

Kate Shea - Carter Travel Grant Award Recipient – Spring 2025

I am immensely grateful for the financial support provided by the Carter Travel GIDP Grant, whose funds contributed to the costs associated with my attendance at the American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL) Conference on March 21st-23rd, 2025. These costs included airfare (\$281), conference registration (\$133), association membership (\$50), hotel stay (\$600), ride-share commutes (\$140), and meals (\$53). Without the kind generosity of these additional funding opportunities, my attendance at this conference would not have been possible.

During the conference, I participated in the research roundtable organized by the Graduate Student Council of AAAL, in which students were thematically grouped by research interests with an experienced faculty mentor and received support pre-, during-, and post-conference in the form of project review and feedback. I found participation in this event to be incredibly helpful and a fruitful networking opportunity as I benefited from Dr. Trish Morita-Mullaney's feedback, but also the connections with other graduate students with similar interests.

I attended numerous valuable sessions, but several were particularly well-timed given my own upcoming dissertation defense. For example, Drs. Meredith Doran and Jacob Rieker presented on English-medium instruction (EMI) faculty professional development and provided access to their in-press articles, and contracted book outline that directly connects to my dissertation topic. They also introduced attendees to several recently published (2025) meta-reviews that will be critical in revising my dissertation for final submission. I also attended several sessions on writing assessment and feedback and English language teaching (ELT) in China, which directly benefits my current teaching.

Dr. Curtis Green-Eneix kindly arranged a lunch for several of Dr. Hayriye Kayi-Aydar's past and current students with shared research interests following the latter's plenary speech. This was another beneficial networking experience as Dr. Green-Eneix and I have several overlapping recent interests (internationalization of higher education and EMI) and he kindly offered further mentorship and feedback as I finalize two manuscripts. I was also able to re-connect with Yixuan Wang. She and I met at AAAL in 2023. She had several recent publications which will contribute to a solicited book chapter I am drafting and seeing her again was a reminder about the serendipitous nature of some professional collaborations and networking.

Finally, an unexpected benefit of my attendance was being able to meet with several publishers to learn about their book proposal process, and in the case of Routledge, specifically, their short form series on EMI which commonly recruits/encourages authors to turn their dissertation into a monograph. I left those conversations confident that my research has continued publication opportunities.