

2020 EDITION



CROSSCURRENTS

Annual Newsmagazine of the **UCLA Asian American Studies Center**

3230 Campbell Hall
405 Hilgard Ave, Box 951546
Los Angeles, CA 90095
www.aasc.ucla.edu
310/825-2974



At the 2020 Lunar New Year Awards Reception at the Bruin Reception Room in the JD Morgan Center on February 8th: 1) awardee Michelle Wong, Marjorie Lee, awardee Zheyu Liang, and alum Julie Ha; 2) Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, Thu-Huong Nguyen-vo, Christi Corpus, Mari Tamura, Susan Toy Stern, and Karen Umemoto (UCLA AASC).

CROSSCURRENTS

VOLUME 42 | Published December 2020

Cover Image: At the Opening Night Reception for the Asian American Studies 50th Anniversary Film Festival at Napa Valley Grille in March (UCLA AASC).

As the newsmagazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, **CrossCurrents** keeps readers informed of Center activities, including academic programs, research projects, student achievements, and relevant university and community issues. **CrossCurrents** also covers important events and projects related to Asian American Studies and communities, but not directly sponsored by the Center. Past issues can be found on the Center's website.

EDITOR & DESIGNER

BARBRA RAMOS bramos@aasc.ucla.edu



If you wish to support the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, please scan the QR code with your mobile phone or visit <https://giving.ucla.edu/aasc>.

**SUPPORT
ASIAN
AMERICAN
STUDIES**

Your donation, regardless of amount, has a powerful impact on the research and educational activities that take place within the Center and in the greater AAPI community. We greatly value your help in making our work possible.

Alumni and friends interested in making a gift to the Center by endowing a scholarship, supporting faculty research, making a planned gift or other major contribution, should contact:

CHRISTI CORPUS

Director of Development, UCLA Institute of American Cultures
310/794-2396
ccorpus@support.ucla.edu

CENTER STAFF

Chu Endowed Director's Chair

KAREN UMEMOTO

Associate Director

MELANY DE LA CRUZ-VIESCA

Chief Administrative Officer

BETTY LEUNG

Office Manager

IRENE SORIANO SAXON

External Relations Coordinator

MEG THORNTON

Librarian, Archivist and Reading Room Coordinator

MARJORIE LEE

Library Assistant Coordinator

AIDAN YUN

Information Technology

TAM NGUYEN

Web Graphic Designer / Digital Media Lab Coordinator

IRENE YOUNGJI PARK

Programmer

DANIEL H. KIM

Digital Curator

SOO MEE KIM

Archival Assistant

KELLY FONG

Research Fellow

TRITIA TOYOTA

Communications and Publications Manager

BARBRA RAMOS

EthnoCommunications Director

RENEE TAJIMA-PEÑA

EthnoCommunications Assistant Director

JANET CHEN

Collective Memories Coordinator

MELODY CHEN

Amerasia Journal Editor

JUDY TZU-CHUN WU

Amerasia Journal Associate Editor

ARNOLD PAN

AAPI Nexus Journal Senior Editor

GILBERT GEE

AAPI Nexus Journal Assistant Managing Editor

ANNA HING

AAPI Nexus Journal / Research Projects Associate

CAROLINE CALDERON

Film Festival Manager and Senior Programmer

LINDY LEONG

Film Festival Events Coordinator and Director Assistant

LAILANIE GADIA

Graduate Student Researchers, Coordinators, & Interns (2020)

LAUREN HIGA

DANIEL IWAMA

EMORY JOHNSON

HANNAH JOO

SARAH SOAKAI

AMY ZHOU

Undergraduate Student Assistants, Coordinators
& Interns (2020)

THERESA BUI

SOLOMON CHANG

PHI PHI DO

ANDREW DAWOOD

RAPHAEL GATCHALIAN

KEANUSH HAKIMIAN

MAYA HARRIS

MIA KIM

DAVID LEE

GRACE LEE

ASHLEY LEUNG

MICHELLE MURAKAMI

HUY NGUYEN

HUNG NGUYEN

JESSICA PHAM

MICHAEL DE LOS SANTOS

HOPE SHIN

YUKINO TORREY

LINH VO

JENNIFER YIP

HADJI YONO-CRUZ

NAOMI YUNG

EDWIN ZHOU



Center Director Karen Umemoto moderating the opening night panel at the UCLA Asian American Studies 50th Anniversary Film Festival in March. (Keanu Hakimian/UCLA AASC)

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This has been a difficult year filled with both grief and hope. Grief over the loss of friends and family to COVID-19, over shuttered businesses and jobs, over the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others on the long list of Black lives lost, and over the erosion of our democratic system of governance that was never perfect, but never subject to such blatant corruption. And there is also hope. Hope sprung from witnessing young leaders taking up the torch for justice and equality, the sacrifice of those on the front lines in health care and community outreach efforts, and the conviction with which millions cast their vote for reason and change.

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center also stepped up to meet important challenges of the moment. As the campus closed down at the end of Winter Quarter, we worked with the Fielding School of Public Health Professors May Wang and Gilbert Gee to create the COVID-19 Multilingual Resource Hub, a website offering over 1,000 life-saving informational resources in over 50 languages. We also began producing videos on mask-wearing, social distancing and handwashing, now in 7 languages and counting. We hope you will share these tools available at [TranslateCovid.org](https://translatecovid.org) to reach our most vulnerable communities. This is just one example of our commitment to serving our communities with the knowledge and resources available to us. We also co-published several [policy reports](#) and a special issue of [AAPI Nexus](#) on the impacts the coronavirus pandemic has had on Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and communities of color.

These pages of *CrossCurrents* highlight the extraordinary work of Center faculty, staff, students and alumni over this past year. Meanwhile, we prepare to bring AAPI voices into a new period of policy discourse in 2021 with community well-being at the forefront. With progress on all fronts, we look forward to the time when we can safely gather in person once again.

Karen Umemoto

Helen and Morgan Chu Endowed Director's Chair of the Asian American Studies Center



SUPPORT FOR RACIAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE SOLIDARITY FOR THESE TIMES

The Center, along with many other units on campus and academics throughout the country, reaffirmed its commitment to racial and social justice and the fight for equity, especially in solidarity with our Black colleagues, students, and community. Leadership and staff co-authored and signed several letters in support of current struggles and demands for change. Here is an excerpt from a letter by the UCLA ethnic studies research centers, departments, and other units who stand for social justice. You can read the full letter on our website at <https://bit.ly/st4justice>.

The Center also hosted a special discussion, [“Asian American Solidarity from the Civil Rights Movement to Black Lives Matter”](#) on November 20th. View the video at <http://bit.ly/aasolidarity>.

As leaders of academic units at UCLA dedicated to social justice, we stand in solidarity with those in Los Angeles and throughout the country fighting to end state violence against African Americans, Indigenous peoples, Latinx, Asian, and other communities of color. The murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department as well as the recent killings of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and Robert Avitia are the latest manifestations of a structure of white supremacy that has taken the forms of genocide, slavery, colonialism, incarceration, and exclusion, and extended beyond U.S. borders through imperialism.

In this historic moment, the coronavirus pandemic is laying bare the dramatic inequalities that characterize U.S. society, disproportionately affecting communities of color both through illness and economic effects. [...]

Our campus units have long been engaged in research and teaching about these dehumanizing and unjust systems. [...] For many years, we have fought alongside Indigenous people, laborers, the undocumented, the imprisoned, and those seeking gender equity. We help shape policies and the enactment of legislation. And yet, there is much more to do.

We recognize that higher education remains implicated in such structures of violence and dispossession. To that end, we renew our commitment to enacting principles of abolitionism so that our endeavors of research, teaching, and service are not complicit with the expansion of the police state. We offer spaces to discuss not only the past and the present, but to also work toward a just future. We remember those who have come before us and seek to continue the unfinished work of liberation.

It is with deep sadness that the Center shared news about the passing of **Professor Emeritus Lane Ryo Hirabayashi** on August 8, 2020, at the age of 67. Professor Hirabayashi was the inaugural **George and Sakaye Aratani Endowed Chair of the Japanese American Incarceration, Redress and Community (Aratani Chair)** and served as a member of the Center's Faculty Advisory Committee. He retired from UCLA in 2017. The following is an abbreviated version of a tribute penned by **Professor Valerie Matsumoto**, current holder of the Aratani Chair, in memory of her longtime friend and colleague. The full version can be found at:

<http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/about/lanehirabayashi.aspx>.



REMEMBERING LANE RYO HIRABAYASHI



Professor Matsumoto
and Professor Emeritus
Hirabayashi at the Aratani
Chair Reception in 2018 at
the Fowler Museum
(UCLA AASC).

Lane Hirabayashi was a valued friend and colleague—a prodigious scholar, teacher, and activist, whose work and ideals were deeply rooted in family tradition. He was greatly influenced by his father **James A. Hirabayashi**, a sociocultural anthropologist who was involved with the Third World Strike at San Francisco State University and became the first Dean of the School of Ethnic Studies. Working on projects with his father, as well as their discussions about “cultures of resistance,” informed Lane’s approach to social research that focused “on working with or for a community-based group seeking to empower an ethnic minority population that had been excluded from the mainstream in terms of resources and services...”

Lane’s engagement with the UCLA Asian American Studies Center (AASC) began in 1981, when he was awarded an Institute of American Cultures postdoctoral fellowship. Eager to get involved with the Japanese American community in Southern California, he began working with a range of community-based organizations, including the **Gardena Pioneer Project**, the **National Coalition for Redress and Reparations** (now **Nikkei**

for Civil Rights and Redress), the **Asian American Drug Abuse Program**, and **East West Players**.

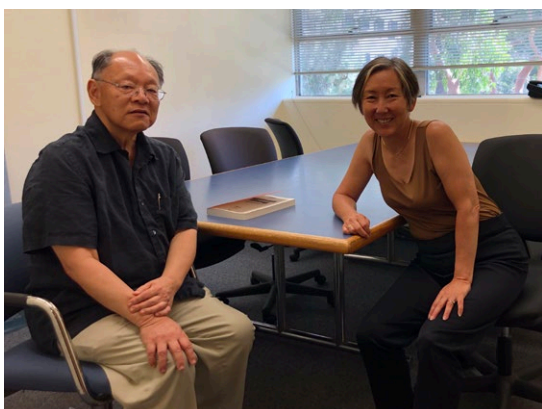
In 2006, Lane returned to UCLA as the inaugural holder of the George and Sakaye Aratani Endowed Chair on the Japanese American Incarceration, Redress, and Community—the first endowed chair in the country to focus on the wartime confinement of Japanese Americans. Mindful of the parallels between the racial profiling of the Issei and Nisei during the 1940s and Arab Americans after 9/11, Lane said, “What I want to make sure is that people remember the past so that we can make better policy decisions.”

He was in the forefront of scholars calling for the use of more precise terminology regarding the forced uprooting and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, and for avoiding government euphemisms such as “evacuation” and “relocation.” He also argued that “comparative research relating this history to the internment of Middle Eastern and Muslim detainees, and the incarceration of militant activists of color and prisoners of conscience, is imperative.”

As the Aratani Chair, Lane worked ceaselessly to bridge campus and community with numerous programs and events: He brought artists, activists, and scholars to campus; Lane also organized many panels and programs to present scholarly research and publicize resources in Japanese American communities throughout the West. He worked closely with the **Japanese American National Museum** and the **Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute** as well as community organizations in San Francisco, Denver, and Riverside. An inspiring orator who combined keen historical analysis with a passion for civil rights, he spoke at countless Days of Remembrance, organized by Japanese American communities to keep in memory the signing of Executive Order 9066, the presidential authorization of the forced removal of Japanese-descent people from the West Coast.

Lane’s research agenda remained full after his retirement from UCLA in 2017. Throughout his prolific academic career, he maintained a steadfast commitment both to scholarship and to what he called mutuality—not just conducting research but also acknowledging that there can be a deep sharing of purpose between researcher and subject. He learned this from his father, Jim, and it became a lifelong touchstone that always privileged active involvement with community. Lane wrote, “I have tried to both share what was given to me and to invite readers in turn to rethink and sharpen an approach that can be an integral tool in ethically and politically informed social research leading to engagement and empowerment...”

Valerie Matsumoto is the current George and Sakaye Aratani Chair on the Japanese American Incarceration, Redress and Community and is a professor in the departments of History and Asian American Studies at UCLA.



Members of the Collective Memories team with interviewees.
 1) Meg Thornton with Jesse Quinsaat; 2) Glenn Omatsu and Karen Umemoto; 3) Gabriela Rodriguez-Gomez, Valerie Matsumoto, Congresswoman Judy Chu, Janet Chen, and Alma E. Villa Loma;
 4) Jennifer Tolentino and Meg Thornton.
 (JC/UCLA AASC)

The **Collective Memories Project** started as part of the Center's lead-in to its 50th Anniversary activities to document the experiences and history of those involved in the growth of Asian American Studies and the start of the Center in the '60s and '70s. Although the pandemic has slowed plans, the project team, led by **Center for EthnoCommunications Assistant Director Janet Chen** and **Center Director Karen Umemoto**, were able to edit more videos and increase the total number of interviewees to forty. Janet, her team and interviewers Karen Umemoto, **Valerie Matsumoto**, **Susie Ling**, **Karen Ishizuka** and **Meg Thornton** have plans to reach fifty interviews when it's safe to resume filming and finish by fall 2021. Each founder/community member's page will also become a repository of their oral histories video and audio interviews, archival photos and transcripts. To view the videos that are currently finished, visit the Collective Memories section of our site at <http://aasc.ucla.edu/aasc50/> or scan the QR Code.



Thank you to the following individuals who have been interviewed so far:

- Mike Eng
- Kenyon Chan °
- May Chen
- Rockwell Chin
- Deborah Ching
- Jenny Chomori
- Helen Chu
- Judy Chu
- Morgan Chu
- Lowell Chun-Hoon
- Laura Ho Fineman °
- Warren Furutani
- Florante Ibanez*
- Bruce Iwasaki
- Mary Uyematsu Kao*
- Duane Kubo*
- Alan Kumamoto
- Stewart Kwoh
- Vivian Matsushige
- Carol Mochizuki*
- Mike Murase*
- Robert "Bob" Nakamura*
- Alan Nishio*
- Frankin Odo
- Dennis Ogawa
- Rodney Ogawa
- James Okazaki
- Glenn Omatsu
- Elsie Uyematsu Osajima
- Jesse Quinsaat
- Marilynne Hamano Quon*
- Brenda Paik Sunoo*
- Bob Suzuki
- Casimiro Tolentino*
- Jennifer Tolentino
- Amy Uyematsu*
- Buck Wong
- Eddie Wong*
- Suzi Wong
- Mia Yamamoto °

*Full interview available online; ° Interview Clips available online.

The team would especially like to thank all the student workers and interns from 2018-2020: **Emory Johnson**, **Christian Gella**, **Lian Mae Tualla**, **Marnie Salvani**, **Sarina Ngo**, **Rishi Gune**, **Gabriela Rodriguez-Gomez**, **Alma E. Villa Loma**, **Jeremy Zimmet**, **Naomi Yung**, **Hannah Joo** and **Melody Chen** (recent UCLA Ethno graduate).

Special thanks to Center founders, **Carol Mochizuki** and **Florante Ibanez** for helping the center with the transcripts and archival materials.

PROJECT UPDATE
COLLECTIVE
MEMORIES

MOUNTAIN MOVERS

CONTINUING THE SPIRIT AND LEGACY
OF ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Mountain Movers: Student Activism and the Emergence of Asian American Studies shares the narratives of nine remarkable students and chronicles the founding history and trajectory of Asian American Studies at the campuses of San Francisco State, UC Berkeley, and UCLA.

The Center and editors **Russell Jeung, Karen Umemoto, Harvey Dong, Eric Mar, Lisa Hirai Tsuchitani, and Arnold Pan** were proud to announce that *Mountain Movers* was recognized with a bronze **Independent Publisher Book Award** (Ippy Awards) in the category of Best Regional Non-Fiction: West-Pacific. The Ippy Awards bring recognition to independent, university, and self-published titles every year. This the first time that the Center Press has been recognized with this honor and it has been especially thrilling as we marked the 50th anniversary of Asian American studies and the Center.

This summer, the Center along with the Institute of American Cultures once again partnered with **UCLA Center X's Teacher Education Program** for their ethnic studies training program. The workshops helped teachers with lesson planning, curriculum development, primary resources,

mentorship, sharing of lessons and experiences from ethnic studies educators. As part of the program, **Professors Valerie Matsumoto, Karen Umemoto, and Gaye Theresa Johnson** and PhD candidate **Marques Vestal** participated in a speaker series. Professor Umemoto shared the curriculum and materials being developed from *Mountain Movers* during her session.

This year, around 280 teachers from over 29 school districts applied and 24 were chosen to participate. With the increased interest this year, the program also created a webinar series that was available to a wider audience. The seven webinars featured teachers who taught ethnic studies sharing their lesson plans, experience, and knowledge of teaching in their classrooms, along with Q&A. Over 9,700 people registered for these webinars.

As the need for ethnic studies curriculum and materials, as well as digitally accessible materials, grows, the Center continues to develop the Storybook site for *Mountain Movers*, which includes oral history videos, photos and documents, a historic timeline and a curriculum module. The site can be accessed at <http://ucla.in/2ILk88H> or by scanning the QR code with your mobile device. Print copies of the book can be purchased at <http://bit.ly/aascpressstore>.

NEW STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP CREATED
TO HONOR JANE LIN, MA '13

After the passing of alumni **Jane Lee Lin, MA '13**, in April 2019, her Asian American Studies cohort and friends chose to honor her memory by launching a scholarship through the Center. **The Jane Lin Memorial Scholarship Fund** provides support to UCLA undergraduate students who have taken an Asian American Studies course. Priority will be given to students with a demonstrated financial need, students who are first-generation college students, or students who overcame significant barriers to attend college. Students do not have to be an Asian American Studies major or minor to apply. Students can learn more about how to apply for this scholarship and other awards at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/scholarships/default.aspx>.

As a scholar-artist, Jane demonstrated a love of learning and building with her cohort and through her teaching of students in Asian American Studies. She shared with them her many passions and insights.

Jane Lin (top row, third from the right) with other Asian American Studies MA alumni in 2013. (UCLA AASC)



She served as Assistant Managing Editor for *AAPI Nexus Journal* while she was a MA student. You can read a dedication to her by **Melany De La Cruz-Viesca** in Issue 16:1-2 that captures her generous and thoughtful spirit at <http://aapinexus.org>.

If you wish to donate to the fund, please visit: <http://giving.ucla.edu/JaneLinScholarship> or scan the QR code.



NEW PUBLICATION: ROCKIN' THE BOAT FLASHBACKS OF THE 1970'S ASIAN MOVEMENT BY MARY UYEMATSU KAO

This year, the Center was especially pleased to support the publication and release of *Rockin' the Boat: Flashbacks of the 1970s Asian Movement* by Mary Uyematsu Kao. It is a striking visual journey into the Asian American Movement from 1969 to 1974, presenting never-before-seen black and white photographs by Kao, juxtaposed with first-person narratives of the political issues that sparked a youth movement and broke the model minority mold.

Influenced by the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense and the transformative shifts pushed by the Civil Rights Movement, Asian Americans of that time period rose to the occasion to become part of a Third World Movement in the United States. The book acts as witness to the diverse spaces and events of a history that is often overlooked. These snapshots are a belated offering by Mary Uyematsu Kao to the Asian American Movement of the '70s; it is a testament to those who participated, of their work, their struggle, their hope. It is a reminder to current and future organizers and activists that today's struggles are rooted in the history of U.S. imperialism, and of the need to connect with other movements, to think critically, and to push forward in the face of systemic inequities.

Seventeen contributors give personal accounts of their different entry points into the Movement. **Tomie Arai** was drawn to artistic projects of the Basement Workshop in New York City; **Wendy Nagatani** gives a rare look at the Yellow Brotherhood from a woman's perspective; **Elsie Uyematsu Osajima** hosted a Nisei Women's Panel on the changing roles of women; **Miya Iwataki** presents a Little Tokyo retrospective; and interviews with **Vivian Matsushige**, **Sandy Maeshiro**, and **Marlene Murakami** reflect on the impact of the Movement on the rest of their lives. **Kenwood Jung** describes UCLA's Asian American High Potential Program; **Elaine Takahashi** documents the early days of the Denver and Boulder Colorado Movements; and **Scott Nagatani** recounts the backstory on high school students organizing the Van Troi Anti-Imperialist Youth Brigade, an event that thrust the Japanese American community into discussing both sides of the Vietnam War.

Rockin' the Boat is a co-publication of Mary Uyematsu Kao and UCLA Asian American Studies Center, as part of AASC's 50th Anniversary, and is sponsored by the **George and Sakaye Aratani Community Advancement Research Endowment (Aratani C.A.R.E.) Awards program**.

A book launch event, co-presented by **Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute**, featuring **Kao**, **Sandy Maeshiro** and **Vivian Matsushige** was held online and it presented reflections on the past and thoughts on the current activist movements. View the recording via JTown TV at <https://bit.ly/rockinjtowntv>. To purchase a copy of the book, visit the UCLA AASC Press online store at <http://bit.ly/aascpressstore>.

Above: Mary Uyematsu Kao; Right & Below: Photos from *Rockin' the Boat*. (Mary Uyematsu Kao).

Bottom: Featured participants and staff for *Rockin' the Boat* Book Launch on October 9, 2020. (UCLA AASC).



ABOUT THE AUTHOR Born in the Los Angeles suburb of Altadena, Mary Uyematsu Kao attended UCLA during the struggle to establish Asian American Studies on campus. Kao worked for 30 years at AASC before retiring in 2018 and she is known for her graphic design work for AASC Press publications, especially *Amerasia Journal*. Recognized for her role as an activist as well as a photographer documenting Asian American community events in southern California and far beyond, *Rockin' the Boat* is her first published photographic collection.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDENTS 'RISING AS ONE': SEASON CONFERENCE



At the SEASON Conference (above) 1) Viet Thanh Nguyen with student organizers; 2) Nguyen delivering the keynote address; 4) Chancee Martorell (center) with former and current Thai CDC interns who participated in the conference; (below) 5) UCLA student organizers Justin Suarez, Jason Vu, Lyndon Lee, Ngoc Nguyen, and Vi Do (Jason Vu/APC).

ORGANIZER PERSPECTIVES FROM NGOC NGUYEN, JUSTIN SUAREZ, & JASON VU

In bridging institutional resources with the experiential knowledge of organizers and activists, we challenge institutions of higher learning such as UCLA to do more to ensure that the voices of its marginalized students and their communities are not only heard, but prioritized. Building off the work of scholar-activists who have already tended to this divide, we seek to ensure that our experience as college students empowers us to serve our communities.

Ultimately, the planning and execution of SEASON was the culmination of nearly a year's worth of work. Despite the many personal and institutional challenges faced by our team, we were able to overcome and bring forth our conference's theme of "Rising as One" through the many bonds that were formed between students and organizers from across the nation. At the same time, however, we recognize that our work is far from done. The call to "rise as one" is not one that can be adequately answered through a single event such as SEASON. Rather, it is an ongoing challenge that demands critical reflection in all our work toward building community power. With this in mind, we recognize the utmost importance of creating a sustainable leadership to continue the mission of SEASON to facilitate the continued growth of Southeast Asian student organizing. Next year, many of our leaders will be transitioning out of college, meaning a new generation of student leaders will have to rise up. Nonetheless, we are hopeful that the love and passion that drove us to begin this conference will likewise drive our successors for years to come.



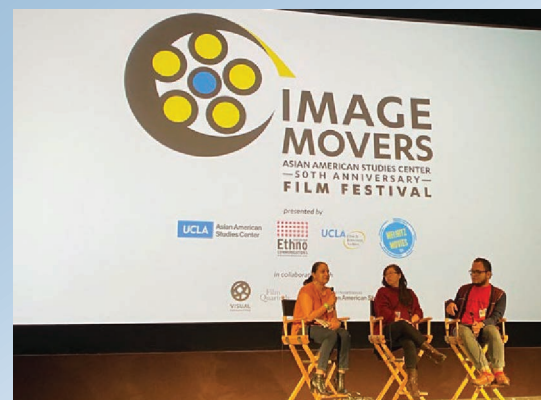
The Southeast Asian Students for OrgaNizing (SEASON) Conference was a special 3-day, 2-night conference, led by students from February 21st to 23rd at UCLA. The event was programmed by Asian Pacific Coalition, Vietnamese Students Union, Association of Hmong Students, Thai Students Association, United Khmer Students, Samahang Pilipino, Burmese Student Association, and the Malaysian Student Association at UCLA. Under the theme of "Rising as One," students from all over the country came together for various advocacy training workshops, keynote speakers, and coalition-building activities. Organizers sought to provide a safe space for Southeast Asian students to strategize around campus-based actions to effectively advocate for their community, especially in the face of issues like mass deportation and lack of representation and support in higher education institutions. With around 200 people in attendance, organizers sought to make the conference as accessible as possible, providing over 60 full and partial travel scholarships, as well as housing for non-UCLA attendees.

Pulitzer Prize winner Viet Thanh Nguyen delivered the keynote as the **UCLA Asian American Studies Center's 2020 David and Tina Yamano Nishida Distinguished Lecture**. He shared his own experiences as student organizer at UC Berkeley and shared what he saw as critical questions for Southeast Asian and the larger Asian American communities. There was also a plenary panel entitled "Bridging the SEAs: A Conversation on Cross-Community Solidarity, Empowerment, and Advocacy (SEA)" that featured **Chancee Martorell, Uyen Hoang, Gregory Cendana, Lee Lo, and Montha Chum**. The panel was a space to inspire students to become political active and to engage in the social movements of today. Other activities included an open mic night, workshops led by community organizers, and roundtable discussions. Additional support for the conference was provided by the Center, UCLA Residential Life, USAC Cultural Affairs Commission, Students Wellness Commission, Fighting for Family, Department of English at UCLA, Center for Southeast Asian Studies at UCLA, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

You can view video of Viet Thanh Nguyen's talk on our site at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/news/vietnguyen0220.aspx>. Check other highlights from the conference at <https://seasonconference.wixsite.com/home>.

ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES 50TH ANNIVERSARY FILM FESTIVAL

On Friday, March 6th, the Center kicked off the **UCLA Asian American Studies 50th Anniversary Film Festival**. This festival was presented in partnership with the **Center for EthnoCommunications** and **UCLA Film & Television Archive**, and **Melnitz Movies**, and in collaboration with **Visual Communications**, **Film Quarterly**, and the **UCLA Asian American Studies Department** to celebrate fifty years of Asian American Studies at UCLA. With over 300 people in attendance, programs covered a range of topics and issues, such as immigration and restorative justice, and included a mix of features and shorts. Thank you to all the staff, faculty, students, volunteers, community partners and co-sponsors who helped make the festival possible. Originally planned for three weekends, the festival was unfortunately cut short after the first weekend due to the pandemic. **Remember to save the date - this February 2021, the Center and UCLA Film & Television Archive are teaming up once again for an online film festival!** Find out more info, including films and panelists, in January by scanning the QR code or visiting <http://aasc.ucla.edu/filmfestival/2021/>.



(Above) **Set Hernandez Rongkilyo**, **Shikha Bhatnagar**, and **Kim Tran** at "Immigration and Xenophobia" discussion (JC/UCLA AASC)
(Below on the left) 1) Opening Night with **Florante Ibanez** and **Renee Tajima-Pena** (KH/UCLA AASC); 2) **Kirn Kim** with **erin Khue Ninh** and **Jason Tobin** (erin Khue Ninh); 3) **Lindy Leong** with **Patrick Epino**, **Tamlyn Tomita**, and **Stephen Dypiangco** (AB/UCLA AASC); 4) **Dr. Elizabeth Gong-Guy**, **traci Ishigo**, and **Kristina Wong** (KH/UCLA AASC).



#ICYMI: WEEKEND 1 PROGRAM RECAP

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

AAPI ACTIVISM + DOCUMENTING THE COMMUNITY @ Billy Wilder Theater

Featured PBS' **ASIAN AMERICANS** series: "Episode 4: Generation Rising" (2020) by **Grace Lee** preceded by "Pilgrimage" (2003) by **Tadashi Nakamura** and **Radical Cram School**, Season 2, Episode 3 - "Grace Lee Boggs" (2020) by **Kristina Wong** and **Jenessa Joffe**, with in-person appearances by episode producer **Grace Lee**, series producer **Renee Tajima-Peña**, librarian and activist **Florante Ibanez**.

SATURDAY MARCH 7

IMMIGRATION + XENOPHOBIA @ James Bridges Theater

Featured **PUNCHING AT THE SUN** (2006) by **Tanuj Chopra** preceded by "Lost and Found" (2007) by **Tam Tran**; "Missing Piece Project" (2018) by **Daniel Luu**; **Radical Cram School**, S2 Episode 4 - "Puppetland (A Story of Undocumented Humans)" (2020) by **Kristina Wong**, **Jenessa Joffe**; and Selected Clips from the **Undocumented Filmmakers Collective**, with in-person appearances by **Set Hernandez Rongkilyo** of **Undocumented Filmmakers Collective**; **Shikha Bhatnagar** of **South Asian Network**; and professor and community organizer **Kim Tran**.

JUSTICE SYSTEM + RESTORATIVE JUSTICE @ Billy Wilder Theater

BETTER LUCK TOMORROW by **Justin Lin** preceded by "Fighting for Family" (2019) by **Lan Nguyen** with in person appearances by social justice defender **Kirn Kim**; visiting scholar, professor **erin Khuê Ninh**; and actor **Jason Tobin**.

AAPI CULT/HORROR CINEMA @ James Bridges Theater

AWESOME ASIAN BAD GUYS by **Stephen Dypiangco**, **Patrick Epino** preceded by "The Collector" (2018) by **Linh Ngau**, **Michelle Shin**, **Mitchell Zia**; "Mama Pingpong Social Club" (2018) by **Shiang-An Chuang**; and "Secret Lives of Asians at Night" (2019) by **Keff**, with in-person appearances by filmmaker/actor **Patrick Epino**; filmmaker/actor **Stephen Dypiangco**; and actor **Tamlyn Tomita**.

SUNDAY MARCH 8

MENTAL HEALTH + SELF-CARE @ James Bridges Theater

WONG FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST by **Kristina Wong** preceded by "Muscles and Mascara" (2017) by **Michael Chang**, **Tiffany Wong**, **Ryan Rodriguez**, **Janelle Sangalang**; "hiya" (2018) by **Arielle Bagood**; and **Radical Cram School**, S2 Episode 6 - "Feminist Boy" (2020) Music Video by **Kristina Wong**, **Jenessa Joffe**, with in-person appearances by performance artist, comedian, activist and elected representative **Kristina Wong**; therapist, trauma-informed yoga and meditation teacher **traci ishigo**; and **Dr. Elizabeth Gong-Guy** of **UCLA Campus and Student Resilience**.





FILM FESTIVAL ORGANIZER REFLECTIONS BY LINDY LEONG

As the new academic year begins, I am inclined towards a positive frame of mind and a fresh perspective on what's at stake in these times. When I was invited by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center to help organize their **50th Anniversary Film Festival**, one of their major events of the year in celebrating this milestone occasion, I felt like it was a homecoming of sorts and a reunion of old friends, comrades, and family. My recent programming work at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival and long history with its parent organization, **Visual Communications**, my entire professional career spent in college teaching, academia, and cultural non-profits, in addition to my status as a super Bruin all collided into this singular project. And to be honest (even after months in quarantine lockdown to reflect), I can't tell if they needed me more or the other way around. The process of putting together and now rebooting our programming has been an entirely healing activity for me. As anti-Asian sentiment and racism escalate in light of COVID-19 and our country toughening it out under its current, hostile and dangerous leadership, heightened visibility of Asian American Pacific Islanders on screen, both big and small, doing things and just being human remains of paramount importance. Last we left off, we had gotten through our first weekend of programming at the Billy Wilder Theater at the Hammer Museum and the James Bridges Theater at the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television. It **has** been a real boon both personally and professionally to be **collaborating** with our friends and colleagues at the UCLA Film & Television Archive and Melnitz Movies, who have graciously lent their expertise and helped with additional access to resources we needed in order to mount a successful event.

To recap briefly, we launched with a sneak preview of the landmark PBS documentary series, *Asian Americans*, produced by UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications Director and AAS **Professor Renee Tajima-Peña**, an occasion that brought out much of the LA-based AAPI activist and academic communities

to celebrate and commune over past accomplishments and the work yet to be done in advocating for and creating an more equitable world for all. Addressing xenophobia in a post 9/11 context, we did good by showcasing VC/LAAPFF alumnus/director **Tanuj Chopra's** coming-of-age, narrative feature debut, *Punching at the Sun* (2006), a critical hit and crowd-pleaser when it debuted at Sundance. As part of the shorts programming that day, we were delighted to screen UCLA AAS alumna **Tam Tran's** *The Seattle Underground Railroad* (2006) and *Lost and Found* (2007) in her memory and in honor of her legacy of activism on behalf of undocumented students and youth. Kicking things into high gear, our restorative justice program featuring *Better Luck Tomorrow* (2003) by UCLA TFT's **Justin Lin** brought an academic and activist lens to the origins of the film's creation and its continuing significance to the AAPI film canon and American independent cinema. The fun came with our cult cinema program spotlighting VC/LAAPFF feature selection, *Awesome Asian Bad Guys* (2014), the brainchild of **Stephen Dypianggo** and **Patrick Epino** (aka the guys behind the National Film Society) and a slate of recent AAPI genre cinematic gems. The laughter continued amidst the tears with our mental health program highlighting the art and activism of UCLA Centennial alumna, performance artist, and politician **Kristina Wong**, who courageously performed scenes from her well-regarded stage show and film, *Wong Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* (2011) and moderated a panel of healthcare professionals and practitioners about conquering the stigma of mental illness and self-care within the AAPI community.

Kristina's powerfully rendered, highly cathartic program marked the nadir of our programming before COVID-19 protocols shut down all activities on campus and the city for months. In the interim, she started the **Auntie Sewing Squad**, an all-volunteer, face mask making collective made up of mostly BIPOC folks and allies, and subsequently, brought to life the true spirit of art supporting activism. While we recalibrate our programming for a virtual showcase targeted for early 2021, I want to pause to give thanks to our wonderful collaborators, partners, and staff for their perseverance, commitment, and resolve in forging ahead with us in spite of these new challenges. Stay tuned and join us at the movies!

Since the original festival was cut short, the Center and the Film & Television Archive are presenting the **UCLA Asian American Studies Film Festival** in February! Check out more info on this virtual film festival at <http://aasc.ucla.edu/filmfest/2021/>.



NINEZ PONCE

RECIPIENT OF THE NAKANISHI AWARD FOR HER HEALTH RESEARCH AND LEADERSHIP SERVING AAPI COMMUNITIES

Congratulations to the 2019-2020 Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding

Engaged Scholarship in Asian American Studies awardee, Professor Ninez Ponce of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health! For over thirty years, she has been a national advocate for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, focusing on health-related racial and ethnic disparities research. She has provided extraordinary service, leadership, and research as a Professor in the Health Policy and Management Department and member of the Center's faculty advisory committee. She serves as the director of the **UCLA Center for Health Policy Research (CHPR)**, which houses the **California Health Interview Survey (CHIS)** and is a prominent advocate for social, racial, and health justice. One of Ponce's major contributions has been helping develop CHIS. It is the nation's largest state health survey and provides a detailed picture of the health and health care needs of California's large and diverse population. Within CHIS, Ponce championed for meaningful inclusion of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) and her approach has resulted in one of the richest data sets with sufficient subsample of several major Asian ethnic groups.

“DR. PONCE’S WORK IS BOTH LIFE-CHANGING AND LIFE-SAVING. SHE EXEMPLIFIES THE SPIRIT OF DR. NAKANISHI’S LEGACY OF VISIBILITY AND REPRESENTATION.”

- from one of her nominators

Currently, she collaborates with other researchers and community organizations to document and analyze racial disparities of COVID-19. Her dedication to high-quality, evidence-based research combined with her commitment to eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities and achieving health equity for all, has especially contributed to Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities. A community partner stated, “Without disaggregated data, we are invisible and Dr. Ponce has continued to be a staunch advocate for our data and for our visibility.” Ponce was asked to mentor and train NHPI graduate students on NHPI COVID-19 data collection and analysis. She immediately began working with NHPI students from around the country, helping to build a pipeline of the next generation of NHPI scientists, advocates, and leaders who will help drive change. “The data she and her team of students have worked on have been critical to our mission, and have

been cited in various local and national news stories, used by NHPI community organizations across the country to advocate for the disaggregation and reporting of our data, and was recently used for a testimony by a member of our Response Team before the U.S. House of Representatives’ Ways and Means Committee,” expressed a community leader. The community leader continued, “A new COVID-19 dashboard she’s building will highlight NHPI case and death rates in states and counties with significant NHPI communities, something that our government has failed to provide us.” She used the Nakanishi funds to set up a NHPI COVID-19 Response Research Fund through CHPR to award stipends to students she is working with on collecting and analyzing NHPI data. The Center co-sponsored **“Unmasking Data for Health Equity”** on August 27th to present the NHPI Data Policy Lab and their work so far.

Ponce is also co-leading a team that was awarded this past year with a \$596,000 grant from the **National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research** to address data gaps about gun use and improve firearms policies. Their three-year-long study aims to advance knowledge on gun violence related to firearm ownership, storage practices, and perceptions of gun safety, and fill critical data gaps about risk factors for gun suicide and urban gun violence related to understudied and disproportionately impacted subpopulations, including youth/young adults, veterans, immigrants, and LGBT people.

Upon learning she received the Nakanishi Award, Professor Ponce expressed, “I am so thrilled and honored. I was mentored by Don, and miss him when I think how my work would make his eyes twinkle.”

Through the generosity of UCLA faculty, students, staff, and alumni, as well as community leaders, an endowment was established that honors the late **Professor Emeritus Don T. Nakanishi**, who served on the UCLA faculty for thirty-five years and who ably directed the UCLA Asian American Studies Center (1990-2010). Among his invaluable contributions to Asian American Studies, Professor Nakanishi co-founded two national publications: *Amerasia Journal* (1971) and *AAPI Nexus Journal* (2003). Professor Nakanishi published widely in the areas of Asian American politics and education, mentored thousands of students, and provided professional and community-based service locally, nationally, and internationally. The Nakanishi Award includes a \$5,000 award. The award rotates annually between faculty and students.

STANDING AGAINST COVID-19 AND ANTI-ASIAN RACISM

With the pandemic taking its toll on Asian Pacific Islander health care providers and the rise of anti-Asian racism, the Center joined forces with the **UCLA School of Nursing Council on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion** for “**Why the Hate: Asian Pacific Islander Healthcare Providers on the Frontlines**” to share stories from those working against the virus and discuss how to stand against COVID-19 and anti-Asian racism.

Featured speakers were (pictured right):

- **Dr. Emma Cuenca**, Assistant Adjunct Professor, UCLA School of Nursing
- **Dr. Shi Zhang**, Internal Medicine, Hospitalist, Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center & UCLA Medical Center
- **Professor Gilbert Gee** of UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
- **Manjusha Kulkarni, JD** - Executive Director, Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON); Co-Founder, STOP AAPI HATE

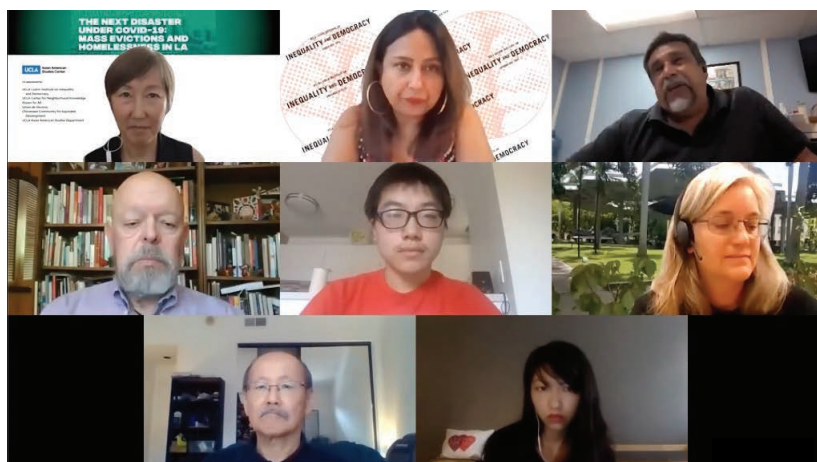
The speakers touched on a range of issues and emphasized the need to make structural and societal change to address inequities and prejudices faced by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Cuenca pushed for inclusion of all stakeholders in healthcare systems, including those like housekeepers and maintenance workers, to ensure that no one is left behind on decision-making. Kulkarni challenged the idea of the model minority myth and called for disruption of this label, stating that it was “critical to speak up on behalf of our communities and other communities of colors.” The June 1st event was moderated by **Center Director Karen Umemoto** and **Deborah Koniak-Griffin**, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion at the UCLA School of Nursing.



Video from the panel can be viewed by scanning the QR code or by visiting <https://bit.ly/whythehatevid>.



THE NEXT DISASTER UNDER COVID-19 MASS EVICTIONS AND HOMELESSNESS IN LOS ANGELES



Scan the QR code or visit our website for video of the talk and links to the research findings shared in this webinar: <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/news/massevictions.aspx>

The **2020 Activist-in-Residence** program by the Center and the **UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy** recognized three housing justice organizers: **Jane Nguyen** of K-Town for All and **Elizabeth Blaney** and **Leonardo Vilchis** of Union de Vecinos. In a panel discussion in July (pictured left), the Activists-in-Residence spoke alongside fellow activists **Jason Li** and **Alejandro Gutierrez Cortez** from Chinatown Community for Equitable Development and researchers **Professor Paul Ong** of the Center For Neighborhood Knowledge, **Professor Gary Blasi** of UCLA Law, and **Professor Ananya Roy** of the Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy. The participants focused on the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on housing, as the pandemic exposed even more the need to address housing justice, tenants’ rights and homelessness in Los Angeles. They also discussed what can be done to mitigate the damage to Angelenos through enforceable rights and robust protections. As Professor Roy asserted during the session, “We cannot participate in negotiating our defeat. Now is the time for practical, radical, and just ideas of housing.”

COMBATTING THE PANDEMIC

#TRANSLATECOVID



Launched in May 2020, the [COVID-19 Multilingual Resource Hub at TranslateCOVID.org](https://translatecovid.org) is a joint effort by the **UCLA Asian American Studies Center** and the **UCLA Fielding School of Public Health** with the **Institute of American Cultures**. It was started in response to the spread of COVID-19 and the need for important and life-saving information to be available for diverse communities. The site started with materials in 40 languages and, as of November 2020, has resources in almost 60 languages, from Tagalog to Khmer and Hmong to Russian and American Sign Language, as well as some indigenous languages such as Navajo/Dine, through a searchable and keyword-organized database. Much of the #TranslateCOVID information is sourced from various county and state public health departments, CDC, WHO, and more, in order to provide more accurate and useful resources to all, from children to the elderly.

Center Director Karen Umemoto worked with **Professors Gilbert Gee and May Wang** of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health to lead this effort as the principal investigators. The Center's Education and Information Technology team (**Tom Nguyen, Daniel Kim, Arnold Pan, Irene Park, and Barbra Ramos**) was tasked with seeing this project into fruition, taking lists of AAPI-language resources on COVID-19 and expanding the website resources to include other languages, videos, data and reports that examine the connections between COVID-19 and race and ethnicity, and anti-Asian hate reporting sites. Undergraduate student **Justin Lai** coordinated volunteers who also helped to update and add to the resource database. **Center for EthnoCommunications Assistant Director Janet Chen** led the production team for original #TranslateCOVID videos, with the filmmaker prowess of **Duc Nguyen** of **Right Here in My Pocket Films** and coordination by undergraduate student **Keanush Hakimian**. Translations services were provided by **eWebTranslator, Inc.** and alum **Brian Fukuma**, with additional translation assistant by **Sarah Soakai**. The videos cover three main topics: handwashing, wearing a mask, and social distancing, and are available in the following languages: English, Spanish, Korean, Farsi, Hindi, Vietnamese, and Armenian. The team is currently working on adding versions in Marshallese and Chukese to better serve Pacific Islander communities.

We encourage all to use, share, learn from, and discuss these resources as we tackle this pandemic together. As the need to understand how to live with and reduce the spread of the virus in our communities continues, please help us spread the word about [COVID-19 Multilingual Resource Hub](https://translatecovid.org), available at [TranslateCOVID.org](https://translatecovid.org). Share our site and these resources with your friends, families, constituents, clients, and communities, who may be in need of resources in languages other than English. With the pandemic ever-evolving, it is vital that everyone - regardless of race, ethnicity, education, income, or language spoken - has access to life-saving information about how to protect themselves and others.

Spread the word and help #TranslateCOVID for our communities! Visit [TranslateCovid.org](https://translatecovid.org) or scan the QR code.



Left: Screenshots of the 1) TranslateCovid.org website, 2) video for handwashing in Spanish, 3) promotion of wearing a mask in Armenian, and 4) screenshot of video on social distancing in Vietnamese. (UCLA AASC)



Some of the members of the #TranslateCOVID video and project teams remotely celebrating the release of the videos. (JC/UCLA AASC)

STUDENT REFLECTIONS ON THE #TRANSLATECOVID PROJECT

I transferred to UCLA in the fall of 2019 in pursuit of my undergraduate degree in Anthropology with ambitions to complete a juris doctor at this same institution. Although my plans in this respect have been complicated by the ongoing pandemic, I take this opportunity to reflect on these ambitions more thoroughly in order to best engender this initial fascination with the subject presented in human culture. Working on the #TranslateCOVID project initially as a coordinator for the many teams working on the project, then as English narrator and finally producer as of Fall quarter has granted me incomparable opportunities to connect with the exceptionally diverse communities of Los Angeles and beyond. As an Iranian American, I have personally benefitted from this project in being able to engage my elderly, immunosuppressed father with the project's consistently up to date and appealing approach to public health advice throughout the pandemic. In terms of my coordination duties, I have learned a tremendous amount on the various regional distinctions and nuances within the many language groups our project means to reach. In this respect, I have also learned of the necessity for projects such as #TranslateCOVID and the patient-minded approach of our collaborators and consultants incorporated toward the completion of these goals.

I owe tremendous gratitude to my team members, the Asian American Studies Center, Ethnocommunications and the Fielding School of Public Health for the things I have learned and experienced working on this project and for the great service this project will and has done for public health throughout these unprecedented times.

- Keanush Hakimian, Student, Anthropology

I am grateful that AASC and FSPH took on this project. I hope the work continues for in-language people and communities at the margins of the current moment we are in. For the project, I gathered what was available in Pacific languages. There were many learning moments along the way this summer. I learned that the development of information, the dissemination of information, and knowledge systems remain largely Anglo-Euro-Americo-centric. The academy is both the problem and the solution to the development of information, the dissemination of information, and Anglo-Euro-Americo-centric knowledge systems. I learned that even in institutions that think of themselves as progressive liberals and as representative of communities at the margins economically, politically, and socially, it is still difficult for such institutions to trust voices that are at the familial, community, neighborhood, grassroots level, better to see and know what the CDC sees and knows. I learned that the CDC is not really multilingual though I applaud them for making available several months into the pandemic afterwards in-language material as it concerns the COVID health crisis for communities significantly affected by COVID. COVID quarantining began in March and I came to the project at the end of June. Even though communities at the margins like AAPIs/NHPIs were significantly affected by the health pandemic, translated material in Pacific languages like Chuukese, Marshallese, Samoan, and Tongan were only beginning to appear online via the CDC website, state public health websites (where there are concentrations of Pacific Islanders), and city and county level public health sites when I came on board. There is more information available in-language now (October 2020), but this work shows that systems can be slow even when it concerns a global health pandemic.

- Sarah Soakai, Phd Student, Urban Planning

ASIAN AMERICANS SERIES BREAKS NEW GROUND IN ITS DEBUT

This year saw the five-episode PBS documentary series, *Asian Americans*, premiere in May 2020. Led by series producer, EthnoCommunications director and UCLA professor **Renee Tajima-Peña**, the series also featured episode directors and award-winning filmmakers, **S. Leo Chiang**, **Geeta Gandbhir** and **Grace Lee**. Several UCLA Asian American Studies and EthnoCommunications alumni also worked on the project.

The May 2020 broadcast and streaming of the series exceeded all audience expectations of 98% market coverage with almost 5,000 telecasts on 600 channels. As a major public media event, *Asian Americans* reached audiences that otherwise have little exposure to or knowledge of the Asian American story. The series was covered in major national and international outlets including the *Associated Press*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Washington Post*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *The New Yorker*, *Time Magazine*, *NPR's All Things Considered*, and TV news affiliates. Through the press coverage, social media and civic engagement campaign, the series engaged with the national conversation around the coronavirus pandemic, anti-Asian hate incidents, systemic racism, and Asian and Black solidarity. As series producer, Renee participated as a speaker and

panelist in dozens of online screenings and virtual events. She also worked on the production of a **Google Arts and Culture exhibit on Asian Americans and Citizenship** in connection to the series.

EthnoCommunications Director and PBS' *Asian Americans* Series Producer **Renee Tajima-Peña** at the opening night of the festival (Keanu Hakimian/ UCLA AASC).



The series also garnered a nomination for Best Multi-Part Documentary from the IDA Documentary Awards. Educational materials related to the series, including lesson plans and videos can be found online at <http://ca.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/asian-americans-pbs/>.

Episode 4 of the series, "Generation Rising" by Grace Lee previewed at the **UCLA Asian American Studies Center 50th Anniversary Film Festival**, co-organized by EthnoCommunications assistant director **Janet Chen** in March 2020. The screening event opened the film festival where 250+ attendees, including the filmmakers, guest speaker **Florante Ibanez**, the Center founders and students, gathered at the Hammer Museum's Billy Wilder Theater to celebrate the activism roots of the Asian American Studies Center and the legacy and impact of the work for the last 50 years. For more on the film festival, check out the story on page 9 and join us in February 2021 for an updated and virtual edition of the film festival along with our partner, UCLA Film & Television Archive.

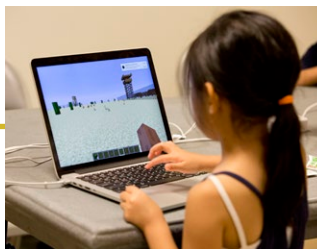
EthnoCommunications Assistant Director **Janet Chen** and filmmaker and alum **Grace Lee** at the opening night of the festival (Irene Park/ UCLA AASC).



Project Spotlight | BUILDING HISTORY 3.0

Building History 3.0 is a K-12 educational project inspired by a middle school student's reaction to his grandmother's experience at Heart Mountain. The project has grown into a free collection of short documentaries, lesson plans and game-based learning activities in Minecraft, all designed to teach kids about the Japanese American incarceration camps during World War II. The project director is EthnoCommunications director Professor **Renee Tajima-Peña** and the project producer is **Janet Chen**, EthnoCommunications assistant director.

The new curriculum includes **BH 3.0 @Home**, the learning-at-home component of the project. The curriculum includes new worksheets and online games based on the six short documentaries, specifically for parents and educators to use



A young girl at a Building History 3.0 workshop at JANM's Family Festival in 2019 (Janet Chen/Building History 3.0).

for remote learning with students and kids.

The team presented at the **Connected Learning Conference**, a conference for new and emerging technology that expand access to participatory, playful and creative learning, in October 2019. They conducted a workshop at the **Japanese American National Museum** for **Day of Remembrance 2020**. They were also selected to be featured at **Tadaima**, a community virtual pilgrimage where they conducted two virtual workshops and at the **Los Angeles Pacific Film Festival 2020** and the **Hawaiian International Film Festival 2020** where they also conducted virtual workshops. Check out the project and free virtual workshops at <http://buildinghistoryproject.com>.

CENTER FOR ETHNOCOMMUNICATIONS UPDATES FROM BEHIND THE LENS

For the 2019-20 academic year, Ethno director **Professor Renee Tajima-Peña** returned from sabbatical. We thank lecturer and Ethno alum, **Tadashi Nakamura** for teaching the courses during her time away. When UCLA transitioned to distance learning towards the end of winter 2020 and through spring 2020, Tajima-Peña and **Janet Chen** reorganized and revised the curriculum for the AAS 142C/242C “Advanced Creating Community Media” and the AAS 120 “Yellow Peril’s Revenge: Asian American Independent Cinema” courses to meet the changing times. They hosted several guest filmmakers in AAS 120, including **Arthur Dong, Spencer Nakasako, Grace Lee** (illustrated to the right by **Angel Trazo**), **PJ Raval, Duc Nguyen** and **H.P. Mendoza**. **Walt Louie**, master editor also did a couple of editing workshops for AAS 142/242.

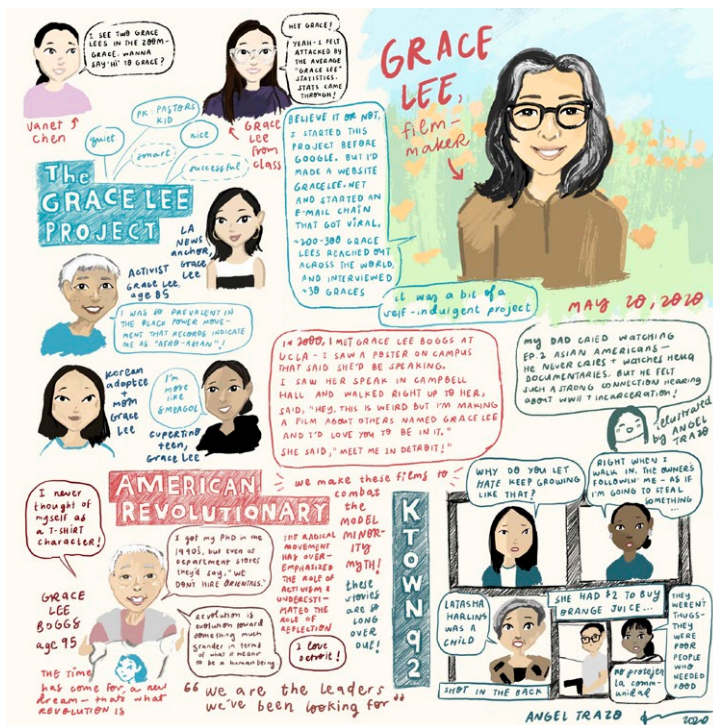
EthnoCommunications continued to provide institutional support to the **Asian American Documentary Network (A-Doc)**, a national organization that provides social networking, mentorship, job postings and convenings and field leadership to AAPI documentary filmmakers to discuss work, sustainability and the future of AAPI documentaries. Renee and Janet serve as part of the leadership team of professional filmmakers. Janet attended the Sundance Film Festival 2020, along with the leadership team to represent A-Doc. A-Doc also collaborated with Brown Girls Doc Mafia, Firelight Media, CAAM and Visual Communications for panels.



EthnoCommunications Spring 2020 virtual student film screening. (Janet Chen/ UCLA EthnoCommunications)

Here are a sampling of student films from 2019-20:

- **“SPAM” by Hannah Joo, Kara Justus, Sue Park, Emily Sun** – a history of SPAM and its importance to the Asian American community.
- **“Mochi & Me” by Nina Geissler, Annie Wu, Christy Wu** – Making mochi as multiracial Nina discovers her Japanese heritage.
- **“Track: After the Last Lap” by Royce Fong, Chance Kuehnelt** – the challenges of being a track and field athlete.
- **“The Voices of Our Hearts: Punjabi Folk Song” by Nanki Bhullar** – the history and music of Punjabi women.
- **“I’m Certain” by Monica A. Flore-Garcia** – speech and debate champion Giselle can’t find the words to explain her mental health.
- **“Under One Roof” by Royce Fong** – The Fong family of four navigates sheltering-in-place together.
- **“Auntie Kristina” by Hannah Joo** – Kristina Wong, comedian, activist, politician, becomes the overlord for the Auntie Sewing Club.
- **“Dancing in a Quarantine” by Pauline Tze** – AAPI dancers try to stay in rhythm during a pandemic.



The Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival 2020 saw the premiere of a Center-produced film and student films produced in EthnoCommunications:

- **“Phoenix Bakery: Sweets for the Sweet”** by Janet Chen (part of the Center’s Chinese American History Documentary Project”) - As Chinatown’s Phoenix Bakery in Los Angeles celebrates its 80th anniversary, three generations of the Chans explore their family legacy and contemplate the future.
- **“80 Year Old Rock Climber”** by Lisa Chiya - 80-year-old rock climber, George Takaki finds his happy with friends, family and rock climbing
- **“Cambodia Town: Not For Sale”** by Brandon Soun & Lan Nguyen (former Ethno student) - Cambodian residents in Long Beach mobilize to stop the gentrification of businesses in their community.
- **“Queering Movements”** by Ceci Sheng, Rino Kodama, Yen Dinh - a queer and trans nonbinary South Asian artist, retells the evolution of their dance practice from their childhood in Pennsylvania to present day at UCLA.
- **“What Are You Really?”** by Mary McHenry and Jenny Phan - “What are you... really? A question that mixed-race folks are all too familiar with hearing. Take a deep dive into the history of mixed-race Japanese people and hear their personal experiences today.”



In addition, **Tadashi Nakamura** premiered ***ATOMIC CAFÉ: The Noisiest Corner in J-Town***, a short film with fellow alum **Akira Boch**, at the **Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival**. It is currently playing in

festivals around the country. Nakamura and Boch's **Masters of Modern Design: The Art of the Japanese American Experience** also won an Emmy Award in the Arts category.

For more on the Center for EthnoCommunications, visit <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/ethno/>.



Above: Al Robles reading at UCLA in 1996 with Theo Gonzales (Abraham Ferrer/Visual Communications).
Right: Irene Soriano Saxon, Russell Leong, Shirley Ancheta, Oscar Peñaranda, Tony Robles, and Janice Sapigao (UCLA AASC)



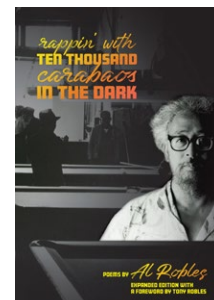
OUR POETRY IS THE BEST PART OF OUR STRUGGLE OUR STRUGGLE IS THE BEST PART OF OUR POETRY REMEMBERING MANONG AL ROBLES

In celebration of Filipino American History Month and the recent expanded edition of his classic poetry collection ***Rappin' With Ten Thousand Carabaos in the Dark*** from UCLA AASC Press, the Center gathered together poets, friends, and family of Al Robles to reflect on the work and impact of the late poet, historian, and social justice activist.

On October 2nd, attendees brought Robles into the online space with their memories, music, and poetry. The event featured: **Shirley Ancheta, Russell Leong, Oscar Peñaranda, Tony Robles, Janice Lobo Sapigao, and Irene Soriano Saxon** with emcee, **Professor Lucy Mae San Pablo Burns** of the Asian American Studies Department. Each participant chose a poem or excerpt from Al Robles and most juxtaposed that with a poem of their own, which reflected or was influenced by Robles. Ancheta even played “Dahil Sa Iyo,” a favorite of Robles, on the accordion for her dear friend.

Tony Robles also led a free poetry workshop entitled, “From Manilatown to Ifugao Mountain and Back: The Poetic Landscape of Al Robles” on October 3rd. Around twenty participants learned a little bit more about Al Robles and his work and shared their own poetic responses.

Originally published in 1996, ***Rappin' With Ten Thousand Carabaos in the Dark*** is a collection of poetry by the late Al Robles, the quintessential Pilipino American poet, storyteller, and historian. In this new expanded edition that also commemorates UCLA AASC's 50th anniversary, the book includes a forward by Tony Robles, as well as a classic essay by Al Robles from *Amerasia Journal*. Purchase the book via our online store at bit.ly/aascpressstore.com. Video of the event will be posted on the Center website in 2021.



FIGHTING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND UNDERSTANDING PROP 16

On October 6th, the Center hosted “**Proposition 16: Confronting Myths & Dilemmas in the AAPI Community**” a discussion on this California proposition, which sought to reverse Prop 209 (1996). There were many myths and misunderstandings of what Prop 16 would do, so researchers, policymakers and organizers discussed the facts and future impacts of Proposition 16 in preparation for the November vote.

The featured speakers included:

- **Al Muratsuchi**, Assemblymember, District 66
- **Paul Ong**, Director of Center for Neighborhood Knowledge
- **Tavae Samuelu**, Executive Director, Empowering Pacific Islander Communities & Vice President, A3PCON
- **Robert Teranishi**, Morgan and Helen Chu Endowed Chair in Asian American Studies & Co-Director, Institute for Immigration, Globalization and Education
- **Andy Wong**, Campaign Manager & Steering Committee, Vote Yes on Prop 16 - Opportunity for All Coalition

The event was moderated by **Professor Natalie Masuoka** and **Jason Vu**, president of UCLA's Vietnamese Student Union.

The proposition did not pass in the November elections. After the results came in, Masuoka commented to UCLA Newroom that “voter education could be really essential” to help Asian American voters understand affirmative action and how Prop 209 still impacts California and the AAPI community.



UCLA LAUNCHES PILIPINO STUDIES MINOR

Decades of advocacy and struggle have led to the official launching of the Pilipino Studies Minor in Fall Quarter of 2020. This most recent effort was spearheaded by **Kristine Jan Espinoza**, former Asian American Studies Department Student Affairs Officer, and **Professor Lucy Mae San Pablo Burns**.

As Professor Burns states in a *Daily Bruin* article about the minor, "The establishment of Pilipino studies minor isn't about necessarily making it into the institution, but it's about transforming the institution. [...] We are not here to maintain the status quo. We are interested in constantly changing the standards of the university."



Casimiro Tolentino teaching one of the first Pilipino Studies classes (UCLA AASC).

Center Director **Karen Umemoto** was one of the many faculty, student, and community members who wrote letters in support of the minor. She stated "The need in the community for those trained in the history, creative traditions, contemporary issues, analytical sensibilities and languages of the Pilipino diaspora is unquestionable. UCLA has played a pioneering role in Pilipino Studies historically. The Asian American Studies Center offered some of the first courses in this field when, **Casimiro Tolentino** taught "Pilipino American Experience" in 1973. The Center published the first reader on Pilipinos in America, entitled *Letters in Exile*, edited by **Jesse Quinsaat**." She also emphasized the importance of this minor in the context of Los Angeles, asserting that she hopes "UCLA will continue to be a place of pioneering moments. Certainly, the growth and diversity of the Pilipino community and the fact that Los Angeles is home to the largest concentration of Pilipinos in

The Committee for Pilipino Studies in the 1990s (UCLA AASC).

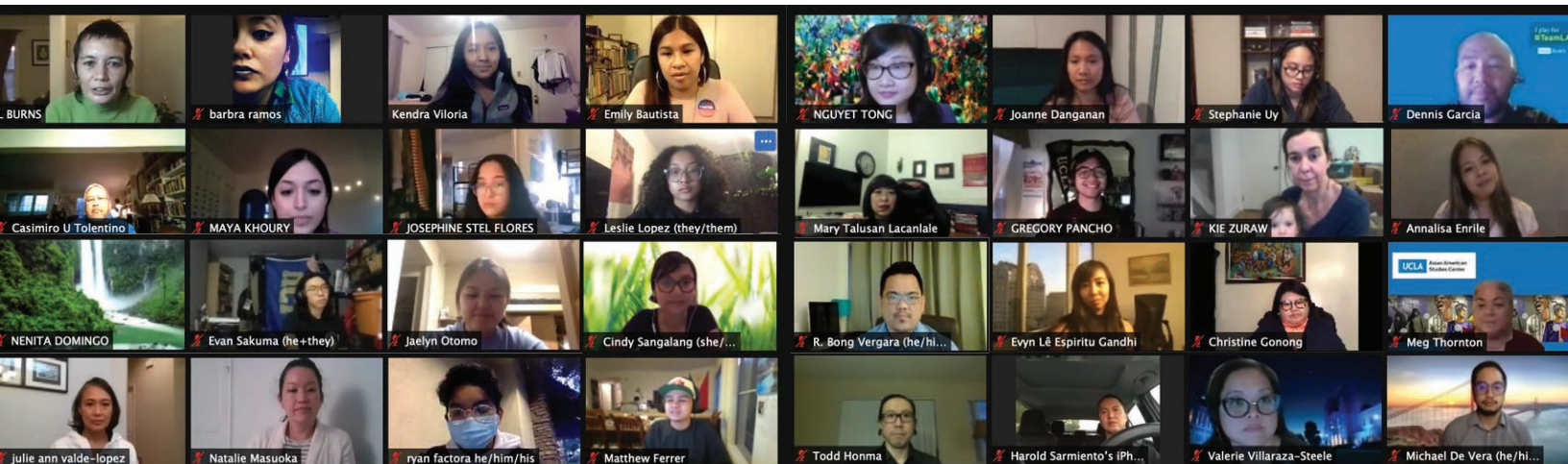


the US makes UCLA the logical institution to break ground in establishing a minor."

Indeed this minor is part of a history of pioneering moments at UCLA for Pilipino Studies. In the early 1990s, the **Committee for Pilipino Studies (CPS)** fought to preserve Tagalog-language classes and was also part of the greater Asian Pacific Languages and Cultures Campaign. The idea of the Pilipino Studies minor program came from undergraduate and graduate students who were a part of the AASC and the CPS during that time. In 2007, students once again rallied - this time to establish the Pilipino Studies concentration, which was eventually approved in 2009.

As Center Associate Director **Melany De La Cruz-Viesca** stated to *Asian Journal*, "The Asian American Studies Department has been home to the Pilipino Studies Concentration for Asian American Studies Majors, so establishing and housing a new Pilipino Studies minor there is a welcome development that builds on those resources and sense of purpose," she said. "A training in Pilipino Studies gives students the historical knowledge and critical thinking skills to imagine how to serve Pilipin[o] communities and fill the gaps in the existing literature, where the history, culture, and contributions of Pilipinos in America is sorely lacking."

The **Asian American Studies Department** and the **Pilipino Alumni Association** held a special virtual celebration for the minor on October 26th. The screenshots below represent just a few of the many students, faculty, staff, alumni and community in attendance. For more information on the minor, visit the department website at <http://asianam.ucla.edu>.





PROFESSOR NATALIE MASUOKA TAKES THE LEAD AS NEW CHAIR OF ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES DEPARTMENT

On July 1st, Professor Natalie Masuoka of the departments of Political Science and Asian American Studies, started her three-year term. She is joined by Professor Keith Camacho, who serves as Vice-Chair. Masuoka has published award-winning books, including *The Politics of Belonging: Race, Public Opinion and Immigration* (co-authored with Jane Junn) and *Multiracial Identity and Racial Politics in the United States*. She also recently published a report, “**Democratic Primary 2020: Analysis of Latino and Asian Voting in 10 States**” and developed the **Census Engagement Project** among many other contributions. Professor Masuoka received her Ph.D. and M.A. from University of California, Irvine and a B.A. from CSU Long Beach. Before joining UCLA, she taught at Tufts University and Duke University.

The Asian American studies and ethnic studies community at UCLA is grateful to outgoing chair, **Professor Victor Bascara** who oversaw the recruitment of new faculty, along with other major accomplishments such co-organizing the “Power to the People” Conference for the Asian American Studies Center’s 50th Anniversary, during his tenure.

A MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR MASUOKA:

It is an exciting opportunity to step into the position as chair for the Asian American Studies department. The department is currently going through a generational change with the inclusion of five new tenure-track assistant professors (Jolie Chea, Evyn Espiritu Gandhi, Loubna Qutami, Cindy Sangalang, Lee Ann Wang) who bring new expertise and energy to our faculty roster. Our department has grown to twenty core faculty with eight new members added within the last five years. My job as chair will be to shepherd new initiatives to reflect this new character of the department. The focus in the coming years will be to work on our curriculum so that it better incorporates the expertise areas of our new faculty, grow our undergraduate programs (most notably the new Pilipino studies minor which began Fall 2020) and foster stronger connections with different academic and research units to increase our department’s visibility across the university. At the same time, we currently face real and unpredictable challenges in light of the COVID pandemic. Our department’s faculty and staff have tried to approach these challenges with as much care and compassion as possible. As we look towards this next stage of the pandemic, we will work towards ensuring there exists community support and resources for students, staff and faculty.

AASC FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT



Professor Sean Metzger was appointed Associate Dean of Faculty and Students for the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television and celebrated the release of *The Chinese Atlantic: Seascapes and the Theatricality of Globalization* (Indiana University Press) during a virtual book talk on May 28th.



Professor Shu-mei Shih was appointed the inaugural Edward W. Said Professor of Comparative Literature chair in the UCLA Department of English. She also has been elected as Second Vice-President (2019-2020), Vice-President (2020-2021), and President (2021-2022) of American Comparative Literature Association.



Professor Hiroshi Motomura was appointed inaugural faculty director of the UCLA School of Law’s new Center for Immigration Law and Policy.



Professor May Sudinaraset was promoted to Associate Professor and received the Society of Family Planning’s Changemakers in Family Planning Award for work on reproductive justice among AAPIs and immigrants.



Professor Randall Akee was appointed as chair of the Interdepartmental Program in American Indian Studies for a three-year term, starting July 1st. He was also elected to the University of California’s Native American Advisory Council.



Professors Jennifer Chun and Rachel Lee both received a 2020 Chancellor Award for Community-Engaged Scholars to develop courses that enable students to carry out research in conjunction with community partners.



Professor Ananya Roy was honored with the Freedom Scholar award from the Marguerite Casey Foundation and Group Health Foundation, which supports progressive academics at the forefront of movements for economic and social justice.



Professor Grace Hong was appointed the Director of the Center for the Study of Women.



Professor Min Zhou received the 2020 Contribution to the Field Award of the American Sociological Association Section on Asia and Asian America. She also received several grants from the Eurasia Foundation (in Japan); the Long Family Foundation; Taiwan Ministry of Education, Taiwan; and the UBC-UCLA Collaborative Research Mobility Award program.

JERRY KANG COMPLETES TERMS AS VICE CHANCELLOR FOR EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION AND AS KOREA TIMES CHAIR

After ten years of distinguished leadership, service, and scholarship **Professor Jerry Kang** concluded two terms as holder of the *Korea Times-Hankook Ilbo* Chair in Korean American Studies, in June. He has taught at the UCLA School of Law since 1995 and, along with the completion of his tenure as the vice chancellor for equity, diversity and inclusion, he has returned to the UCLA faculty to pursue his interests in critical race studies research and teaching.

In 2015, Chancellor Gene Block appointed Jerry Kang as the inaugural **Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**. During his five-year tenure, he was instrumental in helping to create a diverse, inclusive and welcoming environment for all students, staff, faculty, alumni and community partners at UCLA. He oversaw the rapid growth and development of the Discrimination Prevention Office and the Title IX Office; established BruinX, a research and development think tank focused on ensuring greater diversity in UCLA's faculty hiring; and organized CrossCheck Live conversations that provided guidance around free speech issues and provided a model for how we might teach and learn from one another.

Professor Kang, considered an influential scholar of law and Asian American studies and highly regarded for his research on implicit racial bias, was appointed in 2010 as the inaugural endowed chair of what is deemed the first of its type in the nation. As the *Korea Times-Hankook Ilbo* Chair, Kang channeled generous resources of the Chair to enrich UCLA's intellectual environment, advance Korean American Studies, and connect the campus with community partners.

In 2017, he led organizing efforts to hold a conference, **"Sa-I-Gu: The**

Los Angeles Uprisings 25 Years Later — Witnessing the Past, Envisioning our Future" in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the Los Angeles uprisings. More recently, he funded the Saigu Project, which includes an edited book on the 1992 Civil Unrest from the perspective of Korean American journalists and its impact on the Korean American community.

Moreover, he supported the development of an AASC STORYBOOK, part of our growing collection of learning and resource microsites, that will feature a digital archive of the *Korea Times* English language edition and other media coverage of the 1992 Civil Unrest. It is an educational narrative on the history and perspective of Saigu from the experience of Korean Americans, a timeline, photographs, and curricular guides for high school and undergraduate education. Digitized photos and articles will be added to the Center's growing archival collection.

The *Korea Times-Hankook Ilbo* Chair in Korean American Studies was made possible by the generosity of lead donor, **Jae Min Chang**, a UCLA alumnus and chairman, publisher and CEO of *The Korea Times-Hankook Ilbo* newspapers, as well as UCLA alumnus **Mike Hong**, chairman and CEO of Dura Coat Products, Inc.; and **Do Won Chang**, co-founder and CEO of Forever 21.

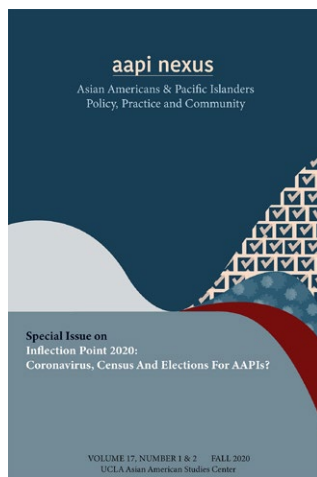
The AASC and IAC will launch an internal search for Jerry's successor and announce the formation of a search advisory committee and further details soon.



(Miriam Briebesca /Daily Bruin)

FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND ADJUNCT FACULTY NEWS

- **Professor David K. Yoo** co-edited *Envisioning Religion, Race and Asian Americans* (University of Hawai'i Press) with Khyati Y. Joshi, and wrote a new foreword for *Quiet Odyssey: A Pioneer Korean Woman in America* (University of Washington Press), by Mary Paik Lee and edited by Sucheng Chan.
- **Professor Vinay Lal** published *The Fury of Covid-19: The Passions, Histories, and Unrequited Love of the Coronavirus* (Pan Macmillan). Two of his articles appeared in "Corona Conversations East & West," *CUNY Forum*: "Gandhi on the Ethics of Nursing and Medical Care" (July-August 2020) and "Be Still and Do Not Move: The COVID-19 Migrant and the Ministry of the Soul" (June 2020).
- **Professor Valerie Matsumoto** published the article "A Living Artist with Open Eyes: The Transnational Journey of Mitsu Yashima," *Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas* 6 (2020): Issue 1-2 Trans-Pacific Japanese Diasporic Art.
- **Professor Juliann Anesi** was recognized with a 2020 Career Enhancement Fellowship from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.
- Virtual reality film *Bloodless*, by **Professor Gina Kim** of the School of Theater, Film & Television, was shown as part of the We Are One international film festival in May/June of this year.
- **Dr. Lily Anne Welty Tamai** co-edited: *Shape Shifters: Journeys Across Terrains of Race and Ethnicity* (University of Nebraska Press) with Ingrid Dineen-Wimberly and Paul Spickard. She also published "Language and Identity in Transpacific Asian American Mixed-Race Families" in *Asian Pacific American Experiences: Past, Present, and Future* (Kendall Hunt).
- **Dr. Jean-Paul Contreras deGuzman** published several articles "Contesting Los Angeles: Nodes of Race, Space, and Power in the Modern City" in the *Journal of Urban History* (forthcoming), "Japanese Americans and the Birth - and Rebirth - of Buddhism in the City of Angels" in *Religion in Los Angeles: Religious Activism, Innovation, and Diversity in the Global City* (forthcoming), and "Reconfiguring Asian America: Asian Immigration Since 1965" in *Asian Americans: Past, Present and Future* (2020).
- **Mariquita "Micki" Davis** launched Pasifika Transmissions with the Pacific Island Ethnic Art Museum, which was also supported by a very generous grant by the RuMBA Foundation of Long Beach. She was also an inaugural artist for the online pdf gallery FG/CE (Flat Gallery/ Curving Earth) along with Dan Taulapapa McMullin and Brian Fuata, and was commissioned to make billboards leading up to this year's election as part of the "For Freedoms 2020 Awakening Campaign."



AAPI NEXUS JOURNAL

The year 2020 converged three major events: the COVID-19 pandemic, the Decennial Census, and elections. It is an inflection point in history that will reshape the social landscape for the United States and globally. In response, the AAPI Nexus Journal issued a call for papers on these

topics for a rushed special issue. Our objective was to share timely information that enhances the ability to take action in the areas of advocacy, strategic planning, policy development and programming with regards to Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders (AANHPI). The Fall 2020 special issue features over 50 leading scholars, applied-researchers, and community leaders from all over the nation examining the impact of COVID-19, the 2020 Census, and Elections on AANHPI communities, as well as models, solutions and policy recommendations. The articles are available for download at no cost at the AAPI Nexus site. Scan the QR code by the list of articles in the issue (right) or visit the site at <http://www.aapinexus.org/2020/09/18/abstracts/>.

INFLECTION POINT 2020: CORONAVIRUS, CENSUS, AND ELECTIONS FOR AAPIS

ISSUE 17:1-2

Special Issue Editorial Team:

Gilbert C. Gee, Natalie Masuoka, David Takeuchi, Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, and Anna Hing



- **COVID-19 and the State of Health of Pacific Islanders in the U.S.** by Raynald Samoa, Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, Corina Penaia, Ridvan Tupai-Firestone, Elena Fa'amoe-Timoteo, Melisa Laelan, and Nia Aitaoto
- **COVID-19's Employment Disruptions to Asian Americans** by Don Mar and Paul Ong
- **Structural Racism and Its Effects on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the United States: Issues of Health Equity, Census Undercounting, and Voter Disenfranchisement** by Brittany N. Morey, 'Alisi Tulua, Sora Park Tanjasiri, Andrew M. Subica, Joseph Keawe'aimoku Kaholokula, Corina Penaia, Karla Thomas, Richard Calvin Chang, Vananh D. Tran, Ninez A. Ponce, Paul Ong, and Elena Ong
- **Making the Invisible Visible: The Role of Public Health Critical Race Praxis in Data Disaggregation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the Midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic** by Adrian Matias Bacong, Alex Nguyen, and Anna K. Hing
- **Contagious Heathens: Exploring Racialization of COVID-19 and Asians through Stop AAPI Hate Incident Reports** by Kourtney Nham and James Huynh
- **Saying the Quiet Parts Out Loud: Guāhan, the USS Theodore Roosevelt, and the Role of Journalism in Reproducing Colonization in the Time of COVID-19** by Manuel Lujan Cruz
- **Unmasking an Invisible Community: Unique Influences on and Consequences of COVID-19 among South Asians in the United States** by Yousra Yusuf, Supriya Misra, Shipra Singh, Gayatri Malhotra, Samira Khan, Nehanda Tankasala, and Arnab Mukherjee
- **How has the CARES Act Affected California's Filipino Families?** by Katherine Nasol
- **Addressing AAPI Health Needs in the Context of COVID-19** by Kathy Ko Chin, Holly Avey, Ben D'Avanzo, and Elaine Andres
- **Pūpūkahi i Holomua: Moving Hawaiian Education for All Learners beyond the COVID Pandemic** by Keali'i Kukahiko, Pono Fernandez, Kau'i Sang, Kamuela Yim, Ka'anohiokālā Kalama-Macomber, Anela Iwane, Ku'ulei Makua, Kāhea Kim, Leinā'ala Reyes, Dana Tanigawa, Troy Makoa Lau, and Tristan Kamana Fleming-Nazara
- **Counting Race and Ethnicity for Small Populations during the COVID-19 Pandemic** by Natalie Ah Soon, Randall Akee, Marjorie Kagawa, Brittany N. Morey, Elena Ong, Paul Ong, Ninez Ponce, Raynald Samoa, and Sora P. Tanjasiri
- **Asian American Voters in 2020: Analysis of Democratic Primary Voting and Lessons for Future Elections** by Jessica HyunJeong Lee, Evangel Penumaka, and Natalie Masuoka
- **Political Trajectories of Asian Americans: Bringing Religion In** by Jerry Z. Park and Joshua C. Tom
- **How AAPIs in Congress Responded to COVID-19 Disenfranchisement** by Jeff L Feng and Pei-te Lien

Spotlight

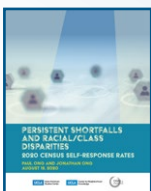
RESEARCH REPORTS



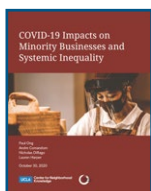
The Center supported and collaborated on several research reports with other centers and initiatives on campus and beyond, including the UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge, the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative, and Stop AAPI Hate.



- **Democratic Primary 2020: Analysis of Latino and Asian American Voting in 10 States**
- **COVID-19's Employment Disruptions to Asian American Communities**



- **Persistent Shortfall and Racial/Class Disparities: 2020 Census Self-Response Rates**
- **COVID-19 Impacts on Minority Businesses and Systemic Inequality**



- **Asian American Hashtag Activism under COVID-19: Twitter Resistance to Anti-Asian Hate**

View more policy reports and publications by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://bit.ly/aascreports>.



Amerasia Journal has persevered through a difficult 2020, continuing with the goal of revamping the journal that began in 2019 with our partnership with the prominent international publisher Routledge. Amerasia officially welcomed a new Senior Editor, **Professor Judy Wu** of the University of California, Irvine. Professor Wu is a leading scholar of Asian American history and is pushing Amerasia in new directions. In addition, the journal completed a striking redesign, which features a more modern and vibrant look as well as a new platform to highlight the work of up-and-coming Asian American and Pacific Islander artists.

For the 2020 volume, Professor Wu invited groundbreaking researchers in gender studies, immigration studies, and transnationalism as guest editors to guide special-topic issues that are timely and relevant. In Spring, **Professor Monisha Das Gupta** (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa) and **Professor Lynn Fujiwara** (University of Oregon) (both pictured to the right) edited a special issue titled "**Law and Life: Immigrant and Refugee Acts Amid White Nationalism**,"

which addresses the racialized forces that define immigration law and policy. They also led a discussion on the issue for the Association for Asian American Studies Conference's Virtual Book Fair that featured contributors sharing their work.

The Fall special issue, "**Rethinking Gendered Citizenship: Intimacy, Sovereignty, and Empire**," is guest edited by **Professor Genevieve Clutario** (Wellesley College) and **Professor Rana Jaleel** (University of California, Davis), a project that reassesses Asian American and Pacific Islander civic belonging along the lines of race, gender, and sexuality on the centennial anniversary of women's suffrage in the United States.

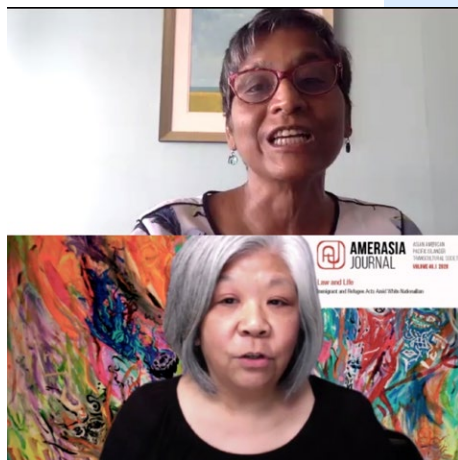
Looking ahead to 2021, *Amerasia* has already planned an exciting slate of special issues. In Spring 2021, **Professor Yen Le Espiritu** (University of California, San Diego) and **Professor Lila Sharif** (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) are organizing an issue on critical refugee studies, pushing forward research in a field in which they are pioneering scholars. Following that special issue, **Professor Crystal Baik** (University of California, Riverside) and **Professor Wendy Cheng** (Scripps College) are guest editing an issue on revisiting the Cold War in an Asian American context. We also plan to coordinate virtual events based on our 2020 and 2021 issues, bringing Amerasia Journal to more audiences in more places.

—Arnold Pan, Associate Editor of *Amerasia Journal*



LAW AND LIFE: IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE ACTS AMID WHITE NATIONALISM (46:1) TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Introduction | **Law and Life: Immigrant and Refugee Acts Amid White Nationalism** by Monisha Das Gupta & Lynn Fujiwara
- **Dis-integration: Miko Revereza's Video Letters and the Aesthetics of Counter-Assimilation** by Sarita Echavez See
- **South Asian American Digital Archive** by Samip Mallick
- **Navigating the Global Refugee Regime: Law, Myth, Story** by Mai-Linh K. Hong
- **#SEASolidarity: Student Organizing in the Anti-Deportation Movement** by Jason Tuan Vu, Ngoc Thi Hong Nguyen, Lilian Tang & Mai Li Spencer
- **Pedagogies of Resistance: Why Anti-Muslim Racism Matters** by Junaid Rana, Evelyn Alsultany, Lara Deeb, Carol Fadda, Su'ad Abdul Khabeer, Arshad Ali, Sohail Daulatzai, Zareena Grewal, Julianne Hammer & Nadine Naber
- **Federal Immigration Laws and U.S. Empire: Tracing Immigration Lawmaking in the Mariana Islands** by Kevin Escudero
- **Pulse in the Atlas: Liberation Embodied in Pacific Islander Movement** by Leora Kava
- **The Insurgency of Mourning: Sewol across the Transpacific** by Jinah Kim
- **Ungovernable and Inviolable: Acts of Resistance in and against Immigrant Detention** by Tavleen Kaur
- **Making Citizenship, Becoming Citizens: How Sikh Punjabis Shaped the Exclusionary Politics of Belonging** by Harleen Kaur



To access this issue and other issues from *Amerasia Journal*, visit the journal site via Taylor and Francis by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://bit.ly/amerjonline>.

REFLECTIONS FROM 2019-2020 IAC-AASC VISITING SCHOLAR BY ERIN KHUÊ NINH

I hope Charles Dickens will forgive me for saying, *It was the best of years, it was the worst of years*. Along with everything else, the last few months of my 2020-2021 appointment as Visiting Scholar at IAC/AASC took a nose dive into the pandemic. Thanks to IAC/AASC support, however, I was able to complete the research and writing of my project despite the altered conditions of quarantine and remote everything. The timing was relatively fortunate: All my crucial interviews had been completed by March 2020, and I was even fortunate enough to have been able to moderate a panel for the **UCLA Asian American Studies 50th Anniversary Film Festival** (see pg. 9 for more on the festival) at the Hammer Museum, on what would turn out to be the only weekend of the festival. This was a screening of the iconic *Better Luck Tomorrow*, after which I conducted a Q&A with one of the stars of the film (along with one of my interview subjects for the book) that would turn out to be important to the final chapter of my monograph.



erin Khuê Ninh (right) at the IAC Fall Forum in 2019 (UCLA IAC).

Passing for Perfect: College Impostors and Other Model Minorities is now in production with Temple University Press. It is due to be published in their Spring 2021 catalogue, by which point I hope some semblance of normalcy will have resumed, and I'll be able to stop by for a proper thank you!

Erin Khuê Ninh is currently an Associate Professor of Asian American Studies, Feminist Studies and Comparative Literature at UC Santa Barbara.



AJ Kim presenting at the IAC Fall Forum in November (UCLA AASC).

2020-2021 IAC/AASC VISITING SCHOLAR AJ KIM

This year the Center welcomed **AJ Kim, PhD**, Associate Professor of City Planning in the School of Public Affairs at San Diego State University as the IAC/AASC Visiting Scholar.

During her fellowship, she will be working on her book manuscript which links together broader political changes in the U.S., changes in immigration policy at the federal level, and the experiences of both unauthorized and authorized immigrant communities in one of the fastest growing immigrant metropolitan areas in the country: Atlanta, Georgia. Her book manuscript entitled, "Immigrant Atlanta: Integration, Segregation, and Sprawl in the New

South", undertakes an understanding of how immigrant settlement in Georgia connects with and interacts with historic segregation and the "regime politics" of the Black/White color line as well as more recently expanded regional scales of segregation due to urban white flight and inner-ring suburbanization since the late 1950s.

She presented on "(un)Sanctioned Atlanta: Immigrants Making Place in the New South" for her talk and conversation with **Center Director Karen Umemoto** during the **Institute of American Cultures' Fall Forum** on November 18th. View video of the discussion at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/news/iacfallforum2020.aspx>.

2020 ACTIVIST-IN-RESIDENCE JANE NGUYEN

Jane Nguyen, a co-founder and core organizer of **Ktown for All**, has led outreach and policy advocacy since May 2018 when the organization was founded to counter-protest protesters of a proposed homeless shelter in Koreatown, Los Angeles. Nguyen is active with the **Services Not Sweeps coalition** as a founding member and serves on the board of **Invisible People**, a nonprofit that uplifts the experiences of unhoused people and produces news and educational materials that reaches millions of viewers worldwide. As part of her residency with the Center, Jane dedicated herself to the work of building a grassroots coalition throughout Los Angeles that provides direct aid to unhoused residents, fights for dignity, and housing for all. She worked with students to start **UCLA for All** and participated in the Center's discussion "**The Next Crisis Under COVID-19**" (see pg. 16 for more!).



Jane Nguyen (left) with Elizabeth Blaney and Leonardo Vilchis at the 2020 Activists-in-Residence Reception on January 21 (Les Dunseith/UCLA Luskin).

2020-2021 UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER AWARDS,

FACULTY & VISITING SCHOLARS/ RESEARCHERS AWARDEES

Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship in Asian American & Pacific Islander Studies

NINEZ A. PONCE

Professor | Health Policy and Management, Fielding School of Public Health

Institute of American Cultures (IAC)/AASC Faculty Research Grants

MICHELLE CASWELL

Associate Professor | Information Studies & Asian American Studies
RESEARCH PROJECT: Assessing the Affective Impact of Seeing Yourself in Archives

VINAY LAL

Professor | History & Asian American Studies
RESEARCH PROJECT: New Forms of Political Solidarity among Indian Americans around Civil Resistance in India

Institute of American Cultures (IAC)/AASC Visiting Scholar

AJ KIM

Associate Professor | City Planning, School of Public Affairs at San Diego State University
RESEARCH PROJECT: Immigrant Atlanta: Integration, Segregation, and Sprawl in the New South

Patrick and Lily Okura Research Grant on Asian Pacific American Mental Health

ANNA S. LAU

Professor | Psychology & Asian American Studies
RESEARCH PROJECT: Offsetting the Costs of Resilience among Asian American Youth Striving in the Context of Disadvantage

2020 ACTIVIST-IN-RESIDENCE

JANE NGUYEN

Co-Founder and Core Organizer, KTown for All

ARATANI COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT RESEARCH ENDOWMENT (C.A.R.E.) AWARDEES

FRANK ABE

PROJECT: We Hereby Refuse: Educators' Guide and UCLA Events for a New Graphic Novel on Camp Resistance

CALIFORNIA JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

PROJECT: Nikkei Community Internship

GO FOR BROKE NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER

PROJECT: Torchbearer Day of Service

JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURAL & COMMUNITY CENTER

PROJECT: Fiesta Matusri 2020

MARY UYEMATSU KAO

PROJECT: Rockin' the Boat: Flashbacks of the 1970s Asian Movement

KIZUNA LITTLE TOKYO, INC

PROJECT: Kizuna's Leadership program for high school students

KOJI LAU-OZAWA

PROJECT: Searching for Nihonmachi

MANZANAR COMMITTEE

PROJECT: Katari: Keeping Japanese American Stories Alive

NIKKEI FEDERATION

PROJECT: Tooned in (Little) Tokyo

PACIFIC CITIZEN

PROJECT: Finding Frank Fujino

RISING STARS YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

PROJECT: College Life 101

UCLA NIKKEI STUDENT UNION

PROJECT: Nikkei Student Union Cultural Night

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDEES

IAC/AASC Graduate Student Research Grants

TAYLOR AQUINO

PhD Student | Sociology
RESEARCH PROJECT: Multiracial Identity and the Gender Gap in College Attainment*

KATHLEEN CORPUZ

MA/MPH Student | Asian American Studies and Public Health
RESEARCH PROJECT: Fragments of National Inclusion: Indian American Women/Trans Diasporic Communities and the State

LAUREN HIGA

MA/MSW Student | Asian American Studies and Social Welfare
RESEARCH PROJECT: Radical Asian American Social Workers: An Examination of Politics, Practice, and the Pursuit of Social Justice

HANNA JOO

MA/MSW Student | Asian American Studies and Social Welfare
RESEARCH PROJECT: Our Name is Dosan

SHARON LAU

MA/MSW Student | Asian American Studies and Social Welfare
RESEARCH PROJECT: Talking to Our Own: Mental health dialogue in Chinese American households between immigrant parents and second generation youth

ANNIE LE

MA Student | Education
RESEARCH PROJECT: I Only 'Gang Bang' on the Weekends*: The Racial Imaginings of Cambodian American Gang Affiliated Youth in a Schooling Context

HYUNJEONG LEE

MA Student | Political Science
RESEARCH PROJECT: AAPI Undocumented Immigrant Project

VIVIEN LEUNG

MA Student | Political Science
RESEARCH PROJECT: How Microaggressions Shape Asian American Politics

DANA SAIFAN

MA Student | Psychology
RESEARCH PROJECT: The Impact of Multiple Minority Identities on Mental Health: An Examination of Muslim American Transition-Age Youth

JACOB THOMAS

MA Student | Sociology
RESEARCH PROJECT: The Denied, the Deterred, and the Disenchanted: Why a Variety of Potential Emigrants Never Immigrated

Martha Ogata Research Grant to Study Domestic Violence and Abuse in Asian Pacific American Communities

NADEEKA KARUNARATNE

PhD Student | Education - Higher Education & Organizational Change
RESEARCH PROJECT: Creating a Healing Space for South Asian Survivors of Campus Interpersonal Violence: A Participatory Design Research Project

Patrick and Lily Okura Research Grant on Asian Pacific American Mental Health

STEPHANIE HSIN-TIEN YU

PhD Student | Psychology
RESEARCH PROJECT: Academic-Community Partnership: Adapting the Family Intervention for Suicide Prevention in Schools for Asian Pacific American Youth

TAMAR KODISH

PhD Student | Clinical Psychology
RESEARCH PROJECT: Digital Mental Health Interventions for College Students of Color: Understanding Uptake and Enhancing Engagement among Asian American Students

SARAH LAUTAHAK SOAKAI

PhD Student | Urban Planning
RESEARCH PROJECT: The Potential Opportunities and Challenges of Faith Institutions in Providing Mental Health Services: Examining Tongan Latter Day Saint Wards in Los Angeles

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Fellowship

ERIN MANALO-PEDRO

PhD Student | Public Health - Community Health Sciences
RESEARCH PROJECT: The Context of the Struggle: Examining Immigration Enforcement's Influence on the Mental Health of AAPI Female Students Who are Undocumented

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND INTERNSHIPS

George & Sakaye Aratani Graduate Fellowship

EMIKO OTERA KRANZ

MA/MPH Student Asian American Studies & Public Health-Community Health Sciences
PAPER TITLE: Japanese American Intergenerational Trauma and Community-Relevant Health

CHRISTINE YAMASAKI

MA Student Asian American Studies & East Asian Studies
RESEARCH PROJECT: An Analysis of Japanese American and Vietnamese American Identity Formation Through Food and Foodways

Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Fellowship

EMORY JOHNSON

MFA Student Film & Television - Directing/ Production/ Documentary
RESEARCH PROJECT: "FI-100": an Experimental Documentary Film Project

Tritia Toyota Graduate Fellowship

EMILY MUN

MA Student Asian American Studies
RESEARCH PROJECT: Cultural Performance, Pilipino Cultural Nights, and Identity Formation

Pearl Wang Fellowship

ZHEYU LIANG

MFA Student Film & Television - Directing/ Production
RESEARCH PROJECT: Tightrope Walking

SIYUE LENA WANG

MA Education Social Science & Comparative Education, Race & Ethnicity Specialization
RESEARCH PROJECT: The Overlooked Minorities: Undocumented Asian and Pacific Islander Students in Higher Education

ASHELEE YANG

PhD Student Sociology
RESEARCH PROJECT: The Rising of Chinese Conservatism in the Trump Era Political Preferences Leading to the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election

21st Century Graduate Internship

HANNAH JOO

MA/MSW Student Asian American Studies and Social Welfare
RESEARCH PROJECT: Asian American Studies Center's Collective Memories Project
INTERNSHIP SITE: UCLA Asian American Studies Center and Center for EthnoCommunications

George and Lily Kagawa Award for Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Research Graduate Internship

KATHLEEN CORPUZ

MA/MPH Student Asian American Studies and Public Health
RESEARCH PROJECT: Empowering Kalihi through Settler Allyship
INTERNSHIP SITE: Kokua Kalihi Valley (KKV) Comprehensive Family Services & University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Office of Public Health Studies PUSO research group

Dr. Sanbo & Kazuko Sakaguchi Graduate Internship

LAUREN HIGA

MA/MSW Student Asian American Studies and Social Welfare
RESEARCH PROJECT: Okinawa Association of America History Committee & Book
INTERNSHIP SITE: Okinawa Association of America

HANNAH JOO

MA/MSW Student Asian American Studies and Social Welfare
RESEARCH PROJECT: The Role of Arts and Culture in Building Coalition for Japanese and Asian Americans in Los Angeles
INTERNSHIP SITE: Japanese American Cultural and Community Center

SHARON LAU

MA/MSW Student Asian American Studies and Social Welfare
RESEARCH PROJECT: Changing Tide Mental Health Conference
INTERNSHIP SITE: Little Tokyo Service Center

DANIEL LUU

MA Student Urban Planning
RESEARCH PROJECT: How to Acquire Land for Community-centric Design
INTERNSHIP SITE: Little Tokyo Service Center

EMILY MUN

MA/MSW Student Asian American Studies and Social Welfare
RESEARCH PROJECT: How to Acquire Land for Community-centric Design
INTERNSHIP SITE: Little Tokyo Service Center



Student awardees at the 2019-2020 AASC Lunar New Year Awards reception in February with Professor Thu-Huong Nguyen-vo and Karen Umemoto (UCLA AASC)

Hiram Wheeler Edwards Best Paper Scholarship for the Study of WWII Internment Camps and Japanese Americans

CHRISTINE YAMASAKI

MA Student Asian American Studies & East Asian Studies
PAPER TITLE: Putting it Together: "From Jap to Japanese - A Period in American History"

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Best Paper Scholarship

SIYUE LENA WANG

MA Education Social Science & Comparative Education, Race & Ethnicity Specialization
PAPER TITLE: The Half Has Never Been Told: Decolonizing Our History, Our Knowledge, and Our Mind

Ben & Alice Hirano Best Paper Scholarship

HARLEEN KAUR

PhD Student Sociology
PAPER TITLE: The Specter of Khalistan: Hauntings of Nation-State Belonging

Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Graduate Prize

EMIKO OTERA KRANZ

MA/MPH Student Asian American Studies & Public Health-Community Health Sciences
PAPER TITLE: The Fabric of Culture and Health in Asian America: Foundational Concepts and History

Wei-Lim Lee Memorial Best Paper Scholarship

RUO LAN QIU

MS Student Nursing
PAPER TITLE: From Bad to Benevolent: Chinese Characters in Film Before and After World War II and their Impact on Chinese Immigrants

Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture

TIFFANY WANG

MA Student Social Welfare - Child and Family Well-Being
PAPER TITLE: Without Words

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDEES

Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award

ELIZABETH LIXING CANNELLA

MAJOR: Pre-Psychology

VINCENT SONNY LEONG

MAJOR: Biochemistry

KELLY LIN

MAJOR: Biology

CINDY QI

MAJOR: Pre-Psychobiology

NINA MIKYLA-KUMIKO WILLIAMS

MAJOR: Psychology

2020-2021 UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER AWARDS (CONT'D)

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDEES

Chidori Aiso Memorial Scholarship

JASON VU

MAJORS: Global Studies & Asian American Studies
MINOR: Linguistics
PAPER TITLE: Rising as One: Reflections on Solidarity

NGOC NGUYEN

MAJORS: International Development Studies, Asian American Studies, & Sociology
PAPER TITLE: Resilience in Captivity: Lessons from Japanese Internment Camp

YUKINO TORREY

MAJOR: Asian American Studies
MINOR: Public Affairs
PAPER TITLE: Building Solidarity Within and Beyond the Japanese American Community

Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship

SHARON YUEN

MAJOR: Asian American Studies
MINOR: Global Health
PAPER TITLE: When I Look Into the Mirror

Toshio & Chiyoko Hoshide Scholarship

RYAN MOON

MAJOR: Life Science
PAPER TITLE: The Peril of the Model Minority

Nhat H. Tran, M.D. Scholarship

JOSEPHINE STEL FLORES

MAJORS: Psychology & Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Power to the People Because of the People

Reiko Uyeshima & Family Scholarship

YOSHINO GOTO

MAJOR: Cognitive Science - Computing
MINOR: Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Admission Impossible? – Asian Americans and the Future of Affirmative Action in College Admissions

HALEY KAIULANI NAKAWATASE

MAJOR: Psychobiology
PAPER TITLE: Exhibition Critique of Under a Mushroom Cloud: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and the Atomic Bomb

GABRIEL SANCHEZ

MAJOR: Political Science
MINOR: Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Lack of Intersectionality in Law for Asian Americans

YUKINO TORREY

MAJOR: Asian American Studies
MINOR: Public Affairs
PAPER TITLE: Shin Isseis and Japanese Language Schools Role in Identity Formation

John Kubota Grant in Japanese American Studies

KARA JUSTESON

MAJOR: Human Biology and Society
MINORS: Asian American Studies & Public Health
PAPER TITLE: Multicultural Health Education and Policy

21st Century Undergraduate Internship

JESSICA PHAM

MAJOR: Asian American Studies
MINOR: Global Health
INTERNSHIP SITE: UCLA Asian American Studies Center

George and Sakaye Aratani Community Internship

NGOC NGUYEN

MAJORS: International Development Studies, Asian American Studies, & Sociology
ESSAY TITLE: Caring for Elders & Intern with Thai Community Development Corporation & Nikkei Progressives
INTERNSHIP SITE: Little Tokyo Service Center & Japanese American Cultural & Community Center

GRACE LEE

MAJOR: Sociology
ESSAY TITLE: Our Elders Deserve More
INTERNSHIP SITE: Little Tokyo Service Center & Japanese American Cultural & Community Center

George and Lily Kagawa Award for Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Research Internship for Undergraduate Student

JOSEPHINE STEL FLORES

MAJORS: Psychology & Asian American Studies
INTERNSHIP SITE: TBD

Yuen Fong and Lew Oy Toy Family Internship in Chinese American Studies

KRISTI MAI

MAJOR: Asian American Studies
MINORS: History & Labor Studies
INTERNSHIP SITE: Chinese American Museum

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Best Paper Scholarship

ANGELA LI

MAJORS: Asian American Studies & Political Science
PAPER TITLE: Unseen and Unforgiving: Massage Brothels and the Sex Trafficking of Chinese Women

Ben & Alice Hirano Best Paper Scholarship

ASHLEY TRAN

MAJOR: Anthropology
PAPER TITLE: The Founding of Asian American Studies: A Counter-Reaction to the Model Minority Myth

Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Undergraduate Best Paper Scholarship

JASON VU

MAJORS: Global Studies & Asian American Studies
MINOR: Linguistics

JUSTIN SUAREZ

MAJORS: International Development Studies & Asian American Studies
MINOR: Digital Humanities

NGOC NGUYEN

MAJORS: International Development Studies, Asian American Studies, & Sociology
PAPER TITLE (JOINT ESSAY): SEA-zing the Opportunity to Advocate and Organize: The Positionality of Southeast Asian Student Conference for Advocacy

Royal Morales Best Paper Scholarship

RYAN NEIS

MAJORS: Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution
MINOR: Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Call Centers: An American Economic Borderland

Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture

ANGELA LI

MAJORS: Asian American Studies & Political Science
PAPER TITLE: Made by Yang Chow for America: Chinese American Food in Los Angeles

Philip Vera Cruz Best Paper Scholarship

RYAN NEIS

MAJORS: Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution
MINOR: Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: The American Call Center Industry

For more information about the various funding opportunities from the Center, scan the QR code or visit:
<http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/scholarships/default.aspx>.



THANK YOU TO SUPPORTERS OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER

\$100,000+
Sakaye I. Aratani
Althea and Minoru Tomijima

\$50,000 - \$99,999
Helen '69 and Morgan Chu '71, MA '72, PHD '74

\$10,000 - \$24,999
Visual Communications

\$5,000 - \$9,999
Cathay Bank
Henry Jung '87 and Mark Deangelis
Michael Lee

\$1,000 - \$4,999
Norma Corral
Ashwin Datt '93
Janet and John Fossum
Michelle Monsalud Gosom '97
Lilly and Beaumont Q. Hall '62
Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi
Arnold K. Honda '77
Haruko '81 and Akira Kawasaki
Suellen and Munson Kwok
Ann and John M. Liu MA '74, PHD '85
Gene C. Moy MA '03
Netflix, Inc.
Elsie Uyematsu Osajima
Vanessa R. Ozuna
KyeYoung R. Park
Kanji Sahara
Elma Ocampo Severson
Jina and Roger M. Wakimoto
May Wang
Irving Weiser
Suzi Wong '70 and Jed Rasula
Erica K. Yamamura '01, MA '03, PHD '06 and
Soren H. Nielsen

\$500 - \$999
Phil T. Bangayan MA '94 and Marian Tsai-Bangayan
Ronald S. Chow '73
Rosalynd and Tim Dong
Margaret York and Lance Ito '72
Stefanie '00 and John Lau
Nancy and Milton H. Louie MD '75
Valerie J. Matsumoto
Mary Nishimoto '80 and David Stephan
Yvonne and Alan Nishio
Christia Kaminsky-Ogawa and Rodney Ogawa '70
Karen '76, JD '79 and Martin Tachiki '75, JD '78
Jennifer '76 and Casimiro Tolentino '72, JD '75
Faye F. Yamada '70

\$100 - \$499
Tomiye T. and Randolph Akagi
Dalal Alfares PhD '17
Maria-Paz and Earl L. Avery '70
Eleanor Chan MBA '17
Felicia Chang JD '99
Ann Chau '08 and Don Lai
Sharon R. Chon PhD '14
Alfred C. Chow '00
Ruth Chung and David K. Yoo
George L. Colindres JD '99
Jean-Paul Contreras Deguzman MA '07, MA '10, PHD '14
Lawrence R. Cotter PhD '77
Wanda W. Chin '74 and Terry Dickey
Andrew H. Do MA '14
Robert L. Duell
eBay Inc.
Sarah S. Elman MA '90
Linda N. Espana-Maram PhD '93
Wendy and Gary Furuno '72
Dolly M. Gee '81, JD '84
Michael C. Gong JD '85
Neil Gong
Elisa S. Ha '89
Julie A. Ha '94
Jamie M. Hamano '78
Lisa M. Hasegawa '91
Yanting He '17
Candace Hickey



1) Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi, Karen Ishizuka, Bob Nakamura, and Tom Nakanishi at the Opening Night of the 50th Anniversary Film Festival; At the 2020 Lunar New Year Awards Reception: 2) Susan Rosales, Karen Umemoto, Julie Ha, and Dan Mayeda; and 3) Susan Toy Stern, and award recipient Angela Li. (UCLA AASC).

Paul C. Honda '80
Sunny Hsia
Tony D. Hsu '00
Leslie A. Ingram Drake '74
Tazuko and Lloyd Inui
Naomi Irie
Kenneth Ito
Andrew Jolivet
Mijin Kang
Mary Uyematsu Kao '71, MA '07 and
John Kao
Peter N. Kiang
Harry H. Kim
Tracy E. Kiuchi
Robert W. Ko
Claire K. Kohatsu MS '92
Daniel A. Kubo
Samuel L. Lau '02
Rhonda '78 and Keith J. Lee '75
Sharlene D. Lee PhD '06
Kevin Leung '90
Derrick E. Lim MA '85
Paul C. Lin '93
Phuong Tang MSW '05, MA '08
and Jeff W. Liu '96
Sarah Marie P. Mamaril '05
Darryl G. Mar MA '96
Rhea G. Mariano '96
Patsy and James N. Matsushita
Sucheta Mazumdar '74, MA '77, PHD '84
Lynn C. Mikami '66
Vicky Miyashiro '03
Susan Nakaoka '91, MA '99, MSW '99,
PHD '14 and Manuel Lares
James M. Nakatsuka '89
Tracy Ng
Hai Nguyen
Mike Hoa T. Nguyen MA '14
Russell D. Nishimura DDS '81
Northrop Grumman Corporation
Christine K. Oka '74, MLS '90
Ellen Okamoto JD '87
Joyce N. Okazaki '56
Paul M. Ong
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Derrick Que '00
Rising Star Development, LLC
Jacqueline E. Rodarte '13
Susan Rosales '81, MA '83 and
Daniel Mayeda '79, JD '82
Ilana Rosman
Ikuyo '55 and Bo T. Sakaguchi
Diane and Bruce E. Shimano
Marianne T. Sing '84
Catherine E. Ski '97
Rosario E. Stewart
Craig H. Suen '85
Mary M. Okino and Ronald A. Sugano '92
Sunshine S. Sykes
Renee Tajima and Armando Pena MA '93
Randy Tamura
Jim C. Tiao MA '73
Cindy N. Tomita Oda '75
Kio W. Tong-Ishikawa MA '07
Khanh Tran
Sissy K. Tran '05
Misha Tsukerman '09
Donna L. Ujjiye MA '86

Karen Umemoto MA '89 and
Brian Niiya MA '90
Amy L. Uyematsu MA '69
Peggy Wu and Howard S. Wang MA '81,
PHD '92
Randy K. Wayamori '77
Don Wei
Cory S. Weng MA '05
Cheryl N. Yamashita '69
Akemi K. and Gary Yano
Ian Yeom '00
Peicheng Yu PhD '16
H. Yu
Jason N. Yuan '93
Zheng Zheng '10

Up to \$99
Vickie L. Allen '84
Angelo N. Ancheta '83, JD '86
Angela Arunarsirakul MA '13
Nomondalai Batjargal '17
Anne Bautista
Jody H. Calderon
Cheryl J. Chan MA '88
Rachel S. Chang '99
Lucinda Chee '91
Diane Tan and King H. Cheung '72
Atley Chock
Angela Choi '14
Christi A. Corpus '06
William X. Cui '08
Ashok K. Das PhD '08
Marlou De Luna '84
Dinnah B. Donato '89
Betty A. Donohue PhD '94
Michael Du '09
Peter C. Fan MA '98
Jin Fang PhD '12
Pengli Feng '09
Nanci C. Freeman PhD '94
Brian N. Fukuma '84
Kristin L. and Paul Fukushima
Constance Fung MD '98 and
Hawkin Woo
Phyllis Fung PhD '05
Gerardo Gomez
Cheng-En Guo PhD '05
Alexander C. Ha '08
Gail M. Helgeson '73
Bluebird J. Herrera '02
Justin Hong
Yumi L. Hori '00
Stan Huang '02
James Huynh MA '19
Inspirity
Rui Ishido MA '18
Douglas Ishii
Katherine Jew MA '88
Emory G. Johnson '17
Joanna Josue
Andrew Jung MA '10
Jeffrey A. Kho '14
Phillip J. Kiriara '82
Glen I. Kitayama MA '93
Don N. Kuroyama '75
Rahim Kurwa PhD '08
Namquyen Le
Tieu-Khe Le MA '15
Trinh H. Le '06

Julie Cho MFA '99 and James K. Lee
MA '95, MA '97, PHD '00
Jen Lee
Susan Liu and Darrell Leong '96
Michael S. Li '05
Ying Li MBA '14
Melody Liao MA '14
Tien T. Lin PhD '70
Charles Liu '11 MA '19
Katharine Liu '09
Ching W. Loong '86
Jonathan Low
Elise Fenfang MA '03
Helen Mach '18
Stacy T. Maeda '92
Blythe E. Mao MA '93
Alexandra E. Margolin MA '13
Robert S. Mashihara '73
Kanako Masuda MA '19
Robert M. Matsumoto '74
Angela Mo PhD '04
Jolene E. Morita '94
Michael Myint MA '90
Willis S. Nagami '65
Erin M. Nakamura MA '12
Lan Ngo MS '96
Jacqueline K. Nguyen '07
Mai T. Nguyen
Sandy M. Nguyen '10
Trung P. Nguyen MA '12
Janaya Nichols
Kenneth K. Okikawa '67
Margaret S. Oppel
Janice Y. '66 and Megumi Osumi '68,
MA '73, JD '76
Mitsuyoshi Ozawa MA '95
Stephen M. Ozawa '92
Richard Peng '16
Amber Phung MSN '18
Mitsuko N. Pierre '75
Marcus K. Sakamoto '89
Sharyn A. Sakuda Fong MA '95
Felicia R. Settle '81
Preeti Sharma MA '08, PhD '19
Rachel G. Shuen MA '14
Sonia L. Sugg MD '88
Irene Soriano Saxon
Bob C. Tang
Evangeline Tangog Theobald MSN '90
Sharon Tantoco
The Eddie H. Takata and Karen M.
Takata Trust
Lily C. Tsau '81
Travis Y. Tu MA '92
Kenneth J. Vega '15
Kate K. Viernes MA '14
Wells Fargo Bank
Lisa R. White '90
Dorothy F. Wong MA '93
Helen Y. Woo '70
Brian William Woon '05
Kaiyi Wu MS '17
Lai Wa Wu MA '13
Ger Xiong MA '13
Sharon T. Yamato MA '66
Beverly V. Yanuarria MA '14
Qing Yue PhD '05
Bo Zhang MBA '17
Deying Zhang

UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER

IMAGES FROM 2020

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center was founded in 1969.

We've come a long way since 1969—from teaching the first Asian American studies courses at UCLA, producing two of the pre-eminent journals in our field, leading the Interdepartmental masters, major and minor programs, launching the Asian American Studies Department, supporting the Center for EthnoCommunications, processing important collections, fostering AAPI researchers and scholars, and so much more. Many people have been with us on this journey—whether as students, faculty, staff, organizational partners or community members—and we thank you for all you have done to help us bring Asian American Studies forward.

We invite you to connect with the Center and to join us for our slate of special programming and events that examine this current moment and look towards the future of Asian American Studies, especially in these times.

**SUPPORT
ASIAN
AMERICAN
STUDIES**

UCLA Asian American Studies Center
<http://aasc.ucla.edu>



Follow us @uclaaasc



Images from 2020 events prior to the pandemic shutdown and public health restrictions. 1) Professor Jennifer Chun with Ngoc Nguyen, Kristi Mai, Jason Vu, and Samantha Solemnidad from the Asian American and Pacific Islander Leadership Development Project class (KU/UCLA AASC); At the Lunar New Year Reception in February with: 2) Barbra Ramos and Grace Lee, 3) Kelly Fong and Clement Lai, 4) awardee June Kuoch with friends (UCLA AASC); At the Asian American Studies 50th Anniversary Film Festival in March with: 5) Bunche Center Director Kelly Lytle Hernandez, Center Director Karen Umemoto, and Bunche Assistant Director Tabia Shawel, 6) Marjorie Lee, Marshall Wong and Stan Yogi, 7) Theresa Bui and Yuki Torrey, 8) students from the Asian Pacific Coalition who co-sponsored opening night, 9) film festival interns Hung Nguyen and Edwin Zhou (KH/UCLA AASC); (Les Dunseith/UCLA Luskin) (BR/UCLA AASC), 10) Panel discussion on the *We Gon' Be Alright* series in January with Gary Segura, Jeff Chang, Bao Nguyen, and Kimmie Kim (Les Dunseith/UCLA Luskin).

To stay up to date with the Center, sign up at <http://bit.ly/joinaasc>