

Asian American Research Journal (AARJ)

Contributors

FACULTY BIOS

Dr. Khatharya Um is a political scientist, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. She is also a core faculty of Global Studies, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, and the Institute for European Studies at Berkeley. She received her PhD from the University of California, Berkeley where she was also the Chancellor's Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow. Professor Um is a founder of the Critical Refugee Studies Collective. Her research and teaching interests center on Southeast Asia and Southeast Asian American studies, migration and diaspora studies, colonial and postcolonial studies, and peace and conflict studies. She has published extensively on Southeast Asia and Southeast Asian diaspora, including the recent books *From the Land of Shadows: War, Revolution and the Making of the Cambodian Diaspora* and *Southeast Asian Migration: People on the Move in Search of Work, Refuge and Belonging*. She is also actively engaged with issues of equity and inclusion through her research and community advocacy. Her path breaking research on Southeast Asian Americans, particularly in the areas of educational and health disparities, has informed local and national policies and programs. She has also founded and served on the board of a number of refugee-serving organizations. She is a recipient of the prestigious Chancellor's Award for Advancing Institutional Excellence and Equity.

Dr. Lok Siu (she/her) is a cultural anthropologist and Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies and Asian American/Asian Diaspora Studies at UC Berkeley. She is also the Chair of Berkeley's Senate Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Campus Climate, as well as an affiliated faculty in Anthropology, the Center for Race and Gender, the Center for Chinese Studies, the Center for Latin American Studies, and the Berkeley Food Institute. Her specialization includes Asians in the Americas; belonging and citizenship; comparative and relational studies of race/gender/class; and the cultural politics of food. She has published four books and volumes, including *Memories of a Future Home: Diasporic Citizenship of Chinese in Panama* (2005), *Asian Diasporas: New Formations, New Conceptions* (2007), *Gendered Citizenships: Transnational Perspectives on knowledge Production, Political Activism, and Culture* (2009), and *Chinese Diaspora: Its Development in Global Perspective* (2021), as well as numerous articles and book chapters. She is a two-time recipient of the Social Science Book Award from the National Asian American Studies Association. As a regular public speaker at conferences, universities, and other institutions, she also contributes and appears in national and international media, including CNN, NYT, WSJ, Bloomberg, CBS, WNYC, Le Temps, and Spanish Agency EFE, etc. She received her PhD from Stanford University.

Dr. Michael Omi (he/his) is Professor Emeritus of Ethnic Studies and Asian American/Asian Diaspora Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the co-author, with Howard Winant, of *Racial Formation in the United States* (Third Edition, 2015), a groundbreaking work that transformed how we understand the social and historical forces that give race its changing meaning over time and place. He is also the co-editor of the recent anthology *Japanese American Millennials: Rethinking Generation, Community, and Diversity* (2019). Professor Omi is a recipient of UC Berkeley's *Distinguished Teaching Award* --- an honor bestowed on only 272 Berkeley faculty members since the award's inception in 1959.

CHIEF EDITOR BIOS

Anh-Tu Lu (he/him) recently graduated with a Bachelor's degree, double majoring in Operations Research & Management Science and Data Science. Right after graduation, he will be working in the financial services industry, hoping to learn more about how to increase access to financial institutions and non-predatory credit for underserved communities. Outside of AARJ, Anh-Tu was heavily involved in the Berkeley Forum, an on-campus organization that strives to host talks, debates and panels on pertinent issues by bringing prominent speakers to campus. Off campus, Anh-Tu volunteered as a Vietnamese translator for APIAVote to increase civic education for Vietnamese immigrants and enjoys reading, hiking, playing on his Switch, and journaling.

Austin Le (he/they) is an incoming Master's of Science student in Environmental Health Sciences at UC Berkeley School of Public Health, where he hopes to study environmental epigenetics, children's health and neurodevelopment, and Asian American health disparities. He received simultaneous degrees in Integrative Biology and Molecular Environmental Biology with minors in Global Public Health and Conservation and Resource Studies from UC Berkeley where he studied public health genomics of atopic dermatitis, computational toxicology of cannabis metabolism, and subthreshold beta-amyloid accumulation in Alzheimer's Disease. Austin was involved with the Southeast Asian Student Coalition as a Summer Institute mentor, coordinator, volunteer, and program co-director and Cal Vietnamese Student Association as a student leader and dance coordinator. He enjoys working with youth and currently works as a medical assistant at a pediatric clinic and is a youth culture show program director at the Viet-American Youth Association.

Gabrielle Nguyen (she/her) is a senior studying psychology with research interests in cognitive neuroscience and developmental psychology. She is currently a medical assistant at a pediatric clinic and has also recently worked for a psychiatry research lab at the UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences as well as a social psychology lab at the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business. In addition, she is a part-time freelance artist, and has recently worked with the Southeast Asian

Student Coalition to design the cover for their 2020-2021 anthology. Gabby has also been involved in the Vietnamese Student Association since arriving at Berkeley.

Richie Chu (he/they) is a recent UC Berkeley graduate that majored in molecular and cellular biology with minors in global public health and Asian American studies. He is involved with the Southeast Asian Student Coalition as a coordinator and volunteer and Cal Vietnamese Student Association as a student leader and a mentor. Richie hopes to use his education and community organizing experience as a pediatrician to serve youth and the Asian American community. He hopes to utilize his public health training and community organizing experience in the future as a physician in order to achieve health equity and broaden research and community-led programs in Asian American communities.

CHIEF DESIGNER BIO

Jamie Noh (she/they) is a 4th year Political Science Major and Asian American and Asian Diaspora studies minor. During their time at Berkeley, they have been involved with Asian American community particularly through working at APASD and being the 2021 chair of APIICON (the Asian Pacific Islander Issues Conference). Jamie hopes to continue advocacy and community work now that she has graduated and will be working in Oakland. Jamie is also an AARJ editor.

EDITOR BIOS

Ashley Lee (she/her) is a senior double majoring in Integrative Biology and Public Health and hopes to attend medical school with the goal of helping her community and those abroad in underserved populations/countries. Ashley was a coordinator for the Southeast Asian Student Coalition for 2 years and helped to organize a summer camp for Southeast Asian high school students to learn more about their cultures. She is passionate about Public Health as well and the need to maintain Southeast Asian representation in education and healthcare services. After graduating in December 2021, Ashley will take a couple gap years before applying to medical school.

Dustin Nguyen (he/him/his) is a 3rd year studying Business Administration with a minor in Asian American Studies. He is passionate about educational equity, Asian American literature, and mindfulness. His past campus involvements include REACH! API Recruitment & Retention Center, Matriculate, student government, and The Berkeley Forum. One of his favorite memories at Cal include managing a speaker event with Pulitzer prize-winning author Viet Thanh Nguyen.

Guillen Austria (she/her) is a 4th year majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies and minoring in Global Public Health. She is working on her senior thesis, focusing on Southeast Asian migrant women and their experiences during pregnancy and postpartum. Additionally, she is a research apprentice and works on reading and analyzing life history papers.

Gun Ho Moon (he/him) is a 3rd year studying Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies. He aims to be a surgeon to serve communities and is particularly passionate about mitigating health disparities across varying ethnic groups as well as centering the experiences and psychologies of the marginalized.

Jae Won or Jake Sim (he/ him) is a senior majoring in Ethnic Studies. Their goal after graduation is to become a social worker and provide assistance to people who are struggling due to unfortunate life circumstances and bring awareness of systemic institutional barriers. They currently work through the Basic Needs Center as a CalFresh Ambassador to help people sign up for CalFresh and hope to someday be a counselor or a licensed therapist to help people address their needs.

Jamie Noh (she/they) is a 4th year Political Science Major and Asian American and Asian Diaspora studies minor. During their time at Berkeley, they have been involved with Asian American community particularly through working at APASD and being the 2021 chair of APIICON (the Asian Pacific Islander Issues Conference). Jamie hopes to continue advocacy and community work now that she has graduated and will be working in Oakland. Jamie is also an AARJ editor.

Monique Keo (she/her) is a sociology major graduating Fall 2021. They have taken courses in chemistry and biological sciences and intend on practicing medicine. Their dream is to own a small clinic and work with their community to offer affordable healthcare to underserved populations, especially womxn, poor people, and those identifying as LGBTQ+. They would also love to go to Cambodia one day and volunteer their skills to deliver healthcare to the people there. Monique has always been interested in social justice and medicine, and sees an intersection between the two that they want to apply in their professional career. Even before transferring to UC Berkeley, Monique has always been passionate about serving the underdogs and believes everyone deserves to have access to quality of life.

Yi-Shen Loo (she/hers) is a 4th year double majoring in Asian American Studies and Ethnic Studies and minoring in Japanese. She is passionate about creating spaces to uplift voices in the

AAPI community and is an intern for the National Japanese American Historical Society. She is also a member of the AAPI Community COVID Archive Project and works on campus as a tutor in Japanese language. In her free time, she loves to bake and go on hikes.

AUTHOR BIOS

Alejandro Felipe Manuel (he/they) is a senior studying Media Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, graduating in the Fall of 2021. By infusing his background in Pilipinx-American organizing spaces with his academic pursuits, Alejandro takes a special focus on Asian-American representations in the media and the role of virtual communities in identity-formation.

Anh-Vy Phan (she/he/they) is a 3rd year double-majoring in Political Science and Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies as well as minoring in Korean Language and Culture. Their goal is to become a human rights and immigration lawyer and help vulnerable communities within the United States. Since the beginning of their undergraduate career, Anh-Vy has volunteered and worked extensively with the Southeast Asian refugee community and youth through the revival of the Southeast Asian Mentorship program under the Southeast Asian Student Coalition.

Ben Vo (he/him, they/them), is a recent UC Berkeley graduate with a degree in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies and a certificate in Asian American community health. Ben was involved with the Southeast Asian Student Coalition on campus as the co-operations chair and as a mentor for its Summer Institute. In his spare time, he enjoys listening to Vietnamese pop, playing basketball, and learning Mandarin.

Caitlyn Jordan (she/her) graduated with Highest Distinction in May 2020 from UC Berkeley, where she studied English and double minored in Creative Writing and Human Rights Interdisciplinary. At Berkeley, she was awarded the English Department 2020 Departmental Citation and wrote her honors thesis on the relationship between the marriage plot of eighteenth and nineteenth century British literature and legal conceptions of consent during the time. Her thesis, “‘So Here is a Plot to Ruin Me’: Legal and Literary Forms of Female Consent in the Marriage Plot of *Pamela* and *Mansfield Park*” was published in the Berkeley Undergraduate Journal in fall 2020.

Dionne Nguyen (she/her), is a recent graduate of the University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies, Bachelor of Science in Environmental Economics and Policy as well as a minor in Global Public Health in She is an aspiring public health professional interested in serving minority and underrepresented communities. Some of her research interests

are in women's health, particularly in sexual and reproductive health education, and promoting health literacy.

Esther Jieun Smith (she/her) is a 4th year studying Political Science with an interest in civil rights protections for racial and immigrant communities. She has worked with professors from the Asian American and Asian Diaspora and Political Science departments to produce research on voting rights for Asian Americans, affirmative action in higher education, and the troubling surge of violence against the AAPI community during COVID-19.

Jacob Huy (he/they) is a current graduate student in the School of Public Health and a Cal undergraduate with a B.S. in Molecular Environmental Biology and a B.A. in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies. He is currently an MPH Candidate in Environmental Health Sciences and Industrial Hygiene, with interests in workers' health, health advocacy, occupational risk and exposure assessments, and research for communities of color, particularly those in occupational niches/tough, ergonomic, and exposure-prone working conditions.

Jae Won or Jake Sim (he/ him/ they) is a senior majoring in Ethnic Studies. Their goal after graduation is to become a social worker and provide assistance to people who are struggling due to unfortunate life circumstances and bring awareness of systemic institutional barriers. They currently work through the Basic Needs Center as a CalFresh Ambassador to help people sign up for CalFresh and hope to someday be a counselor or a licensed therapist to help people address their needs.

Janie Chen (she/her) is a 4th year Ethnic Studies and Sociology student from occupied Ohlone land/Oakland. Her personal, political, and academic interests include social movements, the Asian diaspora, and storytelling. On campus, she is part of the Bob and Colleen Haas Scholars Program, the Peter E. Haas Public Service Leaders, and the Sociology Honors Thesis Program. Her research on AAPI reentry has been presented at several conferences, including the upcoming American Sociological Association's 2021 Conference. She has also been involved with the API Move Fellowship as an Asian Prisoner Support Committee intern, the Ethnic Studies Library as an archival assistant, and the Multicultural Community Center as a garden and wellness intern. An important part of her undergraduate career has been her work with Eastwind Books of Berkeley as an events coordinator and most recently, as co-editor with Professor Harvey Dong of the anthology *Power of the People Won't Stop: The Legacy of the TWLF at UC Berkeley*. Inspired by the Third World Liberation Front movement, her goal is to continue learning new knowledge and frameworks for change to mobilize and empower communities of color through ethnic studies education.

Justin Dela Cruz (he/they) is a 4th year undergraduate student majoring in Asian American and

Asian Diaspora Studies. Justin's research interests span Critical Filipinx Diaspora Studies, Asian American Social and Cultural Politics, Queer of Color Subject Formation, and Contemporary Queer Asian American Discourse. Justin is currently working on their honors thesis titled *Queering the Closet: How Queer Filipino American College Students Disrupt Normative Frameworks of Coming Out* that reconsiders, obscures, and rearticulates hegemonic queer disclosures and queer liberation. Justin's research on queer Filipinx American students has been presented at the 2021 Haas Scholars Conference and he is expected to present at the national Association for Asian American Studies Conference and the UC Berkeley Center for Race and Gender Research Symposium in April. Justin has been awarded the Social Science Fellowship for the Robert and Colleen Haas Scholars Program, the Fall 2020 Student Grant Recipient award of the UC Berkeley Center for Race and Gender, and the 2020 Prism Foundation Scholarship for their contributions to the LGBTQ+ API community. Justin is also a sitting Political Education and Leadership Co-Chair of the Asian American Pacific American Student Development Office as well as the Internal Affairs Director for Pilipinx Academic Student Services where they facilitate the political education of undergraduate Asian American UC Berkeley students.

Kerry Kay is a Family Medicine physician and HIV specialist who works at Asian Health Services, a federally qualified community health center located in Oakland, California.

Lawrence Su (he/him) is a Political Science major and Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies minor at the University of California, Berkeley. He has been an advocate for California community college students through his work in the Student Senate for California Community Colleges as the organization's Executive Vice President, among other positions, and is a proud transfer student from De Anza community college. Lawrence continues to be active in statewide and local elections, always seeking ways to enhance the voices of communities of color both legislatively and politically.

Linda Vu (she/her) is a recent UC Berkeley graduate in Molecular and Cell Biology and Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies. She has been actively participating in research on the topic of AAPI and public health as part of Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (URAP) and Asian American Pacific Islander Health Research Group (AAPIHRG) and is involved in other various student organizations. She aspires to work in the healthcare industry, serving underrepresented and low-income communities.

Micha Zheng (she/her) is currently a resident physician at the University of California, San Francisco Department of Urology. She graduated from the UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program, where her research focused on immigrant Asian postpartum rituals, inspired by her own mothers' participation in doing the month practices.

Michael Anthony Kallen, PhD, MPH (he/him) is a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Medical Social Sciences at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. His doctorate is in Educational Psychology; he is a fully trained psychometric scientist with expertise in classical and modern test theory and their health measurement applications. Dr. Kallen has a strong research track focused on the psychometric development, adaptation, evaluation, and interpretation of health-related measures, including instruments measuring attitudes, beliefs, and disease-specific quality of life among identified patient populations. He also has expertise in the behavioral modeling of health and quality of life-related outcomes. Beyond his doctorate, Dr. Kallen has a Master in Public Health degree in Epidemiology, with an emphasis in Biostatistics.

Michael Bryann Gaetos (he/him) is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley having received his bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in education. Born in San Fernando, La Union in the Philippines, he came to the San Francisco Bay Area with his family when he was only three years old. As a first-generation college student, Michael transferred from Diablo Valley College in 2019 and continued his passions in politics and critical pedagogy at UC Berkeley. During his time as an undergraduate student, he took on opportunities within student affairs such as student advising, mentorship, and a balance of educational fieldwork and research particularly around educational access and equity. From his experiences, Michael hopes to soon pursue an M.Ed. (masters in education) program in the near future with a concentration in higher education administration and student affairs to ultimately engage in social and educational discourse via practice, policy, and research.

Rose Schweis (she/her) is a Thai-American student in her 4th year as a Southeast Asian Studies major with a minor in Human Rights at UC Berkeley. Her academic research interests include Cold War era politics, land rights, and the labor movement in Southeast Asia, with a focus on Thailand. She is a literacy mentor through the Berkeley United in Literacy Development (BUILD) program and student mentor with the Southeast Asian Mentorship Program (SEAM)--both programs seeking to address educational disparities in marginalized communities in her locale. After graduation, she hopes to delve into feminist and labor organizing, and continue researching and fighting for various social justice causes in the Southeast Asian community and beyond.

Stacey Jung (she/her) is a 4th year studying Molecular Environmental Biology with a concentration in the Environment and Human Health. Her studies focus on environmental justice and the way in which health outcomes are influenced by the social determinants of health. She is involved with research that explores the impacts of anthropogenic air pollution on respiratory health, especially within marginalized communities. Outside of the classroom, she enjoys dancing and performing as well as studying the history behind various dance forms.

Sou Saechao (he/him) is a 4th year student studying Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies at UC Berkeley. He is a student organizer for various organizations on-campus such as the Southeast Asian Student Coalition (SASC) and Iu-Mien Student Union of Berkeley (IMSU). In addition, he was a student-researcher and facilitator in the Asian American Pacific Islander Health Research Group (AAPIHRG).

Stephanie Liu (she/her) currently works at a healthcare startup as a Senior Data Analyst. She has an MPH from UC Berkeley in Infectious Diseases and Vaccinology. She is passionate about the use of data to improve healthcare.

Susan L. Ivey, MD, MHSA (she/her) is a Professor, Adjunct, at University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health, and Director of Research at Health Research for Action. She is board-certified in Family Medicine and has a Master's in Health Services Management and Policy from George Washington University. She completed a 2-year post-doctoral research fellowship in Health Policy and Health Services Research at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Ivey has over 20 years of experience in health policy and health services research including design and evaluation of health and health care interventions, particularly for low-income populations, recent immigrants, and Asian Americans.

Van Viet Thuy Nguyen (she/her) is a first-generation Vietnamese-American college graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. Born and raised in San Jose, California, she is proud to be back in her hometown to serve her community as an educator at a local high school. Outside of work, she is a volunteer sexual health screener at a free clinic. Van is deeply passionate about recruiting and retaining students of color into higher education, providing nonjudgmental and patient-centered healthcare services, and using data to inform policy and practice. Her research interests include the Bay Area soda tax, traditional postpartum practices, and educational equity through student recruitment and retention efforts. She is dedicated to co-creating safer and braver spaces for young people to grow and thrive in.

Yi-Shen Loo (she/hers) is a 4th year double majoring in Asian American Studies and Ethnic Studies and minoring in Japanese. She is passionate about creating spaces to uplift voices in the AAPI community and is an intern for the National Japanese American Historical Society. She is also a member of the AAPI Community COVID Archive Project and works on campus as a tutor in Japanese language. In her free time, she loves to bake and go on hikes.

Yuanqi Ivy Zhou (she/her) is a recent UC Berkeley graduate who studied Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Physics. Throughout her undergraduate years, she has conducted research in administrative law, cultural politics of food, and media representation

related to Asian Americans. She has presented her work at conferences hosted by the National Women Studies Association, Asian Pacific American Student Development, and the Italian Studies Department at UC Berkeley. As a Development Volunteer for Asians Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus and a Court Watch Intern for the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, she aided in efforts to fund pro-bono legal representation of Asian Americans and restore justice for the underrepresented minorities. During her time at Cal, she was a Program Intern for the AAADS program, working to oversee program events and social media. She also served as the External Affairs Chair of the Asian Pacific American Pre-Law Association where she managed the mentorship program and guest speaker series to support API pre-law students at Berkeley. She was awarded the Ling-Chi Wang Community Empowerment Leadership Award in 2021 for her leadership and service within the Asian American community. In the future, Ms. Zhou hopes to go to law school and work at the intersection of law, civil rights, and technology.