

# TENZING SHERPA

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## EDUCATION

### **Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL**

*Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience and Psychology* | **Minor: Anthropology**  
Magna Cum Laude

May 2022

### **Columbia University, Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Manhattan, NY**

*M.A. in Integrated Tibetan Studies* | Summa Cum Laude

May 2024

**Thesis:** “Tibetan Mysticism: Exploring the Nechung Oracle at the center of science and religion”

## GRANTS AND HONORS

### **Weatherhead East Asian Institute Teaching Grant**

*Research Grant*

2023

- Conducted research in Dharamshala, India with a focus on the Nechung Monastery and Venerable Thupten Ngodup in coalition with the Library of Tibetan Archives.
- Transcribed interviews from Tibetan to English.
- Engaged in philosophical research on the Subtle Mind-Wind factor with Geshe Lobsang Nyandak of the Centre for Compilation and Editing of His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s Writings and Discourses, Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

### **Cura Research Scholar**

*Research Scholar*

2021 – 2022

- Selected as a rising senior research scholar on behalf of the *Cura Personalis* mission established for students of color.

### **Loyola University Mulcahy Research Fellowship**

*Research Fellow*

2019 – 2020

- Recipient of Jesuit research fellowship under Dr. Dye regarding music and short-term memory.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### **MA Thesis: Cognitive Measures of Tibetan Deities and Oracles**

*Principle Researcher*

2023 – Present

- Conducted research in Dharamshala, India in partnership with Geshe Lobsang Nyandak to explore philosophical approaches to cognitive science.
- Partnered with the LTWA (Library of Tibetan Works and Archives) to produce a comparative historical analysis on the origins of Pechar and the Five King Spirits.
- Worked with the Nechung Monastery to research the Nechung Oracle’s appearance in primary texts from the 12th to 15th Centuries.

### **High Altitude Genetic Adaptation Lab, University of Chicago**

*Research Assistant*

2021

- Utilized CRISPR to observe the EPAS1 Gene in induced pluripotent stem cells.
- Successfully performed a knockout in a Han-Chinese cell line observing epithelial tissue response to hypoxia.
- Brought the Himalayan community into contact with genetic research and educated various Tibetan and Sherpa-led organizations on ethical research planning.

### **Autoethnography Research, Loyola University Chicago**

*Undergraduate Researcher*

2020 – Present

- Engaged in holistic self-analysis centered on observing spaces dedicated to Womxn of Color in higher academic spaces.
- Examined the literature of Heewon Chang, Faith Ngunjiri, and Kathy-Ann Hernandez exploring their qualitative inquiry, and collaborative research theories.
- Currently in the process of publication and presentation at the College Student Educators International conference.

### **Short-Term Effects of Music Playing on Working Memory**

*Undergraduate Researcher*

2019 – 2022

- Organized ethical data collection across a diverse population, utilizing Excel to format and organize subject information.
- Constructed measures for spatial reasoning and short-term memory using ANOVA analysis.
- Managed over eighty subjects in the Chicagoland area to schedule and conduct subject analysis over zoom and in person.

### **Binaural Cues and the Precedence Effect**

*Research Assistant*

2018

- Assistant to Professor Toby Dye, conducting data analysis using MATLAB to understand auditory signal processing and motor activation.
- Presenter at the Loyola Undergraduate First-Year Research Symposium conference.

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## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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“Tibetan Mysticism: Exploring the Nechung Oracle at the center of science and religion”

- International Seminar of Young Tibetologists, Presenter, Oxford, United Kingdom  
2024
- Colorado University Asian Studies Graduate Association Conference, Presenter, Boulder, CO  
2024

“Short-Term Effects of Music Playing on Working Memory”

- Midwestern Psychological Association, Presenter, Chicago, IL  
2023
- Diversifying Clinical Research Conference, Presenter, Chicago, IL  
2022
- Chicago Area Undergraduate Research Symposium Presenter, Chicago, IL  
2021

“Binaural Cues and the Precedence Effect”

- Loyola Weekend of Excellence, Loyola University Chicago, Presenter, Chicago, IL  
2019
- First-Year Research Symposium, Loyola University Chicago, Presenter, Chicago, IL  
2019

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Educate. Radiate. Elevate, Chicago, IL**

*August 2020 – Present*

*Tutor – STEM and English*

- Engaged with students with learning disabilities about academic planning, social skill-building, and organization.
- Trained in trauma-informed and culturally responsive teaching.
- Successfully mentored 15 students over an 8-month period, guiding them to secure admissions to prestigious universities including MIT, University of Oklahoma, Cornell, Pomona College, Dartmouth, and Stanford.

**Loyola University First Year Advising Office, Chicago, IL**

*August 2018 –2023*

*Peer Advisor*

- Created and co-taught the University 101 curriculum, assisting in effective relationship building and DEI modeling.
- Rated within the top 5 peer advisors for the 2019 academic year (4.95/5).

**Youthroots, Denver, CO**

*May 2019 – August 2019*

*Lead Intern – Equity and Diversity Supervisor*

- Developed the 2019-2020 national curriculum with a focus on diversity and equity within the organization.
- Established the Diversity sector for students of color to access extended resources related to higher education.

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## COMMUNITY SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

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**Yoga Instructor, Volunteer Mindfulness Coach**

*2020 – Present*

- Certified through 500-hour teacher training of C2 and mindfulness training through the MBSR program.

**Himalaya Project**

*Board of Directors, Social Media Director*

*2021 – Present*

- Dedicated to providing sustainable education and healthcare to underserved rural communities in Nepal, India, and Bhutan with academic scholarships to students of Tibetan Medicine.
- Head of the Social Media team in charge of publishing information on our team’s progress and student’s achievements.

**Maroon and Gold Scholar 2021-2022**

*Honor Society*

*2021 – 2022*

- Selected as one of twenty five students that demonstrate a commitment to leadership, academic excellence, and service to others.

**Science for Humans, PHIL288E and BIOL395E**

*2021 – 2022*

*Co-Instructor*

- TA focused on creating spaces for dialogue centering on philosophical bioethics and the Open Minds Project
- Attended a Philosophical Peer Dialogue training by the University of Notre Dame, Mellon Foundation.

**Variant Bio**

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*Ethical Review Consultant*

2020 – 2022

- Engaged in dialogue regarding genetic research planning in the Khumbu Valley of Nepal on Sherpa peoples for gene therapy.
- One of five Sherpa consultants on the ethical review board for equitable investment and treatment of the community.

***Himalayan COVID-19-Taskforce***

2020 – 2021

*Sherpa Translator, Health Resource facilitation*

- Primary Sherpa translator for the resource committee in providing health services to the global Himalayan community.
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