

LUCIE ~ MENTOR & FAMILY FRIEND

Edith Wen-Chu Chen, Ph.D.

Lucie Cheng was my Master's thesis adviser while I was a graduate student in Sociology at UCLA. I was so happy to have her as the chair of my Master's committee as there was little interest from other faculty on the subject I was proposing. I remember sitting at her office while she helped me think through my master's research project on Asian American women and sexual harassment. Despite her notoriety as a scholar, I found her to be friendly, approachable, and of course, helpful. Little did I know at the time that she was one of the pioneering scholars on Asian American women.

One interesting connection that I had with Lucie was later we discovered that my maternal grandfather (who had already passed away at that time) was friends with her father. From what I know, my grandfather, *Huang Yu-Jen*, was somewhat of a political activist, originally from mainland China but later left for Hong Kong with my grandmother, my mom, and my two uncles. The *Yu* character means "universe" and the *Jen* character means "person." Originally, Grandfather Huang was a member of the Kuomintang party but later became disillusioned. So, that's why my mother's family left for Hong Kong instead of Taiwan before the Communist takeover. My grandfather later devoted his life to advocating for a democratic China through his own newspaper and magazine. Apparently, Lucie's father and my grandfather knew each other in mainland China and also often crossed paths in Hong Kong before Lucie's father established his own newspaper in Taiwan.

I owe Lucie much gratitude for my career now. I teach Asian American Studies at California State University, Northridge. Among the courses I teach are Chinese American Studies and Asian American Women. I think she would be pleased.

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