

About the Contributors

KODAI ABE is Assistant Professor at the University of Tsukuba, Japan. He is working on two book projects: “Afro-Asian Antagonism and the Long Cold War” and “The Making of Japan–US Transpacific Exceptionalism.” His work has been published in such journals as *American Literature*, the *Journal of American Studies*, the *Journal of Asian American Studies*, and the *Journal of Asian Studies*, among others.

KARÍN AGUILAR-SAN JUAN, a second-generation Filipino-American, authored *Little Saigons: Staying Vietnamese in America* (U of Minnesota Press). With Frank Joyce, she coedited *The People Make the Peace: Lessons from the Vietnam Antiwar Movement* (available from PM Press in English, and Thế Giới Publishers in Vietnamese). She was a member of the South End Press publishing collective and an editor/production manager for *dollars & Sense* magazine; she also wrote for the *Women’s Review of Books*; *Sojourner: The Women’s Forum*; and *Gay Community News*. In the capacity of a writer/editor/publisher and community organizer, she had professional encounters with Audre Lorde, Cherríe Moraga, Michael Bronski, Margaret Randall, and Noam Chomsky. Since 2018, Karín has served as Professor and Chair of American Studies at Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where she teaches undergraduate courses on Bruce Lee and *The Hunger Games*. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Association for Asian American Studies and as Chair of the Bode-Pearson-Turpie Award Committee of the American Studies Association. Her film, *Rice: A Filipino Love Story*, is a short cinematic essay work-in-progress about an organic rice farm in the Philippines. In 2024, she ordained as a novice priest in the Buddhist tradition at Clouds in Water Zen Center in Saint Paul, Minnesota. This coedited Special Forum in the *Journal of Transnational American Studies* represents the culmination of a year-long, multimodal collaboration with Prof. Christina Hughes (Macalester College) to critically intervene into the fiftieth anniversary of the end of US wars in Southeast Asia.

HEIDI AMIN-HONG is Assistant Professor of English at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her research and teaching focus on Asian American and Pacific Islander cultural studies, critical militarism studies, and the environmental humanities. Her book project in progress, “Transpacific Contaminations: Cold War Afterlives and the Aesthetics of Remediation” reimagines enduring Cold War environmental legacies through Asian American aesthetic interventions that seek to repair and reinvigorate human-nonhuman relations. Her writing has been published in *Journal of Asian*

American Studies, *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies of Literature and the Environment*, *Atlantic Studies*, and *Verge: Studies in Global Asias*.

FELICIA BEVEL is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of North Florida. Her research and teaching interests include African American history, twentieth century US history, cultural history, and childhood studies. Her current research examines early twentieth century American cultural productions that romanticized the Old South and circulated outside the US within the larger Pacific world, specifically in Canada and Australia. Her most recent publication, which appeared in the *Mississippi Quarterly*, is titled: "Traveling Topsy: Uncle Tom's Cabin and Representations of Aboriginal Australian Children in Twentieth Century Australia." Her work has been supported over the years by the Ford Foundation, ACLS, and Florida Education fund. At UNF, she teaches courses such as the Civil Rights Movement, the Black Pacific, and Blackness in Archives, and has served on the advisory boards of the Digital Humanities Institute and Africana Studies. She holds a PhD in American Studies from Brown University and a BA in Sociology (with a concentration in African American Studies) from Columbia University.

KEVA X. BUI is Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies and the Council for Race and Ethnic Studies at Northwestern University. Their research and teaching focus on US war and empire, science and technology, and anti-war social movements. Their book project in progress is a cultural and historical analysis of US Cold War research and development of weapons of mass destruction as shaped by race and war in Asia. Their writing has been published in *Amerasia Journal*, *Journal of Asian American Studies*, *Verge: Studies in Global Asias*, *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, and *The Sage Encyclopedia for Refugee Studies*.

LONG T. BUI is a Professor of Global and International Studies at the University of California, Irvine. His scholarly interests include refugee memory, contemporary Vietnam and Global Asias, higher education, race/gender/sexuality in the media, and the history of technology. He is the author of books such as *Returns of War: South Vietnam and the Price of Refugee Memory* (2018), and *Model Machines: A History of the Asian as Automaton* (2022), and *Viral World: Global Relations during the COVID-19 Pandemic* (2024). He has published articles in *Journal of Asian American Studies*, *Feminist Media Studies*, *Global Society* etc. They touch on a range of issues like cyberhacking, film, reality tv, music, graphic novels, currency wars, drag, consumerism, urbanization. Bui has a PhD in Ethnic studies and BAs in Political Science and Asian American Studies. His research has been funded by the UC New Racial Studies grant, UCHRI, the Center for Global California Studies, and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). He is a first-gen college student and scholar.

JOHN ALBA CUTLER is an associate professor of English at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of *Ends of Assimilation: The Formation of Chicano Literature*

(Oxford UP, 2015) and coeditor of *Latinx Literature in Transition, 1848–1992* (Cambridge UP, 2025). He is currently writing a book about Latinx modernism and Spanish-language newspapers in the United States.

ALFRED HORNUNG Research Professor of American Studies and English with special interests in Transnational American Studies and all areas of life writing. These fields have implications for inter- and transdisciplinary methods as well as an extension of American literature and culture beyond the boundaries of the continental United States. In this sense he pursues the transatlantic and transpacific reaches of the classical canon of literary and cultural works from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century and recognizes new authors and new lines of transnational affiliations established by multiple migrations from different parts of the world. In these planetary efforts he cooperates with colleagues in Europe, the Americas, Australia, and China. He has been a long-time general editor of *American Studies: A Monograph Series* on behalf of the German Association of American Studies (GAAS) and is editor in chief of the *Journal of Transnational American Studies* (Stanford).

CHRISTINA HUGHES is Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, with research at the intersection of cultural studies, critical refugee studies, urban studies, science and technology studies, and prison-border abolitionist theory. An interdisciplinary historical sociologist and self-described ex-demographer, her scholarship now uses the insights of the former to consider the emergence of Cold War social science as it intersected with the US wars in Southeast Asia (“The Vietnam War,” “The Secret War”) and Department of Defense investments in computational warfare and atomic-era culture industries. Her 2025 article, “The Coloniality of Data: Police Databases and the Rationalization of Surveillance from Colonial Vietnam to the Modern Carceral State,” can be found in the *British Journal of Sociology*. In the 2025–2026 academic year, she is in residence at the Stanford Humanities Center as an External Faculty Fellow working on her first book, *Bad Refugees: Manufacturing Statelessness at the Margins of the Global North*, which considers former French Indochina/Southeast Asia and Orange County, California, as important connected sites from which to critically interrogate the moral economy of refugee deportability. Examining how the convergence of mass incarceration and migrant criminalization in part hinged on constitutive innovations in local and federal responses to the emerging Southeast Asian “gang problem,” the book situates this history within a *longue durée* by developing the concept of *refugee racial capitalism*. In her community-engaged work, she collaborates with various migrant and prison justice groups, the most longstanding of which are the California-based transformative justice organization Success Stories and Minnesota-based Southeast Asian antideportation group MN8. She also cocurated and participated in the show [Re/homing: Walk-ins Welcome](#) at Saint Paul’s XIA Gallery and Cafe for the fifty-year war anniversary in 2025.

The political activism of lifelong Detroitier **FRANK JOYCE** began with the civil rights movement. He joined the Northern Student Movement (NSM) in the early 1960s and later helped found People Against Racism (PAR). He has been involved in labor, anti-racist, human rights and peace campaigns ever since. Joyce has worked in factories, retail, and media. He has won awards in print, radio, and television journalism. He is a former News Director of WDET-FM, WABX-FM and was Communications Director of the United Auto Workers (UAW) union for many years. He has returned to Việt Nam four times since his first trip as an antiwar activist in the spring of 1970. He has also made several visits to China, Japan, and South Korea. Joyce is a founding member of the Editorial Collective of *Riverwise* magazine. He is a former Board Chair of The Working Group (TWG), a nonprofit media production company that supports the anti-hate movement Not In Our Town (NIOT). He is a member of the [National Council Of Elders](#) and active on the planning committee of the [King and Breaking Silence](#) project. He is a long time board member of the [Michigan Coalition for Human Rights](#) (MCHR). Joyce works on anti-racist organizing with CHANGE IS THE POINTE in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. Among other venues, his writing has been published in *AlterNet* (www.alternet.org), *Riverwise*, *Counterpunch*, *The Fifth Estate*, *Detroit Free Press*, *LA Progressive*, and in many anthologies. He is coeditor with Karín Aguilar-San Juan of *The People Make the Peace: Lessons from the Vietnam Anti-War Movement* (Just World Books, 2015). He is currently completing a book about unlearning white supremacy. He and his wife are the parents of three children and four grandchildren.

MOCHTAR LUBIS (1922–2004) has been one of Indonesia's most influential journalists and novelists. Mochtar was a fierce champion of press freedom and an advocate for social justice. He cofounded the daily newspaper *Indonesia Raya* and served as its chief editor for many years. His critical voice, primarily while at *Indonesia Raya*, resulted in Mochtar being imprisoned on many occasions. The International Press Institute in 2000 named Mochtar Lubis a World Press Freedom Hero. The author of six novels and two volumes of short fiction, he has the distinction of being the first writer to have a novel in Indonesian translated into English.

JAMES NISBET is Professor in the Department of Art History and PhD Program in Visual Studies at the University of California, Irvine. He has published widely on the history and theory of ecocritical visual art and aesthetics from late modernism to the present. Nisbet's research has been supported by institutions including Cornell University's Society for the Humanities, Georgia O'Keeffe Research Center, Dumbarton Oaks, and Getty Research Institute. His book projects include *Ecologies, Environments, and Energy Systems in Art of the 1960s and 1970s* (MIT Press, 2014), *Second Site* (Princeton University Press, 2021), and, as editor with Lyle Massey, *The Invention of the American Desert: Art, Land, and the Politics of Environment* (University of California Press, 2021).

KHOI NGUYEN (they/he) is a 2025–2026 Panda Express Postdoctoral Fellow in Asian American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Their research explores how the

US Empire and Vietnamese settler colonialism have utilized “the refugee” to legitimize their overlapping expansionist and ethnonationalist projects. This work reveals that forever wars in Southeast Asia are less exceptional and more relational, as seen post-9/11 and in the reimagining of liberal democracy as a mechanism for the permanent wars in the Middle East and beyond. Nguyen’s ongoing research focuses on the deportation of war refugees, particularly Indigenous ethnic minorities from Southeast Asia, within broader issues of mobility injustices that challenge US exceptionalism, inciting Indigenous possibilities. Nguyen earned a PhD in American Studies from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

LY THUY NGUYEN (she/they) is a Central Vietnamese bilingual queer scholar, artist, and translator. Their creative and academic work gear towards feminist practices and imaginations of collective liberation. Ly currently teaches in the Critical Race and Ethnicity Studies Department at Augsburg University. Their academic work thinks through the relationships between culture, language, queer dis/inheritance, refugee epistemologies, transnational activism, and intergenerational trauma. In 2024, Ly cofounded Viet Artists for Palestine to educate and fundraise for displaced Gazans. Ly’s recent creative writings are with Vietnamese queer collectives *tiếng-thét* and *vanguard* zine. Ly’s most recent sculptures, video, and installation work on the fiftieth anniversary of the Vietnam War’s end were exhibited at *RE/HOMING: Walk-ins Welcome* (May–June 2025, XIA Gallery, Saint Paul, MN).

WASHINGTON C PEARCE is a recently graduated MA student from Brigham Young University. His area of interest is pre-Boom Latin American short stories, particularly those of Borges Quiroga, and their evolution through adaptation and translation into English.

KONG PHENG PHA is assistant professor of gender and women’s studies and Asian American studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. His research, public scholarship, and creative activity focus on Hmong history and politics; war and US empire; critical refugee studies; Asian American communities in the Midwest; Asian American education; and queer activism in the US. His book *Queering the Hmong Diaspora: Racial Subjectivity and the Myth of Hyperheterosexuality* (University of Washington Press, 2025) analyzes Hmong racial subject formation and cultural transformations against the backdrop of US sexual and queer liberalism. His research has been published in the *Hmong Studies Journal*, *Minnesota History*, *Amerasia Journal*, *Journal of Asian American Studies*, *American Quarterly*, *American Studies*, *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, *AGITATE! Journal*, *Race Ethnicity and Education*, and *ADVANCE Journal*. His public scholarship has been published in *Aperture Magazine*, *Twin Cities Daily Planet*, *Leader-Telegram*, *Reappropriate*, and *Hmong Today*. His current projects include a book of personal narrative nonfiction essays about Hmong’s place in a revolutionary America and a monograph on the visibility of invisibility, secrecy, and statelessness.

BRIAN RUSSELL ROBERTS (PhD, University of Virginia, 2008) is Professor of English and coordinator of the English Graduate Program at Brigham Young University, where he also coordinated the American Studies Program from 2016 to 2022. His work has appeared in journals including *American Literature*, *Atlantic Studies*, *American Literary History*, *PMLA*, and *African American Review*. He is coeditor with Keith Foulcher of *Indonesian Notebook: A Sourcebook on Richard Wright and the Bandung Conference* (Duke, 2016) and with Michelle Ann Stephens of *Archipelagic American Studies* (Duke, 2017). Roberts is the author of *Artistic Ambassadors: Literary and International Representation of the New Negro Era* (Virginia, 2013) and *Borderwaters: Amid the Archipelagic States of America* (Duke, 2021). He is also a literary translator and has translated (with Harry Aveling and Keith Foulcher) Sitor Situmorang's *Oceans of Longing: Nine Stories* (Silkworm, 2018) and (with Keith Foulcher) Pramoedya Ananta Toer's *Larasati: A Novel of Revolution* (Lontar, 2025). He has edited and introduced the annual *Reprise* feature in *Journal of Transnational American Studies* since 2020.

WERNER SOLLORS earned his doctorate at the Freie Universität Berlin and is Henry B. and Anne M. Cabot Professor of English, Emeritus, at Harvard University. He joined the Harvard faculty in 1983, chaired Afro-American Studies and History of American Civilization for five years each and Ethnic Studies for four years. He also taught at the FU Berlin, Columbia University, at the Università degli Studi di Venezia, and at NYU Abu Dhabi. He held visiting appointments at Munich, Bern, Rome, Jerusalem, Nanjing, Oxford, and at the École normale in Paris. For ten years he taught in the Ca' Foscari-Harvard Summer School in Venice and for three summers at the Clinton Institute in Dublin. He is best known for his books *Beyond Ethnicity: Consent and Descent in American Literature and Culture* (1986), *Neither Black nor White yet Both: Thematic Explorations of Interracial Literature* (1997), *Ethnic Modernism* (2008), and *The Temptation of Despair: Tales of the 1940s* (2014), for having edited *The Invention of Ethnicity* (1989), *The Return of Thematic Criticism* (1993), *Theories of Ethnicity* (1996), *Multilingual America: Transnationalism, Ethnicity, and the Languages of America* (1998), *Interracialism: Black-White Intermarriage in American History, Literature and Law* (2000), *An Anthology of Interracial Literature* (2004), and coedited with Marc Shell *The Multilingual Anthology of American Literature* (2000), and with Greil Marcus *A New Literary History of America* (2009), translated into Russian as *Новая литературная история Америки* (2021). His most recent publications are a study of Sir Henry Wotton, William Bedell, Leon Modena, and Paolo Sarpi, titled *Liquid Street* (forthcoming in 2026), *The Staples of Venice* (2025), *A Wild Man in Cannaregio* (2025), *Un bambino a Bergen-Belsen* (2022), *Schrift in bildender Kunst: Von ägyptischen Schreibern zu lesenden Madonnen* (2020), *Challenges of Diversity: Essays on America* (2017), and *African American Writing: A Literary Approach* (2016). He has written essays on ethnicity, pluralism, migration, multiculturalism, multilingualism, interracialism, cosmopolitanism, and on numerous authors, contributed to many books and journals, and edited and introduced about a dozen literary and historical works. Daniel G. Williams selected twenty-seven essays

and book chapters for *The Werner Sollors Reader: Ethnicity, Cosmopolitanism and Particularism* (2025), accompanied by a critical introduction. He was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, a Constance Rourke Award, the Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Award at Harvard, a lifetime achievement award from [MELUS](#), an Outstanding Achievement Award from the [Society for German-American Studies](#), and two W. E. B. Du Bois medals. He holds honorary doctorates from the Universität Regensburg and from the West University of Timișoara. He is member or corresponding member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Academia Europaea, the Bayerische Amerika-Akademie, and the Ateneo Veneto.

EZEKIEL STEAR investigates how Indigenous writers in the colonial period in Spanish America played an active and decisive role in shaping culture by asserting their political, economic and religious power. Stear has published articles in peer-reviewed journals, and chapters in edited volumes with Vanderbilt University Press and Routledge. His book, *Nahua Horizons, Persuasion, and Futurities in Colonial Mexico* with the University of Arizona Press (2025) questions the common assumption that the Spanish erased Indigenous cultures in Mexico. His articles on contemporary topics examine representations of the Spanish colonial era and Indigeneity in contemporary film and social media. He has presented at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Ethnohistory, the Association of Nahuatl Scholars, at the Newberry Library, and at other regional conferences in North America and Europe. As an Associate Professor of Spanish, Ezekiel teaches the Literature of Colonial Spanish America at Auburn University.

MA VANG is an Associate Professor of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Merced. Her book, *History on the Run: Secrecy, Fugitivity, and Hmong Refugee Epistemologies* (Duke University Press, 2021), examines how secrecy structures both official knowledge and refugee epistemologies about militarism and forced migration. She is coauthor of *Departures: An Introduction to Critical Refugee Studies* (UC Press, 2022) and coeditor of *Claiming Place: On the Agency of Hmong Women* (University of Minnesota Press, 2016), and her writings have been published in *positions: asia critique* [MELUS](#), *Critical Ethnic Studies Journal*, and *Amerasia Journal*. Vang has received several awards to support her research, including the UC Multicampus Research collaborative grant and the Whiting Foundation Public Engagement grant. She is a founding member of the Critical Refugee Studies Collective and serves as coeditor of the Collective book series with the University of California Press. Vang is also a founding member of Asylum for the Arts, a collective supporting refugee and immigrant artists, writers, and scholars. She is involved in K12 curriculum development in ethnic studies related to Asian American Studies and Hmong American history and culture. She teaches courses in critical race theory, critical refugee and immigration studies, and interdisciplinary humanities.

MARIKO CHIN WHITENACK is a PhD candidate in American Studies at New York University (Lenapehoking). Her dissertation examines the past and present of the ecological restoration of Hawai'i's watershed forests, sites in which human and more-than-human beings are recruited towards competing logics of settler extraction, Indigenous refusal, and reciprocal abundance.

KATHERINE ZIEN* is Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the English Department (Drama and Theatre Concentration) at McGill University. Zien researches and teaches theatre and performance in the Americas, with special focus on transnationalism, militarization, gender, and racialization. Following her 2017 book *Sovereign Acts: Performing Race, Space, and Belonging in Panama and the Canal Zone*, Zien has developed two ongoing research projects. The first is *Bodies on the Front Lines: Performance, Gender, and Sexuality in Latin America and the Caribbean*. The second, comprising a monograph-in-progress and digital accompaniment, investigates performances of counterinsurgency and military training in the Panama Canal Zone during Latin America's cold war. Zien is coeditor of the *Routledge Studies in Cultures of the Global Cold War* book series and Codirector of the *Réseau d'Études Latino-américaines de Montréal*. Zien's research is supported by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Grant from the Government of Canada.

*Zien rhymes with "Lion."