

AMANDA R. CHEONG

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The University of British Columbia
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EMPLOYMENT

The University of British Columbia

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology (2019 - Present)

EDUCATION

Princeton University

Ph.D. — Sociology & Social Policy (2019)

- Dissertation: “Omitted Lives: Access to Civil Registration & its Implications for Inequality”
- Committee: Miguel Centeno, Patricia Fernández-Kelly, Douglas Massey (chair), Janet Vertesi

M.A. — Sociology & Social Policy (2016), *with Distinction*

- Comprehensive Exams: Stratification, Political Sociology, Development & Globalization

The University of British Columbia

B.A. Honours — Sociology (2012), *Graduation Ceremony Student Speaker*

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

* Student co-author ** Community-based co-author

Cheong, Amanda R., Nur Camelia binti Thomas,** & Mary Anne K. Baltazar.* (2025). “Territorial Claims, Unclaimed People: The Postcolonial Geopolitics of Statelessness in Sabah, Malaysia.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. [\[Open Access\]](#)

Cheong, Amanda R. (2025). “Racial Exclusion by Bureaucratic Omission: Enumerative Non-Recognition, Documentary Dispossession, and the Rohingya Crisis in Myanmar.” *Social Problems* 72(2): 341-357. [\[Open Access\]](#)

- ◆ ASA Political Sociology Section Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship for an Article Award, 2025

- Featured in: UBC Centre for Migration Studies Research Briefs [\[Link\]](#)

Cheong, Amanda R. (2024). “Who Counts as a Stateless Person? Nation-Statist Logics and the Liabilities of Potential Citizenship Elsewhere.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 48(4): 883-905. [\[Open Access\]](#)

- ◆ ASA Theory Section Junior Theorist Award, Honourable Mention, 2025
- ◆ ASA Global & Transnational Sociology Section Best Scholarly Article Award, Honourable Mention, 2025

Cheong, Amanda R. (2023). "Theorizing Omission: State Strategies for Withholding Official Recognition of Personhood." *Sociological Theory* 41(4): 377-402. [\[Open Access\]](#)

- ◆ ASA Human Rights Section Best Scholarly Article Award, 2025
- ◆ ASA Sociology of Development Section Faculty Article Award, Honourable Mention, 2025
- ◆ ASA Global & Transnational Sociology Section Best Scholarly Article Award, Honourable Mention, 2024
- ◆ Association for Asian Studies Craig A. Lockard Prize, 2024
- ◆ ASA Theory Section Shils-Coleman Graduate Student Paper Prize, 2019

Cheong, Amanda R. (2022). "Deportable to Nowhere: Stateless Children as Challenges to State Logics of Immigration Control." *positions: asia critique* 30(2): 245-275. [\[Link\]](#)

Cheong, Amanda R. & Mary Anne K. Baltazar* (2021). "Too Precarious to Walk: A 'Three Delays' Framework for Modeling Barriers to Maternal Healthcare & Birth Registration Among Stateless Persons & Irregular Migrants in Malaysia." *Genus: Journal of Population Sciences* 77. [\[Open Access\]](#)

Cheong, Amanda R. & the Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund.** (2021). "How Driver's Licenses Matter for Undocumented Immigrants." *Contexts* 20(3): 22-27. [\[Link\]](#)

- ◆ ASA Sociological Practice & Public Sociology Section Publication Award, 2024

Cheong, Amanda R. (2021). "Legal Histories as Determinants of Incorporation: Previous Undocumented Experience & Naturalization Propensities Among Immigrants in the United States." *International Migration Review* 55(2): 482-513. [\[Link\]](#)

Cheong, Amanda R. & Douglas S. Massey (2019). "Undocumented and Unwell: Legal Status and Health Among Mexican Migrants." *International Migration Review* 53(2): 571-601. [\[Open Access\]](#)

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW & SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

Cheong, Amanda R. *Omitted Lives: Citizenship, Statelessness, and the Vital Role of Vital Records in Malaysia*. Book manuscript in progress.

Cheong, Amanda R., Megan Gaucher, Jing Li,* Stephanie Nedoshytko,* Jamie Chai Yun Liew, Angela Contreras-Chavez,* Hilal Kina,* Nikita McDavid,* & David Brush.* "Unpacking 'Birth Tourism': Incidental Citizenship and the Diverse Migration and Reproduction Trajectories of Nonresident Mothers in Canada." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. Revision resubmitted to *Journal and Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Baltazar, Mary Anne K.* & Amanda R. Cheong (2021). "Reaching Stateless, Undocumented, and Migrant Communities During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Lessons from the Grassroots Humanitarian Effort in Sabah, Malaysia." Invited commentary, Symposium on "Statelessness and COVID-19." *The Statelessness and Citizenship Review* 3: 131-141. [\[Open Access\]](#)

- Featured in: Migration Conversations Podcast

Cheong, Amanda R. (2021). Book review of *The Patchwork City: Class, Space, and Politics in Metro Manila* by Marco Z. Garrido. *American Journal of Sociology* 126(4): 984-986.

- Cheong, Amanda R. (2018). "Immigration and Shifting Conceptions of Citizenship: The Case of Stateless Chinese-Bruneians in Canada." Chapter in *New Chinese Migrations: Mobility, Home, Inspirations*. Eds. Yuk Wah Chan & Sin Yee Koh. New York: Routledge. [\[Link\]](#)
- Cheong, Amanda R. (2014). "Using Oral Histories to Document the Subjective Experiences of Statelessness: The Case of Stateless Chinese-Bruneian Immigrants in Vancouver." Invited contribution for the *Tilburg Law Review* 29: 74-79. [\[Link\]](#)
- Chun, Jennifer Jihye & Amanda Cheong (2011). "Immigrants & Low-Paid Work: Persistent Problems, Enduring Consequences." Working Paper Series No. 11-20. *Metropolis British Columbia, Center of Excellence for Research on Immigration & Diversity*. [\[Link\]](#)
- Featured in BC Business Magazine, March 2012 [\[Link\]](#)

GRANTS

External:

- 2021-26 (Co-investigator) SSHRC Insight Grant: "Sons and Daughters of the Soil: The Making of Citizens and Stateless Persons in Post-Colonial Malaysia." With Jamie Liew (PI). \$282,313.
- 2021-26 (Co-investigator) SSHRC Insight Grant: "Mapping the Discursive and Institutional Landscape of 'Birth Tourism' and its Perceived Attack on Canadian Birthright Citizenship. With Megan Gaucher (PI), Yin-Yuan Chen, and Jamie Liew. \$223,328.
- 2023 (Faculty Supervisor). Mitacs Accelerate Grant: "Equity Audit of Canada's International Co-Productions Over the Past 10 Years." With the Racial Equity Screen Office/Vancouver Asian Film Festival (Partner Organization) for Sophie Liu and Zoe Yuhe Zhang (Student Interns). \$30,000.
- 2020 International Union for the Scientific Study of Population CRVS Fellowship Grant. \$5,000USD.
- 2016 ASA Spivack Program Community Action Research Initiative Grant. With the Latin American Legal Defense & Education Fund (Community Partner). \$3,000USD.

Internal:

- 2024 (Faculty Supervisor) UBC Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies PhD CoLab Program. "Tackling Online Hate Speech: Legal and Policy Pathways to Finding Justice in Canada." With Sophie Liu & Kaitlyn Cumming (PhD students), Laura Nelson, Heidi Tworek, Margot Young, & Chris Tenove. \$30,000.
- 2024 UBC Asian Canadian Centre for Research and Engagement Faculty Initiatives Fund: "Dragon Boat and Intercultural Dialogue on Unceded Waterways." With the Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society (Community Partner). \$3,000.
- 2022 (Faculty Representative) UBC Community-University Engagement Fund: "Building Knowledge, Building Power: Empowering Migrant Filipino Communities Through Education, Community-Building, and Self-Advocacy." With Christie Bernardos (Undergraduate Student PI) & Damayan Society (Community Partner). \$19,589.40.
- 2020 UBC Hampton Research Endowment Fund. \$10,000.

- 2020 UBC Interdisciplinary Histories Research Cluster Seed Grant: “Documenting Medical & Migration Histories of Immigrant Seniors: An Intergenerational, Community Action Research Approach to Supporting Language-Accessible Healthcare for Immigrant Seniors in Vancouver. With Yarrow Society (Community Partner). \$5,750.
- 2020 UBC Centre for Migration Studies/MITACS Research Training Award. \$6,000.
- 2020 UBC SSHRC Explore—Faculty of Arts Research Grant. \$4,000.
- 2020 UBC SSHRC Explore—Arts Graduate Research Assistance Support \$4,000.

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024-25 UBC Public Humanities Hub Fellowship
- 2022 Southeast Asia Research Group Fellowship
- 2019-21 International Union for the Scientific Study of Population CRVS Fellowship
- 2018 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2018 Josephine De Karman Fellowship (Declined)
- 2018 Princeton Institute for International & Regional Studies Graduate Fellowship (Declined)
- 2015-18 Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Fellowship
- 2014 Arthur J. Liman Fellowship in Public Interest Law

HONOURS & AWARDS (SELECTED)

- 2022 UBC Dean of Arts Faculty Research Award
- 2016 Princeton University Graduate Teaching Award
- 2013 United Nations Refugee Agency Award for Statelessness Research
- 2012 Rhodes Scholarship Finalist
- 2008-12 Canada Millennium Excellence National Award
- 2008-12 Terry Fox Humanitarian Award

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2025 UBC Public Humanities Hub Noted Scholar Lecture Series
- 2025 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Department of Sociology Colloquium Series
- 2024 York University Research Chair Political Sociology of Health Speaker Series
- 2024 Harvard University Culture and Social Analysis Workshop [Virtual]
- 2023 Museum of Vancouver, Public Scholar Keynote
- 2022 WZB Berlin Social Science Center [Virtual]
- 2022 United States Consulate-Vancouver, Asian Heritage Month
- 2022 UBC Centre for Migration Studies Speaker Series
- 2020 Vanderbilt University, Department of Sociology Speaker Series [Virtual]

Invited Workshops

Max Planck Institute on Ethnic and Religious Diversity. 31 May-2 June 2023. “Who Counts as a Stateless Person? Nation-Statist Logics and Primordialist Burdens of Citizenship *in Potentia* in Malaysia.” Writers’ Workshop for *Ethnic and Racial Studies* Special Issue on “Contested Categories in the Context of Migration.” Göttingen, Germany.

Southeast Asia Research Group Winter Conference. 6 January 2023. “Evidentiary Struggles in Birth Registration and Citizenship Claims in Malaysia.” Salt Lake City, USA.

Boston University, Boston Area Migration Workshop. 3 March 2022. “Evidentiary Struggles in Birth Registration and Citizenship Claims Among Undocumented Migrants and Stateless Persons in Malaysia.” [Virtual]

University of Michigan, Department of Sociology’s Culture, Politics and History Workshop. 7 February 2022. “The Social and Juridical Constructedness of Birth.” [Virtual]

International Population Conference, Research Leader Session: Launch of *Genus* Thematic Series on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems. 9 December 2021. “Too Precarious to Walk: An Integrated ‘Three Delays’ Framework for Modeling Barriers to Maternal Healthcare and Birth Registration Among Stateless Persons and Irregular Migrants in Malaysia.” [Virtual]

International Union for the Scientific Study of Population CRVS Fellows Conference. 25 April 2020 and 25 September 2020. “Access to Maternal Healthcare & Birth Registration Among Migrants in Malaysia.” [Virtual]

[Cancelled due to COVID-19] Vanderbilt University Documented Lives Seminar Series: Documenting Identity: Recognition and Risk in the 21st Century. 11 March 2020. “Citizenship and Contested ‘Facts’ of Birth in Malaysia.” Nashville, USA.

Strategic Citizenship International Conference. 7-8 March 2016. “Illegibility as State Strategy: Legal Exclusion via the Reproduction of Undocumented Status.” Princeton, USA.

Conference Presentations

Association for Asian Studies Conference. “Who Counts as a Stateless Person?” 16 March 2024. Seattle, USA.

Emerging Voices in Migration Scholarship Mini-Conference (organized by American Sociological Association’s International Migration Section). 5 August 2023. “Counting Citizens.” Los Angeles, USA.

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. 6 August 2022. “Contested ‘Facts’ of Birth in Malaysia.” Section on Asia and Asian America Session: Cultural and Social Shifts in Asia in the Global Era. Los Angeles, USA.

Symposium for Early Career Theorists (organized by the Canadian Sociological Association Sociological Theory Research Cluster). 17 May 2023. “Population Boundary Disjunctures.” [Virtual]

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. 7 August 2021. “Immigration, Reproductive Health, and the Boundary Work of Population Health Indicators.” Section on Sociology of Development Session: The Development of Underdeveloped Public Health. [Virtual]

United Nations Population Fund/International Union for the Scientific Study of Population Expert Group Meeting: Population Data for the 21st Century: Advances in Data Collection Methodologies. 4-6 December

2019. Poster Presentation: “The Household Document Inventory Method: A Qualitative Approach to Assessing Under-registration Among Marginalized Populations.” New York, USA.

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. 10 August 2019. “Motivations for and Consequences of Deliberate Contractions of the State’s Administrative Power.” Section on Sociology of Law Session: Law and State Power. New York, USA.

Chicago Ethnography Conference. 16 March 2019. “Undocumented Mothers’ Use of Maternal Healthcare & Access to Civil Registration in Malaysia.” Evanston, USA.

International Conference on Social Transformation, Community, & Sustainable Development. 7 November 2017. “Birth & Marriage Documents in the Adjudication of Legitimate Citizenship Claims.” Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. 24 February 2017. “Illegibility as Political Strategy: Legal Exclusion via the Reproduction of Undocumented Status.” New York, USA.

Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. 24 February 2017. “Discursive Frames and Attitudes Toward Irregular Migrants: Evidence from a Survey Experiment.” With Xinyi Duan. New York, USA.

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. 21 August 2016. “Legal Pathways as Determinants of Incorporation: Previous Undocumented Status and Intentions to Naturalize Among Immigrants in the United States.” Seattle, USA.

First Global Forum on Statelessness. 15-17 September 2014. “12-12-12 & the Political Mobilization of Stateless Malaysian Indians.” The Hague, Netherlands.

SERVICE

Disciplinary

- 2025 Association for Asian Studies MSB Studies Group Lockard Prize Committee Chair
- 2023 ASA International Migration Section Program Committee Member
- 2022 ASA Section on International Migration Student Article Award Committee Member
- 2021 Canadian Sociological Association (organized by the Student Concerns Committee) Webinar, “Canadian vs USA Job Market,” Invited Panelist.
- 2021 ASA Section on Asia and Asian Americans Faculty Article Award Committee Member
- 2021 ASA Section on Sociology of Development Faculty Article Award Committee Member
- 2021 Canadian Sociological Association (organized by the Mentorship Programme Committee for Black, Indigenous, and Racialized Graduate Students) Webinar, “Research, Teaching, and Embodiment,” Invited Panelist
- 2020-22 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship Program “Preparing for the Academic Job Market” Workshop, Invited Faculty Facilitator
- 2019 *Global Perspectives Journal* Emerging Scholars Forum Member

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

American Journal of Sociology, Ethnic and Racial Studies, International Migration Review, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Journal of Migration and Health, Kajian Malaysia, Population Research and Policy Review, Social Problems

University

- 2024- Faculty Advisory Committee Member, Asian Canadian & Asian Migration Studies Program
- 2022- UBC Centre for Asian Canadian Research and Engagement Steering Committee Member
- 2020- Executive Committee Member, Centre for Migration Studies

Departmental

- 2022-24 TA Training Co-Coordinator
- 2022 Search Committee Member
- 2021 Sociology Research Forum Coordinator
- 2019-20 Graduate Admissions Committee

TEACHING

Instructor

- SOCI301: Sociology of Development & Underdevelopment
- SOCI303: Sociology of Migration
- SOCI503: Research Design and Techniques (Qualitative)

Student Supervision

Graduate Student Supervision

- Sophie Xiaoyi Liu (PhD Advisor) (2021-Current)
- Yijia Zhang (PhD Committee Member) (2022-Current)
- Caitlin Chong (MA Committee Member) (2022-2025)

PhD External Examiner

- 2025 Kelsea Perry

Undergraduate Honours Theses

- 2025 Julia Moniz-Lecce
- 2024 Julia Dhillon
- 2024 Kenneth Lao
- 2022 Peter Pengcheng Fang
 - UBC Department of Sociology Honours Thesis Award
- 2021 Monorme Chaudhury
 - 1st Place, Arts Undergraduate Society Undergraduate Research Opportunities Award
- 2021 Alec Wilson
 - 3rd Place: UBC Department of Sociology Undergraduate Research Conference

Directed Studies

- 2025 Dana Turdy
- 2024 Nott Feng, Joshua Onukwulu
- 2022 Caitlin Chong (MA Student)
- 2021 Max Kittner, Riwittika Banerjee, Holly Benna, Sagorika Haque
- 2020 Daphne Chalmers

Guest Lectures

- 2022 West Point Grey Academy (Course: "Science 8" taught by Isaac Seo)
- 2022 Williams College (Course: "Paper Trails" taught by Phi Hong Su)
- 2020 UBC (Course: "COVID-19 & Society" taught by Kathrine Lyon)
- 2018 University of Malaysia-Sabah (Course: "Human Rights" taught by Ayesah Uy Abubakar)
- 2014 Temple University (Course: "Visualizing Urgency: Refugees" taught by Sarah Biemiller)