

2021 EDITION

CROSSCURRENTS





Asian American Studies Center

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Cover Image: Body movement artist Young Tseng Wong performing at the Chinese Massacre of 1871 Commemoration (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.

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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.

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*LEFT CENTER IN 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Center Director Karen Umemoto at the Conversation on the *Tule Lake Stockade Diary* by Tatsuo Ryusei Inouye on December 11, 2021 (Jon Ryuji Oda).

Dear Friends:

The continuing pandemic has underscored two urgent needs that inform our work. First, the pandemic has exacerbated economic and health inequalities that we see in many of our Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Second, the rise in anti-Asian racism with the scapegoating of Chinese as the source of the pandemic reminds us how much more education we need to do.

We launched two initiatives this year that address these urgent needs. One is the **AAPI Policy Initiative**, with over 20 of our Center faculty affiliates involved in policy-relevant research to inform pandemic recovery efforts in California and beyond. Stay tuned for events sharing the findings and recommendations from these research and creative projects.

A second is the **AAPI Digital Textbook**. We are in the midst of creating an open access digital textbook on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with high quality narratives and engaging curricula. Top scholars and writers from across the country are participating in this epic project to see “Asian American Studies in every home.”

This work builds upon our long legacy in mobilizing knowledge for social justice. We hope you enjoy reading about our activities over this past year. This was made possible by the extraordinary work of Center faculty, staff, students and alumni as well as the generosity of many supporters to whom we are deeply grateful.

With wishes for good health,

Karen Umemoto

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

READ | In the face of Anti-Asian hate and violence, particularly after the mass shooting in Georgia, the **Asian American Studies Center**, along with the **Asian American Studies Department** and the **Center for the Study of Women** released a joint statement in March 2021. Read more on our website at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/news/jointstatementonantiasianviolence.aspx>.



The Center launched the **Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Policy Initiative** in 2021. The purpose of the AAPI Policy Initiative is to support and produce research in collaboration with community-based organizations and policy makers to uplift AAPI perspectives in civic life and public decision-making in California and across the nation. It builds on the Center's long history as a recognized leader in Asian American Studies with a track record of excellence in applied policy research, publications, and leadership development.

AASC is home to the largest concentration of scholars who study Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander populations in the nation, with over 50 faculty on its advisory committee. The AAPI Policy Initiative includes over 20 faculty and researchers from a dozen academic disciplines engaged in conducting public-facing, policy-oriented, and applied research. In addition, AASC faculty have helped build a collaborative network of public policy research at campuses across the country.

In April 2021, the AASC received California state funds with the support of the **Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus (AAPILC)** through Assembly Bill 85 that included a one-time allocation in the amount of \$1,100,000. These funds were utilized for the **COVID-19 Multilingual Resource Hub (TranslateCOVID.org)**, analysis and research associated with hate incidents experienced by Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, and with the majority of funds used for policy research projects on COVID-19-related challenges directly impacting AAPI communities.

Some funds were used to update the interface for the COVID-19 Multilingual Resource Hub, containing over 1,000 vetted resources in 60 languages with newly translated FAQ's on vaccines in 20 languages for populations suffering high rates of infection. Additional funding was obtained from The **California Endowment** and the **California Wellness Foundation** for outreach.

In Spring 2021, the AAPI Policy Initiative launched a series of faculty-led research projects to inform pandemic recovery efforts with the support of AAPILC. Funds were awarded to 15 research projects and 2 creative projects focused on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to inform policy makers and to ensure equity in recovery efforts. These projects include efforts to address the problem of racial violence and harassment through research and education.



2021-22 PANDEMIC RECOVERY RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Pandemic impacts on employment, businesses and housing, *Paul Ong*
- Food insecurity and AAPI elderly in California, *May Wang*
- Economic impacts of COVID-19 on Southeast Asians, *Chhandara Pech*
- Economic, educational, and health impacts among undocumented populations, *May Sudhinaraset*
- Theatrical labor in the wake of COVID-19, the state of Asian American Theater in California, and innovative possibilities for recovery, *Sean Metzger*
- Impacts of COVID-19 on AAPI voter registration and turnout in 2020 and its implications, *Natalie Masuoka*
- Anti-Asian racism and implications for higher education, *Robert Teranishi*
- Impact of the pandemic on the arts, *Lucy Burns*
- Impacts of COVID-19 on Los Angeles Koreatown and Koreans in Southern California, *Kyeyoung Park*
- Stressors Facing Filipino American Families in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond, *Cindy Sangalang*
- Immigration law and impacts on undocumented populations and anti-Asian racism, *Hiroshi Motomura*
- Demographic distribution of negative COVID-19 impacts on Pacific Islander communities, *Keith Camacho*
- Community response, aid networks, and COVID relief gaps among immigrant workers in Los Angeles' Koreatown, *Jennifer Chun and AJ Kim*
- A longitudinal study of hate crimes in Los Angeles, 2003-2020, *Karen Umemoto*
- Health, health care and social determinants of health related to the COVID-19 pandemic, *Ninez Ponce*
- May 19 Solidarity Project media campaign videos, *Renee Tajima-Peña*
- Macroaggression: A Virtual Reality Project on Anti-Asian Violence, *Gina Kim*
- *Vanessa Unmuted: A Storybook for Grades 4-12*



Vanessa Unmuted is a standalone digital storybook, that was written and produced in response to the rise in anti-Asian hate and in anticipation of the return of students to school in the midst of scapegoating of Asians for the COVID-19 pandemic. This digital storybook, complete with lesson plans for K-12 teachers, introduces the character of Vanessa, a biracial student who confronts and deals with harassment she faced at school with after receiving sage advice from trusted adults.

Embedded links to educational slides and short video documentaries allow students to deepen their understanding of the various issues discussed. Lesson plans are currently downloadable and teacher training videos are planned. The Center hopes to develop this storybook into a book series.

Vanessa Unmuted is a joint project of the AASC with the **Los Angeles Unified School District Koreatown Pico-Union Community of Schools** and the **May 19 Project**.

To access *Vanessa Unmuted* and the lesson plans, visit <https://aapistorybooks.org/vanessaunmuted>.



The team behind ***Vanessa Unmuted*** included writer **Stan Yogi**, illustrator **Angel Trazo**, undergraduate student researcher **Joanne Luong**, project facilitator **Karen Umemoto**, and educator **Chiae Byun-Kitayama**, who shared some of her thoughts on the project below.

When Karen Umemoto first approached me to be part of the Vanessa Unmuted team, I didn't know what to expect. I trusted her because of our long friendship and my great respect for her work in Asian American Studies. The project interested me because of the violence against the AAPI community experienced during the pandemic and I was honored that Karen had asked me to join.

The Vanessa Unmuted team really came together over Zoom. We were able to create the story, illustration, lessons, and website in around two months because we were focused on raising awareness of anti-Asian violence in American society.

During the process of collaborating with the team, I learned more about the history of civil rights and discrimination against BIPOC. Through our discussions in planning Vanessa Unmuted, I realized how little was known about our collective histories in the mainstream society and how much more work we need to do. I hope that Vanessa Unmuted provides an important opportunity for discussion and reflection about the issues through the eyes of children.

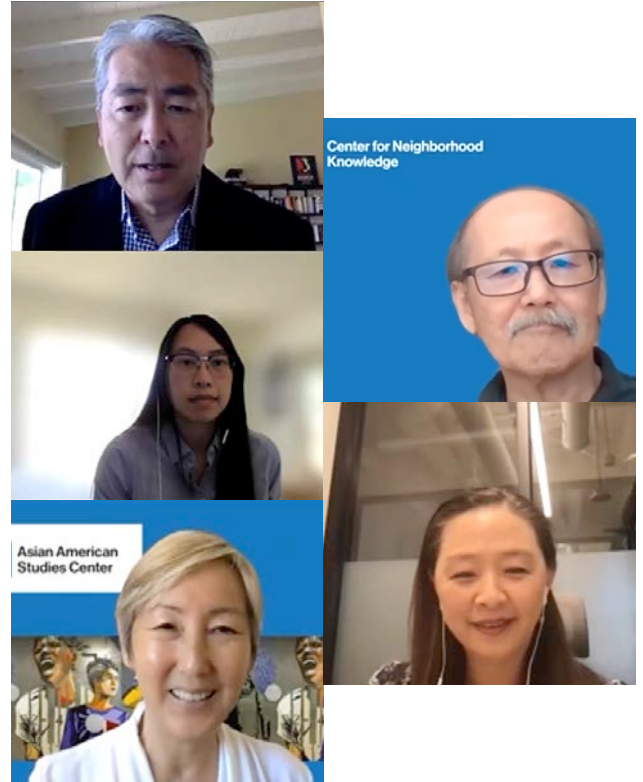
Chiae Byun-Kitayama is an administrator for the Koreatown Pico-Union Community of Schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District and an Adjunct Professor of Applied and Advanced Studies in Education at California State University, Los Angeles.



The **Asian American Studies Center** partnered with the **Center for Neighborhood Knowledge (CNK)** and the **Asian Business Association** to study the impact of the pandemic on the Asian American-owned businesses, particularly in Southern California. A survey was conducted by ABA, with data analysis led by **Alycia Cheng, Jonathan Ong, and CNK Director and Research Professor Paul Ong**.

Two briefs based on this study were released in 2021, as well as a webinar. The first brief focused on “Identifying Gaps and Supporting Recovery,” including suggested resources needed for recovery. The second brief covered the impact of anti-Asian hate on Asian American businesses.

A webinar based on the first study was co-sponsored with the AAPILC and was presented on May 26, 2021. The event spotlighted major findings on how the pandemic affected Asian American businesses, their efforts to get assistance and relief, ways they adapted to the disruption, and their recovery plans. Featured experts and speakers included **Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, Paul Ong, Alycia Cheng, Karen Park, and Karen Umemoto** (all pictured to the right).



READ & WATCH | To see the briefs and the webinar, visit <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/resources/policyreports.aspx>.



Another research project supported by the Center and the AAPI Policy Initiative focused more on the arts. On September 27 and October 27, 2021, two panels were held on the survey findings on the impact of COVID-19 closures on BIPOC artists and theater companies. Initiated and led by **Professor L MSP Burns** with Asian American Studies MA alum **Hannah Joo** serving as the project coordinator, this collaborative project includes members of the **Latinx Theatre Commons, the Consortium of Asian American Artists and Theatres, the National BIPOC Coalition/Commons, CRAFT Institute, Teatro Luna West, TeAda Productions, and Pangea World Theater**.

As Professor Burns stated in the discussion, “the survey was never meant to be the answer; it was always intended to open conversations and erasures around representation, resources, and theater practices.” Pictured below are some of the speakers from the community conversations panel: **Leilani Chan** (TeAda & CAATA), **Leslie Ishii** (CAATA), **Linda Parris-Bailey** (Parris-Bailey Arts), **L MSP Burns** (UCLA), **Rhiana Yazzie** (New Native Theatre).

READ & WATCH | Watch the panels and learn about this project, visit <https://www.bipoctheatresurveys.com/>.



SHORT FILMS SHARE LEGACY OF WHAT AAPI #SOLIDARITYIS

The **May 19 Project**, founded by author and Asian American Studies MA alum **Jeff Chang** and Center for EthnoCommunications Director **Renee Tajima-Peña**, is a social media video campaign launched to amplify the legacy of AAPI solidarity.

The first video focused on two icons of Asian-Black solidarity, **Yuri Kochiyama** and **Malcolm X**, who also shared a birthday—May 19—and a passion to change the world. In total, 14 short and impactful videos were released in 2021 by the collective of filmmakers and creatives under the hashtag **#SolidarityIs**. Other videos focused on moments of activist solidarity like the **Delano Grape Strike** and the ethnic studies/**Third World Liberation Front** strikes, artists such as **Bruce Lee** and **Sugar Pie DeSanto**, and other calls for civil rights and racial justice in American history.

The campaign was done in collaboration with **The Asian American Foundation (TAAF)** and their **#SeeUs** campaign, a positive narrative against anti-Asian violence. The videos were also included as part of the resources for AASC’s digital storybook **Vanessa Unmuted**.

Several UCLA alumni and staff worked on this project, including **Janet Chen**, **Karin Chan**, **Hannah Joo**, **Eurie Chung**, **Grace Lee**, and **Tadashi Nakamura**. The May 19 Project is produced by Jeff Chang and Renee Tajima-Peña in association with the UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications of the Asian American Studies Center and Walking Iris Media. The production facility is Flash Cuts, home to the PBS docuseries *Asian Americans*. The May 19 Project is funded by TAAF, the Ford Foundation, the Levi Strauss Foundation, Blue Shield Foundation, the Haas, Jr. Fund, California Endowment, Unbound Philanthropy, the Pop Cultural Collaborative, and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

WATCH | See the videos and learn more by visiting <https://www.seeusunite.org/unite/>.



Top: Social media post featuring quote from **Haunani-Kay Trask**, who was featured in Episode 10: “The National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit.” (May 19 Project). Bottom: **Grace Lee Boggs** in Episode 5: “Grace Lee Boggs and James Boggs Change The World.”

*When we call the **May 19 Project** a rapid response campaign, we’re not kidding. It was fast and furious! We cooked up the idea in March and by May 19 we were already rolling out 14 videos and multiple social assets. That project would usually take at least 6 months to a year at least, from start to finish, but this happened in weeks.*

*We were able to pull it off because this past year has been all hands on deck in the AAPI community. People are showing up, bringing their skills and collaborating. In our case, a number of really busy filmmakers cleared their schedules to produce the videos: **Joua Lee Grande**, **Grace Lee**, **Juan Mejia**, **Steve Maing**, **Bo Mirhosseni**, **Tad Nakamura**, **PJ Raval**, **Jun Stinson**. Our organizational partners quickly came on board—**See Us Unite/The Asian American Foundation**.*

A-Doc, For Freedoms, and UCLA AASC. People from philanthropy, social media strategists, writers, scholars, activists, graphic artists, voice talent... we were able to partner with so many who were already working on changing the narrative.

The powerful response of the Asian American community, especially during this time of anti-Asian hate and violence, may look spontaneous on the surface. But it is rooted in the long tail of organizing. We certainly found that to be true from the May 19 Project. People have been working on social change and narrative change for years, and they were ready to seize the time.

ORGANIZER REFLECTIONS

BY **RENEE TAJIMA-PEÑA**



REMEMBERING JANICE MIRIKITANI (1941-2021)

Janice Mirikitani at a reading for *Out of the Dust* at UCLA in 2015 (UCLA AASC).



The UCLA Asian American Studies Center (AASC) was deeply saddened by the passing of **Janice Mirikitani**, an amazing alumna, San Francisco poet laureate, activist, and Glide Memorial Church co-founder, on July 29, 2021.

Janice graduated from UCLA in 1962 with a bachelor's degree in English and a minor in modern dance. Janice was also a founding charter member of UCLA's Asian-interest sorority, **Theta Kappa Phi**, founded on June 4, 1959. She went on to receive her teaching degree from UC Berkeley and then pursued her creative writing master's degree from San Francisco State University. She was named the second poet laureate of San Francisco in 2000.

Janice, a third-generation Japanese American, was the daughter of Japanese American chicken farmers. She was a year old when her family was incarcerated during World War II through President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066. Janice and her parents were sent off to Rohwer camp in Arkansas. That experience along with ethnic identity challenges informed a lot of her poetry.

In 1965, Janice became the administrative assistant at **Glide Memorial Church**, where she met **Reverend Cecil Williams** and quickly became active in political movements for human

rights. She said her exposure to the injustices of racism and sexism, particularly against poor people, urged her toward further activism in anti-war and peace movements. On January 1, 1982, Janice married Reverend Williams. Together, they built Glide into a visionary organization, internationally renowned for its social justice, advocacy, social service provider efforts, and its commitment to building an inclusive spiritual community.

The Center have been fortunate to host Janice over the years and share her powerful words and spirit with the public. On November 15, 1979, we co-hosted "**Visions of California: Asian American Writers 1929-1979.**" Organized by **Russell Leong**, the conference featured Janice alongside other notable writers, such as **Jeffrey Paul Chan, Wakako Yamauchi, Al Robles, Hisaye Yamamoto, and Shawn Wong**. Janice opened the program, reading her poem "The Survivor" about multiple generations of Japanese American women.

The Center welcomed her back to UCLA in 2015 when it co-hosted a poetry reading with Janice sharing from **Out of the Dust**, her fifth book of poems published as part of *Intersections*, a collaborative series by University of Hawai'i Press in conjunction with UCLA AASC. Drawing from her background as a Sansei Japanese American and written in response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the book featured reflections on war, tragedy, experiences of struggle, and the connections of our humanity.

Her numerous books of poetry include **Awake in the River** (Isthmus Press), **Shedding Silence** (Celestial Arts), **We, the Dangerous** (Virago Press; Celestial Arts), and **Love Works** (City Lights). She also served as the editor for nine anthologies and magazines.

May she rest in power and peace.

**"To deny what is
real for me is to
deny me."**

- Janice Mirikitani in
*Words Matter: Conversations
with Asian American Writers*

On Saturday, August 7, 2021, the **Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC), UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Impact Design Hub of Cal State Northridge, Museum of Social Justice, and California Humanities** came together to commemorate the 26th anniversary of the **El Monte Thai Garment Worker case**, the first recognized case of modern-day slavery in the United States. The exhibition, entitled **“Thai El Monte Garment Workers: The Return of Slavery and Trafficking in the Modern Era”** took place at Kiosko Plaza in Los Angeles, California.

Twenty-six years ago, 72 Thai workers were held as indentured servants in a guarded compound in El Monte. On August 2, 1995, grassroots organizations and government agencies raided the compound and rescued the workers. The case sparked reforms in the garment industry, forcing the state to hold retailers responsible for violations and to guarantee adequate compensation for garment workers. The case further brought to light the struggles that Thai migrants experience and launched a global movement against human trafficking.

The public often remembers the legal victory of the case: the way in which the El Monte case paved the way for the **Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act in 2000**, a federal law that seeks to protect victims of trafficking.

However, the exhibition presented a different outlook.

From music provided by **DJ Tyancity**, a member of Black Lives Matter LA, artist **Chris Lam**’s performance, to speeches by survivor **Rotchana Sussman**, Thai CDC, and many others, the exhibition told the story of the case from the perspective of the survivors and reminded the public of community organizers who worked on the case but were often forgotten.

Chancee Martorell, director of Thai CDC stated that “this victory... would not be possible without those who fall into the shadows. Very little could’ve been accomplished without labor unions, such as UNITED, worker rights organizations, such as KIWA, immigration rights organizations, such as CHIRLA.” The El Monte case is not just a case of modern slavery, but also an example of the ways in which collective power and cross-community collaboration can challenge the deeply rooted systems of capitalism and white supremacy in our society today. In this time of great despair, the Exhibition was a source of hope and inspiration. It is a reminder that systemic changes should be informed by the struggles and heartache of communities that are directly impacted.



At the exhibition opening at Kiosko Plaza (Curtis McElhinney/curtisvision.com; Courtesy of Thai CDC).

EL MONTE THAI GARMENT WORKERS EXHIBITION A CALL FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE MODERN ERA

**ORGANIZER
REFLECTIONS
BY NGOC NGUYEN**



As a student of ethnic studies, it was a tremendous privilege for me to work alongside community organizers to put on this exhibition and to see the fruition of this effort come to life after two years in the making. In reflection of this entire experience, I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to take what I learned to create positive changes in the lives of vulnerable immigrant communities. I hope that the story of the Thai workers will never be forgotten, but continues to serve as the drive for future generations to continue the much-needed advocacy work in ensuring that vulnerable immigrants of color receive the justice that they deserve.

Ngoc Nguyen is a recent UCLA graduate with degrees in International Development Studies, Sociology, and Asian American Studies, who interned at Thai CDC last year. She is currently a Cleveland Foundation Public Service Fellow.

WATCH | View a livestream of the event via the Thai Community Development Center’s Facebook page at <https://bit.ly/eltgwexhibit>.



LEARN MORE | See an exhibition preview and explore educational tools and resources at <https://www.museumofsocialjustice.org/thai-el-monte-garment-workers.html>.



TRANSLATECOVID

VOLUNTEERS OFFER CRITICAL SUPPORT FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

Since launching the **COVID-19 Multilingual Resource Hub at TranslateCOVID.org**, the Center has been fortunate to have the support of many volunteers at every phase of this important project. A joint effort by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Fielding School of Public Health and Institute of American Cultures, TranslateCOVID has volunteers who reflect a cross-section of the diverse interests and backgrounds of the broader UCLA community and its supporters. Since the project began, the Center has benefitted from having over fifty undergraduate and graduate students, alumni, professionals, and students from neighboring universities donate their time and skills. Their assistance ranges from critical translations, meticulous vetting of accurate COVID-19 educational material, designing of social media infographics, gathering of hard-to-find resources in multiple languages, and COVID-19 research.

In spring quarter 2020, TranslateCOVID recruited twenty volunteers. Undergraduate student **Jessica Pham '21**, helped to lead our volunteers and coordinate their efforts. The team assisted us with translations in Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, Armenian, Tagalog, and Spanish. They also contributed to critical research, reviewed over 1,000 sources, and designed social media graphics. Our volunteers had many reasons for joining but many spoke about wanting to help their communities and reduce myths that were widely circulating throughout the pandemic:

"I am interested in joining the team because of the toll the pandemic has taken on all those around me, I want to do anything I can to help. As an Asian American, the pandemic has also brought an additional set of struggles in the form of racism that I would like to help combat. Lastly, I have a strong interest in working in public health." - Student

"I want to help disseminate information about COVID to reach the Armenian people in an articulate and coherent way. I also hope to reduce vaccination fears with proper information." - Alumni



In April, the Delta Variant was spreading, as the U.S. surpassed 33 million cases and it was reported that just 41% of the U.S. population had received one dose of the vaccination. It was a critical juncture of the pandemic and for the project. Students and professionals balanced their academic and work schedules, family commitments, and joined us through numerous Zoom calls for ten weeks. They provided much needed translations, reviewed hundreds of links from government and health organizations, and helped design social media postings to keep the public informed, safe and healthy.



Examples of social media graphics created for TranslateCOVID.

Volunteers felt their work had a positive impact and reflected on what they gained personally:

"The experience gave me a lot of insight into the barriers that AAPI communities are facing during the pandemic. It also led me to a lot of helpful resources that I could show to my friends and family." - Student

"I further improved upon my translating abilities, which I'm grateful for. It helped me think twice about the words I use and the way language is portrayed and used in society, such as professional language vs. everyday language. I'm also glad to have met others who are willing to devote time to work on this project despite having other commitments in life." - Alumni

TAKE ACTION | Visit [TranslateCOVID.org](https://translateCOVID.org) and share resources on COVID-19 in multiple languages. Sign up for updates and follow the project on social media:



@uclacovid19



@translateCOVID



The TranslateCOVID team deeply appreciates all of these volunteers for their time, dedication, and contributions. Their collaboration has been invaluable in creating this critical multilingual resource to help the most vulnerable populations and the Center is immensely grateful for their hard work and support.

The Center would especially like to thank the following volunteers for their contributions to the project:

- Theresa Bui
- Audrey Chan
- Victoria Chiang
- Andreina Gomez
- Adam Guemidjian
- Kara Justeson
- Haily Kil
- Kevin Lam
- Jeeyun Lee
- Chuc Luu
- Mark Martinez
- Jaira Mendoza
- Justin Park
- Sue Park
- Jessica Pham
- Sharon Quach
- Diana Ramirez
- Brianna Tran
- Kellina Tran
- Lisa Yan
- Jessica Yu
- Benny Zhang
- Zihan Zhou

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Jessica Pham '21 has been working on the project since Fall 2020, helping to lead volunteers, source and organize hundreds of sources for the platform, and vet many of the in-language materials. She has been a valuable and dedicated member of the team and the Center is so grateful that she continues to play a role in the project.

“When the COVID pandemic first occurred I witnessed firsthand how low-income immigrant communities in particular were hit the hardest. I have always been passionate about providing equal and reliable health care and information to the most vulnerable community members. There was various misinformation that was spreading on COVID-19 as a result of the panic. I knew I couldn’t just sit and watch. I wanted to be a part of something that would address the issue directly. Through TranslateCOVID I was able to assist in relaying reliable information across communities regardless of the language barriers that would have otherwise prevented them from accessing crucial resources.”

Sue Park '20 is an alumnus and active volunteer in her community. She has been volunteering since April 2021. Her translations and contributions have been valuable in the project’s social media messaging, fact sheets, and FAQs.

“When vaccines started being distributed to the larger public in March 2021, I volunteered at mobile clinics in my local community that consists largely of a multi-ethnic immigrant population. I provided Korean translation services and saw the impact I had on not only the clinics, but also individual patients. I came to recognize the importance of providing such services during these current confusing times of a new virus and vaccine. I wanted to further commit my time and language services to TranslateCOVID as an extension and continuation of serving my community. As a part of this team, I hoped to be a part of a valuable cause working towards easing language barriers, one of many contributors to the ethnic health disparities.”



THE ENDURING IMPACT OF STANLEY KWOK LAU & DORA WONG LAU



Southern California had always been home for **Stanley Kwok Lau** and **Dora Wong Lau**, and it was the central hub of their active lives. This Angeleno couple spent more than seven decades nurturing lasting friendships, while also developing cohesive partnerships that have since catapulted their community and educational aspirations into reality. Even after their passings, their contributions continue to make an immense impact on students, scholars, and communities at UCLA, in Southern California, and beyond.

Their personal journeys and their journey together speak volumes. After graduating from Los Angeles Community College, Dora was employed as one of the first female design technicians at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) until her retirement in 1986. Stanley, after marrying Dora and graduating from UCLA in 1949, worked as a chief chemist for several companies before he was hired to work at LADWP as an engineer until his own retirement in 1988.



Dora Wong Lau with Stanley K. Lau at his UCLA graduation, June 1949 (Allen Kong Saiget. Courtesy of Stanley K. Lau papers, UCLA AASC)

While employed with the City, they became keenly involved in affirmative action and equal opportunity employment issues. Stanley helped to co-found the **Los Angeles County Asian American Employees Association** in 1972 and sat on the City's first

affirmative action commission to establish guidelines and review grievance matters of Asian American City and County employees. Stanley and Dora also engaged themselves in the local Chinatown and Chinese American community in Southern California. They were charter members of the **Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC)**, and Stanley served as its inaugural president in 1975.

During their time with CHSSC, among the organization's first regionally historic documentation efforts was the co-sponsorship in 1976 of the Lang Station historical marker in Santa Clarita. Commemorating its 100th anniversary, the site represents the important contributions of Chinese workers in Southern California who were the primary labor force that built the first railroad line connecting San Francisco and Los Angeles. In 1977, CHSSC also spearheaded an oral history project of early Chinese Angeleno pioneers.

It was only when Dora's health began to decline due to a terminal illness that Stanley stepped away from their many

civic and community commitments to devote his time and attention to caring for his wife and life partner. Upon her death in 2007, Stanley honored her wishes and approached UCLA to explore ways he could memorialize her as well as give back to the institution whose faculty mentored and encouraged him to complete his post-WWII undergraduate education and helped begin the Lau's journey together.

In 2012, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center was honored to receive its initial gift from Stanley Lau to establish student scholarships that would provide opportunities to conduct social science research and to gain experience in Chinese American Studies. The inaugural **Stanley Kwok Lau and Dora Wong Lau Endowed Undergraduate and Graduate Students Memorial Research Scholarship and Internships in Chinese American Studies** enabled current UCLA undergraduate and graduate students to engage in faculty-supervised research. Students acquired experience working with archival materials, focusing on the depictions of Chinese people in Los Angeles-based newspapers (1850-1900), and developed an article index with keyword and subject terms that spotlighted the early history of the Chinese American community in Los Angeles. Graduate student research centered around faculty-supported archival collections at the Huntington Library to explore and study the beginnings of Chinese American Protestant Churches in Los Angeles from 1850 to 1945.



Lau awardees **Kim Yamasaki** (far left) and **Frances Huynh** (far right) with **Stanley K. Lau** (UCLA AASC)

Also fascinated with developing brief educational media programs, Stanley eagerly supported the Center's initiative to pilot a **Chinese American History Mini-Documentary series**. Through the generous support of the Stanley Kwok Lau and Dora Wong Lau funds, the Center's EthnoCommunications program was able to create short documentaries on Chinese herbalists, a biographical historiography of a Chinese American Southern California family and its development of the thriving Phoenix Bakery in Chinatown, and on the role of Chinese railroad builders on the Tehachapi Loop. The funds were also used to train and supervise select students to work on them. Due to his untimely passing in December 2017, Stanley Lau was unable to view these films, but his vision was sustained to its successful completion through the support of Institute of American Cultures Vice Provost **David K. Yoo**



Stanley K. Lau (in blue) listening to the distinguished lecture by Gordon H. Chang at Powell Library. (UCLA AASC)

HONORING CHINESE AMERICAN WWII VETERANS

The **Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project** is a program of the **Chinese American Citizens Alliance (CACA)**. In December 2016, the project was established to identify, honor and recognize the efforts and accomplishments of Chinese American WWII veterans. It began as a national advocacy campaign and documentation search that resulted in locating more than 4,000 individuals identified and recognized for their military service and contributions in the U.S. Armed Forces during WWII.

After decades of incurred legislative and legal discrimination, the enactment of **Public Law 115-337** by the United States President in December 2018 bears considerable historic significance to Chinese Americans. Bestowed by Congress as its highest expression of national appreciation to civilians, Chinese American WWII service veterans as a group were recognized for their distinguished military achievements and contributions. CACA raised community support to offer each veteran a special commemorative bronze replica of the Congressional Medal that was exclusively designed, struck, and produced by the U.S. Mint.

Stanley Lau was among many Chinese American WWII veterans who were honored at the CACA's Congressional Gold Medal Gala in Washington, DC and at the local Southern California events. Corporal Stanley K. Lau, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was presented with a bronze replica of the Congressional Gold Medal by **U.S. Army Major General Stephen D. Tom** (ret.) to recognize and honor his WWII military service. It was accepted on his behalf by **Marjorie Lee**, representing his estate.



US Army Major General Stephen Tom presents a Congressional Gold Medal to Stanley K. Lau. Marjorie Lee accepts award on Mr. Lau's behalf. (Suellen Cheng)

and **Janet Chen**, Assistant Director of the UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications. In particular, the 20-minute documentary, **"Phoenix Bakery: Sweets for the Sweet,"** directed by Janet, made its world premiere in 2020 and was shown at several film festivals that year and in 2021, including the AASC's Film Festival.

The Center has also continued to mount groundbreaking efforts and programs to stimulate and support academic and community research around Chinese Americans and their history through the **Stanley Kwok Lau and Dora Wong Lau Endowment in Chinese American Studies**. Past distinguished lecturers have included esteemed historians **Erika Lee** (University of Minnesota), **Gordon H. Chang** (Stanford University), and **Mae Ngai** (Columbia University).

In November, the Center co-sponsored the **Southern California Region's Congressional Gold Medal Presentation Ceremonies** honoring Chinese American military service veterans of World War II by the Los Angeles Lodge of the **Chinese American Citizens Alliance (CACA)**. More than 200 of the region's 460+ WWII veterans were recognized and honored at events in Los Angeles and Simi Valley. Because Stanley served during WWII, the Center's archival collections staff had submitted his military service discharge records to CACA's national recognition project. The Center has received Stanley's Congressional Gold Medal as a gift by the Lau Trust and is honored to preserve it as part of his archival collection.

The Center is forever grateful for the Lau family's contributions that have helped us honor their commitment to Chinese American history and communities.



The Lau family during the holidays circa December 1945. From left to right: Vincent (brother, US Navy), parents Yui Ying and Shiu Kwong Lau, Esther (sister), Stanley (US Army). (Allen Kong Saiget; Courtesy of Dennis Vincent Lau)

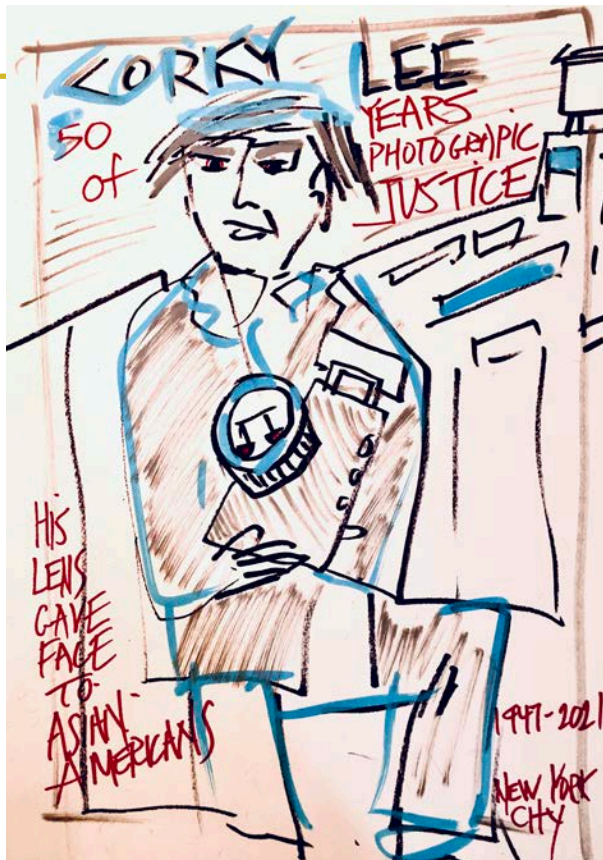
The UCLA Asian American Studies Center was deeply saddened by the passing of artist **Corky Lee**, the “unofficial Asian American photographer laureate,” on January 27, 2021 from COVID-19. Corky was the most renowned Asian American photographer. For more than half a century, he documented and captured iconic images of the Asian American social movement and the struggles of people of color. His photos humanized academic articles and stories in several of our publications such as *Asian Americans: The Movement and the Moment*, *Amerasia Journal*, *Speaking Out for Personal Justice* and *The New Face of Asian Pacific America*.

The Center was deeply fortunate to co-host him as the 2014 University of California Regents Lecturer, in which he exhibited his photos and discussed his work with the UCLA campus and Los Angeles public. Corky was a colleague and friend, whose remarkable collection of emotionally moving work continues to inspire. On February 6, 2021, a funeral procession for Corky Lee was held through several key locations in and around New York City’s Chinatown. May he rest in power and peace.



PHOTOGRAPHER **CORKY LEE** (1947-2021) ●●●

“I believe my past deeds reflect a strong sense of bringing to light the heart and soul of Asian Pacific America—from roots to reality.”



Corky Lee in *Asian Americans: The Movement and the Moment*

Former AASC staff members Russell Leong and Mary Uyematsu Kao shared these tributes to Corky Lee.

Left: “Photographic Justice: To Honor Corky Lee”, Art by Russell C. Leong.

Photo above: Mary with Corky at the AAAS Conference in NYC, 2007 (image courtesy of Mary Uyematsu Kao).

Corky Lee had the chutzpah and audacity to showcase the true condition of Asian Pacific Americans wherever he could. Who else but Corky would organize descendents of the Chinese railroad workers to create the corrected photograph of who built the Transcontinental Railroad? His self-proclaimed moniker as “the unofficial Asian American photographer laureate” might posthumously be revised to “the Asian American Golden Spike photographer laureate.”

Corky Lee will long be memorialized for giving us an honest portrait of Asian Pacific Americans in the turbulent landscape of the United States.

—Mary Uyematsu Kao

CHINESE MASSACRE OF 1871 150TH COMMEMORATION

ORGANIZER REFLECTIONS BY HAO HUANG

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the 1871 Los Angeles Chinatown massacre. This bloody lynching of nearly

20 Chinese in two hours by a mob of 500 people (nearly 10% of the total population of LA at the time) is one of the bloodiest race lynchings recorded on the West Coast. It is not only neglected and not taught in most public schools in LA County, let alone the USA, but when it is occasionally mentioned, the violent riot is often presented as an anomaly, an exception. Intense anti-immigration was stoked by politicians and newspapers of the mid-1800s to cast the Chinese as a disease bearing, criminal, inferior race that was undermining American labor. Anti-Chinese sentiment culminated in the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, a United States federal law that prohibited all immigration of Chinese laborers. Mass anti-Chinese violence on the West Coast may have begun with the 1871 LA Chinatown massacre, but it went on to include violent anti-Chinese public actions in San Francisco, Denver, Seattle, Rock Spring (Wyoming), Hell's Canyon (Oregon) and other places all over the USA. It continues up through the present day.

In 2020, anti-Asian hate crimes increased by 76% in Los Angeles County. That year, hate crimes in the USA decreased overall by 7 percent, but those targeting Asian people rose by nearly 150 percent. The significant uptick in discriminatory coronavirus speech that includes the epithets "Wuhan virus," "Kung flu," and "China virus" has exacerbated anti-Asian bias in this country. "Research suggests that when people see Asian Americans as being more 'foreign,' they are more likely to express hostility toward them and engage in acts of violence and discrimination," says Rucker Johnson, a public policy professor at the University of California, Berkeley.

We intended to assert the humanity of those people murdered in 1871 through the performance arts. For us performers, these long-dead Chinese were not simply victims of interest only to Asian Americans; they were people who matter enough to be recognized by the general American public and government. Our event sought to encourage empathy that comes from knowledge.

Hao Huang is the Frankel Endowed Chair in Music at Scripps College.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of this historic and dark moment in history, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, UCLA Chancellor's Arts Initiative, UCLA Asia Pacific Center, Chinese American Museum (CAM), Scripps College Music Department, and UCLA History-Geography Project hosted multiple events, including a special performance, a K-12 teacher training, and a scholarly panel discussion.

"**Chinatown Elegy**" was a multi-arts performance on October 17th at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument Plaza (the site of the massacre and original Los Angeles Chinatown), that involved spoken narrative, soundscape, musical improvisation, original songs by the **Flower Pistils**, the **UCLA Chinese music ensemble**, body movement artist **Young Tseng Wong**, and UCLA grad **Curtis Wong**. Special speakers included **Chancellor Gene Block**, **Congresswoman Judy Chu**, CAM president **Gay Yuen**, Los Angeles City Council member **Kevin de León**, and El Pueblo general manager **Arturo Chavez**.

The "**Reflecting on the Past to End Racial Violence**" discussion featured **Hao Huang** (Scripps College), **Eugene Moy** (CHSCC), **Hiroshi Motomura** (UCLA), **Karen Umemoto** (UCLA), and **Min Zhou** (UCLA). The panel tied together this history with current activism around anti-Asian hate. Scan the QR code to watch the event videos.



Hao Huang being interviewed after the performance. (BR/UCLA AASC).



The Flower Pistils performing. (BR/UCLA AASC).



Student volunteers and AASC staff at the event. (Chinese American Museum).



Karen Umemoto, Helen and Morgan Chu, Chancellor Block, Congresswoman Judy Chu, Cindy Fan, and Min Zhou. (Chinese American Museum).



Jane Nguyen (center, bottom) with students and Ktown for All. (*Ktown For All*).

I was honored to be chosen for the 2020-2021 Activist-In-Residence program for UCLA’s Asian American Studies Center. Prior to the program, I had been organizing for two years, building the homelessness advocacy organization, **Ktown for All**.

In summer 2018, I inadvertently co-founded Ktown for All after protests against the city’s proposed homeless shelter broke out. In our advocacy for more housing and services, we began to talk to our unhoused neighbors, and that’s when my understanding of Los Angeles and the politics that defined this city fundamentally changed. I saw how people’s belongings were seized and destroyed in the back of a garbage truck, leaving the most vulnerable with no more than the clothes on their backs. I saw how the City of LA routinely violates people’s rights and actively inflicts trauma and violence.

We made a friend within our first day of doing outreach. He was friendly, talkative, and was surprised and grateful that a group of neighbors were visiting to offer supplies and food. A series of sweeps caused him to lose most of his belongings, including his cat’s supplies, cash, his tent, all of his clothes, and his heart medication. He had a heart condition, and life on the streets caused even more strain on his heart. Despite having so little, Joe scraped together what little money he had and bought a brand new strawberry dress for one of our volunteers who was due to give birth. Just a couple months after meeting Joe, he passed away in his tent.

I always think of Joe when I’m asked about what shapes my outlook on local government. Our kind and generous friend Joe died on the streets of Koreatown because of the

REFLECTIONS FROM THE 2020 ACTIVIST-IN-RESIDENCE BY JANE NGUYEN

deliberate choices of our elected officials. Ktown for All quickly transformed from a handful of protestors supporting the City of LA’s shelter proposal to an organization that protested the city’s criminalization policies. We were new to politics, but we were extremely effective in shutting down criminalization proposals. What surprised me most about this work is the ability of everyday Angelenos to affect policy.

As I began the Activist-In-Residence program, I wanted to empower UCLA students with this same realization. I was connected to a group of undergraduate students in Professors Jennifer Chun’s and Karen Umemoto’s class. Their assignment was to engage with a community organization, and they chose Ktown for All. After a couple outreach outings with the students, they formed their own mutual aid and advocacy organization called **UCLA4All**, focused on the Westwood area.

Nearly two years later, UCLA4All is still going strong and providing meals and essential supplies to the unhoused community around UCLA. They are also advocating for compassionate policies to address homelessness. Hundreds of people have been helped by UCLA4All and dozens of

volunteers gained a firsthand look at the injustice of Los Angeles' cruel policies. What started as conversations with unhoused neighbors grew into a flourishing community organization. My hope is that through my and the UCLA4All's students' example, more students will be inspired to take action. Homelessness is a political choice by our elected leaders, and we all have the power to demand better from our city government.

Jane Nguyen is a co-founder and core organizer of Ktown for All. She is also active with the Services Not Sweeps coalition and serves on the board of Invisible People.

AASC WELCOMES SCHOLARS AND RESEARCHERS TO UCLA



Elizabeth Hanna Rubio is a UCLA Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow with the Institute of American Cultures (IAC) and the Asian American Studies Center. She received her PhD in Anthropology with a Graduate Emphasis in Asian American Studies from the University of California, Irvine. Through

ethnographic examination of the work of undocumented Korean and other Asian American organizers in Southern California, Chicago, and New York City, her current book project troubles narratives of progress and purity in enactments and critiques of contemporary immigrant and racial justice organizing. As a UCLA Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow she will be expanding her book manuscript to interrogate how the 501(c)(3)/(c)(4) non-profit, as the dominant form of U.S. immigrant justice movements, mediates diverse visions for immigrant justice and the political, financial, and logistical ability to pursue those goals.

Jane Hong is the 2021-2022 IAC-AASC Visiting Scholar. She is an associate professor of United States history at Occidental College. She is currently writing a book for Oxford University Press that explores Asian American evangelicals in the post-Civil Rights era and how post-1965 Asian immigration has changed U.S. evangelical institutions and politics.



WATCH | View the IAC Fall Forum featuring Jane Hong by visiting:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pq2bBrPJR7c>.



Chanchanit (Chancee) Martorell '90 '93 was the commencement speaker for the class of 2020 and 2021 at Pasadena's Pacific Oaks College and was recognized with an honorary degree. She was also chosen as one of KCET's 2021 Local Heroes.

Sahra Nguyen '09 was the Commencement Speaker for the 2021 Asian American Studies Department Graduation.

Kristina Wong '00 was a recipient of this year's K.W. Lee Spirit Award from the K.W. Lee Center for Leadership.

Edited by **Preeti Sharma '08 '19** along with Mai-Linh K. Hong and Chrissy Lau, *The Auntie Sewing Squad Guide to Mask Making, Radical Care, and Racial Justice* was published by University of California Press. It tells the story of the massive volunteer-driven, mutual-aid network founded by Kristina Wong to provide free masks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eric Wat '92 (and former AASC staff) released his latest book *Love Your Asian Body: AIDS Activism in Los Angeles*, a community memoir of the 1980's AIDS movement in the Asian American communities based on oral history interviews with more than 35 activists and survivors.

Amy Luu became principal of Castelar Elementary School in Los Angeles Chinatown around 2020.

Mai Vang '11 was the first Asian woman elected to the Sacramento City Council when she won in November 2020.

William Gow '03 joined the faculty of California State University Sacramento as an assistant professor in Ethnic Studies at California State University Sacramento.

Trung P. Nguyen '12 '14 is currently a Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in Asian American Studies before he starts as an Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies at San Jose State University.

Mark Villegas '07 published *Manifest Technique: Hip Hop, Empire, and Visionary Filipino American Culture*, an investigation of hip hop as a movement of racial consciousness, with University of Illinois Press.

Ann Wang '13 was selected as president-elect for the UCLA Alumni Association Board. She will be the first Asian American woman elected to serve as the association's president.

In honor of educator and alum **Milady S. Quito**, who passed away in 2020, her friends partnered with the Little Free Library to establish 48 free "MiLibraries," all over the U.S., focusing on providing books for undeserved communities.

Susie Anau '11 passed away from COVID-19. A transfer student from Sacramento City College, she was an Asian American Studies major and was very active in the UCLA Pacific Islands' Student Association (PISA) and American Indian Student Association (AISA).

REFLECTIONS FROM 2020-2021 IAC-AASC VISITING SCHOLAR BY AJ KIM



As Visiting Scholar with the Asian American Studies center during the 2020-2021 academic year I received so much enthusiastic support from faculty sponsor **Dr. Jennifer Chun** and mentor **Dr. Karen Umemoto**. There is also something internally charming about “returning” to UCLA after completing my Ph.D. in Urban Planning program in 2011 and being able to share space and attend online events with respected former professors of mine (**Min Zhou, David Yoo, and Kye Young Park**). While we could not be in person, the digital warmth of interactions with Jennifer, Karen, **Melany de la Cruz, Irene Soriano, Barbra Ramos, KaiShan Li, Betty Leung**, and other folks went a long way towards feeling a sense of community during a time where community-building felt much harder to access.

I appreciated the opportunities to learn about the work of scholars in the other Centers, and the time and support to think, and dream, and work on my book manuscript on shifts in civil rights and voting rights movements among immigrant communities in Georgia. Professor Karen Umemoto made space for me on weekly basis to write together (even during holidays!), and advance my manuscript, **Immigrant Atlanta** (contracted with Temple University Press). In my book, I highlight the experiences of foreign-born communities across four of the largest “majority-minority” cities in Georgia – with specific focus on an emergent voting powerhouse in the US South, fast-growing Gwinnett County. I discuss the transformative power of immigrant community leadership in shaping local and regional community politics in a state with some of the most vigorous anti-immigrant policies towards unauthorized residents, DACA recipients, and refugees.



AJ Kim (AJK)

The many tragedies of 2020 and 2021, including the murder of eight Atlanta area residents, the majority of whom were Asian women, also marked important turning points in my time at the Center. Being able to engage with Center staff and faculty at both an emotional and intellectual level – so we could hold space for each other – was an important reminder of what it means to truly be in community. Karen and Melany’s leadership with the AAPI Policy Initiative and the incredible \$1.1 million in funding support from the California API Legislative Caucus, ensures that new collaborations will continue to emerge to further support organizing responses to the long process of what COVID-19 recovery looks like across a diverse and divergent set of experiences in Asian American communities.

UCLA provided time, capacity, and resources to further the work I do in the field and in my scholarship: expanding place-based solutions for vulnerable communities – with a focus on immigrants, refugees, and unauthorized workers. Out of the hard work that Karen and Melany have done, I was also able to launch a project to understand how Asian and Latinx immigrants in informal sectors have been impacted by multiple rounds of workplace closures, through a new partnership with Professor Jennifer Chun, the Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA), and the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative. For many reasons, I am so grateful to have been hosted by UCLA, the Institute of American Cultures, and the Asian American Studies Center this past year and look forward to supporting the important work of faculty, staff, and students in the future in whatever ways I can.

AJ Kim is currently an associate professor of City Planning in the School of Public Affairs at San Diego State University.

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





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Amerasia is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The journal has played such a groundbreaking role in establishing and fostering the fields of Asian America and more recently Pacific Islander Studies. This year, as we continue to grapple with the ongoing public health and racial pandemics, I hope the scholarship, art work, and conversations featured in *Amerasia* will offer both intellectual and affective guidance.

The forthcoming special issues of *Amerasia* include a collection on “Critical Refugee Studies” and “Cold War Reformations.” Guest edited by **Yen Le Espiritu** and **Lila Sharif**, two co-founders of the field of Critical Refugee Studies, the volume will feature emerging and established scholars who are extending the insights of this transformative approach to understanding the connections between military conflict, dislocation, national belonging, and subjectivity. For “Cold War Reformations,” the guest editors **Crystal Baik** and **Wendy Cheng** seek to challenge conventional understandings of chronology and geography in order to highlight the ongoing and everyday impacts of the Cold War in Asia, Asian/America, and Oceania.

It has been a privilege to serve as the editor for *Amerasia* during this important historic marker for the journal. I look forward to featuring the reflections of past editors to commemorate 50 years of **Amerasia** and to the groundbreaking special issues for the coming year on “Asian American Conservatism and Fascism” as well as on “Ocean Feminisms.”

Judy Tzu-Chun Wu is the current editor of *Amerasia Journal* and a professor of Asian American Studies at the University of California, Irvine.



To access this issue and other issues from *Amerasia Journal*, visit the journal site at <https://bit.ly/amerjonline>.



LATEST FROM

AAPI NEXUS JOURNAL

AAPI Nexus Journal received many extraordinary submissions for the “**Inflection Point 2020: Coronavirus, Census, and Elections for Asian Americans Pacific Islanders**” and published additional articles in another double issue. See section below for the table of contents.

For the Spring 2022 special issue “**Models of Change: AANAPISIs in Action,**” articles focus on how Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs) are at the forefront of changing campus climate and culture as the result of COVID-19 related anti-Asian hate, greater attention on racial inequality led by Black Lives Matters, and heightened awareness of social inequality. The guest editors are **Professor Timothy P. Fong** (California State University, Sacramento), **Professor Dina C. Maramba** (Claremont Graduate University), and **Professor Mike Hoa Nguyen** (University of Denver).

The articles in the special edition will show AANAPISIs are centers for activism and organizing by a new generation of AAPI students, faculty, and staff as they step up to the call for social justice and institutional change. AANAPISIs enroll nearly 40% of all AAPI undergraduates in the nation even though they comprised just 5.1% of the more than 4,000 colleges and universities in the United States. AANAPISIs are also important because they are overwhelmingly public community colleges and regional and urban comprehensive state universities that educate a high percentage of low income and first-generation students who are most directly impacted by current events.

To access issues of *AAPI Nexus Journal*, visit the journal site at <http://aapinexus.org>.



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From Discrimination to Mobilization: The Responsiveness of Community-Based Organizations to Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Southern California by Sara Sadhwani and Manjusha P. Kulkarni

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) face varying rates of infection and mortality as well as a surge in acts of verbal harassment, discrimination, and violence. Ethnic-based organizations play an important role both in the provision of services and as a political resource to AAPI communities. Drawing on prior research that has found that the feeling of discrimination and social exclusion has consequences for AAPI political participation, we argue that with the expanded capacity of organizations combined with the impact of COVID-19-related discrimination, there is an opportunity to galvanize Asian American political participation in 2020 and beyond.

Calling Out Anti-Asian Discrimination during COVID-19: Local Government Responses in Unexpected Places by C. Aujean Lee and John C. Arroyo

We examine three unique local government responses to the coronavirus pandemic in jurisdictions with small Asian American populations. In this resource paper, we focus on how these governments stand against anti-Asian discrimination and hate crimes and when and how they invoke race, particularly when Asian Americans comprise a small proportion of constituents. We offer recommendations for how public administrators and planners can guide local governments to address racism and racial crises.

Safe Civic Engagement during the Pandemic: Creative Solutions for AAPI Census Outreach in California by Lily Anne Welty Tamai and Ditas Katague

On Census Day, April 1, 2020, despite having the option of submitting the 2020 Census online for the first time in the Bureau’s history, the self-response rate of the Asian American Pacific Islander population and other hard-to-count populations were still below the 2010 response rates. This essay recommends policies for Census 2030 that can be put into practice at both the community level and at the national level to maximize the census self-response for hard-to-count communities by focusing on language and access by centering strategies used in California.

Barriers and Bridges to Cambodian and Sino-Cambodian American Higher Education Success: Voices from the Highly Successful by Jenny Banh

Despite the Model Minority Myth, Cambodians and Sino-Cambodians have one of the lowest graduation rates among Asian Americans. What are the barriers and bridges to this community’s academic success? This study’s findings suggest that the barriers to Cambodians American’s academic excellence are structural, intergenerational traumas and the lack of social and economic capital and offers public policy recommendations.





Keith Camacho was awarded a 2021 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. He also released a book entitled *Reppin': Pacific Islander Youth and Native Justice*.

Min Zhou has been promoted to Distinguished Professor at UCLA since July 2021. In 2021, she edited and published two journal special issues, one on "Family, Gender, Ethnicity, and Pragmatism in Contemporary Diasporic Chinese Entrepreneurship" in the *Journal of Chinese Overseas*, and the other (with Xiaohua Lin) on "Chinese Entrepreneurship in a Globalized World: Culture, Place, and Mobilities" in the *Journal of Small Business and Entrepreneurship*.



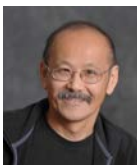
Jerry Kang was nominated to the National Council on the Humanities by President Joe Biden.

Gina Kim's latest Virtual Reality film *TEARLESS* world premiered at the Venice International Film Festival. The film was also showcased in 12 satellite cities worldwide including Amsterdam, Barcelona, Berlin, Copenhagen, Geneva, Hangzhou, Modena, Montreal, Moscow, Paris, Portland (Oregon), and Taipei.



L. MSP Burns published an essay, titled "Masagana 99: Beyond Seeds, Grains, and Stalks," in the upcoming issue of the *Alon Journal*. Burns also presented a paper titled "Durational Futures" at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association.

Shu-mei Shih is the president of the American Comparative Literature Association (2021-2022), and serves as a Marta Sutton Weeks External Fellow at Stanford Humanities Center.



Paul Ong was honored by American Planning Association as one of "12 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Who've Shaped Our Cities." He was also the recipient of the UCLA Carole E. Goldberg Emeriti Service Award.

Hiroshi Motomura served as inaugural Faculty Co-Director of the UCLA School of Law's new Center for Immigration Law and Policy, which held several major national conferences on immigration law and policy in the spring and fall of 2021. He also published an article that analyzes and envisions the future of migration law and policy called "The New Migration Law: Migrants, Refugees, and Citizens in an Anxious Age" in the 2020 *Cornell Law Review*.



Ninez Ponce was a featured guest at the White House Filipino American History Month event, where she shared remarks on health.

Sean Metzger was named an Asian American Center Fellow at UNC-Chapel Hill for 2021-2022 and his book *The Chinese Atlantic: Seascapes and the Theatricality of Globalization* won the 2021 John W. Frick Award from the American Theatre and Drama Society for best book on theatre and performance of/in the Americas.



Michelle Caswell and the UCLA Community Archives Internship Project was awarded a renewal grant from the Mellon Foundation to continue funding paid internships at community archives for UCLA MLIS students and to conceptualize an expansion of the paid community archives internship program to MLIS programs across the U.S.

Lily Anne Welty Tamai has a forthcoming book chapter "Half-Blood: Mixed-Race Tropes Old and New in Harry Potter's World" in *Harry Potter and the Other: Race, Justice, and Difference in the Wizarding Worlds!*, edited by Sarah Park Dahlen and Ebony Thomas (2022). She also spoke on "Building a Stronger Community" at Anime Expo Light and as the keynote for the UCLA APIDA Graduation Ceremony in June.



ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES 2021 FILM FESTIVAL

As a continuation of the **UCLA Asian American Studies 50th Anniversary Film Festival**, the Asian American Studies Center presented two weekends of films and programming in partnership with the **UCLA Film & Television Archive**, and in collaboration with **Center for EthnoCommunications, Visual Communications**, and the **UCLA Asian American Studies Department**. Due to the pandemic, the festival took place virtually.



PROGRAM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19 | COMPLEXITIES OF RACE

Featured *DOWN A DARK STAIRWELL* (2021) by Ursula Liang (Sneak Preview Screening), preceded by “Liquor Store Babies” (2018) by So Yun Um, “Thank You, Come Again” (2020) by Nirav Bhakta, “The Dope Years: The Story of Latasha Harlins (2021) by Allison A. Waite.

Conversation with filmmakers Ursula Liang and Allison A. Waite, moderated by Professor Renee Tajima-Peña.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20 | ANNA MAY WONG: ASIAN AMERICAN ICON

Featured *THE TOLL OF THE SEA* (1922) by Chester M. Franklin in 35mm, Technicolor with musical accompaniment by Cliff Retallick, preceded by “Anna May Wong: The First Asian American Movie Star” (2020). Panel clips include: “Anna May Wong Visits Shanghai, China” (5/1/1936) and Ryan Murphy and Ian Brennan’s “Hollywood” Season 1: Part 2 (5/1/2020).

Conversation with Anna Wong (niece of Anna May Wong) and actor/writer/director Michelle Krusiec, moderated by Professor Sean Metzger.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 | ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & SPIRIT OF ALOHA

PART 1

Featuring “Back to the Source” (2020) by Sandra Carbonell-Kiamtia, “Standing Above the Clouds (2019) by Jalena Keane-Lee, “This is the Way We Rise” (2020) by Ciara Lacy.

Conversation with filmmaker Jalena Keane-Lee, director of photography Chapin Hall, and filmmaker Sandra Carbonell-Kiamtia, moderated by Alika Bourgette, University of Washington PhD student.

PART 2

Featuring *MOANANUIĀKEA: ONE OCEAN, ONE PEOPLE, ONE CANOE* (2018) by Nā’ālehu Anthony.

Conversation with filmmaker Nā’ālehu Anthony and moderator Noah Patterson Hanohano Dolim, UC Irvine PhD student.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26 | FINDING HOME/LANDS

Featured *CHINATOWN RISING* (2021) by Harry Chuck, Josh Chuck (Sneak Preview Screening), preceded by “The Price of Cheap Rent” (2020) by Amina Sutton, “Gone” (2019) by Robert Shoji, “Reopening (2020) by David Huang, “Cambodia Town: Not for Sale” (2019) by Brandon Soun, Lan Nguyen, “Kama’āina (Child of the Land)” (2019) by Kimi Howl Lee.

Conversation with filmmakers Harry and Josh Chuck, moderated by Professor Karen Umemoto.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27 | VISIONS OF FIRE: LGBTQ+ VOICES

Featured *FRUIT FLY* (2009) - 10th Anniversary Sing-along Edition by H.P. Mendoza, “Shu Mai Online” (2020) by Emory Chao Johnson, *Razor Tongue*, Episode 1 by director Natalie Heltzel and screenwriter Rain Valdez, “Unspoken” (2019) by Patrick G. Lee.

Program was introduced by UCLA Film & Television Archive Director May Hong HaDuong. Conversation with filmmaker H.P. Mendoza and actress, filmmaker, producer Rain Valdez, moderated by Professor Sean Metzger.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28 | FOOD & FAMILY

Featuring *FINAL RECIPE* (2013) by Gina Kim, preceded by “Spamfight” (2020) by Jin Yoo-Kim, “Phoenix Bakery: Sweets for the Sweet” by Janet Chen.

Conversation with director/producer and UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television professor Gina Kim, screenwriter, UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television professor George Huang, actor Chin Han, moderated by Brian Hu, Artistic Director, San Diego Asian Film Festival.

WATCH | To see select panel discussions, visit <http://aasc.ucla.edu/filmfestival/2021/>.



CENTER FOR ETHNOCOMMUNICATIONS

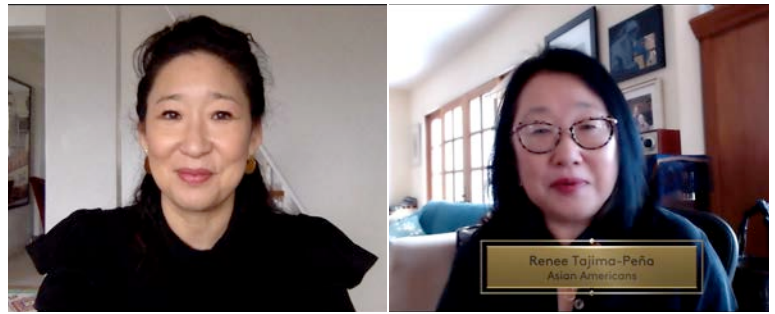
This year, EthnoCommunications Director **Professor Renee Tajima-Peña** continued to lead the program, and her own work as a filmmaker and producer received well-deserved recognition and accolades. Her 1987 Oscar-nominated documentary *“Who Killed Vincent Chin?”* (co-directed with **Christine Choy**) was added to the **2021 National Film Registry** by the Library of Congress alongside other prestigious films that were chosen based on their cultural, historic, or aesthetic importance. She also showed the power of activism and storytelling with the **May 19 Project** with **Jeff Chang**. The debut video “Yuri Kochiyama and Malcolm X” was broadcast on the See Us Unite special on MTV Networks and Viacom platforms.

PBS’ *Asian Americans* series, which Renee helmed as the series producer and showrunner, was presented with a prestigious **Peabody Award** in the Documentary category by actress **Sandra Oh** “for its revelatory storytelling as a demonstration of activism and solidarity in the American story and fight for justice and dignity.” Numerous people from the UCLA Asian American Studies community served key roles in the production including lead scholar **David K. Yoo**, various Asian American Studies (AAS) MA alum (**Eurie Chung**, Executive in Charge of Production; former Assistant Director of the Center for EthnoCommunications **Gena Hamamoto**, Associate Producer; **Alex Margolin**, Archival & Research Manager; **Stephanie Chang** and **Beth Kopacz**, Research Assistants), and numerous other current student and alumni assisted with production and research.

The EthnoCommunications program also experienced some transitions as Assistant Director **Janet Chen** left in the summer to pursue her MFA at UC Santa Cruz, and this fall quarter brought on film MFA student **Emory Chao Johnson** as the TA for program. Both also presented their films at various festivals.

Janet’s *“Phoenix Bakery: Sweets for the Sweet,”* which was part of the Center’s **Chinese American History Documentary Project**, was an official selection at Asian American International Film Festival (New York), DC Asian Pacific Film Festival, CAAMFest (San Francisco), Seattle Asian American Film Festival, and UCLA Asian American Studies Center Film Festival in 2021.

Emory’s new documentary short *“F1-100”* won the coveted **Loni Ding Award in Social Issue Documentary** at this year’s CAAMFest and the **Linda Mabalot New Directors/New Visions Award** at Visual Communications’ Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival. It also screened at the Palm Springs International ShortFest, Outfest Los Angeles, and the 5th Annual Trans & Non-Binary Summit. It was made in part with support from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television and UCLA Asian American Studies Center.



Moments from the online presentation of the Peabody Awards with **Sandra Oh** and **Renee Tajima-Peña**.

The Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival 2021 also saw the premiere of student films produced in EthnoCommunications:

- **“Stranded on the Mainland”** by **Alexis Si’i** -After seeking medical help in America, a young woman and her father have no way back to American Samoa due to a global pandemic.
- **“Momentum”** by **Juliana Victoria** - An exploration of a young artist’s life before and after the pandemic.

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

FILM SPOTLIGHT | “F1-100”

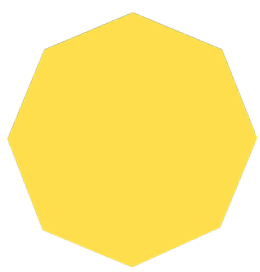


“F1-100,” a short documentary film, combines video, illustration, and animation to capture the precarity and resilience of an international art student studying abroad in the United States. Our creative team hopes that audiences receive this film as a transnational meditation through time and space through the singular experience of our featured artist.

-Emory Chao Johnson

The first winner uses the visual medium to its fullest – bringing together art, animation, archival video to draw viewers into the world of the protagonist, to experience the raw emotion of being trans & trans-national – the feeling of being suspended in time and being invisible. Congratulations Emory Chao Johnson on your evocative and impactful short film “F1-100.” We are thrilled by your ability to tell the story of H and their experience through your singular, raw and authentic perspective. We are impressed by the urgency of your voice and we look forward to what comes next.

-CAAMFest Jury Statement for “F1-100”



INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN CULTURES AND ETHNIC STUDIES CENTERS RECEIVES MAJOR GRANT AND AWARDS

The Institute of American Cultures and the four ethnic studies centers received crucial funding this year from the **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** for “**Archiving the Age of Mass Incarceration.**” This initiative builds off the work of the Million Dollar Hoods research project from the Bunche Center for African American Studies and will focus on materials related to policing and incarceration. With the \$3.65 million grant, the centers will collect, digitize and preserve a sustainable archive of data, testimonies, artifacts and police files for the next generation of research on racial and social justice. It will also enable UCLA to build a digital platform to be shared across the ethnic studies centers; that platform will both create the permanent home for the archive and build the centers’ capacity to maintain a wide range of digital collections focused on racial justice.

In the official news release, Center Director **Karen Umemoto** spoke of the potential of this work, stating that

“the new platform will catapult our centers into the digital future in knowledge-sharing and knowledge production.”

The Mellon Foundation becomes the only major foundation to fund a collaboration across all four of UCLA’s ethnic studies centers since 1969, when a grant from the Ford Foundation supported their establishment.

Knowledge For Justice: An Ethnic Studies Reader, edited by **David K. Yoo, Pamela Grieman, Charlene Villaseñor Black, Danielle Dupuy, and Arnold Ling-Chuang Pan** and co-published by the ethnic studies centers as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations, garnered two major awards. These included the **2021 Outstanding Book Award** from the Association of Ethnic Studies and a **2021 Bronze Winner** in the Anthologies Category from the Independent Book Publisher Awards (IPPY). The book is still available for purchase.

UCLA AASC & UCLA COMMUNITY UPDATES

A new **Southeast Asian Studies undergraduate major** was launched at UCLA in Fall 2021 through the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures.

Alum **May Hong HaDuong** was appointed the Director of the UCLA Film & Television Archive. She is the first woman and person of color to lead the organization.

Professor Veronica Terriquez joined the Chicano Studies Research Center as its first woman director. A UCLA alum, she also holds a dual appointment in Urban Planning and the Department of Chicana and Chicano and Central American Studies.

Patricia Châu Nguyen, who served as the Senior Director of Diversity Programs at UCLA Alumni, became the Director of Systemwide Alumni Engagement for the University of California Office of the President in November.

Anthropology professor **Stephen Acabado** became the Director for the Center for Southeast Asian Studies in July.

EthnoCommunications Assistant Director **Janet Chen** left UCLA this year as she began her MFA program in UC Santa Cruz’s Film and Digital Media Social Documentary Program.

Irene Soriano Saxon retired as the office manager of the Center this year. She was the Artist/Activist-in-Residence at Pitzer College’s Intercollegiate Department of Asian American Studies in the Fall of 2021.

Alum **KaiShan Li** joined the Center as the new office manager. She previously worked at the Samueli School of Engineering.

The Center’s graphic designer and EdIT team member **Irene Park** left the Center during the summer to delve into more creative pursuits.

Christine Wang has returned to the Center and is currently the Research Project Coordinator, working on grants and funding for special projects.

TranslateCOVID welcomed project coordinator **Sheila Shea** to the team, along with outreach coordinator and alum **Karin Chan**, to provide more targeted and better support to the multilingual resource site.

2020-2021 DORIS T. HOSHIDE DISTINGUISHED TEACHING PRIZE IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES



Lee Ann Wang is an assistant professor of Asian American Studies and Social Welfare at the Luskin School of Public Affairs. She received her Ph.D. in American culture and Asian Pacific Islander American Studies from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Her current work is an ethnographic study of immigration law and enforcement at the site of gender and sexual violence, with a focus on service providers and legal advocates with Asian immigrant women and their communities. Colleagues praised her ability to engage students on challenging content, and she has become a popular mentor to students. Students described Professor Wang as a compassionate teacher, mentor and friend who truly cares for the education of her students both inside and outside of the classroom.

"I enjoyed Dr. Wang classes so much that as soon as the quarter ended, I filed 3 petitions to declare Asian American Studies as my third major and stayed a fifth year to conduct my senior thesis on the legal system. If not for Dr. Wang, I would not be able to be where I am today. She has changed my life, and now I want to do the same for others," said one student.



2020-2021 DON T. NAKANISHI AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP IN ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER STUDIES AT UCLA

Josephine Ong is a Ph.D. student in Gender Studies at UCLA and a Chinese-Filipino activist-scholar that grew up in Guåhan/Guam. Motivated by her experiences living and organizing under U.S. military occupation of Guåhan, Josephine's research focuses on Asian American and Pacific Islander histories, Indigenous and Women of Color Feminisms, Carceral Studies, and Feminist Archival Studies. Those who nominated Josephine highly regarded her for her deep commitment and solidarity work with Chamorro and Filipino feminist organizers to build coalitions that address historical and colonial divisions between their communities. Moreover, they acknowledged her groundbreaking and impactful research agenda.

"What makes Josephine an unusually inspiring scholar and academic is that her intellectual work is not a solipsistic enterprise; rather, it is a part of a larger collective project that is deeply embedded in and informed by her commitment to liberation for Guam," said a nominator.

Robert Teranishi is a Professor of Social Science and Comparative Education, the Morgan and Helen Chu Endowed Chair in Asian American Studies, and co-director for the Institute for Immigration, Globalization and Education at UCLA. He received his Ph.D. in Higher Education and Organizational Change from UCLA. His research is broadly focused on race, ethnicity, and the stratification of college opportunity. His work has been influential to federal, state, and institution policy related to college access and affordability. Colleagues and students expressed that he expertly connects research to teaching in ways that make the subject content relevant to the lives of students.

One student noted, "Professor Teranishi invited me to discuss and reflect upon my Asian American identity and experience in a way I hadn't before. For the first time, I discovered a passion for thinking, researching, writing, and talking about the AAPI community. Personally, he's facilitated three of the most engaged classes I've been a part of. I've kept in touch with many of my peers and that's all thanks to the community he created."



Ngoc Thi Hong Nguyen graduated in June 2021 with a triple B.A. in International Development Studies, Sociology, and Asian American Studies from UCLA. She is currently in a full-time, paid placement with the Cleveland Foundation Public Service Fellowship. Those who nominated Ngoc underscored her extraordinary dedication and ability to build bridges between UCLA and Asian American and Pacific Islander communities through her work with Thai CDC and Nikkei Progressives. They also recognized her tireless student organizing, activism, and work with the Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Budget and Innovation, the Alliances for Children's Rights, the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, and the U.S. Department of Labor Solicitor's Office.

As one nominator said, "She has a deep commitment to community organizing and social justice and is the kind of undergraduate student that truly exemplifies the late Professor Nakanishi's groundbreaking legacy in promoting engaged scholarship."

2021-2022 UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER AWARDS,

FACULTY & VISITING SCHOLARS/RESEARCHERS AWARDEES

2020-2021 Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies

LEE ANN WANG

Assistant Professor Asian American Studies and Social Welfare

ROBERT T. TERANISHI

Professor Social Science and Comparative Education

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

EVYN LÊ ESPIRITU GANDHI

Associate Professor Asian American Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: Archipelago of Resettlement: Vietnamese Refugee Settlers in Guam and Israel-Palestine

GINA KIM

Professor Film, Television, and Digital Media

RESEARCH PROJECT: The Extended Reality of Monkey House

Institute of American Cultures (IAC)/AASC Visiting Scholar

JANE HONG

Associate Professor History, Occidental College

RESEARCH PROJECT: Model Christians, Model Minorities: Asian Americans, Race, and Politics in the Transformation of U.S. Evangelicalism

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

JENNIFER A. WAGMAN

Assistant Professor Community Health Sciences, Fielding School of Public Health

RESEARCH PROJECT: Double Jeopardy: Asian International Students' Experiences of Sexual Violence & Xenophobia during COVID-19

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

GARDENA VALLEY JAPANESE CULTURAL INSTITUTE

PROJECT: GVJCI Day of Remembrance 2021

RINO KODAMA

PROJECT: Returning to a Hidden Home

LITTLE TOKYO BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

PROJECT: Virtual Little Tokyo

NICHI BEI FOUNDATION

PROJECT: Virtual Films of Remembrance, Feb 20-21, 2021

VIGILANT LOVE

PROJECT: Solidarity Arts Fellowship

KIZUNA LITTLE TOKYO, INC

PROJECT: Kizuna's Leadership program for high school students

ZENTOKU FOUNDATION

PROJECT: Community Engagement Plan – Paper Chase Documentary



GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDEES

IAC/AASC Graduate Student Research Grants

SHARON LAU MA/MSW Student Asian American Studies and Social Welfare

RESEARCH PROJECT: Stigma and Shame: The Silence in Mental Health of Chinese American Youth

ALEXIS SI'I MA Student Asian American Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: Cops on Film

NICOLE YIU PhD Student Gender Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: Listening for Quietness: Rethinking Sounds of Resistance

KELLY ZHAO MA Student Asian American Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: Transitioning Solidarities: Ethnic Studies and Social Movement Building at California Community Colleges

Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship in Asian American & Pacific Islander Studies at UCLA for 2020-21

JOSEPHINE ONG PhD Student Gender Studies

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

JIANCHAO LAI PhD Student Social Welfare

RESEARCH PROJECT: Sexual Violence & Asian International Students during the Pandemic: A Qualitative Approach

SHARON LAU MA/MSW Student Asian American Studies and Social Welfare

RESEARCH PROJECT: Stigma & Shame: The Silence in Mental Health of Chinese American Youth

George & Sakaye Aratani Graduate Fellowship

JENNIFER NOJI

PhD Student Comparative Literature – Asian American Literature; Graduate Concentration in Asian American Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: Writing to Resist, Liberate and Implicate: Poetry From and Within American Concentration Camps

JOSEPH TSUBOI MA Student Asian American Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: Attempting to Belong: Renunciant Nikkei Efforts to Resettle through Horticultural Labor Post World War II

MAYA PATEL MA Student Asian American Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: Dehomogenizing Asian American Subjectivity through Representations of Multiraciality in Fiction

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Fellowship

JACQUELINE CHAN

MFA Student Film, Television & Digital Media - Production/ Directing

RESEARCH PROJECT: Desert Paradise

Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Fellowship

KELLY ZHI-SHAN ZHAO MA Student Asian American Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: Cops on Film

KRISTIN TIANQI LIAO PhD Student Sociology

RESEARCH PROJECT: Social Justice Studies or Ethnic Studies? The California Community College System and its Impacts Among Asian Pacific American Student Activists

Tritia Toyota Graduate Fellowship

ALEXIS SI'I MA Student Asian American Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: Cops on Film

NASHRA MAHMOOD

PhD Student Gender Studies - South Asian Media Cultures

RESEARCH PROJECT: SAHARA se Shuru (Starting with SAHARA)

Pearl Wang Fellowship

JINSUI SONG MFA Student Theater, Film & Television - Directing

RESEARCH PROJECT: ABC

KRISTIN TIANQI LIAO PhD Student Sociology

RESEARCH PROJECT: Time for Study: The Education-Centered Family Strategy of Time Management and Asian Americans' Educational Mobility

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

CINDY LE PhD Student Community Health Sciences

RESEARCH PROJECT: Intergenerational Organizing and Mental Health
INTERNSHIP SITE: Viet Rainbow of Orange County

Dr. Sanbo & Kazuko Sakaguchi Graduate Internship

JENNIFER NOJI

PhD Student Comparative Literature – Asian American Literature; Graduate Concentration in Asian American Studies

RESEARCH PROJECT: Japanese American History and Community
INTERNSHIP SITE: Japanese American National Museum

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND INTERNSHIPS

SHARON LAU MA/MSW Student Asian American Studies and Social Welfare
RESEARCH PROJECT: Mental Health of Nisei Veterans from World War II through the Hanashi Oral History Program
INTERNSHIP SITE: Go for Broke National Education Center

Stanley Kwok Lau & Dora Wong Lau Memorial Internship in Chinese American Studies

JOSEPHINE ONG PhD Student Gender Studies
ESSAY TITLE: The Political Importance of Chinese Diasporic Memory: The Role My Family Migration Histories Played in My Research about Historical Preservation
INTERNSHIP SITE: Historic Chinatowns Research and Curriculum Project

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

KELLY ZHI-SHAN ZHAO MA Student Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Organizing to Heal: Japanese American Community Mental Health Politics after World War II

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Best Paper Scholarship

JENNIFER NOJI PhD Student Comparative Literature – Asian American Literature; Graduate Concentration in Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Performing Cultural Memory Work through Fiction: A Recollection of Japanese Picture Brides in The Buddha in the Attic

Ben & Alice Hirano Best Paper Scholarship

DONGHYOUN WE PhD Student Anthropology
PAPER TITLE: The Specter of Khalistan: Hauntings of Nation-State Belonging

Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Graduate Prize

ANDREW N. LE PhD Student Sociology
PAPER TITLE: Genesis: Danny Bowlen, Mission Chinese Food, and Transnational Korean Adoption

Wei-Lim Lee Memorial Best Paper Scholarship

LEI CHEN PhD Student Social Welfare
PAPER TITLE: Cross-Cultural Researchers' Positionality in Immigrant Health Research: Reflections on Research Examining Chinese Immigrants' Experiences of Exclusion

Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture

LAYHANNARA TEP MA Student Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: The Lasting Impact of War and Empire in "Fatherland"

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDEES

Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship in Asian American & Pacific Islander Studies at UCLA for 2020-21

NGOC NGUYEN MAJORS: International Development Studies, Asian American Studies, and Sociology

Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Award

ALEN TZUTONG HUANG MAJOR: Microbiology, Immunology, & Molecular Genetics

K ELLY PHUONG TRAN MAJOR: Biology

ALYSSA CHIEMI HAMAMOTO MAJOR: Political Science

Chidori Aiso Memorial Scholarship

EVAN SAKUMA MAJOR: Asian American Literature & Culture MINOR: Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Honoring the Past: Honorifics as a Bridge Between Worlds

SACHI DIEKER MAJOR: Financial Actuarial Mathematics MINOR: Theater
PAPER TITLE: My Name and Experience Taught Me to Spread Happiness

Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship

CAROLINE HUYNH MAJOR: Computational & Systems Biology
PAPER TITLE: Don't Buy the Lies

ASHLEY PT TRAN MAJOR: Anthropology MINOR: Global Health
PAPER TITLE: Better Understanding Social Sciences and Medicine through Community Service

Toshio & Chiyoko Hoshide Scholarship

VICKI LIU MAJOR: Molecular, Cell, & Developmental Biology MINOR: Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: The Beauty of Cherry Blossoms in Winter

Jane Lin Memorial Scholarship

ASHLEY PT TRAN MAJOR: Anthropology MINOR: Global Health
PAPER TITLE: Financial Security during COVID-19 Impacts Mental Health

John Kubota Scholarship in Japanese American Studies

EVAN SAKUMA MAJOR: Asian American Literature & Culture MINOR: Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: History Should Not Repeat: Ending Child Deportation in U.S. Deportation Centers - Berks, Dilley, and Karnes with Tsuru for Solidarity

Reiko Uyeshima & Family Scholarship

EVAN SAKUMA MAJOR: Asian American Literature & Culture MINOR: Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: To Be A Jap-Angelino: Interrogating Intergenerational Identity Development of Japanese Americans in Karen-Tei Yamashita's *Tropic of Orange*

SACHI DIEKER

MAJOR: Financial Actuarial Mathematics MINOR: Theater
PAPER TITLE: Fear and Trepidation in *Ugetsu*: Walking a Fine Line Between the Supernatural and Human Worlds

BRIAN TOH

MAJOR: Molecular, Cell, & Developmental Biology MINOR: Society & Genetics
PAPER TITLE: A Call for Action: Reformation of the Tokugawa Shogunate

21st Century Undergraduate Internship

KATHERINE CHUA

MAJOR: Pre-Human Biology & Society MINOR: Asian American Studies
INTERNSHIP SITE: UCLA Asian American Studies Center - COVID-19 Multilingual Resource Hub Community Center

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

ALFRED BARRION

MAJOR: Psychobiology MINORS: Asian American Studies & Public Health
INTERNSHIP SITE: Filipinx COVID-19 Resource & Response Team

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

ALYSSA HEMLER

MAJORS: Asian American Studies and English
INTERNSHIP SITE: Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Best Paper Scholarship

FARID MANSHAI MAJORS: Neuroscience, Bioengineering, and Psychology
PAPER TITLE: Isabelle Manshahi: A Life Story

Ben & Alice Hirano Best Paper Scholarship

KATHERINE CHUA

MAJOR: Pre-Human Biology & Society MINOR: Asian American Studies
PAPER TITLE: Filipinx Nurses and American Colonialism and Imperialism

Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture

ALFRED BARRION

MAJOR: Psychobiology MINORS: Asian American Studies & Public Health
PAPER TITLE: Intersections: Examining the Paradox of the American Dream through Asian American Literature and Culture

- **Professor GILBERT GEE, *FAC Chair***
Community Health Sciences
- **Assoc Professor RANDALL AKEE**
Public Policy, American Indian Studies
- **Asst Professor JULIANN ANESI**
Gender Studies, Asian American Studies
- **Assoc Professor VICTOR BASCARA**
Asian American Studies
- **Professor ROSHAN BASTANI**
Health Policy and Management
- **Assoc Professor LUCY BURNS**
Asian American Studies
- **Professor KEITH CAMACHO**
Asian American Studies
- **Assoc Professor MICHELLE CASWELL**
Information Studies
- **Professor MITCHELL CHANG**
Asian American Studies, Education
- **Asst Professor JOLIE CHEA**
Asian American Studies
- **Professor KING-KOK CHEUNG**
English, Asian American Studies
- **Assoc Clinical Professor KENNETH CHUANG**
Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences
- **Assoc Professor JENNIFER J. CHUN**
Asian American Studies
- **Professor CINDY FAN**
Asian American Studies, Geography
- **Adjunct Assoc Professor NANCY HARADA**
Medicine
- **Professor GRACE HONG**
Asian American Studies, Gender Studies
- **Professor JERRY KANG**
Law
- **Professor GINA KIM**
Film, Television and Digital Media
- **Professor SUK-YOUNG KIM**
Theater
- **Professor VINAY LAL**
Asian American Studies, History
- **Professor ANNA LAU**
Asian American Studies, Psychology
- **Assoc Professor EUNICE LEE**
Nursing
- **Asst Professor EYVN LÊ ESPIRITU GANDHI**
Asian American Studies
- **Professor RACHEL LEE**
English, Gender Studies
- **Professor JINQI LING**
Asian American Studies, English
- **Professor PURNIMA MANKEKAR**
Gender Studies, Asian American Studies, Film, Television, and Digital Media, Anthropology
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Political Science, Asian American Studies
- **Professor VALERIE MATSUMOTO**
Asian American Studies, History
- **Professor SEAN METZGER**
Theater
- **Professor RASHMITA MISTRY**
Education
- **Professor HIROSHI MOTOMURA**
Law
- **Professor VINIT MUKHIJA**
Asian American Studies, Urban Planning
- **Assoc Professor THU-HUONG NGUYEN-VO**
Asian American Studies, Asian Languages & Cultures
- **Professor KYEYOUNG PARK**
Asian American Studies, Anthropology
- **Asst Professor R. JISUNG PARK**
Public Policy
- **Asst Professor SUNITA PATEL**
Law
- **Professor NINEZ PONCE**
Health Policy and Management
- **Asst Professor LOUBNA QUTAMI**
Asian American Studies
- **Assoc Professor ROBERT CHAO ROMERO**
Asian American Studies, Chicana/o and Central American Studies
- **Professor ANANYA ROY**
Urban Planning, Social Welfare, and Geography
- **Asst Professor CINDY C. SANGALANG**
Asian American Studies, Social Welfare
- **Professor MARGARET SHIH**
Management and Organizations, Psychology
- **Professor SHU-MEI SHIH**
Comparative Literature, Asian Languages & Cultures, Asian American Studies
- **Assoc Professor MAY SUDHINARASET**
Community Health Sciences
- **Professor RENEE TAJIMA-PEÑA**
Asian American Studies
- **Professor ROBERT TERANISHI**
Education
- **Adjunct Asst Professor TRITIA TOYOTA**
Asian American Studies, Anthropology
- **Professor MAY WANG**
Community Health Sciences
- **Asst Professor LEE ANN S. WANG**
Asian American Studies, Social Welfare
- **Assoc Clinical Professor BENJAMIN WOO**
Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, Asian American Studies
- **Professor CINDY YEE-BRADBURY**
Psychology, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences
- **Professor KAREN UMEMOTO, *ex officio***
Urban Planning, Asian American Studies
- **Professor DAVID K. YOO**
Asian American Studies, History
- **Professor MIN ZHOU**
Asian American Studies, Sociology

THANK YOU

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Harold Jung '90
Haruko '81 and Akira Kawasaki
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JUDY YUNG (1946-2020)



Historian and scholar **Judy Yung** passed away on December 14, 2020 in San Francisco. Known for documenting the history of Chinese American communities, especially through primary research and oral histories, Judy was professor emerita in Asian American Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz. A special tribute section to Judy was included in *Amerasia Journal*.

JAMES TONG (1947-2020)

Professor James Tong passed away on October 3, 2020 of complications after a battle with a cerebral hemorrhage. He was a long-time friend of the Center and a former member of its Faculty Advisory Committee. He was a Professor of Political Science at UCLA for over thirty years and also served as the director of the Center for East Asian Studies from 1995 to 2002. A Celebration of Life, hosted by the Center for Chinese Studies, was held online on April 8th. A family obituary by Nancy Tong as well as remembrances from the UCLA community were included in *Amerasia Journal*.



READ | See the special tributes to Judy Yung and James Tong in *Amerasia Journal* by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ramj20/46/3>.



MERILYNNE QUON (1948-2021)

AASC co-founder and UCLA alum **Merilynne Quon** passed away on January 1, 2021. Merilynne was instrumental in the fight to establish Asian American Studies at UCLA and was also hired to co-coordinate AASC's Student and Community Projects during its early years. She had a passion for working with youth, helping to found Asian Sisters to connect teenage girls with Asian American women and mental health professionals, starting the first Asian American Studies class at Roosevelt High School, and developing young leaders so that they connect more deeply to their communities, among many other accomplishments. She also worked on the fight for redress and reparations with NCRR. In 2018, the Center was fortunate to document Merilynne's recollections at UCLA and lived experience as part of the Center's Collective Memories oral history project.



WATCH | View her video and learn more at <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/news/rememberingmerilynnequon.aspx>.



HAUNANI-KAY TRASK (1949-2021)

Hawaiian scholar, poet, and activist **Haunani-Kay Trask** passed away on July 3, 2021. Her work has inspired many, especially in the fight for a more just future for native and indigenous peoples. She was a professor emerita at the University of Hawai'i and was founding director of their Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies. UCLA was graced with her presence in 1992, when she came for the Civil Rights conference, co-chaired by Mari Matsuda. In November 1993, AASC and the Pacific Islander Student Association (PISA) hosted her for a campus visit and talk. She returned again in 1998 for another talk hosted by PISA to encourage students to rise up in power and to use their activism. UCLA's *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* will publish a special issue on her work and activism in 2023.



JAMES TO (1957-2021)

Asian American Studies MA alumni **James To** passed away on May 25, 2021. A teacher and a lifelong advocate for students and Asian American Studies, he was an ardent supporter of the Center and worked in student affairs at UCLA, California State University, Fullerton, and the University of California, Santa Barbara. He was also dedicated to the work of the Manzanar Committee, particularly helping to grow the Manzanar at Dusk program. The organization shared a statement upon his death that can be viewed online along with a video of his memorial service at <https://manzanarcommittee.org/2021/05/26/jimto-pr/>.



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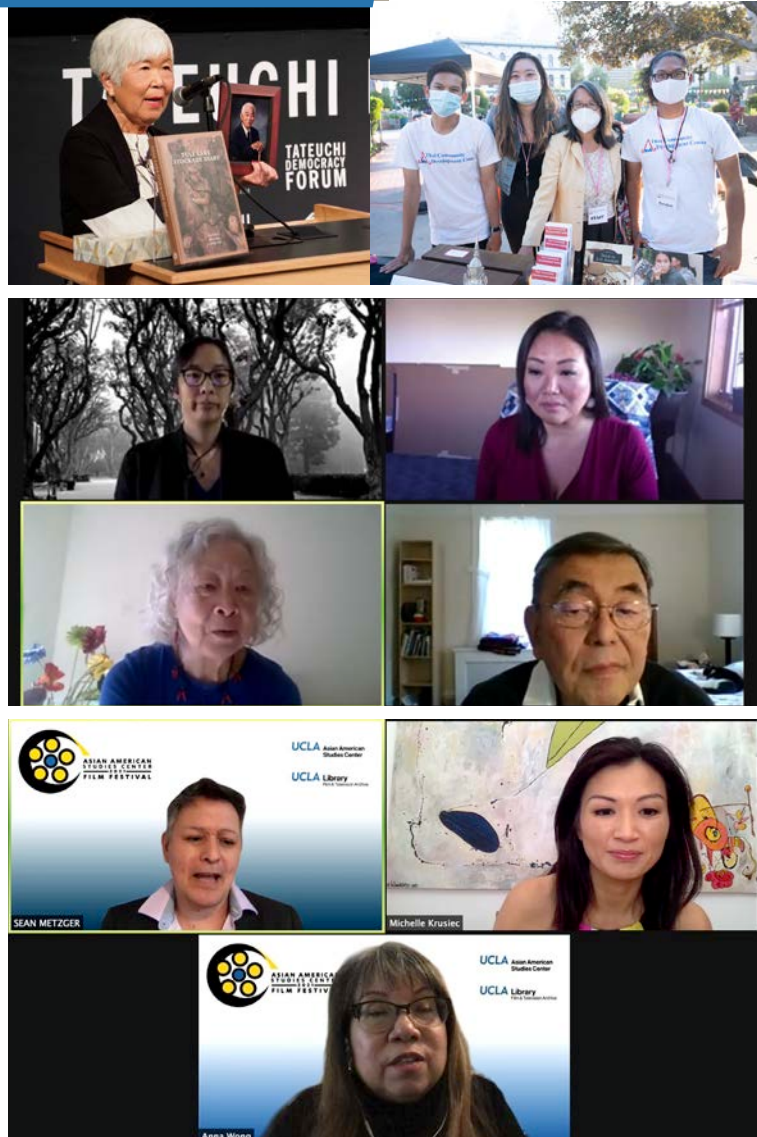
The UCLA Asian American Studies Center was founded in 1969.

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 research, programming, and events that examine this current moment and look towards the future of Asian American Studies, especially in these times.

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IMAGES FROM 2021



Nancy Oda at the Conversation on the *Tule Lake Stockade Diary* by Tatsuo Ryusei Inouye on December 11, 2021 (Jan Ryuji Oda); Alumni Ngoc Nguyen and Chancee Martorell (center) with volunteers at the Thai Garment Workers exhibition opening at Kiosko Plaza (Curtis McElhinney/curtisvision.com, Courtesy of Thai CDC); "Asian American Solidarity from the Civil Rights Movement to Black Lives Matter" panel discussion with Kelly Fong, Kabzuag Vaj, Marion Kwon, and Ed Nakawatase (AASC); "Anna May Wong: Asian American Icon" panel at the AASC Film Festival with Sean Metzger, Michelle Krusic, and Anna Wong (AASC).

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