

**Mai See Thao**  
Department of Anthropology/Asian American Studies Program  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
1180 Observatory Drive  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
(612) 225-7264 / maisee.thao@wisc.edu

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. Socio-Cultural Anthropology** Sept. 2010 - May 2018  
Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

**B.A. in Anthropology, Certificate in Asian American Studies** Jan. 2006 – Aug. 2010  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

## PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

**Assistant Professor** August 2024-present  
Department of Anthropology/Asian American Studies Program  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Anna Julia Cooper Postdoctoral Fellow** August 2023-July 2024  
Department of Anthropology/Asian American Studies Program  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Adjunct Assistant Professor** July 2020-present  
Center for Healthy Communities and Research  
Department of Family and Community Medicine, Medical College of Wisconsin

**Director of Hmong Studies/Assistant Professor** August 2020-July 2023  
Department of Anthropology, Global Religions, and Cultures  
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh  
*Course: Memory and Trauma, Introduction to Hmong/American Studies, Medical Anthropology, Local and Global in Hmong Studies, Theorizing Hmong Studies*

**Postdoctoral Fellow / Instructor** July 2018 – June 2020  
Center for Healthy Communities and Research  
Department of Family and Community Medicine, Medical College of Wisconsin  
*Course: Urban and Community Health Pathway*

**Adjunct Instructor** Sept 2015– Dec 2015  
Department of Anthropology  
Macalester College  
*Course: Peoples and Cultures of Southeast Asia*

**Adjunct Instructor** July 2015– Aug 2015  
Department of Anthropology  
Brigham Young University  
*Course: Field School in Vietnam and China*

## GRANTS

National Science Foundation Sept 2022-Aug 2026  
*Racial Equity in STEM Undergraduate Education for Minoritized Students:  
A Longitudinal Mixed-Methods Study of the STEM Experiences of Hmong American College Students*

Amount: \$2.2 million

Role: Co-PI

Greater Green Bay Community Foundation  
*Cia Siab (Hope) in Wisconsin: A HMoob (Hmong) Story*  
Amount: \$6,000  
Role: PI

Sept 2022-Aug 2023

Oshkosh Community Foundation  
Community Arts Grant  
*Cia Siab (Hope) in Wisconsin: A HMoob (Hmong) Story*  
Amount: \$5,000  
Role: PI

Aug 2022-July 2023

Appleton Community Foundation  
Community Vision Fund  
*Cia Siab (Hope) in Wisconsin: A HMoob (Hmong) Story*  
Amount: \$50,000  
Role: PI

July 2022-June 2023

Wisconsin Humanities Council  
Major Grant  
*Cia Siab (Hope) in Wisconsin: A HMoob (Hmong) Story*  
Amount: \$10,000  
Role: PI

Febr 2022-Jan 2023

National Endowment for the Humanities  
Public Humanities Grant  
*Cia Siab (Hope) in Wisconsin: A HMoob (Hmong) Story*  
Amount: \$75,000  
Role: PI

Aug 2021-July 2023

Clinical & Translational Science Institute of Southeast Wisconsin  
Traditional Pilot Award  
*Intervening at the Intersection of Hmong, Type 2 Diabetes, and Social Determinants of Health*  
Amount: \$50,000  
Role: PI

Aug 2020-July 2021

Wisconsin Arts Boards Grant, Traditional and Folk Arts, Cia Siab Inc  
*Cia Siab (Hope) in Wisconsin: A HMoob (Hmong) Story*  
Amount: \$5,160  
Role: PI

July 2019-June 2020

## **AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & FELLOWSHIPS**

UW-Oshkosh Advisor of the Year	2023
2023 Emerging Scholar, <i>Diverse: Issues in Higher Education Journal</i>	2023
UW-Oshkosh Titan LeadHER	2022
UW-Oshkosh Titan LeadHER	2021
MCW's Outstanding Medical School Teacher	2019-2020
Hmong Woman of the Year, Milwaukee Hmong Consortium	2019
Resident Fellow, Institute for Advanced Study, University of Minnesota	2016
Graduate Research Partnership Program Fellowship, University of Minnesota	2014
Thesis Research Travel Grant, University of Minnesota	2014
The Consortium for Hmong Studies Dissertation Research Fellowship, Henry Luce Foundation	2014

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education	2012-2013
Community Health Initiative Scholarship, University of Minnesota	2012
Diversity of Views and Experiences Fellowship, University of Minnesota	2010-2011

## PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

**Thao MS.** Davila H, Shippee T, I Feel like a Caged Pig: Older Hmong American Nursing Home Quality of Life. (Revise and Resubmit with the Journal for Applied Gerontology)

Davila H, Ng W, Akosionu O, **Thao MS**, Skarphol T, Virnig BA, Thorpe RJ, Shippee TP, Why Men Fare Worse: A Mixed-Methods Study Examining Gender Differences in Nursing Home Resident Quality of Life, *The Gerontologist*, Volume 62, Issue 9, November 2022, Pages 1347-1358, <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnac003>

**Thao MS**, Bochaton A, Caring in Diaspora: Hmong Americans Cares from Here and There. Edited volume Carework and Medical Travel: Exploring the Emotional Dimensions of Caring on the Move Edited by Cecilia Vindrola-Padros, Lexington Books/Rowman & Littlefield, Anthropology of Well-being Series, 5/15/2021

Shippee TP, Akosionu O, Ng W, Woodhouse M, Duan Y, **Thao MS**, Bowblis JR, COVID-19 Pandemic: Exacerbating Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Long-Term Services and Supports, *J Aging Soc Policy* 2020 May 31:1-11 PMID: 32476614

Trofholz AC, **Thao MS**, Donley M, Smith M, Isaac H, Berge JM, Family meals then and now: A qualitative investigation of intergenerational transmission of family meal practices in a racially/ethnically diverse and immigrant population, *Appetite* 2018 Feb 01;121:163-172 PMID: 29128396 PMCID: PMC5738271 11/13/2017

Culhane-Pera KA, Ortega LM, **Thao MS**, Pergament SL, Pattock AM, Ogawa LS, Scandrett M, Satin DJ. Primary care clinicians' perspectives about quality measurements in safety-net clinics and non-safety-net clinics. *Int J Equity Health* 2018 11 07;17(1):161 PMID: 30404635 PMCID: PMC6222992 11/09/2018

## PUBLICATIONS IN PREPARATION

**Thao MS**, The Chronic Refugee: Hmong American Afterlives in the Empire, book manuscript

**Thao MS**, Akosionu O, Davila H, Shippee TP, The Invisible Labor of Culturally Sensitive Care: A Hmong Case Study

**Thao MS**, Tongpalad F, Culhane-Pera K, Trofholz A, Pergament S, Vue B, Dhore N, Batres R, Berge JM, The Borderlands of Physical Activity: Hmong, Somali, and Latinx Caregivers Experiences

**Thao MS**, Kev Nyuaj Siab (The Distressed/Difficult Liver): Tracing Displacement and Loss in Type II Diabetes for Older Hmong Americans

Xiong A, Kahrs J, **Thao MS**, Southeast Asian Students Covid-19 Experiences

## PUBLIC HUMANITIES EXHIBITS

Los Tsev (Home): Cia Siab (Hope) in Wisconsin, Madison College, Madison, WI, 11/13/24-12/8/23

Hmong Living: A Participatory Exhibit, Los Tsev (Home): Cia Siab in Wisconsin, Marathon County

Historical Society, 7/29/23

Los Tsev (Home): Cia Siab, Wisconsin, L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library, 4/21/23-4/22/23

Making Land: A Small Curated Exhibit, St. Norbert College, DePere, WI, 3/28/23-4/6/23

Our Places at the Table: A Small Curated Exhibit, Hmong American Women's Association, Milwaukee, WI, 3/4/23-3/5/23

The Battlefields of Memory, April 5-25, 2021, Annex Gallery, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, 4/5/21-4/25/21

## **MEDIA COVERAGE**

Representation of the Hmong population for students, staff, and community, 4/10/2023, The Business News. <https://thebusinessnews.com/article/representation-of-the-hmong-population-for-students-staff-community>

The Benefits of Lived Experiences, 2/3/23, Diverse: Issues in Higher Ed, <https://www.diverseeducation.com/awards-honors/emerging-scholars/2023/article/15305314/the-benefits-of-lived-experience>

UWO Hmong Studies Director selected as Emerging Scholar by Diverse Issues in Higher Education, 1/19/2023, UW Oshkosh Today, <https://uwosh.edu/today/112119/uwo-hmong-studies-director-selected-as-emerging-scholar-by-diverse-issues-in-higher-education/>

A New Exhibit at UW-Oshkosh Showcases Hmong Culture and its Recent History, 4/9/2021, NBC 26. <https://www.nbc26.com/news/local-news/a-new-exhibit-at-uw-oshkosh-showcases-hmong-culture-and-its-recent-history>

## **MEDIA PRODUCTS & PUBLICATIONS**

Frogtown Community Radio. (Weekly 2016). "Solahmo Voices": SoLaHmo Healthy Lifestyle Stories

Culhane-Pera KA, Pergament SL, Ortega LE, **Thao MS**, Dhore L. Partnerships can address and redress health disparities: Voices from SoLaHmo. MetroDoctors 2014; 16(5)23-26. [https://issuu.com/metrodoctors/docs/sept\\_oct2014](https://issuu.com/metrodoctors/docs/sept_oct2014)

Hang M, **Thao MS**, Xiong MB, Vang C. SoLaHmo: Building on Cultural Strengths for Safe, Healthy, & Strong Families and Communities. Hmong Times Online. 2012 April 8; 2012.

## **COMMUNITY DISSEMINATION**

Thao MS, Kev Nyuaj Siab (The Distressed/Difficult Liver): Tracing Displacement and Loss in Type II Diabetes for Older Hmong Adults, Virtual Lecture and Discussion, Wisconsin United Coalition of Mutual Assistance Association, Inc., Appleton, WI, 12/16/2020

Shippee TP, **Thao MS**, Akosionu O, Racism and Inequities in Long-Term Services and Supports, Minnesota Office of Ombudsman, Saint Paul, MN, 10/21/20

Shippee TP, Akosionu O, **Thao MS**, Wright A, Ageism and Racism in Senior Care in Minnesota, Virtual Webinar for Elder Voice Family Advocates, MN, 8/6/20

King, V, Lodes M, **Thao MS**, Maida T, A Touch of Sugar Film Panel Discussion, Milwaukee Minority

Health Film Festival, Milwaukee, WI 9/14/2019

Yang D, Vang AK, Phoubanhdyt H, **Thao MS**, Cerrato A, Yang SL, Save Me Film Panel Discussion, Milwaukee Minority Health Film Festival, Milwaukee, WI, 9/13/2019

**Thao MS**, What does Diabetes Experiences look like in the Hmong Community, Invited lecture at Vang Clan Council Health Forum, Appleton, WI, 3/30/2019

## PRESENTATIONS/POSTERS/WORKSHOPS

**Thao MS**, Vieth R, Daswani G, Todd Z, Walters H. Transfixed Between Anthropological Harm and Care. Executive Panel. American Anthropological Association and CASCA. Toronto, Canada, 11/18/2023

Thao MS, An Invitation to Bear Witness to: HMoob (Hmong) Community Truth-telling, Association for Asian American Studies, Long Beach, CA, 4/7/2023

Thao MS, Freeing Rage: Hmong American Scholars Writing Against Anne Fadiman, Round Table Discussant, National Women's Studies Association, Minneapolis, MN, 11/12/2022

Thao MS, Ruined Borders, Renewed Struggles: Resistance, Subjectivity and Belonging in Imperial Hmong Americas, Panel Discussant, Association Asian American Studies Denver, CO, 4/15/2022

Thao MS, Perpetual Pasts: The Refugee Body in the Empire, on Panel titled, Renewing Hmong America in the Aftermath of Violence, Association Asian American Studies, Denver, CO, 4/14/ 2022

Xiong A, Xiong E, Xiong L, **Thao MS**, The Hmong Story as American History, Poster presentation at Research in Rotunda at State Capitol, Madison, WI, 3/9/2022

Thao MS, The Murderousness of Anne Fadiman, on Panel titled, When the Spirits Catch Up and Fadiman Falls Dow, Asian American Association, Virtual, 4/10/2021

**Thao MS**, Akosionu O, Davila H, Shippee T, The Invisible Labor of Culturally Sensitive Care: A Hmong Nursing Home Case Study, The Gerontological Society Association 2019 Scientific Meeting, Poster, Austin, Texas, 11/16/2019

Jones N, Thomas K, **Thao MS**, "Going In": Workshop, Community Engagement Symposium: Six Pathways to Public Engagement, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, 11/12/19

**Thao MS**, Moua CA, Vang M, Lo A, Pha K, Lee MN, The Ghost of Fadiman: Hmong Studies and the Legacy of *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, 5<sup>th</sup> Hmong Studies Consortium International Conference, St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN, 10/26/2019

**Thao MS**, Lee MN, Vang M, Lo A, Moua MN, An Invitation to Bear Witness to Motherhood and Historical Trauma, 5<sup>th</sup> Hmong Studies Consortium International Conference, St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN, 10/25/2019

Thao MS, Engaging Historical Trauma in the Hmong Communities of WI by Exploring the Interconnections of Theory, Practice, and the Arts, Forced Migration and Human Flourishing, Wisconsin Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, St. Norbert College, De Pere, WI, 4/05/2019

**Thao MS**, Tongpalad F, A Community-based Participatory Research Lens on Hmong, Somali, and Latinx Caregiver's Perspectives on Physical Activity, Minnesota American Family Physician

Innovation and Research Forum, Brookfield, MN, 3/2/2019

Thao MS, (In)Quality Measures, MCW Research Forum, Poster, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, 09/24/2018

**Thao MS**, Dolan SA, Uderhill VR, Rubaii KJ, Weichselbraun AM, Graeter S, Evidence-based, Objective, Quantitative: science, and how to critique it even though Trump is critiquing it too, Roundtable, Anthropology Matters!, Annual American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC Nov 29-Dec 3 2017

Thao MS, "The Entanglements of Chronic Crisis": Surfacing the Chronic Everyday in Type II Diabetes, "Exposure," American Ethnological Society "Exposure," Stanford, CA, March 30-April 1, 2017

Hickman, J, Schein L, Ogden, M, **Thao MS**, Duprez Don, Roundtable discussion: Sovereignty and Rebellion, Agency, and Context: Making Sense of the Hmong Diaspora (through engagements with the work of Nicholas Tapp), Evidence, Accident, and Discovery," American Anthropological Associations Conference, "Minneapolis, MN, November 16-10, 2016

Thao MS, "I may be here but my plig (spirit/soul) is over there [in Laos]": Hmong American Experiences of Type II Diabetes and a Flexible Ontology of Subjectivity. "Evidence, Accident, and Discovery," American Anthropological Associations Conference, Minneapolis, MN, November 16-10, 2016

Thao MS, Roundtable discussion: Hmong Scholars around the Table: Locating the Critical in Critical Hmong Studies, Hmong around the World, Hmong Consortium Meeting, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, April 10-11, 2015

Thao MS, Type II Diabetes and the Embodiment of Travel, Presented on panel titled: Troubling Asian American Migration, Migration Without Borders, Michigan State University, MI, October 10-11, 2014

Thao MS, Building Hmong American Studies: Forging Scholarship and Community Beyond the Secret War, Association for Asian American Studies Conference, San Francisco, CA, April 17-20, 2014

Thao MS, We are People Born Tim Ub: Transcending Diabetes, Hmong Across Borders, Hmong Consortium Meeting, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, October 4-5, 2013

Thao MS, Trauma, Displacement, and Well-being Among Resettled Refugees, American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA., November 14-18, 2012

Thao MS, Rethinking the Bounds of Women's Health: Hmong American Narratives on Cervical and Breast Cancer, at Gender Matter's conference on Gendered Borders: An Interdisciplinary Academic Conference on How and Why Gender Matters, Governor's State University, University Park, IL, 4/14/2012

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Kim N, **Thao MS**, Fells C, Smith-Watson N, "On Contested Terrain: Landscape, Trauma, and Healing the Future, panel discussion on exhibition An-MyLê: On Contested Terrain, Milwaukee Art Museum, Thursday, 3/17/2022

Thao MS, The Invisible Labor of Culturally Sensitive Care: A Hmong Nursing Home Case Study, UWO College of Letters and Science, COLS Dean's Symposium, Oshkosh, WI, 4/19/2022

Suyemoto K, **Thao MS**, Building Community-Centered, Equitable Health Care Services, Virtual, Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce, 9/28/2022

- Thao MS, The Invisible Labor of Culturally Sensitive Care: A Hmong Nursing Home Case Study, MCW Division of Geriatrics/Gerontology Research Seminar, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, 2/15/2020
- Thao MS, The Invisible Labor of Culturally Sensitive Care: A Hmong Nursing Home Case Study, Center for Healthy Communities & Research, Grand Rounds, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, 1/13/2020
- Thao MS**, Jones N, Mikell M, Kwarteng JL, Reflections on Transdisciplinary Community Medicine: Fellow Perspectives, Center for Healthy Communities & Research, Grand Rounds, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, 9/9/2019
- Mustapha JTM, **Thao MS**, Sanga C, Yancey D, Healthcare and Local Ways of Knowing: A Roundtable Discussion, Young African Leaders Initiative Mandela Fellowship, at University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, 7/18/2019
- Cheng Y, **Thao MS**, Honest Water, Remembered Water: A Dialogue with a Shaman. Institute for Advanced Study, University of Minnesota. Minneapolis MN, 3/28/2019
- Thao MS. Loading our Guns and Barrels: Chronic Diabetes, Gender, and Social Care in Older Hmong Americans, at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee at Self-Management Science Center, Milwaukee, WI, 10/19/2018
- Thao MS, Bitter Sweet Migrations: Type II Diabetes and Healing in the Hmong Diaspora, presented at the Hmong Studies Consortium, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, 10/04/2018
- Thao MS, Loading our Guns and Barrels: Chronic Diabetes, Gender, and Social Care in Older Hmong Americans, at the Medical College of Wisconsin Center for Healthy Communities and Research Fellowship Grand Rounds, Milwaukee, WI, 8/13/2018
- INVITED LECTURES**
- Thao MS, When We Tell Stories that Don't Reflect Us, keynote speech, United Hmong American Association, Appleton, WI 5/21/2022
- Thao MS, Creating a World for Us, keynote speech, Asian Student Day, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, 11/5/2021
- Shippee TP, **Thao MS**, Akosionu O, Racism in MN Senior Care: Steps for Policy and Action, Minnesota Association of Geriatrics Inspired Clinicians Annual Virtual Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 10/29/2020
- Lor, KB, **Thao MS**, Working with Interpreters: Case Studies when Language & Culture Complicates Treatment, Urban and Community Health Pathways, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, 3/5/2020
- Thao MS, The Politics of Culture in Medicine, Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association Lunch Series, Invited lecture at Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, 11/28/2018
- Thao MS, Healing in the Diaspora: Type II Diabetes and Hmong-American Return Migration, Global Health Impact Series, Invited lecture at University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, 4/31/2016
- Thao MS**, Hang M, Pergament S, Community-based Participatory Action Research Perspectives from Underrepresented Community Members, Summer Institute CBPR (Masters of Public Health

Course), Susan Gust (Instructor), Invited lecture at University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, 5/24/2017

Thao MS, Oral presentation on dissertation findings, Hmong and Miao Workshop, Kunming University, Kunming, China, 7/15/2015

Thao MS, Structural Violence, Medical Anthropology (Undergraduate Course), Ramah McKay (Assistant Professor), Invited lecture at University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, 3/23/2015

Thao MS, Medical Anthropology and Hmong Studies, Introduction to Anthropology (Undergraduate Course), Ursula Dalinghuas (Instructor), Invited lecture at University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, 11/27/2012

Thao MS, Medical Anthropology and The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down, Introduction to Anthropology (Undergraduate Course), Nate Meyer (Instructor), Invited lecture at St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN, 10/15/2012

## **WORKSHOPS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### *Writing Workshop*

Thao MS, Recovering a Hmong Body Politic: Type II Diabetes, Cure, and Return Migrations, Workshop Titled: International Medical Travel and the Politics of Transnational Mobility in Asia, Asian Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 08/27/2015

### *Junior Faculty Development*

Faculty Development in Family Medicine, MCW

Fall 2019-Spring 2020

### *Leadership Development*

Communication and Leadership, MCW

Fall 2019

Early Career Success and Academic Advancement, MCW

Spring 2019

Personal Effectiveness, MCW

Fall 2018

### *Additional Skills Obtained*

Methods in Grant Preparation, Clinical & Translational Science Institute (CTSI), MCW

Spring 2019

Fundamentals of Statistics and STATA software analysis, CTSI, MCW

Fall 2018

Epidemiology, CTSI, MCW

Fall 2018

## **STUDENTS MENTORED**

### *University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh*

Vincent Lee, Communications Major, Hmong Studies Certificate

Spring 2023-

Cheemeng Xiong, Psychology Major

Spring 2023-

Andy Yang, Accounting Major, Hmong Studies Certificate

Spring 2023-

Mai Chong Yang, Anthropology Major, Hmong Studies Certificate

Fall 2021-Spring 2022

Amy Xiong, Human Services Leadership Major

Spring 2022-

Liseng Xiong, History Major, Hmong Studies Certificate

Fall 2021-Spring 2022

Amy Xiong, Nursing Major

Fall 2021-Spring 2022

Emily Xiong, Psychology Major, Hmong Studies Certificate

Fall 2021-Spring 2022

Nou Lee, Business Major, Hmong Studies Certificate

Fall 2021-Spring 2022

Yingyakia Vang, Human Services Leadership Major, Hmong Studies Certificate

Fall 2021-

Mikenzi Thao, Interactive Web Management Major, Hmong Studies Certificate

Fall 2020-

Nou Xiong, Human Services Leadership

Spring 2020

*Scholarly Pathways Program - Urban and Community Health, MCW*



Theo Thao, Medical Student	Fall 2022
Andrew Ngyuen, 3rd Year Medical Student	Fall 2018-Spring 2022
Francis Tongpalad, 3rd Year Medical Student	Fall 2018-Spring 2022

<i>Community preceptor, UMN, Masters in Public Health Program</i>	2017 - 2018
Mikow Hang	

<i>Honor's Thesis Committee Member, Macalester College</i>	9/2016 – 5/2017
Pia Mingkwan	

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

American Anthropological Association	2012-
UW-Madison/University of Minnesota-Twin Cities Hmong Studies Consortium	2013-
Association for Asian American Studies	2014-
The Gerontological Society of America	2019

**PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

American Anthropological Association Executive Planning Committee Member	2022-2023
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**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

<i>Advisory Board Member</i>	
Project Resiliency, Wisconsin United Coalition of Mutual Assistance Association, WI statewide	2022-
Hmong American Immersion School, Appleton WI	2022-