

Intersections: Asian/Pacific America

2021-2022 Annual Newsletter



Asian American Studies Program

Indiana University Bloomington

Friday, July 1, 2022

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Eunice Lee/ AAST Dinner



New Faculty-Eunice Lee

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Eunice Lee will be joining IU's Asian American Studies Program (jointly appointed with the Department of American Studies). Assistant Professor Lee earned a PhD in English from the University of California at San Diego. She is working on a book, Digesting the Empire: Embodying Life beyond Militarized Circulations across the Pacific Ocean, which argues that people and

communities in and around the Pacific Ocean both physically and metaphorically digest circulated waste materials to survive beyond the dispossession and slow violence of US empire and its military in the modern era.

Asian American Studies Dinner, September 2021

During Fall 2021, Karen Inouye, Director of Asian American Studies, hosted a dinner at her home for AAST faculty and student affiliates. Both graduate and undergraduate students had a chance to both eat and interact with professors Cindy Wu, Karen Inouye, Ellen Wu, Jennifer Lee, Dina Okamoto and Lisa Kwong.

WWII Dedication Ceremony

In November of 2021, Interim Provost John Applegate and IU alumnus Eric Langowski dedicated a memorial to acknowledge IU's denial of admission to Japanese American students during World War II. The memorial stands between the Hamilton-Lugar School of Global and International Studies and the Herman B. Wells Library. It includes a bench and a commemorative plaque describing the treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II.



The memorial was part of a larger initiative implemented by a campus-wide committee. The committee, chaired by Karen Inouye, also secured continuing educational opportunities as well as scholarships for IU students facing structural barriers.

Events

The Joy of Congee: A Conversation on Food and Activism



Organized by Jennifer Lee and Ellen Wu, Asian American Studies hosted a virtual discussion with community organizers and disability justice activists Alice Wong and Sandy Ho. At a well attended September webinar, Alice and Sandy provided a lively discussion about how food and joy sustain them during these times as they continue with their political and community organizing.

80th Year Remembrance

Remembering WWII Incarceration 80 Years Later: As part of a larger initiative to educate the Bloomington community about the long afterlife of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War Two, the Asian American Studies Program sponsored three major events:

1. Wartime Incarceration in the United States and Canada

l'Université du Québec À Montréal Professor Greg Robinson presented a thought-provoking history of incarceration in both the U.S. and Canada. He discussed the similarities and differences between the two countries'

treatment of those of Japanese ancestry and offered analyses about why this history still is especially relevant during these times.



2. IUB Scholarships and Indiana University and the Japanese American Ban

IU alumnus Eric Langowski discussed Indiana University's treatment of Japanese American students during the war. He also described his efforts to get a memorial to acknowledge and apologize for IU's denial of admission to Japanese American students during the war and to secure future scholarships for students who face structural barriers.

3. Pilgrimages and Memories of Wartime Incarceration, presentation by Lisa Doi, April 2022

American Studies doctoral student Lisa Doi gave a presentation about the meaning of continuing pilgrimages to wartime incarceration sites.





#STOPASIANHATE: THE LIFE OF A VIRAL HASHTAG

Isabelle Feng, IUB Data Science
Feifan Wu, IUB Computer Science
Ellen Wu, IUB History

IUB Asian American Studies Symposium April 15, 2022

Spring 2022 Graduate Student Symposium

On April 15, 2022, faculty and graduate students presented their recent research. During the first part of the symposium Professor Ellen Wu (History) and graduate students Isabelle Feng (Data Science) and Feifan Wu (Data Science) discussed their data analyses of the viral hashtag: #STOPASIANHATE. During the second part of the symposium, doctoral students Lisa Doi (American Studies) and Lizzy Spaeth (History) presented their current research projects.

