

# ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Indiana University Bloomington

2017-18 NEWSLETTER



**ASIAN AMERICAN  
STUDIES PROGRAM**

INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Bloomington

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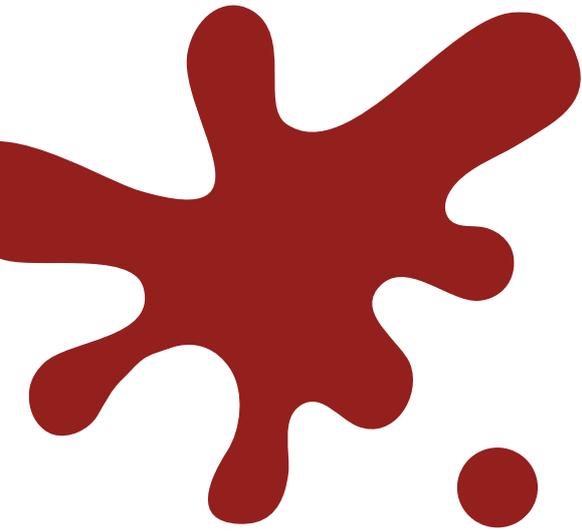
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# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Ellen Wu

Associate Professor, History | Director, Asian American Studies Program



How do we do this? More specifically: Asian American Studies @ IUB is a **multidisciplinary field of study** that grapples with **pressing questions of identity, belonging, and power** from the perspectives of Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Asian/Pacific diasporic histories, communities, and cultures. Since its emergence out of the 1960s-1970s US social movements, **Asian American Studies has aimed to create knowledge that is relevant and useful for solving big problems of inequity and injustice**. Scholars, practitioners, and students approach these puzzles from a variety of disciplinary perspectives spanning the arts, humanities, and social and behavioral sciences. **Indiana University Bloomington's Asian American Studies program (AAST), established in 2007, maintains this vision** through our research, creative activity, teaching, and programming with the goal of generating novel possibilities for the globalizing world of the 21st century.

Dear Friends of IUB Asian American Studies,

Greetings from Ballantine Hall! The Asian American Studies newsletter has officially become one of our annual traditions, and we are excited to present this new issue to you.

Reflecting back, I am struck that 2017-2018 year was one characterized by **BUILDING**: building our **vision**, our **momentum**, and our **community**.

**BUILDING VISION**: The young people who launched the field of Asian American Studies in 1968 cherished a set of values that they believed should be nurtured by their education. For them, knowledge needed to be pertinent, beneficial, and accessible to their communities. They believed that education should serve as a fundamental building block of social justice.

**IUB's Asian American Studies Program (AAST) seeks to stay true to this original motivation** through **innovative and rigorous research, teaching, and service**.



Over the course of the 2017-2018 academic year, this vision guided our **pedagogy**. **Lisa Kwong** (MFA, IUB, 2014) returned to teach our foundational courses AAST A101 (Introduction to Asian American Studies) and AAST A201 (Asian Diaspora Experience). Both courses **took a broad-minded approach to Asian American Studies** by incorporating **interdisciplinary, intersectional, and comparative inquiry**.



## AAST-A101: INTRO TO ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

For instance—A101 students explored **questions of identity and culture through different kinds of genres and texts**—from Celeste Ng’s bestselling novel *Everything I Never Told You* to the Rodgers and Hammerstein 1950s musical *Flower Drum Song* to Ali Wong’s *Baby Cobra* and Hasan Minhaj: *Homecoming King* Netflix comedy specials to sociology and history studies.

A201 students learned about **Asian migrations and communities in different parts of the world**: Latin America and the Caribbean, Canada, the UK, and even the Midwest (exotic Michigan). These examples, in turn, open up ways to **ask new questions about being and belonging in relation to nationhood, race, gender, sexuality, and other markers of identity**.

In Spring 2018, I introduced a new upper-division course, “The United States and China: Crises and Opportunities” (A300), joint with History A385. Students took a deep-dive into Americans’ long-running fixation with China and its people, culture, and stuff. Drawing from a mix of sources, we spotlighted key American ideas about China and the Chinese, past and present. It was a whirlwind challenge and I learned a lot teaching it. As our program grows, we will hopefully continue to add more upper-division courses on a variety of topics.

**All of our AAST courses draw from majors across the college and campus** (Kelley, SPEA, Jacobs, etc.); we also attract a fair number of international students. This mix makes for rich classroom discussions which will hopefully remain a strength of our course offerings.

The AAST vision also scaffolded our 2017-2018 programming. We launched the fall semester with one of most ambitious events to date: the “Politics, Promises, and Possibilities” symposium, 2.0. (The first one took place in 2015 to mark the 50th anniversary of the landmark 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act.) Together with the Latino Studies and Native American/Indigenous Studies programs, Asian American Studies organized this **day-long symposium on “Immigrant and Indigenous Intersections”** as part of the College of Arts and Sciences “Diversity, Difference, Otherness” 2017 Themester.

**DIVERSITY  
DIFFERENCE  
OTHERNESS**

thē·mes·ter FALL 2017  
THE COLLEGE OF ARTS + SCIENCES

Our theme took inspiration in part from incisive address jazz musician and thinker Vijay Iyer, who delivered the following remarks in 2014 to the Yale Asian Alumni Association. Iyer, who is of South Asian ancestry, had this to say to his audience—a room full of immigrants and children of immigrants:

“I am more and more mindful of what the British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare has called **“complicity with excess”** .... To succeed in America is, somehow, **to be complicit with the idea of America**—which means that at some level you’ve made peace with its rather ugly past. ...What I humbly ask of you, and of myself, is that we constantly interrogate our own complicity with excess, that we always remain vigilant to notions of community that might, perhaps against our best intentions, sometimes, embrace a system of domination at the expense of others. **Can we radically submit ourselves to the pursuit of equality and justice for all?** If we choose to call ourselves Asian American, can we not also choose to be that kind of American that refuses to accept what America has been, and instead help build a better America even for others, who might not immediately seem to “belong” to us?

Since the 2016 presidential election, we've seen notable instances of ways to answer this call in the service of "building a better America even for others, who might not immediately seem to 'belong' to us."

A striking example is the mantra "**No Ban on Stolen Land**" (or its variation "**No Ban No Wall on Stolen Land**") that has echoed around the United States since President Trump ordered the "Muslim Ban" in January 2017. "No Ban No Wall on Stolen Land" voices a double-critique of **two enduring problems** wrought by the state and American society. One is the **discriminatory and dehumanizing treatment of immigrants**, especially in terms of race and national origin. The other enduring problem is the **systematic theft of indigenous lands, the dismantling of indigenous sovereignty, and the devaluation of indigenous lives**.

Immigrant politics and indigenous politics continue to be central, enduring problems in American life. But these two problems are often considered **separately**; the **inspiration of the symposium was therefore** to bring them into the same conversation and to **highlight their commonalities and intersections**. We hoped to spark ideas for **promises and possibilities—intellectual and otherwise**—for visions of a world that respects diversity and difference and prioritizes equity, justice, and dignity for all.

For the symposium, AAST had the fortuitous opportunity to invite **Dr. Maile Arvin** (Assistant Professor, History and Gender Studies, University of Utah), to speak.



Dr Maile Arvin,  
Assistant Professor,  
History and Gender Studies,  
University of Utah

She is a Native Hawaiian feminist scholar who writes about Native feminist theories, settler colonialism, decolonization, and race, gender and science in Hawai'i and the broader Pacific. Dr. Arvin's presentation "**Indigenous and Immigrant Feminist World Building in Hawai'i**" was absolutely stunning—for many of us it was a **light-bulb moment that illuminated the richness of intersectional thinking** (that is, approaches to analysis that consider different types of identity together—such as gender, race, and colonial status).

Dr. Arvin delighted us a second time with a fascinating workshop on "**Mana Wāhine: Pacific Islander Women Leading Contemporary Efforts to Protect Pacific Lands and Waters**" at the Asian Culture Center. The tutorial introduced us to contemporary issues in the Pacific, especially militarism and efforts to protect land in Hawai'i and elsewhere, with an emphasis on the importance of Pacific Islander women leaders. She packed the house—even drawing a number of audience members from Indianapolis' Hawai'i community.

The "Immigrant and Indigenous Intersections" symposium exemplifies **AAST's efforts to stretch our vision in multiple directions**.

In November, **Dr. Kevin Wang** (Associate Professor, Communication, Butler University) presented on "Thinking Through New Media," an overview of Asian Americans and social media.



Dr Kevin Wang,  
Associate Professor,  
Communication, Butler University

In March, AAST held our annual **Asian American Studies Research Symposium**. Thanks to planning by our new Asian American Studies Graduate Advisory Board, this year's symposium commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the 1968 student strikes with the theme: "The Third World Liberation Front Movement at 50: Scholar Activism in the 21st Century." The event featured keynote speaker **Dr. Jan Padios** (Assistant Professor, American Studies, University of Maryland, College Park). Dr. Padios gave a marvelous talk on "Lists, Lines, and Fronts: Scholar Activism and the Shaping of Asian American Studies" that encouraged us to ask difficult questions and refuse easy answers; identify and focus on the stakes; conduct critical analyses of labor and its politics; and practice self-acceptance and openness to unfolding inquiries. We were honored to hear her insights on how to make our research and teaching relevant and useful. As a bonus, the AAST was the very first stop on the launch tour for Dr. Padios's new book "**A Nation on the Line: Call Centers as Postcolonial Predicaments in the Philippines**" (Duke, 2018).

After the symposium, she stopped by the Asian Culture Center to lead an informal chat about her fascinating study on the massive Philippine call center industry in the context of globalization, race, gender, transnationalism, and post-colonialism.



Dr. Jan Padios,  
Assistant  
Professor,  
American  
Studies,  
University of  
Maryland,  
College Park

The AAST Research Symposium also previewed **groundbreaking research from our faculty and graduate student panelists**. This year's presentations included: Dr. Karen Inouye (American Studies), "Wartime Incarceration of Nikkei on Native and Indigenous Lands"; Dr. Joel Wong (Counseling Psychology), "Asian American Suicide-Related Outcomes: The Complexities of Death"; Ruth Almy (PhD Candidate, History), "Canadian Roots of the Ghadar Mutiny of 1915"; and Samuel Kye, (PhD Candidate, Sociology) "The Persistence of White-Flight in Middle-Class Suburbia."



Left to right: Dr. Joel Wong, Dr. Karen Inouye, Ruth Almy, Samuel Kye

In April 2018, AAST, ACC, and the IU Cinema jointly curated the **MOVEMENT: ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICA annual film series** as part of IUB's annual Asian American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration. This year, the selections included: **MELE MURALS** (2016, dir. Tadashi Nakamura), a documentary about the transformative power of modern graffiti art and ancient Hawaiian culture for a new generation of Native Hawaiians; **MOTHERLAND** (2017, dir. Ramona S. Diaz), an intimate look into the heart of a busy maternity hospital in one of the world's poorest and most populous countries—the Philippines; and **GOOK** (2017, dir. Justin Chon), the fictional story of two Korean American brothers and their unlikely friendship with a young African American girl, set in 1992 Los Angeles. This year's series also joint-listed the **India Remixed** series spotlighting the oeuvre of globally-renown filmmaker **Mira Nair**. MOVEMENT remains one of the highlights of AAST programming each year, bringing the fresh

perspectives of Asian American and Pacific Islander directors, screenwriters, actors, and subjects to Bloomington through the big screen.



We wrapped up the year in late April with our **AAST Recognition Reception**. This is one of my very favorite events—a celebration of the achievements and contributions of our students, staff, and faculty affiliates. This year we enjoyed poetry by Lisa Kwong, reflections from Yi Li (AAST undergraduate minor, and winner of this year's AAST undergraduate essay competition), Bix Gabriel, and Lei Wang (Mandarin counseling program); a short film by Haley Semian; a short story by Anna Cabe (MFA candidate, creative writing), and refreshments and cake and community fellowship.

Lastly, AAST also **cosponsored** several other **notable visitors and events on campus**: Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Viet Thanh Nguyen; prison activist and community youth educator, Eddy Zheng, the subject of the documentary film "Breathin: The Eddy Zheng Story"; electronic music artist and activist Kiran Gandhi, aka Madame Gandhi, as part of the Spring 2018 IU Arts and Humanities Council "India Remixed" Festival; historian, strategist, and creator of #FergusonSyllabus Dr. Marcia Chatelain, the keynote speaker for the Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society's Graduate Research Symposium; DestiAsian Chicago: Learning on the Road, an Asian community-themed service learning trip to Chicago coordinated by the Asian Culture Center; and "Reaching New Heights," the fourth annual Indiana Asian American Conference, hosted by the IUB Asian American Association.

**BUILDING MOMENTUM:** It's been ten years since AAST first opened its doors at IUB, and our forward momentum. In 2017-2018, we welcomed a **new faculty affiliate: Dr. Hyeyoung Kwon** (Ph.D., USC, Sociology), Assistant Professor of Sociology. Dr. Kwon first came to IUB as a

Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society (CRRES) Postdoctoral Fellow. Her areas of expertise are race, immigration, childhood, and family. Currently, she is researching the lives of Mexican-and Korean-American "language brokers"—children of immigrant parents who translate and advocate for their families—a most timely and urgent topic. Notably, Dr. Kwon received a Masters of Arts in Asian American Studies from UCLA. We are delighted to have her join us!

On the institutional level, the Asian American Studies Program is joining forces with the Latino Studies and Native American/Indigenous Studies programs to form the **Program on Race, Migration, and Indigeneity (RMI)**. An initiative of the College of Arts and Sciences, RMI updates Ethnic Studies for the 21st century—embracing a multi-disciplinary, intersectional approach to the complex problems of race, human movement across borders, and power relationships. The first major event hosted by RMI was the Themester symposium "Immigrant and Indigenous Intersections." We also jointly hosted a fall open house in December. Finally, I have wonderful news to report—**Dr. Cynthia Wu**, who comes to IUB from State University of New York in Buffalo, will hold a split appointment in Asian American Studies/RMI and Gender Studies and also serve as director of RMI starting Fall 2018.

Congratulations to faculty affiliate **Dr. Karen Inouye**, who is now **tenured and promoted** to Associate Professor of American Studies! Dr. Inouye will also take the helm of the American Studies department as chair.

Step by step, the IUB Asian American Studies continues to build momentum and gain visibility, both on campus and nationwide. Expect lots more exciting things to come!

**BUILDING COMMUNITY:** Here I want to acknowledge perhaps our most important development of 2017-2018: the launching of the Asian American Studies Graduate Advisory Board. This new entity **brings together graduate students from all across campus working on Asian American Studies-relevant research and creative activity** to build community. Our new advisory board shepherded three programs this year: an undergraduate student training for the Asian Culture Centers' Retracing Our Roots conference in September, facilitated by Giselle Cunanan (American Studies) and Stephanie Nguyen (Higher Education); an October meet-n-greet for students and faculty affiliates; and the

AAST Research Symposium in April. It is an invigorating initiative with much promise for the AAST community at IUB.

The founding members of the AAST Graduate Advisory Board: Giselle Cunanan (American Studies); Mihee Kim-Kort (Religious Studies); Jordan Lynton (Anthropology); Stephanie Thanh Xuan Nguyen (Higher Education, School of Education); Shelley Rao (Sociology); Anna Sera (Sociology and Education Policy Studies, School of Education); Mai Thai (Sociology); Lei Wang (Counseling Psychology, School of Education). If you're an IUB graduate student interested in Asian American Studies and want to get involved, please get in touch!

**GRATITUDE:** Shout out to all our programming partners and sponsors for 2017-2018: Arts and Humanities Council, the Asian Culture Center, Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society, College Arts and Humanities Institute, College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office, College of Arts and Sciences Themester, IU Cinema, Gender Studies, Latino Studies, Native American and Indigenous Studies, Program on Race, Migration, and Indigeneity.

Asian American Studies also received its first substantial gift to our program's IU Foundation Account; a big thank you to Winnie Lee of Bellevue, Washington, for her generous contribution! Mrs. Lee's donation supported this year's AAST Research Symposium.

Finally—and vitally—the Asian American Studies Program hums along, powered by the labor of our amazing support staff: Carol Glaze (fiscal officer); Paula Cotner (administrator); Jordan Lynton (graduate assistant, Fall 2017); Shelley Rao (graduate assistant, Spring 2018); Stacy Weida and Kristen Murphy (academic advisors). Big thanks to our fantastic team!

Looking forward to another year of **innovative and rigorous research, teaching, and service in 2018-2019!**

Sincerely yours,

**Dr. Ellen Wu**  
Associate Professor, History  
Director, Asian American Studies Program  
Indiana University, Bloomington

# Bilingual Therapy: When Language Meets Social Justice

By Lei Wang

Language is considered to be the medium for individuals to express their thoughts, emotions, and construct identity, values, and beliefs through language. Due to the nature of mental health services, the effectiveness of counseling relies heavily on the accuracy of using proper language, the quality of communication, and the ability to process personal thinking and feeling during sessions. Moreover, researchers have found that individuals may have trouble recalling emotional language in a non-dominant language because emotional content is coded more deeply in a dominant language. In other words, because the expression of emotions is so deeply embedded within specific cultural frameworks and languages, there may be some differences in terms of how individuals choose to express themselves (e.g., being more emotional when using Spanish versus Mandarin), which may lead to different personalities when using different languages.

For bilingual clients, processing culturally relevant information in their native language increases the level of self-understanding and improve self-awareness. Therefore, in order for counseling to be effective, it has been recommended that the therapist and client match in terms of fluency in languages and if that is not possible, therapy should be conducted through a trained interpreter.

The Institute of International Education's 2017 Open Doors Report recognized Indiana University as the 19th top US higher education institution to host international students. In Fall 2017, more than 50% of international students on Bloomington's campus came from countries and regions that speak Mandarin Chinese as one of their native languages. This percentage exceeds the national trend of 35%. (Out of 6,313 international students, 3,181 came from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Singapore).

Upon recognizing the need to serve in Mandarin Chinese and the incorporation and consideration of social justice in our clinical work, Drs. Ellen Vaughan and Lynn Gilman supported the Mandarin Mental Wellness Counseling Group proposed by two doctoral students back in Spring 2015. With the help of campus partners (i.e., IUB Office of International Services and Asian Culture Center), we were able to engage in successful targeted marketing to Mandarin speakers. The eight-week Mandarin Mental Wellness Counseling Group became the first Mandarin therapy group on campus, which also attracted students and scholars to seek individual counseling in Mandarin Chinese. All of the services have been provided through Counseling Psychology department clinic, Center for Human Growth, which is located on the ground floor of the



School of Education building.

### Individual Counseling

Through the end of 2017, the Center for Human Growth served a total of 121 Mandarin clients, both students well as community members: 21 intake, 117 individual counseling, two relationship counseling, and 48 group counseling sessions.

Our clients presented concerns ranging from adjustment (e.g., academically, interpersonally, and homesickness), managing symptoms of depression and anxiety, and career-related issues. They had the opportunity to choose whether they would be more comfortable with completing the Outcome Questionnaire, a symptoms checklist, in English or Chinese.

### Mandarin/English Bilingual Therapists

The Center for Human Growth continues as a training site for master's and doctoral students in the program. To date, there has been eight Mandarin-speaking therapists who have served at the clinic. The therapists are doctoral students with roots in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong who are fluent in both English and Mandarin.

### Looking Forward

Since its establishment in Spring 2015, Mandarin counseling has become a sustainable service provided by the Center for Human Growth.

Through this process, therapists and clinical supervisors took on the challenge of maintaining cultural humility in order to grow in their cross-cultural competency. I worked on a Mandarin Counseling Handbook in the hopes that it will serve as a tool for our Mandarin/English bilingual therapists to provide standard of care for our clients.

Currently, I am working on a manuscript that details the efforts and administrative procedures of establishing Mandarin services to help provide guidelines for other programs across the nation that wish to start similar services.

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Lei Wang is a 5th year doctoral candidate in Counseling Psychology. Her research and clinical interests involve English/Mandarin bilingual counseling and Asian and Asian American mental health. She was recognized with the Best Practicum Student Award in her first year for founding the Mandarin counseling services at the department clinic, Center for Human Growth. She is now at the office of Counseling and Consultation Service at The Ohio State University, serving as a psychology intern.

# REPORT FROM THE FIELD: CHINESE DIASPORA IN JAMAICA

By Jordan Lynton

Greetings from Jamaica! My name is Jordan and I am a doctoral candidate in Anthropology. I am currently in Kingston, Jamaica conducting a year of ethnographic fieldwork on Chinese communities. My dissertation research examines the ways in which Chinese Jamaicans and new Chinese migrants navigate community membership in light of multiple (and often conflicting) discourses on race, understandings of marginality, ethnic identifications, and geo-political affiliations.



Many people do not know that Jamaica has a longstanding Chinese population. The first Chinese laborers to Jamaica immigrated in the 19th century as indentured laborers from southern China. After indenture, some laborers stayed opening small wholesale stores around the island. Once their shops were profitable, these (mostly male) Chinese business owners encouraged family members to come open businesses in Jamaica as well. This in turn started a strong trend of chain migration within Jamaica. While the “Chinese wholesale shop” is a fixture in most Caribbean and Latin American

countries, Jamaica’s Chinese population (in part due to circular migration) was overwhelming Hakka—a Chinese ethnic minority group found mainly in Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Taiwan—as well as from the areas around the city of Shenzhen. This homogeneity allowed the Chinese community in Jamaica to develop quickly. Chinese cultural organizations further facilitated this growth. In present day, many of Jamaica’s large businesses and franchises are owned by Chinese Jamaican families.



Over the years Chinese exclusion laws in Jamaica, anti-Chinese violence, and political tumult during the 1970’s tapered Chinese migration into Jamaica. This, in turn, facilitated the mass migration of Chinese Jamaicans (and much of Jamaica’s upper middle class) to Canada and the US (where many still reside).



Currently Chinese sponsored development projects have facilitated a mass migration of Han Chinese from northern China into Jamaica. My research aims to better understand the ways in which these new migrants and the Chinese Jamaicans differentials define community, utilize cultural resources and institutions, and understand their Chinese



identity. I hope that my research helps us better understand the social impacts of development within the global south, as well as complicates our understanding of race within the Caribbean. To this end, I conduct interviews and participant observations in many places including Chinese owned businesses, cultural associations, churches, and even construction sites. I have even been able to conduct interviews with my own family members. Being on the ground and conducting fieldwork allows me to better understand the diversity of needs and perspectives within the Chinese community in Jamaica.



Jordan Lynton is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology at Indiana University, Bloomington. Her research examines issues of race, national identity, development, and diaspora within Chinese communities in Jamaica.

## Indians in Canada

By Ruth Almy

The study explores why the Canadian case against Indians had a particular meaning in the British imperial context, and looks at the ways in which British authorities blamed Indian sedition and rebellion during World War 1 on Indian movement and migration, particularly to North America. While Canada enacted similar restrictions against Asian immigration in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the United States, the Canadian case with regard to Indian migrants was more complicated. Due to the shared imperial connections of Canadians and Indian “subjects” of the British Empire, Indians seeking to find employment and residence in Canada had a legal space to argue for their right to enter Canada under British imperial law. For that reason, the Canadian “Continuous Journey Act” of 1908 did not bar Indians explicitly, but rather restricted anyone from migrating to Canada who did not arrive via a “continuous journey” from their “country of origin.”

As this was not physically possible given the capacity of steamship travel across the Pacific when the law was passed, it was widely understood as a law which targeted people from South Asia. Although the Canadian court system eventually upheld the law and the British imperial government did nothing to speak on the migrants’ behalf, Indians attempted to use British law to challenge Canadian restriction repeatedly between 1908 and 1914. The most famous case was the Komagata Maru incident of 1914, in which over three hundred migrants were detained in Vancouver harbor for over two months before the Canadian immigration authorities forced the ship to return to India.

This encounter between Indian and Canadian understandings of British imperial membership and British law would have long-lasting consequences for the empire as a whole. Both Canadians and Indians would, through this encounter, move further away from membership in the imperial system. Canadians, in policing their national make-up along racial lines at the border, increasingly separated their emerging nation from the supposed universality of empire. Likewise, growing Indian nationalist groups could point to the discrimination in Canada’s immigration law as highly visible evidence of the inequality inherent in the imperial system against which they struggled.

Interestingly, the North American context of this clash of imperial legal understandings had special significance during World War I. With anti-imperial Indian groups like the Ghadar Party active in San Francisco starting in 1913, British authorities, in an effort to blame Indian dissatisfaction with imperial rule on some outside influence rather than on imperial policy and control, increasingly blamed Indian migrant populations outside the empire for sedition and rebellion during the war.



The failed 1915 mutiny in Lahore was decried not only as a plot of Ghadar conspiracy theorists from the United States (which was largely true) but also as a plot concocted by Germany. The official rulings and trials on sedition in India during the war relied on blaming an outside influence, Germany, for anti-imperial sentiment, rather than grappling with the fact that restrictions on migration and movement of Indian subjects within the empire, to spaces like Canada, were increasingly exposing the fundamental racial hierarchies and inequalities of imperial rule.

Ruth hopes to show through her work the unique British imperial context of immigration restriction against Indians into Canada in the early twentieth century. Her dissertation also engages with how that restriction fits into the wider history of Asian immigration to North

America, as well as the history of the British Empire. This is especially valuable to explore now, as conversations around immigration quotas and restrictions based on race and national origin are emerging again in both the United States and Canada.

Comparing the specifics of both country's histories with immigration restriction in North America will be valuable as issues of migration rights and the policing of borders evolve in the twenty-first century.



Ruth Almy, PhD candidate in the department of history, defended her dissertation in late May. Her work explores the creation of immigration restriction in Canada against Indians from 1908-1923.

# MADAME GANDHI: THE FUTURE IS FEMALE



Kiran Gandhi, known by her stage name Madame Gandhi, is an electronic music artist and activist based in Los Angeles. Having gained recognition as the former drummer for M.I.A. and Kehlani and as the iconic free-bleeding runner at the 2015 London Marathon, Madame Gandhi now writes music that elevates and celebrates the female voice. Madame Gandhi visited IUB in April 2018 as part of the India Remixed Global Arts and Humanities Festival. We caught up with her to ask about her intersectional, activist approach to her art.

## Who are you?

My name is Kiran and I perform as Madame Gandhi. I am a musician whose mission is to elevate and celebrate the female voice.

## What are you?

I am a lover, a thinker, a dancer, a free-spirit, a drummer, a producer, a singer, a builder, an athlete, a runner, a boxer, a family-member, a community-member, a surfer, a biker, a yogi, a peaceful pisces!

## Where do you consider home?

Anywhere I can run, play music, hug a friend, have a coffee and drink a green smoothie!

## Who are your people?

My mom, my bestie lara, my day to day mgr noor, my brother and sister, my partner Michelle, my community in downtown LA

## What are your passions?

Drumming, speaking about gender equality, discovering new places, performing for and with other womxn, creating healthy meals, running, boxing, cycling, doing yoga, crossfit, producing music and singing

## If there was a movie made about you, what would be on the soundtrack?

"Feeling Good" by Nina Simone and "I Do" by SZA and Cardi B and "The Way" by Kehlani and "No Agreement Part 2" by Fela Kuti and "Never Give Up on the Good Times" by The Spice Girls

## What would you bring to a potluck?

A big delicious salad with Arugula and things from nature!

## "The Future is Female" is such a striking mantra—a provocation. Can you say more about its creation, its intention, its ambition?

Yes, I wanted to make a trap anthem that was uplifting instead of oppressive! I want to be able to dance to the sound of my own joyfulness, not turn up to the sound of my own oppression!

## Any advice for young Asian American women or gender-non-conforming people who are thinking about pursuing creative work as a career?

Yes, work hard to win your parents over! In the end, they want us to be "successful", and joyfulness is the highest form of success!

# It All Began with a Minor in Asian American Studies...

Yi Li, Mental Health Counseling | Asian American Studies Minor

Asian American Studies was the first minor program that I declared during undergraduate years at IU. It was such a honor to be one of minors. It is a small program, but with excellent faculty members from different departments, which gives students the opportunity to explore Asian American population in the area they are familiar with. For example, I was a Psychology major with an interest in counseling, when I was in the program, I spent more time drawing connections between psychology and Asian American population.

Before I went into research in Asian American population, courses I took with Professor Lisa Kwong really helped me build foundation. Through courses, I became more and more clear what kind of issues and which specific group that I wanted to look into. The research project I did with Dr Joel Wong from Department of Counseling Psychology focused on Asian American suicide related issues. With my understanding of Asian American population and literature research, I found that factors such as gender and age groups are under-researched. The finding was consistent with most mental health research among Asian Americans that Asian Americans had negative attitudes towards mental health services.

Another research project I did with Professor Ellen Wu focused on undocumented Asian immigrants, including the topics on DACA. From the research, I learned a lot that I did not know before. I started reading more on the history, trying to uncover what has got immigration system in the United States to what it is now. I also read a lot of news articles for the project, including the interviews

of Dreamers. Personally I did not understand the history of American immigration. For me, undocumented status carries more negative aspects than positive because it is against the law. However, as I read more, my perspective on the topic has shifted dramatically. By analyzing closely to each story of undocumented immigrants, as well as the history, I can take a more complex view when thinking about Asian American population.

Now I am in the Master program in mental health counseling, I will research further on Asian American mental health and other related topics. Because of nature of the population, Asian Americas did not draw much attention in research. I see research in AAST as the big picture, and I am on my way collecting all the factors together to complete it.

## Indiana University Visiting Scholar, Dr. Kevin Wang, Researches Asian Americans and Online Political Participation

Nora Zeng, International Studies | Chinese Studies

*“Ask your friends, how do you think what you study plays out differently for Asian Americans?”*

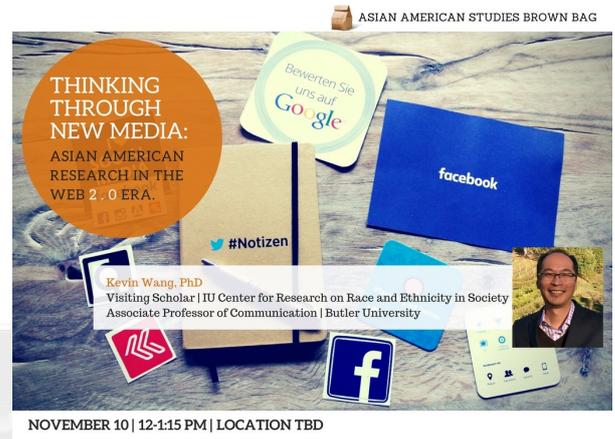
What about politics? Where and how does “Asian American” politics take shape? These questions are at the center of Dr. Kevin Wang’s research.

Dr. Kevin Wang, associate professor at Butler University’s College of Communication and

visiting scholar at Indiana University's Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity (Fall 2017), explores the impact of digital communication technologies on government and policymaking, political communication and campaign practices, and political participation and engagement. As he puts it, *"Social, mobile, and other emerging media have transformed personal and professional lives around the world. For scholars and students, the rapid diffusion of these technologies represent new opportunities and challenges."*

Recently, Dr. Wang's focus has taken a turn to the intersections of media research and Asian American studies.

In 2016, Dr. Wang launched a national study that examined how Asian Americans use the internet to be politically active in the United States and why some Asian Americans are more likely to be politically active. The study analyzes relationships between individuals' levels of **acculturation** (familiarity with mainstream culture), levels of **inculturation** (maintaining traditional culture), online consumption patterns, and online political participation. The study measured levels of acculturation and inculturation using dimensions developed in psychology, such as language, knowledge, pride, heritage culture, etc.



This past semester, Dr. Wang and the AASP hosted a brown-bag talk titled, "Thinking Through New Media: Asian American Research in the Web 2.0 Era." Dr. Wang overviewed his research and discussed general implications of his study and avenues for future research.

**His major finding: individuals with higher levels of inculturation are more likely to participate in politics.** Those that expressed being more proud to be \_\_\_-American were more likely to engage in politics in both the USA and abroad; they were more likely to keep up with current events, contact their local government, read the news, and join discussions on politics.

For future research, Dr. Wang mentioned studying more specifically different regions within the United States and different ethnic groups.

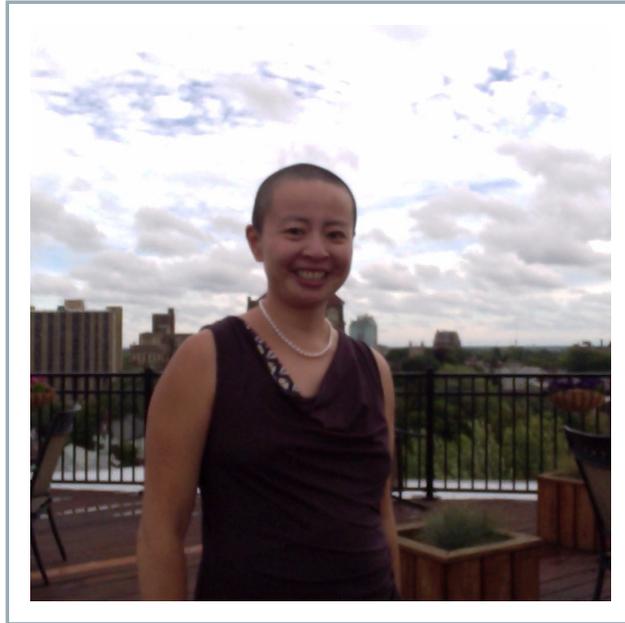
To read Dr. Wang's published works visit <https://works.bepress.com/kevin-wang/>.



Nora Zeng is a student at Indiana University, studying Chinese and International Studies.

# MEET DR. CYNTHIA WU

## AAST FACULTY AFFILIATE & RACE, MIGRATION, AND INDIGENEITY (RMI) PROGRAM DIRECTOR



### Who are you?

Most people who know me personally call me “Cindy,” but I am known professionally as “Cynthia.” I answer to both names.

### What are you?

I hail from an immigrant family. Both of my parents came to the U.S. from Taiwan after the Immigration Act of 1965. I self-identify as “Asian American” rather than with a particular ethnic group in order to emphasize the panethnic and cross-racial political commitments I maintain. It’s an affiliation I’m proud of.

### Where do you consider home?

I was born in New York City and grew up in several New Jersey suburbs. In addition to those places, I have called Philadelphia, Ann Arbor, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Atlanta, and Buffalo home.

### Who are your people?

Oddballs, outcasts, misfits, loners, and anyone

else living in tension with their environment

### What are your passions?

I just adopted a pet for the first time, an adult cat named “Jasmine,” so as of lately, she’s my biggest passion.

### What draws you to IU Bloomington? Are you a fan of Big 10 basketball, limestone, or Breaking Away?

As a child and teenager, I studied classical music—mostly piano but also dabbling in violin and clarinet. I’ve known for a long time that the music school here is a big deal. There aren’t many other places where I can hear concerts almost any day of the week by world-class musicians.

### If there were a movie made about you, what would be on the soundtrack?

Tchaikovsky

### What would you bring to a potluck?

Paella

# Learning from Tadashi Nakamura

By Haley Semian

Tadashi Nakamura is star in the world of Asian American filmmaking: one of CNN's "Young People Who Rock" for being the youngest filmmaker at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival and a "Top Rising Asian American Directors" on IMDb.

In April, IU Cinema screened Nakamura's award-winning documentary, MELE MURALS (2016), a story about the transformative power of modern graffiti art and ancient Hawaiian culture for a new generation of Native Hawaiians. AAST and the Asian Culture Center were delighted to welcome our friend back to the big screen on campus. His 2012 trilogy on the Japanese American experience Yellow Brotherhood (2003), Pilgrimage (2007), and A Song for Ourselves (2009) kicked off the inaugural year of the annual MOVEMENT: ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICA film series at IU Cinema. (Good to know: Nakamura graduated with a BA in Asian American Studies!)

Nakamura graciously took time out from his busy schedule to share some insights about filmmaking, art and politics, and hip hop.



You have worked on Visions in Motion that looks at the past 50 years of independent Asian American cinema. How have some of these Asian American filmmakers influenced you?

Where do you see the future of Asian American film going?

I have been greatly influenced by the generations of Asian American filmmakers that came before me. Specifically, my father Robert Nakamura, Spencer Nakasako, and Renee Tajima-Peña have been huge inspirations for me as Japanese American documentary filmmakers who create films about community building and social change.

The future of Asian American film/media looks exciting. I think as new technologies and platforms like Netflix and Viceland continue to develop, more and more Asian Americans will be given opportunities to showcase their talents and tell their own stories.

Congratulations on your Emmy nomination for Mele Murals, a beautiful film about connecting Hawaiian youth to traditional Hawaiian culture through graffiti art. You've mentioned that Mele Murals was the first film you have worked on outside your own Japanese American community, to which you were hesitant about. Can you explain more about why you felt that way in general, and specifically regarding the Hawaiian community? However, you included a whole team of native Hawaiians to be able to tell the story authentically. Now that you have had this experience, what are your thoughts on people who may want to highlight stories and experiences from outside their own community but not take over the narrative?

Thank you so much! I learned how to make films at UCLA's Center for EthnoCommunications where I was taught that the strongest stories about marginalized communities are told from people within those communities. I felt that the only stories I had the right to tell were those within my own Japanese American community. There's a long history of Native Hawaiian and other indigenous

cultures being exploited or stereotypically presented by non-Native artists and scholars. My goal with Mele Murals was to utilize my own privilege and positionally to help a team of Hawaiian filmmakers tell their own story. I learned that being an Ally to an indigenous community means taking a back seat, learning as much as you can, understanding what the community is asking you to do, and staying in that lane.

Whether it be the subject, or more indirectly, music has a strong presence in your films. Most notably hip-hop, but other genres as well. Some filmmakers' ideation process starts with inspiration from a song. Would you say you are similar? How does music shape or transform the films you make?

Yes, music plays a huge role in the way I make films. I learned how to edit by watching hip-hop music videos and skateboarding videos which are all music driven and cut on beat. For me, the interviews and images provide the content for a scene but the music creates the mood and tone. I usually choose the music for a scene first, then use the song to guide my editing. Most of the music in Mele Murals is by Sabzi, one of my favorite Producers. He had made most of the tracks for his group Made In Heights way before I started working on the film. When I listened to the Made In Heights album, the music was so cinematic that I knew I wanted to edit something to it but just didn't know what. When I was editing Mele Murals I used some of those songs and it fit perfectly.

You have said art is a catalyst for social change. How can filmmakers and other creatives use their art to inspire others to act on issues they are passionate about?

I believe art and culture can inspire and be a tool for social change, but any real change is done by organizers and educators on the ground level. I feel that filmmakers and other creatives can create a culture of change and critical thought by creating art that brings people together, attracts new people to join a campaign or movement, and make "the struggle" both beautiful and fun.

Artists also have the ability to create a vision of a new world, as well as use the past as a reminder of what we should and shouldn't do in order to create that new world. Artists also have the ability to hit people in the heart emotionally instead of just intellectually. This allows people to have an emotional connection to an issue which then makes it personal.

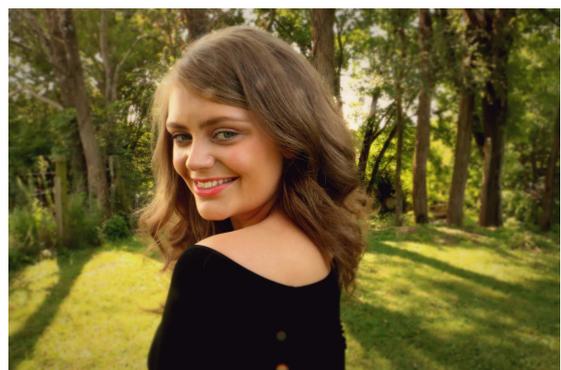
Biggie, Tupac, both, or neither?

Tupac for sure (I'm from LA).

But as I get older I appreciate Biggie as a lyricist more and more.

Lastly, what would your advice to young Asian Americans who may be struggling with finding a sense of belonging be?

My advice would be to continue searching for a community that you feel connected to. And if there isn't one out there then create it yourself. It's a lot easier to figure out who you are and what your role on this earth is when you are with a group of people who going through the same thing or who have went through the same process. I also think working and serving something outside yourself really helps you find community and your own sense of identity.



Haley Semian is a recent graduate of Indiana University who majored in Chinese language & culture and film. She hopes to keep making films that are socially impactful and highlight under-told stories.

# “Retracing Our Roots” Retreat

By Stephanie Nguyen

Surrounded by the bucolic landscape at Bradford Wood’s 2300-acre property, 20 Asian American students huddled in circles and read in silence.

As part of a history exercise, they had copies of primary documents taken from key moments in Asian American history such as the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act and the internment of Japanese American citizens during World War II. As I walked around to check-in with students, one freshman looked up from her copy of the Chinese Exclusion Act and told me, “I didn’t realize that this happened to Asian Americans.”

The Asian American Studies Program hosted a workshop for the Asian Culture Center’s “Retracing Our Roots” retreat on Saturday, September 16, 2017. Aimed at freshman and sophomores who identify as Asian American or Pacific Islanders, the retreat provides a safe and inclusive space for students to explore issues on identity, race, gender, culture, and values while learning how they can become agents of social change within their roles as students, leaders, activists, community organizers, and citizens.

As part of the one-day retreat, I, along with American Studies PhD Candidate Giselle Cunanan, co-ran the AAST workshop that introduced students to Asian American historical perspectives that have shaped racial and ethnic identities. During the two-hour workshop, students had time read, reflect, and share with their peers what it means to be Asian in America. Our aim for the workshop was to introduce retreat participants to basic topics of history and racial identity. Yet, our hope was to encourage students to continue this personal and critical exploration by taking AAST courses within their undergraduate career.

After serving as a workshop leader, I have two points about the important relationship of informal and formal Asian American spaces. First, retreats such as the ReTracing Our Roots are one of the many primary gateways to Asian American Studies. In my undergraduate career, I became more involved in the Asian American community and advocacy after attending a freshman retreat. These retreats are informal spaces that allow, perhaps for the first time, new undergraduates to learn about topics that pertain to their racial identity and history.

Too often our history and identity formation are excluded (or skimmed over) within the American high school curriculum. Even more common is the disbelief that I and other Asian American students had when we first learned about exclusionary immigration policies or Japanese internment during World War II—“Why didn’t I learn about this before?” These topics are large and complex, making it impossible to cover in a two-hour retreat workshop. However, through a mix of informal activities such as retreats and formal ones such as Asian American Studies courses, students have ample collegiate opportunities to critically examine America’s history and racial formation through the Asian American perspective.



My second point focuses on the importance of student-created spaces. Students created the “Retracing Our Roots” retreat in 2010, and the ACC resumed the annual event this year because of increased student demand. This student-centered call to revive the retreat symbolizes a larger historical trend that undergraduates and graduates alike desire designated times, spaces, and guidance to understand Asian American issues. Many of the designated Asian American spaces on campus, such as the ACC and the Asian American Studies Program, are outcomes of years, even decades, of student advocacy.

We, as students, must continue to champion these spaces by attending ACC and AAST events, take courses, join student organizations, connect with Asian American faculty, and encourage others to do the same.

Patronizing these spaces not only ensures its viability for ourselves but also for those who come after us. Incoming students deserve to have collegiate student organizations, activities, and courses that reflect their multi-faceted racial, ethnic, and American identities.



Stephanie Nguyen is a doctoral student in the Higher Education and Student Affairs program. Her research focuses on social movements, campus activism, and the organizational history Midwest Asian American Studies programs. She also serves as the Asian American Association’s graduate advisor.

# **Mana Wahine: Pacific Islander Women Leading Contemporary Efforts to Protect Pacific Lands and Waters**

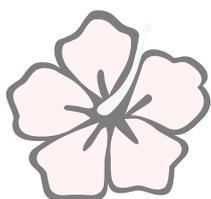
By Natasha Saelua

Mana wahine: “the physical, intellectual, and spiritual (or intuitive) power of women” that is “individually embodied, but often employs collaborative strategies with other women for the benefit of the ‘ohana [family] or Lāhui [nation], where women are the source of knowledge.” – dr. ku’ualoha ho’omanawanui

I am always conscious of my difference as I move through the city of Bloomington. My physicality, speech, choice of music: in my heart and mind, I’m a California girl and a Samoan, and I bear those identities with a fierce, sort of rebellious, pride. On the other side of that pride, however, is loneliness: I move through Bloomington as the only one of my kind. No one gets my jokes, or cultural references. No one else bobs their heads to my music. Therefore, I always feel blessed when I am able to share space with other Pacific Islander women pursuing graduate degrees and careers in academia, for embracing their mana and sharing it with the world.

On Friday, September 8, I got the chance to do so when the Asian Cultural Center hosted Dr. Maile Arvin, Assistant Professor of History and Gender Studies at the University of Utah. Dr. Arvin gave a talk entitled “Mana Wahine: Pacific Islander Women Leading Contemporary Efforts to Protect Pacific Lands and Waters.”

During her talk, Dr. Arvin discussed contemporary issues in the Pacific around militarism and efforts to protect land in Hawai'i and elsewhere, emphasizing the importance of Pacific Islander women leaders. This was interspersed with a series of thoughtful conversations with the audience: for example, she began her talk by asking us to contemplate the wahine kupuna (ancestor) that we carried with us today.



I thought of my grandmothers Autasi and Laloifi, whose prayers and love have lifted me for years beyond their passing. She asked us to think about the impact of stereotypes about Pacific women, and ignited an active conversation about the merits and influence of the Disney movie "Moana." Dr. Arvin was surrounded by our academic community of IU as well as several Pacific Islanders and mana wahine, many who came from as far away as Indianapolis to greet her and hear her talk.



A Native Hawaiian scholar, Prof. Arvin's research focuses on historical and contemporary issues of race, indigeneity, and science particularly in relation to Kānaka Maoli, the Western idea of the Polynesian race as almost white, and the broader Indigenous Pacific. Her scholarship is so important, given the ongoing struggles of indigenous people to secure material, political, emotional, and spiritual liberation. She gestures to the not-so-distant past, and reminds us to look to our stalwart mana wahine ancestors like Queen Lili'uokalani; Teresia Teaiwa; and our badass aunties and sisters like Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, Haunani-Kay Trask, and so many others.

This was an incredible experience, and I am so grateful to Asian American Studies, the Asian Culture Center, and Indiana University for transforming Bloomington into a supportive, productive, and relevant space. I look forward to the next event!



Natasha Saelua is a doctoral candidate at Indiana University's Wright School of Education, completing her degree in higher education. Her research interests are culturally relevant education and service-learning and culturally engaging campus environments. Saelua earned a BA in history and MA in Asian American Studies at UCLA. A proud "military brat," she is a first-generation Pacific Islander and traces her roots to Tutuila, American Samoa.

# MEET DR. HYEYOUNG KWON

## AAST FACULTY & ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY



### Who are you?

I am an immigrant woman who migrated to the US from South Korea when I was 14.

### What are you?

I am a teacher and a learner committed to social justice.

### Where do you consider home?

Home is where I rest, write, and share laughter and tears with my family.

### Who are your people?

My people are those who have the same goals as me. We might disagree at times, but our ultimate purpose in life is aligned.

### What are your passions?

I am passionate about translating difficult but important concepts to the larger audience. I am

excited when I read and fully digest seemingly challenging theoretical ideas. Although this takes time, I feel empowered when I can clearly articulate these concepts to my students and readers. Not coincidentally, I study the everyday lives of “language brokers,” children of immigrants who use their bilingual skills to translate for their parents. Like me, they translate difficult concepts to their parents and mediate conversations in different English-speaking institutions, and I feel privileged to study and write about their experiences.

### What draws you to IU Bloomington? Are you a fan of Big 10 basketball, limestone, or Breaking Away?

Foremost, IU’s Sociology along with its other communities of great scholars, mentors, and students. Having grown up in Los Angeles, I also appreciate the spring and fall seasons as well as the quiet streets without traffic.

### If there was a movie made about you, what would be on the soundtrack?

Lovely to Me (Immigrant Mother) by Taiyo Na.

I cried when I first heard this beautiful song because it made me think about the lived experiences of my working-class Korean immigrant mother. It also says a lot about me because I write about the struggles of immigrant families through the eyes of their children.

### What would you bring to a potluck?

I would ideally want to bring homemade dumplings although I would probably bring a salad dish because I am not a good cook.

# AMERICA'S MOST GLOABLIZED SMALL TOWN



Hou (left), Wagner, and former Mayor Armstrong pose for Wagner's 2015 city council campaign (Courtesy of Elaine Wagner).

Pop Quiz: After Silicon Valley, which region of the United States has the greatest density of requests for H1-B visas to hire highly skilled foreign workers? The answer might surprise you: Columbus, Indiana.

Jenny Huang and Steven Johnson, two recent IUB alums, launched the multi-media project MIDDLE COUNTRY in 2017 to explore the stories of Indiana's Chinese. The newest installment of MIDDLE COUNTRY tells of "Divided, United: A Father and Daughter Break Party Lines and Barriers in America's Most Globalized Small Town." Huang and Johnson speak with Ryan Hou, co-founder of the Columbus Chinese Association, a local Chinese school, an area high-tech software company, and city's first deputy mayor, and Hou's daughter Elaine Wagner, the first Chinese American elected to the Columbus City Council.

Here's a sneak peek: "Going places they "weren't supposed to" has changed the face of Columbus, said Wagner. The Chinese population has swelled from dozens to hundreds. Hou's language school grew from a handful of kids in a parent's basement to a 70-student enterprise.

"In the end it makes it better for everyone," Wagner said. "I don't have to think, I don't belong here. I can think, okay, it's better for everyone that I am here."

Check out the full interview on MIDDLE COUNTRY <https://middlecountry.atavist.com>



Jenny Huang is the Civic Engagement Program Coordinator at the University of Chicago Institute of Politics. She is also a policy associate and research/editorial assistant for South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg. She graduated IU in 2017 with a B.A. in Social and Cultural Analysis and a B.S. in honors Mathematics.



Steven Johnson is an editorial intern at The Chronicle of Higher Education. He was previously an editorial fellow covering business, family, and education at The Atlantic. He graduated from IU in 2017 with a B.A. in English and a certificate from the Liberal Arts and Management Program.

# LISA KWONG: TEACHER AND POET

Lisa Kwong, our dedicated AAST lecturer, taught three AAST classes during the 2017-2018 academic year: two sections of A101: Introduction to Asian American Studies and one section of A201: Asian Diaspora Experience. Both courses incorporated dynamic guest speakers on varied topics such as refugees, undocumented experiences, Chinese Canadian diaspora, and racism in Bloomington. Big thanks for all her hard work in with our undergraduates!

Outside the classroom, Lisa Kwong, MFA, is a prolific artist. A self-described “AppalAsian” poet, she was the 2017 Appalachian Writer-in-Residence at Sundress Academy of the Arts in Knoxville, TN. Recently, Ms. Kwong did featured readings in Knoxville, Tennessee and Cincinnati, Ohio. She was also a panelist for Deep Dialogue, a local project focusing on reading poetry on race and ethnicity that was funded by Indiana Humanities with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. She was also interviewed by Mic for a feature on Asian/Asian American representation in Hollywood action films. Look for her forthcoming work in *A Literary Field Guide to Southern Appalachia* (University of Georgia Press).

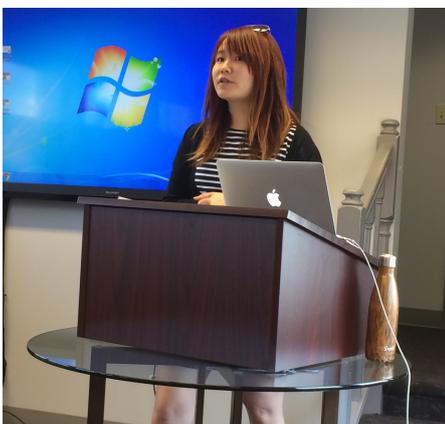
## AAST IN ACTION



L to R: Graduate Student Natasha Saelua and Dr. Maile Arvin at the 2017 “Politics, Promises, and Possibilities” Themester symposium



L to R: Graduate Student Mai Thai and Lecturer Lisa Kwong at the 2018 AAST End of Year Celebration



Graduate Student Lei Wang speaking at the 2018 AAST End of Year Celebration



L to R: Graduate Student Shelley Rao and Dr. Ellen Wu at the 2018 AAST End of Year Celebration



Graduate Student Bix Gabriel speaking at the 2018 AAST End of Year Celebration

# AAST GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

## MISSION

The Asian American Studies (AAST) Graduate Student Advisory Board aims to build a strong, vibrant Asian American and Pacific Islander community at Indiana University by creating opportunities for scholarly interaction among Asian American and Pacific Islander graduate students. The Board connects students from various traditional academic disciplines and encourages research ideas grounded in the intersectional ideals of Asian American Studies— that is, cutting edge scholarly work promoting racial justice and student activism for Asian Americans, through the use of a critical lens.

## MEMBERSHIP

Giselle Cunanan, American Studies  
Mihee Kim-Kort, Religious Studies  
Stephanie Kung, English  
Jordan Lynton, Anthropology  
Stephanie Thanh Xuan Nguyen, Education  
Shelley Rao, Sociology  
Anna Sera, Education  
Mai Thai, Sociology  
Lei Wang, Counseling Psychology, Education

## PAST EVENTS



In Fall 2017, the AAST Graduate Student Advisory Board hosted its first student-faculty mixer.

A poster for the IUB 2018 Asian American Studies Research Symposium. The title is "THE THIRD WORLD LIBERATION FRONT MOVEMENTS AT 50: SCHOLAR ACTIVISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY". The date is "MARCH, 23rd 10aM - 1pM". The location is "CAHL, 1211 E. Atwater Avenue". There is a photo of a protest with a sign that says "NO PROGRAM NO PEACE". Below the photo, it says "KEYNOTE SPEAKER Dr. Jan M. Padios Assistant Professor, American Studies, University of Maryland, College Park". There is also a photo of Dr. Jan M. Padios.

IUB 2018 ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM  
**THE THIRD WORLD LIBERATION FRONT MOVEMENTS AT 50:  
SCHOLAR ACTIVISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY**  
MARCH, 23rd  
10aM - 1pM  
CAHL, 1211 E. Atwater Avenue  
To RSVP for lunch please email  
AASP@INDIANA.EDU

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**Dr. Jan M. Padios**  
Assistant Professor, American Studies,  
University of Maryland, College Park

In Spring 2018, the Board co-organized the 2018 AAST Symposium by deciding on an event theme, forming a selection committee to choose a guest speaker and writing the Call for Papers to solicit guest panelists.

**Join us!** Email [aasp@indiana.edu](mailto:aasp@indiana.edu) for more info

*Congrats!*

## **DR. KAREN INOUE**

Promoted to Associate Professor (w/ tenure),  
American Studies

## **DR. JOEL WONG**

Promoted to Full Professor,  
Counseling Psychology

&

Appointed Interim Chair of the Department of  
Counseling and Educational Psychology for  
academic year 2018/2019

## **GRADUATE STUDENTS**

*AAST Research/Creative Activity/ Travel Award:*

Anna Cabe, Giselle Cunanan, Bix Gabriel,  
Stephanie Kung, Shelley Rao

*Ida B. Wells Fellowship; Coordinating Council of  
Women in History; Fulbright Hays Doctoral  
Dissertation Research Abroad*

Jordan Lynton

*Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship*

Mai Thai

## **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

*AAST Essay Competition*

"Content Analysis of Asian American Suicide-  
Related Outcomes (2012-2017)"

Yi Li

## **AAST 2017-2018 Team**

Dr. Ellen Wu, Director  
Carol Glaze, Fiscal Officer  
Paula Cotner, Administrative Assistant  
Jordan Lynton, Graduate Assistant  
Shelley Rao, Graduate Assistant  
Lisa Kwong, Lecturer  
Stacy Weida, Undergraduate Academic Advisor  
Kristen Murphy, Undergraduate Academic Advisor

## **LOVE THE WORK THAT YOU SEE HERE?**

Consider support the Asian American Studies  
Program with a financial gift this year!  
Any amount is appreciated.

Your donations will support building IU's Asian  
American Studies community; providing research  
funding for students and faculty; bringing guest  
speakers to campus; developing innovative  
programming; and furthering community outreach.



To donate, go to [iufoundation.iu.edu](http://iufoundation.iu.edu) to give and  
specify your designation as Asian American  
Studies. Donations are tax-deductible.

# INTERESTED IN AN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES MINOR?

A minor in Asian American Studies enriches your understanding of diversity and provides you with an area of specialized knowledge as you prepare for a career in diverse fields: Law, Public Policy, Urban Planning, International Relations, Human Geography, Education (Teaching, Counseling, Policy), Arts, Arts Administration, Journalism, Medicine, Nursing, Social Psychology, Business, Marketing, Public Relations.

The AAS minor is also versatile as courses usually fulfill either an Arts & Humanities or a Social & Historical Studies requirement.

**All you need is 15 credit hours!**

Introduction to Asian American Studies (AAST-A 101)

OR

Sociology of Asian America (SOC-S 101)

AND

12 credit hours of Asian American or Asian Diaspora classes

**\* 6 credit hours of which must be Asian-American focused  
and 9 credits must be 300 level or above**

## AAST 2018-2019 COURSES

### FALL 2018

AAST-A 101 Introduction to Asian American Studies (3 cr.) -- Class # 7415

AAST-A 300: Asian American Literature (3 cr.)-- Class # 31964

### SPRING 2019

AAST-A 101 Introduction to Asian American Studies (3 cr.) -- Class # 8832

\*\*AAST-A 300: Topics in Asian American Studies "Asian American/ Pacific Islander Communities and Social Change" (3 cr.)-- Class # 29592

*This course will be a critical study of post-1965 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) to understand the historical, political, social, educational, and economic trends that shape AAPI identity, family, and community in our contemporary moment. Topics will survey key themes in Asian American studies including home, identity, belonging, model minority, immigration, mental health, education, philanthropy, and/or the transnational. The class includes a mandatory community-based research project with a focus on social justice and inclusion, in which students will study Asian American nonprofits, intermediary organizations and community supporters to apply cultural frameworks of theory, application, research, analysis and writing in aims of extending learning outside of the classroom. Our topic of discernment preys into the very concept of "Asian America" and students will examine the local, national, and global forces that shape the heterogeneous lives of Asian Americans today.*

\*\*AAST-A 320: Asian American Sexualities (3 cr.)-- Class # 29592

**\*\* NEW AAST COURSE**

# AAST UPCOMING FALL 2018 EVENTS

## Welcome Back Party co-hosted by CRRES, AAST, LATS, NAIS, RMI, AAADS

Friday, August 24, 6-8 PM | The Fell Building, 415 W 4th Street

RSVP by Friday August 17 to evite or crres@indiana.edu

## Double Book Release Celebration

Authors: Dr. Cynthia Wu (AAST/RMI/GNDR), Rev. Mihee Kim-Kort (AAST Graduate Advisory Board, GNDR)

Wednesday, September 19, 4-5 PM | College Arts and Humanities Institute, 1211 East Atwater Avenue

## Building Community Through Compassion Around Immigration Policy

Professor Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia, Samuel Weiss Faculty Scholar,

Clinical Professor of Law, Director, Ctr. for Immigrants' Rights Clinic, Pennsylvania State University School of Law

Friday, October 12, 1:45-2:45 PM | Indiana Memorial Union, Georgian Room

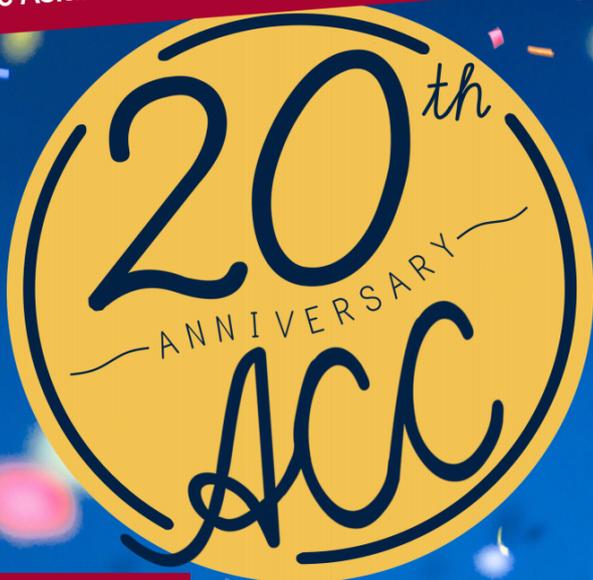
## Debra Dean Kang, poetry reading (Over a Cup of Tea series)

Tuesday, October 25, time TBD | Asian Culture Center, 807 East 10th Street

## Joint Open House: Latino Studies, Native American Indigenous Studies, Program on Race, Migration, and Indigeneity

December (last week of classes—details TBD)

The Asian Culture Center is turning 20 years old!



### ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

Thursday, Oct. 11  
Friday, Oct. 12  
Saturday, Oct. 13

*Celebrate 20 years of the ACC with three days of events during Homecoming*

### Anniversary Weekend

#### Thursday, October 11

Welcome Dinner  
6 p.m. at the ACC

IU Homecoming Parade  
6 p.m. at 7th & Woodlawn

Anniversary Banquet (Invitation only)  
7:30 p.m. at Franklin Hall

#### Friday, October 12

Anniversary Symposium  
9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the IMU

Four inspiring alumni are giving talks about how they actively pursue and engage the community in their professions

#### Saturday, October 13

Alumni Brunch  
9:30 at IMU University Club

RSVP for any (or all!) events on the Anniversary Website

[asianresource.indiana.edu/anniversary](http://asianresource.indiana.edu/anniversary)

### Online History Archive

Photos, videos, podcasts, and more on the Anniversary Website

#### LEARN

how student activists fought for 10 years—from 1988 to 1998—to establish the ACC

#### RELIVE

your memories and involvement with the Asian Culture Center