

Vivienne Poy
Hakka Graduate Research Award

Monique Attrux



“... language and identity issues are as relevant to the present generation of Chinese Canadian writers as they were to the previous one, especially with the rapid decline of specific Chinese languages like Taishanese and Hakka Issues of language and identity in Chinese Canadian literature matter because they are both emblematic and causative of the diasporic entanglements that still confront Asian Canadians in real life.”

Monique is a doctoral student whose research focuses on the relationship between language and identity in Chinese Canadian literature. In particular, she wants to look at how Chinese languages function as markers of identity in these literary texts. She is also pursuing the Graduate Diploma in Asia Studies. Though Monique can speak English, Cantonese and Mandarin, she hopes to learn other Chinese language varieties such as Hakka, Taishanese and Hokkien. Before her doctoral studies, Monique completed her BA in linguistics and English at the University of Hong Kong and her MA in English at York.

The award funds will support travel to different Hakka cultural sites in Hong Kong, Mainland China and Taiwan to conduct research for her chapter on Larissa Lai's *Tiger Flu* and Madeleine Thein's *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*. Exploring these sites will facilitate her engagement with Hakka mythologies, cultures, languages and histories in the two literary texts for her chapter. She is also interested to account for the differences in these exhibitions' conceptualizations of the Hakka identity and to see whether there is a thread that connects these sites with the texts.