



Dear NTU Geography Search Committee

I am writing to apply for the position of Assistant Professor of Geography. My research, with support from a Fulbright and National Science Foundation fellowships, has focused on the cultural and political geography of mobility in greater China, and results have been published in peer-reviewed articles in the **Annals of the American Association of Geographers**, **The Journal of Asian Studies**, and the **Annals of Tourism Research**. I earned my PhD in Geography from the University of Colorado at Boulder in May 2016. I am fluent in Mandarin Chinese and proficient in Indonesian and Malay. Prior to my graduate study, I worked as a journalist, translator, consultant, tour director, and hotel executive in Taiwan, China and the Philippines.

My academic work has focused on sociocultural and political issues that have emerged through the explosive growth of outbound tourism from China, now the world's largest market. Much past research suggests that tourism either necessarily facilitates rapprochement and peacemaking, or is simply a sideline to more important geoeconomic or geopolitical concerns. But as I argue in my new article in the **Annals of the American Association of Geographers**, tourism has in fact aggravated contradictions between the territorial programs of China and Taiwan, strengthened place-based, ethnic, and even racialized Taiwanese and Hong Kong identities in contradistinction to transnational Chinese or Beijing-centric identities, and is thereby fueling protest movements in China's periphery. As I wrote in the May 2014 issue of the **Annals of Tourism Research**, the more that state and business elites promote tourism as a means to normalize or routinize relations between mainland China and its neighbors, the more that social and political friction becomes evident or even exacerbated. This work represents a new fusion of cultural and political geography with tourism studies and Asian studies, and is meant to address the dynamic conditions of our globalizing world.

To complete this project, I have spent 3 years doing fieldwork and content analysis supported by grants from the US National Science Foundation, the Fulbright Commission, the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, and the European Research Center for Contemporary Taiwan, while affiliated as a visiting fellow at the Institute of Sociology at Academia Sinica (Taipei), the Department of Tourism at Fudan University (Shanghai), and at the University of Tuebingen (Germany). This work has included travel to Taiwan, Hong Kong, and mainland China, ethnography of tourist practices, interviews with guides, state officials, academic and industry experts, and collection and analysis of a corpus of government and media documents. I have also published related research in **The Guardian**, **The BBC (Chinese)**, and **The Journal of Archaeology and Anthropology** (Chinese-language, co-authored), and been quoted in **The New York Times**, the **BBC**, and **Foreign Policy**. Earlier drafts of my papers were presented at disciplinary conferences including the Association of American Geographers (AAG), International Geographical Union, a mobilities workshop at the National University of

Singapore's Asia Research Institute, and at China's first international geopolitics conference; they received 1st place awards in both the AAG China and Political Geography Specialty groups in 2013 and 2014, respectively

My doctoral project also evolved from a sustainable tourism project I conducted in southwest China in the summer of 2011 through a National Science Foundation IGERT grant. This later led to my translating a Chinese-language monograph (originally authored by journalist Liu Jianqiang), *Tibetan Environmentalists in China: The King of Dzi*, published in English in December 2015 by Lexington Books (Rowman and Littlefield).

These projects have been informed by my professional experiences prior to initiating graduate studies, which include ten years as a translator, journalist, tour director, consultant, and travel industry executive in China, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Indonesia, for clients including TIME, Variety International Film Guide, and the Taiwan Ministry of Culture.

My primary academic interests are in Asian cultural and political geography, and I have also taught introductory and upper-division courses about society and environment, cultural geography, and the geography of China at the University of Colorado. Upon appointment, I will be well-prepared to teach and develop the department's human geography curriculum.

My research and teaching's social focus has long been mirrored by engagement with international communities. While a graduate student at the University of Colorado, I have volunteered at the Center for Asian Studies, the Chinese Student and Scholar Association and the Taiwanese Student Association, and served as annual event co-emcee and host for newly arriving Chinese students. At NTU, I intend to continue supporting diverse student communities.

In the next few years, I plan to broaden my regional focus to examine the social and cultural impacts of outbound Chinese tourism to Indonesia, as well as the growth of sustainable tourism and "volun-tourism" within China (in collaboration with Professor Harnng Luh Sin at the National University of Singapore). An additional project includes continuing research on tourism as a territorial claim-making strategy in the South China Sea, as an extension of a forthcoming book chapter. I am also revising my dissertation into book form for publication with an academic press.

I am very interested in the NTU post for a variety of reasons, particularly the opportunity to build a new department as well as the university's geographic position. Having spent most of my adult life in the Asia-Pacific region and being comfortable in several of its languages, I am confident about my rapid adaptation to academic life in Singapore, and eager to conduct research there and in my field sites nearby. I look forward to building NTU's relationship with institutions in the region and beyond, and serving the needs of its student, staff, faculty, and administrators.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ian Rowen ian.rowen@colorado.edu

Curriculum Vitae

Ian Rowen

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Academic Appointments

Postdoctoral Research Fellow (2016-). Academia Sinica, Institute of Ethnology.

Education

PhD (2016). University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Geography.

Dissertation title: The Geopolitics of Tourism: Mobility, territory and protest in Taiwan and China

-Visiting Fellow, CCKF-European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan, University of Tübingen (2015);

-International Visiting Scholar, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (2015)

-Visiting Associate, Academia Sinica, Institute of Sociology (2012-15)

-Visiting Fellow, Fudan University, Department of Tourism (2012)

MA (2012). University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Geography.

Diploma (2002). National Taiwan University, International Chinese Language Program.

B.A. (2001). University of California Santa Cruz, Dual Majors in Department of Mathematics (Honors) & East Asian Studies Program (Honors)

-Natural Sciences Dean's Award; JWT Youngs Mathematics Prize - Junior Year Abroad, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Publications

Refereed journal articles

- Forthcoming. Tourism mobilities and exceptional spaces in Taiwan and China. *Asian Anthropology*. (Expected publication date: March 2017)
2016. The geopolitics of tourism: Mobilities, territory and protest in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 106(2), 385-393.
2015. 遇見他者的闕限空間 Raising umbrellas in the exceptional city:
Encounters with the ‘other’ in liminal spaces [In Chinese]. *考古人類學刊 Kaogu renleixue kan [Journal of Archaeology and Anthropology]* 83, 25-56 (with Shu-mei Huang)
2015. Inside Taiwan’s Sunflower Movement: Twenty-Four Days in a Student-Occupied Parliament, and the Future of the Region. *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 74(1), 5-21.
2014. Tourism as a territorial strategy: The case of China and Taiwan. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 46, 62–74.
-Best Graduate Student Paper, Association of American Geographers Political Geography Specialty Group, 2014
-Best Graduate Student Paper, Association of American Geographers China Geography Specialty Group, 2013

Book Chapters

- Forthcoming (2017). 在台灣上演「一中」的概念:關於中國遊客來台的民族誌 Performing ‘One China’ in Taiwan: An ethnography of Chinese tourism [In Chinese]. In 吳介民 Wu, Jieh-min et al (eds) 中國因素在地協作機制 *Local Mechanisms of the China Factor*, 左岸出版社 Left Bank Press.
- Forthcoming (2017). Tourism as a territorial strategy in the South China Sea. In Spangler, J., Karalekas, D, and Lopes de Souza, M. (eds.), *Beneath the Surface: Enterprises, Localities, People, and Policy in the South China Sea*, Routledge.

Book Translations

- Liu, J. 2015. Translated by Ian Rowen, Cyrus K. Hui, and Emily Yeh. *Tibetan Environmentalists in China: The King of Dzi*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.
- Chiu, HT. Translated by Ian Rowen. 2004. *Vast Tibet: Adventures of a Roving Taiwanese Artist*. Taipei: 99 Degree Art Center.

Additional Publications

2016. The end of China-Taiwan rapprochement tourism. *China Policy Institute: Analysis* (July 25). <https://cpianalysis.org/2016/07/25/the-end-of-china-taiwanrapprochement-tourism/>
-Article received coverage in major Chinese-language daily newspapers: Apple Daily 蘋果日報, Liberty Times 自由時報, and Taiwan People News 民抱
2015. Occupational Ethnography in the Taiwan Sunflower and Hong Kong Umbrella Movements. *Anthropology News* (March 31).
<http://www.anthropology-news.org/index.php/2015/03/31/occupational-ethnography-inthe-taiwan-sunflower-and-hong-kong-umbrella-movements/>
2015. What's Hong Kong and Taiwan's problem with Chinese tourists? [In Chinese]. *United Daily News* (January 30). [Reprint] <http://city.udn.com/3028/5267685>
2015. What's Hong Kong and Taiwan's problem with Chinese tourists? [In Chinese]. *Storm Media Group* (January 29). [Reprint]
<http://bing.rss.stormmediagroup.com/opencms/news/detail/de6346ec-a75e-11e4-9301ef2804cba5a1/?uuid=de6346ec-a75e-11e4-9301-ef2804cba5a1>
2015. What's Hong Kong and Taiwan's problem with Chinese tourists? [In Chinese]. *BBC* (January 28)
http://www.bbc.co.uk/zhongwen/simp/comments_on_china/2015/01/150128_feature_taiwan_tourism_mainland.
2014. Umbrella Politics: What American movements can learn from the Hong Kong protests. *Occupy.com* (December 3). <http://www.occupy.com/article/umbrella-politics-what-american-movements-can-learnhong-kong-protests>
2014. In Search of Sunflower Seeds in Hong Kong. *Thinking Taiwan* (November 25)
<http://thinking-taiwan.com/in-search-of-sunflower-seeds-in-hong-kong/>.

2014. Hong Kong Umbrella protests are here to stay. *The Guardian* (November 12) <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/nov/12/hong-kong-umbrella-protestbeijing-tiananmen>.
2014. A tale of Sunflowers and Umbrellas. *Thinking Taiwan* (October 3) <http://thinking-taiwan.com/tale-of-sunflowers-and-umbrellas/>.
2006. “Taiwan Report”. In Rosenthal, Daniel (ed.) 2006 *Variety International Film Guide: The Definitive Annual Review of World Cinema*. Los Angeles: Silman-James Press.
2005. “Taiwan Report”. In Rosenthal, Daniel (ed.) 2005 *Variety International Film Guide: The Definitive Annual Review of World Cinema*. Los Angeles: Silman-James Press.
2004. “The miasmal mysts of Taipei”. *POTS* (Published by Lih Pao, Shih Hsin University).

Manuscripts Under Review

- “Nation-building in a contested state: Taiwan’s new truth and reconciliation committee” (Revise and Resubmit)
- “Travel, Territory and Popular Protest in the Peripheries” (Under review)

Grants, Fellowships and Awards

- 2015 Gilbert F. White Dissertation Fellowship (University of Colorado, Boulder), \$15000
- 2015 European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan Visiting Fellowship, University of Tübingen, \$2500
- 2015 Taiwan Foundation for Democracy Dissertation Fellowship (Academia Sinica Institute of Sociology), \$6660
- 2014 Fulbright Fellowship, Taiwan. “Tourism and Territory in Taiwan and China”. \$16000
- 2014 Political Geography Specialty Group Paper Award, 1st place (Association of American Geographers).
- 2013 US National Science Foundation EAPSI Fellow (China; Fudan University). \$8000
- 2013 China Specialty Group Paper Award, 1st place (Association of American Geographers)
- 2013 FLAS summer fellowship from University of Colorado Center for Asian Studies (declined)
- 2013 Fulbright-Hays group research grant for participation in Committee for Teaching Indonesian summer language immersion program in Indonesia (declined)

- 2013 AAG-NSF Travel Grant to International Geographical Union Conference, Kyoto. \$1250
- 2013 US State Department Critical Language Scholarship Alumni Development Grant (for ongoing Indonesian study). \$250
- 2013 Beverly Sears Graduate Student Grant. \$1000
- 2012 US State Department Critical Language Scholarship Alumni Development Grant (for ongoing Indonesian study). \$250
- 2012 US National Science Foundation EAPSI Fellow (Taiwan; Academia Sinica). \$8000
- 2012 Beverly Sears Graduate Student Grant (University of Colorado, Boulder). \$1000
- 2011 US National Science Foundation IGERT Associate (China). “Sustainable tourism in southwest China”. \$4000
- 2011 US State Department Critical Language Scholarship (Indonesian)
- 2011 Regional Finalist and Invited Participant to World Geography Bowl, Association of American Geographers
- 2011 Adam Kolff Memorial Fellowship (University of Colorado, Boulder). \$1500
- 2010 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Academic-Year Fellowship (Chinese), (US Department of Education; University of Colorado, Boulder)

Conference, Workshop and Invited Presentations

- 2016 “在臺灣上演「一中」的概念:關於中國遊客來台的民族誌 Performing ‘One China’ in Taiwan: An ethnography of Chinese tourism”, Presented in Chinese at 「中國因素前沿研究」研討會 The Emerging Research Agenda of the China Factor, Academia Sinica Institute of Sociology and National Tsing Hua University Center for Contemporary China, September 10.
- 2015 “The Sunflower Movement and the future of Taiwan’s political culture”, Presented at the Center on Democracy, Development, and Rule of Law, Freeman-Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University, October 13
- 2015 “Tourism, territory, and protest in Taiwan and China”, Presented at Young Scholars Workshop, European Research Center on Contemporary Taiwan, University of Tubingen, June 22.
- 2015 “Cross-strait mobilities and Taiwan’s changing identity politics. Presented at 2nd World Congress of Taiwan Studies, School of Oriental and Asian Studies (SOAS), University of London, June 18.
- 2015 “Tourism, territory, democracy and protest in Taiwan and China”, Presented at Taiwan

- Foundation for Democracy, May 5.
- 2015 “Tourism, state territory, and protest in Taiwan and China”, Presented at Academia Sinica Institute of Sociology, April 17.
- 2014 “Globalization and territorialization in the cross-strait tourism encounter.” Presented in Mandarin Chinese at National Taiwan University. November 25.
- 2014 “How tourism is changing the Taiwan Strait”. Presented for the Foundation for Scholarly Exchange (Fulbright Taiwan). Sep 17
- 2014 “Territory and tourism between China and Taiwan”. Presented at conference on Geopolitics in Changing Southeast Asia: Boundaries and Borderlands (co-hosted by AAG and IGU) at Yunnan Normal University University. July 22.
- 2014 “Tourism mobilities and exceptional spaces in China and Taiwan”. Presented at Asia Research Institute conference on Mobilities and Exceptional Spaces, National University of Singapore. July 9.
- 2014 “Travel, Territory, Identity: Chinese tourists in Taiwan”. Presented in Mandarin Chinese at National Taiwan Education University. April 18.
- 2013 “Asia as a changing destination”. Presented for the Department of Global and Area Studies and Department of Geography, University of Wyoming. September 23.
- 2013 “Tourism and state territoriality in Taiwan and China”. Presented for the Political Geography Commission at the International Geography Union Kyoto Meeting. August 8.
- 2013 “Tourism between Mainland China and Taiwan”. Presented at 4th Annual China-US Young Scientists Forum, Beijing, China, August 2.
- 2013 “Tourism and territorialization in Taiwan and China.” Presented at Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. April 9.
- 2013 “Chinese Tourists in Taiwan: Tourism and State Territoriality “. Presented for the Center of Asian Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder. March 11.

- 2011 “Fungsi dan posisi bule dalam masyarakat Indonesia [The Function and Position of the “foreigner” in Indonesian society]”. Presented in Bahasa Indonesia language and based on original research at Universitas Negeri Malang, Malang, Indonesia, August 5.
- 2011 “Technologies of Language Learning”, Universitas Widya Mandala, Surabaya, Indonesia, July 10.

Teaching Experience

- 2013 Teaching Assistant – Recitation Instructor, GEOG 3822 Geography of China, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2013 Teaching Assistant – Recitation Instructor, GEOG 1992 Introduction to Human Geography, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2012 Teaching Assistant – Recitation Instructor, GEOG 3822 Geography of China, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2011 Teaching Assistant – Recitation Instructor, GEOG 2412 Environment and Culture, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2003-5 Instructor, SAT Preparation, AECTS (Taipei)
- 2000-01 Tutor, University of California at Santa Cruz Mathematics Department

Past Professional Experience

- 2009 Director of Marketing, Global Nomad (Manila)
- 2007-09 Vice President of Marketing, Hotel of Modern Art (Guilin)
- 2006-07 Tour Director, Imperial Tours (Beijing)
- 2006 Translator, People’s Medical Publishing House (Beijing)
- 2003-05 Writer/Editor/Translator TIME (Taipei)
- 2003-05 Writer/Editor/Translator POTS (Taipei)
- 2003 Writer/Editor/Translator Taipei Times (Taipei)

Media Interviews

- 2016 “A new Taiwan dreams of transitional justice”, quoted in Japan Times, August 13
- 2015 “Chinese tourists push back against rant about poor manners”, quoted in BBC, March 18
- 2015 “A Taiwan Where Politics Is Cool”, quoted in Foreign Policy, March 18
- 2015 “Interview: Ian Rowen”, quoted in New Bloom, March 7
- 2014 “Taiwán, el año de los jóvenes”, quoted in El Mundo, October 7.
- 2014 “Taiwanese protesters to end occupation of legislature”, quoted in The Guardian, April 8.
- 2013 “From Outsiders to Innkeepers in China’s Sleepy Countryside”, quoted in The New York Times, August 13.

2013 “Creativity in the Desert,” TV interview for TVBS New York, aired September 20.

Professional Service

Journal manuscript reviewer for: *The Journal of Asian Studies*; *Annals of Tourism Research*; *Political Geography*; *Journal of East Asian Studies*; *Japanese Journal of Political Science*

Professional Association Memberships

Association of American Geographers
Association of Asian Studies

Languages

English: Native
Mandarin Chinese: Fluent in spoken and written language
Indonesian: Proficient in spoken and written language
Hoklo (Minnan) Chinese: Conversational
Cantonese Chinese: Conversational

References

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