Visiting Disneyland to Learn about Racism

By Colette Jue

Disneyland. The happiest place on earth. The land where dreams come true.

I was thirteen years old when I first realized that not even the Utopian world Walt Disney had created could rid itself of the racism so prevalent in our imperfect society. . .

My eight-year-old sister and her friend lean over to tie their shoes while standing in the restroom line at Disneyland. A Caucasian-looking teenager (she had Anglo features, but I suspect she may have been Latina) enters the restroom and, not noticing the two small children leaning over, walks in front of them and cuts them in line. After tying her shoes, my sister and her friend return to their original place in line (right in front of me), oblivious to the teenager who had just mistakenly taken their spot.

The teenager protests that they have cut in front of her. Just then, a middle-aged Caucasian woman enters and hears the teenager’s complaint. Not having witnessed the scene herself, but more than willing to take the side of the Anglo-looking teenager, the middle-aged woman declares, “So they’ve taken your place in line. It figures. They come to this country and they think they own it and they can’t even speak English.”

I grew hot. Speechless. I wanted to make the woman feel completely aghast. I wanted to make her feel little and ignorant. Instead I felt little and helpless. I wanted to blurt out the most abominable insults ever invented. But I only let out a squeak. “I can speak English and I know how to stand in line. They were in front of her” I blurted.

How many times have I wished I could relive that moment, take back what I said and come up with the wittiest, most intelligent comment that would make that woman literally shrink before my eyes?

I still haven’t thought of something good enough yet. . .

Disneyland. The “happiest place on earth.” The land where I got my first taste of open, bitter and blatant racism.

A third generation Chinese American, I was born and raised San Francisco, attended public schools consisting primarily of Chinese Americans, sang along with the latest R&B songs, idolized Whitney Houston and Madonna as a child, watched MTV and the Brady Bunch, celebrated every lunar new year with the I see my relatives gave me, and went to my Pau Pau’s every week to drink the Chinese soup that would make me grow healthy and strong. My parents always instilled in me a sense of cultural pride as well as an understanding of the plight of minorities. Cultural, ethnic and racial consciousness were a part of my upbringing. Yet despite my upbringing, it was impossible for me to escape bigotry and racism.

The Italians at the end of my grandmother’s alley would throw water baloons and scream, “Chinks!” at my sister and I whenever we walked past their doorstep. My best friend in elementary school would push her eyelids back and ask me if I could see out of my squinty eyes. When my uncle found out I had a crush on an African American, he warned that it was okay to be friends with blacks, but I could never have one for a boyfriend. “And why did I like blacks anyway?” my Korean friend would ask. Their skin is so dark and they’re dirty, poor and, worst of all, different. Then some would say, “You don’t know how to speak Chinese? You’re too American!” while others would say, “Why don’t you just act American?”

And on a wider scale, race relations don’t seem any better. Rodney King and the L.A. Riots. The murder of Vincent Chin. The tenable concept of D.W.B. (driving while black). The often unsettling relations between Korean store owners and the African Americans they serve. The tensions within the Asian American community. The list goes on.

I’m reminded about the incident at Disneyland. If we cannot set aside our differences at the “happiest place on earth,” then how can we expect to achieve racial solidarity in this less than perfect world.

My old professor once told his class, “You cannot change the world. You can only change yourself and help others around you change themselves.” So I’ll start with myself and move on to bigger things later.

(Colette Jue is a graduating senior at UCLA majoring in Communication Studies.)

After 30 Years, Gidra Newspaper Reemerges

In 1969, a group of UCLA students launched what eventually what was to become a monthly Asian American Movement newspaper. The name of the newspaper was Gidra — named after a Japanese catapillar-like monster — and it continued to publish regularly for approximately five years.

Thirty years later a group of young Asian Americans, including former and current UCLA students, have resurrected Gidra. The maiden issue features articles on two current controversies in Southern California Asian American communities: efforts to organize L.A. Koreatown Latino and Korean immigrant workers in Korean-owned restaurants; and protests in Westminster, Orange County, by Vietnamese Americans over political symbols from Vietnam.

The Gidra “Re-collective” includes Vy Nguyen, current editor of Pacific Ties newsmagazine at UCLA; Tram Nguyen, former Pacific Ties and Daily Bruin editor; and Jolie Ha, former Pacific Ties editor. They intend to publish the newspaper quarterly.

To obtain a copy of the new issue, contact Gidra, c/o 231 E. Third St., Suite G104, Los Angeles, CA 90013 (website: www.gidra.net).
Professor Robert Nakamura Named to Endowed Chair in Japanese American Studies at UCLA

By Diana de Cardenas

Robert Nakamura, a UCLA professor of film and television and one of the country's most influential documentary filmmakers on the Japanese American experience, recently was appointed to the Academic Chair in Japanese American Studies at UCLA. The endowed chair is the only one in the U.S. devoted solely to the field of Japanese American Studies.

"Bob Nakamura is, without question, the most prominent creative artist to use the mediums of film, video and photography to capture, analyze and share the Japanese-American experience for more than 30 years," said Don Nakanishi, Director of the Asian American Studies Center. "Within the creative and scholarly intersection between Asian American Studies and media arts, he is the unrivaled artist pioneer and the standard by which all other film and video artists are judged."

At UCLA, Nakamura has held joint appointments with the School of Theater, Film and Television and the Asian American Studies Center since 1978. In 1994, he was appointed Associate Director of the Center, where he is credited with incorporating a media arts and humanities component into the undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Asian American studies.

Recognized internationally as a pioneer in the alternative community-based media movement, which began in the late 1960s, Nakamura has made fiction and non-fiction films for television, the big screen, classrooms and, most recently, museums. He has worked with archival footage dating from the 1920s to the most recent video, digital and multi-media technologies.

Among Nakamura's many notable films are Manzanar, the first independent documentary film to address the internment of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II; Watari:ori: Birds of Passage, which tells the story of the early Japanese who immigrated to the United States; Hito Hata: Raise the Banner, the first feature-length motion picture about Japanese Americans written, directed and produced by Asian Americans themselves; the award-winning Something Strong Within, which uses home movies taken by those incarcerated in the camps during World War II; and Looking Like the Enemy, which looks at the unique challenges faced by American soldiers of Asian descent who fought in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

"Throughout all these formats and contexts, my focus has been on revealing and reflecting communities and people from within, as they live and see themselves," Nakamura said. "I feel very fortunate to be appointed to the chair because it will allow me to continue documenting the history of Japanese Americans, which is my passion."

As holder of the chair, Nakamura will continue to conduct research on the Japanese experience in America. Although his research has focused primarily on documenting the Issei, Nakamura will now turn his attention to producing visual life histories of the second-generation Nisei.

Nakamura's research, he noted, will be greatly enhanced by UCLA's rich resources in the field of Japanese-American studies. The university has the world's largest and most significant archive on Japanese Americans. It also has the largest collection of library and secondary materials on Japanese Americans in the nation. Moreover, UCLA has trained more scholars, writers and specialists in Japanese-American studies than any other university.

In addition to his teaching, research and filmmaking, Nakamura serves as director of UCLA's Center for Ethnocommunications, a part of the Asian American Studies Center, which focuses on documenting ethnic minority communities. He founded and serves on the board of Visual Communications, the oldest community-based media institution in the country. The organization nurtures young filmmakers in both the crafts of filmmaking and the business side of the film industry.

This year, Nakamura was appointed director of the Media Arts Center at the Japanese American National Museum, where he developed the Photographic and Moving Image Archive.

(Diana de Cardenas is a public information officer at UCLA.)

EthnoCommunications Names New Staff

The UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications recently hired two UCLA alumni, Veronica Ko and Jennifer Kim, to work on projects. Veronica is the Editor/Sub-Manager for the NEA-funded project "Eye to Eye" which documents and preserves artistic expression in the Asian Pacific American community in visual arts, performance, literature, and multimedia arts. Jennifer is the Assistant Director for EthnoCommunication and is working on grant management and the NEA project.

Both Veronica and Jennifer are MFA graduates from UCLA's School of Theater, Film, and Television and both have worked previously in arts management and television production. Veronica at CBS, Jennifer at PBS. Veronica is originally from Hawaii, Jennifer is originally from Ohio.
N.V.M. Gonzalez Named Regent’s Professor for 1989-99

N.V.M. Gonzalez, the Philippines’ foremost creative writer in English, served as UCLA’s sole Regent’s Professor for 1998-99 through the Asian American Studies Center and English Department. At UCLA during Fall Quarter 1998, he taught a graduate seminar on Philippine and Filipino American Literature.

Gonzalez is the author of several books including, A Grammar of Dreams (University of the Philippines, 1998), Bread of Salt and Other Stories (University of Washington Press, 1993), The Novel of Justice (Anvil, 1996), and novels, A Season of Grace and The Bamboo Dancers.

He received the title National Artist for Literature from the Republic of the Philippines in 1997, and the Centennial Award for Literature in 1998.

Gonzalez was also the subject for a recently produced film, entitled N.V.M. Gonzalez: A Story Yet To Be Told by Jerome Academy of Visual Communications and Russell C. Leong of UCLA.

According to Leong, this documentary focuses on Gonzalez’ teaching and writing career which has taken him across the Pacific Ocean and back, capturing the writer’s world, both rural and urban, aesthetic and political.

UCLA Alumna Dolly Gee Nominated for Federal Judgeship

UCLA alumna Dolly Gee has been nominated for a federal trial judgeship by U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer. If confirmed, Gee will become the first Chinese American woman to sit on the federal bench.

Active in the Asian American legal community, Gee has served as the president of the Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association, the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles, and the Multicultural Bar Alliance.

As the daughter of Chinese immigrants, Gee saw first-hand the injustice laborers such as her mother suffered while working in the garment industry. This is part of what drove her to become a labor attorney, now in the Los Angeles firm of Schwartz, Stein, Dohrmann & Sommers.

Gee is a 1981 graduate of UCLA and a 1984 graduate of UCLA Law School. While an undergraduate, she co-founded CAPSA (Concerned Asian Pacific Students for Action).

If Gee is formally nominated to the Senate by President Clinton, the Judiciary Committee will review her file, and the nomination will then go to the Senate floor for a final vote. However, this process could take anywhere from a few months to a few years.

Discover Your Mission: Selected Speeches and Writings is the title of a new book by renowned human rights activist Yuri Kochiyama. The 43-page booklet, which contains seven major speeches and writings, was published by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center Reading Room and Library.

The booklet was compiled by Russell Muranaka, with editing assistance from Tram Nguyen, Vy Nguyen, Raymond Real Ribaya, and Kit Tarroza.

The selections were made from the Yuri Kochiyama Collection, which was donated by Kochiyama to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center in 1998. An extraordinary historical archive, it includes over 100 boxes of periodicals, organization documents, flyers, pictures, speeches, and other materials, which span Kochiyama’s life from her incarceration during World War II at the Jerome concentration camp to her participation in the redress movement, and to her special friendship with Malcolm X.

The documents are being cataloged and organized for microfilming, and for preservation in the university’s state-of-the-art Special Collections facilities.

During the 1998 Spring academic quarter, Kochiyama was a Scholar-In-Residence of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, under the auspices of the academic chair in Japanese American Studies at the university. She worked on her memoirs, which the Center hopes to publish in the future, and met frequently with students, faculty, and staff at the university.

According to Muranaka, a UCLA undergraduate majoring in Asian American Studies who worked with Kochiyama and others in selecting the works for Discover Your Mission, the booklet attempts to capture and present the most compelling and significant themes that have underscored Kochiyama’s many decades of involvement in human rights and political movements. These include political prisoners, race relations, Malcolm X, gaining and developing consciousness, the women’s movement, “talking the talk and walking the walk,” and the responsibility of future generations to continue the fight for justice.

The publication includes major public talks that were delivered at colleges and universities across the nation, including Duke, Brown, Columbia, Dartmouth, Princeton, and San Francisco State.

Discover Your Mission is available for $10 (plus shipping and handling of $3 for the first copy, and $1 for each additional copy) plus sales tax (8.25% L.A. County residents; 7.75% for California residents). Make checks payable to the “UC Regents,” and send to Publications, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546.
THIRTY YEARS OF ASIAN AMERICAN PUBLISHING

The Asian American Studies Center Press has been the publication arm of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center since its founding in 1969. The Press is the only publisher in the nation to focus entirely on Asian Americans, and on their comparative histories and experiences with Pacific Islanders and other ethnic, racial, and national groups. We publish history, public policy research reports, biographies and memoirs, literature, social science research, media arts, political almanacs, directories, and reference works.

CLASSICS AND "FIRSTS"

Among earlier publications of the Press, Roots: An Asian American Reader (1971) remains a bestselling collection on the origins of Asian American Studies and the Asian American movement. Throughout the years, UCLA also published the first books and journals on Filipinos in America, on film and media, on sexuality, on labor organizing, on politics, on multicultural peoples, and on Asian Americans and religion. Bibliographies and archival resources are a vital part of the Press' mission: we continue to publish and update reference materials on Vietnamese, Koreans, Japanese, Chinese, Pacific Islanders, Filipinos, South Asian, and multiracial Americans.

UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press
Don T. Nakanishi • Center Director
Russell C. Leong • Editor-in-Chief
Glenn K. Omatsu • Associate Editor
Mary Uyematsu Kao • Publications Coordinator
Darryl Mar • Business Manager

AMERASIA JOURNAL


TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES & PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

Now in its third decade of teaching, research, and publishing, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center is moving into CD-ROM and web technology production, and expanded publication venues. We jointly publish a new book series, "Intersections: Asian and Pacific American Transcultural Studies" in conjunction with the University of Hawaii Press and the pre-eminant Asian American public policy research series with the LEAP (Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics) organization.
Asian American Studies Firsts

Roots: An Asian American Reader
Edited by Amy [Uyematsu] Tachiki

Roots was one of the first textbooks for Asian American Studies and now reflects the “roots” of Asian American Studies. Roots contains over 50 articles, poems, and interviews which have been organized into three interrelated sections: identity, history, and community.

Discover Your Mission:
Selected Speeches and Writings of Yuri Kochiyama
Compiled by Russell Muranaka and Vy Nguyen
Collection of writings and speeches by the renowned human rights activist.

Moving the Image:
Independent Asian Pacific American Media Arts
Edited by Russell C. Leong

Moving the Image is the most comprehensive effort to define independent Asian Pacific media arts and to describe its course from 1970-1990. The words, essays, and statements by the fifty media artists and cultural workers in this book challenge, celebrate, and contradict each other. One hundred film stills and archival photos from the early 1900s to the 1990s illustrate this volume, designed to be used as a creative sourcebook and as an introductory text.

The View from Within:
Japanese American Art from the Internment Camps, 1942-1945
Catalogue from a major exhibit of art produced by Japanese Americans during their internment during World War II. Compiled by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, UCLA Wight Art Gallery, and the Japanese American National Museum, it contains essays by Karin Higa, Lane Ryo Hirabayashi and James Hirabayashi, Brian Niiya and Wakako Yamauchi; color plates and artist biographies.

History of the Okinawans in North America: The Okinawa Club of America
Translated by Ben Kobashigawa

This English translation of a community history was originally published in the Japanese language. Chapters include: Before Okinawan Immigration; Okinawans in America; Okinawa Kenjinkai of America; Okinawa War Damage Relief and Reconstruction Movement; Okinawa Club of America; Workers’ Cultural Activities; Profiles of Okinawan Individuals in North America.

Views from Within: The Japanese American Evacuation & Resettlement Study
Edited & with Contribution by Yuji Ichikawa

This book critiques and analyzes the Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Study in which University of California social scientists studied the Japanese Americans in the concentration camps. Contributors: Yuji Ichikawa, S. Frank Miyamoto, Lane Ryo Hirabayashi, James Hirabayashi, Peter T. Suzuki, Robert F. Spencer, Dana Y. Takagi, James M. Sakoda.

Public Policy and Asian American Politics

1998-1999 National Asian Pacific American Political Almanac
The most comprehensive guide to Asian Pacific American politics. The almanac contains analytic essays and empirical data on Asian Pacific American political participation as well as a directory listing nearly 2,000 Asian Pacific office-holders across the nation.

The eighth edition of the Asian and Pacific Islander Community Directory of Los Angeles and Orange County is the most extensive listing of organizations serving the A/PI populations in the two counties, and provides information on 1,000 organizations. They include community-based organizations, social service agencies, media, Asian American Studies academic programs, Asian Pacific American college student services, ethnic and service specific listings, and referral to other resources. The Directory is an excellent resource and research tool for those who want to familiarize themselves with the Asian and Pacific Islander communities in Southern California.
Beyond Self Interest:
Asian Pacific Americans Toward a Community of Justice
A Policy Analysis of Asian America
Professor Gabriel Chin, Professor Sumi Cho, Professor Jerry Kang, Professor Frank Wu
This policy report provides a multifaceted look at Asian Pacific America and affirmative action. The report focuses on: The Case for Affirmative Action; The Merit Critique Is Muddy; Race Consciousness Is Not Racism; Asian Pacific Americans Have Suffered Racial Discrimination: Past; Model Minority Myth; Asian Pacific Americans Still Suffer from Racial Discrimination: The Present; Admission Ceilings: The Problem of Negative Action

The State of Asian Pacific America: Policy Issues to the Year 2020
This book, the first project by the LEAP Asian Pacific American Public Policy Institute and UCLA Asian American Studies Center, helps policymakers understand major public issues relating to Asian Pacific Americans. Policy experts from academia and community agencies across the nation analyzed a range of policy issues as they pertain to Asian America: Civil Rights, Education, Health, Women, Immigration, Emerging Communities, Politics and Culture.

Reframing the Immigration Debate
Edited by Bill Ong Hing and Ronald Lee
This publication by the joint public policy research program of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and LEAP addresses many of the unanswered questions about Asian Pacific immigrants. Using previously unavailable data, an impressive and innovative group of researchers provide detailed examinations of the striking impact of immigration policies on Asian Pacific American communities.

Edited by Paul Ong
This collection of essays is another joint project of the public policy research program between LEAP and UCLA Asian American Studies Center. Academicians and policy experts provide an analysis of the role of Asian Americans on critical economic policy issues now facing the United States: Workforce Training, Healthcare Reform, High-tech Research and Development, Welfare Reform, and Urban Revitalization.

Literature/Media/Arts

Confrontations, Crossings, and Convergence: Photographs of the Philippines and the United States, 1898-1998
Edited/curated by Enrique B. de la Cruz, Pearlie Rose S. Baluyut, & Rico J. Reyes.
Co-publication of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center & UCLA Southeast Asia Program, 1998.
A centennial reflection on the complex relationship between the U.S. and the Philippines through the medium of photography. This collection contains prints from governmental archives, libraries, museums and personal collections in Asia, Europe, and North America.

Rappin' With Ten Thousand Carabaos in the Dark
By Al Robles
The quintessential Pilipino American poet, storyteller, and co-founder of the Kearny Street Asian American Writers Workshop in San Francisco, tells stories that span a century of Pilipino life in America. His poetry is inhabited by families, farm laborers, factory workers, Zen monks, pool sharks, cooks, children, lovers, preachers, pinups, young bloods, musicians, barbers, and Buddhhas.

Executive Order 9066: The Internment of 110,000 Japanese Americans, 2nd edition
By Maisie and Richard Conrat
This classic collection of photography by Dorthea Lange and other photographers documents the Japanese American concentration camp experience. Essays by: Edison Uno, Tom C. Clark, Don Nakanishi, and Michael McConce.
Amerasia Journal Classics: Available back volumes

Early Issue Socialists 1.2 July 1971


Filipino Wedding in Hawaii 1-4 February 1972


Filipino Labor Union 5.2 1978


Interethnic Conflicts: Class & Race Relations 6.2 Fall 1979


Sikh Family Patterns 7.1 Spring 1980

Articles: "Chinatown Chinese: The San Francisco Dialect" by Lorraine Dong and Marlon K. Hom; "Sikh Family Patterns and Ethnic Adaptation in Vancouver" by James Chadney; "Approaching Cultural Change through Literature: From Chinese to Chinese American" by Ted Gong; "An Interview With Toshio Mori" by Russell Leong. Literature from Wakako Yamauchi and Janice Mirikitani, and book reviews.

Hawaii: Issues & Perspectives 7.2 Fall/Winter 1980


Chinese of America 8.1 Spring/Summer 1981

Articles: "The Chinese in Arkansas" by Shih-shan Henry Tsai; "Resources for Chinese and Japanese American Literary Traditions" by Jeffery Paul Chan, Frank Chin, Lawson Inada, Shawn Wong; "The Bitter Society: Ku Shehui, A translation, Chapters 37-46" by June Mei and Jean Pang Yip with Russell Leong; "Chinese Labor in Early San Francisco: Rac-
cial Segmentation and Industrial Expansion" by Paul Ong; "A History of San Francisco Chinatown Housing" by Sam Fong; "Chinese American Literature: A Linguistic and Historical Re-evaluation" by Marjorie K. M. Chan and Douglas W. Lee. Book reviews.

Politics of Chinese Exclusion 9.1 Spring/Summer 1982


Asian American Literature, 1910-1982 9.2 Fall/Winter 1982


Refugee Settlement in Orange County 10.1 Spring/Summer 1983


Ethnic Labor Market 11.1 Spring/Summer 1984

Korean Women, Literature
11:2  Fall/Winter 1984


War & Asian Americans
17:1  1991

Personal reflections, essays, poetry, and articles about the special relationship of Asian American and Pacific Islanders to wars. This issue begins with the editorial essay, “The New World Order and the Rambo Syndrome” by Alexander Saxton. Works by: Lawson Inada, Frank Chin, Teresa Kay Williams and Al Robles. Film and book reviews.

Burning Cane Student Literary Issue 17:2  1991

“Burning Cane” pays tribute to the Asian Pacific women and men who worked in the cane fields of Hawaii through poetry, short stories and essays by Asian Pacific students nationwide. This volume is edited by Grace Hong, James Lee, David Maruyama, Jim Soong and Gary Yee.

Enclave Economy Thesis
17:3  1991


Humanities Research Issue
18:2  1992

New research in Asian American Studies by research fellows of Rockefeller American Generations Program of the Asian American Studies Center at UCLA. ARTICLES: “The Trans-Pacific Family: A Case Study of Sam Chang’s Family History” by Haiming Liu; “The Contemporary Asian American Family on Television” by Darrell Hamamoto; “Even as a Mountain Speaks” by N.V.M. Gonzalez; “Uncle Frank’s Fakebook of Fairy Tales for Asian American Moms and Dads” by Frank Chin; “Caught Between the Sheets” by Susette Min. Literature from Holden Gong, Wing Tek Lum, Myung-hee Kim, Carolyn Lau, Sam Tagatac and Li Min Hua. Book reviews.

The Critic & the Butterfly 18:3  1992


De-centering & Transforming the Asian American Subject 19:3  1993


Alexander Saxton History Awards 20:2  1994


Asian American Poetry 20:3  1994


GUEST EDITOR: David Yoo. Special theme issue examines Asian American religion, and how it relates to the theoretical debates in Asian American Studies, postmodernism and the diaspora. ARTICLES by: Meena Alexander, Ria Nakashima Brock, Rudy Busto, Allan deSouza, Ok-koo Grosjean, Jane Naomi Iwamura, Ruth Hsu, Jung Ha Kim, David Kyuman Kim, Vinay Lal, Marjorie Lee, Sang Hyun Lee, Russell Leong, Leroy Leng Lim, Irene Lin, Saleem Peeradina, Steffi San Buenaventura, Timothy Tseng, David Yoo and Haeyoung Yoon. Book reviews.
Asian American Panethnicity 22:2 1996

Guest Editor: Yen Le Espiritu. This volume explores panethnicity and intraethnic relations, multiracial peoples, the arts and 100 years of U.S. Filipino relations. Works by: Jeff Chang, Leny Mendoza Strobel, Deborah N. Misir, Nazli Kibria, Linda Trinh Vo, Stacey Lee, Larry Hajime Shinagawa, and Gin Yong Pang. Book reviews.

Transnationalism, Media & Asian Americans 22:3 1996


Guest Editors: Velina Hasu Houston and Teresa Kay Williams. Works by: Remy Gastambide, Christine C. Ijima Hall, H. Rika Houston, Velina Hasu Houston, Peter Nien-chu Kang, Rebecca Chiyoko King, Kyo Maclear, Phillip Tajitsu Nash, Sandra Mizumoto Posey, Darby Li Po Price, Steven Masami Ropp, Marie P.P. Root, Thelma Seito, Paul Spickard, Sabrena Taylor, Jennifer Tseng, Teresa Kay Williams, and Jeff Yoshimi. Also includes book reviews.

Returns & Representations: Recasting Viet Nam, the Philippines, India, Hong Kong, Asian America 23:2 1997

Essays by: Mariam Beeri, Elaine Kim, George Paul Cisneros, Joyce Nako, Allan deSouza, Vinh Nguyen, Peter Fong, E. San Juan, Jr., Sharon K. Hon, Roland B. Toltentino, Barbara Kaoru Ige, and Barbara Tran. Essays in this issue differentiate what is Asian and what is Asian American and serve to delineate linkages between the two. Book reviews.


Mixed Dialogues: Politics & Culture 24:1 1998


Essays into American Empire in the Philippines: Part II—Culture, Community and Capital 24:3 1998


Amerasia Journal Cumulative Article Index 1971-1997

Compiled by Ellen Wu

This index lists articles and other works that have appeared in the first twenty-six years of the publication. Thematic sections: Arts and Culture; Asians in the Americas; Asian American Studies and Movement; Education; Ethnic Identity; Ethnic and Race Relations; Gay and Lesbian Studies; Immigrants, Refugees and Migration; Labor, Business, and Economy; Legal and Civil Rights Issues; Literature and Literary Criticism; Multiracial Asians; Religion; Women and Gender Studies; World War II and Japanese Americans; Bibliographies; and Film and Film Reviews.

Bibliographies


Compiled by Yuji Ichioka and Eiichiro Aizuma

The Japanese American Research Project Collection is the finest collection of primary sources in the U.S. on Japanese immigration history. This bibliography covers all the Japanese language material acquired since 1973.

A History Reclaimed: An Annotated Bibliography of Chinese Language Materials on the Chinese of America

By Him Mark Lai

This bibliography lists over 1,500 available works on Chinese in America which can be found in libraries and institutions in the U.S. Chapter contents: Background to Emigration, Overseas Chinese, Immigration and Exclusion, Chinese in America, Directories, Chinese American Organizations, Economy and Business, Biographies and Travel Accounts, Sociocultural Materials, China Politics, Journalism, Literature.

Emergence of the Vietnamese American Community: A Bibliography of Works Including Selected Annotated Citations

Edited by Trang Hoang, Gina Masequesmay and Ninh Ha

The works cited in this bibliography represent contemporary issues such as the process of refugee resettlement as well as the progress of an emerging community. Many of the citations relate specifically to the psychological acculturation and adaptation of Vietnamese Americans.

Fading Footsteps of Issei: Checklist of Manuscript Holdings of the Japanese American Research Project Collection

Compiled by Yasuo Sakata

This extensive bibliography focuses on the Issei personal papers of the Japanese American Research Project collection, which is housed in the Department of Special Collections of UCLA's Research Library. The archive was started in 1962 by the Japanese American Citizens League and has been further developed by Yuji Ichioka and the UCLA Asian Studies Center.

Filipino American Scholars Directory 1998

Compiled and edited by Elizabeth A. Pastores-Palffy, Herminia Meneses, and Tania Azores. Co-published by Pamanee Foundation and UCLA Asian American Studies Center

This directory provides information about Filipinos residing in the U.S. who are engaged in teaching and/or research at the college or university level.
Japanese Americans during World War II: A Selected, Annotated Bibliography of Materials Available at UCLA, Second Edition
Compiled by Brian Niiya; updated by Leslie Ito

This major bibliography focuses on the experiences of Japanese Americans who were interned during World War II and their redress and reparations movement. A section on “Supplemental Readings for K-12 Curriculum Integration” has also been added for those instructors who would like to incorporate the Japanese American Internment experience in their classes. The bibliography features: 50 new citations published between 1992 and 1997; over 300 fiction and non-fiction books, articles and monographs; annotations giving brief descriptions; user-friendly; thematic organization of all resources available at UCLA Libraries.

Koreans in America: An Annotated Bibliography of Korean and English Language Materials
Compiled/annotated by Eun Sik Yang & Gary Wanki Park

Drawn from newspapers, documents and court records, prisoner records and accounts, oral histories and other materials than can be found in libraries, archives, and record centers. Sections on: Korean American community history, economic adjustment, media, religion, literature, and family and women's issues.

Pilipino America at the Crossroads: 100 Years of United States-Philippines Relations A Selected, Partially Annotated Bibliography of Materials at UCLA
Compiled by Raul Eibo, Edgar Dormitorio, Teresa Ejanda, Kay Dumlao, R. Bong Vergara

This bibliography makes a connection between the 100 years of U.S.-Philippines relations and the impact it has had in both the Philippines and Pilipino America. This bibliography features: 1,000 citations published between 1898 and 1998; 70 dissertations and theses; 70 articles taken from Ang Katinanan; an early Pilipino American community newspaper; and convenient Author Index.

Prism Lives/Emerging Voices of Multiracial Asians: A Selective Annotated Bibliography
Compilers: Steven Masami Ropp, Teresa Kay Williams, and Curtiss Takada Rooks. Edited by Marij Lee

This bibliography provides an overview of the various areas of research which have analyzed the mixed race experience. From a strong base of existing scholarship, especially by multiracial people themselves, this edition is intended to facilitate theoretical development, expansion of research and the application of that research to the questions of race relations, ethnic identity, and the diversity of our society.

Vietnamese in America: An Annotated Bibliography of Materials in Los Angeles & Orange County Libraries
Compiled by Yen Le Espiritu

274 annotations on the experience of Vietnamese in America devoted to such issues as family, mental health, ethnic relations, politics, literature and language, religion, women, youth, Vietnamese overseas, and socioeconomic adaptation.

An Asian American Internet Guide
Compiled and edited by Wataru Ebihara

A collection of Asian American electronic mailing lists, newsgroups, gopher servers, World Wide Web sites, and organizations with internet electronic mail addresses.
I would like to order the following (check box):

Asian American Firsts
- History of the Okinawans in North America—$25.00 (cloth)
- Moving the Image—$49.95 (cloth); $23.00 (paper)
- Roots: An Asian American Reader—$20.00 (paper)
- Selected Writings of Yuri Kochiyama—$10.00 (paper)
- The View from Within: Japanese American Art from the Internment Camps, 1942-1945—$15.00 (paper)
- Views from Within: The Japanese American Evacuation & Resettlement Study—$15.00 (paper)

Public Policy
- Annual Asian Pacific American Political Almanac—$15.00 (paper)
- Annual Asian & Pacific Islander Community Directory—$15.00 (paper)
- Beyond Self-Interest: Asian Pacific Americans Toward a Community of Justice—$5.00 (paper)
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Learning about My Asian American Identity

A Library Summer Internship Provides New Knowledge for a Central California High School Student

By Raja Mohan

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center Reading Room is a place where scholars and college students spend their time researching archives and examining documents. So what would a high school kid be doing in the Reading Room in the summer of 1998?

Last summer, I served as an intern in the Reading Room. I’m a high school senior from a rural town called Porterville — about one hour away from Bakersfield and Fresno. Last summer I came to UCLA to take two classes and also had the great fortune to work as an intern with librarians Marji Lee and Raul Ebio.

From working in the Reading Room for the summer, I learned a lot about history and research. I read many articles about current issues in Asian countries, and I even started to read Louis Chu’s famous book, Eat a Bowl of Tea. I also realized a lot more about my identity. Interning in the Reading Room helped me to understand what it means to be Asian American.

My parents are immigrants from south India. They are traditionalists who taught me the culture and customs of India. I learned their native language, Tamil, and I understood certain customs such as arranged marriage.

However, before I participated in my internship, I was ashamed of my Asian American identity. I felt I was half-East Indian and half-American. Some of my beliefs were from the east and some from the west. I was not considered “normal” in either America or India because I was a blend of two different cultures. When my non-Indian friends came to my house, I was afraid to show them pictures of our deities because I thought they would make stereotypical comments. Meanwhile, when I visited India my relatives thought it odd when I listened to a walkman and did not partake in tea time with the others.

I now realize that it is good that I am a blend of two cultures, and I should not be ashamed of being this way. I should try to seize the best of both cultures. I have gained a lot of knowledge about both my cultures — something that a person from only one culture cannot do.

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center is a great place for a high school kid. It stimulated my mind and made me aware of who I am.

(Raja Mohan is a senior at Monache High School in Porterville, California.)

Center’s Leadership Development Class Promotes Community Service

The popular “Asian Pacific American Leadership Development” class has promoted extensive student involvement in local communities.

According to instructor Sefa Aina, the class has provided a vehicle for many UCLA students to work with organizations and community projects and to learn about community issues. Aina serves as Assistant Coordinator of Student/Community Projects in the Asian American Studies Center.

Aina highlighted the work of Troy Kealii Lau in 1998 as an example of the impact that UCLA students can make in communities. Troy worked with students at Carson High School, where the Pacific Islander population of about 200 students had a dropout rate of 70%. At the high school, Troy provided mentoring, tutoring, and college counseling for youth.

“Although this program started out as a twice a week (eight to ten hours per week) internship, Troy took it upon himself to make improvements and additions to the original intent of the project,” said Aina. “He had all of the students turning in weekly progress reports, as well as reports of mishaps between the students and the teachers or security. He developed a night-time computer learning class for Pacific Islander students and their parents, to make them more marketable to employers. And he started up a Saturday morning tutoring program. His two-time a week project turned into a six days a week commitment!”

In recent years, other students from the Leadership Development course have worked with the Little Tokyo Service Center, Korean Immigrant Worker Advocates, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, and Thai Community Development Center.
First-Year M.A. Students Address Community Issues through Research

Twelve students comprise the current first-year class in the Asian American Studies M.A. program. Despite diverse backgrounds, the twelve students share a common interest in learning about issues affecting today’s Asian American communities.

This year’s class also includes the very first student in the joint Asian American Studies and Public Health graduate degree program.

During their first year of graduate work, the students are taking core classes in Asian American history, contemporary issues and research from Professors Henry Yu, Jinqi Ling, and Don Nakanishi.

Allan Aquino came into our M.A. program to document what he calls the “L.A. Filipino American Writers’ Renaissance” of the 1990s. He describes it as “the widespread resurgence of creative talent, public literary events, and a communal sense of mental and cultural freedom” among Filipino American writers. Allan was born in Chicago, but grew up most of his life in the San Fernando Valley. He graduated from California State University-Northridge, with a B.A. in Asian American Studies. He currently serves as secretary for the L.A. chapter of Fanhs (Filipino American National Historical Society).

“I entered the UCLA M.A. program to study with and learn from some of the brightest and most creative minds in Asian American Studies and the community at large,” he states. “I believe the program can be a phenomenal wellspring of ideas, seeds of personal growth.”

Saranya Theresa Cheap-chon was born in Bangkok, Thailand, and grew up in several places including Kansas City, Reno, and Los Angeles. She earned her B.A. from UC San Diego, focusing on Asian American literature. She entered our M.A. program as preparation for a doctoral program in English, Comparative Literature, Ethnic Studies, or American Studies. “I want a firm foundation in Asian American Studies for whatever discipline I decide to enter,” she explains. For her M.A. thesis, Saranya is studying the global image and representation of “commodified female sexuality for western consumption” by looking specifically at the tourism industry in Thailand through the lens of postcolonial, diasporic Third World feminism.

Susie Ann Han was born in Statesville, North Carolina, where she has lived all her life. She graduated from Duke University where she majored in Biology and History with a minor in Women’s Studies. As an undergraduate, she was active with the Asian Students Association at Duke. She came into our M.A. program to gain knowledge and for personal fulfillment. “I also wanted a change of scenery and to be in a more diverse environment,” she states. For her M.A. thesis, Susie wants to focus on issues relating to Korean American women.

Lisa Itagaki was born in Honolulu and grew up in Palos Verdes Estates in Southern California. She completed her undergraduate work at UC San Diego, majoring in History and minoring in Ethnic Studies. For her M.A. thesis, she plans to study Native Hawaiian performance in the Polynesian Cultural Center and commercial luau as “transnational sites where the Asian Pacific ethnic is staged for a tourist audience.” “In these ‘authentic’ native spaces,” she explains, “race, class, and patriarchal structures are reenacted in the dialogues that occur between the local native and the global tourist.”

Ariel Kim was born in Seoul, Korea and grew up in both Seoul and Cleveland, Ohio. She received her B.A. in English from Yonsei University in Seoul and was first exposed to Asian American Studies when she came to UCLA as an exchange student in her junior year at Yonsei. “Since then, I’ve been involved in community work, especially in issues such as violence against women in the Korean American community,” she states. Currently, she works at the Korean Cultural Center, Korean Consulate General as a language instructor, where she is hoping to overcome the divisions between Korean Americans and Korean immigrants. Ariel’s research focus is gender inequality and socio-cultural construction of sexism among Asian Americans. “I’m interested in the transnational dimensions of domestic violence and alcoholism in the Korean American community,” she stresses.

Janette Kim was born in Mountain View, California, and grew up in Redlands. She received her B.S. from UC Irvine in Biology. For her M.A. thesis, Janette is focusing on juvenile delinquency and youth gangs in the Korean American community. “I had a great personal interest in Asian American Studies at UC Irvine,” she explains. “By my second to last year in college, I was at a crossroads in my life. I was trying to decide if medical school was something I wanted to invest my life in, and I decided that teaching and academia — namely in Asian American Studies — was an exciting prospect. The decision felt (and still feels) right.”

Shirlie Mae Mamari was born in the Philippines, attended elementary school in Japan, junior high school in Twenty-nine Palms, California, and high school in San Diego. She did her undergraduate work at UC Santa Barbara where she was active with various student organizations, serving as a co-curator for the Asian Pacific Islander Art Exposition during UCSB’s Asian Culture Week and as a facilitator for diversity awareness workshops for various departments and student groups on campus. In our M.A. program, she is interested in defining, identifying and proposing strategies for intervention and prevention of child sexual abuse in the Filipino American community.

Victoria Nanking came into our M.A. program for personal reasons. “I knew this program was not going to make me a lot of money, but I think there are other rewards,” she states. Victoria was born in Newport Beach and grew up in Irvine, California. She holds a B.A. in Asian American Studies from UC Santa Barbara where she edited an Asian American magazine called California Roll. She also writes for Yolk, A magazine, and Maun, a multiracial magazine. For her research project in our M.A. program, she is focusing on Asian American youth culture in Orange County. “I think car culture and racing are becoming to Asians what hip-hop culture is to Blacks,” she states.

Francis T. Nguyen is the first student in the UCLA joint graduate program in Asian American Studies and Public Health. She was born in Saigon and grew up in San Diego. She earned a B.S. in Biochemistry/Cell Biology and B.A. in Public Health from UC San Diego, where she also created a cancer awareness program for the Asian community. She also worked on a study looking at bone density among Southeast Asians. Francis’s research interests are osteoporosis in the Asian community, especially among Southeast Asians; Asian women’s health issues; and health policies affecting the Asian community. “I was not raised in an Asian community, and I want to learn about my background and culture,” she states. “This is important because I want to focus on health issues affecting Asians, and I need to be equipped with knowledge to deal with these issues.”

Thy Nguyen was born in Van Nuys and has lived all her life in Southern California. She earned her B.A. from UCLA, majoring in History and minoring in Asian American Studies. “I entered the M.A. program to prepare me for my future in medicine,” she
states. "I plan on working with Southeast Asian communities and believe that in order to serve the community I need to know the histories, cultures and ways of life of the people. This program will provide me with this foundation," Thy's M.A. thesis will explore health risks facing Vietnamese nail salon workers. "Although this topic is very specific, it can be used to better understand the working conditions of other manual laborers and their need for health care," she explains.

Mika Tanner was born and raised in Palo Alto, California. She did her undergraduate work at Pomona College in Claremont, majoring in Philosophy. After college, she worked for various Asian American organizations, including the Japanese American National Museum, and wrote for newspapers such as Rafu Shimpo, Pacific Citizen, and Asian Week. For our M.A. program, she wants to either do a creative writing project or a research thesis on the Shin Issei, the new Japanese immigrant community in Southern California.

Pa Xiong is of Hmong ancestry. She was born in Ban Vinai, Thailand, and grew up in Central California. She completed her undergraduate work at UCLA where she majored in Asian American Studies and wrote for the Asian Pacific Islander publication Pacific Ties. Pa entered our M.A. program to learn more about the Asian American community. "The program will hopefully provide the space and the resources for me to contribute to the study of the Hmong community and to the general Asian American community," she states. For her M.A. thesis, Pa proposes to do a creative piece — what she calls "a fictional autobiographical novel."

Susan Nakaoka Named Dukakis Intern in Public Policy

Susan Nakaoka, one of the first of our students working on a dual master's degree in Social Welfare and Asian American Studies, was a recent recipient of the Michael S. Dukakis Internship in Public Policy at UCLA. The award was presented by the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research.

The internship was established to give UCLA students first-hand experience in public service through government.

A native of Montebello, Nakaoka attended UCLA as an undergraduate and received a B.A. in Sociology and History. After graduation, she worked as director of the Ramona Gardens community service center in Boyle Heights providing social services in public housing.

For her M.A. thesis, she is researching the lives of five Nisei women political activists. It is funded by the National Fellows Program of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund.

France Nguyen Awarded Research Scholarship

First-year M.A. student France Nguyen has been awarded the Fishbaugh Scholarship from the UCLA Graduate Division and "Affiliates Adopt-A-Scholar-Award" from UCLA Affiliates.

The scholarships will enable France to work on her research as the first graduate student in the joint masters degree program for Public Health and Asian American Studies.

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**Amerasia Journal** Publishes Cumulative Index of Writings from 1971 to 1997

*Amerasia Journal*, the nation’s oldest academic journal in the field of Asian American Studies, has released its cumulative index, which documents its first 26 years of publishing from its inaugural issue in 1971 to 1997. In total, 516 articles, 183 short stories, memoirs, and poems, 383 book reviews, and numerous interviews and bibliographies have appeared in the over 25,000 pages that have been published by the journal.

*Amerasia Journal* was founded in 1970 by members of the Yale University Asian American Students Association. Two Yale seniors — Lowell Chun-Hoon and Don Nakanishi — were the founding editor and publisher, respectively. After publishing two issues at Yale in 1971, *Amerasia Journal* and its first editor Chun-Hoon moved to the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. It has been supported and housed here ever since.

The 90-page index was compiled by Ellen Wu, a recent graduate of the M.A. program in Asian American Studies at UCLA, and builds on an earlier index that was organized by Yen Le Espiritu, now a professor at the University of California, San Diego.

“Within Asian American Studies,” states *Amerasia* editor Russell C. Leong, “the *Amerasia Journal* occupies a unique position as the interdisciplinary journal that has helped to strategize the intellectual discourse on Asian Americans for over 26 years, reflecting the evolution and spaces of the field itself — political, discursive, designated, and transnational.”

The cumulative article index categorizes the 516 academic articles, reflecting an array of scholarly disciplines from history to law and from sociology to public health into 15 different topic areas such as “Immigrants, Refugees, and Migration,” “Arts and Culture,” “Labor Business, and Economy,” “Multiracial Asians,” “World War II and Japanese Americans,” “Ethnic Identity,” “Legal and Civil Rights,” and “Gay and Lesbian Studies.”

The *Amerasia Journal Cumulative Index* is available for $10 (plus shipping and handling of $3.00 for the first copy, and $1 for each additional copy) plus sales tax (8.25% Los Angeles County residents; 7.75% for California residents). Special bulk order prices also available. Make checks payable to the “UC Regents,” and send to Publications, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3230 Campbell Hall, PO Box 951546, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546. For more information, call (310) 825-2974.

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**Center Website Registers More Than 43,000 Visitors**

The UCLA Asian American Studies website has now been visited by more than 43,000 people, establishing it as the authoritative web resource in the field of Asian American Studies.

Designed by webmasters Gene Moy and Tam Nguyen, the Center’s website contains updated information on Center activities. A pull-down menu provides information on the master’s degree program and undergraduate major and minor, student and community services, Asian American Studies faculty, undergraduate and graduate student associations, and publications of the Asian American Studies Center Press.

The website also includes electronic versions of several publications, including a report on Asian Americans and the affirmative action controversy and *CrossCurrents*. The site also includes photos and information on the wartime internment of Japanese Americans taken from the book *Executive Order 9066*.

The Center website has been voted among the top 5% of sites by Lycos for content and design.

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