

Elena Shih

Brown University | Watson Institute for International Studies
111 Thayer Street | Providence, RI 02912

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2014-2015 Brown University, Watson Institute for International Studies
Postdoctoral Fellow in International Studies
- 2015— Brown University, Department of American Studies
Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies

EDUCATION

- 2014 **Ph.D.** Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles
Dissertation: "Freedom Markets: Moral and Political Economies of the Anti-Human Trafficking Movement in China, Thailand, and the U.S."
- 2009 **M.A.** Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2005 Fulbright Visiting Scholar, Center for Women's Law Studies, Beijing University
- 2004 **B.A.** Asian Studies and Women's Studies; minor in Economics, Pomona College

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Transnational Social Movements, Gender and Sexuality, Labor in the Global South, Ethnographic Methods, Sociology of Asia and Asian America

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Shih, Elena. "The High Price of Freedom: Moral Economies of Low Wage Women's Work in the Transnational Anti-Trafficking Movement." (Under Review at *Social Problems*)

Recipient of Best Graduate Student Paper Awards from:

- 2013 *National Women's Studies Association*, Women of Color Caucus
- 2013 *Society for the Study of Social Problems / Critical Sociology*, Global Division
- 2013 *American Sociological Association*, Asia and Asian America Section
- 2013 *UCLA Asian American Studies Center*, Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Prize for most outstanding graduate student paper on Asian Pacific American women
- 2014 *American Sociological Association*, Sex and Gender Section Sallie Hacker Award (honorable mention)

Shih, Elena. 2014. "The Anti-Trafficking Rehabilitation Complex." *Contexts*. Volume 13, Number 1, Winter 2014.

Shih, Elena and Elizabeth Bernstein (equal co-authorship). Forthcoming 2014. "The Erotics of Authenticity: Sex Trafficking and 'Reality Tourism' in Thailand." *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State and Society*.

Shih, Elena. Forthcoming 2014. "'Not in My Backyard': Genders of Vigilantism in the American Human Trafficking Rescue." *Sociological Perspectives. (Conditional Acceptance)*

Shih, Elena. "Free Market Evangelism: Political Economies of Religion and Secularism in Modern Day Abolition." (*Gender & Society*, Revise and Resubmit).

Shih, Elena. 2013. "Health and Rights at the Margins: Human Trafficking and HIV/AIDS Amongst Jingpo Ethnic Communities in Ruili City, China." *The Anti-Trafficking Review*, vol. 2.

Cooke, Abigail, Taekyoon Kim, Peter Nederlander, **Elena Shih**, and Chris Tilly 2012. "Introduction: Labor in the Global South—A Search for Solutions." *Journal of Workplace Rights*, Vol. 15, number 3-4/2010-2011, pgs. 293-301. [guest editor]

BOOK CHAPTERS

Shih, Elena (with Jennifer Musto and Crystal Jackson). Forthcoming 2014. "Prostitution and Sex Work." Entry in *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 2nd Edition, edited by James. D. Wright, Elsevier.

Shih, Elena. Forthcoming 2014. "Human Trafficking," "Immigration Policy," and "Asian American International Film Festival." Entries in *Asian American Society: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Mary Yu Danico and J. Geoffrey Golson. Sage Publications.

Shih, Elena. 2013. "Globalising Rehabilitation Regimes: The Moral Economy of Vocational Training in After-Trafficking Work." In *Forcing Issues: Rethinking and Rescaling Human Trafficking in the Asia-Pacific Region*, edited by Sallie Yea, Routledge.

Shih, Elena. 2007. "Spirits in Traffic: Transient Community Formation in Opposition to Forced Victimization." In *Shout Out: Women of Color Respond to Violence Against Women*, edited by Maria Ochoa & Barbara Ige, Seal Press.

Shih, Elena. 2005. "The Networking Capacity of the China NPO Network." *Best Case Practices of Eight Chinese Non-Governmental Organizations*, Ford Foundation and the Shanghai NPO Development Centre. (In Chinese and English)

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Shih, Elena. "Discourse Masters and Lyrical Slaves: Authoritarianism Meets Transnational Politics in China's Response to Labor Trafficking." (Under Review at *Mobilization*)

Shih, Elena. "Power, Interest and Research: The Role of Strategic Research in the UNITE-HERE LAX Corridor Hotel Unionization Campaign." In *Power by Analysis: The Crucial Role of Research for Building Worker Power in the Neoliberal Economy*, edited by, Joshua Bloom, Chris Tilly, Kate Bronfenbrenner, Kyle Arnone, Dwight Davis, Pablo Gaston, Rahim Kurwa, Elena Shih and Julia Tomassetti. (In progress)

EXTERNAL MAJOR GRANTS

2013-2014 **Ford Foundation**, Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship

2013-2014 **American Sociological Association** and **Sociologists for Women in Society**, Minority Fellows Program Fellow (Cohort 40)

2010-2011 **Social Science Research Council**, Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship, Field: *Contentious Politics*

2008-2009 **US Dept. of Education**, Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, Vietnamese

2007-2008 **US Dept. of Education**, Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, Mandarin

2004-2005 **Fulbright Fellowship**, Beijing University, People's Republic of China (PRC)

2003 **Freeman Asia Foundation**, Summer Research Grant

INTERNAL GRANTS

- 2013 **UC Global Health Institute**, Project Grant (Women's Health and Empowerment)
2012-2013 **UCLA Asia Institute**, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
2012-2013 **UCLA Center for Chinese Studies**, Dissertation Writing Grant
2012 **UCLA Office of Institutional Development**, Grant for innovative teaching curriculum development – SOC 180C “Mapping Chinatown” (\$700)
2009-2010 **UC Pacific Rim Institute**, Advanced Graduate Fieldwork Fellowship
2009-2010 **UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment**, Mini Grant
2009 **UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship** (Mentor: Ching Kwan Lee)
2009 **UCLA Center for the Study of Women**, Research Travel-Grant
2008 **UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship** (Mentor: Roger Waldinger)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2013 **Association for Asian American Studies**, Anita Affeldt Graduate Student Travel Grant
2012 **Pomona College**, Inspirational Young Alumni Award
2010 **UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment**, Best Graduate Student Paper “Humanitarian Work: The Transnational Moral Economy of Low Wage Women's Work in the Anti-Human Trafficking Movement”
2009 **UCLA Division of Undergraduate Education**, Vice Provost Award for Outstanding Contribution to Undergraduate Education
2004 **Pomona College**, Department of Asian Studies Outstanding Senior Thesis Award

COMMUNITY AND SERVICE AWARDS

- 2012 **UCLA Center for the Study of Women**, Constance Coiner Award for commitment to working-class, feminist issues and social change
2012 **NASPA**, Student Affairs International Education Community Knowledge, Best Case Practice Award for Chinese Student Affairs Executive Leadership Program
2011 **Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance**, Youth Justice Scholarship Award
2011 **UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment**, Action Award
2009 **Japanese American Community Services**, Cecilia Nakamura Arts Grant for Creative Storytelling with *Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

PAPER PRESENTED (selected)

- “‘Not in My Backyard’: Carceral Vigilantism Outside the State in the Anti-Human Trafficking Movement.” **Social Science History Association**, Panel on *Global Strategies for Sexual Justice*, Chicago, IL, November 2013.
- “Free Market Evangelism: Political Economies of Secular and Religious Power in Modern Day Abolitionist Approaches to Combatting Human Trafficking.” **National Women's Studies Association**, Cincinnati, OH, November 2013.
- “The Political Economy of Human Trafficking Rescue in Thailand's Commercial Sex Industry.” **Council on Thai Studies**, Panel on *Economies*, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL, October 2013.

- “Health and Rights at the Margins: Human Trafficking and HIV/AIDS Amongst Jingpo Ethnic Communities in Ruili City, China.” **People’s Global Action on Migration, Development, and Human Rights**, *UN High Level Dialogue on Migration & Development*, New York, NY, September 2013.
- “Discourse Masters and Lyrical Slaves: Authoritarianism Meets Transnational Politics in China’s Response to Labor Trafficking.” **American Sociological Association**, Labor and Labor Movements Conference on *Labor and Global Solidarity*, New York, NY, August 2013.
- “Globalizing Rehabilitation Regimes: The Moral Economy of Vocational Training in After Trafficking Work.” **Society for the Study of Social Problems**, Panel on *Re-Framing Sex Work: Women, Labor and Social Policy*. New York, NY, August 2013.
- “Mobilizing Markets and Marginality: Moral Economies of Low Wage Women’s Work in Anti-Trafficking Rescue Projects.” **Association for Asian American Studies**, Panel on *Economic Narratives and Moral Subjects: Asians in Old and New Capital Circuits*, Seattle, WA, April 2013.
- “Consuming ‘Reality’: The New Sex Tourist Industry in Bangkok and Chiangmai, Thailand.” **Social Science History Association**, Panel on *Consuming Activism*, Vancouver, BC, November 2012.
- “Health and Rights at the Margins: Human Trafficking and HIV/AIDS Amongst Jingpo Ethnic Communities in Ruili City, China.” **UC Global Health Institute Center of Expertise on Women’s Health and Empowerment** Annual Meeting, Mill Valley, CA, November 2012.
- “Governing Trafficking in Persons: Global Governance and the State in the People’s Republic of China.” **American Sociological Association**, Panel on *Political Sociology*, Aug 2012.
- “Managing Migration and Sexuality through the Anti-Trafficking Movement in China and Thailand.” **Social Science History Association**, Panel on *Transnational Migration and Sexuality*, Boston, MA, November 2011.
- “Globalizing Morality and Rights: Socializing Global Human Trafficking Norms through Markets, Movements and States.” **American Sociological Association**, Panel on *Global and Transnational Perspectives on Intersectionality*, Las Vegas, NV. August 2011.
- “Do No Harm: A Critique of Rehabilitation of Trafficked Persons.” **Forcing Issues: Rethinking and Rescaling Human Trafficking in the Asia-Pacific Region**, Singapore National University, Oct. 2010.
- “Globalizing Morality and Justice: The Transnational Moral Economy of Women’s Work in the Global Anti-Trafficking Movement.” **US Social Forum**, Wayne State Univ., June 2010; and **Stony Brook Student Ethnography Conference**, New York, NY, April 2010.
- “Global Framing in the Transnational Anti-Trafficking Movement.” **UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment Graduate Conference on Social Movement Organizing**, May 2010.
- “Humanitarian Work: The Transnational Moral Economy of Women’s Work in the Global Anti-Trafficking Movement.” **Institute for Research on Labor and Employment Graduate Conference**, University of California, Irvine, April 2009.
- “US Anti-Trafficking Policy in the Chinese Context.” **Association of Asian Studies and International Convention of Asia Scholars**, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, August 2005.

MODERATOR

“Unions in the Global Political Economy.” **UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment**, *Labor in the Global South: A Search for Solutions*, Los Angeles, CA, May 2011.

“Multi-Professional Collaborations in Anti-Trafficking Work.” **UCLA Center for the Study of Women**, *Human Trafficking in Los Angeles Symposium*, Los Angeles, CA, May 2010.

WORKSHOPS

“Rehabilitative Regimes of Un-Free Labor: Vocational Training as a Path to ‘Freedom.’” *Un-Free Labor Revisited: Practices and Public Controversies from Ancient to Present Times*.” Viadrina Summer University, Frankfurt (Oder), Sept 2013. [Recipient of Volkswagon Foundation Travel Grant]

“The New Sex Tourism: Circuits of Morality and Commerce in Human Trafficking Reality Tours.” *Berlin Roundtables on Transnationality: Travel and Modernity*, Irmgard Coninx Foundation / German Social Science Research Council, Berlin, Germany, June 2013. [Recipient of Irmgard Coninx Foundation Travel Grant]

“Global Solidarity and the State: Authoritarianism Meets Transnational Politics through UNIAP in China.” *Human Trafficking and Human Security in the Asia Pacific*, United Nations Training and Research, Centre International de Formation des Acteurs Locaux (UNITAR-CIFAL), Jeju Island, Korea, April 2012. [Recipient of UNITAR Travel Grant]

“Jewels for God: The Commodification of Women’s Work in Anti-Trafficking Vocational Training Programs.” *Commodities of Empire Workshop*, Open University, London, UK, June 2009. [Recipient of Open University Emerging Scholar Travel Grant]

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

“Labor in the Global South: China, Mexico and the US Compared.” *UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment*, Los Angeles, CA, May 2010; May 2011.

“Strategic Decision Making in Labor Movements.” *UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment*, Los Angeles, CA, May 2009.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2011-2012 **United Nations Interagency Project to Combat Trafficking**, Beijing, PRC
Research Assistant, Principal Investigator: Rebecca Surtees
Lead China office research team on “Victims of Trafficking Reintegration Study,” part of the Phase III UNIAP Coordinated Ministerial Intervention (COMMIT) Process. Identify victims through NGOs, media, researchers and government agencies. Conduct interviews with victims in different Chinese provinces using a regional survey tool.

2009 **UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment**, Los Angeles, CA
Graduate Student Researcher, Supervisor: Chris Tilly
Identify emerging themes of interest for conference on “Work and Inequality in the Global Economy: China, Mexico and US Compared.” Outreach to international scholars and practitioners, assist with thematic and logistical planning, organizing, and Chinese translation for conference.

- 2006 **Shanghai Non-Profit Development Org./Ford Foundation**, Shanghai PRC
Research Assistant, Principal Investigator: Ailing Zhuang
 Qualitative Researcher for “Best Case Practices of 8 Chinese NGOs” research study. Led interviews and analysis for case studies of the *China Non-Profit Organization Network* and the *Shaanxi Center for Women and Children’s Development and Legal Aid*.
- 2005 **Chinese Central University of Nationalities**, Beijing, PRC
Research Assistant, Principal Investigator: Yuangao Hou, Dept. of Anthropology
 Conducted surveys, in-depth interviews and mapping concerning high-risk behaviors of ethnic minority youth in 2 HIV/AIDS affected counties in Sichuan and Yunnan Provinces.
- 2004-2005 **Beijing University Center for Women’s Law Studies and Legal Aid**, Beijing
Fulbright Fellow in Residence
 Conducted research on Chinese non-governmental organization participation in anti-human trafficking law, policy and implementation. Assisted with legal intake for migrant women’s complaints in areas of labor law, domestic violence, sexual harassment, and trafficking.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE: UCLA, Department of Sociology

Instructor

SOC 180C “Sociology of Chinese Culture” *Self-designed course* Summer 2012

Teaching Assistant

SOC 1 “Introduction to Sociology” (Roy) *Online course* Summer 2013

- Nominated for **2014 American Sociological Association Distinguished Contribution to Teaching Award**

SOC 152 “Comparative Assimilation/Acculturation” (Hernandez-Leon) Winter 2010

SOC 181 “State and Society in Modern China” (Lee) Spring 2010

Graduate Student Reader

SOC 1 “Introduction to Sociology” (Trouille) Summer 2013

SOC 151 “Comparative Immigration” (Waldinger) Winter 2008

SOC 119 “Primate Societies” (Grannis) Fall 2010

STUDENT AFFAIRS EXPERIENCE

2011-2012 **UC Office of President / UCLA Division of Student Affairs**, Los Angeles, CA
Program Facilitator, Chinese Student Affairs Executive Leadership Program
 Organize schedule, curriculum and logistics for three-week study tour of Student Affairs at UCLA, UC Irvine, UC Berkeley for 20 Chinese Directors of Student Affairs. Liaise between Beijing Municipal Education Commission and UCLA Vice Chancellors of Student Affairs. Oversee program budget of \$100,000.

2007-present **UCLA Scholarship Resource Center**, Los Angeles, CA
Student Affairs Officer
 Assist undergraduate students in locating scholarships for academic support. Work focally with former foster youth, AB 540 undocumented students, and international student populations. Provide one-on-one counseling, mentorship, and writing support for scholarship applicants.

SERVICE

- 2013 Elected Member, Graduate Student Representative, **American Sociological Association Section on Asia and Asian America**
- 2013 Roundtables Coordinator, **American Sociological Association Section on Sexualities**
- 2013 Panel Organizer, “Strategies for Sexual Justice,” and “Feminist Methodological Challenges to Studying Right Wing Movements” at the **Social Science History Association Annual Meeting** (November 2013). Panel Organizer, “Rescue Politics and Market Feminism,” and “Understanding Gender in Transnational Policy Agendas” at the **SSHA Annual Meeting** (November 2012); “Transnational Migration and Sexuality” at the **SSHA Annual Meeting** (November 2011).
- 2013 Mentor, **UCLA Department of Sociology Honors Thesis Program**
- 2010 Mentor, **UCLA Summer Undergraduate Social Science Research Program**
- 2009 Adviser, **UCLA Bruin Guardian Scholars Program for Former Foster Youth**
- 2009 Coordinator, **Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking**, Survivor Advocacy Caucus *Storytelling Project*
- 2009-2010 Student Representative, **UCLA Department of Sociology**, PhD Admissions Committee
- 2009-2010 Student Representative, **UCLA Department of Sociology**, Graduate Curriculum and Advisement Committee
- 2009-2010 Coordinator, **UCLA Department of Sociology**, Work, Labor and Social Movements Working Group
- 2009-2010 Coordinator, **UCLA Department of Undergraduate Education**, Anti-Trafficking and Human Rights Group
- 2008-2009 Coordinator, **UCLA Department of Sociology**, Race and Ethnicity Working Group

PEER-REVIEWER

International Migration; Social Politics; Journal of Men and Masculinities; Journal of Family Issues; The Anti-Trafficking Review

LANGUAGES

English (native), Mandarin Chinese (fluent), Thai (intermediate), Vietnamese (beginning), French (intermediate)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (Sections on Asia / Asian America, Sexualities, Labor and Labor Movements, Global and Transnational Sociology, Human Rights); American Studies Association; Sociologists for Women in Society; Social Science History Association (Section on Women, Gender and Sexuality); Association for Asian Studies; Association for Asian American Studies; National Women’s Studies Association; Council on Thai Studies

REFERENCES

Available Upon Request