

## Asian and Asian American Studies Institute

### List of Guest Speakers, 2004 to 2014

- 2004, **Marilyn Chin**, San Diego State University, “Rhapsody in Plain Yellow – the Unapologetic Poet”
- 2004, **Lawson Inada**, Southern Oregon State College (Emeritus) and 2004 Guggenheim Fellow, “Only What We Could Carry – Barbed Wire and Guard Towers and Minoru Yamasaki’s World Trade Center on September 11”; 2008, “Poetry and Jazz” (Art of Gaman Exhibition at the Wm. Benton Museum of Art, Storrs, CT)
- 2004, **Shona Ramaya**, author of Operation Monsoon (Graywolf Press, 2003), “Gopal’s Kitchen – A story about the Organ Market”
- 2004, **S.B. Woo**, former Lt. Governor of Delaware, “The 80-20 Initiative’s Impact on the Presidential Election”
- 2004, **Robin Chandler**, Northeastern University, “Arousing the Lioness in the Forest: Moving Toward a Critical Scholarship of Service, Solidarity and Sisterhood”
- 2004, **Sarina Khan Reddy, Siona Benjamin, Annu P. Matthew, and Vijay Kumar**, contemporary South Asian artists of the diaspora, “Masala: Diversity and Democracy in South Asian Art”
- 2004, **Pei-te Lien**, University of Utah, “Diversity and Community – The Politics of Asian Americans”
- 2004, **Max Desfor**, Pulitzer Prize winner and retired Associated Press correspondent, “Portraits of the Korean War – The Tragedy of Conflicts”
  
- 2005, **Fred Ho**, Asian American activist and leader of the Afro-Asian Musical Ensemble, and **Bill V. Mullen**, Univ. of Texas at San Antonio (in 2005), spoke jointly, “Afro-Orientalism – A Public Dialogue on Black and Asian Freedom”
- 2005, **Gish Jen**, author of Typical American (Plume, 1991) and Mona in the Promise Land (Knopf-first edition, 1996), “The Love Wife – What is a Family? What is a Nation?”
- 2005, **David Yoo**, author of Girls for Breakfast (Random House, 2005), “Growing Up as an Asian American Guy in the 1980s in Avon, Connecticut”
- 2005, **Kumkum Bhattacharya**, Visva Bharati, India, “Public Space and Women’s Rights”
- 2005, **Jeff Chang**, Founding Editor of ColorLines Magazine, “Can’t Stop, Won’t Stop – A History of the Hip-Hop Generation”
- 2005, **Shilpa Dave**, Brandeis University, “Animated in America – Apu of ‘The Simpsons’ and Gandhi of ‘Clone High USA’”
- 2005, **Ananda Lal**, Jadavpur University, India, and Senior Fulbright Fellow at Indiana University, “The Crises Facing Contemporary Indian Performance”
- 2005, **Yasmine Kabir**, Bangladesh based documentary filmmaker and founder of NARIKA in San Francisco, “My Migrant Soul – A story of overseas workers in Malaysia from Bangladesh”

- 2006, **Sumit Ganguly**, Indiana University, “India as a Great Power”
- 2006, **Diane Fujino**, University of California, Santa Barbara, “Heartbeat of Struggle – The Revolutionary Life of Yuri Kochiyama”
- 2006, **Winston E. Langley**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, “Nazrul Islam: Nationalist, Globalist, and Moral Giant” (Keynote Address for Nazrul Symposium at the University of Connecticut – Storrs Campus); 2007, “The Voice of Poetry and the Direction of Civilizations” (Inaugural Nazrul Commemorative Lecture at UConn)
- 2006, **Howard Zinn**, Boston University, “You Can’t be Neutral on a Moving Train: Equality in America”
- 2006, **Kenji Yoshino**, Yale Law School, “Covering: The Hidden Assault on our Civil Rights”
- 2006, **Rev. Thelma Burgonio-Watson**, Faith Trust Institute, “An Interfaith Approach to Family Violence” (Keynote for Fourth Annual Ahimsa Seminar); **Swami Yogatmananda**, Vedanta Society of Providence, RI, “Principles of Gandhian Philosophy”; **Shyamala Raman**, St. Joseph College, “The Fight Against Human Trafficking”
- 2006, **Yong Soon Min**, University of California, Irvine, “Exquisite Crisis and Encounters”
  
- 2007, **Elena Tajima Creef**, Wellesley College, “How to Read an Archive: War Relocation Authority Photographs of the Internment of Japanese Americans” (Marking a Decade of Day of Remembrance at UConn)
- 2007, **Ela Gandhi**, Former Member of Parliament (ANC), South Africa / Chancellor of Durban University of Technology, and Founder of the Gandhi Development Trust, “Gandhian Solutions to the Crises of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” (Keynote to Asian American Heritage Observance), and Annual Ahimsa Seminar, “Perspectives of a Peace Activist”
- 2007, **Honorable Laxmi Das Manandhar**, Minister of Education and Member of Parliament (UML Party), Nepal, “Politics and Education in Nepal”
- 2007, **Ismael Iletto**, Survivor Brother of Joseph Iletto, who was murdered by convicted hate criminal Buford Furrow, “Hate is Real, Realize Hate, Speak Out Against Hate Crimes”
- 2007, **Amanda Gouws and Zakia Salime**, University of Stellenbosch and University of Michigan, respectively, “Transnational Women’s Movements”
  
- 2008, **Delphine Hirasuna**, Guest Curator of ART OF GAMAN / Wm. Benton Museum of Art and author of The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese Internment Camps, 1942-1946 (Ten Speed Press), “The Triumph of the Spirit” (Day of Remembrance Public Lecture)
- 2008, **Somdatta Mandal**, Editor of India Chapter of MELUS and Visiting Scholar, Visva-Bharati Scholar Exchange Program, “Of Wars, Relocation and Documentation: Surveying Japanese American Internment and the 1947 Partition of India” (Day of Remembrance Public Lecture); 2010, “The Itinerant Traveler: Tagore and America” co-sponsored with India Studies Program

- 2008, **Joyce Hamilton Henry**, Former Director of Office of Multicultural Programs at Univ. of Hartford and Adjunct Lecturer, “Between Two Worlds” (OMIA Collaborative Symposia Series Engendering Race, Ethnicity and Class in a Globalizing World”
- 2008, **Lisa Lowe**, University of California, San Diego and Visiting Prof. of American Studies, Yale College, “Metaphors of Globalization”
- 2008, **Lawrence LaFountain-Stokes**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, “Translocas: Migration, Homosexuality, and Transvestism in Recent Puerto Rican Performance”
- 2008, **Gary Y. Okihiro**, Columbia University, “Striking for Asian American Studies: West and East” / East of California Conference at UConn Keynote Address
  
- 2009, **Jose Reissig**, Emeritus, Long Island University / Insight Meditation, “Nonviolence as a Way of Transformation” (Annual Ahimsa Seminar Keynote)
- 2009, **Socheata Poouv**, Filmmaker and CEO/Founder of Khmer Legacies (devoted to creating a video testimonial archive of the Cambodian Genocide), “New Year Baby” film screening and talkback
- 2009, **Vijay Prashad**, Trinity College, Hartford CT, “Democracy’s Challenge: Reframing the Public’s Role” (Keynote Address for National Issues Forums’ Deliberative Democracy Dialogs)
  
- 2010, **Jamie Ford**, author of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* (Random House, 2009), “The Personal is Political” (Day of Remembrance 2010)
- 2010, **June McDaniel**, College of Charleston, “The Role of Rasa” (Nazrul Commemorative Lecture)
- 2010, **Martin Espada** (UMass Amherst) and **Angelique Nixon** (NYU / Women’s Studies Program), Poetry Readings, “Political Poetics / Contemplating Nazrul’s [Kazi Nazrul Islam] Legacy”
- 2010, **Ai-jen Poo**, National Domestic Workers Alliance / Executive Director, “Hope in Hard Times: The Domestic Workers Bill of Rights” (Keynote Address / Human Rights of Domestic Workers One Day Conference at UConn); additional guest speakers: **Priscilla Gonzalez** (Domestic Workers United of New York); **Marina Karides** (Florida Atlantic); **Paul Filson** (SEIU Connecticut); **Heloisa Galvao** (Brazilian Women’s Group of Massachusetts / A Domestic Workers Collective); **Shobha Gurung** (Southern Utah University, Cedar City)
- 2010, **Robert Ku** (SUNY Binghamton) “MSG”, **Anita Mannur** (Miami University – Oxford, OH) “Culinary Fictions”, **Jennifer Ho** (UNC Chapel Hill) “Eating Across Ethnicities” – all gave separate presentations as part of the semester-long FOOD MATTERS Literary Series, Spring 2010
- 2010, **Masako Nakamura** (Post-doctoral Fellow, Univ. of Minnesota), “War Brides of the Pacific War: Marriage, Race, Immigration, and U.S. Occupation of Japan”
- 2010, **PraCh Ly**, Cambodian American Rap Artist and Activist, “Human Rights, Arts and Activism”

- 2010, **Jessica Chen Drammeh**, Independent Filmmaker, “Anomaly” film screening and talkback (mixed race Asian and multi-racial Americans)
- 2010, **Linda Blois** (CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Director of Public Affairs) gave the Keynote for AHIMSA Seminar focused on “Overcoming Domestic Violence in CT: Recent Legislative Tools and Assessment”; additional speakers included **Shanthi Rao** (Interval House West, Coordinator), **Venida Rodman Jenkins** (UConn Women’s Center VAWPP Coordinator), **Lt. Magdalena Vargas** (UConn Police Services and Public Safety), and **Jyothi Vayalakkara** (SNEHA, a support network for women of South Asian origin in CT, Executive Board Member and Clinical Licensed Psychologist)
- 2010, **Edward Tang**, University of Alabama, “Sleeping with the Frienemy – The Cold War Significance of 1952 film ‘War Bride’”
- 2010, **Raj Patel**, author of *Stuffed and Starved: The Hidden Battle for the World Food System* (Melville House Publishing, 2008) and *The Value of Nothing* (Picador, 2010), “The Rising Cost of Food” / Keynote for Democracy Dialogs Series
- 2010, **Rob Lemkin**, Founder and Director of Old Street Films, “Enemies of the People” (documentary featuring Cambodian journalist Thet Sambath) film screening and talkback
- 2010, **Werner Sollors**, Harvard University, author of *Ethnic Modernism* (Harvard University Press, 2009), “White American Obligations to Negroes Who Would be Kin if They Were Not Negro: Reflections on Trends in African American Literature in the First Decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”
  
- 2011, **Adam Nadel** (New York Times photojournalist) and **C. David Thomas** (Viet Nam War veteran turned artist), panelists addressing “Aftermath: The Impact of War in Viet Nam” as part of Dodd Center Gallery exhibition, curated by Valerie Love
- 2011, **Lisa Mar**, University of Maryland, College Park, “The Transnational Origins of the Model Minority Myth”
- 2011, **Karen Tei Yamashita**, University of California, Santa Cruz and author of *I Hotel* (Day of Remembrance 2011 / film screening of *Aoki* preceding), Spotlight: Arts and Activism – The Asian American Community Fights to Save the I Hotel of San Francisco
- 2011, **Allan Punzalan** (Rutgers University of New Brunswick, NJ) “Disappearing Beauty Queens”; **Lynne Yamamoto** (Smith College, MA) “Genteel / Visualizing the Pacific”; and **Mario A. Caro** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology and City College of New York) “The Native as Image: Art History, Nationalism, and Decolonizing Aesthetics” – CIRCULATIONS AND ENCOUNTERS Series, Spring 2011 organized by Margo Machida
- 2011, **Ramachandra Guha**, Independent Scholar, “The Indian Political Tradition” as part of India Studies Program’s Radha Devi Joshi Endowed Lecture
- 2011, **Grace Hong**, University of California, Los Angeles, “Citizenship and Biopower” cosponsored with Women’s Studies Program
- 2011, **Brett J. Esaki**, Fred Ho Fellowship 2011 Presentation, “The Silence of Time in Japanese American Jazz”

- 2011, **Rahna Reiko Rizzutto**, Goddard College and author of *Hiroshima in the Morning* (Feminist Press, 2010), “GROUND ZERO and Human Rights from Hiroshima to 9/11”
- 2011, **Phyllis Granoff**, Yale University, New Haven CT, “Victorious Ones: Jain Images of Perfection” (AHIMSA Seminar 2011) / The Tagore at 150 Celebration Program followed the Lunch
- 2011, **Nikhil Pal Singh**, New York University, “Color and Democracy in the American Century”
- 2011, **Maurice Fitzpatrick**, author of *The Boys of St. Columb’s* (2010), “Patterns of Non-violent Democratic Protest from Derry ’68 to the Arab Spring”
- 2011, ERASING BORDERS: Contemporary Indian Artists of the Diaspora Panel Discussants include **Amina Begum Ahmed; Vijay Kumar; Anjali Deshmukh; Neil Chowdhury; Sonia Chaudhary**; and Moderated by **Kathryn Myers**
- 2012, **Greg Robinson**, L'Université du Québec À Montréal, a French-language institution in Montreal, Canada, “The Tragedy of Democracy: Japanese Confinement in North America” (Day of Remembrance)
- 2012, **Oliver Wang**, California State University, Long Beach, “Far East Movements: Asian Americans in Hip Hop”
- 2012, **Zachary Price**, Fred Ho Fellowship 2012 Presentation, “The Conundrums of Representation: Body, Theater and Martial Arts in the Jazz Operettas of Fred Ho”
- 2012, **Leslie Bow** (University of Wisconsin, Madison), **Kandice Chuh** (City University of New York), **Banu Subramanian** (Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst) presented at the INTERSECTIONS OF INTERDISCIPLINARITY Symposium in collaboration with WGSS, El Instituto, Africana Studies, and Humanities Institute with support from CLAS
- 2012, **Julia Maria Schiavone-Camacho**, University of Texas, El Paso and author of *Chinese Mexicans: Transpacific Migration and the Search for a Homeland* (UNC Press, 2012) and **Falguni Sheth**, Hampshire College, Amherst MA (Visiting Scholar in Residence, Fall Semester 2012) kicked off a semester-long collaboration with El Instituto / NEW SCHOLARSHIP ON ASIAN/LATINO INTERSECTIONS, “Interstitiality: A Genealogical Framework to Understand Messy Identities”
- 2012, **CHhay Bora**, independent filmmaker and director, LOST LOVES film screening and discussion
- 2012, **Victoria Christgau**, CT Center for Nonviolence / Executive Director, “Nonviolence as a Way of Life / Inspiration from the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.” and **Tarla A. Doshi**, independent scholar / Mumbai, India, who shared remarks on her ongoing non-violence work with youth (AHIMSA Seminar 2012)
- 2012, **Janet Francendese**, Editor in Chief / Temple Univ. Press, “The Academic Publishing Process: Do’s and Don’ts”
- 2012, **Gloria Steinem**, founder of Ms. Magazine and feminist icon, “40 Years of Women’s Achievements at UConn and Beyond” (marking the Women’s Center’s 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the University of Connecticut)

- 2012, **Ruth Wilson Gilmore**, Graduate Center of City University of New York, “Partition, Prison, and Politics: Reflections on Race, Gender, and Freedom in an Era of Financial Crisis” co-presented with Africana Studies
- 2013, **Siddharth Kara**, Harvard University, “Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery: A Global Overview” / Humanities House Living and Learning Community invited speaker
- 2013, **Eric Hamako** (Ph.D. Candidate / UMASS Amherst, Social Justice Education), “Harry Potter and the Mistaken Myth of the Mixed-Race Messiah” / Asian American Cultural Center invited speaker
- 2013, **Michelle Marchetti Coughlin**, independent scholar, “One Colonial Woman’s World” / Humanities House Living and Learning Community invited speaker
- 2013, **Lorraine Leiko Miyahara** (with Jack Martin), author of her family memoir, “INTERNMENT: A True Story / Memories of a Thirteen Year Old Girl, 1941-1944” Day of Remembrance 2013
- 2013, **Daniel Y. Kim**, Brown University, “Nationalist Frames of Memory and the Korean War: The National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian and The War Memorial of Seoul” (Opening Reception Keynote for TRACES OF LIFE / Seen Through Korean Eyes, 1945-1992 Exhibition, curated by Chang Jae Lee and Korea Society)
- 2013, **Rachel Fell McDermott**, Barnard College / Columbia University, “Human Dignity and Religious Tolerance” / NAZRUL Commemorative Lecture Keynote; a discussion panel included **Amrutur Srinivasan** (independent scholar) and **Omer Bajwa** (Yale University / Coordinator of Muslim Life)
- 2013, **Fred Ho**, Asian American saxophonist, bandleader, composer and author, made his final appearance at UConn to help launch YELLOW POWER, YELLOW SOUL: The Radical Art of Fred Ho (University of Illinois Press, 2013) co-edited by Roger Buckley and **Tamara Roberts (2010 Recipient / Fred Ho Fellowship)**
- 2013, **Steven De Castro**, independent filmmaker / 2013 Fred Ho Fellowship presentation “Rediscovering the Forgotten Video Archives of Fred Ho” (De Castro also shot raw footage and conducted interviews that resulted in the documentary FRED HO’S LAST YEAR)
- 2013, **Marji Lipshez-Shapiro**, CT Chapter of the Anti-Defamation League / Director of Education, “Imagine a World Without Hate: Reaching 21<sup>st</sup> Century Educators and Students with Lessons of the Holocaust” (AHIMSA Seminar 2013)
- 2013, **Ambassador Paul Speltz**, UConn alumnus and CEO of Global Strategic Associates, “The Status of U.S. and China Geopolitical and Financial Relations”
- 2013, **Frank H. Wu**, University of California, Hastings College of Law, “YELLOW AND GRAY: A New Paradigm for Civil Rights” (Keynote Address for Asian American Heritage Observance)
- 2013, **Jonathan Freedman**, University of Michigan, “REWRITING DYSTOPIA: Jewish Alternative-History Fictions, High and Low” and **Sara Blair**, University of Michigan, “ON LOCATION: D.W. Griffith, the Battle of Cinema, and the Lower East Side” / cosponsored with Judaic Studies and Center for Contemporary Jewish Life

- 2013, CONVERGENCE: Diasporic Indian Art and Literature Panel with **Susan Bean, Geetanjali Chanda, Annu Palakunnathu Matthew, and Sunanda Sanyal** (Moderated by Cathy Schlund-Vials)
- 2014, **Lane Ryo Hirabayashi**, UCLA / George and Sakaye Aratani Chair in Japanese American Incarceration, Redress and Community, "A PRINCIPLED STAND: Hirabayashi v. the United States" (Day of Remembrance 2014 Public Lecture and book signing of biography of Lane's uncle, Gordon Hirabayashi)
- 2014, **Min Hyoung Song**, Boston College, "RUIN PORN: Detroit's Abandonment and Capitalist Withdrawal"
- 2014, **Yen Le Espiritu**, University of California, San Diego, "Viet Nam War and Militarized Refuge(es)"
- 2014, **Pawan Dhingra**, Tufts University / Medford, MA, "Hire a White Woman: Race and Gender Calculations for Business Owners" (revised title for postponed 21 April presentation) / (original title "LIFE BEHIND THE LOBBY: Indian American Motel Owners and the American Dream" for 13 February cancelled date due to inclement weather)
- 2014, **Jason Koo**, Quinnipiac University / Hamden, CT, poetry reading and book signing of recently released America's Favorite Poem (C&R Press) / organized by Creative Writing
- 2014, **David Armitage**, Harvard University / Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor of History, "The Pacific World"
- 2014, **Dorothy J. Edwards**, Executive Director of Green Dot, etc./ intervention and prevention of power-based personal violence "Silent Majorities: Bystander Intervention to Prevent Violence (Annual Ahimsa Seminar Keynote Address)
- 2014, **Leta Hong Fincher**, author of Left Over Women: The Resurgence of Gender Inequality in China (organized by WGSS)
- 2014, REMEMBERING TIANANMEN 25 Years On Panel with **Jeffrey Wasserstrom**, University of California, Irvine and **Chaohua Wang**, Independent Scholar and participant/historian of the Tiananmen Square Protests (also known as the 1989 Democracy Movement among activists) / (Moderated by Peter Zarrow)
- 2014, BUDDHIST ETHICS COLLOQUIUM with **Jay Garfield** (Yale and National University of Singapore), **Emily W. McCrae** (University of Oklahoma), and **Charles Hallisey** (Harvard) / (Moderated by Donald Baxter, Chair of Philosophy / UConn)
- 2014, **Evans Chan**, independent filmmaker, CHINATOPIA film screening and talkback (the film focuses on Kang Youwei (1858-1927) who was arguably China's first modern transnational figure, dissident and constitutional reformer)
- 2014, **Kelly Zen-Yie Tsai**, activist/spoken word poet, "Splitting the World Open" Workshop and "The Opposite of Violence" Presentation (organized by Women's Center)
- 2014, Talking to China about North Korea: US and South Korean Diplomacy in Uncertain Times Panel (moderated by **Nicholas Hamisevicz** (Korea Economic Institute of America/ KEI) with **Randy Schriver** (Project 2049 Institute and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs) and **Sung-Yoon**

**Lee**, (Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University) / (Organized by Alexis Dudden)

- 2014, **George Takei**, actor (best known for his role as Mr. Sulu of Star Trek television series) and social activist, recounted his and his family's experience of displacement and incarceration in WWII Rohwer (Arkansas) internment camp and its legacy, as well as his role in resisting the War in VietNam and promoting LGBTQ rights (Organized by Asian American Cultural Center); Q&A with audience moderated by CLAS Dean Jeremy Teitelbaum
- 2014, **Reo Matsuzaki**, Trinity College / Hartford, CT, "State Building: A Problem of Political Authority" (Organized by Jeremy Pressman, Political Science at UConn)
- 2014, **Nirupama Rao**, Meera and Vikram Gandhi Fellow (2014) at Brown University (Providence, RI), "The Politics of History: India and China, 1949-1962" (Organized by Betty Hanson)