

KAREN J. KUO

PROFESSIONAL ADDRESS

Asian Pacific American Studies
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RESIDENCE

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Phoenix, AZ 85024
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EDUCATION

2006	<i>University of Washington</i>	Ph.D. in English Literature
1994	<i>University of California, Riverside</i>	M.A. in English Literature
1991	<i>University of California, Santa Barbara</i>	B.A. in Psychology

DISSERTATION: "Lost Imaginaries: Images of Asia in America, 1924-1942"

This thesis explores the specific points of cultural-historical contact between Asia and the United States during the early twentieth century by asking how domestic politics surrounding American identity, subjecthood, and their social, political, and economic relations became configured through the intersections of those elements with what was imagined as "foreign" at the time. The dissertation specifically is concerned with how the construction of the figures of Asia and Asians within the US national imaginary through literature and cinema reveals the ideological forces that were partially constitutive of an American identity during the 1920s through World War II.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:

1995-98 Teaching Fellowship, University of Washington
1994-95 University of California Humanities Research Fellowship
1993-94 Teaching Fellowship, University of California, Riverside

GRANTS:

2004-05 Lead Principal Investigator, International Nikkei Legacy Project (through the Japanese American National Museum), an international research project on the Japanese diaspora. Facilitated and coordinated research to provide an indexable, electronic resource of Nikkei in Arizona and to provide research about the Japanese diaspora in both Arizona and the southwest. \$15,000.00.

FUNDRAISING:

2005 ASU APAS Golf Tournament, Arizona Biltmore. Co-coordinator with APAS faculty and the Asian and Pacific Islander community of Arizona for a fundraiser to benefit the APAS program. \$9,000.00.

PUBLICATIONS:

Review of *Bold Words: A Century of Asian American Writing*, edited by Rajini Srikanth and Esther Y. Iwanaga. *Journal of Asian American Studies* 6:2 (2003), 223-226.

Review of Rey Chow's *Primitive Passions* in *International Examiner Literary Supplement* (Spring 1996).

"How We See Ourselves through the Media" (review of *Rethinking Media Audiences for Post Modern World* by Ien Ang) *Pacific Reader* (Spring 1996).

"Out in Large Numbers" (review of *Asian American Sexualities: Dimensions of the Gay and Lesbian Experience* by Russell Leong) in *Pacific Reader* (Fall/Winter 1996).

"Portrait of a Community" (review of *For the Sake of Our Japanese Bretheren: Assimilation, Nationalism, and Protestantism Among the Japanese of L.A., 1895-1947* by Brian Masaru Hayashi) in *Pacific Reader* (Fall 1995).

CONFERENCE PAPERS and LECTURES:

"Utopias Lost and Found: Capra's *Lost Horizon* and the Recontainment of Utopia"
Sexuality, Race, and Nation: Asian American Film and Media Symposium
Stanford, California, (invited) May 12-14, 2006.

"Eurasian Women and the Politics of Passing" Panel: "Rethinking the Roles of Race"
Twenty-Second National Association for Asian American Studies Conference,
Los Angeles, California, April 21-24, 2005.

"Of Passing and Citizenship in Younghill Kang's *East Goes West: The Making of an Oriental Yankee*"
MELUS (Society for the Study of the Multiethnic Literatures of the United States) Conference, University
of Texas, San Antonio, March 10-14, 2004.

"Eurasian Gothic: Passing and Asian/American Women in *Shanghai Gesture*"
Twentieth National Association for Asian American Studies Conference,
San Francisco, California, May 5-8, 2003.

Conducted undergraduate seminar on "Asian Pacific Americans in Media and Popular Culture," Asian/
Asian Pacific American Students' Coalition conference *From Shore to Sand – The New Desert Peril*,
October 26-28, 2001.

"Real and Imagined Spaces of the Nation: Imperialist Fantasies in *The Good Earth* and Frank Capra's war
documentaries *Why We Fight*" *Eighteenth National Association for Asian American Studies Conference*,
Toronto, Ontario, March 28 – April 1, 2001.

"Immigrant (Alien)ations in Younghill Kang's *East Goes West: the Making of an Oriental Yankee*"
Seventeenth National Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Scottsdale, Arizona, May 24-28,
2000.

"Lost Imaginaries: Images of China and the American Frontier," *1999 American Studies Colloquium
Conference*, Seattle, Washington, May 27-28, 1999.

"Scopophilic Nostalgia and 'Transnationalism' in Ang Lee's Films," *Fourteenth National Association for
Asian American Studies Conference*, Seattle, Washington, April 17-19, 1997.

"Gendering the Identity of the "Post" Nation in the Short Stories of Hisaye Yamamoto," *Fourth Annual
Southwest Graduate Literature Symposium*, Tempe, Arizona, March 7-9, 1997.

“The Wedding Banquet,” *MELUS* (Society for the Study of Multiethnic Literatures of the United States) Conference, Providence, Rhode Island, April 28-30, 1995.

“Masquerading the Fetish: A Reading of the *Thief of Baghdad*,”
Theoretical Approaches to Marginalized Literatures Conference, Missoula, Montana, March 18-20, 1994.

PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY LECTURES:

“Asian American History” Border Patrol (invited) May 2006 Tucson, Arizona.

Presenter: “Asian Pacific Americans Heritage Celebration” Social Security Administration, Mesa, Arizona office, May 19, 2005.

Presenter: “Asian Pacific Americans Today” American Indian Student Organization Association’s In-House Professor Lecture series, Arizona State University, April 29, 2004.

Presenter: “The History of Asian Pacific Americans in Media and Popular Culture,” Asian/ Asian Pacific American Students’ Coalition National Conference, *Breaking the Mold, Creating A New Image*, Arizona State University, April 3, 2004.

Presenter: “The Importance of American Ethnic Studies” Multicultural Student Center Fall 2003 Sun Devil Welcome, Arizona State University, August 23, 2003.

Presenter: “Asian Pacific American Studies” Center for Asian Studies Seminar in Asian Humanities, Arizona State University, July 15-17, 2003.

Co-Presenter: “Asian Pacific American History and Activism” Asian LEAD Academy, Arizona State University, June 4, 2003.

Presenter: “Media Images of Asian Americans” *Leadership Conference for Asia Pacifics*, University of Arizona, April 19-21, 2002.

Panelist “Interracial Relations for Asian Pacific Americans” Asian Pacific American Studies Spring 2002 Lecture Series.

Presenter: “Asian Pacific Americans in Media and Popular Culture,” Asian/ Asian Pacific American Students’ Coalition National Conference, *From Shore to Sand – The New Desert Peril*, October 26-28, 2001.

TEACHING AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona

Asian Pacific American Studies 200: *Introduction to Asian Pacific American Studies*
Asian Pacific American Studies 210: *Introduction to Ethnic Studies*
Asian Pacific American Studies 310: *Asian Pacific American Arts and Cultures*
Asian Pacific American Studies 330: *Asian Pacific American Genders and Sexualities*
Asian Pacific American Studies 340: *Asian Pacific Americans and Media*
Asian Pacific American Studies 345: *Asian Pacific Americans and Media*
Asian Pacific American Studies 360: *Chinese American Experience*
Asian Pacific American Studies 360: *Korean American Experience*
Asian Pacific American Studies 360: *Multiracial Experience*
Asian Pacific American Studies 334: *Asian Pacific American Men and Women*
English 102: *Research Paper*, Department of English

University of Washington, Seattle

English 257A: *Introduction to Asian Pacific American Literature*
English 104-105: *Basic Writing*
English 121U: *Visuality and American Culture*
English 131: *Expository Writing*

University of California, Riverside, Riverside, California

English IC *Introduction to Analytical Writing*
English IA *Introductory Composition*

UNIVERSITY and COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Arizona State University Faculty Senate 2006-2007
- Asian American Faculty and Staff Association, board member, ASU 2002-Present; Secretary 2003-05
- Asian Pacific American Advisory Council, convened by Chancellor Glasper, Maricopa Community Colleges, 2004-present
- Diversity Alliance Organization ASU, 2002-2003
- Asian LEAD Academy, board member, Arizona State University, Student Affairs, 2001-05
- Committee member, Asian/Asian Pacific American Convocation at ASU, 2002-05
- Feature writer, *Asian SUNews*, Arizona Asian American newspaper, 2001-04
- Japanese American Citizen's League, member 2003-present

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

- Association for Asian Americans Studies
- American Studies Association
- MELUS (Society for the Study of Multiethnic Literatures of the United States)
- MLA (Modern Language Association)

REFERENCES

Dissertation Chair:

Professor Caroline Chung Simpson, Department of English, University of Washington, PO Box 354330, Seattle, Washington, 98195

Professor Shawn Wong, Department of English, University of Washington, University of Washington, PO Box 354330, Seattle, Washington, 98195

Professor David Palumbo-Liu, Department of Comparative Literature, Stanford University, Stanford, California, 94305-2031