




CARMEN THONG

 +1 650 788 9959

 tcarmen@stanford.edu

 carmenthong.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, Stanford University Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities	<i>expected 2026</i>
MA in Public Policy, Stanford University	<i>2024</i>
MSt World Literatures in English, University of Oxford	<i>2015-16</i>
BA (Hons) English Literature, University of Warwick	<i>2012-15</i>
Diploma in Performing Arts (Film and Theatre), Sunway University, Malaysia	<i>2009-2011</i>

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Global anglophone, world literature, digital humanities, cultural analytics/computational literary studies, contemporary book studies, African and Caribbean literature, literary theory.

DISSERTATION

Technologies of Discovery in Global Literature

Committee: Mark Algee-Hewitt, Roanne Kantor, Roopika Risam

My dissertation examines how literatures and authors from the Global South are “discovered” in the global supply chain of literature and how these technologies of discovery predetermine the stories that are published and read. I combine close reading, text mining, statistical analysis, and policy analysis to study publication routes, literary prizes, and policy effects such as import tariffs across regional book markets. I identify ways the global pipeline of literatures can be made more accessible and push for resource redistribution to literary and cultural industries in the Global South.

PUBLICATIONS

Research Report	Editor of and contributor to UNESCO’s report on The African Book Industry <i>Forthcoming May 2025</i>	<i>2025</i>
Refereed Articles	“Slow, Painful, and Expensive: Current Challenges in Text-Mining Corpus Construction for the Digital Humanities” <i>Forthcoming in Digital Humanities Quarterly (co-author)</i>	<i>2025</i>
	“The Economy of Critical Attention: A Computational Analysis of Roland Barthes’ S/Z” <i>Published in Modern Language Quarterly 85:4</i>	<i>2024</i>

	“A Conceptual Anatomy of the Female Genitalia using Text Mining and Implications for Patient Care” <i>Published in Medical Humanities (joint first author)</i>	2023
	“Literary Cartography: Dark Tourism in Post-Troubles Belfast” <i>Published in Reinvention Journal</i>	2015
Refereed Book Chapter	“V.S.Naipaul’s Booker Prize for In a Free State”, <i>World Literature in Motion</i> , Ibidem Press, imprint of Columbia University Press	2020
Articles under review	“Imagined Solidarity in <i>Girl, Woman, Other</i> ” <i>Undergoing minor revisions with Journal of Postcolonial Writing</i>	
	“The World (Literature) is Flat: A Problem for World Literature and Digital Humanities” <i>Under review with PMLA</i>	
Reviews	World literature decentered: beyond the “west” through Turkey, Mexico and Bengal <i>Journal of Postcolonial Writing (published online)</i>	2023
	Postcolonial literatures in the local literary marketplace: Located reading <i>Journal of Postcolonial Writing (Vol. 58, Issue 3)</i>	2022
	South Asian digital humanities: Postcolonial mediations across technology’s cultural canon <i>Journal of Postcolonial Writing (Vol. 58, Issue 3)</i>	2022
	Recognition and Ethics in World Literature: Religion, Violence and the Human <i>Postcolonial Studies Association Newsletter (#18, Winter Issue)</i>	2017

FELLOWSHIPS & POSITIONS

Stanford Research Computing Graduate Fellowship <i>Grant awarded for research with high-performance computing over the summer</i>	<i>Declined</i>
Jacobsson Family Stanford Interdisciplinary Graduate Fellow (\$295,000) <i>First English PhD to win since its founding in 2008 — three year competitive fellowship (30 out of 200 applicants per year) for advanced doctoral students at Stanford</i>	2022-2025
Knight Hennessy Scholar (\$325,000) <i>Largest fully endowed graduate fellowship in the world—three year competitive fellowship (68 out of 4,424 applicants) for Stanford graduate students in all disciplines</i>	2019-2022
Maxis Scholarship for Excellence Awards (£63,000) <i>Three year competitive national scholarship for undergraduates in all disciplines</i>	2012-2015

Alternate, Stanford Diversifying Academia, Recruiting Excellence (DARE) Doctoral Fellowship <i>Two year competitive fellowship for advanced doctoral students at Stanford whose presence will diversify the professoriate</i>	2023
Finalist, Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship <i>One year national fellowship awarded to dissertations in the formative stage by scholars who can build a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable academy</i>	2023

GRANTS

Stanford Humanities Center & English department workshop grant (\$38,000)	2023-2025
SPICE Grant for Postcolonial Reading Group (\$2,018)	2023-24
History of Science Research Grant (\$2,500)	2022
Digital Humanities Graduate Fellowship, CESTA (\$1,500) <i>Hired and managed a RA</i>	2022
Oriel Travel Grants (£3,000)	2016
Warwick Undergraduate Research Support Scheme (£844)	2014

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS

Invited to Roundtable: "Digital Humanities and Contemporary Book Studies" by ACH and MLA Committee on Digital Humanities at MLA 2026	2026
"A Taxing Question: Trade Protectionism and Postcolonial Literature," Policy and Global Development in Postcolonial Literature at ACLA 2024	2024
"Encoding the Postcolonial Nation into Place," Global Anglophone Forum panel at MLA	2024
"The World (Literature) is Flat: A Not-So Conspiracy Theory of World Literature and Digital Humanities," The Association for Computers and the Humanities (ACH)	2023
"Scaling to the World: DH as Theorized Method," Keystone DH conference	2023
"The Vagina: An Anatomy of Misunderstanding," Health Humanities Consortium 2023 <i>(joint first author)</i>	2023
"Immersive Journalism and the Ethics of Distance," World Literature & Dissent, <i>University of St Andrews</i>	2016
"Uncool Narrative: Responding to Capitalism as Religion," Art/Money/Crisis, <i>University of Cambridge</i>	2016
"Writing into Knowledge: V.S.Naipaul's Autobiographies as Montage," Race and Resistance, <i>University of Oxford</i>	2016

TEACHING

Instructor	ENG5U - The Institutions of World Literature <i>Writing intensive seminar for senior English majors</i>	2022
TA	ENG11B - Introduction to English II: American Literature and Culture to 1855	2022
	ENG110A - Books to Bollywood	2016
	ENG12A - Introduction to African American Literature	2014
Guest Lecture	Literary Text Mining	2023

RECENT SERVICE

Research	Co-chair, “Colonialism, Post-, and Anti- in the Digital Age” workshop at the Stanford Humanities Centre	2023-present
	Core Research Team, Stanford Literary Lab	2022-present
	Graduate Research Assistant, for Mellon Grant Literary Lab project	2022-24
Peer Review	Peer reviewer for <i>Journal of Cultural Analytics</i>	2024
	Peer reviewer for <i>Women’s Health</i> journal	2024
DEI	Mentor for Chappell Lougee Scholarship	2024
	FLI Mentor, Stanford First Generation and/or Low-Income Student Success Center	2022-23
	Founding team member, Young African Research Network (YARN) <i>A program that aims to level global knowledge production by jump-starting the careers of young African researchers.</i>	2020-22
	Antiracism Advocacy, English Department & Knight Hennessy	2020
Committees	Graduate Admissions Committee	2022-23
	Co-Chair, English Graduate Student Committee	2021-22
	Interviewer for admission of the 2021 Knight Hennessy cohort	2021
Conference Organizing	Organized the panel, “Policy and Global Development in Postcolonial Literature” at ACLA	2024
	Organizer of Stanford-Berkeley Graduate Conference in English	2020

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2016-2019 **Maxis** (Telecommunications, Malaysia)
Management Associate and Strategy Analyst
- 2018-2019 **Prepworks** (Malaysia)
Tutor for English Cambridge iGCSE and UK entrance exams (ages 13-16)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Comparative Literature Associate (ACLA)
Postcolonial Studies Association (PSA)
African Studies Association (ASA)
The Association for Computers and the Humanities (ACH)
Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP)
Modern Language Association (MLA)

LANGUAGES

English (Superior)	Arabic (Novice)
Malay (Advanced)	French (Novice)
Cantonese (Intermediate)	Spanish (Novice)
Chinese (Novice)	

REFERENCES

Mark Algee-Hewitt, Associate Professor and Director of the Stanford Literary Lab, Department of English - malgeehe@stanford.edu

Roanne Kantor, Assistant Professor, Stanford Department of English - rlkantor@stanford.edu

Roopika Risam, Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies and of Comparative Literature, Dartmouth University - roopika.risam@dartmouth.edu