

APA STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Asian Pacific American Studies Program
Michigan State University



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Director's Welcome

BY SITARA THOBANI

Greetings, and welcome to the new academic year! Our Program has already got off to an exciting start and I am looking forward to our plans for the year ahead. We kicked off with our annual Fall Welcome Reception, and it was a pleasure to see so many new and familiar faces. We've also begun preparations for some great events that will create excellent opportunities for us to come together in the community, so please be sure to keep an eye out for our programming. You can find our Program Schedule below in this Newsletter.

I would like to formally introduce everyone working with APAS this year in a leadership capacity. Welcome to Dr. Kent Weber, the new APAS Assistant Director! A Historian by training, Dr. Weber will be teaching our core APAS courses, as well as advising students, assisting in day-to-day programming activities, and working with me on strategies to help grow the Program. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Noreen Naseem Rodriguez who recently joined the College of Education. Dr. Rodriguez joins Dr. Anna Pegler-Gordon and Ann Crain on the APAS Executive Board. This Fall, we are also pleased to welcome Su Yon Choi and David Marchionni as our two Graduate Fellows, Anna Lin as our Graduate Assistant, and Maya Kalsi and Julia Lee as our Undergraduate Assistants. It is wonderful to see our community growing stronger, and I am grateful for the expertise, creativity, and energy they all bring to their roles.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to the outgoing APAS Director, Dr. Naoko Wake. When Dr. Wake first approached me about taking on the role of APAS Director, I knew that I was entering a position built on a solid foundation laid by my predecessors. I am grateful for the warmth and support that the previous Directors - Dr. Wake, Dr. Louie, Dr. Pegler-Gordon, and Dr. Guinsatao Monberg - have shown me, for their tireless work and advocacy, and for their deep commitment over the course of the Program's history.

This year, I am excited to announce that the APAS program has a new space on campus for our community to gather. Located in the Old Horticulture Building, this space will be the home of the new APAS Centre. We've already started working on different events to hold here, including our Fall Open House on October 12. We're also looking forward to continuing work with our community partners, including those working to pass legislation to introduce Asian American Studies in K-12 curricula in Michigan, as well as various student organisations and other partners in the area and across the region. This is truly an exciting time for our program, and working together, I know we can continue to do even greater things!



RECENT GRADUATES

ANNIE HAMATY



Our Graduating Class of 2023!

ANNIE HAMATY GRADUATED FROM MSU IN MAY 2023. SHE MAJORED IN COMPARATIVE CULTURES AND POLITICS WITH A MINOR IN APA STUDIES. ANNIE IS CURRENTLY JOB SEARCHING AND PARTAKING IN INTERVIEWS DURING HER TIME AS AN MSU ALUMNA.

NATALIE EIGHMEY



NATALIE EIGHMEY IS FROM TROY, MICHIGAN AND GRADUATED FROM MSU IN MAY 2023. SHE MAJORED IN COMPARATIVE CULTURES & POLITICS AND SOCIAL RELATIONS & POLICY, WITH MINORS IN SPANISH AND APA STUDIES. AFTER WORKING ON THE PUBLICATION OF “WHAT KIND OF JUSTICE: ORAL HISTORIES ABOUT VINCENT CHIN 40 YEARS LATER” WITH HER CLASSMATES AND PROFESSOR PEGLER-GORDON, HER INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE APIDA/A EXPERIENCE WAS SOLIDIFIED. NATALIE IS CURRENTLY APPLYING TO LAW SCHOOL WITH HOPES OF WORKING IN IMMIGRATION OR INTERNATIONAL LAW.

We also congratulate **Keith Feldpausch** who graduated from MSU with an APA Studies Minor!



GRADUATE FELLOWS

Congratulations to our new fellows!

Su Yon Choi (she/her)

Su Yon is a 3rd year doctoral student in the Education Policy program. Her research focuses in two areas: 1) educational experiences of Asian Pacific American students and (2) (non)sustainability of education reforms. She uses quantitative and qualitative methods to explore policy experiences of students and teachers to understand the longer-term consequences of education policy with a particular focus on Asian Pacific American students. Intersecting the two areas, she is currently interested in the curriculum policy of K-12 Asian American studies to examine its implementation and diffusion across states. She also does work on comparative and international education to understand the global forces that shape local education policy and compare different education systems.



David Marchionni (he/him)

A second-year Ph.D. student in the History Department, David's research revolves around the complex interplay between identity, disease, and America's labyrinthine medical institutions. At present, his proposed dissertation seeks to trace such personal and medical ethics questions throughout New York City's ongoing HIV/AIDS epidemic. At its core, his work seeks to excavate and center the voices and experiences of Greater New York's queer APIDA/A communities, who are all too often overlooked or excluded from the broader historical narrative. In the short-term, however, he is most interested in exploring the role played by the city's few gay Asian nightclubs as sites of treatment, inter-community organizing, and resistance. When not in the classroom, David can often be found taking advantage of the Wharton's student discount, or serving experimental new cocktails to his long-suffering friends.



PROGRAM ASSISTANTS

Please welcome our new student employees!

Julia Lee (she/they)

JULIA LEE IS A FOURTH-YEAR STUDENT AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDYING GLOBAL STUDIES IN THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES WITH AN ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN STUDIES MINOR. WORKING WITH THE APA PROGRAM, SHE IS ALSO A PEER RESEARCH ADVISOR FOR THE OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND A COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT FOR THE MSU WOMEN OF COLOR INITIATIVES. SHE PREVIOUSLY SERVED ROLES AS AN INTERCULTURAL AIDE FOR THE MULTI-RACIAL UNITY LIVING EXPERIENCE PROGRAM AND A BOARD MEMBER OF THE HMONG AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION. HER

RESEARCH INTERESTS ARE TRANSNATIONAL AND DIASPORIC STUDIES. SHE IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON THE CHALLENGES FOR HMONG-AMERICAN WOMEN MAINTAINING IDENTITY AND NAVIGATING GENDER ROLES. OUTSIDE OF ACADEMIA, JULIA IS A FOODIE! YOU CAN ALWAYS CATCH HER AT YOUR LOCAL FARMER'S MARKET. SHE LOVES TO COOK, SING, AND GO ON NATURE WALKS WITH HER CAT, JADE.



Maya Kalsi (she/her)

MAYA KALSI IS A FOURTH-YEAR STUDENT AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDYING COMPARATIVE CULTURES AND POLITICS WITH MINORS IN ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN STUDIES AND BUSINESS. AS A DAUGHTER OF SOUTH ASIAN IMMIGRANTS, SHE IS INCREDIBLY PASSIONATE ABOUT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY'S ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM. IN ADDITION TO SERVING AS ONE OF THE PROGRAM ASSISTANTS FOR THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM, MAYA SERVES AS THE FINANCE CHAIR OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY'S SOUTH ASIAN AWARENESS NETWORK AND IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE PROFESSIONAL PRE-LAW FRATERNITY KAPPA ALPHA PI, WHICH FURTHERS MAYA'S PASSION TO PURSUE A LAW DEGREE POST-GRADUATION.



Anna Lin (she/her)

WITH THE START OF FALL 2023, ANNA WILL BE GOING BACK TO SCHOOL AT MSU PURSUING A DUAL DEGREE IN THE MBA AND JD PROGRAM. ANNA IS EXCITED TO START HER LEGAL STUDIES AND FURTHER EXPLORE SOCIAL JUSTICE THAT MAY OR MAY NOT EXIST FOR THE APIDA/ASIAN COMMUNITY WHEN IT COMES TO LAW AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM. ANNA GRADUATED FROM MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY JAMES MADISON COLLEGE IN MAY 2020. DURING HER TIME IN UNDERGRAD, SHE WAS VERY INVOLVED WITH THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION (APASO) AND WAS A STUDENT IN THE APA STUDIES MINOR. FOLLOWING UNDERGRAD, ANNA WENT INTO THE NON-PROFIT SPACE WORKING WITH THE ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER DESI-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN METRO DETROIT. AFTER WORKING THERE FOR A YEAR, ANNA TRANSITIONED BACK TO MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY TO SERVE AS A COORDINATOR FOR THE OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ACADEMIC TRANSITIONS AND THE ADVISOR TO APASO. OUTSIDE OF ACADEMIA AND WORKING, ANNA IS DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING HER FAMILY'S SMALL BUSINESS AND IS ACTIVE IN SERVING HER COMMUNITY BY VOLUNTEERING HER TIME WITH ALPHA PHI GAMMA NATIONAL SORORITY'S NATIONAL BOARD AND STAYING INVOLVED WITH THE APIDA/ASIAN COMMUNITY IN MICHIGAN.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Kent Weber is an Assistant Professor in History as well as the Assistant Director of the Asian Pacific American Studies Program!

Q: What brought you to MSU?

A: When the Assistant Director position in APA Studies became available, I knew immediately I wanted to apply. The level of engagement from both students and faculty within the program convinced me that East Lansing would be a great place to be. It is an important time to grow the energy and visibility around Asian American Studies and history, and I am excited for the kinds of opportunities and challenges that work will pose.

Q: What does your research and/or classes consist of?

A: I am a historian of Asian American History, migration, U.S. empire, and race and law. I often think about my courses as projects aimed towards trying to understand how these multiple topics have historically intersected and influenced each other. The past is a big place too, so I try to present historical artifacts, documents, voices, and perspectives that make us say "I never knew this" or "why haven't I heard of this?" Despite all the books out there, there is still so much we don't know about the past. In that sense, I see my research and classes as a kind of exploration where we should expect to encounter things we don't know.

Q: Are there any projects or works you would like to mention?

A: At the moment I am working on a book project about the history of the U.S. Chinese Exclusion Laws (1882-1943) and how those laws came to be enforced in U.S. island territories beginning in the early twentieth-century. My contention is that U.S. overseas empire and race-based immigration control evolved together in U.S. history, and so racially motivated immigration enforcement played both a conceptual and practical role in how the United States came to colonize lands outside its continental boundaries. While I touch on many locations, the project focuses mostly on the history of the Chinese diaspora in Cuba and Hawai'i and how the arrival of the U.S. imperial state concerns itself with these communities in tandem with various colonial projects.

Q: What are you looking forward to as a member of the APA Studies Program?

A: I'm most looking forward to getting to know the students involved with the program better. I'm excited to hear about their experiences and to learn about their ideas for continuing to grow and shape the program. With the other faculty too, I'm excited to be a part of a group that sees itself as a community!



About Dr. Weber

I am a historian of the U.S. and the world in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. I earned my Ph.D. in history at the University of Minnesota and my master's degree from Villanova University.

Prior to joining Michigan State, I was a U.S. Foreign Policy Postdoctoral Fellow at Dartmouth College and taught at St. Olaf College. My research examines the entanglements between transnational U.S. immigration policy in the form of Chinese Exclusion with U.S. empire in the Pacific and the Caribbean.

I am interested in questions around the geographic movement of U.S. immigration law and its place as an important aspect of U.S. foreign policy and overseas colonization.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Noreen Naseem Rodríguez is an Assistant Professor of Elementary Education and Educational Justice in the College of Education

Q: What brought you to MSU?

A: Most teacher preparation programs hire faculty based on K-12 content area expertise, like literacy or social studies. My position is Assistant Professor of Elementary Education and Educational Justice. As someone whose work sits at the intersection of social studies education and children's literature, this position offered me a rare opportunity to be involved in multiple areas of elementary teacher preparation. And the cherry on top is the fabulous Asian Pacific American Studies program, which has welcomed me into their community so quickly! As someone who works with groups and schools across the country to implement Asian American content into K-12 classrooms, I'm so eager to join forces with Michiganders who are actively working toward requiring the teaching of Asian American histories.

Q: What does your research and/or classes consist of?

A: As a faculty member in the department of Teacher Education, I teach social studies methods to future elementary teachers in addition to graduate courses. Next spring, I'm excited to develop a special topics course that looks at social justice issues in elementary classrooms. My research examines the pedagogical practices of teachers of color and Asian American educators in addition to the ways that educators teach young learners about so-called difficult histories like enslavement and Japanese American incarceration. I often engage critical race frameworks in my research and study how children's literature as well as primary sources can offer young people more diverse perspectives of history.

Q: Are there any projects or works you would like to mention?

A: This year, I published three peer-reviewed articles about deeply problematic elementary school resources found on the online curricular platform Teachers Pay Teachers in *Teaching and Teacher Education*, *Learning, Media & Technology*, and *Harvard Educational Review*. My third book, *Teaching Asian American in Elementary Classrooms* co-authored with Sohyun An and Esther Kim, is slated for publication by Routledge on December 1, 2023. It's the first book of its kind written for an elementary practitioner audience about teaching Asian American people, cultures, and histories through a critical lens. My past books include 'Social Studies for a Better World' and 'Critical Race Theory and Social Studies Futures.' I'm currently researching with funding from the Spencer Foundation.

Q: What are you looking forward to as a member of the APA Studies Program?

A: Connecting and learning with APA students and faculty! I'm especially eager to learn more about local APA histories so I can support educators in teaching those histories to young learners.



About Dr. Rodríguez

My parents are immigrants from Pakistan and the Philippines and I was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. I was part of small but growing Asian American communities but, like most Asian American youth, never saw myself reflected in the school curriculum in my predominantly Latinx city.

I attended the University of Texas at Austin three times, completing a BS in Bilingual Education and BAs in Linguistics and Spanish, an MED in Bilingual/Bicultural Education, and a PhD in Curriculum & Instruction with a specialization in social studies education and completion of the Asian American studies graduate portfolio. I was a bilingual elementary teacher for nine years in Austin Independent School District and have been a teacher educator since 2013.

For most of my professional teaching career, I worked with Latinx youth and tried to center Latinx culture and history in my classroom. However, when I began my PhD, I realized I didn't know my own history. The Center for Asian American Studies at UT had just created a graduate portfolio that allowed me to take courses during my doctoral program. Learning about Asian American studies was transformative for me; at the same time, I observed far more Asian American teacher candidates at the UT College of Education than had ever been present when I was enrolled as an undergrad and Master's student. After completing my PhD in 2017, I was an Assistant Professor of Elementary Social Studies at Iowa State University (2017-2021) and Assistant Professor of Teacher Learning, Research and Practice at the University of Colorado Boulder (2021-2023). During this time, I primarily taught social studies courses to future teachers and conducted research on Asian American communities and children's literature.



STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENT SPOTLIGHT

Q&A with former Student Anthony Ajluni, MSU alumni

What is your current position?

Right now I am a contract manager at Wayne County. I started out as a part-time project consultant. The county is building a new criminal justice complex which is incorporating many departments: the county clerks, the county courts, the sheriffs office, the adult detention facility, and the juvenile detention facility. And that's kind of how I started out here. I was hired by Wayne County's cooperation council. And interestingly enough, he is a James Madison graduate.

What are the most challenging and rewarding parts of your position?

I do feel a lot of pressure to get everything in order and correct, especially working for the government and working with government contracts. I don't want to be making any mistakes or experiencing any ethical violations. I'd prefer not to end up on the front page of the paper. In regards of rewarding, I've learned so much about how the county operates, which is an interesting thing to know. It's cool to get a perspective from the county government rather than the national government, which we are usually taught. Everyone talks about city and state government, but county government is always left out.

What is it like having a full-time position and serving in the capacity that you are?

College is such a different experience than being in the 9-5 working world. You can work in college too, but you always have something to do after. It's hard to actually go out and do things now. After my job, I want to go home, I'm exhausted. In terms of scheduling...say goodbye to sleeping in. It's been different for sure, something I had to adjust to. Especially now I don't see my friends as much, which was a difficult adjustment. It didn't impact my mental health too much but I can see how it would affect others a lot. It's definitely a different kind of environment.



About Anthony

MSU alumni Anthony Ajluni (he/him) received his Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Cultures and Politics with a minor in History at the James Madison Residential College from Michigan State University. As a CCP major, his studies focused on ethnic conflict and nationalism which had a profound influence on how he viewed his own Palestinian and Korean background.

After graduating in the Spring of 2022, Anthony decided to take a gap-year to travel and join the workforce while preparing to study for the Law School Admissions Test. He will be applying to schools this winter.

Anthony is hoping to get more active in the Asian American community and is hoping to find opportunities through MSU's Asian Pacific American Studies Program!

He currently works as an Executive Assistant for Wayne County's Corporation Counsel where he manages County Contracts. In his free time, he loves to unwind with friends and cheer on MSU Basketball. Go Green!



STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENT SPOTLIGHT

Q&A with Anthony Ajluni continued...

How does your APA Studies education help you succeed in your position?

Maybe not just APA studies, but having this different outlook on diversity can help you see how things impact different people. I don't deal with the need for understanding diversity when it comes to managing contacts itself. I'd say less as a contact manager, but more as a person. Having that understanding of diversity, and not just Asian American diversity, but all kinds of races and nationalities. Having that understanding that people are different, everybody's minds are different, it really goes a long way when you're trying to build relationships with other people. It helps you become more understanding, I would say in that aspect, in terms of building relationships with people, understanding other people, that has helped me in my job. Wayne County is a very diverse group, especially here working for us. Which is something that is cool to be a part of, as well.

What recommendations do you have for current students looking to get more involved w do you have for current students looking to get more involved with the APIDA/A community?

I personally am looking to get more involved myself, so how I started was reaching out to Professor Pegler-Gordon, of course and actually asking "Hey can you add me to the newsletter?" Current students, I would say go look at bulletin boards that are hung up in the doms, or in Case Hall. Go look at those events and actually attend them. Don't just attend them and sit and listen and talk to people, actually get to know everyone. See how people are different, even in the same community there. Something I have really wanted to do is connect with both of my parents' nationalities. My father is Palestinian and my mother is Korean. You know when I was a kid, I kind of ignored that aspect. That's something as an elementary student or middle school student, or even high schooler, you're not thinking about that really. But when I got into college, and



Welcome APIDA Spartans!

Home to Asian, Pacific Islander, Desi American/Asian Spartans

especially now, you really want to connect with those roots, more than just eating food, although that is a great start. Once again, it's a regret that I have that I didn't become more involved in the APA program once everything went online because of COVID-19. No clubs were meeting. I would occasionally check the bulletin boards in Case Hall, there were always flyers for events you could attend there.



COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Megan Schellong is Morning Edition Local Host & Producer for WKAR-FM

APA: Hi Megan! I'm happy to finally meet you. Can you tell me a little more about yourself?

MS: Hello! It's nice to meet you too. I grew up in a small town in Connecticut and went to college in California. Then, I got my first job in Michigan which is what led me here! In regards to my identity, I had an only-child upbringing. I was adopted at 11 months by two white American parents, and I didn't think a lot about my identity until college. Since college, I re-evaluated my identity and I've just become closer to leaning into my adoptee identity and what it means to be an Asian American adoptee. I feel very much now strongly aligned with the Asian American adoptee community both in Michigan and on a national level. Since I was a kid, I've always really gravitated towards writing and had an affinity for it. I've kept a journal since I learned how to write. So I felt like I always knew I would do something with writing. When I went to college in California, I entered as an English major but soon learned that I was more interested in writing about people and issues than in literary analysis. Which is why I switched from English to journalism.

APA: You are involved in organizations such as the Asian American Journalist Association (AAJA) and you are a community advisory board member for the APA Studies Program at MSU. Can you tell me more about your experiences in these different work areas? How are you juggling both work and volunteering that's important to you?

MS: Working full time and also being involved in my local Asian American Journalist Association chapter has allowed me the opportunity to really feel more connected to the community. I think that you know, before, during the pandemic, it was really difficult to feel like there were others around me doing the same work who also shared my background. And when I attended my first Asian American Journalist Association convention in Los Angeles last year. It made me realize that (1) the work I am doing as a journalist is impactful, and (2) that I'm not alone. When I speak about how AAJA has impacted me while working full-time, I think that it's allowed me to see that there is a community of Asian American journalists throughout the country and here in Michigan. Even if I



About Megan Schellong

Megan Schellong (she/her) is a journalist and is a Morning Edition Local Host and Producer for WKAR-FM at MSU. She is also a Governing Board Representative for the Asian American Journalist Association. As a Chinese adoptee, Megan brings a unique perspective to her work, exploring the nuances of race and identity. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and gained public radio experience through NPR's TED Radio Hour. At the end of her undergraduate career, Megan reported a BBC radio documentary on the student protests that followed in response to a Blackface incident at her alma mater. Her research centers around transracial adoptions and the impact of China's One Child Policy. As a board member of the Asian American Journalists Association of Michigan, Megan advocates for representation in media. Her journalism has been recognized with awards from the Detroit Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and the Michigan Associated Press Media Editors.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

might not be working in the same newsroom with them, but it just gave me the courage to kind of keep doing what I'm doing. It makes me feel like I have a sense of duty to really form ties with the university and the APA studies program here with AAJA in Michigan. I feel a great sense of responsibility and a duty to represent MSU and the APA Studies program even more so because there is not that much representation in East Lansing within the the Michigan chapter. I know that's such a simple thing, but I've been in Michigan for years now, and before joining these affinity groups, I kind of question like belonging, right? I have ties to the adoptee community here in Michigan and now it feels like my community is growing and plentiful because I'm now connected with the AAJA and with APA studies. I think affinity groups can give us this sense of community.

APA: I resonate with how you are navigating and finding your own communities. It is similar to not only my personal experience but many others who are finding their own communities here at MSU. I'm happy that we have the support spaces we need and constructed our own communities. What recommendations do you have for students looking to get more involved in APIDA/A communities?

MS: That's a great question. What everyone has is pointed interests. Mine happens to be in journalism, which is how I found the Asian American Journalists Association. So I guess if I were to recommend something to students at Michigan State, I would say, you know, **is there an interest or a need of yours that's not being fulfilled?** If not, go out there and create it for yourself. If you don't see yourself represented in your field, go out there and start it if you want. It's also OK to recognize it and if maybe you don't have the capacity for that, that's OK too. I want to encourage recognizing what you have the emotional capacity for and if that does mean starting up something, then great! But you don't need to carry the burden of representing your community if you're not ready to do that. I think it's really important to recognize the mental health component there is in starting up a new community because that can be a lot emotionally. I would encourage people to seek out support, support groups, if not therapy. If they do see starting a community as an option for themselves, you will need a lot of support to do that! So my hope is that if you see a need for a community and want to start it, by all means, do, but make sure you have the support systems in place.



Megan's Latest Work

Megan's latest piece is about the relationship between food and one's cultural identity. A story that is close to her heart, she focuses on the Mid-Autumn Festival and has learned how to make moon cakes (made with salted egg yolks to be exact) to reconnect with her culture through food. [Check out her article here, featuring one of our faculty members, Jeffrey Tsang!](#)

Coordinated by the Very Asian Foundation, Megan also collaborated with other adoptees to offer guidance on how to properly represent Asian Americans, transracial adoptees, and their communities in the media. The purpose of this material is to serve as a guide based on personal narratives and well-known practices.

- [Read about the article.](#)
- [Learn more about terminology and media coverage of adoptees.](#)
- [Adoptee-centered language in journalism and child welfare.](#)

“Having the freedom to explore and report on topics that I want to allow me to feel more connected to both my Asian American community and my adoptee community. I think this is such a rare thing to be able to do as a journalist. I feel a great privilege to be able to report on topics that allow me to explore my identity and I'm grateful for that.”

- Megan Schellong



COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD



EILEY FONG

- PROGRAM ANALYST WITH NEXTGEN FEDERAL SYSTEMS
- PART-TIME GRADUATE STUDENT AT JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, PURSUING A MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN THE DATA ANALYTICS AND POLICY PROGRAM



ANNA LIN

- FULL TIME GRADUATE STUDENT PURSUING A DUAL DEGREE IN JD/MBA
- NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF ALPHA PHI GAMMA NATIONAL SORORITY, INC.



CHLOE MAJZEL

- PURSUING A DOUBLE MSC IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FROM THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND PEKING UNIVERSITY.



ROLAND SINTOS COLOMA, PH.D.

- PROFESSOR OF TEACHER EDUCATION AT WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY IN DETROIT
- APPOINTED TO THE STATEWIDE MICHIGAN ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION.



RANJEEV PURI

- STATE REPRESENTATIVE FOR MICHIGAN'S 24TH HOUSE DISTRICT, REPRESENTING CANTON TOWNSHIP
- HOUSE MAJORITY WHIP AND IS CURRENTLY SERVING HIS SECOND TERM IN THE MICHIGAN HOUSE.



ROLAND HWANG

- ATTORNEY AND TEACHES IN A/PIA STUDIES, DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN CULTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR
- PRESIDENT AND A CO-FOUNDER OF AMERICAN CITIZENS FOR JUSTICE



OLIVIA SCOTT, PH.D., LP

- STAFF PSYCHOLOGIST AND THE INTERIM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AT MSU'S COUNSELING AND PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES (CAPS).



SOH SUZUKI

- WORKS WITH ALLIED MEDIA PROJECTS
- SERVES ON THE BOARDS OF THE JAMES & GRACE LEE BOGGS SCHOOL, BOGGS EDUCATION CENTER PROJECT TEAM, AND THE DETROIT CHAPTER OF JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE.



BRADY VELASQUEZ

- PROJECT MANAGER FOR THE INNOVATION DEPARTMENT AT THE LEUKEMIA LYMPHOMA SOCIETY

NOT PICTURED: ROGER BRESNAHAN, SABRINA BROGNIART, & RICHARD MUI



HONORS AND AWARDS

The APA Studies community is full of talented and driven students, faculty, and staff. Please congratulate them on their many achievements!

UNDERGRADUATES

Julia Lee, Undergraduate in College of Arts and Letters, APA Studies Minor

- Panelist for Pedagogy, Identity and Community Workshop Series: “Celebrating Student Cultural Knowledge: What I Wish My Professor Would Ask Me About My Home Culture or Identity.” Hosted by the Center for Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities & Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures. April 2023.
- Accepted to APA Studies Symposium to present paper: “Transnationalization of K-pop: Contemporary Asian Sentiments Towards Korean Pop Culture.” March 2023.

GRADUATES

Kyle L. Chong, Doctoral candidate in Teacher Education

- Received 2023 Curriculum Inquiry Writing Fellowship Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Mentor: Leanne Taylor, Ph.D., Brock University; The fellowship is for emerging scholars in curriculum studies and theory. At this fellowship retreat, Kyle developed a paper that he presented an early draft of at the 2023 APAS Symposium.
- Co-edited special issue of the Iowa Journal for Social Studies: “Editorial: Can we get to Asian + Asian American social studies futures already?” [https://www.iowasocialstudies.org/resources/Documents/IJSS%20Winter%202023%2031\(1\).pdf](https://www.iowasocialstudies.org/resources/Documents/IJSS%20Winter%202023%2031(1).pdf)
- Reappointed RCAH Fellow in Undergraduate Teaching and Learning! Kyle is currently working with Dr. Sitara Thobani on a project about undergraduates and how they talk about their agency in disrupting dominant cultural norms.

FACULTY & STAFF

Guo Chen, Associate Professor of Geography and Global Urban Studies; APA Studies Core Faculty Member

- Received the 2023 GenCen Inspiration Award-Professional Achievement Award
- Elected to serve as a Representative & Senator for the College on the Faculty Senate & University Council at MSU 2023-2025; Selected by tenure-system faculty and academic staff from the College of Social Science.
- Editor of a Focus Section for The Professional Geographer: “Hidden Geographies: Migration, Intersectionality, and Social Justice in a Global Contemporaneous Space.”

Sheng-mei Ma, Professor of English

- Ma, Sheng-mei. The Tao of S: America’s Chinese & the Chinese Century in Literature and Film in the book series “East-West Encounters in Literature & Cultural Studies” jointly published by the University of South Carolina Press (USCP) and National Taiwan University Press (NTUP), 2022. <https://uscpress.com/The-Tao-of-S>

Felicia Wu, John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor

- Served as a member of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives of the United Nations, which conducted the risk assessment of aspartame (artificial sweetener).
- Appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer as a Michigan Commissioner of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- Elected incoming President of the Society for Risk Analysis: a professional society comprising 2000 members worldwide.



HONORS AND AWARDS

GRADUATES

- Nicole Koyuki-Golden**, Graduate student
- Shirley Wilson Logan Diversity Scholarship 2023 recipient. Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric & Composition.
 - Arola, Kristin, Contreras, Niselle, and Golden, Nicole Koyuki. "Constellating, Complicating, and Celebrating: Rhetorical Belonging Across Communities." Celebrating as Culturing: An Approach for Restorative Justice. 2023 Feminism and Rhetorics Conference. October 2023.
 - Panel Acceptance. Kang, Stephanie, Golden, Nicole Koyuki, Dumavor, Roland, and Larson, Vee. "‘Disappearing at the table’ of institutional diversity." Disrupting Myth and Monolith: Disappearing as a Mixed Race Japanese American Instructor. 2024 Annual Convention of Conference on College Composition and Communication. April 2024.

FACULTY & STAFF

- Naoko Wake**, Professor of History
- American Survivors: Trans-Pacific Memories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (London and New York: Cambridge University Press, Paperback ed. 2023).
 - Humanities and Arts Research Program (HARP) Scholarship Development Grant, Office of Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, MSU, for "Asian American Disability: A History and Its Archives" (PI, \$25,000), 2023.
 - Received History Department Award for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Contributions in Teaching and Service, Department of History, MSU, Inaugural recipient, 2023.

- Courtney Barrett**, Assistant Professor
- Fulbright Scholar Award

- Steve J. Gold**, Professor of Sociology
- Gold, Steven, The Decline in Migrants' Health Due to Adverse Environments and Limited Options for Care. Ch23, pp. 210-216 in Migration and Health Sandro Galea, Catherine K. Ettman, Muhammad H. Zaman (eds.) The University of Chicago Press Chicago and London. 2022

FACULTY & STAFF

- Terese Guinsatao Monberg**, Associate Professor and Associate Dean of RCAH
- "Filipino American National Historical Society." The SAGE Encyclopedia of Filipina/x/o American Studies. Ed. Kevin Nadal, Allyson Tintiangco-Cubales and E.J.R. David. Thousand Oaks, SAGE Publications, Inc. Invited entry. 2022.
 - Co-Facilitated, "Asian/American Feminist Rhetorics & Intersectional Labor Politics." Rhetoric Society of America 10th Biennial Summer Institute Workshop. Pennsylvania State University. May 25-27, 2023.

- Geri Alumit Zeldes**, Professor

- MSU's Beal Outstanding Professor Award 2022
- Regional Emmy 2022 for "Breed & Bootleg: Legends of Flint Rap Music"
- New documentary film project featured in the Lansing State Journal and WILX-TV.

- Anna Pegler-Gordon**, Professor

- Her book, "Closing the Golden Door: Asian Migration and the Hidden History of Exclusion at Ellis Island" (published by the University of North Carolina Press), received an honorable mention from the Association for Asian American Studies History Book Prize (2023).
- Presented on "Oral History as Asian American Pedagogy" at the Association for Asian American Studies Annual Meeting in Los Angeles (April 2023).
- Asian American History and APA Studies minor students to present their research about Vincent Chin at an MSU Libraries Special Collections Pop-Up titled "Asian Americans Fight Prejudice!" (November 2022).

- Sitara Thobani**, Associate Professor of RCAH, Director of APA Studies

- Promoted to Associate Professor!
- "Mapping Hindutva's Coordinates: Global Formations of Nationalist Space". Social Identities. 29(2): 220-236. 2023.'



UPCOMING EVENTS

Look out for these events during the 23-24' academic year!

APA PANELS PRESENT: ASIAN AMERICAN REPRESENTATION: RACE AND GENDER IN POPULAR CULTURE

OCTOBER 9TH, 4 PM EST

LOCATION: ZOOM

- Join Drs. Sharon Tran, Terrie Wong, and Geri Alumit Zeldes for an online discussion on Asian American Representation in Popular Culture. [Register here](#)

APA STUDIES OPEN-HOUSE

OCTOBER 12TH, 3-5 PM EST

LOCATION: OLD HORTICULTURE BUILDING ROOM 345

- Please join us at our housewarming event for our new office located in the Old Horticulture building! This is a great opportunity to get to know our space, team, and program. Refreshments will be provided!

APA STUDIES X COLLEGE OF MUSIC PRESENTS: "CREATING BEYOND BOUNDARIES"

OCTOBER 19th 3:15-4:30 PM EST

LOCATION: MUSIC BUILDING ROOM 141

- Poet-artist-musician-writer Dao Strom, to learn how musicians, scholars, and writers may imagine creating beyond the boundaries of their training and discipline.

APA STUDIES X COLLEGE OF MUSIC PRESENTS HYPHENS: LECTURE AND PERFORMANCE

OCTOBER 20TH 3-4:30 PM EST

LOCATION: COOK RECITAL HALL

- Dao Strom will explore the Vietnamese-American diaspora and creative practice in sustaining political resistance and communal memory.

BREAKING CURFEW: JAPANESE AMERICAN WORKERS AND EVERYDAY RESISTANCE TO WORLD WAR II RESTRICTIONS

OCTOBER 18 12:15 - 1:30 EST

LOCATION: LIBRARY GREEN ROOM-4TH FLOOR

- APAS faculty member, Dr. Anna Pegler-Gordon, will present her new project on Japanese Americans' experiences before being put into internment camps. This event will be presented to Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives Program audiences.

FUTURE EVENTS

- December 7th (tentative): End of Semester Study Celebration! The location will be in the Old Horticulture Building
- Spring 2024: Annual APA Studies Symposium
- **Stay tuned for ongoing celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the APA Studies Program throughout 2024!**



WAYS TO SUPPORT APIDA/A INITIATIVES

If you would like to support one of these initiatives, visit this website to contribute a financial gift to the program:

<https://bit.ly/GiftAPIDA>

Asian Pacific American Studies Program:

Students are the heart of Michigan State University and supporting them with the gifts of time, insight, connections, and financial assistance is important to many alumni. As the APA (Asian Pacific American) Studies program prepares for its 20th anniversary in 2024, they are launching a digital resource project that helps better educate the MSU community about Asian American experiences. As the racial climate and demography change on campus and across the country, an urgent need exists to create an accessible and engaging educational resource that better informs the MSU community about Asian American history in local, national, and global contexts.

Asian Pacific American Student Leadership Endowment Fund:

The Asian Pacific Student Leadership Endowment Fund was established to support student leadership involvement with the Asian Pacific American community at Michigan State University. Gifts to this fund help to cultivate and support initiatives that develop the leadership of students engaged with the Asian Pacific Islander Desi-American (APIDA/A) community throughout the academic year. Funds will be awarded to individual students who have demonstrated leadership potential within the Asian-Pacific American community as well as to eligible student organizations that sponsor activities that provide opportunities for Asian-Pacific American students to develop their leadership skills and potential.

APIDA/A Celebratory:

APIDA/A Celebratory provides educational support to the APIDA/A community through acts of scholarship, academic excellence, personal development, and leadership. The organization recognizes and celebrates APIDA/A successes and accomplishments during the school year. The goal of our project is to raise funds that will help us gift our graduates with a beautiful, meaningful stole, post-graduation tools, as well as a memorable ceremony that they can attend with their friends and families.

