

AL LIM
al-lim.com

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

2026– **SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY**
Presidential Assistant Professor of Anthropology, College of Integrative Studies

EDUCATION

2020–26 **YALE UNIVERSITY**
Combined Ph.D. in Anthropology and Environmental Studies
M.Phil. in Anthropology and Environmental Studies (2023)
Graduate Certificate in Environmental Humanities (2025)
Dissertation Title: *Risking Fortune: Building Value in the Social Ecology of Thai Crypto*

2019–20 **LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE**
MSc in Urbanisation and Development (Distinction and Best Overall Performance)
Dissertation Title: *Smart Cities, Surveillance, and Discursive Redirection: A Comparative Urban Study of Singapore and Phuket's Smart Surveillance during the COVID-19 Pandemic*

2015–19 **YALE-NUS COLLEGE**
BA (Hons) in Urban Studies with minor in Arts & Humanities (*summa cum laude*)
Thesis Title: *The Production and Reproduction of Water Insecurity in a Northern Thai Village*

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- 2025 Experimenting through *Sen*: The Lived Networks of Thailand's Cannabis Boom. *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*.
- 2024 Re-constructing Restoration: A Critical Review of the Practice, Politics, and Process of Restoration in Diverse Ecologies. *Environment and Society: Advances in Research* 15 (1), (pp. 23–46). (Co-authored with Lav Kanoi, Paul Burow, Yufang Gao, Kaggie Orrick, Evan A. Singer, and Michael R. Dove)
- 2024 The Gendered Allure of Nang Kwak: From Statuettes to NFTs in Thailand. *The Journal of the Siam Society* 112 (2), (pp. 133–154).
- 2024 Statue and Mine: Chao Anouvong, Chinese Capital, and Rescaling the Lao Nation. *The Journal of Lao Studies* 8, (pp. 41–71).
- 2024 Tracing the Smart Virus in a Smart City: A Discursive Analysis of Singapore's Early Pandemic Surveillance Response. *Urban Geography* 45 (10), (pp. 1780–1798).
- 2022 Sustainability as a Moral Discourse: Its Shifting Meanings, Exclusions, and Anxieties. *Sustainability* 14 (5), 3095. (Co-authored with Shoko Yamada, Lav Kanoi, Vanessa Koh, and Michael R. Dove)

- 2022 ‘What is infrastructure? What does it do?’: Anthropological perspectives on the workings of infrastructure(s). *Environmental Research: Infrastructure and Sustainability* 2 (1), 012002. (Co-authored with Lav Kanoi, Shoko Yamada, Vanessa Koh, and Michael R. Dove)
- 2021 Reframing Conservation and Development Perspectives on Bushmeat. *Environmental Research Letters* 17 (1), 011001. (Co-authored with Wen Zhou, Kaggie Orrick, and Michael R. Dove)

Book Chapters

- 2025 Sedimented Surveillance in Southeast Asia’s ‘Smart’ City-State: The Case of Singapore. In Dietrich Oberwittler and Rebecca Wickes (eds.), *Handbook on Cities and Crime* (pp. 468–82). Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. (Co-authored with Orlando Woods and Lily Kong)
- 2021 Rewriting Food Insecurity Narratives in Singapore. In Hyun Bang Shin, Murray Mckenzie, and Do Young Oh (eds.), *COVID-19 in Southeast Asia: Insights for a Post-Pandemic World* (pp. 239–248). London, UK: LSE Press.
- 2020 Learning to Thrive: Educating Singapore’s Children for a Climate-Changed World.” In Matthew Schneider-Mayerson (Ed.), *Eating Chilli Crab in the Anthropocene: Environmental Perspectives on Life in Singapore* (pp. 221–240). Singapore: Ethos Books. (Co-authored with Feroz Khan)

Book Reviews

- 2023 Review of *Turning Land into Capital: Development and Dispossession in the Mekong Region* by Philip Hirsch, Kevin Woods, Natalia Scurrah, and Michael B. Dwyer, eds. *H-Environment, H-Net Reviews*.
- 2023 Review of *Projectland: Life in a Lao Socialist Model Village* by Holly High. *LSE Review of Books*.
- 2022 Review of *Fighting for Virtue: Justice and Politics in Thailand* by Duncan McCargo. *LSE Review of Books*.

Short Articles & Commentaries

- 2020 Rice for Fish: Karen counter-narratives of self-sufficiency and Thainess. *New Mandala*. (Co-authored with Jasmine Chia)
- 2020 The Singaporean State and Community Care in the Time of Corona. *City & Society*. (Co-authored with Vanessa Koh and Jill J. Tan)
- 2020 Myanmar Needs to Redefine its COVID-19 Stimulus Package. *Tea Circle Oxford*.
- 2019 Golden Mile Complex: Not Just Another Space. *Singapore Policy Journal at Harvard Kennedy School*.

VISITING POSITIONS

- 2023–4 CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY
Visiting scholar to the Faculty of Political Science at Chulalongkorn University.
- 2022 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
IvyPlus Visiting Doctoral Scholar.

SELECTED GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- 2026–9 SINGAPORE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION’S ACADEMIC RESEARCH FUND (TIER 2)
 Collaborator for “Autonomizing environmental governance in Asian cities: AI, climate change, and frictional urbanisms” with Prerona Das, Orlando Woods, Federico Cuguirollo, and Lily Kong.
- 2026 AAS–HENRY LUCE FOUNDATION DISSERTATION WORKSHOP
 Competitive, funded participant (cohort of 9) for the “Global Southeast Asias” workshop at the Association of Asian Studies annual meeting in Vancouver, Canada.
- 2026 AAA “WRITE TO CHANGE THE WORLD” OPED PROJECT
 Competitive selection (cohort of 20) for the American Anthropological Association’s public writing fellowship, supported by the Wenner-Gren Foundation.
- 2025 H. RUSSELL BERNARD STUDENT PAPER PRIZE
 Awarded by the Society for Anthropological Sciences for the paper “Protocol, Project, and Community – How Taxes and Fiscal Design Shape Subjects in AI–Crypto Ecosystems” at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting.
- 2023–4 SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
 Grant received for doctoral dissertation fieldwork in Thailand.
- 2023 MACMILLAN INTERNATIONAL DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP
 Grant received for doctoral dissertation fieldwork in Thailand.
- 2022–5 SINGAPORE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION’S ACADEMIC RESEARCH FUND (TIER 2)
 Collaborator for “Technocratic Regionalism in Southeast Asia: The Translational Politics of Smart City Knowledge Transfer” with Lily Kong, Orlando Woods, and Sarah Moser.
- 2022–4 SIN WAI-KIN FELLOWSHIP (HONG KONG INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES)
 Grant received to conduct dissertation fieldwork.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<i>Course Number and Semester</i>	<i>Course Title</i>
ANTH 140 Spring 2025	The Corporation (Teaching Fellow with Douglas Rogers)
ANTH 575 Fall 2021	Hubs, Mobilities, and World Cities (Teaching Fellow with Helen F. Siu)

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

- MORE THAN MANIA: CRYPTO AS LOTTERY IN THAILAND
- 2026 Money Like Things lecture series. Simon Fraser University.
- 2025 American Anthropological Association annual meeting, New Orleans.

NAVIGATING THE PROMISES AND PERILS OF CRYPTO IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

2026 Discussant, Regional Economic Studies Programme. Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS).

EXPERIMENTING THROUGH *SEN*: THE LIVED NETWORKS OF THAILAND'S CANNABIS BOOM

2025 Environmental Humanities Symposium. Yale University.

2025 YSE Research Day. Yale University.

2024 Urbanisation Challenge in Asia: The Pasts, Presents and Futures workshop. The Urban Institute, Singapore Management University.

THE GENDERED ALLURE OF NANG KWAK: FROM STATUETTES TO NFTS IN THAILAND

2024 Sin Wai-Kin Fellowship Awardee Webinar Series. Hong Kong Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

2023 International Conference on Amulet Cultures. Pridi Banomyong International College (PBIC), Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand.

SERVICE

2026 MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS PODCAST

Season 5 Editor and Host for quarterly podcast, "Crypto through the Years," from the Society for Economic Anthropology in affiliation with the American Anthropological Association.

2022– PEER REVIEWER

Reviewed manuscripts for *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, *Urban Studies*, *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, *Journal of Cultural Economy*, *ACM CHI*, and *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*. Two special recognitions for outstanding reviews for *ACM CHI 2026*.

2021–6 TLC: THAI, LAOS, CAMBODIA STUDIES ASSOCIATION (AFFILIATE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN STUDIES)

Student Board Member.

2021–4 ASSOCIATION OF THAI STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Co-Chair of the Board of Directors (2022–4); Northeast Regional Representative (2021–2).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025 VIRTUALS VENTURES

Core Contributor of Virtuals Ventures (the Venture and Ecosystem Fund of Virtuals Protocol, one of the largest AI agent companies in the crypto industry).

2024 ARC

Core Team and CEO Office (Elroy Cheo).

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

English (Native), Thai (Advanced), Lao (Advanced), Mandarin Chinese (Proficient, CEFR Level C2), French (Basic). ArcGIS and QGIS (Advanced Proficiency).

Adobe InDesign and Lightroom (Advanced Proficiency).