

to form a more perfect union?

Winter 2022

#UCIConversationsThatMatter
UCI Black Thriving Initiative

For the 2021-2022 academic year, the UCI Humanities Center welcomes you to join us in Conversations that Matter and explore what it means to form a more perfect union.

Uni Hills Book Club Discussion of Viet Thanh Nguyen's "The Refugees"

JAN 30 6^{PM} Register: <https://bit.ly/CSDBOOK>

Facilitators: Judy Tzu-Chun Wu (Asian American Studies, Humanities Center Director), Audrey Fong (English Alumna)

This reading group meeting is connected to a special event on February 3rd with Viet Thanh Nguyen

AAPI Womxn in Leadership presents: a Book Discussion of "The Refugees"

FEB 1 12^{PM} Register: <https://bit.ly/AAPIWOMXN>

Please come prepared to share a chapter that resonated with you or a lesson gained from the book.

Digital Access to *The Refugees* is provided by the UCI Libraries. A current UCInetID is required. Access it [HERE](#)

Pulitzer-Prize winning author Viet Thanh Nguyen, "Refugees, Language, and the Meaning of 'America'"

FEB 3 5^{PM}

Register: <https://bit.ly/UCINGUYEN>

This event supports our year-long theme, "to form a more perfect union?" and contributes to campus-wide discussions of wisdom in the world. How does literature help us reimagine community in a changing world? How is literature a conduit of wisdom that attunes us to ancestors, history, the environment, other people, and ourselves?

Introduced by: Thuy Vo Dang (UCI Libraries Southeast Asian Archive)

For more information about Nguyen, visit the UCI Libraries' Author Page [HERE](#).

Please also see a special invitation to UCIDIY, a project to create works in response to the above authors, hosted by Division of Undergraduate Education [HERE](#).

Literally Displaced: Writing the Southeast Asian Diaspora

LAUNCHES FEB 3 Access: <https://bit.ly/LITDISP>

This virtual exhibit centers on the voices, memories, experiences, and desires of writers from the Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, and Vietnamese diaspora. It asks how literature illuminates the conditions of displacement for Southeast Asian Americans and what new understanding emerges when we write from the position of the displaced.

Curated by: Thuy Vo Dang (UCI Libraries Southeast Asian Archive), Mary Nguyen (OC&SEAA Student Assistant), and Louis Heine and Annie Nguyen (Humanities Out There Undergraduate Interns)

Story in the Shadow of the Refugee Regime: A Talk by Mai-Linh Hong

FEB 8 12^{PM}

Register: <https://bit.ly/UCIHONG>

This talk explores story as a strategic resource, a way that refugees organize information and affect while living under duress. When story is viewed through this lens, Southeast Asian refugee literature emerges as a social-political terrain on which refugees engage with the terms of their survival, challenging popular humanitarian narratives.

The exhibit "Literally Displaced" is a partnership between the UCI Libraries, the Humanities Center, and Illuminations: the Chancellor's Art & Culture Initiative.

Viet Thanh Nguyen event Co-sponsored by Illuminations, the Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture and Inclusion, the Office of Inclusive Excellence, UCI Vietnamese American Alumni Chapter, Vietnamese American Arts & Letters Association, and UCI's Southeast Asian Archive.



UCI Humanities Center