

# CROSSCURRENTS

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

BRIDGING RESEARCH WITH COMMUNITY



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For over 50 years, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center (AASC) has worked to deepen scholarship and public understanding of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) lives towards a healthy, just, democratic, and compassionate society for all.

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.

Cover Images: 1/ Abby Chun, Amanda Luansing, Kelly Fong, Christine Lee at AAAS Conference in Long Beach  
2/ AASD Faculty with Keynote Speaker D'Lo at Commencement 3/ AASC Staff End of Year Appreciation Lunch  
4/ Multimedia Textbook Staff Dinner - Back Row: Robert Ku, Christian-Joseph Macahilig, Abby Chun  
Front Row: Emory Chao Johnson, Arlene Inuoye, Christine Lee, Rebecca Apostol, Mena Dolinh, Maya Lu



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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 2023





## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

We are deeply troubled by the violence that has unfolded in Israel and Palestine, the suffering and mounting loss of life, and the growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Here at home, heightened Islamophobia and antisemitism threaten the safety and liberty of Muslims and Jews alike—all life is precious.

While antisemitism is inexcusable, *charges* of antisemitism are unfortunately being leveled at educators, schools, and colleges in attempts to censor the colonial history of Palestine in the form of lawsuits and personal attacks. Combined with recent movements to ban books and speech concerning issues of race and gender identity, the rights of academic freedom and freedom of speech hang in the balance. If educators are censored in the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge, we put at risk many of our basic democratic rights more broadly.

The need to share different points of view with open minds is more urgent now than ever. We are committed to creating safe spaces for honest and reasoned discussion about the challenging issues of our times. But ***we must preserve the right to academic freedom and freedom of speech*** in order to do so. I hope you will support us in these pursuits.

With warm regards,

**Karen Umemoto, Ph.D.**

Helen and Morgan Chu Chair and Director  
of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center

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# FOUNDATIONS and FUTURES

## A MULTIMEDIA TEXTBOOK ON ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS



We are a **narrative change** project that brings together distinguished **scholarship, open access technology, and ethnic studies pedagogy** to deepen public knowledge about who we are, strengthen students' **historical empathy**, and **bring Asian American and Pacific Islander stories into every classroom.**

### *"I wish I had that when I was in high school!"*

That's the most common response when people learn about **Foundations and Futures**. This groundbreaking initiative is set to revolutionize education by introducing a free, open-access multimedia textbook dedicated to the rich and often overlooked history of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. The project, scheduled for release in 2025, promises to address the critical gaps in AAPI education, particularly in the wake of rising anti-Asian hate and the realization that many Americans remain unfamiliar with this valuable lens to understand American history and society.

The textbook represents a collaborative effort to shift the narrative about Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and foster greater understanding and inclusivity in schools across the country. **Foundations and Futures** tackles a monumental challenge by sharing stories authored by top experts on AAPI individuals and communities – histories that have been sidelined for far too long. With the recent introduction of Ethnic Studies graduation requirements in California and other states, this is our chance to ensure that our histories and experiences are integrated into classrooms nationwide.

**Foundations and Futures** will provide over 50 narrative chapters, packed with compelling multimedia content that brings the historical narratives to life. Additionally, it includes over 200 teacher-authored lesson plans designed for educators who may have limited prior knowledge of the field. The aim is to empower students and teachers to explore and engage with the diverse histories, struggles, and contributions of AAPI communities.

*My 16 year old granddaughter asked me about the family trauma we experienced from being incarcerated during World War II. She said, "we don't learn anything about Asian Americans in school."*

*This was deeply disturbing to me, as I realized that Asian American students today are still not learning about their history and remain invisible. It is important to me that all students have the opportunity to know the truth about Asian American and Pacific Islander history and experience, and that we break the model minority myth.*

Arlene Inouye  
Outreach Advisor





*From my experiences as a student and middle school Social Studies teacher, I was saddened by the lack of representation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in classroom textbooks and curriculum. I wanted to be an educational advocate for the AAPI community so that all people can learn more about who we are and our lived experiences.*

*Though I have stepped away from my traditional classroom settings, I'm proud to have joined this team because I believe in the work that we are doing - ensuring that future generations of students and educators will learn from our curriculum to transform their communities with a more accurate and holistic view of history from a group that has long felt unheard.*

**Christian-Joseph Macahilig**  
Outreach Coordinator

## Sample Chapter Titles

Japanese American Incarceration During World War II  
The Tape Family and Chinese American Civil Rights  
Pacific Islanders in the US and Diaspora  
Indian Americans  
Labor and Activism of Filipina/x/o Farmworkers  
Vietnamese Americans  
Asian American Exclusion and Citizenship  
Patsy Mink: The First Woman of Color in Congress  
Asian Americans in the Media  
Korean Americans  
Kanaka ʻŌiwi (Native Hawaiians)  
Thai Americans  
New York Chinatown Garment Workers, 1970-2001  
Indonesian Americans

...and more!



**LEARN |** For more information on  
Foundations and Futures, visit  
<https://www.aasc.ucla.edu/textbook>.

The project has received a **\$10 million grant from the California State Legislature** to create this comprehensive resource with support from the **Asian and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus**. It has also received support from **The Asian American Foundation, Henry Luce Foundation, Cathay Bank** and other supporters.

While the initial state funding covers the creation of the textbook's content, UCLA is actively seeking additional support to facilitate teacher training and outreach to schools for widespread adoption. The ultimate goal is to reduce hate, foster inclusive classrooms, and foster collaborative leadership towards a more just, equitable and compassionate society for all.

1

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVES

Leading scholars, writers, and content experts across the U.S. and Pacific will translate over 50 years of AAPI research into chapters, each subject to rigorous peer and editorial review.

2

### CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Educators and curriculum developers will create curriculum that meets educational standards and is culturally resonant, age appropriate, and ready to use.

3

### DYNAMIC ONLINE PLATFORM

Website developers and UX/UI designers will build an interactive platform for textbook content that uses effective online learning strategies and is engaging and easy to navigate.

4

### TEXTBOOK ADOPTION

Marketing and outreach teams will work with school districts and colleges to adopt the textbook as the resource of choice for Asian American and ethnic studies classes.

5

### TEACHER TRAINING

A network of partners will deliver workshops that help teachers integrate materials into new and existing courses and apply ethnic studies pedagogy to create inclusive classrooms.

# ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER POLICY SUMMIT



In the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic and the increase in hate crimes targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, legislators, researchers, students, corporate and community leaders gathered at UCLA for the **Asian American & Pacific Islander Policy Summit** on February 10, 2023.

The summit was held in partnership between the **UCLA Asian American Studies Center**, **UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs**, and **California AAPILC Legislative Caucus for the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI)**.

Attorney General **Rob Bonta** delivered the keynote address, describing his concern for elders in AAPI communities. The summit participants had in-depth conversations ranging from the profound ways AANHPI communities have been impacted during the pandemic and understanding the unique challenges within these diverse communities to political representation and economic justice.

Attendees also discussed solutions and strategies for building an equitable future in California inclusive of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities, whether it is economic challenges, mental health challenges, and public health challenges.

In case you missed it, you can view the video recordings of the sessions and session notes from the Summit by visiting:

**AAPI Policy Summit** - <https://www.aasc.ucla.edu/aapipolicy/summit2022/schedule.aspx>



Row 1: Jennifer Tang, Sophia Kwong Kim, CA Assemblymember Mike Fong ; Chicano Studies Research Center Director Veronica Terriquez and AASC Director Karen Umemoto

Row 2: CHPR Director Ninez A. Ponce and IAC VP David Yoo ; Melany De La Cruz-Viesca and Professor Keith Camacho

Row 3: CA Attorney General Rob Bonta

Row 4: CA AAPILC Assemblymember & Chair Evan Low, Stephanie Tom, Julian Do ; Former CA Senator Richard Pan





## Panels and Speakers

- **AAPI Leaders in Corporate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**  
Senator Dr. Richard Pan, John Iino, Grace Moss, Jennifer “Jae” Pi’ilani Requirio
- **Addressing the Gaps in Healthcare and Mental Health**  
Anna Lau, Belinda Chen, Cindy Sangalang, Romeo Hebron, Glenn I. Masuda, Derek Hsieh, Romeo Hebron, Jenny Bach
- **Making a Way Out of No Way: Addressing Needs of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders**  
Kevin Escudero, Dr. Kawika Liu, Kelani Silk, Reverend Pausa Kaio Thompson, Estella Owoimaha-Church
- **Advancing AANHPI Data Equity and Disaggregation**  
Ninez Ponce, Karthick Ramakrishnan, Calvin Chang, Doreena Wong
- **Challenges and Opportunities in Implementing Ethnic Studies and Asian American Studies Requirements**  
David Yoo, Lauren Higa, Eric Estuar Reyes, Darlene Lee, Elizabeth Kerr, Stewart Kwoh, Assembly Member Mike Fong, Estella Owoimaha-Church
- **Combating Anti-Asian Hate**  
Karen Umemoto, Maggie Seay, Robin Toma, Rob Teranishi, Manju Kulkarni, Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi
- **Developing Inclusive Immigrant Protections and Policies**  
Paul Chang, Jennifer Chun, Hiroshi Motomura, Astghik Hairapetian, May Sudhinaraset, Phal Sok, Lisa Fu, Billy Taing
- **Economic Recovery: Housing, Employment, Small Businesses and Food Insecurity**  
Ben Raju, Paul Ong, Kyeyoung Park, May Wang, Lilly Nhan, Chancee Martorell
- **Philanthropy and Equitable Giving in AANHPI Communities**  
Carol Kim, Jacqueline Chun, Seyron Foo, Stephanie Lomibao-Parra
- **Reimagining the Arts, Theatre, and Hollywood**  
Dan Mayeda, Michael Tran, Sean Metzger, Janine Rogers, Renee Tajima-Pena
- **Tools and Strategies for Community Power Building and Electoral Politics**  
Nathan Chan, Natalie Masuoka, David Ryu, Nancy Yap



## Sample Policy Reports

- **Unmasking COVID-19 in the Pacific: Implications Of The Pandemic’s Disproportionate Impact On Native Hawaiian And Pacific Islander Communities In California**  
Keith L. Camacho, Ph.D., Kevin Escudero, Ph.D., Maryann Heather, MBCH.B, Frnzcg, And Demeturie Toso-Lafaele Gogue, M.ED., M.A.
- **The State of Undocumented Young Adults in California: The Health, Social, and Economic Impacts of COVID-19 between 2020-2022**  
May Sudhinaraset, Hye Young Choi, Ezinne Nwankwo, Michelle Kao Nakphong, Annie Ro
- **Longitudinal Trends of Hate Crimes Targeting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Los Angeles County, 2012–2020**  
Maggie Seay, Karen Umemoto
- **COVID-19 Pandemic Employment Impacts on Asian Americans**  
Paul Ong, Chhandara Pech, Darlene Medrano
- **Filipino American Essential & Frontline Workers Battling Multiple Crises: COVID-19, Economic Inequality, and Racism**  
Cindy C. Sangalang, Marisa Montoya, Samantha R. Macam, Audrey Chan, Madonna P. Cadiz, Romeo Hebron, Jr.
- **The Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Korean American Small Businesses**  
Kyeyoung Park



**READ |** Check out full reports and more:  
<https://www.aasc.ucla.edu/aapipolicy/>.



# SUPREME COURT RULING ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IS A *TRAVESTY OF JUSTICE*

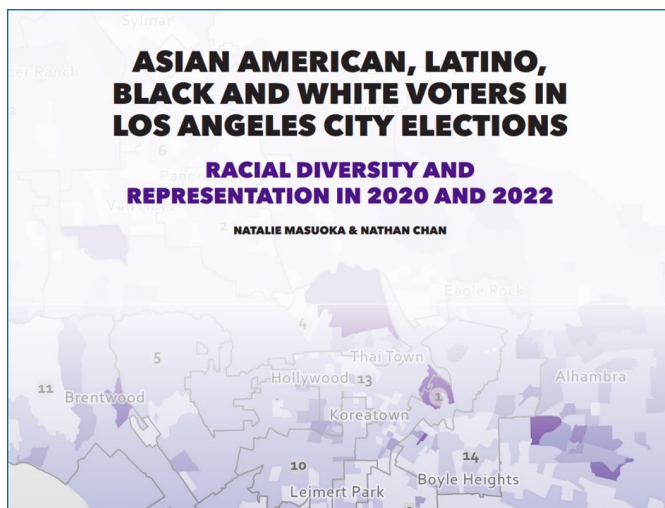


**STATEMENT BY THE UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER, June 30, 2023** - The recent Supreme Court ruling against affirmative action is a grave travesty of justice that deeply undermines basic values of equality and fairness. It is especially disheartening to see Asian Americans being used as plaintiffs in this case, as the ruling not only fails to address the root causes of inequality, but perpetuates harmful divisions among Indigenous, Black and other people of color. Moreover, the decision fails to consider long standing historic inequalities, the mythology of meritocracy, and decades of struggle to create a more just and inclusive society.

This decision comes at a time of increasing inequality along racial lines, attacks against Black Studies and Ethnic Studies, rising hate crimes and racial violence, continued police brutality against Black and Brown bodies and racial and political polarization writ large. This decision is yet another blow that harms the most marginalized and vulnerable Americans and pits one racial group against others.

At its core, the ruling assumes a meritocratic admissions process and claims that race-conscious admissions policies inherently discriminate against high-achieving individuals, negatively affecting Asian Americans. But the ruling ignores the historical injustices and systemic inequalities that maintain an uneven playing field that disadvantages Black people, Latinos, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, Southeast Asians and others. It ignores major sources of discrimination such as “legacy” admissions of alumni and donor offspring, athlete preferences and personal ratings infected by implicit bias. A holistic admissions process that considers a range of factors beyond grades and test scores, such as extracurricular involvement, leadership skills, family background AND RACE is not only comprehensive and fair, but ensures a more enriching learning environment that prepares ALL students for the diverse world we live in.

Now that the SCOTUS has made its ruling, we need to remain vigilant in support of accessible higher education for all with approaches that promote racial equality. We must reevaluate our approach to affirmative action, focusing on bold solutions that rectify systemic inequalities and bridge the gaps that persist in our education system. Calls for greater financial aid and tuition-free alternatives, robust recruitment and support programs, ethnic studies that reflect our full histories and experiences, and increased school funding from K-12 to higher education, especially in low-income and communities of color, point the way forward. It is crucial to recognize that true justice is only achieved by continuing to confront the structural barriers that perpetuate inequality for marginalized communities struggling to thrive. The Supreme Court ruling only makes this work more urgent.



## Asian American, Latino, Black and White Voters in Los Angeles City Elections

### Racial Diversity and Representation in 2020 and 2022

The Center published a new report by Professors **Natalie Masuoka** and **Nathan Chan** that provides a detailed look at the role Asian Americans have played in determining **both citywide and local LA City Council elections in 2020 and 2022**.

This report helps understand the nature of the Asian American electorate and the degree to which Asian Americans are adequately represented in elected leadership in the city of Los Angeles. The analysis focuses on Asian American voters but also compares them with **Latino, Black and White voters in the 2022 and 2020 elections**.



## POLICY REPORT HIGHLIGHT



The report was released in May at a press conference held at the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy at the Japanese American National Museum and was made possible with support from East West Bank Foundation and the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs.

The study found that while the number of Asian Americans running for office is on the rise in Los Angeles, redistricting efforts are needed in order to provide Asian American voters with a greater opportunity to elect their candidates of choice. Data from this report can help identify where more efforts are needed to ensure **greater Asian American representation in local governance**.





Access issues of *AAPI Nexus Journal* and download articles for free at <http://aapinexus.org>.

As the United States continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we stand at a critical moment in history to reimagine America by developing solutions that establish more equitable institutions, policies, and systems that work toward social justice for all. Oftentimes in policy debates, reports, and decision-making processes, **Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI)** are invisible or lumped into an “Other” category with American Indians and Alaskan Natives. This special issue addresses this problem and features articles that present disaggregated AANHPI data and new data tools for action, as well as recommendations for advocacy and policy change related to health, housing, the economy, immigration, arts, data equity, addressing anti-Asian hate, to name a few.

**This special issue also marks the 20th anniversary of the AAPI Nexus Journal.** The journal’s mission of creating a body of cumulative knowledge with AAPI activist scholars through research, policy, and practice to improve the well-being of AAPIs continues to be essential where major gaps on understudied AANHPI populations and topics still exist. There is still a lot of work to be done in various academic fields (e.g. economics, political science, health, etc.); industries (e.g. Hollywood, corporate, philanthropy), and government programs and services (e.g. small business relief, affordable housing, and food insecurity) to ensure AANHPI communities are seen.

**AAPI Nexus** was established as a part of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center’s commitment to bridging the town and gown divide and dismantling the barriers separating the academy from the larger community. This core principle remains relevant to the journal as we continue to work towards creating a future that is inclusive of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities.

### Fall 2023: Building Solutions and Engaging AAPI Communities for an Equitable Future

#### Volume 20, Issue No. 1-2

Edited by: Senior Editor **Melany De La Cruz-Viesca**  
Managing Editor **Emiko Kranz**

### Spring 2024: Asian American Studies Now: Contemporary Opportunities and Challenges in Higher Education

#### Volume 21, Issue No. 1-2

Guest edited by: **Timothy P. Fong** (California State University, Sacramento)  
**Jocelyn Pacleb** (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona)  
**Yvonne Kwan** (San Jose State University)

**The Spring 2024 special issue** will focus on the passage of California legislation requiring Ethnic Studies courses be taken in order to graduate from the Cal State University and Community College systems. Articles will highlight the efforts to pass AB 1460 in the state legislature, but will also focus on how universities are overcoming the obstacles to implement the Ethnic Studies requirement.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Launched in Spring 2023, **Never Forget: Filipinx Americans and the Philippines Anti-Martial Law Movement** is a collection of political posters and oral histories chronicling the transnational Anti-Martial Law Movement in the Philippines. This digital exhibition highlights the Filipinx American community's participation in the transnational struggle for human rights and democracy in response to the **Ferdinand E. Marcos regime** (1965 to 1986).

Featuring a significant moment in the history of one of the largest Asian American ethnic groups in the United States, **Never Forget** aims to strengthen intergenerational understanding about the **Anti-Marcos Martial Law Movement** and to build solidarities for greater justice and democracy.

The Spring launch featured conversations with former AMLM activists **Enrique de la Cruz** and **Carol Ojeda-Kimbrough**, curators **Joy Sales** (California State University, Los Angeles) and **Josen Masangkay Diaz** (University of San Diego), and youth activist **Edmari Joy Gutierrez**. The discussion was moderated by UCLA Associate Professor **Lucy MSP Burns**.

In September, artist and activist **Mae Decena** led an interactive poster and art-making workshop inspired by and centering around the digital exhibition. She along with project scholars and activists provided the historical and social contexts of the transnational anti-martial movement and shed light on the continuing struggle that links the movement and the contemporary struggles of the people of the Philippines. The poster and art-making event was held in preparation for the **51st anniversary of Ferdinand E. Marcos' martial law declaration on September 21, 1972**.

This project was made possible with support from the California Humanities – Humanities for All program, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The **oral histories** featured in the exhibit represent a snapshot of the anti-martial law movement. The documentation of martial law and its opposition movement, through interviews, oral histories, and testimonies, has been a crucial part of the preservation of anti-martial law history in the Philippines and the diaspora. Their activism spans decades and shows a lifelong commitment to social justice.



Oral histories with featured activists: Xenia Tupas, Enrique de la Cruz, Cathy Miraballes, Carol Ojeda-Kimbrough



## DIGITAL EXHIBITION

# NEVER FORGET

*Filipinx Americans and the Philippines Anti-Martial Law Movement*



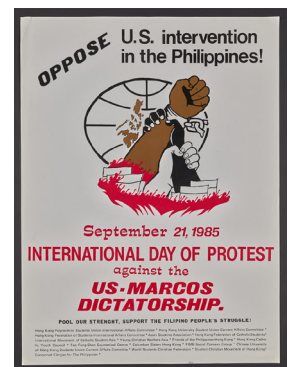
Panelists Josen Masangkay Diaz, Cathy Miraballes, Joy Sales, and Mae Decena in front of the *Never Forget: Digital Exhibition* website



**LEARN |** To browse the digital exhibition and listen to the oral histories, please visit <https://learn.aasc.ucla.edu/neverforget>



Left: Bayan - Ang tao ang bayan ngayon ay lumalaban! (The people of the nation are now fighting back!) BAYAN traces its origins to the mid-1960s with the formation of the National Democratic Liberation Movement.



Right: International Day of Protest against the U.S.-Marcos Dictatorship is held on the anniversary of the declaration of martial law (September 21)



# DR. ERIN KAHUNAWAIKA'ALA WRIGHT



**Dr. Erin Kahunawaika'ala Wright** is an Associate Professor in Educational Administration at the University of Hawai'i Manoa. Erin is UCLA PhD of Education alumni and a co-founder of UCLA Pacific Islanders Education & Recruitment (PIER) student organization.

On October 6, 2023, the Asian American Studies Center had the pleasure of inviting UCLA alumna, **Dr. Erin Kahunawaika'ala Wright**, to facilitate a talk story on Pasifika and indigenous experiences in higher education. Dr. Wright gave the preface on the intent of the talk story:

*"The Pacific Islands Students' Association has served our Pacific Islander communities in Southern California for over 30 years. Guided by our deep love, abiding belief in the brilliance of Pasifika people, and commitment to using our educational privilege to support our communities' well-being, we have invested our mana into developing meaningful, sustaining work with our communities, particularly centered on our Pasifika youth."*

*Each generation of PISA leaders has contributed to strengthening, (re)building, and extending this work in ways that continue to demonstrate care for our communities. In this talk story, we'll reflect on this critical work by celebrating successes and sharing lessons learned, explore the ways educational research about Pasifika and Indigenous students may help shape engagement practices, and consider the futurity of this work and its impacts on our Pasifika communities."*

Students, staff, faculty, and community members shared space and their perspectives of how critical moments and experiences brought them to where they are today, and how they have connected community and work to their pursuit in higher education.

We want to extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the **Asian American Studies Department, American Indian Studies Department, and the Community Programs Office** for co-sponsoring this event.

## FA'ATASIGA O USO (FOU) MOVEMENT THE GATHERING OF BROTHERS

On October 16, 2023, the **Fa'atasiga O Uso (FOU)** nonprofit organization was invited as guest speakers to Professor Keith Camacho's **Asian American Studies 10W: History of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders class**. The FOU are a band of brothers that have turned away from gang-life and are now bringing light to the darkness they once lived. Each brother, "descendants of Samoa rich in culture, faith, and family", shared powerful messages of impactful moments in their life and how they are moving forward to create a positive change in their communities.

Pacific Islander Education and Retention (PIER) Project Coordinator, **Papu Togafau** gave his account of the lecture:

*"The lecture with the FOU was honestly one of the best lectures I've ever attended at UCLA whether as an undergrad or through my time as a staff member. I appreciated that the lecture itself was community based and that each of the members of the FOU who were in attendance took the time to be vulnerable with the students in the class and share their own experiences about being formerly incarcerated and how they've come to the FOU movement to make better choices. They constantly mentioned the importance of the choices a person makes in life and talked about all the events that they've held over the last 3 years and how these new choices are part of a healing process for themselves and the communities they come from."*

*I was inspired from their lecture to continue to remember why I do the community work I do and why outreaching to the youth is especially important. I loved to see that the communities they come from and the communities that they are currently serving are communities that I myself also came from and that the work that they're doing is rooted in God at the center."*

Later that evening, the FOU were able to meet and connect with the **Pacific Islands' Student Association** at the newly established **Pacific Islands' Community Center (PICC)** at Hedrick Residence Hall for dinner.



Top: FOU members and Keith Camacho outside of UCLA Royce Hall  
Bottom: Pacific Islands' Student Association (PISA) Dinner

# AASC STAFF UPDATES



We congratulate our **former Marketing Manager Barbra Ramos**, who is now the Assistant Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Communications for UCLA Strategic Communications. We are excited to see her take on this new role and advance the work of Asian American Studies, Pacific Islander Studies, and Ethnic Studies.

We also congratulate our **former Office Manager KaiShan Li**, who started a faculty assistant position at UC San Francisco's Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics. We are deeply grateful for KaiShan's administrative and personnel expertise and dedication to the Center during some very challenging pandemic years.

Finally, we extend our gratitude to **former Senior Project Manager Lauren Higa** for setting the foundation for the Multimedia Textbook as the sole staffer during the first phase of development. We sincerely appreciate all of Lauren's gifts and her commitment to successfully getting this ambitious endeavor off the ground at its most critical and challenging stage.

**Please join us in welcoming our newest Asian American Studies Center Staff!**



**Keith Camacho**

*Associate Director, UCLA Asian American Studies Center*

"As the new **Associate Director** of the Asian American Studies Center (AASC), I look forward to advancing the **UCLA Native American and Pacific Islander Bruins Rising Initiative** and to supporting the research interests of Indigenous faculty and students more generally. With new faculty hires and postdoctoral fellows on the horizon, coupled with increased efforts to recruit and retain Native American and Pacific Islander students across the divisions and schools, it is an exciting time to be at the AASC as we work together to make UCLA an accessible, meaningful, and transformative space of learning for all communities."



**Natalie Masuoka**

*Faculty Director, UCLA Asian American Pacific Islander Policy Initiative*

"I am excited to join the AASC team as the new **Faculty Director of the AAPI Policy Initiative**.

Our goals this year will be to further develop the vision and mission for the Initiative by building a faculty board of directors, developing new programming and strengthening relationships with community partners and state and local elected leadership. **The goal is to make AASC the "go to" for effective policy relevant research on AAPI communities.**"

**Roland Fang** - Office Manager

**Maya Lu** - Communications and Publications Coordinator

**Phil Timoteo** - Pacific Islander Studies Coordinator



AASC Staff at Fall Retreat: **Phil Timoteo, Daniel Kim, Meg Thornton, Maya Lu, Roland Fang, Karen Umamoto, Tom Nguyen, Christine Wang, Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, Arnold Pan, Betty Leung, Marji Lee**



## ACTIVIST IN RESIDENCE SPOTLIGHT



## RESIDENCY HIGHLIGHTS

**April 18-21:** 100+ Farmworker Women Travel to Washington D.C. for Fifth National *Convivencia*

**May 18:** Grieving Sun Mural Project (with cityLAB Activist-in-Residence Marlene Nancy Lopez)

**July 18-21:** 2023 Malama Honua Indigenous Sustainability Conference at University of Hawai'i, Hilo

**Aug 14-16:** One River One Voice Grassroots Summit Navajo Nation

Top: Community mural painting

Right: Melissa at the University of HI, Hilo

Bottom: Marlene and Melissa at the Grieving Sun Mural Preview at Perloff Hall in May 2023



In May, I supported the launch of my cohort sister **Marlene Nancy Lopez's Grieving Sun Mural project** on campus. I was proud to be Marlene's "project doula" as we moved through our own grief of losing our fathers at young ages and growing up in immigrant working-class homes. So much of our shared experience informed the way we built her vision of the **Grieving Sun Mural** together. We supported local street vendors by purchasing meals, which we offered to community members who attended the healing circles.

"Our food system can feel so abstract as it is one of the most complex systems we have in our world today. I created and founded Polo's Pantry as a response to the problems in healthy food access I was seeing in Skid Row and co-founded Home-y Made Meals at the top of the pandemic to build a better food system for our unhoused neighbors. My experiences in building and working in our food systems through the lens of my community organizing has really helped me innovate solutions by amplifying the voices of the people."



## MELISSA ACEDERA 2023 ACTIVIST-IN-RESIDENCE

**Melissa Acedera** (she/her) is a Filipino-American activist and community organizer focused on food justice & homelessness, living and working in Los Angeles. She is the founder & director of **Polo's Pantry**, and the co-founder of **Home-y Made Meals**.

My AIR residency at UCLA this year was a life-changing experience. I deepened my connection to my roots in so many ways.

My residency began in a painful place. My family unexpectedly lost my oldest brother, Dino, on January 10th this year. I remember attending our Activist-In-Residence orientation the day after he passed away, in a complete daze and navigating all the corners of my heart and soul, trying to figure out why I didn't cancel that meeting. *When will we ever have time to pause?* We need to give ourselves this. This has been a painful lesson for me as an activist...

As activist and movement leaders, we do not often give ourselves the chance to process our many emotions and whatever emotional energy weaves into our lives because of the work we do. We have to help build and fight for these new worlds and are expected to have the capacity to attend to our own emotional and spiritual landscapes, but what does that even mean? *What does actual space for activists to rest, rebuild, create and exist look like?*

**The AIR residency helped me create that space both on and off campus to build stronger connections to other food justice leaders working on innovations in food sovereignty and beyond.**

The residency gave me the opportunity to strengthen my network through providing resources for me to go on trips to build relationships with community members in person. The lessons I learned from these trips have really expanded my understanding and capacity of my own work and where I sit within this incredible network of people who care so much about other people and people deeply committed to building a better world.

Learning from Indigenous communities in Hawai'i and the Navajo Nation this past summer is informing the way my organization will support and amplify the work of Native peoples in food sovereignty and environmental justice work.



## GABBY LUPOLA

**Gabby Lupola** (she/her) is a Chamorro and Italian-American female scholar and continuing graduate student housed under the Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies Department at UCLA. She was born on the island of Guahan/Guam but spent her early years in Arizona until moving to Oceanside, CA at the end of fourth grade. She attended Pomona College for undergrad, earning a BA in History (with a thematic track of the Transpacific) and a minor in Italian Studies. Her research interests include political activism, indigenous sovereignty, and migration/diaspora studies. Education is important for her to not only unpack and understand her own ancestral ties and connections but also helps to make sense of the world around us and how we can work towards a more just, sustainable, and reciprocal society.



### Please introduce your work - UCLA and beyond:

This UCLA MA program has really pushed me to examine how imperative it is that we implement what theories, methodologies, and epistemologies we have learnt in higher education to benefit our own specific communities and put that work into action in our own lives.

My experience at UCLA has been rooted in academic inquiry and exploration as well as a continuation of community involvement and advocacy. Being a member of the **Pacific Islands' Student Association (PISA)** as well as the **American Indian Student Association (AISA)** really provided me a sense of comfort and community in a new environment/different area of Tovaangar.

Indigenous solidarity has become an interest and commitment ever since I took Community Health at Pomona College with **Dr. Kehaulani Vaughn**, and gained mentors in her, **Alfred Peredo Flores**, **Asena Taione Filiha**, and **Sefa Aina**. Alongside these stellar scholars and staff members, I have also found role models in **Keith Camacho**, **Evyn Le Espiritu-Gandhi**, **Valerie Matsumoto**, **Lucy M.S.P. Burns**, **Justin Dela Cruz**, and **Wendy Fujinami** during my time at UCLA. All these amazing people have been part of my journey in an academic and personal capacity, but it has really been my family and broader community that have influenced my work. Because my master's thesis is a comparative study of different Chamorro diasporic experiences, I am truly indebted to family, family friends, and others who took the time to be interviewed and gave me advice along the way.

### Share your experience with student research and outreach:

Being able to conduct my own research has always been a blessing, especially as I have received grants both during my time at Pomona College (**Summer Undergraduate Research Program**) and at UCLA (**Patrick and Lily Okura Research Grant on AAPI Mental Health**) that allowed me to return to Guahan and conduct archival research as well as oral history interviews. This opportunity to reconnect with people and places back home, as well as creating new relationships each trip, really cements for me the value of place-based learning and qualitative research informed by and invested in one's interviewees.

Similarly, my experiences with student mentorship and outreach have always been rooted in the relationships I've enacted with people I have been in community with on campus.

At Pomona College [for undergrad], working my way up the ladder from mentee to mentor to head mentor for the Indigenous Peer Mentoring Program was based on a peer-to-peer model. At UCLA, on the other hand, being the **Mentorship Coordinator for INSPIRE (Improving Nurturing Sustaining Pacific Islander Retention and Education)** has placed me in a more senior mentor role given my age gap with undergraduate students. As I enjoy working in higher education and with students, I am excited to see how my approach to mentorship will shift given this changing dynamic of age and experience.

I am a firm believer in peer mentorship and enjoyed serving in this capacity; I look forward to the future of INSPIRE and what new and innovative resources this retention project will provide for Pacific Islander students for years to come.



Left: Gabby at the Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC) at the University of Guam  
Right: PISA group photo at annual Pasifika Arts and Culture (PAC) Night, May 2023







Production still from *Yellow Face* by **David Henry Hwang**, staged and dramaturged at UC Riverside by Donatella, scenic design by Lily Bartenstein



#### Getting Away with Yellowface: Affect, Asian Americans, and American Musical Theatre

*"In professional musical theatre today, actors perform pseudo-Asianness in less obvious guises: Asianness becomes reduced to things from costumes to plot devices, Asia becomes an imaginary place with multiracial casts, and Asian stereotypes become ironic spectacles. Drawing from theories of racial performance and affect, close readings of contemporary popular musicals, audience reception, and interviews with artists, I argue that yellowface continues by producing profit and pleasure for some at the expense of pain for others. But Asian Americans wield the potential for racial equity—or at least limited liberal, national inclusion—with their creative interventions from new musicals and revisions of old scripts to town halls and angry protests."*



Donatella Galella, Deborah Wong, Dorinne Kondo, Sean Metzger, Esther Kim Lee roundtable discussion

## 2022-2023 IAC AASC VISITING SCHOLAR DONATELLA GALELLA



Having the time to read, think, and write has been such a gift. This fellowship from the AASC enabled me to make substantial progress on my book, an analysis of how yellowface persists in 21st-century musical theatre and how Asian Americans and other anti-racist artists have pushed back. I interviewed Asian American actors who have performed in whiteface as well as members of New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players who have revised *The Mikado*. In New York, I visited the Performing Arts Library to watch video recordings of my case studies and photograph related newspaper clippings. In addition, I wrote an article based on my book chapter on *Soft Power*, a new Off-Broadway musical that reverses the power dynamics of *The King and I*. I showcased some of that research in the keynote for the AAPI Performance and Pedagogy symposium at UCLA and in a presentation for another symposium at The Graduate Center, City University of New York. Most recently, I wrote a short chapter on the racial lessons of South Pacific for a new edited collection with Cambridge University Press.

Furthermore, the fellowship supported my conference-going and public-facing work. At the Association for Asian American Studies conference, I organized a roundtable on **Esther Kim Lee's** and **Josephine Lee's** new books on 19th and early 20th-century yellowface performances (and I wrote a book review of the latter). At the American Society for Theatre Research, I co-coordinated a working group on decarcerating the university. Our collective is creating a zine on abolition and theatre/performance studies. I also collaborated on an exhibit called "Dismantling Orientalism: This Is Not a True Story" at USC's Pacific Asia Museum. Then I was interviewed for a new documentary from Artbound about East West Players, the first professional Asian American theatre. Plus, I dramaturged *Yellow Face* by **David Henry Hwang**, the first time that UC Riverside has ever put a play about Asian Americans on the main stage. Finally, I connected with incredible scholars at UCLA, and we formed an Asian American book club. I am hopeful that our connections will continue!

Donatella Galella is an associate professor of theatre history at the University of California, Riverside. She received a 2023-2024 Mellon Second Project Fellowship from UCR's Center for Ideas and Society.

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



# EMORY CHAO JOHNSON



**Emory Chao Johnson** (they/them) is a filmmaker settled on the land of the Tongva (Los Angeles Basin) whose work centers on the real and abstract forces that charge new visions of worldbuilding.

They received a BA in Asian American Studies and Italian & Special Fields, as well as an MFA in Film and Television.

*Photos: Emory and friends after screening of 默 (To Write From Memory) at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival in May 2023 and Poster for 默 (To Write From Memory)*



Over a decade ago, **Emory Chao Johnson** was introduced to the world of Asian American filmmaking as a participant in Pacific Arts Movement's Reel Voices, a program that empowers high school students to experience the art of documentary through a socially-conscious lens. As Emory first encountered Asian American documentaries like *Who Killed Vincent Chin?* directed by **Christine Choy** and **Renee Tajima-Peña** (Director of the Center for EthnoCommunications) through Reel Voices, they discovered a passion for documentary storytelling which planted the seeds for a years-long creative collaboration with the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, as well as a fruitful filmmaking career to come.

Upon graduating from UCLA with a BA in Asian American Studies and Italian & Special Fields, Emory worked at the Asian American Studies Center as an assistant for the **Center for EthnoCommunications**. "EthnoComms [gave me] hands-on experience combining archival research and creative film-making processes, and really showed me how important a tool media is to create an engaged scholarship," they reflected.

Emory worked closely on the Center's **50th Anniversary Collective Memories Project**, which gathered the oral histories of those involved in the Asian American movement of the 1960s, starting with those involved in the establishment of Asian American Studies at UCLA in its earliest years. "Not only was it a valuable experience working with the storytellers, but I was also fortunate to engage with scholars, activists, and community leaders who conducted the interviews," they said. "There was admiration across the board - it was heartwarming to see [such] recognition of the founders of the Asian American Studies Center."

Through their experience with working on the Center's oral history projects over the years - including the **IAC Archiving the Age of Mass Incarceration** project and **Never Forget** oral histories - Emory reflected that they now approach documentary filmmaking with another level of compassion and intention. In collaborating with community members, they learned to reframe the documentary interviewees as "storytellers" instead of documentary "subjects". To Emory, this shift in vocabulary encouraged a shift in thinking about "agency and autonomy" in documentary filmmaking.

*The film involves layers of opacity to reclaim my privacy and autonomy as someone who is at the intersection of different marginalized identities.*

*How could I toy with documentary filmmaking practices and techniques and motifs to subvert expectations of authenticity?*



Emory's most recent film, **默 (To Write From Memory)**, addresses these questions of subjectivity head-on and explores the seams that connect documentary and fiction, archive and memory. The film had its world premiere at **Berlinale 2023**, where it was nominated for a **TEDDY Award**.

**默 (To Write From Memory)** has screened to international audiences at Filmfest Dresden, Champs-Élysées Film Festival, Prismatic Ground, Outfest, Indie Memphis Film Festival, NewFest, and more. At Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, the film won **the Golden Reel for Best Documentary Short**. Most recently, the film was honored with the **Best International Short Film Award** at the 2023 Toronto Reel Asian Film Festival.

Emory expressed gratitude for the Center's continued support of their work and community-centered storytelling as a whole. As an MFA student in the School of Film and Television, they received the **Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Fellowship** from the Center that went towards one of their student films, **F1-100**, which went on to receive wide recognition at Asian American and Pacific Islander film festivals and beyond.

"To be able to receive recognition for the Asian American essence in my creative work outside of the Center, as well as in community with the Center, has been very affirming to how I want to proceed with my process and craft," they said.

Emory's work with the Center continues this Fall in their new position as **Multimedia Associate Producer** for the Center's multimedia textbook project.



## CENTER FOR ETHNOCOMMUNICATIONS

Over the past year, the Center for EthnoCommunications has worked alongside a network of creatives, educators, activists, cultural strategists, and philanthropists to build the narrative change movement. In partnership with the **Henry Luce Foundation** staff and AASC, **Center director Renee Tajima-Peña** co-organized an initial brain trust meeting at UCLA that brought together leaders in these respective fields, and a follow-up convening at the **Association of Asian American Studies** conference.

On campus, the Center for EthnoCommunications has co-sponsored film, media and arts events such as the screening and discussion of the documentary **"Manzanar Diverted: When Water Becomes Dust,"** the virtual performance and discussion of **"From Number to Name: Back to Life,"** a play directed and devised by **Kristina Wong** in partnership with **API Rise**, and the FTVDM screening of the documentary **"Liquor Store Dreams,"** directed by **So Yun Um**.

Beyond the classroom, EthnoCommunications films, students, and alumni have been widely represented in academic, community and prestigious professional settings. Three of the student films produced in EthnoCommunications' three-track social documentary production course, **Creating Community Media**, were selected to premiere at prominent film festivals: **Alexis Si'I's "Stranded on the Mainland"** and **Juliana Victoria's "Momentum"**

were selected by the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival 2023, and **Michelle Thach's "Donut Kid"** premiered at the San Diego Asian Film Festival.

In Fall 2023, **KCET's "ARTBOUND"** produced a documentary episode about the UCLA School of Film and Television's pioneering affirmative action "Ethno-Communications" programs, which planted the seeds for the 1996 founding of the Center for EthnoCommunications.

### STUDENT FILM SPOTLIGHT



#### **M&M Fashion: A Chinatown Dynasty** Anson Hiu Cheung

Amidst the pressures of gentrification facing the businesses of Dynasty Shopping Center, M&M Fashion stands strong against changing times roughly 30 years after opening.

## NEWS FROM FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE



**King-Kok Cheung** honored with lifetime achievement award by AAAS Conference surrounded by past students - Back row: Karen Umamoto, Dominika Ferens, Julia H. Lee, Erin Suzuki, Tamara Ho, Denise Cruz, Robert Kyriakos Smith, Brian Niiya, Lynn Mie Itagaki, Sean Metzger, Qinglan Li; Front row: James Kyung-Jin Lee, Russell C. Leong, Hans Yi Su

**King-Kok Cheung** received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Asian American Studies (AAAS) in April. She also received a grant from College of Letters and Science to team teach (with her Taichi Sifu Yun Zhao) a Fiat Lux seminar entitled "Fiat Qi: Taichi and Intersectional Environmentalism" throughout the next academic year.

**Evyn Le Espiritu Gandhi** received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of Asian American Studies in July. She was also co-editor with Vinh Nguyen of *The Routledge Handbook of Refugee Narratives*, published open access by Routledge in February 2023 with support from the Asian American Studies Center.

**Min Zhou** was elected into the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and is celebrating 15 years of service as the Walter and Shirley Wang Endowed Chair in US-China Relations and Communications. She also recently published an edited volume with a former doctoral student, Hasan Mahmud: "Beyond Economic Migration: Social, Historical and Political Factors in U.S. Immigration" (NYU, 2023).

**Jerry Kang** is working with the Alliance for Asian American Justice - a Pro bono legal service for victims of anti-Asian hate - and spoke at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office in May 2023 about anti-Asian violence and implicit bias. He also authored an editorial on Asian Americans and affirmative action for *The Conversation*.

**Benjamin Woo** produced a documentary titled "Chefs from Chinatown" and published an article titled, "Pioneering the Metaverse: The Role of the Metaverse in an Aging Population," in the *Journal of Medical Internet Research (JMIR) Aging*.

**Lee Ann Wang** was co-investigator on a new Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives Grant "Anti-Asian Violence: Origins and Trajectories" with Leti Volpp (PI - Berkeley Law School), Susette Min (UC Davis), and Laura Kang (UC Irvine).

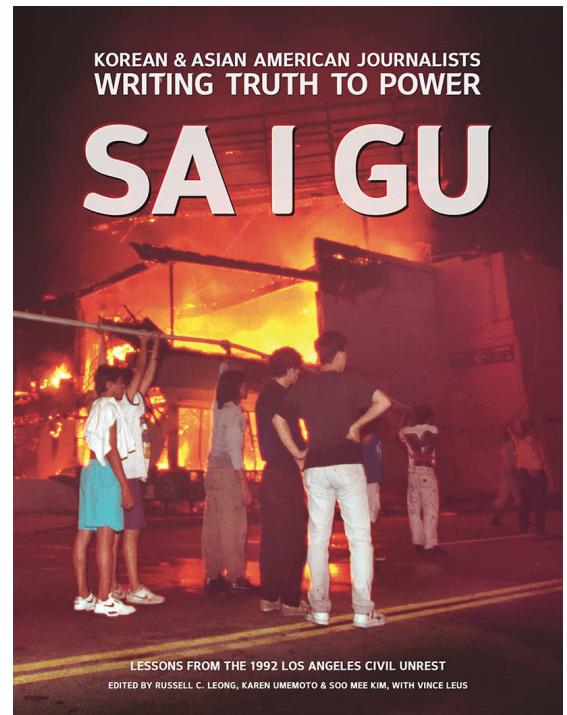
**Robert Chao Romero** published a book titled *Christianity and Critical Race Theory: A Faithful and Constructive Conversation* in April 2023 with Jeff Liou.

**Michelle Caswell** and her doctoral student Anna Robinson-Sweet were honored by the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) with the 2023 ALISE/Bohdan S. Wynar Research Paper Competition award for their paper "'It Was as Much for Me As for Anybody Else': The Creation of Self-Validating Records".

**Sa I Gu** tells the riveting stories of Los Angeles' 1992 Civil Unrest 30 years later through the lenses of 21 writers, journalists, photographers, artists, filmmakers, editors and scholars. These writers revisit the saga of **Sa I Gu** in light of a nation still torn apart by the racial divides and economic injustices, and offer profound insights for all Americans today.

### Contributors

Edward T. Chang	K.W. Lee
Jean-Paul deGuzman	Russell C. Leong
Richard Fruto	Vince Leus
Julie Ha	Angela E. Oh
Darnell Hunt	Peter Park
Kay Hwangbo	Brenda Paik Sunoo
Hyungwon Kang	Karen Umemoto
Jerry Kang	<b>Edited by</b> Karen Umemoto,
Dexter H. Kim	Russell Leong, Soo Mee Kim
Do Kim	with Vince Leus
Sojin Kim	<b>Cover &amp; Book Design</b>
Soo Mee Kim	HyunJu Chappell
Sophia K. Kim	Magna Citizen Studio
John Lee	



*Intrepid. Inquisitive. Insisting always on truth.  
In this time of untruths, community journalism matters more than ever.  
These writers provide a unique insiders' lens to Sa-I-Gu, and,  
by their intrepid example, a path to a more just media future  
for all communities today.*

- Editors

### Sa-I-Gu: 30 Years After & Counting

**The Fire Next Time?: 10 Haunting Questions**  
*Cry Out for Answers and Redress* K.W. Lee

**Korean Americans: Moving beyond Black and White** Edward T. Chang  
**American Toxicity: 30 Years After the 1992 Los Angeles "Riots"** Darnell Hunt  
**Sa-I-Gu: Roots, Riots & Reflections** Do Kim

### K.W. Lee: Journalist, Editor & Mentor

K.W. Lee: The Godfather of Korean American Journalism Sojin Kim  
Freeing Chul Soo Lee, Freeing Ourselves Julie Ha

EDITORIALS BY K.W. LEE

### Never again

**Who Killed Eddie Lee?: Eyewitnesses to his Martyrdom**  
**Legacy of Sa-I-gu: Goodbye Hahn, Good Morning, Community Conscience**  
**Resurrection of the City of Angels: Awards Speech Calls for Mutual Survival**  
**An American Passage: Latasha becomes part of our collective conscience**

### Journalists Writing "Truth to Power"

**A Daughter of Koreatown** Sophia K. Kim  
**Sa-I-Gu: Branded on My Mind** Dexter H. Kim  
*The Korea Times English Edition: A Bridge for the Immigrant Community*  
Brenda Paik Sunoo  
**Sa-I-Gu Moments: Telling Stories Through Images** Hyungwon Kang  
**No Justice, No Peace: Clarity and Truth-telling** Kay Hwangbo  
**An Uneasy Co-existence: Soon Ja Du and Latasha Harlins** Richard Fruto  
**F.O.P. (Fresh Off the Plane)** Peter Park  
**About Writing, Community & Sa-I-Gu: What I've Learned** John Lee

### Reflections & Resources

#### TIMELINE

**From Korea to Korean America** Vince Leus  
**Angela Oh Speaks: The Community Listens (Excerpt)**  
UCLA Korean American Oral History Archives  
**Black Americans and Korean Americans in Los Angeles:**  
*The Case of Latasha Harlins and Soon Ja Du* Karen Umemoto  
**The 30-Year Tale of Interpreting a Multiethnic Urban Uprising:**  
*Towards a Historiography of Sa-I-Gu* Jean-Paul deGuzman  
**Where There's Smoke, There's Fire** Russell C. Leong  
**Reading Sa-I-Gu: An Archive of Writings and Images**  
on the 1992 LA Civil Unrest Soo Mee Kim



Contributors & Editors Vince Leus, Darnell Hunt, Jerry Kang, Mike Murase, Sophia Kim, Dexter H. Kim, Brenda Paik Sunoo, Russell Leong, HyunJu Chappell, Julie Ha, Richard Fruto, Peter Park, Karen Umemoto, Soo Mee Kim, Do Kim, John Lee, Jean-Paul deGuzman at Publication Launch in May 2023



## UPDATES FROM *AMERASIA JOURNAL*



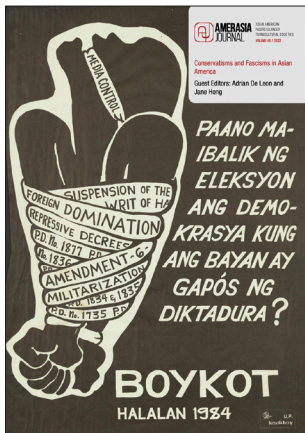
READ | For articles, abstracts, and more information on *Amerasia Journal*, visit <https://bit.ly/amerjonline>.

In 2023, *Amerasia Journal* continued to expand its readership and its influence into research on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Due to our partnership with prominent academic publisher Routledge, *Amerasia Journal* saw its profile grow worldwide, reaching its largest audience of readers and scholars to date.

On deck for publication is *Amerasia Journal*'s annual open issue, which features timely forums on the impact of the recent affirmative action decision on Asian Americans and public engagement initiatives by leading Asian American historians. Also in the works is a double issue on Asian American literary culture, guest edited by Aline Lo (Colorado College) and Swati Rana (UC Santa Barbara).

### VOLUME 48.1: CONSERVATISMS AND FASCISMS IN ASIAN AMERICA



This year's issues of *Amerasia Journal* followed in our tradition of tackling timely topics and providing a publishing venue for groundbreaking areas of inquiry. Guest edited by **Adrian De Leon** (USC) and **Jane Hong** (Occidental College), the special issue "**Conservatisms and Fascisms in Asian America**" explores the place of right-wing movements and ideologies in Asian American communities, a phenomenon that is particularly salient today, but one that can also be traced back in history.

While seemingly in tension with the leftist intellectual and political genealogy of Asian American studies, conservative ideas are far from anomalous in Asian American communities. As our contributors explore, some of the earliest Asian American political figures on a national level were proponents of colorblind ideology and assimilationism, be it Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian American and Indian American elected to Congress, or S.I. Hayakawa, the controversial SF State President during the 1968 ethnic studies strike who later served California in the U.S. Senate. Current topics explored in the issue include the role of conservative politics in shaping education and school zoning policies as well as the affinity for Trumpism among Christian Chinese dissidents.

### VOLUME 48.2: OCEAN FEMINISMS

Recently published, the special issue on "**Ocean Feminisms**" reframes the study of the Pacific and Indigeneity by understanding transoceanic connections through feminist methodologies and epistemologies. Conceptualized by guest editors **Celia Bardwell-Jones** (University of Hawai'i at Hilo), **Joyce Pualani Warren** (CSU Northridge), and **Stephanie Nohelani Teves** (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa), the essays and commentaries collected in the special issue consider the ocean not as the space that separates land masses, but as the geographical formation that links Indigenous cultures and women worldwide.

With contributions ranging in tone from philosophical explorations to poetry, politically engaged research to creative memoir, the special issue critically engages the assumptions taken for granted in Western intellectual traditions. Be it explorations of the wide and diverse expanse of the Pacific, resonances with the Black Atlantic, or linkages to the 10,000 lakes of Minnesota, the scholars and writers participating in "**Ocean Feminisms**" draw out novel connections made possible through frameworks that foreground water and gender.



## UCLA AAPI ALUMNI NEWS

**Kristina Wong ('00)** was the keynote speaker at UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture's commencement ceremony.

**Randall Park ('97)** delivered the keynote address at all three 2023 UCLA College commencement ceremonies.

**Julie Ha ('96)**'s documentary "Free Chol Soo Lee" had its international premiere in South Korea.

**Eurie Chung ('05)** screened her new documentary "I Can't Keep Quiet" at the Grammy Museum.

**James Kyung-Jin Lee ('95, '97, '00)**'s book *Pedagogies of Woundedness: Illness, Memoir, and the Ends of the Model Minority* (Temple University Press, 2022) was named an Outstanding Academic Title in 2022 by Choice.

**Eric Wat ('92)** won the 2023 Association of Asian American Studies (AAAS) Book Award in History with his book *Love Your Asian Body* (2022), an oral history about the AIDS movement in the Asian American community.

**Sarah Park Dahlen ('02, '04)** was selected by the National Book Foundation to serve as a judge for the 74th National Book Awards.

**Mai Yang Vang ('11)** is running for Mayor Pro Tem for Sacramento, California.

**Ysabel Jurado ('12, '19)** is running for Los Angeles City Council District 14.

**Rishi Guné ('20)** was elected Contingent Faculty Representative of the Board of the Association of Asian American Studies (AAAS).

# 2023-2024 UCLA ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER AWARDS,

## FACULTY & VISITING SCHOLAR AWARDEES

**C. Doris and Toshio Hoshide Distinguished Teaching Prize in Asian American Studies at UCLA for 2022-23**

### THUY VO DANG

Assistant Professor | Education and Information Studies

**Institute of American Cultures (IAC)/AASC Visiting Scholar**

### LALAIE AMEERAR

Associate Professor | Anthropology, York University  
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Racializing Reproduction: Maternal Mortality, Asian American Women and COVID-19

**IAC/AASC Faculty Research Grants**

### LUCY BURNS

Professor | Asian American Studies  
TITLE: Asian American Elsewheres: Placeness, Confrontations, and Continuations

### RENEE TAJIMA-PEÑA

Professor | Asian American Studies  
TITLE: The Invincible Mr. Hong

## 2022-23 ACTIVIST-IN-RESIDENCE

### MELISSA ACEDERA

Founder and Director of Polo's Pantry

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

### GARDENA VALLEY JAPANESE CULTURAL INSTITUTE

PROJECT: GVJCI Day of Remembrance 2023 - Campaign for Justice: The Japanese Latin American Story

### KOJI LAU-OZAWA AND BRYNN SAITO

PROJECT: Cactus Blossoms Revisited

### WORLD WAR II CAMP WALL

PROJECT: World War II Camp Wall Database Project

### FRIENDS OF THE JAPANESE HOUSE AND GARDEN DBA JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

PROJECT: Okaeri (Welcome Home): The Nisei Legacy at Shofuso

### ANA IWATAKI AND NANCY UYEMURA

PROJECT: Gallery IV: Nikkei Art in the Arts District

### KAMBARA+

PROJECT: NI DO TO: An XR Pilgrimage

### NICHI BEI FOUNDATION

PROJECT: Wakamatsu Pilgrimage

### UCLA NIKKEI STUDENT UNION

PROJECT: Nikkei Student Union's 37th Annual Cultural Night

### VIGILANT LOVE

PROJECT: Solidarity Arts Fellowship

### OPERA PARALLÈLE

PROJECT: The Emissary

## GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDEES

**Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship**

### BRIAN KOHAYA

MA Student | Urban and Regional Planning

**IAC/AASC Graduate Student Research Grants**

### TAYLOR AQUINO

PhD Student | Sociology  
PROJECT: Interracial Dating and Patterns of Racial Assortative Mating on Dating Apps

**IAC/AASC Graduate Student Research Grants**

### JAMES HUYNH

PhD Student | Community Health Sciences

PROJECT: How kinship and coalition networks shape distress, anxiety, and well-being of people working on LGBTQ+ Vietnamese American issues in Orange County, CA through queer and trans of color critiques

### PREETI JUTURU

MA Student | Community Health Sciences

PROJECT: Exploring and Assessing the Validity of Food Security Measures among Asian-American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders in O'ahu, Hawai'i

### PALLAVI RUDRARAJU

PhD Student | Asian American Studies

PROJECT: Dance in the Diaspora: Exploring Gender Liberation and Euphoria for Transgender and Non-Binary South Asian Americans through Classical Indian Dance

### WYATT WU

MA Student | Asian American Studies

PROJECT: Dear Lily

### NICOLE YIU

PhD Student | Gender Studies

PROJECT: Listening to Quietness: Asian American Massage Workers and Articulations of the Political

**Martha Ogata Grant to Study Domestic Violence & Abuse in APA Communities**

### TRINITY GABATO

MA Student | Asian American Studies

PROJECT TITLE: Motherhood, Intergenerational Trauma, and Mixed-Race Identity: Vietnamese War Brides and The Generations that Follow

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

### JAMES HUYNH

PhD Student | Community Health Sciences

PROJECT TITLE: How kinship and coalition networks shape distress, anxiety, and well-being of people working on LGBTQ+ Vietnamese American issues in Orange County, CA through queer and trans of color critiques

**Pearl Wang Fellowship**

### JARUI SUN

PhD Student | Information Studies

PROPOSAL TITLE: Hyphenated Family Heritage: Exploring the Dimensions of Chinese American Family Archives and Archiving Practices

**Professor Harry H. L. Kitano Fellowship**

### VICTORIA TRAN

PhD Student | Sociology

PROPOSAL TITLE: Contesting Chinatown: Community Ownership in Urban Growth Politics

**Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Fellowship**

### JANINE SUN ROGERS

PhD Student | Theater and Performance Studies

PROPOSAL TITLE: Transpacific Militarization, Postcoloniality, and Ambivalence in Asian American and Pacific Performance

**Tritia Toyota Fellowship**

### SE BIN ESTHER KIM

MA Student | Asian American Studies

PROPOSAL TITLE: Korean Karaoke Hostess Nightclubs: Sexual Labor Ethnic Economies as Transnational Feminist Spaces

**George & Sakaye Aratani Graduate Fellowship**

### DAVID SUNGHO KIM

MFA Student | Theater, Film, & Television

PROPOSAL TITLE: The Promise (약속 - 約束)



# GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND INTERNSHIPS

## 21st Century Internship with Asian American Studies Center

### WYATT WU

MA Student Asian American Studies

INTERNSHIP: AAPI Policy Initiative and AAPI Multimedia Textbook

## George & Sakaye Aratani Internship

### KRISTI MAI

MA Student Asian American Studies & Social Welfare

INTERNSHIP: Little Tokyo Service Center

## Professor Harry H.L. Kitano Best Paper Scholarship

### SIYUE LENA WANG

PhD Student Education – Race, Ethnicity

PAPER TITLE: Irregular Chinese Migration: A Comparative Analysis in Japan and United States

## Rose Eng Chin & Helen Wong Eng Best Paper Scholarship

### SE BIN ESTHER KIM

MA Student Asian American Studies

PAPER TITLE: Military Prostitutes to Doumi: Intersections of Oppression and Empowerment of Asian American Women through Sex Work

## Ben & Alice Hirano Best Paper Scholarship

### PALLAVI RUDRARAJU

MA Student Asian American Studies

PAPER TITLE: Which Came First – The Snake or the Egg?: A Closer Examination of the Rise of Hindu Nationalism in the United States and India

## Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Best Paper Scholarship in Asian American Literature & Culture

### GHALIAH FAKHOURY

MA Student Asian American Studies

PAPER TITLE: Protest, Resistance, and the Homeland: Artistic Legacies Charting Toward the Liberation of Palestine and the Arab World

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDEES

## Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship

### STEVEN TRAN

MAJOR: Asian American Studies

## Angie Kwon Memorial Scholarship

### JONAH HIRATA

MAJOR: Political Science

ESSAY TITLE: Perspective. Purpose. Progress.

## Toshio & Chiyoko Hoshida Scholarship

### EMMA HANSON

MAJOR: Chemical Engineering

MINOR: Asian Languages & Cultures – Japanese Language

ESSAY TITLE: Japanese American Incarceration: Causes of Division and Its Aftermath

## Reiko Uyeshima & Family Scholarship

### JONAH HIRATA

MAJOR: Political Science

ESSAY TITLE: Strong as the Koi

### ANNIKA TAMAKI

MAJOR: Nursing

ESSAY TITLE: Learning from the Past to Create a Better Future

### SACHI DIEKER

MAJOR: Financial Actuarial Mathematics

MINOR: Theater

ESSAY TITLE: Investigating Japan's Gender Gap: Utilizing Mann's Power Networks to Study the Effects of the Introduction of Buddhism to Ancient Japan on Female Power

## Chidori Aiso Memorial Scholarship

### EMILY OTOSHI

MAJOR: Cognitive Science

MINOR: Japanese Language

ESSAY TITLE: Kodomo No Tame Ni

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

### RYAN HORIO

Undergraduate Student Human Biology & Society, Asian American Studies

INTERNSHIP: Changing Tides

## Stanley Kwok Lau & Dora Wong Lau Memorial Internship

### SAMUEL YEE

MAJOR: Psychology

MINOR: Asian American Studies

INTERNSHIP SITE: Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

## 21st Century Undergraduate Internship

### SAMUEL YEE

MAJORS: Asian American Studies and Economics

INTERNSHIP SITE: UCLA Asian American Studies Center

## Gold Shield Alumnae of UCLA Internship

### JESSA FATE BAYUDAN

MAJOR: Sociology MINOR: Education Studies

INTERNSHIP SITE: California Freedom Summer – Loud for Tomorrow

## Hiram Wheeler Edwards Best Paper Scholarship for the Study of World War II Internment Camps & Japanese Americans

### CHARLENE TONAI DIN

MAJOR: Human Biology and Society

MINORS: Environmental Systems & Society, Digital Humanities

PAPER TITLE: Artistic Forms of Resistance in the Context of Japanese American Incarceration

## Tsugio & Miyoko Nakanishi Prize in Asian American Literature & Culture

### VICTOR XIE

MAJOR: English & Asian American Studies

PAPER TITLE: Memory as an Act of Resistance in Audre Lorde's "A Woman Speaks" and Ocean Vuong's "Immigrant Haibun"

# IN MEMORIAM

## EMMA GEE (1939-2023)



**Historian, activist, and writer Emma Gee passed away on April 15, 2023.** She is best known together with her husband Yuji Ichioka for coining the term “Asian American” as they helped to establish the Asian American Political Alliance at UC Berkeley. Emma edited one of the first readers in Asian American Studies, entitled, “Counterpoint: Perspectives on Asian America”, published by the Center in 1978. She was an active member of Pacific Asian Women’s Writers West, a collective of influential and accomplished writers and thinkers and helped to produce “Asian Women,” the first publication of its kind.

In 2002, Emma and Yuji established the **Yuji Ichioka and Emma Gee Endowed Fund in Social Justice and Immigration Studies**, which has supported Center initiatives such as the Activist-In-Residence Program.

## AMY UYEMATSU (1947-2023)



**Sansei poet and teacher Amy Uyematsu passed away on June 23, 2023.** Amy was a steady voice whose poetry and prose kept alive the freedom dreams born of her activism as a student at UCLA in the 1960s. Her student paper-turned-essay, “The Emergence of Yellow Power in America,” portended her prolific life as a poet. Along with Franklin Odo, Eddie Wong, and Buck Wong, Amy (then Tachiki) also co-edited *Roots: An Asian American Reader* (1971), the first reader in the field. She worked as a researcher and publications coordinator at the Center in its earliest years. Amy graduated with a B.A. in Math from UCLA and received her Masters of Education and Teaching Credential in 1972. She gave birth to her son as she began her 32-year career as a math teacher for the L.A. Unified School District.

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center is honored to house the **Amy Uyematsu Papers Collection**, a donation of rare papers, poems, and records of literary and historic significance relating to the Asian American movement.

## MARTHA MIKO NAKAGAWA (1973-2023)



**Community journalist, researcher, and advocate Martha Miiko Nakagawa passed away on July 28, 2023.** Martha attended Stanford University, where she received a BA in Asian Studies with a minor in Japanese in 1989. Her activism blossomed while she was there when she was arrested during a campus wide protest demanding a more robust Asian American Studies program. She was a journalist for more than 30 years, working for Asian Week, Pacific Citizen and The Rafu Shimpo, as well as contributing to other community publications. Her writings cover the voices and stories of Japanese American resisters, past and present.

Martha was a coordinator for the Center’s **Eiji Suyama Endowment Project**, which aimed to preserve the history of Japanese American resistance during World War II.

## MIN TONAI (1929-2023)



**Japanese American community leader Min Tonai passed away on September 3, 2023.** Min was born in the fishing village of Terminal Island and incarcerated at Amache, Colorado. He would often say that it was his dream to preserve the legacy and stories of Amache, organizing reunions and working on various preservation efforts. During the Korean War, Min served as a combat medic; years later he was one of the leaders of the Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV). Min was a longtime board member of the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC) and also served as its interim executive director.

At UCLA, Min served as a member of the UCLA Foundation Board of Trustees, the Nikkei Bruins Club, the Japanese American Studies Chair Committee, and as a college program mentor of the Manzanar Committee.



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*Morgan & Helen Chu Outstanding Scholar Awardee Luncheon:*  
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## The UCLA Asian American Studies Center was founded in 1969.

We've come a long way since then—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, launching digital archives and projects, and so much more. Many people have been with us on this journey—whether as students, faculty, staff, volunteers, 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, support our key initiatives, and join us for our slate of special programming and events that examine this current moment and look towards the future of Asian American Studies.



Stay connected with the Center by signing up at <http://bit.ly/joinaasc>.

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- 1/ Min Zhou, David Yoo, Kyeyoung Park, Karen Umemoto, Darnell Hunt at Korea-Times Chair Reception and Sa I Gu Book Launch
- 2/ Mena Dolinh, Andrae Chin, Abby Chun, Christine Lee, Wei Yin, Maya Lu at the Multimedia Textbook Office (Karen Umemoto)
- 3/ Students pose during UCLA Center for Community College Partnerships Native & Pacific Islander Summer Transfer Experience
- 4/ Multimedia Textbook All-Staff Zoom Meeting
- 5/ Student **Emily Otoshi** performing Taiko
- 6/ **Kelly Fong** and **Arlene Inuoye** at NEA Conference on Racial and Social Justice
- 7/ AASC Press Editor **Arnold Pan** and Book Designer **HyunJu Chappell** at Sa I Gu Book Launch
- 8/ Professor **Lucy M.S.P. Burns** with authors **Genevieve Clutario** and **Josen Diaz** at New Books in Filipinx Studies Event
- 9/ AASC Staff at Policy Summit