2025 Anthropology Summer Internship Report

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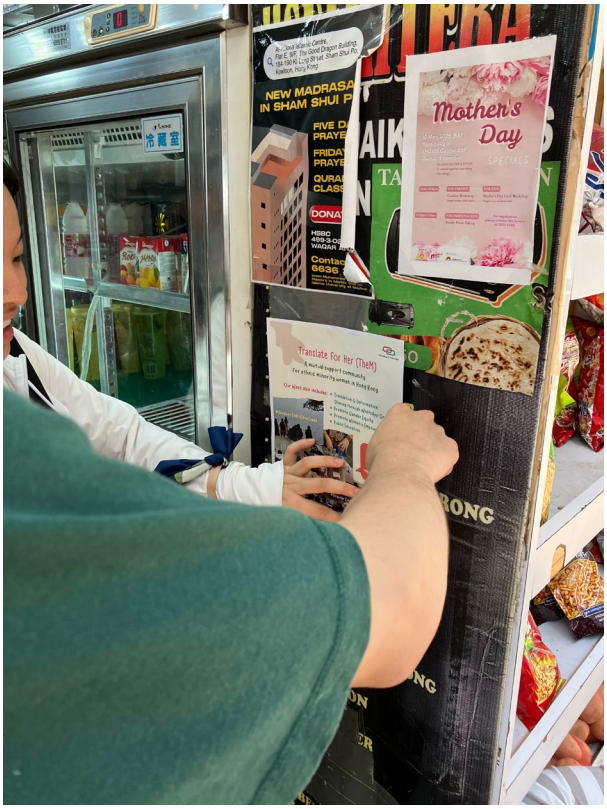
Institution: TheM-Translate for Her

Internship Period: June 18 - August 15 (88 hours)

TheM Translate for Her was one of the options on my department’s internship list. I had my first interview with TheM for a spring internship position; however, my schedule was too packed to commit two full days per week. Fortunately, I was able to join as a summer intern, which turned out to be a profoundly fruitful and rewarding experience.

During this internship, I acquired a diverse set of skills, particularly in event organization and social media content creation. I came to appreciate the considerable effort behind every event, from meticulous preparation to implementation. Plans are continuously refined to achieve desired outcomes and ensure a meaningful and comfortable experience for all participants. Through this process, I learned to draft event proposals, which became my most valuable takeaway. A well-structured proposal must clearly articulate the organizer's understanding and distill the event's core objectives. It also requires careful design of the entire workflow to ensure smooth execution, prevent potential issues, and demonstrate strong time-management skills. Even the most perfectly conceived event loses its impact if not delivered within the allotted time. Accurately estimating the time required for each stage relies on accumulated experience—gained not only from organizing events but also from active participation in activities and daily life.

Beyond practical skills, the internship was marked by meaningful co-working and co-learning. I greatly valued the opportunities to exchange ideas with my colleagues, from whom I learned a great deal. After completing tasks together, we often had informal chat sessions in a relaxed setting. These conversations allowed us to share our perspectives on various social issues, enriching my understanding beyond the immediate scope of our work.



Furthermore, the internship provided enriching outing experiences. We first visited an ethnic minority community in Sham Shui Po, where we introduced our organization and activities to various shop owners and sought their permission to put up promotional posters. We then visited the Kowloon Masjid in Tsim Sha Tsui. We were fortunate that one of our colleagues is a Muslim, and she offered us invaluable first-hand insights into Islam, providing entirely new perspectives on the religion and its practices. These experiences, alongside encounters with individuals like my mentor and several participants from diverse

backgrounds, were particularly enlightening. They came from different ages and walks of life, each engaging with ethnic minority women in Hong Kong in their own ways. Their dedication provided me with confidence and courage, and I realized that driving change is not about waiting for the perfect moment but about taking initiative now.

Becoming an anthropologist has always been my long-term goal, and this experience prompted me to reflect deeply on the reasons behind this aspiration. Growing up, I held the notion that scholars are highly respected, and this admiration fueled my desire to become a wise and influential figure. Over time, however, I had lost sight of what initially drew me to anthropology. During the internship, through self-directed study and collaborative learning, I sought better ways to present a more complete picture of ethnic minority groups in Hong Kong. Objectively, "minority" simply denotes a group that does not constitute the largest demographic segment. Yet, in media discourse, the term often carries a disadvantaged connotation, implying a need for protection and assistance. While it is true that ethnic minorities face numerous challenges in Hong Kong, being "disadvantaged" is not their entire story. The question of how to represent these groups without distortion is one I continually ponder. Through this process, I gradually rediscovered my original motivation for studying anthropology. As Tim Ingold aptly states, "Anthropology is philosophy with the people in." I hope that through my future work, the world can come to better understand diverse groups of people. It is neither I nor any authority that should define them.

This internship has benefited me tremendously and remains a significant and memorable experience in my life. I not only learned practical new skills but also found the time to slow down, observe, and reflect on both my personal and professional aspirations.