

Asian American Research Journal (AARJ)

Contributors

FACULTY ADVISORS

Dr. Khatharya Um (she/her) is a political scientist and Associate Professor for the Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies department at the University of California, Berkeley. She is also a core faculty member 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 education 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.

Professor Vernadette Vicuña Gonzalez (she/her) is a professor of Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies in the Ethnic Studies Department at UC Berkeley. Her interdisciplinary humanities-based research broadly examines cultures of imperialism, with a focus on the United States and its colonial territories and interventions in Asia and the Pacific. A central theme in her work is how race, Indigeneity, gender, and sexuality intersect and operate, sometimes together and sometimes in opposition, in the cultural terrains of empire. Her first book, *Securing Paradise: Tourism and Militarism in Hawai'i and the Philippines (2013)*, considers the convergences of modern military and touristic ideologies, cultures, and technologies of tourism and militarism, and was named the best book in cultural studies by the Association for Asian American Studies in 2015. She is also co-editor of *Bangtan Remixed*, an interdisciplinary critical reader about the K-pop group BTS with Patty Ahn, Michelle Cho, Rani Neutill, Mimi Thi Nguyen, and Yutian Wong (forthcoming 2024, Duke UP). She is delighted to be back at her alma mater, where she earned her doctorate in Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender and Sexuality from this department in 2004.

CHIEF EDITORS

Grace Huang (she/her) is a third year majoring in Political Science with minors in Public Policy and Asian American & Asian Diaspora Studies. She is deeply committed to fostering equity and opportunities for marginalized communities through policy and public service, and hopes to continue driving change as a lawyer. On campus, Grace serves as the intern for the Asian American & Asian Diaspora Studies Program and an Asian American & External Relations Coordinator for the ASUC, and also supports various programs that aim to connect underrepresented students with pre-law and public service professional opportunities. She spends her free time taking naps, getting into arguments about movies, and trying new food.

Julianne Han (she/her) is a fourth year majoring in English and minoring in Asian American & Asian Diaspora Studies. With a focus on storytelling, she has involved herself in multiple journalistic and creative projects. Aside from her work with AARJ, Julianne is an editor-in-chief with Berkeley Fiction Review (BFR), a videography director and photographer for Fashion and Student Trends, and an independent photographer and filmmaker. In involving herself with both technical and creative pursuits, she hopes to utilize writing and creative work to further uplift the stories and voices of her community while exploring differing identities and cultural dynamics.

EXECUTIVE EDITORS

Cynthia Rahman (she/her) is a fourth year undergraduate at UC Berkeley majoring Global Studies and a minor in Human Rights. She is interested in research in South Asia and has written on Honors Thesis on the topic of reproductive rights in Bangladesh post-war in 1971. She is also the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the Bengali Student Association (BSA) at Cal. She is interested in empowering the voices of minorities. Outside of academic research, Cynthia is also interested in documentary filmmaking and photography.

Seo Lee (she/her) is a first-year majoring in Legal Studies with an intended minor in Japanese Language. Outside of AARJ, Seo is also editing for The Comparative Literature Undergraduate Journal and Vagabond Multilingual Journal. Next year as a sophomore, she will be working for the Student Learning Center as a writing tutor. She aspires for a career involving lots of traveling, diverse languages, and public policy. Her free time is a haphazard combination of sleeping, going on runs, reading books, and drawing.

CHIEF DESIGNER

Seo Lee (she/her) is a first-year majoring in Legal Studies with an intended minor in Japanese Language. Outside of AARJ, Seo is also editing for The Comparative Literature Undergraduate

Journal and Vagabond Multilingual Journal. Next year as a sophomore, she will be working for the Student Learning Center as a writing tutor. She aspires for a career involving lots of traveling, diverse languages, and public policy. Her free time is a haphazard combination of sleeping, going on runs, reading books, and drawing.

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR AND FINANCE & OPERATIONS CHAIR

Amy Lee (she/her) is a second-year majoring in Legal Studies with minors in Asian American & Asian Diaspora Studies and Education. She is passionate about reformative justice, education, and creating equal opportunities for marginalized communities. Outside on AARJ, Amy is involved with various pre-law and judicial organizations on campus, serving as a leader. In the future, she hopes to attend law school with a focus on public defense and juvenile justice to continue to uplift the voices of those who have been silenced. In her free time, you can find her at the gym, crocheting, or reading mystery novels.

GENERAL EDITORS

Angie Zhao (she/her) is a 4th year majoring in public health with a minor in Global Poverty & Practice. She is a Maternal Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) LEAP scholar and has been assisting in several reproductive health-related research projects at UCB and UCSF. She is passionate about a wide range of public health studies among minority populations. Angie aims to become a public health physician and will pursue her MPH after graduation. In her spare time, she likes to cook, hike and read.

Brianna Smith (any pronouns) is a 3rd year majoring in English. They are focused on studying literature and ethnic studies, especially the intersectionality between the two. They have been an active participant in the LGBTQ+ and Asian American community in their home in Los Angeles and Berkeley. After graduation, they aim to work in the publishing or journalism industry and assist authors of disadvantaged backgrounds to get their stories heard. In their free time, they enjoy journaling and exploring their city.

Derek Tonel (he/him) is a second year majoring in Sociology with a minor in Music. He hopes to combine his interests and study the subversive history of music, specifically the role that it has played in society as a force of transformation and empowerment for marginalized groups. In his free time, he competes in triathlons as a member of the Cal Triathlon Team.

Jishan Jiang (she/her) is a 2nd year majoring in Legal Studies and Data Science, also minoring Education. She is interested in the intersection of social policy and education in a datafied world.

Passionate about education equity, she participated in a URAP project about promoting justice through social-design based experiments and scholarly efforts. Currently, she works as the project coordinator in ASUC Office of Senator Andy Liu, overseeing a scholarship program called Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch Fellowship, which aims to empower young researchers in the field of International Relations and East Asian Studies. Outside of Cal, she is a volunteer labor coach at Asian Health Services, providing translation and emotional support for monolingual immigrants during their delivery process.

Vincent Nguyen (he/him) is a 4th year majoring in English with interests in journalism and studying the Asian American diaspora. He has previous work experience reporting for local news outlets and preparing high school students for college applications. Most recently, he has mentored the academic writing of fellow undergraduate students through tutoring programs. After graduation, he plans to work in marketing and copywriting.

Zoie Wong (she/her) is a first year undergraduate majoring in Sociology. She is passionate about representation of Asian Americans in mainstream media and popular culture. Through her advocacy and research skills, Zoie strives to bring awareness towards AAPI issues and multiculturalism in the U.S. Outside of AARJ, Zoie is involved in writing policies for the ASUC Senate and researching GMOs with SURG, an undergraduate research group. Her hobbies consist of exploring new bookstores and restaurants around UC Berkeley with her friends.

AUTHORS

Diane Chao (she/her) graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.A. in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies (AAADS) and Political Science, along with a minor in Public Policy. She was the recipient of the AAADS Student Achievement Award in 2023. Diane has gone abroad to study migration and human rights at the Thai-Myanmar borderland. Her research interests primarily focus on the relationship between Burmese diasporas, their homeland, and their host society—cutting across themes of transnationalism, advocacy, and identity to discuss Myanmar's pro-democracy movement.

Nicole Lai (she/her) is a 3rd year Integrative Biology student and conducted her public health research through the assistance of the Asian American Pacific Islander Health Research Group at Berkeley. She is a pre-med student who is interested in learning more about the intersections between her cultural background as a Vietnamese/Chinese individual and healthcare systems in America.

Pratiti Ketoki (they/them) is a current first-year Doctoral Student in the Department of English, at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. They recently graduated with an MA in Asian

Studies at the University of California at Berkeley with an emphasis on South Asia. Their interests lie in new media, modern and contemporary Bengali literature, and English and Hindi literature related to modern and contemporary Bengal. They also study comics in Bengal and particularly the impact of the French comic series, Tintin, in Calcutta. They also have Graduate Certificates in New Media and Urban Humanities from the University of California, Berkeley.

Stephanie Wong (she/her) recently graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with her Bachelors' Degree in Political Science and Global Studies. Stephanie served as a student Senator during her academic career, where she represented over 40,000 students at the University level. Some of her most notable achievements include raising \$3,000 for small businesses affected by covid-19 and anti-Asian hate; mandating risk management training for all student senators; and amending bylaws to mandate disclosures of conflicts of interest involving the Association's \$2.1 million budget. In addition to her tenure as student senator, Stephanie brings 4+ years of combined experience in the nonprofit and government sectors. Stephanie recently worked at Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach (APILO) as an Administrative Legal Assistant, where she provided research and Cantonese translation to the staff.

Vickie Cai (she/her) is a third year majoring in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies. She is interested in exploring how law, education, media, literature, and language intersect to create these diverse experiences and stories within the Asian American community. Her previous research has explored Asian American femininity and power through matrilineal themes in literature. Vickie hopes to continue highlighting Asian American voices through different art forms like interactive design and writing so that more people can find connection and community with each other.

Vivian Lee (she/her) is a fourth year undergraduate student pursuing a degree in Molecular Environmental Biology, an honors degree in Public Health, and a certificate in Asian American Community Health. In partnership with the Chinese Hospital in San Francisco and the Asian American Pacific Islander Health Research Group, she applied her academic expertise in public health to studying community health needs in San Francisco's Chinatown. Her previous work in public health includes researching impacts of COVID-19 pediatric vaccinations in California as well as teaching an introductory public health course at UC Berkeley, discussing social and ethical issues in health. Coming from a research-heavy background in both molecular and population-based research, she hopes to apply her skills towards her passion in health advocacy.

Zora Uyeda-Hale (she/her) is a second-year double majoring in Society & Environment and Ethnic Studies. She is particularly interested in storytelling, and the ways that narratives can shape community perception, health, and resilience. She also feels passionate about “artivism”, reproductive justice, and environmental justice. During her time at UC Berkeley, she has written research papers on Japan’s state-sanctioned sexual enslavement of Korean women, Indigenous

cultural burning and food sovereignty, and racial capitalism in the military. She currently works as a senior editor for *Perennial: UC Berkeley's Environmental Undergraduate Journal*.