**LETTER TO STUDENTS**  
from Amerasia Journal

*Forget it, Jake, it’s Chinatown.*

These are the last words of Roman Polanski’s 1974 classic *Chinatown*. For the first 125 minutes of the film, I could not pinpoint anything remotely “Asian” about the story. Only in the closing scene does a seamy, night-time Chinatown finally appear.

It is not unfamiliar to have almost anything Asian reduced to a punch line, a coded metaphor, a conveniently-packaged fad. Often, these limitations lead to equally narrow possibilities of what is “Asian”—whether it is hyped-up success story, meek model minority, spiritual guru, exotic oddity, perpetual foreigner, or as in *Chinatown*, anything associated with inscrutable indecency.

Throughout the last 30 years, *Amerasia Journal* has served as a prominent forum for Asian Americans to remember, create, and critique. Within each issue’s 200+ pages of essays and photographs, noted scholars, activists, and writers explore race, class, gender, sexuality, and the many factors that contribute to the creation of a diasporic Asian America. From informative research, incisive commentary, to book reviews, original literature, poetry, and art, *Amerasia* publishes the most vital and provocative work in the field. You may come across such pieces as:

- Interviews with Movement pioneers like Grace Lee Boggs, Yuri Kochiyama, and Glenn Omatsu
- Youth, politics, and the South Asian diaspora
- The making of a Filipino American identity and community
- Asian American panethnicity and the *hapa* experience
- Organizing immigrant labor and Asian American unions
- The cultural politics of Asian representation on TV
- Reflections on a queer Asian America
- The impact of hip-hop in crossing the colorline
- Articles by Meena Alexander, Frank Chin, Arif Dirlik, Jessica Hagedorn, Evelyn Hu-deHart, Janice Mirikitani, Angela Oh, Vijay Prashad, and Helen Zia

Whatever the subject, readers of *Amerasia* have access to a comprehensive collection of incomparable material, all presented within an intellectually rigorous and socially conscious framework.

**Student Discount Subscription:** *Amerasia* is offering a student discount of $20/year (over 40% off the usual subscription price). All subscribers receive *CrossCurrents*, the newsletter of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. Subscribe today for the real stories of Asian Americans/a wider lens of truth about who we are.

Jennifer Pranolo  
*Amerasia Journal* Intern

---

I want the Student Discount Subscription @ $20/year (+ 8.25% sales tax for CA residents). Foreign students add $12 for shipping.  
Please send my *Amerasia* subscription to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>email address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Card Number</td>
<td>VISA/MASTERCARD/DISCOVER accepted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature</td>
<td>Phone Number</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>