2024 AAARI Symposium

INTERROGATING AAPI IDENTITIES: INTERSECTIONAL SCHOLARSHIP, ORGANIZING, AND TRANSFORMATIVE SOLIDARITIES



Keynote Speaker: Betty Yu, Educator, Artist & Activist born and raised in NYC

Friday, May 17, 2024 | 9:30am to 4pm

CUNY School of Law

2 Court Square, Long Island City, NY 11101

AAARI

CUNY THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Interrogating AAPI Identities: Intersectional Scholarship, Organizing, and Transformative Solidarities

Coined in 1968, “Asian American” captures a vast and heterogenous racialized group that includes diverse ethnicities, religions, and cultures. The addition of “Pacific Islander” recognizes shared sociopolitical, historical, and phenotypic similarities among those who fall under the category, AAPI. The communities that encompass this racialized label include immigrants to the U.S. with origins from South (e.g. India, Bangladeshi, Pakistani); Southeast (e.g. Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia); and East (e.g. Korea, Japan, China) Asia; and also include members from broader Asian diasporic communities (e.g. Indo-Caribbean, Japanese-Peruvian, Chinese-Mexican), as well as those who are indigenous to the Americas (e.g. Native Hawai’ian, Samoan, Saipanese); become Americans through international adoption from Asian countries; or are mixed race.

What is AAPI? There are differences among separate communities, but there are also similarities that bind us as a people. In recent years, differences, including religions, political ideology, color, class, and citizenship status among Asian Americans in the United States and Asia have created notable fissures. It is thus ever timely for scholarly and community-based interventions to help us revisit the questions of who are Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; the complicated sociohistory and current iteration of AAPI studies; and broad concerns that affect “AAPIs” as a racialized entity. Because CUNY is in New York City, home to the most diverse AAPI population in the U.S., we are well-situated to not only examine but critically interrogate what it means to be AAPI, and the separate identities that comprise this larger umbrella identity. As a whole, inclusive of mixed race individuals, AAPIs are the fastest growing racial/ethnic group in New York City (and the U.S.), currently making up a combined 11% of the city. This racial and ethnic demographic shift has been reflected at CUNY, with an increase to 23% of students identifying as Asian.

For this symposium, the Asian American / Asian Research Institute has invited students, scholars, community organizers, and/or practitioners to share their innovative research and creative works, pedagogical projects, programmatic efforts, and other activities that address the broad scope of “AAPI Identities,” including:

- **AAPI Identities through Education**
- **Storytelling and Research**
- **Diversity in the AAPI Diaspora**

Co-Sponsor
CUNY School of Law

Planning Committee
Chaumtoli Huq, Ann Matsuuchi, Yung-Yi Diana Pan & Lili Shi

Acknowledgements
Payal Doctor; Unapologetic Foods; Dean Sudha Setty and the CUNY School of Law; Karyn Manocchia and the Events Department Team at CUNY School of Law; Jerome Krase; South Asian Youth Action

Upcoming AAARI Events

May 28, 2024 - Co-Sponsor
2024 National Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Leadership Summit

This event offers an opportunity for you to observe, learn, network, and hear from AANHPI leaders who will offer their perspectives and experiences on leadership development and advancement in the corporate suite.

May 31, 2024
2024 CUNY Asian American Film Festival

The CUNY AAFF helps to promote the artistic visual talents and stimulate communication among CUNY students who are separated by the different campuses, and serve as a central location to display their creative works. Past participants have also had their films screened at the Asian American International Film Festival.

June 7, 2024
Sons of Chinatown: A Memoir Rooted in China and America

Born 1941 in Oakland, California's Chinatown, William Gee Wong is the only son of his father, known as Pop. Born in Guangdong Province, China, Pop emigrated to Oakland as a teenager during the Chinese Exclusion era in 1912 and entered the U.S. legally as the "son of a native," despite having partially false papers. *Sons of Chinatown* is Wong's evocative dual memoir of his and his father's parallel experiences in America.

Program

9:30am to 10am – Registration and Breakfast (Lucky Pizza and Cafe) *(Community Room, Third Floor)*

10am to 11:30am – Welcome & Keynote *(Community Room, Third Floor)*

- Yung-Yi Diana Pan, Interim Executive Director, AAARI-CUNY
- Dean Sudha Setty, CUNY School of Law
- Keynote Speaker: Betty Yu, Native New Yorker Educator, Artist & Activist

11:30am to 11:45am – Break

11:45am to 12:45pm – Concurrent Panel Sessions
As the saying goes, "representation matters." AANHPI representation is often missing in the classrooms, in organizations, and in mainstream storytelling. This morning session features current progress and challenges to K-12 curriculum, how schools and immigrant generation shape and affect identities. This session also explores other presentations and preservations of identities through understanding Greek Letter and Online identity activation, and documenting oral histories.

1) NYS AANHPI K-12 Curriculum and Beyond *(Room 301)*

Moderator: Shreya Sunderram (CUNY Graduate Center)

Presenters:

- Christian-Joseph Macahilig (UCLA Asian American Studies Center), "Foundations and Futures: Advancing AAPI History and Narratives in All Classrooms"
- Jake Xie (Macaulay at Brooklyn College/CUNY) and Eva Schmidt (Hunter College/CUNY), "AAARI/CACF NYS K-12 Curriculum Research"

2) Identities in K-12 Education *(Room 301)*

Moderator: Lili Shi (Kingsborough Community College/CUNY)

Presenters:

- Vicki Zheng (Baruch College/CUNY), “AAPI Students and Model Minority Myth in Specialized High Schools”
- Zuobin Tang (NYC Men Teach), “Asian American Teachers and Student Identities”
- Syed Ali (Long Island University-Brooklyn), “The Second Generation and Changes in Identity Construction Over Time”

3) Belonging and Connectedness of Asian American Greek-Letter Organizations (AAGLOs) at Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs) *(Room 302)*

Moderator: Clifford Robin Temprosa (Dare to Change, Inc.)

Panelists:

- Bryan Dosono (National APIDA Panhellenic Association)
- Bilal Badruddin (Delta Epsilon Psi Fraternity, Inc.)
- Elizabeth Kwong (National APIDA Panhellenic Association)

4) A Voice Memo to You for Tomorrow and After: Archiving Stories of AAPI Resilience in NYC *(Room 302)*

Moderator: Chaumtoli Huq (CUNY School of Law)

Presenter: Janggo Mahmud (Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College/CUNY)

12:45pm to 2pm – Lunch (Adda Indian Canteen) & Networking *(Community Room, Third Floor)*

2pm to 3pm – Lightning Talks/Workshops
This afternoon session examines identities in action. Structured as lightning talks, participants can choose two sessions to attend. Presenters will engage with two separate set of audience members in 25-minute increments. This more intimate session allows participants to not only dialogue but also deep dive into identity work. Featured topics include storytelling as research, undocumented AAPIs, intersecting LGBTQ and AANHPI identities, and a self-defense workshop.

Session 1 (2pm to 2:30pm)

A) Empower Others and Become the Solution: Self-Defense Technique Sharing as Community Care *(Room 301)*

- Henry Zhang (Dragon Combat Club)
- Lorraine LaPrade (Dragon Combat Club)
- Katrina Quijano (Dragon Combat Club)

B) Storytelling/Research/Community: an interactive exercise in purpose, connection, and change *(Room 302)*

Moderator: Chaumtoli Huq (CUNY School of Law)

Presenter: Christine Balance (CUNY Thomas Tam Visiting Professor/ CUNY Graduate Center)

C) "They don't think I'm an illegal." Relational experiences of racialized illegality from precariously legal and documented Filipinos. *(Room 302)*

Moderator: Francisco Delgado (Borough of Manhattan Community College/CUNY)

Presenter: Daniela Pila (Southern Connecticut State University)

D) DiversiTEA *(Room 301)*

- Chris Won (Brooklyn College AANAPISI Project)

Session 2 (2:30pm – 3pm)

A) Empower Others and Become the Solution: Self-Defense Technique Sharing as Community Care *(Room 301)*

- Henry Zhang (Dragon Combat Club)
- Lorraine LaPrade (Dragon Combat Club)
- Katrina Quijano (Dragon Combat Club)

B) Storytelling/Research/Community: an interactive exercise in purpose, connection, and change *(Room 302)*

Moderator: Chaumtoli Huq (CUNY School of Law)

Presenter: Christine Balance (CUNY Thomas Tam Visiting Professor/ CUNY Graduate Center)

C) "They don't think I'm an illegal." Relational experiences of racialized illegality from precariously legal and documented Filipinos. *(Room 302)*

Moderator: Francisco Delgado (Borough of Manhattan Community College/CUNY)

Presenter: Daniela Pila (Southern Connecticut State University)

D) DiversiTEA *(Room 301)*

- Chris Won (Brooklyn College AANAPISI Project)

3pm to 3:15pm – Break

3:15pm to 4pm – Close Out Session *(Community Room, Third Floor)*

- Performance – "I Flew Your Kite, Habibi"
  Rohan Zhou-Lee, Dancer, Writer & Organizer

Sessions

1) NYS AANHPI K-12 Curriculum and Beyond

Foundations and Futures: Advancing AAPI History and Narratives in All Classrooms

Why do Asian American and Pacific Islander narratives have a limited presence in school curriculum? Why should students learn about the AAPI community in their schools? These are some of the questions educators have been addressing from the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic. This presentation will showcase *Foundations and Futures*, a multimedia textbook on AAPIs, launching free to the public in 2025, created by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. The textbook covers the diverse histories and experiences of ethnic and national groups through moduled-chapters written by top experts in the field.

AAARI/CACF NYS K-12 Curriculum Research

Description not available at time of posting file online.

2) Identities in K-12 Education

AAPI Students and Model Minority Myth in Specialized High Schools

Sharing personal experiences with AAPI activism in high school, and continued advocacy in College, Vicki Zheng will speak about how she created the first Asian American Association at Bronx Science High School and her current project examining mental health at Bronx Science.

Asian American Teachers and Student Identities

Based on the 2021-2022 data collected by the New York Equity Coalition, 19% of the student population in NYC public schools were Asian Americans. However, only 8% of the educators identified as Asian American, less than half of the student population. As a result, Asian American educators have shared that they had to deal with racism, especially those associated with the pandemic, marginalization, and to make matters worse, invisibility created by the perpetual model minority myth. The NYC Men Teach Asian American Teacher Empowerment Network Development (AATEND) initiative aims to expand efforts to empower and support Asian American educators based in the New York City area through community building, professional learning, and leadership training. aspirations.

The Second Generation and Changes in Identity Construction Over Time

Description not available at time of posting file online.

3) Belonging and Connectedness of Asian American Greek-Letter Organizations (AAGLOs) at Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs)

This panel presentation explores the multifaceted identity work of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) through two distinct lenses: involvement in Asian American Greek Letter Organizations (AAGLOs) and engagement across online AAPI communities on Reddit. By bridging the research of Bryan Dosono ("Identity Work of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders on Reddit") and Bilal Badruddin ("Hum Saath-Saath Hain: Exploring Connectedness for Desi/South Asian Students in Asian American Greek-letter Organizations at AANAPISIs"), we articulate a nuanced understanding of how AAPIs navigate and construct their identities through offline and online modalities.

- How do AAGLOs and online communities function as complementary spaces for AAPI identity exploration?
- What are the unique challenges and opportunities faced by AAPIs in navigating both offline and online spaces?
- How can these findings inform efforts to support AAPI students, organizations, and academic institutions like those affiliated with the CUNY system?

4) A Voice Memo to You for Tomorrow and After: Archiving Stories of AAPI Resilience in NYC

A workshop on recording oral histories. Participants will be asked to archive their narratives by describing their heritage and how it informs their dreams and practices for an inclusive New York City future. Offering a moment of reflection, participants will document their stories of resisting racism and developing counter-institutions and practices that work to preserve their heritage.

Workshops

A) Empower Others and Become the Solution: Self-Defense Technique Sharing as Community Care

Members from Dragon Combat Club (DCC), a grassroots community self-defense group composed of martial artists, self-defense instructors, and community organizers, will share their experiences responding to the immediate needs of their communities during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic and the rise of anti-Asian hate violence. Facilitators will lead a 35-minute self-defense instruction session where attendees will have the opportunity to practice basic physical self-defense techniques.

B) Storytelling/Research/Community: an interactive exercise in purpose, connection, and change

Description not available at time of posting file online.

C) "They don't think I'm an illegal." Relational experiences of racialized illegality from precariously legal and documented Filipinos.

Scholars have highlighted how the racialization of illegality is defined by sociopolitical, geographical, and relational contexts. Daniela Pila proposes the concept of "relational illegality" to explore how precariously documented and undocumented Filipino immigrants experience and manage the spillover effects of punitive immigration enforcement. Due to their perceived "ambiguous" racial identities and non-citizenship status, immigrant Filipinos feared being wrongfully racialized as an "undocumented Latina/o." As a defense mechanism, Filipinos strongly claimed their ethnic identity and community while distancing themselves from the Latina/o community.

D) DiversiTEA

Come take a sip as we share the tea on queer Asian visibility, and how we might disrupt the (1) media & narratives, (2) organizing & institutionalization, and (3) academia & research.

Biographies



Syed Ali is a ceramicist and Professor of Sociology at Long Island University-Brooklyn. Prof. Ali is co-author of the recently published, *The Peer Effect: How Your Peers Shape Who You Are and Who You Become (NYU Press, 2023).*



Bilal Badruddin is the Chair for the Board of Directors of Delta Epsilon Psi Fraternity, Inc., the Past Chair of the National APIDA Panhellenic Association, a Virtual Scholar for the Timothy J. Piazza Center for Fraternity & Sorority Research and Reform at Penn State University, and the Assistant Editor for the *Journal of Sorority & Fraternity Life Research & Practice.*



Christine Bacareza Balance is associate professor of performing & media arts and Asian American studies at Cornell University, where she is core faculty with the Southeast Asia Program (SEAP) and former director of Asian American studies. Prof. Balance is the 2024 CUNY Thomas Tam Visiting Professor at the CUNY Graduate Center. She received her Ph.D. in performance studies at New York University (NYU).

Prof. Balance's first book, *Tropical Renditions: Making Musical Scenes in Filipino America (2016) received the Best First Book award from the Filipino Studies caucus of the Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS). Along with Prof. Lucy San Pablo Burns, she is co-editor of the artist-scholar anthology, California Dreaming: Movement and Migration in the Asian American Imaginary (2020). Prof. Balance's articles on the production history of Apocalypse Now, former Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos, Asian American YouTube artists, OPM and Filipino phonography culture, Jessica Hagedorn's West Coast Gangster Choir, and spree killer Andrew Cunanan have been published in various academic journals.*



Francisco Delgado is Assistant Professor of English at Borough of Manhattan Community College/CUNY. Delgado is a proud CHamoru and, through his maternal grandmother, a member of the Tonawanda Band of Seneca. His scholarship can be found in *Transmotion*, *Memory Studies,* and *The CEA Critic*, and in the forthcoming *Teaching English in the Two-Year College*, and special issue of *Studies In the Novel on Indigenous YA Literature*. He resides in Queens, NY with his wife and their son.



Bryan Dosono is a user experience research leader who scales insights-informed practices in consumer technology. He applies human-computer interaction research methods with visual storytelling to modernize the design of global marketplaces and online communities. He currently serves as Executive Chair of the National APIDA Panhellenic Association and formerly served as International President of Lambda Phi Epsilon International Fraternity, Inc.



Chaumtoli Huq is an Associate Professor of Law at the CUNY School of Law focused on gender, migration, labor and human rights. Prof. Huq has devoted her entire professional career to public service focusing on issues impacting low-income New Yorkers, workers in Bangladesh, and human rights issues related to South Asia.

Prof. Huq's recent scholarship include: "Charting Global Economic Inequalities and Emancipatory Human Rights Responses from the Ground Up" on tea workers in Bangladesh, "Women's Empowerment in the Bangladesh Garment Industry," and "Opportunities and Limitations of the Accord: Need for a Worker Organizing Model" in an edited volume, *Labor, Global Supply Chains and the Garment Industry in South Asia; and is the author of, The War on Terror on Muslim Women and Girls: Forging Transformative Solidarities (Scholar and Feminist Online, 2019).*



Elizabeth Kwong is the current NAPA Director of Research and Development, a member of Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority, Inc., and is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She formerly served as NAPA's Director of Public Relations (2020-2021), and on the National Executive Board of Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority, Inc. as the Vice President of Expansion (2016-2019) and National President (2020-2022).



Lorraine LaPrade is a Senior Empowerment Self-Defense Instructor, storyteller, and librarian. She has taught people of all ages (from children to seniors) physical and verbal self-defense strategies for the Center for Anti-Violence Education, a non-profit organization based in Brooklyn. Lorraine enjoys collaborating on initiatives for community care and healing and applies skills learned through Dragon Combat Club (DCC) to her other teaching work.



Trang Le-Chan, Alumni Engagement and Development Director at New York City College of Technology/CUNY, is a lifelong learner and a leader. Her extensive professional development and leadership roles are a testament to her capabilities. She is an alum of the Immigrant Civic Leadership Program at the Coro New York Leadership Center, the Middle Management for Youth Service Organizations Program at Columbia University, and a J.P Morgan fellow at the Big Brothers Big Sisters Supervisor Mentoring. Trang's leadership extends to her community involvement, where her dedication shines. She co-chairs the CUNY AAPI Leadership Pipeline Initiative and serves on the Chancellor's CUNY Career Compass Conference for women leaders. Her recent recognition includes several awards: the CUNY Diversity and Inclusion Fellowship Program Award, CUNY's Multi-Year Anti-Hate Initiative grant, and the Inclusiveness and Diversity Solicitation Awardees grant. These awards are a testament to her dedication and contributions.

Trang co-founded AAMPOWER at CUNY, an initiative to provide mentorship and empowerment to Asian American women within the CUNY community, and is a board member of Asian American / Asian Research Institute - CUNY. Trang holds a B.S. in Human Development from SUNY, Binghamton University, an M.S.W in Administration and Social Policy from the University of Pennsylvania, and Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership from Northeastern University.



Christian-Joseph Macahilig is the Outreach Coordinator for the *Foundation and Futures* AAPI multimedia textbook team with the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. He is a licensed middle school Social Studies teacher in New York City. He also served in leadership positions with Filipinx-American collegiate and nonprofit organizations during undergraduate and graduate studies. Christian recognized that AAPI voices lacked representation in curriculum and other classroom materials, which ultimately motivated him to reform curriculum by advocating for AAPI and Ethnic Studies as required learning. He aims to elevate voices, ensuring that Asian American and Pacific Islander narratives and cultures are taught with fidelity.



Janggo Mahmud (she/her) is a social practice curator impassioned to build an inclusive and abundant New York City with her heart that is born and raised in Queens. Her work is firmly rooted in her community and she is galvanized by the healing power of art within advocacy efforts and movement work. She is working towards a MSW de-

gree in the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College/CUNY.



Yung-Yi Diana Pan is interim executive director of the Asian American / Asian Research Institute - CUNY. Diana is foremost a collaborator whether it is in the classroom with students or in meetings with colleagues. Most recently an Associate Professor of Sociology at Brooklyn College/ CUNY and the CUNY Graduate Center, she served as the director of American Studies and the faculty associate dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Brooklyn College. She is an active member of the CUNY community, serving on numerous Faculty Council committees, and a board member of CUNY's Asian American / Asian Research Institute (AAARI) since 2013. Diana brings to AAARI her research expertise, intellectual training, and sociological imagination in thinking about and working with diverse communities.

A proud product of public schools, Diana earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from University of California, Irvine, an M.A. in Ethnic Studies from San Francisco State University, and B.A.s in Political Science and Ethnic Studies from Oregon State University. As a 1.5-generation immigrant and first-generation college student, Diana was inspired by her own educator role models to pursue higher education. Anchored in her childhood growing up in the Pacific Northwest, her research broadly examines the experiences of nonwhite individuals in predominantly white spaces. Her primary areas of inquiry are elite professions. Diana's prior work focused on processes of racialization in law school; she is the author *of Incidental Racialization: Performative Assimilation in Law School (Temple University Press, 2017). Building on that project, her current work interrogates the role and significance of diversity in three elite professions: law, medicine, and higher education. Her work has appeared in sociology and interdisciplinary journals including Sociological Forum, Sociological Inquiry, and Journal of Asian American Studies, among others.*



Daniela Pila is an Assistant Professor in Sociology at Southern Connecticut State University and is an Assistant Professor-in-Residence at UConn's Asian and Asian American Studies Institute. Prior to working at Southern, she was a Postdoctoral Fellow in Critical Race Studies at Fordham University. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology at the University at Albany, SUNY. Daniela Pila's research centers on the intersectionalities of law and society, race and ethnicity, immigration, citizenship, and families. Her upcoming manu-

script investigates how Filipino immigrants navigate (or fail to navigate) the U.S. immigration system. The history of U.S. colonialism and imperialism in the Philippines provide different pathways for Filipinos within the U.S. immigration system. She draws her analysis from more than 100 hours of participant observation and 54 in-depth interviews with Filipino immigrants in the Greater New York metropolitan area. Daniela's research is informed by her extensive experience as an advocate and service provider—including internships with the NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, the Office of Refugee Resettlement, the U.S. Committee for Refugees & Immigrants, and the American Bar Association. She is committed to combining her interests in research, advocacy, and community.



Katrina Quijano is a healthcare professional practicing in New York City. Outside of her work and professional development, Katrina employs her ethos of educating and empowering others through her volunteer work with Dragon Combat Club (DCC) and other community groups. Katrina began her martial arts training in DCC and uses her experience as training to inform the curriculum and encourage others to participate in this transformative experience.



Eva Schmidt is a third-year student in the CUNY BA program at Hunter College/CUNY studying mixed methods research and Asian American studies. She currently serves as a research assistant at the Asian American / Asian Research Institute - CUNY. Originally from Arizona, with a background in the performing arts, she continually looks for ways to blend and find connections within her varied interests. Inspired by her personal experiences, she seeks to contribute to the field in a meaningful and representative way where voices, often marginalized and underrepresented, are amplified and celebrated.



Sudha Setty joined the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law as dean and professor of law on July 1, 2022. She is the first person of South Asian descent to lead a CUNY campus and is the first woman of South Asian descent to serve as dean of any ABA-accredited law school. Under her leadership, CUNY Law has revived the W. Haywood Burns Chair in Human and Civil Rights, launched the path-breaking First Impressions Youth Legal Collaborative, created a new Emerging Needs Clinic to serve asylum seekers and other vulnerable New Yorkers, and launched its first strategic planning process in nearly a decade.

Dean Setty is a nationally recognized scholar in national security and comparative law, writing more than two dozen articles and the monograph, *National Security Secrecy: Comparative Effects on Democracy and the Rule of Law (Cambridge 2017). She currently serves on the Deans Steering Committee of the Association of American Law Schools, on the editorial board of the Journal of National Security Law and Policy, and on the New York State Bar Association Task Force on Artificial Intelligence.*

In 2021, Dean Setty co-founded the inaugural Workshop for Asian-American Women in Legal Academia, now an annual event, in which participants engage in professional development, scholarship support, and building community. Dean Setty is the recipient of the National Conference for Community and Justice 2021 Human Relations Award; was on the Lawyers of Color Power List in 2020; was recognized as a Top Woman in the Law by the Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly in 2019; was named a Trailblazer by the South Asian Bar Association of Connecticut in 2015; and received the 2017 Tapping Reeve Legal Educator Award from the Connecticut Bar Association. In 2018, Dean Setty was elected to membership in the American Law Institute and as a fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

From 2018 to 2022, she served as dean of Western New England University School of Law, during which time she led the creation of its Center for Social Justice and led the faculty in commitments to antiracism across the curriculum. While on faculty there, she was awarded Professor of the Year three times. Dean Setty started her legal career as a litigation associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell. She earned an A.B. in History (with honors) from Stanford University, and a JD from Columbia Law School, where she was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar.



Lili Shi is a Professor of Communication Studies at Kingsborough Community College/CUNY. Her research focuses on transnationalism and diaspora in Brooklyn Chinatowns, particularly maternal identities in lived experiences of transnational birthing. Dr. Shi teaches culture and communication with a critical focus on gender, language, identity, and space. Born and raised in Southwest China as an ethnic Yi descent of Yunnan Province, she is a transnational and diasporic feminist scholar, teacher, and mother.



Shreya Sunderrram is a Research Fellow and will lead the curriculum project. Shreya is a New York City high school history teacher, education scholar, and Critical Participatory Action Researcher investigating ways that colonialism, racism, and structures of violence are upheld within sites of knowledge production—K-12 schools, academia, museums—and how youth driven policy, classrooms, and curriculum are the key to dismantling harm. Shreya runs a YPAR research space in a Lower Manhattan high school, and is a PhD student at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her most recent publication in the Journal of Curriculum Studies discusses the ways in which standardized testing perpetuates colonialism and narrative erasure of the Global South.



Zuobin Tang serves as a Program Manager at NYC Men Teach, a collaboration between the Office of the Mayor's Young Men's Initiative (YMI), NYC Department of Education, and the City University of New York (CUNY), with the aim to bring more diverse cultures and perspectives into our classrooms by increasing the number of male educators of color in schools. He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the NYU School of Professional Studies.

Prior to his current role, Tang taught high school computer science and mathematics in Brooklyn. He also served as his former school's CS4All computer science lead, spearheading efforts and collaborating with fellow teachers to promote and sustain an equitable computer science culture at the school.

Passionate about college access and success, and educational technology tools, Tang is a first-generation college graduate in his immigrant family with a B.B.A. in Finance from the Macaulay Honors College at Baruch College/ CUNY; an M.A. in Higher and Postsecondary Education from Teachers College, Columbia University; an M.S. in Secondary Mathematics Education from St. John's University; and a post-master's advanced certificate in Educational Leadership from SUNY Stony Brook University.

Tang is the recipient of the 2024 NYU SPS Teaching Excellence Award, 2022-23 CSTA Equity Fellowship, 2022 Macaulay Honors College Pioneer Alumni Award, and 2020 NCTM Future Leader Initial Conference Scholarship.



Clifford Robin Temprosa is the Founder of Dare to Change, Inc. and drives social impact across the private and public sector through nonprofit leadership, digital strategy, government relations, political strategy, and public policy advocacy. He serves as the Director of Public Policy at the National Federation of Filipino American Associations New York, Board Member of OCA New York, Chair of an AAPI Democratic Caucus in New York, a Knight of Rizal, and is a Brother of Delta Epsilon Psi Fraternity, Inc.



Linta Varghese is an Associate Professor of Asian and Asian American Studies in the Department of Ethnic and Race Studies at Borough of Manhattan Community College/CUNY. She is also a co-coordinator of the AANAPISI Bridge Initiative, a collaboration between BMCC and Hunter College to support the needs of Asian American and Pacific Islander students. Her scholarship has been published in the journals *Cultural Dynamics, CUNY FORUM* and select edited volumes. She is the co-editor of a special issue of the *Women's Studies Quarterly* titled "Together," and a special issue of *Ethnic Studies Review* for the 100th anniversary of the U.S. naturalization case, United States v Thind. Dr. Varghese's research areas include gender and labor, South Asian racialization and immigrant gardening practices. She is currently conducting a research project on the multiple meanings of care utilized by the broader domestic workers movement in the U.S.



Christopher Won is Program Director of the Brooklyn College AANAPISI Project (BCAP); and D.E.I.A.B. Consultant for the Center for Black WellBeing. Chris is a queer, neurodivergent, Third-Culture Kid (T.C.K.) with over twelve years of experience in education and advocacy, focusing on belongingness, community care, and intersectional frameworks to empower individuals and communities, especially those of historically exploited identities. On topics such as decolonization, cognitive dissonance, and power, Chris has presented at the Sealaska Heritage Institute - Culturally Responsive Educators Conference, the Clark University T.C.K. Conference, and as the Keynote Address for the Association of Alaska School Boards Winter Equity Conference.

In his research, Chris authored the *Pedagogy of Belonging* as a holistic assessment tool which has been applied in his work in several inaugural Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ("D.E.I.") roles at the Columbia School of Social Work, Columbia University Irving Medical Center - Institute of Human Nutrition, Mount Sinai - Icahn School of Medicine, and most

recently with the Center for Black WellBeing and the New Jersey Institute of Technology - Office of Inclusive Excellence.



Jake Xie is a third-year student in the Macaulay Honors Program at Brooklyn College/CUNY, majoring in Psychology with minors in Children's Studies and Sociology. Raised in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn which hosts one of New York City's largest Chinatowns, Jake places great importance on preserving cultural heritage through oral history. He is currently a research assistant at the Asian American / Asian Research Institute - CUNY. As a second-generation Chinese-American, Jake is committed to uncovering and showcasing the lived experiences of the AANHPI community. His overarching aim is to make meaningful contributions to a more inclusive and rich classroom curriculum in New York State.



Betty Yu is an award-winning socially engaged multimedia artist, photographer, filmmaker, educator, and activist born and raised in New York City to Chinese immigrant parents. Betty integrates documentary film, installation, new media platforms, and community-infused approaches into her practice. Her films have been screened and featured at the Directors Guild of America, Sydney International Transgender Film Festival, MESA Film Festival, and Visual Communications Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film & Video Festival. She holds a BFA from the NYU Tisch School of the Arts, and a MFA in Integrated Media Arts from Hunter College/CUNY.

Betty is an adjunct assistant professor teaching new media, film theory, art and video production at various colleges in New York City, including The New School, John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY, Pratt Institute, Marymount Manhattan College, and Hunter College. In 2015, she co-founded Chinatown Art Brigade, a cultural collective using art to advance anti-gentrification organizing.

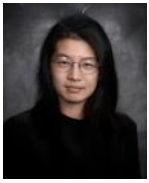
Betty's documentary "Resilience" about her garment worker mother fighting sweatshop conditions screened at national and international film festivals including the Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival. Her multi-media installation, "The Garment Worker" was featured at Tribeca Film Institute's Interactive Showcase. In 2020, she worked with housing activists to create "Resistance in Progress," a multi-media installation featured at the Queens Museum. Betty recently had her first solo exhibition, "(DIs)Placed in Sunset Park," at Open Source Gallery in September 2018. This work was

also included in the 2019 BRIC Biennial.

Betty has received numerous grants for our work including support from Art Matters Foundation, Asian Women Giving Circle, Brooklyn Arts Council, Wave Farm Media Arts and the Paul Robeson Fund for Independent Media. She is a board member of Third World Newsreel and Working Films, and on the advisory board of More Art.



Henry Zhang currently works as a bilingual school psychologist while also helping individuals acquire the means to defend themselves outside of work. During his time in graduate school, Dr. Zhang co-founded and became one of the original volunteer instructors for Dragon Combat Club (DCC), one of the first groups created in response to pandemic era violence. Throughout the years, he has used his educational background and extensive training in various martial arts to evolve the Club's curriculum to meet the needs of the community.



Vicki Zheng is an undergraduate student at Baruch College/CUNY, double majoring in economics and political science. Vicki works as a college assistant for Baruch's College Now program and is involved with student life as the Vice Chair/Assistant Vice President for Baruch's Undergraduate Student Government Clubs and Organizations Committee. She is a recipient of the 2023 CUNY Thomas Tam Scholarship.

Outside of school, Vicki volunteers with elementary school students and works part-time at Apex for Youth, a nonprofit empowering underserved New York City Asian American youth. She also enjoys being civically and socially involved in the Asian community from volunteer census outreach during the pandemic, to exit polling the Asian community to ensure their votes are counted. She currently interns at her local assemblymember's office.

Vicki is a strong believer in mentoring and greatly enjoys being in the Asian nonprofit space. She is a proud Apex alum and a Kin mentee with Asian American Dream. She is interested in human resources and is the HR Coordinator at Asian Connections Hub.



Rohan Zhou-Lee (They | Siya | 祂 | Elle) is an award-winning international writer, dancer, and community organizer. A 2023 Open City Fellow at the Asian American Writers' Workshop, 2023 FIYAH Grant Winner, and 2022 Bandung Resident, they have written for Newsweek, Truthout, Prism Reports, Reckon News, and more. Spotlight features include CNN, NBC Chicago, USA Today, WNYC, AJ+, and more. Zhou-Lee has spoken at New York University, Yale University, Oberlin College, The University of Tokyo, the 2022 Unite and Enough Festivals in Zürich, Switzerland, Harvard University, and more.

As a performing artist, Rohan made their Off-Broadway debut in *Over Here! The Musical* in 2019, premiered their contemporary ballet *Homage* at the 2016 A-Squared Theatre Asian American Performing Arts Festival in Chicago, which was reimagined for the 2022 Unite Festival in Zürich. Other credits include Julius Eastman's *Joy Boy* on trumpet (ChamberQUEER, 2021), and for dance: *François & The Rebels (*Public Theatre, 2023,) *West Side Story* (New Bedford Theatre Festival, 2018), the HBO series *Lovecraft Country*, and *Bluebird Pas De Deux* (Victoria Ballet Theatre, 2019.) Zhou-Lee holds a Bachelor of the Arts in Ethnomusicology from Northwestern University.

Photo Credit: Josh Pacheco

LaGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE | CUNY

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month



AAPI Heritage Month: Cultural Celebration

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

- Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2024
- Time: 2:15pm-4:25pm
- Place: The Greenway (29th Street)

The AAPI Heritage Month Committee presents a vibrant celebration of Asian and Asian American cultures at LaGuardia Community College. The performances will feature the harmonic singing of Timothy Hill, the powerful taiko drumming by Hiro Kurashima, the vibrant Indian dance by Ajna Dance Company, and the dynamic dance moves of AKF Dance Studio. Please visit the tables to receive a copy of the latest issue of "Asian American Voices," a student journal at LaGuardia, and to learn about free services offered by local AAPI non-profit organizations and NYC programs. Enjoy a delicious lunch that includes samosas, dumplings, karaage, and bento boxes. Participate in raffles for your chance to win Amazon gift cards. For the full program of the AAPI cultural celebration and information on other events during AAPI Heritage Month, go to https://laguardia.edu/aapi/ or scan the QR code provided above.

LaGuardia Community College has been celebrating the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Celebration in May every year. AAPI is an annual event of LaGuardia featuring various cultural, philosophical, and linguistic heritages from Asian countries. Along with the other cultural heritage celebrations, including African American Heritage week and Latino Heritage week, AAPI acknowledges and celebrates diversity and cultural richness of LaGuardia Community College. Visit https://www.laguardia.edu/aapi/ for more information.

https://laguardia.edu/aapi/

Wednesday, May 1st, 2024

About AAARI
The Asian American / Asian Research Institute (AAARI), of The City University of New York (CUNY), is a university-wide scholarly research and resource center that focuses on policies and issues that affect Asians and Asian Americans. It covers four areas: Asian American Studies; East Asian Studies; South Asian Studies; and Trade & Technology Studies. AAARI seeks to achieve the following:

- to be an Asian intellectual and cultural center that addresses the needs of New York's diverse ethnic subgroups of Asian origin
- to be a respected authority regionally, nationally, and internationally, on issues concerning Asia, and the Asian American community
- to stimulate the study of Asian people, languages, cultures, and countries as well as Asian immigrants and their descendants who live in the U.S.
- to bring together a community of scholars and channel their scholarship and research energies on Asia and the Asian American experience
- to identify timely issues that affect the Asian and Asian American communities
- to conduct scholarly, unbiased studies impacting policy and community concerns
- to disseminate its research results and educate the public about Asian and Asian American issues
- to serve as a bridge between CUNY, and the Asian American community

AAARI-CUNY
25 West 43rd Street, Room 1000
New York, NY 10036

Phone: (212) 869-0182 / 0187
Fax: (212) 869-0181
E-mail: info@aaari.info
URL: www.aaari.info

Facebook/X: aaaricuny
Instagram: aaaricuny
iTunes/Spotify: aaaricuny
YouTube: aaaricuny