

Carmen Thong

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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Qualitative and quantitative research experience in postcolonial literature, digital humanities, and public policy.
- Breadth of data analysis skills including text mining and regression in R, business strategy and finance in Excel.
- Audience-based communicator for academic or non-academic audiences, and external or internal stakeholders.
- Agile collaborator experienced with delivering results in 8 different teams and 2 collaborative research projects.
- On-the-ground experience in the Malaysian cultural sector in theatre, musical theatre, and film.
- Strong writing skills in English and some proficiency in Malay, Cantonese, Chinese, French, Arabic and Spanish.

EDUCATION

PhD in English, Stanford University, US	Exp. 2025
MA in Public Policy, Stanford University, US <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellow, 2022-25: 34 per year out of 9,000+ graduate students• Knight Hennessy Scholar, 2019-2021: 68 chosen out of 4,400+ applicants	Exp. 2024
MSt World Literatures in English (Distinction), University of Oxford, UK	2016
BA (Hons) in English Literature (First class), University of Warwick, UK <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maxis Scholarship for Excellence Award, competitive full funding for 3 years	2015
Diploma in Performing Arts (Distinction), Sunway University, Malaysia <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing and publicity intern with musical production company, <i>Enfiniti Vision Media</i>	2012

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Researcher, Stanford University	2019-25
English Dissertation: Technologies of Discovery in World Literature <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Combining postcolonial literature, cultural policy, computational methods, economic analysis to map out inequalities in the global supply chain of literature from the Global South• Scraping and collecting hundreds of data points for analysis and for visualization as network graphs	
Public Policy Thesis: Local Publishing as an Infant Industry <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identified pros and cons of introducing tariffs on imported books in countries with infant publishing industries• Scraping and analyzing differential prices of books in multiple markets to support policy recommendations	
Research Project: Encoding the Postcolonial Nation into Place <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applying collocation method in R to examine if colonial narratives still characterize places in postcolonial nations• Comparing literary results with tourism materials to make recommendations for tourism policies• To present in 2024 at the largest field conference, <i>Modern Language Association (MLA)</i>	
Research Project: The Economy of Critical Attention: A Computational Analysis of Roland Barthes' S/Z <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performed Natural Language Processing (R) and statistical analysis (Excel) to examine distribution of attention	
Student Researcher, University of Oxford and Warwick	2012-16
Project: V.S. Naipaul's Booker Prize for In a Free State <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Published new archival findings to argue for the Booker Prize's role as an institution in shaping "the novel"	
Project: Literary Cartography: Dark Tourism in Post-Troubles Belfast <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examined Belfast's post-Troubles tourism practices through literary analysis and ethnographic fieldwork• Successfully applied for a research grant for the project and published as a peer-reviewed journal article	

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Enterprise Strategy Analyst**, Maxis, Malaysia 2018-19
- Contributed to the framework and process for extended mergers & acquisitions exercise
 - Set up forecasting and funnel models for business-to-business sales channels
 - Managed strategy alignment and communication up to Board level and for internal and external stakeholders
- Management Associate**, Maxis, Malaysia 2016-18
- 1 of 4 selected from 1000+ candidates; the 2-yr management training program includes rotations, projects, and CSR
- Delivered results within 3-mths in 5 different team rotations: retail, sales, IT project management, pricing, finance
 - Presented to CEO on customer journey for prepaid, telematics and channels
 - Edited and wrote copy for Maxis Annual Report 2017: ghostwrote Chairman & CEO Statements
 - Created the foundational masterlist of company jargon that was the basis for an internal chatbot
- Freelancer** 2012-16
- **Copywriter** for art festival marketing materials, magazine articles, musical program, minister speeches
 - **Publicity manager** of visiting theatre troupe for British Council
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SELECT LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- Founding team member**, Young African Research Network (YARN) 2021-present
- Increasing knowledge production about Africa by Africans by supporting early career researchers
 - 1 of 3 founding members who brought the organization from idea to selecting its first cohort of researchers
 - Set-up budget and prepared deck to obtain an initial \$11,000 grant to launch the network
 - Soft launch drew in 200+ applications from 14 African countries in 2 weeks
- Founder**, Racial Inequalities Support Network (RISeN) 2015-16
- Collaborated with equality officers and charities to create a supportive space for students of color at Oxford
 - Gave a talk on *The Language of Diversity* and engaged Oriel college's governing body on Rhodes Must Fall
- English Graduate Student Committee Co-Chair**, English department 2022
- Prepared climate survey of the graduate community and presented the results to Director of Graduate Studies
 - Managed a budget of \$7,000 to fund graduate social events, reading groups, and outreach events
- Antiracism Advocacy Working Groups**, Knight Hennessy Scholarship Program 2019-2020
- Coordinated an antiracism meeting in response to George Floyd's murder, which resulted in 4 working groups
 - Led a summer of antiracism reading which engaged half the scholar community in 12 reading groups
 - Presented a list of 21 action items, derived from a community-wide survey, to the Knight Hennessy team