



“I am a non-permanent scholar and the only female professor in the Department of Political Science at UNTL. I am committed to women and LGBT rights in Timor-Leste. Thanks to the CHSS support, I was able to conduct exploratory research about indigenous sexuality in Timor-Leste nationwide and I attended international conferences and symposia in Asia and the U.S. In 2023, I presented my work to the World Bank, and I participated in the CHSS Symposium and the AAS-in-Asia event in Yogyakarta. My project enabled me to write a book manuscript, which is currently under review by NUS Press in Singapore.”



Lili Chen

CHSS 2022-23 Research Fellow

Nationality: Taiwanese

Affiliation: Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL)

Project: “What Sexualities are And What Sexualities Do? An Indigenous Understanding and Experiences of Sexualities in Timor-Leste”

Relevant website:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=msE486pCr5U&t=1630s>

“With the support and recognition of CHSS, I feel that I really contributed to an important yet under-researched topic. As a result, my research was broadcast on national television. This exposure quickly helped increase my professional visibility while emphasizing the significance of LGBTQ+ issue in Timor-Leste.”

Lili currently lives in Dili, with her Timorese husband and their baby.