

Asian American Studies at a Crossroads:

*A Conference Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of
The Department of Asian American Studies*

**University of California at Santa Barbara
Loma Pelona Center**

March 5-6, 2015



Thursday, March 5

1:00 to 2:00 PM

Conference Registration

1:30 to 3:00

Graduate Student Panel, I.

Chair: Xiaojian Zhao, Professor of Asian American Studies and History, UCSB.

Niccole Coggins is a doctoral candidate in History at UCSB. She will discuss a portion of her doctoral dissertation, a work that concerns the interrelated histories of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Hawaiians from 1898-1959.

Fang He is a doctoral student in History at UCSB. She will present a paper on practices of foot-binding in China, and how this practice was conceived in China and in the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Jason Stohler is a doctoral candidate in History at UCSB. He is completing his dissertation on Chinese migration during the Exclusion period. His work examines how conceptions of family influenced immigration enforcement, and his presentation draws from that work.

3:00 to 3:30

Coffee Break

3:30 to 5:00

Graduate Student Panel, II.

Chair: Lalaie Ameeriar, Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies, UCSB.

Jean Paul deGuzman is a Post-Doctoral Scholar at the UC Center for New Racial Studies. He completed his dissertation in History at UCLA, and his presentation will draw from his work on suburban race relations in the San Fernando Valley after World War II.

Philip Deslippe is a doctoral candidate in Religious Studies at UCSB. His presentation is based on a chapter of his dissertation, and it concerns important South Asian religious and political figures in the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Hareem Khan is a doctoral candidate in Anthropology at UCSB. Her field work examines how Indian women in Mumbai have negotiated racialized subjectivities, influenced both by local discourses and by the marketing of skin lightening products and services.

Malaphone Phommasa is a doctoral candidate in Education at UCSB. Her dissertation has examined how Hmong, Laotian, Cambodian, and Vietnamese college students persist in academically rigorous universities.

5:00 to 6:30

Dinner Break

5:45

Melvin Oliver will deliver the Opening Keynote Address. He is the Executive Dean and the SAGE Sara Miller McCune Dean of the Social Sciences at UCSB.

6:30 to 8:00

Asian American Studies at a Crossroads. In this conversation, we consider the history of Asian American Studies as a field, first at UCSB, and then across the country and around the world.

Nolan Zane is Professor of Psychology and Asian American Studies at UC Davis, and former Chair and Professor of Asian American Studies at UCSB.

Catherine Choy is Chair and Professor of Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley.

Edward Park is Professor of Asian Pacific American Studies at Loyola Marymount University, and he is a former Chair of that program.

Friday, March 6

8:30 to 9:00

Continental Breakfast

8:45

Welcome Remarks from *Chancellor Henry Yang*.

9:00 to 10:30

Asian American History at a Crossroads.

Chair: John Park, Chair and Professor of Asian American Studies, UCSB.

Erika Lee holds the Vecoli Chair in Immigration History at the University of Minnesota. Her presentation will examine emerging methodological approaches and key substantive findings in Asian American historiography over the last two decades.

Lon Kurashige is Associate Professor of History at the University of Southern California. His recent work concerns transpacific histories within Asian American Studies, and his presentation will be about how these approaches are reshaping Japanese American historiography.

Gabi Dei Ottati is Professor of Economics at the University of Florence. Her work concerns contemporary Chinese migrations into Southern and Eastern Europe, especially Italy, as well as their economic impacts in that region.

Xiaojian Zhao's presentation is entitled "Global Chinese Migration and Ethnic Economy." This work is part of an on-going project that examines the contemporary Chinese diaspora in Asia, Europe, and the United States.

10:30 to 11:00

Coffee Break

11:00 to 12:30

Recovering a History of Asian American Freedom Movements.

Chair: Dr. Ben Zulueta, Lecturer in Asian American Studies, UCSB.

Diane Fujino is Professor of Asian American Studies and Director of the Center for Black Studies Research at UCSB. Her presentation examines the persistence of Japanese American postwar radicalism during the Cold War and into the 'long 1960s.'

Moon-Ho Jung is Walker Family Professor of History at the University of Washington. His presentation will draw from themes he has explored for his second scholarly book, *The Unruly Pacific: Race and the Politics of Empire and Revolution, 1898-1941*.

May Fu is Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies at the University of San Diego. Her presentation will draw from her current research project on Asian American radicalism and community organizing in the 1960s and 1970s.

Karen Hanna is a doctoral candidate in Feminist Studies at UCSB. Her dissertation research has examined how the exile of political activists from the Philippines in the 1960s and 1970s stimulated new forms of community organizing and of radical politics in the United States.

12:30 to 1:30

Lunch Break

1:30 to 3:00

The Displeasure Principle: The Medical, the Cultural, the Literary.

Chair: erin Khue Ninh, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies, UCSB.

Leslie Bow is Professor of Asian American Studies and English at the University of Wisconsin. Her presentation is entitled, "Racist Cute?: Kawaii, Kitsch, Caricature," and this draws from her current work about racial fantasy and the relationship between race and desire in portrayals of cultural difference.

James Lee is Professor and Chair of Asian American Studies at UC Irvine. His presentation is entitled, "A Doctor's Touch: Asian American Physician Narratives and the Haptic Oriental," and it concerns the ethical and political dimensions of race and illness.

Eleanor Ty is Professor of English and Film Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her presentation is entitled, "Asianfail: Precarity in 21st Century Asian North American Narratives."

3:00 to 3:30

Coffee Break

3:30 to 5:00

Asian and American Migrations.

Chair: Dr. Sameer Pandya, Lecturer in Asian American Studies, UCSB.

Pawan Dhingra is Professor and Chair of Sociology at Tufts University. His presentation is entitled, “Presenting the ‘Model Minority’ to Itself: Re-Conceiving the Narrative of Asian American Exceptionalism.” The presentation draws from his experiences as the curator for the Smithsonian Institution.

Lalaie Ameeriar is an Assistant Professor at UCSB. Her presentation is entitled, ‘The Gender of Precarity,’ and it examines the lived experience of gendered downward mobility resulting from global and transnational migration processes. This talk is based on ethnographic fieldwork in Toronto, on the unemployment and underemployment of professional Pakistani women.

Lisa Park is Professor of Sociology and the Director of the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Minnesota. Her presentation examines “medical deportations,” a practice through which hospital officials have facilitated the removal of immigrants deemed to be a public burden.

John Park is Chair and Professor of Asian American Studies and the Associate Director at the UC Center for New Racial Studies. He will discuss a new project with Professor Xiaojian Zhao, about “return migrants” from the United States to Asia, focusing primarily on South Korean and Chinese returnees. They discuss how these migration trends are re-defining Asian American Studies.

5:00

Ambi Harsha, Lecturer in Asian American Studies, will deliver a special greeting to our alums and current students, and **John Park** will deliver closing remarks for the conference.