

Asian American Research Journal (AARJ)

Contributors

FACULTY BIOS

Dr. Lok Siu (she/her) is a cultural anthropologist and Associate Professor of Ethnic Studies and Asian American and 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 relationship 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. Khatharya Um (she/her) 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.

CHIEF EDITOR BIOS

Yi-Shen Loo (she/hers) is a 4th year double majoring in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies and Ethnic Studies and minoring in Japanese. She is passionate about creating spaces to uplift voices in the AAPI community and works as a fellow for the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA). 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.

Gun Ho Moon (he/him) is a 4th year majoring in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies. He aims to be a surgeon to serve his communities and is passionate about the centering of marginalized narratives. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, writing, and producing music.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR BIOS

Julianne Han (she/her) is a 2nd year undergraduate student at UC Berkeley majoring in English. She has been involved in multiple creative and journalistic projects and currently works as an editor for Berkeley Fiction Review (BFR), a short fiction publication. In being involved with both creative and technical writing she hopes to uplift stories in her community while exploring identity and cultural dynamics. When she is not editing or writing short fiction, Julianne also practices photography, poetry, and screenwriting on the side.

Antonia Mou (she/her) is a 1st year undergraduate majoring in Environmental Sciences and minoring in Public Policy. She hopes to use her experience in journalistic writing to bring greater awareness to the socio-economic barriers faced by historically underrepresented Asian communities. Outside of AARJ, Antonia does policy and advocacy work as an academic caseworker in the ASUC Student Advocate's Office. She is also passionate about environmental and climate education, and works within UC Berkeley's Student Environmental Resource Center (SERC) and Planty Social @ Berkeley to expand community engagement.

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR BIO

Frances Chai (she/her) is a 1st year majoring in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies and minoring in Public Policy. She is also a Social Good Associate for UC Berkeley's EthICAL Apparel and is passionate about environmental justice movements along with Asian American advocacy. In the future, she hopes to work in public policy or law.

FINANCE CHAIR BIO

Jujhar Sandhu (he/him) is a 4th year student majoring in Economics and minoring in Computer Science. He hopes to continue supporting platforms that amplify marginalized voices. In his extra time, he enjoys playing and watching basketball as well as hiking to viewpoints.

GENERAL EDITOR BIOS

Grace Huang (she/her) is a 1st year studying Political Science and minoring in Public Policy. She is passionate about promoting comprehensive and inclusive education about AAPI history and creating space for marginalized AAPI voices. She hopes to do advocacy work as a lawyer after graduation.

Allison Lam (she/her) is a senior majoring in Molecular and Cell Biology: Immunology and Pathogenesis and minoring in Global Public Health. She hopes to attend medical school with the ultimate goal of working in cancer care with a focus on breast cancer. At Cal, she has been heavily involved in The Suitcase Clinic and Berkeley Engineers and Mentors. She has also served on board for GenFlow and interned for the Pilipino American Alliance. This year, she is working for Kaiser Division of Research and at the Women's Cancer Resource Center. As a future physician, she aspires to intersect her experience as both a minority and a woman in stem to mitigate healthcare disparities and provide equal and adequate access to medical care for all.

Austin Le (he/they) is a current graduate student in the UC Berkeley School of Public Health studying Environmental Health Sciences. He also attended UC Berkeley for his undergraduate degrees where he was active in Southeast Asian student organizing. He was one of the co-founders of the first issue of the Asian American Research Journal. Austin's current research centers on investigating how social and environmental factors could inform public health intervention. With interests in children's health, Asian health, toxic exposures, and disease biomarkers, he utilizes large databases (survey and mortality data) to investigate health disparities. He is currently studying associations between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and telomere length in a pediatric cohort. Additionally, he is currently a researcher at the Stanford Center for Asian Healthcare Research and Education (CARE) where he is studying Asian health services disparities. Current projects include developing a novel acculturation index, studying racial disparities in opioid overdose mortality, and associations between social determinants of health and optimal cardiovascular health among Asian subgroups.

Riss Myung (she/her) is a senior majoring in Public Health and minoring in Global Poverty and Practice with a Certificate in Asian American Community Health. Her interests range from nutrition, food systems, and environmental justice to sexual/reproductive health. She organizes against gender-based violence and has written extensively on these issues. Riss has been a part of Asian Health Services' Youth Program, Banteay Srei, and Asian American/Pacific Islander Health Research Group (AAPIHRG). Outside of school and work at Upward Bound Math & Sciences, she writes poetry and performs spoken word. After graduation, she plans on working in the anti-sexual violence field or community health/health education field.

AUTHOR BIOS

Richie Chu (he/him) is a Cal Alumnus with a degree in Molecular and Cell Biology and minors in Global Public Health and Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies. He is an incoming UCLA dual Master's of Public Health and Master's of Arts in Asian American Studies student with aspirations to conduct research on social determinants of health, mental health, and youth health within marginalized Asian American communities. Through his experiences as a second-generation Vietnamese American, his coursework in Asian American Studies, publishing UC Berkeley's inaugural Asian American research journal, and organizing Southeast Asian youth programs, he felt repeatedly disappointed by the lack of studies and programs that failed to disaggregate and focus on Southeast Asian health issues. Thus, his desire to research Asian American health comes from an intrinsic motivation to advance this field of precision health research and to ultimately address the health disparities that continue to affect his family and community.

Rosalyn Fei (she/they) is an undergraduate double-majoring in Anthropology and Comparative Ethnic Studies, as well as minoring in Education. They have a variety of research interests, which include: how global vegan trends affect understandings of traditional cultural foods, abolition of carceral logics and demonstrations of love within East Asian Americans families, and Japanese and Taiwanese prehistoric archaeology. Rosie has been an undergraduate researcher in the East Asian Archaeology Lab under Dr. Junko Habu for three years, where they sort and catalog floral remains from prehistoric Jomon people in Japan.

Reva Kale (she/hers) is a 3rd year student at Berkeley studying History and Public Policy. As a second-generation South Asian American, she strives to use history as a means of understanding her own cultural identity and questioning long-held stereotypes about immigrant communities and their descendants. Additionally, she is interested in legal history and dreams of attending law school one day to become a public interest attorney. Outside of school, Reva works as a community organizer for a non-profit and a volunteer tutor in Berkeley public schools!

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 works as a fellow for the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA). 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.

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Sammy Wu (he/him/his) is a 3rd year Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies major, intending to also double major in psychology and minor in education. Sammy has been involved with education-based advocacy as a REACH! Coordinator and intern during his undergraduate career, which has provided the framework to understand Asian American identity both politically and personally. His goal is to connect this part of his identity with storytelling and writing in his future prospects.

Michelle Yiu (she/they) is a 4th year majoring in Public Health and Integrative Biology and minoring in Public Policy and Asian American Studies. She hopes to work at the intersection of health policy and community health to advance health equity and address social determinants of health. During her time at UC Berkeley, she has been involved with the Asian American and Pacific Islander Health Research Group (AAPIHRG), Suitcase Clinic, and Bone Health Initiative. She has also previously been a MOVE Fellow at Chinese Progressive Association, a Sex Ed Instructor with Asian Health Services Youth Program, a Health Policy Fellow at the Alliance for Health Policy, a Cal-IHEA Undergraduate Health Equity Scholar, and a Research Assistant at the Petris Center.