

Announcing the Final Examination of Eunju C. Chen (LLC Cohort 8)

Date and Location: August 28, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.
LLC Conference Room (Sherman Hall 422)

Title: The “Culture Problem” in Intercultural Communication: Toward a Critical Proficiency of Power

INCC is dominated by a simple conception of culture that has, in essence, led its research and literature away from attending to relations of power in intercultural relationships. One negative consequence of this faulty theoretical framework is in applied INCC, intercultural communication training, which seems to have influence across disciplinary lines, specifically in teacher training program. Therefore, in this dissertation, I offer a close examination of the “culture problem” in the theoretical framework of INCC and propose Bourdieu’s critical social theories as an alternative approach to studying intercultural relationships. Bourdieu’s conceptions of the field of power, field of opinion, symbolic capitals, and habitus offer a productive means of approaching culture more critically as it situates all social interactions, of which intercultural interactions are a subset, in dynamic fields of power that has the explanatory capability to carefully attend to the relations of power at work in these social interactions. I then offer an example of how Bourdieu’s theories bear out in practice when they are applied to an intercultural training in a master’s level class for pre-service ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) teachers.

Dissertation Committee: Edward Larkey, Chair
Jennifer Maher, Co-Chair
Jodi Crandall
Beverly Bickel
Thomas Field

The public is welcome to observe.