

Matthew Venker

Ithaca, NY 14850
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EMPLOYMENT

2023-2024 Visiting Fellow, Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., 2023 University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Anthropology
Dissertation Title: “Racial Categories, Religious Distinctions: Chinese Buddhists and the Burma Laws Act, 1898-1947”
Committee: Katherine Bowie (chair), Tyrell Haberkorn, Jerome Camal, Larry Nesper, and Nick Cheesman (external, Australia National University)
- M.A., 2017 University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Anthropology
- B.A., 2012 Saint Olaf College, Northfield, MN, Asian Studies (China Studies) and Sociology/Anthropology; Magna Cum Laude

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

- 2023 Venker, Nicole T. and **Matthew Venker**. “Trends, Perceptions, and Impacts of Emergent Technologies on the Social Navigation of Hunting Access,” (In preparation. Target Journal: *Human Dimensions of Wildlife*. Anticipated Submission: December 2023)
- 2023 “Courting Colonialism: Considering Litigation as an Act of Citizenship in Colonial Burma,” *Citizenship Studies*. (under review, October 2023)
- 2023 “Categorical Confusions: Gender and the Colonial Construction of the Chinese Buddhist in Burma,” *Legal Pluralism and Critical Social Analysis*. (Published early access Oct. 2023). DOI: 10.1080/27706869.2023.2268377.

Translations

- 2017 Shi Tiesheng, “Fragments Written at the Hiatus of Illness” (病隙碎笔). Translated by Luying Chen and **Matthew Venker**. *Chinese Literature Today*, Vol. 6, Issue 1. DOI: 10.1080/21514399.2017.1319212.

Book Reviews

2023 *Rethinking Community in Myanmar: Practices of We-Formation Among Muslims and Hindus in Urban Yangon* by Judith Beyer. *Asian Journal of Social Science*. In Preparation (Invited Review)

Public Scholarship and Non-Peer Reviewed Writing

2021 “What Role Can Public Scholarship Play After the [2021 Myanmar] Coup?,” **Matthew Venker**, Nicole and Ma Ei, *Oxford Tea Circle*, February 10.

2020 “Wavering at the Turning Point: Myanmar’s Response to COVID-19,” Nicole Tu-Maung and **Matthew Venker**, *Oxford Tea Circle*, April 9.

2019 “Conserving Wildlife, Preserving Traditions,” Nicole Tu-Maung and **Matthew Venker**, *Frontier Myanmar*, Vol. 5, Issue 12. August 1.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin-Madison – Teaching Assistant (2017 – 2019; 2020-2021)

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology • Undergraduate discussion sections

Introduction to Anthropology [Four Fields] • Undergraduate discussion sections

World Learning Myanmar – Adjunct Faculty (2019 – 2020)

Advanced English • Adjunct Faculty

(course evaluations available upon request)

Prepared Courses

Asian Migrations and Diaspora

Anthropology of Law

Introduction to Southeast Asia

Legal Anthropology and Legal Pluralism (Seminar)

Race, Justice, and Law (Seminar)

GRANTS & AWARDS

2023 Council of Graduate School/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison Humanities/Social Sciences Section Selection

2022-2023 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Award, Myanmar (*Awarded August 2020*), \$29,207

- 2022 Council of American Overseas Research Centers-Inya Institute Fellowship, Research Award, (*Awarded May 2020*), \$4,500
- 2022 University of Wisconsin Center for Southeast Asia Research Fellowship (*Awarded March 2020*), \$5,000
- 2021-2022 University of Wisconsin University Fellowship, Research Award, \$22,909
- 2021 University of Wisconsin Mellon Summer Fellowship, Research Award, \$7,635
- 2018 University of Wisconsin Mellon Recruitment Fellowship, Research Award, \$5,000
- 2017 Scott-Kloeck Jensen Predissertation Research Fellowship, Research Award, \$4,500
- 2016-2017 Foreign Languages and Area Studies (FLAS) Academic Year Fellowship for Burmese, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Graduate Studies Award, \$15,000
- 2016 Foreign Languages and Area Studies (FLAS) Summer Fellowship for Burmese, Southeast Asia Summer Study Institute, Graduate Studies Award, \$3,000
- 2015-2016 University of Wisconsin University Fellowship, Graduate Studies Award, \$19,710
- 2015 Foreign Languages and Area Studies (FLAS) Summer Fellowship for Burmese, Southeast Asia Summer Study Institute, Graduate Studies Award, \$3,000

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES

Invited Talks:

- 2023 "Between *Bama* and *Batha*: Considering Religious Racialization in Colonial Burma," Australia National University, Canberra, Australia (virtual), Sept. 26.
- 2022 "An Anthropologist in the Archives: Colonial Sources, Contemporary Resonances, and Studying Myanmar from Afar," Inya Institute, Yangon, Myanmar (Virtual), Sept 23.
- "Buddhism and Politics in Burma," Presentation to Buddhist Traditions Course, Siena College, Loudonville, NY, April 7.
- 2021 "#whatshappeninginmyanmar: Reflections on an Ever-Changing Terrain," Southeast Asia Summer Studies Institute, University of Wisconsin-Madison, July 19 (virtual).

Conference Talks:

- 2024 "Gender, Burmese Law, and the Making of the Chinese Buddhist in Colonial Burma," Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, March 14-17. (Accepted)

- 2023 "Evidence and Argumentation: Making Race out of Religion in Colonial Burma," Burma Studies Conference, Zurich, Switzerland. June 10.
- 2022 "What is Citizenship in a State of Chaos?: Rethinking the Compact of Citizenship Through a Pandemic and a Coup in Myanmar," Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Honolulu, HI. March 24-27, 2022.
- "Legal Engagements: Colonial Constructions of Chinese-Burmese Buddhist Families," Cornell University Southeast Asia Program Graduate Student Conference, Ithaca, NY. March 12, 2022.
- 2017 "Citizenship and Struggle in Contemporary Myanmar," American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC., November 29- December 3.
- 2016 "Past as Precedent: Law and Nationalism in Myanmar," Midwest Law and Society Retreat, Madison, WI, November 18.

Invited Roundtables:

- 2021 "Tea Circle in the Wake of Myanmar's Coup: Supporting Public Scholarship and Building Intellectual Networks," Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies Biennial Conference, Vancouver, B.C., Oct 21-24 (virtual)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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| 2022 – current | Translation/Copy Editor, Alliance for Social Justice (Myanmar) |
| 2021 – current | Guest Editor, Tea Circle: A Forum for New Perspectives on Burma, Myanmar |
| 2016 – 2018 | President, Southeast Asia Graduate Research Group, University of Wisconsin-Madison |

LANGUAGES

Burmese: Advanced reading, writing, speaking ability; experience with translation

Chinese (Mandarin): Advanced reading, writing, speaking ability; experience with translation

English: Native Speaker

REFERENCES

Katherine Bowie • Vilas Distinguished Professor of Anthropology
 University of Wisconsin-Madison
 kabowie@wisc.edu

Jerome Camal • Professor of Anthropology
University of Wisconsin-Madison
camal@wisc.edu

Tyrell Haberkorn • Professor of Southeast Asian Studies
University of Wisconsin-Madison
tyrell.haberkorn@wisc.edu

Nick Cheesman • Department of Political and Social Change
Australia National University
nick.cheesman@anu.edu.au