



Asian American Studies Department

University of California, Irvine

E-Newsletter

Winter Quarter 2005

Message from the Department Chair

Greetings,

and a warm welcome to you all. I am R. Radhakrishnan, the new kid on the block who has the pleasure and honor of succeeding Professor Ketu Katrak as the Chair of the Department of Asian American Studies. I come to UCI from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where I was Professor of English and Comparative Literature for 20 years; a position I hold here at UCI as well. The Asian American Studies Department at UCI became a department in 2002, thanks to the dedication and the passion of our faculty and staff, and the vision of Professor Katrak. We are now looking to consolidate, dream, and innovate both as a unit and in active coalition with other programs and disciplines. Our purpose as a department is to encourage academic excellence, intellectual integrity, and a nuanced and multilateral understanding of the discipline and its relationship to the world at large. We hope that the Asian American major will be an introduction not just to Asian America but also to global and relational realities. As a department committed to the highest standards of interdisciplinary learning, we are interested in making knowledge connections and coalitions based on shared interests and challenges. You, the students, are our primary pleasure and responsibility, and we invite you to make this department your own through your full, free, and creative participation. Looking forward to your questions and answers, your problems and resolutions as they resonate through the university and beyond.

Cordially,

R. Radhakrishnan

Department Launches E-newsletter

The UCI Asian American Studies Department is pleased to launch our first quarterly electronic newsletter! Limited print copies are also available in our department's office. We envision our e-news publication as a twenty-first century means to inform our students, faculty, the UCI community, alumni, and other institutions and organizations of relevant news and events pertaining to our department and to "Asian America." Contributions and suggestions are welcomed.

Past Events Highlights

October 25, 2004. Author Aimee Phan came to UCI for a reading and book signing for her new book *We Should Never Meet* at the Cross-Cultural Center. The event was made possible through the sponsorships of the Asian American Studies Dept. and the Cross-Cultural Center.

January 28, 2005. The Asian American Studies Dept. and the Cross-Cultural Center hosted "Cultural Representations, Gender, and Asian America," a part of the Featured Event Series. Panelists: Cindy Cheng (USC), Stella Oh (Loyola Marymount Univ.), and Lan Duong (UCI). Moderated by Linda Vo (UCI).

February 3, 2005. Asian American Studies Dept. hosted "**Religions in Asian America**" (funded by the Humanities Center). Panelists: Jane Iwamura (USC & NYU); Duncan Williams (UCI); Shampa Mazumdar (UCI); David Yoo (Claremont McKenna College); Karen Leonard (UCI); and N. Gerald Barrier (Univ. of Missouri). Moderated by R. Radhakrishnan (UCI).

February 11-13, 2005. The Asian American Studies Dept. co-sponsored the UCI 2005 Tet Festival Booth in Garden Grove Park.

February 11, 15, & 17, 2005. Lecturer Beheroze Shroff screened her 22 min. documentary "**We're Indian and African**," a film about the Sidis—descendants of Africans in India—at the 2005 Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles.

February 25, 2005. The Asian American Studies Dept. and the Drama Dept. co-sponsored a performance and book signing by **Denise Uyehara**, one of the first performance artists to explore Asian American queer subjectivity through performance. Uyehara shared with the audience excerpts from her new book, *Maps of City & Body*, at the Nixon Theater, Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

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Upcoming Asian Am Co-sponsored Events

April 7-10, 14-17, 2005. The Asian American Studies Dept. is one of the nine UCI cosponsors of the **2005 Vietnamese International Film Festival (VIFF)**. Organized by Vietnamese American Arts & Letters Association (VAALA) and VietNameese Language & Culture (VNLC), VIFF's theme for this year, "Beyond Boundaries," aims to transcend the "boundaries" that separate people of different generations, sexuality, geography, social economics, religions, etc. The 8-day long festival will take place mainly on UCI campus. VIFF will showcase works by established & emerging filmmakers of Vietnamese heritage from all over the world. See <http://vietfilmfest.com/>

April 12, 2005, noon. Professor Augusto Espiritu (Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) will be at UCI for a talk and book signing of *Five Faces of Exile: The Nation and Filipino American Intellectuals* (forthcoming).

April 14, 2005. Professor & filmmaker Trinh Thi Minh Ha (UC Berkeley) will be at UCI to talk about her work.

April 26, 2005, noon. Author Trinh Do will come to UCI for a talk and book signing of *Saigon to San Diego: Memoir of a Boy Who Escaped from Communist Vietnam* (McFarland, 2004).

April 28, 2005, noon. Professor Mary Danico (Cal Poly Pomona) will come to UCI to talk about her work.

Honors in Asian American Studies

We are pleased to announce the implementation of Honors in Asian American Studies. Students who qualify participate in a three-part sequence designed to develop research skills, pursue fieldwork, and complete an honors thesis on a topic of their choice under the guidance of a departmental faculty member. The first part (Fall) introduces students to a range of key methodological issues in Asian American Studies. In the second part (Winter), students work closely with their Faculty Advisor to develop research and writing skills; the first draft of their thesis is to be completed at the end of the quarter. During Spring, students are expected to revise their thesis and complete it. The thesis is evaluated by the Faculty Advisor and approved by the Chair of the Department of Asian American Studies. **Prerequisites:** Students must hold a 3.3 GPA in Asian American Studies (at least five courses) and 3.0 GPA overall; & successful completion of Asian American Studies 100W (Research Methodologies/ Field Research). Applications are available at the office and are due in Spring. Contact (949) 824-4523 for more details. Fall 05 Honors Seminar will be taught by Prof. Linda Vo.

Graduate Emphasis in Asian American Studies

The Asian American Studies Department offers a graduate emphasis in Asian American Studies. Applicants to the graduate emphasis must first be admitted to one of the doctoral or master's degree programs offered in Anthropology, Criminology, Law and Society, East Asian Languages and Literatures, English and Comparative Literature, Environmental Analysis and Design, History, Political Science, Psychology and Social Behaviors, Sociology, Studio Art, Urban and Regional Planning, Visual Studies (Art History/Film Studies). Currently enrolled applicants may be at any stage of their graduate work. Interested individual should contact Professor Dorothy Fujita-Rony of Asian American Studies at (949)824-6317, dfr@uci.edu.

Asian American Studies Theme House

The Asian American Studies House in Arroyo Vista brings together undergraduates who are interested in the unity and diversity that underscore the experience of Asians in the U.S.. The House offers activities including symposiums offered by faculty and graduate students, workshops centering on academic success and career issues, and presentations and research projects focused on Asian American culture. Residents are required to enroll in minimally one (1) Asian Am course during their residency. Priority consideration will be given to students with a minimum 2.8 GPA, and are Asian Am majors or minors. Interested students can get more information and apply on-line at <http://www.housing.uci.edu/>. Deadline: Friday, March 4 at 5 pm.

Spring 2005 Courses

Complete description available at:

<http://www.humanities.uci.edu/undergrad/courses.php>

Intro to Asian American Studies III (AsianAm 60C/SocSci 78C)

Instructor: Professor Linda Vo

Perspectives on Race & Ethnicity (AsianAm 101/SocSci 177A)

Instructor: Professor John Liu

Asian American Women Playwrights: History on Stage (Asian Am 110/Eng 105)

Instructor: Professor Ketu Katrak

South Asian Literature in the Diaspora (Asian Am 110/Eng 105)

Instructor: Dr. Beheroze Shroff

Asian American Cultural Theory (Asian Am 110/CL 103)

Instructor: Professor R. Radhakrishnan

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Spring 2005 Courses (cont.)

Asian American Artists (Asian Am 112/Art Hist 163)

Instructor: Professor B. Winther-Tamaki

Asian American & Politics of Education (Asian Am 131)

Instructor: Dr. Rowena Robles

Asian American Community Public Health (Asian Am 135/Soc Sci 179)

Instructor: Dr. Tu-Uyen Nguyen

Muslim Identities in North America (Asian Am 142/Anthro 125Z)

Instructor: Professor Karen B. Leonard

Ethnic Food & Identity (Asian Am 150/Hist 190)

Instructor: Professor Yong Chen

Filipino American Women (Asian Am 164/WS 155)

Instructor: Dr. Rowena Robles

Asian American Gender Studies (Asian Am 164/WS 155)

Instructor: Dr. Setsu Shigematsu

Queer ID, Race, Representation (Asian Am 164/WS 155)

Instructor: Professor Glen Mimura

Asian American Psychology (Asian Am 174A/Psych 141)

Instructor: Dr. N. Tewari

Comparative International Migration (Asian Am 171A/Sociol 179)

Instructor: Professor John Liu

Education Abroad for Asian Am Majors and Minors



GO ABROAD! Find out how Asian American Studies majors or minors can study, do research, volunteer, intern, or work in another country. The **UC's EDUCATION ABROAD PROGRAM (EAP)** offers opportunities to study abroad at any one of 33 countries in outstanding universities. Courses range from Asian Studies, with focus on language and culture to ethnic or Diaspora Studies. With no previous language study you can study in: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Sweden, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines and the United Kingdom. DEADLINES vary, see www.eap.uci.edu/eap/discipline/bus-econ.htm

UCI's **INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (IOP)** allows you to choose from a variety of programs where you can do research, intern, volunteer, or work in a wide range of countries. For more information or application materials, come to the Center for International Education, 1100 Student Services II, meet with an International Peer Advisor and explore our resources. See www.cie.uci.edu.

Scholarship-Grant-Internship Opportunities

The merit-based **Medellas Scholarship** will award \$2,000-\$5,000 to an Asian-American undergraduate who is committed to study in the field of medicine, dentistry, or law and meets specific requirements. See <http://www.fao.uci.edu/awards.php?id=medellas>

The **Humanities Internship Program** is looking to place School of Humanities majors with excellent writing and communication skills in paid, part-time internships with local businesses for summer through the 2005-06 academic year. Expected internship sites include: Building Industry Association of Orange County, City of Irvine, Iger & Associates, and South Coast Metro Alliance/Costa Mesa Conference & Visitor Bureau. See <http://www.humanities.uci.edu/intern/>, or contact Raschel Greenberg at HIB 143, or raschel@uci.edu.

The **Inter-Disciplinary Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (ID-SURE)** provides up to a \$2,400 stipend in support of student's time and efforts conducting research related to health promotion and disease prevention under the guidance of a UCI faculty member. The program offers students the opportunity to become immersed in a research topic for a full-time eight-week period or the equivalence of 320 hours. Deadline: March 14th. See: www.urop.uci.edu/id-sure.html.

The **Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP)** provides funding for UCI undergraduates from all disciplines who are conducting summer research projects or creative activities under the guidance of UCI faculty members. The program offers students the opportunity to become immersed in a research topic for a full-time ten-week period, or the equivalence of 400 hours. Deadline: April 18th. See www.urop.uci.edu/surp.html.

The **"In Search of Roots" Program** is accepting applications from Chinese American youths between 17 and 26 years old whose families are from the Pearl River Delta area in the Guangdong Province. See www.c-c-c.org.

The **Chinese Historical Society of Southern California**, a grassroots, non-profit historical society, announces its 2005 one \$1,000 scholarship. Deadline is March 18, 2005. See www.chssc.org.

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Faculty Updates

Yong Chen was featured in the *Los Angeles Times*' "Daily Read" on Jan. 12, 2005. The article "The Morning Read: Dipping into the Melting Pot" covered his current research project on ethnic food and culture in America. See: http://www.ocregister.com/ocr/2005/01/12/sections/morning_read/article_374403.php

Dorothy Fujita-Rony is the faculty contact for the Graduate Emphasis in Asian American Studies.

Ketu H. Katrak recently stepped down as the Chair of the Asian American Studies Dept. after 8 years of dedicated service. **Selected Publications:** "Cultural Translation of Bharata Natyam into Contemporary Indian Dance: Second-Generation South Asian Americans and Cultural Politics in Diasporic Locations" in *Journal of South Asian Popular Culture*, Vol. 2, No. 2, (Oct. 2004) pp.79-102; "Literary Matters: Research Methods in Reading Ethnic Literatures" in *Handbook of Research Methods in Ethnic Studies*, ed. Timothy Fong, (Alta Mira Press, forthcoming) pp.30; and "Edward Said" in *Amerasia Journal: "Said Forum,"* Vol.31, No. 1 (forthcoming) pp.10. **Selected Presentations:** "Bodies in Motion: Bharata Natyam into Contemporary Indian Dance in Southern California" @ the Assoc. of Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Los Angeles, April 20-24, 2005.

Claire Kim is currently on Leave of Absence and will return in the 2005-06 academic year.

Karen B. Leonard's book *Muslims in the United States: the State of Research* (Russell Sage, 2003) gained her multiple speaking engagements. **Selected Presentations:** "American Muslims before and after 9/11," National Newswriters Conference, Washington D.C. (Sep. 11, 2004); "American Muslims: Race, Religion, and Nation," Pitzer College annual Sociology Retreat, Descanso Gardens, Los Angeles (Oct. 31, 2004); "Religions in Asian America" panel, University of California, Irvine (Feb. 3, 2005); "Finding Places in the Nation: Immigrant and Indigenous Muslims in America" at the USC conference on Religion and Social Justice for Immigrants (Feb. 4-5, 2005); and "Locating Home in a Changing World: India's Hyderabadis Abroad" at the Stanford Humanities Center workshop on Interrogating Modernity & Postcoloniality (Mar. 8, 2005). **Selected Publications:** *Locating Home in a Changing World: India's Hyderabadis Abroad* (forthcoming).

John Liu is the department's new Undergraduate Advisor and he will be available to address students' inquiries regarding majoring and minoring in Asian Am, studying abroad programs, and Asian Am courses.

Glen Mimura received his book contract for *Ghostlife of Third Cinema: Asian American Media Arts and the Politics of Representation* from the Univ. of Minnesota Press. He also writes "A Dying West? Reimagining the Frontier in Frank Matsura's Photography, 1903-1913" in *Cultural Studies/Critical Methodology* (forthcoming).

R. Radhakrishnan is the new Chair of the Department of Asian American Studies. **Selected Publications:** "A tribute to Edward Said" in *Journal of Contemporary Thought*, Fall 2004; "Translatability in an Uneven World," in *Rethinking Modernity*, eds. Prafulla Kar, et al (Pencraft International, New Delhi, 2005). **Selected Presentations:** "Democracy and the future of citizen sovereignty," at the University of Morocco (March 2005); "Revisionism and the Subject of History," and "Edward Said and the Politics of Secular Humanism," at a number of universities in South Africa (March 2005); "Human Nature and the Ontology of Capital" at the Sociology Conference on World Systems Theory, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (April 2005).

Mary Ann Takemoto is this academic year's advising faculty for the Asian American Theme House.

Linda T. Vo's book *Mobilizing an Asian American Community* was published in 2004 (Temple Univ. Press). **Selected Publications:** *Labor Versus Empire: Race, Gender, and Migration*, co-edited with Gilbert Gonzalez, Raul Fernandez, Vivian Price, & David Smith, (Routledge Press, 2004); *Asian American Women: The "Frontiers" Reader* co-edited with Marian Sciacchitano, et. al. (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 2004); and a special issue "Mapping Comparative Studies of Racialization in the U.S." with Rodolfo Torres for *Ethnicities Journal*, 2004. She wrote "Documenting the Southeast Asian American Experience" *Oakland Museum of California* magazine, Fall 2004 and co-authored with Mary Danico "'No Lattes Here': Asian American Youth and the Cyber Café Obsession," in *Asian American Youth: Culture, Identity, and Ethnicity*, ed. by J. Lee & M. Zhou (Routledge Press, 2004) and "The Formation of Post-Suburban Communities: Little Saigon and Koreatown, Orange County," *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 2004.

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