

MICHELLE ELIZABETH PHILLIPS

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EDUCATION:

University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, CA (August 2014-present)

Ph.D. Student in Sociology: expected graduation Spring 2020

With a designated emphasis in Development Engineering

Rice University. Houston, TX (August 2008-May 2012)

Bachelor of Arts in English/Anthropology/Asian Studies, *Magna Cum Laude* (GPA 3.93/4.0)

Graduated with Honors in Anthropology: Honors Senior Thesis “The Family Village: the *Guanxi* of Chinese Grassroots Elections Media,” Defended and Approved

Graduated with Distinction in English: Senior Thesis “Shame in Translation: Cross-Cultural Understandings of Shame and Their Significance in Chinese Translations of Bleak House,” Defended and Approved

Chengdu International School. Chengdu, Sichuan, China (Graduated June 2008 with High School Diploma)

Honors: Valedictorian, National Merit Honorable Mention (GPA 4.41/4.0)

AWARDS & HONORS:

FLAS Fellowship, Indonesian: won, Summer 2016, 2016-2017 Academic Year

National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowships Program: 2015 Honorable Mention

2015 Alumni Prize for Public Sociology (for work in the Berkeley Journal of Sociology), Sociology Department, University of California, Berkeley

Small Research Grant, Sociology Department, University of California, Berkeley: 2014-2015 academic year

University of California, Berkeley Graduate Division Summer Grant Awards: 2015, one of eight Sociology awards

Fulbright Program, Alternate Finalist: Hong Kong 2012-2013 academic year

Citigate Dewe Rogerson State Street Press Awards: Highly Commended, Best Newcomer – 2013 and 2014, Asia-Pacific President’s Honor Roll at Rice University (seven semesters)

Rice Undergraduate Research Symposium, March 2012: First Place (Asian Studies) and Third Place (Social Sciences)

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH:

Academic Publications

Duke East Asia Nexus: “The Modern Chinese Dynasty” (one of few selected for prestigious undergraduate journal)

National Conference on Undergraduate Research Proceedings: research selected for national conference proceedings

Journalistic Publications

PEI Media: 300+ magazine and online articles related to business, investment, real estate and infrastructure in Asia

CNN, Beijing Bureau: contributed to 5 online articles, several recorded clips

The Washington Times: 30 international news articles

Graduate Student Researcher. University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, CA

Fall 2015-present

- Work with professors in business and engineering to define role and application of Development Engineering as a field
- Design reframing/ideation cards to facilitate the integration of critical social justice issues (gender, geographic isolation, etc.) and modern technology to current research projects and solutions
- Assist Ph.D. and Master’s students apply social science principles to cutting-edge engineering projects
- Arranged relevant speakers and handled logistics for advanced seminar in Development Engineering department

Graduate Student Researcher. University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, CA

Fall 2014-present

- Conduct independent research with Heather Haveman and Center for Chinese Studies regarding gender in Chinese firms
- Translate and sort large Chinese datasets about executives in Chinese firms over several decades
- Learned RStudio programming with little guidance, running complex regressions and causal analysis on the full datasets
- Analyzing statistical results, sociological theories and patterns in Chinese media to compile several academic articles

Field of Guanxi Studies Conference. University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley, CA

Spring 2015

Proceedings Rapporteur

- Selected as rapporteur for the entire two-day conference, covering the feedback and collaboration on 16 academic articles
- Compiled all discussion and feedback on all articles into a final report sent out to all scholars to reference for revisions
- Currently working on compiling all presented and revised articles into a special issue of an academic journal or book

Fudan-UC Center Young Scholar's Conference on "Governance in China". UC San Diego *Spring 2015*

- Youngest of few selected to present research on Chinese village elections before professors and advanced China scholars
- Provided detailed feedback to fellow presenters on ethnographic and quantitative research

Wagoner Fellowship. Rice University, Chinese University of Hong Kong. Hong Kong *Summer 2012*
Visiting Scholar, Research Fellow

- Mentored in research methods and theoretical background by prominent Sociology scholar, Tony Tam
- Collaborated with scholars from diverse fields, researching the role of media in Chinese village elections
- Took two independent fieldwork trips into Mainland China, interviewing village committees and local villagers

Rice Undergraduate Research Symposium. Rice University. Houston, TX *Spring 2012, 2011*

- Presented individual senior thesis research on Chinese village elections to multiple judges for evaluation
- Won First Place in the Asian Studies competition, Third Place in the Social Sciences Division
- (2011) Group presentation materials posted on Humanities Research Center website to exemplify Center's student work

National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Weber State University. Ogden, UT *Spring 2012*

- Selected from 3,500 undergraduate students across the US to present research at conference of thousands of attendees
- Defended theory and evidence of research project before peers and scholars of various fields

Advanced Undergraduate Research Award (AURA). Rice University. Houston, TX *Summer 2011*
Student Fellow, China (one of 5 awards)

- Collaborated with Asian Studies faculty to develop research plan for senior thesis, regarding media in local elections
- Conducted field research in four Chinese villages, collecting interviews from village officials and local villagers

Program for the Study of Leadership through Humanities Research Center. Rice University. *Fall 2010-Spring 2011*
Student Research Fellow

- Analyzed data from interviews of high-level executives, organizing into overarching theories for articles and book
- Detailed final book outline for Michael Lindsay's sociological PLATINUM study: *View from the Top*
- Met and interviewed prominent local leaders, discussing their experience of leadership and learning professional etiquette

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Project Peace: Day of Service, Berkeley *Fall 2015-present*

- Serve for a day at shelters and schools across the city with urgent needs along with hundreds of volunteers once a quarter
- Helped repaint and reinforce the structure of a women's shelter main room
- Helped organize the various services needed to complete jobs at that women's shelter, offering to do less appealing jobs

Care Center for Indonesian Maids, Hong Kong *Summer 2012-present*

- Offer practical and emotional support to maids struggling with culture shock or human rights abuses
- Initiated weekly mentorship program, counseling three Indonesian maids on emotional, family and cultural issues
- Taught English classes twice a week at various levels, giving the women more education and chances at a better life
- Assist with the writing of a compilation of maid testimonies into a book for publication

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Alternative Spring Break, Mexico *Spring 2009, 2010*

- Renovated and repainted a poor local church in Mexico while living with a host family in Merida
- Co-led afternoon sessions teaching local children Bible stories and playing games in Spanish

Chengdu International School Earthquake Relief Effort *Summer 2008*

- Brought food and supplies to remote areas devastated by Wenchuan 8.0 earthquake
- Provided emotional support, games and a safe place to grieve for victims and children in overflowing refugee camps

Summer Program in Jianzha, Qinghai *Summer 2007*

- Helped set up and organize a trilingual library for Chinese, Tibetan, and Hui children in a small mountainside town
- Translated for and guided a short-term team from Norway, introducing them to cultural scenes and conventions
- Taught a three-week elementary English class, organizing activities and homework for 6 multicultural children

COMMUNICATIONS EXPERIENCE:

PERE (Private Equity International). Berkeley, CA *April 2016-present*

- Regularly interview and discuss market trends with institutional investors and investment managers in North America
- Contribute to monthly magazine with large market overview articles, analyzing current trends and the underlying forces shaping the investment market

Berkeley Journal of Sociology. Berkeley, CA

August 2014-present

Assistant Editor

- Assisted in the re-launch of one of the oldest student-run Sociology journals in the US
- Organize and advertise for events promoting the new mission of the Journal: finding the nexus between academia and public debate, and bringing a sociological perspective to current issues
- Solicit contributions from activists and sociologists for the new website, including a student leader in Occupy Central
- Extensively edit and rework submitted articles from around the world to prepare them for online and print publication

Berkeley Student Journal of Asian Studies. Berkeley, CA

January 2015-May 2015

Graduate Advising Editor

- Served as one of two graduate student advisors on board of editors, focusing on merit of submitted articles
- Provided extensive feedback to accepted undergraduate authors in the process of improving their articles
- Assist in the annual journal publication and launch, including symposium and organizing author's presentations

PERE and Infrastructure Investor (Private Equity International). Hong Kong

April 2013-July 2014

Staff Writer, Asia-Pacific

- Maintained daily coverage of Asia for two websites simultaneously, contributing at least one story a day to each
- Focused on real assets investment activity in the Asia Pacific region, including real estate and infrastructure investments
- Built relationships with investors worldwide to obtain exclusive information regarding investment and fundraising activity that are of interest to a global audience
- Regularly discussed market trends and analysis with top real estate and infrastructure developers, traveling to India, Singapore and the Philippines while also conducting extensive interviews in multiple languages (such as Mandarin)
- Contribute regularly to monthly magazine, writing longer and more in-depth articles about issues in Asian private equity
- Copy edited and proofread the final versions of two magazine titles every month before sending them to press

Freelance Editor and Writer. Hong Kong

September 2012-May 2013

- Proofread and edit multiple books and articles, on topics ranging from history to spirituality
- Back translated portions of Chinese translation of western books to check for accuracy and faithfulness to original
- Critique and suggest improvements to academic articles on theoretical cross-cultural concepts

PE Asia and Private Equity International. Hong Kong

September 2012-April 2013

Staff Writer, Greater China

- Maintained daily website's Asia coverage, contributing at least one story a day, sometimes two or three
- Focused on private equity activity in Greater China, reading government sites and legal briefs in Chinese and finding the most recent updates that are of interest to a global audience
- Regularly discussed market trends and analysis with top private equity scholars, often conducting interviews in Mandarin
- Contributed regularly to monthly magazine, writing longer and more in-depth articles about issues in Asian private equity
- Copy edited and proofread the final version of the magazine titles before sending them to press

CNN Beijing Bureau through Leadership Rice Summer Mentorship. Beijing, China

Summer 2011

Student Intern (one of 38 chosen from 150+ applicants) (<http://bit.ly/L0Py5M>)

- Researched and fact-checked all China television packages, organizing information and finding sources
- Wrote multiple stories and wires about major events in China for the CNN website, collaborating with all CNN staff
- Conducted interviews of top-profile executives in Beijing regarding their view of and experience in leadership
- Shadowed staff on live shoots, often assisting with background setup and lighting

Program for Communication Excellence. Rice University. Houston, TX.

Fall 2011-Spring 2012

Writing Consultant

- Edited papers of fellow students struggling with writing, giving basic instruction and guidance
- Worked with foreign students to develop essential writing & English skills by pushing them to solve their own errors
- Staffed intensive editing sessions, offering in-depth advice to students on particular essays
- Followed up with students to give them one-on-one editing sessions as needed

The Washington Times through the National Journalism Center. Washington, D.C.

Summer 2010; 2011

Foreign Desk Intern (one of 40 chosen from 300+ applicants); Freelancer (<http://bit.ly/LQW4dS>)

- Wrote dozens of articles pertaining to foreign affairs, particularly on Asia, including multiple front-page articles
- Covered Congressional meetings of international import as photojournalist
- Recorded daily video for the website alongside professional videographer, coordinating sound and lighting
- Trained in weekly seminars for reporting, editing and multimedia skills
- Interviewed prominent Rice University graduates throughout the capital regarding their career experiences and leadership

The Rice Thresher. Rice University. Houston, TX
Reporter/NewsWriter; Copy Editor

Fall 2008-Spring 2012

- Researched and reported on speeches and forums on campus as beat writer and regular contributor to news section
- Reviewed all sections of paper's final version before print, for fact-checking and style

Society of Professional Journalists: The Working Press Internship. Las Vegas, NV
Student Reporter, volunteer Copy Editor (<http://bit.ly/KaHZtU>)

Fall 2010

- Covered the annual SPJ Conference as student reporter, writing two stories per day and collaborating on others
- Trained with advisors from The New York Times, the Dow Jones News Fund and the Associated Press
- Volunteered as extra copy editor when short-handed, staying as late as needed to review the final submission

The Orange County Register through Rice University Summer Gateway Program. Irvine, CA
Student Intern (one of first students selected for Rice program)

Summer 2009

- Shadowed editors and reporters on daily routine: investigative reporting, final editing, staff meetings
- Reported on local events and public opinion in Orange County, California
- Published multiple human interest articles in three local tabloids and in the daily newspaper
- Assisted with final editing for multiple local tabloids before final publication

OTHER LEADERSHIP:

Christ Church East Bay. Berkeley, CA
Worship Leader (vocalist); Childcare volunteer

Fall 2014-present

- Help to lead worship of entire Berkeley congregation as one of the main vocalists at least once a month
- Volunteer once a month to help with infant care for the church to allow new parents to enjoy the church service

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Rice University. Houston, TX
President; Small Group Leader; Worship Singer

Fall 2009-Spring 2012

- Reorganized and refocused all of the club's resources when the organization was struggling to survive
- Formed and held together student leaders as coordinator and motivator when main staff worker could no longer work
- Coordinated and organized multiple weekly events, including outreach and in-depth Bible studies
- Initiated and organized campus-wide Christian club leaders group, allowing us to coordinate campus-wide events

R2, The Rice Review. Student literary magazine. Houston, TX
Editor-at-Large, Dormitory Representative, Publicity Committee, Assistant Layout Editor, Copy Editor

Fall 2009-Spring 2010

- Collaborated with head editors directly in working out logistics of events and publishing
- Assisted publicity committee in advertising campaign that drew more submissions for magazine than previous two years
- Selected and proofread submissions for selection, and copy edited final version of magazine before print

Leadership Rice Summer Mentorship Experience. Rice University. Beijing, China.
Student Fellow (one of 38 chosen from 150+ applicants)

Summer 2011

- Underwent intensive leadership training, covering theoretical background, networking and practical application
- Interviewed top-profile executives in Beijing regarding their experience in leadership for in-depth analysis
- Worked closely with several mentors to gain perspective and experience in workplace challenges

Duncan College Academic Fellow. Rice University.

Spring 2010-Spring 2012

- Helped set up and launch the Academic Fellows peer mentoring/advising program at one of the University's new dorms
- Held review sessions and edited academic papers for fellow students throughout the school year

Houston Chinese Church. Houston, TX
Student Community Service Leader; Volunteer Translator

Spring 2009-Spring 2012

- Organized events and outreach for the entire church by coordinating supplies and volunteers alongside church deacons
- Acted as one of the liaisons between the church and outreach organizations, helping outreaches to have a wider reach

RELEVANT SKILLS:

Language: Written and oral fluency in *Mandarin Chinese* (International Certificate of Language & Cultural Competency, presented by Rice University); beginning/intermediate-level *Indonesian*; beginning-level *Spanish*

Culture: Lived 13 years in Mainland China, close interaction with Han and minorities; lived two years in Singapore; regular cultural experience in Thailand and Malaysia for 15 years