anthropology 301 Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia; Anthropology 452 Religion and Magic
Fall 2018	Anthropology 112 Cultural Anthropology; Anthropology 355 Medical Anthropology; Anthropology 368 Death and Dying in Cross-Cultural Perspective
Spring 2016	Anthropology/Gender and Women's Studies/Peace and Global Studies 213 People and Cultures of Southeast Asia; Anthropology/Peace and Global Studies 325 Religious and Cultural Ecologies
Fall 2015	Anthropology/Peace and Global Studies 101 Introduction to Anthropology; Anthropology/ Sociology 303 Social Theory in Anthropology and Sociology
2014 - 2015	Anthropology 104 Cultural Anthropology and Human Diversity (Head Teaching Assistant, Fall 2014)
2012 - 2013	Anthropology 100 General Anthropology, and Anthropology 314 Indians of North America (Teaching Assistant)
2005 - 2006	Sociology/Anthropology 236 Cultural Foundations of Thai Society; Sociology/Anthropology 350 Service Learning; Sociology/Anthropology 370 Research Methods Seminar; Independent Study 390 Ethnographic Research Project
2004 - 2005	Sociology/Anthropology 360 Sustainable Development and Ethnic Minorities in Mainland Southeast Asia; Sociology/Anthropology 350 Service Learning; Sociology/Anthropology



370 Research Methods Seminar; Independent Study 390  
Ethnographic Research Project

### ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2022-Present Chair, Thai Studies Committee, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, IL, USA
- 2021-Present Advisory Council Member, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, IL, USA
- 2021-Present Anthropology Club Faculty Advisor, Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, IL, USA
- 2017-Present Ph.D. and M.A. Thesis External Examiner, The Regional Center for Social Science and Sustainable Development (RCSD), Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- 2015-2016 Anthropology Club Faculty Moderator, Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY, USA.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2021 Awarded a “Certificate in Effective College Instruction” following completion of NIU’s Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) 25-module course in effective teaching practices requiring the implementation of evidence-based instructional approaches. The credential is co-issued by the American Council on Education and distinguishes faculty for their commitment to educational excellence and student success. January 6 - November 11.
- 2019 “Summer Educator Training on Exploring the Haudenosaunee Environment,” Skä•noñh – Great Law of Peace Center, Liverpool, NY, USA, August 3.
- 2015 “Workshop on Identifying Communities of Practice,” University of Wisconsin Teaching Academy Winter Retreat, January 16.
- 2013 “The College Classroom,” Graduate seminar-practicum on the basics of learning theory and effective teaching methods for college education, University of Wisconsin’s DELTA Program in Research, Teaching and Learning, Fall 2013.

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- November - December 2010 Project consultant, "Promoting human rights for highland minorities through citizenship and birth registration." The Inter-Mountain Peoples' Education and Culture in Thailand Association (IMPECT) and UNESCO, Thailand.
- October 2009 Volunteer surveyor on survey into citizenship status of upland minorities in North Thailand. IMPECT and UNESCO.
- May - August 2008 English language instructor for (im)migrants from Myanmar/Burma. Migrant Learning Center, Chiangmai, Thailand.
- January - June 2004 Full-time Substitute Teacher, Cedarbrook Middle School, Cheltenham Township School District, Wyncote, PA.
- January - June 2004 Part-time English as a Foreign Language Teacher, Asian Social Services Center, St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Philadelphia, PA.
- August - November 2003 English language instructor for resident monks, nuns and novices at Wat Ram Poeng Buddhist Monastery, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

- 2022 "Crypto-Nationalism in the Akha World of the Upper Mekong Region w/Micah Morton," *Southeast Asia Crossroads Podcast*, Northern Illinois University Center for Southeast Asian Studies, February 20. (with Eric Jones). (<https://soundcloud.com/seacrossroads/reframing-the-borders-of-belonging-crypto-nationalism-in-the-akha-world-of-the-upper-mekong-region>)
- 2021 Invited panelist for discussion on "Rights and Plight of Indigenous Peoples," Inconvenient Questions International (IQi), Singapore, August 25. (<https://strategicmoves.com.sg/iq-international> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zkvNNDGw2bA>)
- 2018 Cited in Ellen Airhart. 2018. "How Wikipedia Portrayed Humanity in a Single Photo," *Wired* March 10. (<https://www.wired.com/story/how-wikipedia-portrayed-humanity-in-a-single-photo/>)

**FIELDWORK**

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| June-August 2023       | North Thailand and Southwest China           |
| Dec. 2018-Jan. 2019    | Southwest China and North Thailand           |
| Sept. 2017-August 2018 | Southwest China and North Thailand           |
| June-July 2017         | North Thailand                               |
| March 2017             | Yangon and Hpa-an, Myanmar/Burma             |
| December 2016          | Southwest China                              |
| September-October 2016 | North Thailand                               |
| July-August 2014       | Thailand, Northwest Laos and Southwest China |

May-June 2013	North Thailand, and Southwest China
November 2012	Southwest China
Oct. 2009-June 2012	North Thailand, East Myanmar/Burma, Northwest Laos, and Southwest China
May - August 2008	North Thailand and East Myanmar/Burma
May - August 2007	North Thailand

## SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

### Professional Associations

- American Anthropological Association
- Association of Asian Studies
- American Ethnological Society
- Society for the Anthropology of Religion

### Reviewer

**Journal Articles:** Asia Europe Journal  
 Asian Ethnicity  
 Austrian Journal of Southeast Asian Studies  
 Sojourn: Journal of Social Issues in Southeast Asia  
 TRaNS: Trans-Regional and -National Studies of Southeast Asia  
 Journal of Lao Studies  
 Journal of Vietnamese Studies

**Book Reviews:** Anthropology Book Forum, American Anthropological Association  
 Anthropolos

**Grant Proposals:** National Science Foundation

## LANGUAGES

- English (*Fluency in speaking, reading, and writing*)
- Thai (*Excellent speaking, reading, and writing*)
- Akha (*Advanced speaking, reading and writing*)
- Burmese (*Intermediate level speaking, reading, and writing*)
- Chinese (*Intermediate level speaking, reading, and writing*)

## PROFESSIONAL PAPER PRESENTATIONS

### Conferences and Workshops Organized

2021 “Southeast Asia Club Abstract Writing Workshop ,“ Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, USA, January 21 (held virtually).

2020 (*with Kanjana Thepboriruk*) Council on Thai Studies Annual Meeting, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, USA, November 13-15 (held virtually).

- 2015 (with *Ian G. Baird and Peter Swift*) “Workshop on Indigeneity in Southeast Asia,” Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, USA, March 20-21.

### **Conference Panels Organized**

- Under Review “Land, Crops, and New and Emergent Indigeneities in Southeast Asian Borderlands,” Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, USA, March 14-17.
- 2022 “Looking Back, Moving Forward: 50 Years of COTS,” Council on Thai Studies Annual Meeting, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA, Oct. 22.
- 2021 “Shamans and Cultural Change in a Comparative Framework,” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Baltimore, MD, USA, November 17.
- 2020 “Re-Centering ‘Thai-ness’ and Thai Studies: Perspectives from the ‘Others Within,’ ” Council on Thai Studies Annual Meeting, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, USA, Nov. 14.
- 2017 (with *Prasit Leepreecha*) “Shifting Ethnoscapes and the Politics of Indigeneity in Contemporary Thailand,” 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Thai Studies, Chiangmai, Thailand, July 15.
- 2015 (with *Neal Keating and Noah Theriault*) “Speculative Anthropologies on the Futures of Indigeneity in Asia and Beyond,” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Denver, CO, USA, November 22.
- 2015 (with *Ian G. Baird and Peter Swift*) “Engaging with the Concept of Indigeneity in Southeast Asia,” Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, USA, March 28.
- 2014 “Multiple and shifting Akha engagements with modernity amidst a transforming Upper Mekong Region,” Inaugural Association of Asian Studies in Asia Conference, National University of Singapore, Singapore, July 17.

### **Conference Paper Presentations**

- Under Review “Coffee for the Ancestors: Transcosmogenerational modernities in Akha Worlds of the Upper Mekong Region,” as part of the panel “Land, Crops, and New and Emergent Indigeneities in Southeast Asian Borderlands,” (Organized and chaired by Micah F. Morton). Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, USA, March 14-17.

- 2023 “Coffee for the Ancestors: Ancestral resurgences and reworked ritual economies in Akha Worlds of the Upper Mekong Region,” Society for the Anthropology of Religion Biennial Meeting, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada, May 13.
- 2021 “The Buffalo Skin Written Word: Contested readings of the loss and return of the written Akha word in the Thai-Burma borderlands,” Council on Thai Studies Annual Meeting, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, USA, Nov. 13.
- 2021 “ ‘Maintaining the lines:’ Shamans (Nyirpaq), Ancestral Resurgences, and Cultural Change in the Akha World of Mainland Southeast Asia and Southwest China,” as part of the panel “Shamans and Cultural Change in a Comparative Framework,” (Organized and chaired by Micah F. Morton). Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Baltimore, MD, USA, November 17.
- 2021 "Stoking the flames of ethnic politics?: Translating Indigeneity into post/neo-colonial Myanmar/Burma," 14<sup>th</sup> International Burma Studies Conference, Center for Burma Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, September 16.
- 2021 “Ancestral Presences: Indigenous reflections on the art of living and dying in the restorative age of COVID-19,” as part of the panel, “Resistance and Reclamation: Indigenous Peoples’ Responses to the Changing Ecology,” (Chaired by Micah F. Morton). Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, March 13 (held virtually).
- 2020 “ ‘Unity through hegemony’: The double bind of claims to Indigeneity in a reforming Myanmar,” 14<sup>th</sup> International Burma Studies Conference, Center for Burma Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, September 24-27 (cancelled due to COVID-19).
- 2020 “Alter-Indigeneities: Of the wai and the handshake,” as part of the panel, “Re-Centering ‘Thai-ness’ and Thai Studies: Perspectives from the ‘Others Within,’ ” (Organized by Micah F. Morton). Council on Thai Studies Annual Meeting, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, USA, Nov. 14.
- 2017 “Being Akha, Becoming Modern: Transregional religious networks and the making of divergent Akha Worlds in the Upper Mekong Region,” International Convention of Asian Scholars, Chiangmai, Thailand, July 22.
- 2017 “Reframing the Boundaries of Indigenism: State-Based Ontologies and Assertions of Distinction and Compatibility in Thailand’s Indigenous Peoples Movement,” as part of the panel, “Shifting Ethnoscapes and the

- Politics of Indigeneity in Contemporary Thailand,” (Organized by Prasit Leepreecha and Micah F. Morton). 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Thai Studies, Chiangmai, Thailand, July 25.
- 2017 “Indigeneity in Myanmar: Refusals, Resemblances, Risks, and Uptake,” Asian Studies Summer Institute on “Trans-Asian Indigeneity,” The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, USA, June 18-24, 2017.
- 2015 “Reframing the temporal and spatial boundaries of indigenism: Mobile indigeneities and state-based ontologies in the Upper Mekong Region,” as part of the panel, “Speculative Anthropologies on the Futures of Indigeneity in Asia and Beyond,” (Organized by Micah F. Morton, Noah Theriault and Keal Keating). American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, USA, November 22.
- 2015 “Ethnic Concentrations: Crypto-nationalism in the Akha World of the Sino-Southeast Asian borderlands,” Burma/Myanmar Research Forum, Cornell University Southeast Asia Program, Ithaca, NY, USA, October 3.
- 2015 “Indigenous Assertions of Distinction *and* Compatibility: ‘Hill Tribes’, civil society, the state, and hyper-royalists in Thailand,” for the panel “Engaging with the Concept of Indigeneity in Southeast Asia,” (Organized by Ian G. Baird, Micah F. Morton and Peter Swift), Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, USA, March 28.
- 2015 (*with Aoye Jianhua Wang*) “Decolonizing Methods: Akha Articulations of Indigeneity in the Upper Mekong Region,” Workshop on Indigeneity in Southeast Asia, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA, March 21.
- 2014 “Indigenous Modernities: Akha inventions of religion in the Sino-Southeast Asian Borderlands,” as part of the panel, “Sacralizing the Secular: The Re-Enchantment of Everyday Life,” (Organized by E. Marshall Brooks), American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., USA, December 5.
- 2014 “Indigenous Assertions of Distinction *and* Compatibility: ‘Hill Tribes’, civil society, the state, and hyper-royalists in Thailand,” The Council on Thai Studies Annual Meeting, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA, Oct. 18.
- 2014 “Forging Traditional Modernities: Akha ancestral burdens and the scaling-up of Akhaness in the Upper Mekong Region,” as part of the panel, “Multiple and shifting Akha engagements with modernity amidst a transforming Upper Mekong Region”, (Organized by Micah F. Morton),

- Inaugural Association of Asian Studies in Asia Conference, National University of Singapore, Singapore, July 17.
- 2014 “The Chinese Connection: Multiple and shifting rearticulations of homeland among Akha (and Hani) in the Upper Mekong Region,” Invited paper for the “Conference on Non-Han Chinese diasporic communities beyond China”, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, April 5.
- 2014 “From ‘Hill Tribes’ to ‘Indigenous Peoples’: A genealogy of a global movement’s localization in Thailand,” for the panel “The expansion of the notion of indigenous identity in Southeast Asia” (Thailand-Laos-Cambodia [TLC] sponsored panel, organized by Ian G. Baird), Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, USA, March 29.
- 2013 “ ‘Don’t speak badly of us!’: Collaborative and contentious engagements with competing Akha religiosities in the Upper Mekong Region,” for the panel “Engagements and Entanglements: Reflexive Ethnography with the Religious Other” (Volunteer Session, Organized by Derrick Lemons and Katharine Wiegele, Reviewed by the Society for the Anthropology of Religion), American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, USA, November 22.
- 2013 “Resignifying the Nation in terms of diversity?: Indigeneity, multiculturalism and the politics of difference in North Thailand,” Council on Thai Studies Annual Meeting, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, USA, Oct. 19.
- 2013 “ ‘Jesus is no ancestor of mine!’: Religious politics and conflicting notions of authenticity among Akha in the Upper Mekong Region,” presented on the panel, “Changing Landscapes of Conflict and Control,” American Ethnological Society and Association for Political and Legal Anthropology Joint Spring Meeting, Chicago, IL, USA, April 13.
- 2013 “From strangers to relatives: Shifting notions of belonging among Akha and Hani in Mainland Southeast Asia and Southwest China,” Trans-Asia Graduate Student Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA, April 6.
- 2012 “*Aqkaq ghanr sanr khovq lavsav-e*: A brief history of recent efforts by some Hani/Akha in the Upper Mekong Region to preserve, modernize, and continue carrying ‘the Ways of the Ancestors’,” The 7th International Conference on Hani/Akha Culture, Yuanjiang, Yunnan, China, Nov. 26.

- 2011 “‘Mida’: Akha Engagements With Popular Thai Culture; Reflections on the varied meanings of Akha exertions of ‘cultural citizenship’,” presented on the panel, “Cultural Representations and Cultural Rights in the Making” (Organized by Amporn Jirattikorn), The 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Thai Studies, Bangkok, Thailand, July 28.
- 2011 “Akha Negotiations of the Changing Space of ‘Zomia’,” 2011 Mid-Year Enrichment Conference for US Fulbrighters in Southeast Asia, Bangkok, Thailand, March 17.
- 2010 “Negotiating the Changing Space of ‘Zomia’: Aqkaq Tseir Kaq Tiq Kaq Ma or Ten Akha are the Same as One,” Asian Borderlands: Enclosure, Interaction and Transformation, 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the Asian Research Borderlands Network, Chiang Mai, Thailand, November 6.
- 2007 “Talk to the people in the streets, not the people in the suites: Reflections on Collaborations with ‘Mr. Black’,” presented on the panel “Service Learning and Action Anthropology: Going Public” (Organized by Larry Nesper), Central States Anthropological Society Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, USA, April 13.
- 2006 “The Ritual of Revolving Candles at Ram Poeng Monastery, Chiangmai, Thailand,” The Midwest Council on Asian Affairs Annual Meeting, Madison, WI, USA, October 21.

#### **Invited Presentations and Guest Lectures**

- 2023 Roundtable on “Indigeneity in Thailand: Challenges and Opportunities,” Center for Southeast Asian Studies Friday Forum (with Ian Baird, Po-Tao Chang, and Tou-SaiKo Lee), University of Wisconsin, Madison, May 5, 2023
- 2023 “Indigenous identity politics in Southeast Asia and Thailand,” SEAS 225 Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World, Dr. Kanjana Thepboriruk, NIU CSEAS (Asynchronous online lecture), April 25.
- 2023 “From Blood to Fruit: Ancestral resurgences and reworked religious materialities in Akha Worlds of the Upper Mekong Region,” Department of Art, Design, and Art History, California State University, Fresno & Fresno County Archaeological Society, March 15 (on Zoom).
- 2023 “Race and Racism,” ANTH 220 Being Human: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Dr. Judy Ledgerwood, Department of Anthropology, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, USA, Feb. 13 & 15.



- 2022 “The Akha Art of Living and Dying,” SEAS 225 Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World, Dr. Kanjana Thepboriruk, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, USA, Oct. 13.
- 2022 “Lived Experiences of Buddhism,” ANTHR 1000 Introduction to Anthropology, Dr. Derrick Willis, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, IL, USA, April 27.
- 2022 “Between Two Worlds: Hmong & Hmong American Struggles and Resurgences,” ILAS 290 Introduction to Asian American Studies, Dr. Jiu-Ching Wang, Asian American Certificate Program, NIU, DeKalb, IL, USA, Feb 22.
- 2022 “Between Two Worlds: Hmong & Hmong American Struggles and Resurgences,” SEAS 225 Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World, Dr. Eric Jones, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, NIU, DeKalb, IL, USA, Feb. 22.
- 2021 “Reframing the Borders of Belonging: Crypto-Nationalism in the Akha World of the Upper Mekong Region,” Southeast Asia Lecture Series, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, USA, October 29.
- 2021 “From Blood to Fruit: Crypto-nationalism in the Akha World of the Upper Mekong Region,” SEAS 225 Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World, Dr. Eric Jones, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, USA, September 7.
- 2021 Panelist for discussion on “Rights and Plight of Indigenous Peoples,” Inconvenient Questions International (IQi), Singapore, August 25 (<https://strategicmoves.com.sg/iq-international> & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zkvNNDGw2bA>)
- 2021 “A Tale of Two Villages: Ancestral resurgences in the Sino-Southeast Asian borderlands,” NIU Anthropology Department Virtual Mashup, April 20.
- 2021 “He may be “good” to us now, but let’s wait and see: Negotiating the give and take of participant observation,” as part of the Online Speaker Series of NIU’s Qualitative Inquiry Collaborative (QUIC), March 26.
- 2021 “Pushing the boundaries of Indigeneity: Local articulations of a global movement in Thailand,” SEAS 225 Southeast Asia: Crossroads of the World, Dr. Kheang Un, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, USA, January 28.

- 2020 "Global Indigeneities," ANTH 329 Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems, Dr. Mark Schuller, Department of Anthropology, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, USA, November 25.
- 2020 Discussant for Virtual Town Hall on "Decolonize Your Mind: Actively Working Toward Decolonization," The Office of Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, USA, November 12.
- 2020 "Becoming Indigenous: Governmentality from below in Thailand's Indigenous Peoples' Movement", Department of Anthropology, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, USA, February 24.
- 2019 "What's in a language?: Competing conversions to modernity among ethnic Akha in the Sino-Southeast Asian borderlands," Anthropology 344 Language and Culture, Dr. Jing Lei, Department of Anthropology, The State University of New York at Oswego, Oswego, NY, USA, April 18.
- 2018 "From Ethnic Minorities to Indigenous Peoples: Varied localizations of a global movement in Asia," Department of Ethnology, National Chengchi University, Taipei City, Taiwan, November 20.
- 2018 "Human Freedom?: Revisiting social science debates over agency and structure," University Scholars Programme, National University of Singapore, Singapore, August 16.
- 2018 "From Ethnic Minorities to Indigenous Peoples: Varied localizations of a global movement in Asia," School of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University, Singapore, April 10.
- 2017 "Rising Religious and Ethnic Politics in the Upper Mekong Region," Thailand Studies Program Seminar, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, August 7.
- 2017 "From Subjects to Citizens: Governmentality from below in Thailand's Indigenous peoples' movement," Department of Sociology Seminar Series, National University of Singapore, Singapore, February 2.
- 2016 "Beyond the 'Salt-Water Theory': Varied Articulations of Indigeneity in Asia," Yunnan Provincial Institute for Ethnic Studies, Yunnan Minzu University, Kunming, China, December 20.
- 2016 " 'If you come often, we are like relatives; If you come rarely, we are like strangers:' Framing Akha World making practices in the Upper Mekong Region," DS 166789 Ethnic Minorities and Identity Politics, Dr. Prasit

- Leepreecha, Department of Social Science and Development, Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiang Mai University, Thailand, September 30.
- 2016 “Reframing the boundaries of indigenism: Akha mobile indigenities in the Upper Mekong Region,” Marjorie Helen Stewart Speaker Series, Department of Anthropology, The College at Brockport: State University of New York, Brockport, NY, USA, April 14.
- 2015 “Precarious pasts, presents and futures?: Indigenous peoples and climate change,” Core 400B/REL 420 The Future of Being Human, Dr. Jennifer Glancy, Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY, USA, November 30.
- 2015 “From Blood to Fruit: Crypto-nationalist reformations of the Ancestral burden in the Akha World of Southeast Asia and Southwest China,” Social Science Seminar Series, Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY, USA, Oct. 27.
- 2015 “The Rohingya Refugee Crisis in Southeast Asia,” presented as part of a roundtable discussion, “Campus Conversations: Build a bigger wall? Displaced people and first-world problems. A conversation on migrants and migration from Asia to Europe to the Americas,” Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY, USA, October 7.
- 2015 “Pushing the Boundaries of Indigeneity: Local articulations of a global movement in Thailand,” Department of Anthropology, Criminology, and Sociology, Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY, USA, April 20.
- 2015 “Lives and Afterlives: The Future of Asian Studies,” Roundtable Discussion, The Third Annual Trans-Asia Graduate Student Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA, March 13.
- 2015 “The Akha World(s) of the Upper Mekong Region,” Anthropology 330 Peoples and Cultures of Mainland Southeast Asia, Dr. Katherine Bowie, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA, March 6.
- 2014 “Enchanted Modernities: Akha inventions of religion in Upper Mainland Southeast Asia and Southwest China,” Institute for Research in the Humanities Seminar, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA, April 14.
- 2013 “From Blood to Fruit: Akha ancestral burdens and the pursuit of a modern authenticity in Mainland Southeast Asia and Southwest China,” Center for Southeast Asian Studies Friday Forum, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA, September 20.
- 2013 “ ‘Jesus is no ancestor of mine!’: Religious politics and conflicting notions of authenticity among Akha in Mainland Southeast Asia and Southwest

- China,” Neil Whitehead Colloquium Series, Anthropology Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA, April 5.
- 2012 “ ‘Ten Akha are United as One?’: Akha Religious and Ethnic Transformations in the Upper Mekong Region,” Anthropology 300 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology: Theory and Ethnography, Dr. Frank Salomon, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA, October 8.
- 2011 “Negotiating the Changing Space of 'Zomia': *Aqkaq Tseir Kaq Tiq Kaq Ma?* or Ten Akha are the Same as One?,” International Forum: Ethnic Groups in the Borderlands of the Thai-Yunnan Region, Center of Research and Academic Services, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand, September 26.
- 2011 “ ‘Mida’: Akha Engagements With Popular Thai Culture,” co-presenter with Panadda Boonyasaranai, Seminar on Cultural Citizenship in the Making, Center for Ethic Studies and Development, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand, July 22.
- 2010 “*Aqkaq Tseir Kaq Tiq Kaq Ma*: ‘Ten Akha are the Same as One’,” Burma Talk Series, Center of Research and Academic Services, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand, June 25.
- 2009 “Negotiating the Changing Zomia of Mainland Southeast Asia: A Preliminary Discussion on the role of Language in Akha Identitarian Politics,” Institute of Thai Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, November 5.
- 2008 “Borders, ‘Illegality’, and Citizenship: A Transmigrant’s Experiences in the Borderlands of Northern Thailand and Burma,” The Wisconsin Migration Research Circle, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, USA, April 23.