

Department of Gender & Sexuality Studies Lectures

Re-routing Humanitarianism in the 21st Century: "100% Human Hair" in Trade, Art, and Ecological Sustainability



Dr. Emily Hue, UC Riverside

Wednesday, April 26th, 5 - 7 PM Humanities Gateway 1010

Emily Hue is a UC Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Riverside in the Departments of Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages and Ethnic Studies. Her book project, "Economies of Vulnerability: Humanitarian Imperialism and Performance in the Burmese Diaspora," combines ethnographic methods with visual arts and performance analysis to examine how diasporic artists respond to the pressure from governmental organizations and NGOs to report on their vulnerability to transnational regimes of surveillance and censorship. In this talk, Dr. Hue examines the phenomena of "live but not quite dead" entities as they appear in economies of humanitarian benevolence, acting as both waste and gift. What does the transnational circulation of human and human-like parts reveal about the economic, political and social inequities that cohere in modes of care in the 21st century? Drawing from debates in queer studies, medical humanitarianism, and new materialism, this talk also considers how these processes shore up unlikely intimacies, in/animacies and kinship between the U.S. and Asia.