

## Inside this Issue

- 1 From the Section Chair
- 1 About *Asian Mode*
- 2 Meet Your Section Officers
- 5 Call for Submissions for the 2012 ASA Meeting in Denver
- 5 Meet the 2011 Section Award Winners & Honorees
- 7 Call for Nominations for the 2012 Section Awards
- 8 Report on Mentoring in Las Vegas
- 9 2012 Mentoring Initiative and Network
- 10 Call for Participation in the International Sociological Association
- 10 Selected Opportunities
- 11 Notes on Section Members

# Asian Mode

## From the Section Chair

Greetings! It is with pleasure that I write this message as the new section chair. We started off with a bang (...and glitter, neon, and commotion!) in Las Vegas this past August. Our outgoing chair, Mia Tuan, put together a terrific program that showcased some of the strongest and most innovative thinkers in sociology. The commitment and energy of the faculty and students who participated as presenters and audience members in the section sessions, roundtables, and meetings remind me of why I remain a part of the American Sociological Association. You really are the highlight of the annual meetings. Thank you Mia for your incomparable leadership and generosity. My sincere thanks also to the council members who volunteered their time throughout the year to ensure a smooth, well-run program.

This year we are fortunate to have the continuing guidance of the following council members: Margaret Abraham, Monisha Das Gupta, C.N. Le, Bandana Purkayastha, and Leland Saito. We also have the benefit of two new council members, Anna Guevarra and Yingyi Ma, and a new incoming student representative, Valerie Francisco. In addition, I am thrilled to work with Lynn Fujiwara as our incoming chair and Jiannbin Shiao, who will continue as our secretary-treasurer for another year. I truly appreciate the thoughtfulness and warmth of this community of scholars. I encourage all our members to invite your friends and colleagues to join our section and to consider running for an open position on the council. Please contact Lynn Fujiwara if you are interested. Self-nominations are encouraged.

Our planning for next year's annual meeting in Denver is already underway. Based on the collective discussion during our last business meeting, the council developed two open sessions: 1) "From the Boundaries to the Core: New Insights in Asian American Studies" and 2) "Asia and Migration: New Directions in the New Global Economy." In addition, we will have our section roundtables where I expect to see some of the most dynamic ideas and research featured. Finally, we will continue and expand our mentoring program. We are indebted to Maggie Abraham and Bandana Purkayastha for organizing this successful initiative last year. There are more details on how you can get involved in this newsletter.

Each year, I am reminded of the significant scholarly contributions that Asian and Asian American Studies provides to the discipline of sociology. Looking around the room during our lively reception, I was honored to be in the company of renowned social scientists, including ASA past-president Evelyn Nakano Glenn, and up-and-coming young scholars and graduate students from across the country. It was a wonderful occasion to see and laugh with old friends, meet new ones, and congratulate the well-deserved section  
*(Continued on Page 2)*

## About *Asian Mode*

*Asian Mode* is the newsletter of the Section on Asia and Asian America of the American Sociological Association and is edited by Jiannbin Lee Shiao, Section Secretary/Treasurer, Department of Sociology, 1291 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403-1291; [JShiao@UOregon.edu](mailto:JShiao@UOregon.edu); Phone: 541-346-5366; Fax: 541-346-5026.

Contributions to the newsletter are very welcome. Previous issues can be found online at: <http://www2.asanet.org/sectionasia/news-archive.html>.

(Continued from Page 1)  
award winners.

And, on this note, an important role of our section is to recognize the important scholarship on Asia and Asian America exemplified in the research and teaching of our members. Please help us do this by nominating candidates for the sections awards: the Book Award, Research Paper Award, Graduate Student Paper Award, Outstanding Teaching Award, and Early Career Award.

In this edition of *Asian Mode*, you will find more details and information on our section and ways for you to get involved. I look forward to working with all of you throughout the year and I am grateful for your enthusiasm and support.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Sun-Hee Park,  
University of Minnesota

## Meet Your Section Officers

**Chair:** Lisa Sun-Hee Park, University of Minnesota (2011-2012)

**Chair-Elect:** Lynn Fujiwara, University of Oregon (2011-2012)

**Past-Chair:** Mia Tuan, University of Oregon (2010-2011)

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Jiannbin Lee Shiao, University of Oregon (2008-2012)

**Council Members:**  
Margaret Abraham, Hofstra University (2009-2012)

Monisha Das Gupta, University of Hawai'i (2009-2012)

C.N. Le, University of Massachusetts – Amherst (2010-2013)

Bandana Purkayastha, University of Connecticut (2010-2013)

Leland Saito, University of Southern California (2010-2013)

Anna Guevarra, University of Illinois at Chicago (2011-2014)

Yingyi Ma, Syracuse University (2011-2014)

### Student Representative:

Valerie Francisco, CUNY, Graduate Center (2011-2012)

### Officer Biographies:



**Lisa Sun-Hee Park** is Associate Professor of Sociology and Asian American Studies at the University of Minnesota. She received her doctorate in sociology from Northwestern University. Her research interests include immigration and welfare policy; immigrant health care; race, class, and gender; environmental justice; and urban theory and methods. Most recently, she has published two books: *Entitled to Nothing: The Struggle for Immigrant Health Care in the Age of Welfare Reform* (NYU Press, 2011) and *The Slums of Aspen: Immigrants vs. the Environment in America's Eden* (co-authored with D.N. Pellow, NYU Press, 2011).



**Lynn Fujiwara** is Associate Professor in Women's and Gender Studies and Ethnic Studies at the University of Oregon. She is also the Department Head of Ethnic

Studies. She received her doctorate in Sociology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her research interests are intersectional theory and

praxis, women of color feminisms, sexuality and representation, Asian American politics, immigration, welfare, and citizenship. Her book, *Mothers without Citizenship: Asian Immigrant Families and the Consequences of Welfare Reform* received the Association for Asian American Studies Social Science Book Award for books published in 2008. She is currently looking at two projects: "Forced Removals and the Rights of the Family", and "Asian American Sexualities: Representations and Resistance".

**Mia Tuan** shares her time and talents as Associate Dean of the Graduate School, Director of the Center on Diversity and Community, and Professor in the Education Studies



Department at the University of Oregon. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research focuses on racial and ethnic identity development; Asian transracial adoption; and multicultural organizational development. Her most recent book (with Jiannbin Lee Shiao) is *Choosing Ethnicity, Negotiating Race: Korean Adoptees in America* (Russell Sage Foundation Press, 2011).

**Jiannbin Lee Shiao** is Associate Professor, and Undergraduate Program Director, in the Department of Sociology at the University of Oregon. His



research interests include philanthropic diversity policy; racial/ethnic identity of transracial adoptees; social segregation and interracial intimacy; and race/ethnicity and genetics. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley. In addition to

two books published by Duke University Press and the Russell Sage Foundation Press, he has published articles in *American Journal of Sociology*, *Asian American Policy Review*, *Du Bois Review*, and *Race and Society*.

#### Council Members (in alphabetical order):



**Margaret Abraham** is Professor of Sociology and Special Advisor to the Provost for Diversity Initiatives at Hofstra University, New York. She is the International Sociological Association -Vice President for Research (2010-2014). She also serves as the American Sociological Association Representative to the International Sociological Association for 2010-2014. Her teaching and research interests include gender, ethnicity, globalization, immigration, and domestic violence. She has published in various journals including *Gender & Society*, *Violence Against Women*, *Social Justice*, and *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*. She is the author of *Speaking the Unspeakable: Marital Violence Among South Asian Immigrants in the United States* (Rutgers University press 2000) *Contours of Citizenship: Women, Diversity and the Practices of Citizenship* (co-edited, Ashgate 2010) and *Making a Difference: Linking Research and Action in Practice, Pedagogy, and Policy For Social Justice* co-edited with Bandana Purkayastha (ISA Current Sociology Monograph Issue; forthcoming spring 2012) Her current research examines globalization and outsourcing from the perspective of Indian workers. Courses that she teaches include the Senior

Seminar on Violence Against Women; Domestic Violence; Globalization, Work and Citizenship; and Women and Development.



**Bandana Purkayastha** is Professor of Sociology and Asian American Studies and Interim Head, Sociology, at the University of Connecticut. She was educated in India (Presidency College) and the US. She has published more than thirty peer reviewed journal articles and chapters on race, gender, immigration, and human rights issues. These appeared in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, and India. Her books are "The Power of Women's Informal Networks: Lessons in Social Change in South Asia and West Africa " (2004, co-edited with Mangala Subramaniam), "Negotiating Ethnicity: Second-Generation South Asian Americans Traverse a Transnational World," (2006), "Living Our Religions: Hindu and Muslim South Asian American Women Narrate their experiences," 2009, (with Anjana Narayan), "Armed Conflict and Conflict Resolution: Sociological Perspectives (co-edited with Giuseppe Caforio, and Gerhard Kuemmel, 2008), and "Human Rights in Our Own Backyard: Injustice and Resistance in the US," 2011 (with Bill Armaline and Davita Glasberg). She is completing a book " As the Leaves Turn Gold: Asian Americans and Aging, with Shweta Majumdar Adur, Miho Iwata, Ranita Ray and Trisha Tiamzon. Another book, "Human Rights: Voices of the World's Young Leaders" is due to be published in spring 2012, and her co-edited special issue, with Margaret Abraham for Current Sociology is also due to be published in spring 2012.

**Monisha Das Gupta** is Associate Professor of Ethnic and Women's Studies and Director for the Center for South Asian



Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. She received her PhD in Sociology from Brandeis University. Her areas of research and teaching include migration; globalization; U.S. race relations; labor; social movements through a transnational feminist perspective; qualitative methods; and feminist theory. Her book, *Unruly Immigrants: Rights, Activism, and Transnational South Asian Politics in the United States* (Duke University Press, 2006), won two awards in – 2008—one from the Association of Asian American Studies, and the other from the American Sociological Association's Asian and Asian American section. Her new research is on the relationship between the immigration rights movement and immigration reform.

**Anna Guevarra** is an Associate Professor of Asian American Studies and Affiliated Faculty of Gender & Women's Studies at the University of



Illinois at Chicago. Her scholarly, creative, and teaching interests focus on immigrant and transnational labor, Filipino labor diaspora, transnational feminist politics/practice and movement building, and feminist ethnographic methods. Her PhD is in Sociology from the University of California, San Francisco. She is the author of the award-winning book *Marketing Dreams, Manufacturing Heroes: The Transnational Labor Brokering of Filipino Workers* (Rutgers University Press, 2010) and has published in interdisciplinary journals like *Journal of*

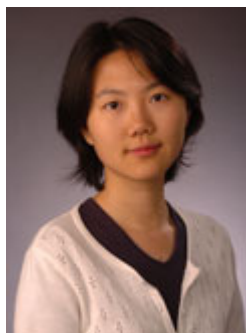


*Contemporary Ethnography and Social Identities: A Journal for the Study of Race, Nation, and Culture.* She is currently working on three projects including: 1) the exploration of transnational feminism and “political quilting” and their relationship to and implications on producing activist and anti-oppressive scholarship, 2) the civic engagement of Filipinos in Chicago in collaboration with two community organizations (AFIRE and CIRCA-Pintig), and 3) a study of the Philippines’ Super Maid program and the professionalization of “low-skilled” women labor migrants as the state’s attempt to build its global comparative advantage as a provider of domestic labor. She teaches courses on Asian/Asian American Women in the Global Economy, Asian America and Transnational Feminism, Sociology of Asia and Asian Americans, and the Cultural Politics of Food in Asian America.



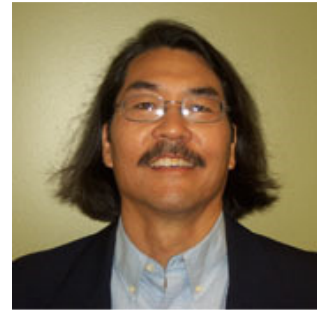
**C.N. Le** is a Senior Lecturer of Sociology and Director of the Asian and Asian American Studies Certificate Program at the University of

Massachusetts, Amherst. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology at the University at Albany, State University of New York. His research interests and current projects revolve around race and ethnicity; immigration; and comparative outcomes of structural, socioeconomic, and culture assimilation among Asian Americans, particularly Vietnamese Americans. He also maintains *Asian-Nation.org*, an online information resource about Asian American history, culture, and current issues.



**Yingyi Ma** is currently an Assistant Professor in Sociology of Maxwell School of Citizenship and

Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She is also the affiliated faculty member with Women’s Study Department and the program of Asia/Asian American. She obtained her PhD in Sociology at Johns Hopkins University in 2007. Her work deals with a variety of themes of social inequality related to education, gender and migration. Her article “Family SES, Parental Involvement and College Major Choices,” published in *Sociological Perspectives* in 2009, finds that low-SES students tend to choose lucrative college majors and thus raises the possibility that college major choice is potentially weakening the intergenerational transmission of inequality. This article also finds that SES trumps gender effect in that lower SES women are particularly likely to choose lucrative fields. Her recent research projects focus on the gender and racial/ethnic differential concentrations in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. This line of work has been funded by National Science Foundation and Alfred Sloan Foundation. Her article “Model Minority, Model for Whom?--An Investigation of Asian American Students in Science/Engineering,” published in *AAPI Nexus Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Policy, Practice & Community* in 2010, finds that Asian American students are disadvantaged in cultural capital compared with other racial groups from the similar socioeconomic backgrounds, and they tend to formulate certain negative self-perceptions associated with their inclination towards STEM fields. Her most recent publication is a sole-authored paper forthcoming in *Social Science Quarterly*, titled “Gender Differences in the Paths of Leading to a STEM Baccalaureate,” finds that women are more likely to switch into the STEM fields later in college to attain their STEM bachelor’s degrees, and attitudes and course taking behaviors during high school years contribute to the different pathways that men and women travel.



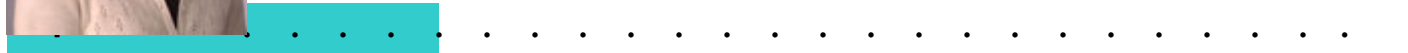
**Leland Saito** is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Southern California. His research specialties include race and ethnic relations; urban politics; economic development; redistricting; Asian American Studies; and qualitative research methods. He is the author of *The Politics of Exclusion: The Failure of Race-Neutral Policies In Urban America* (Stanford University Press 2010), winner of the 2010 Oliver Cromwell Cox Book Award from the ASA Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, and *Race and Politics: Asian Americans, Latinos and Whites in a Los Angeles Suburb* (University of Illinois Press 1998), winner of the 2000 ASA Section on Asia and Asian America Book Award.

**Student Representative:**

**Valerie Francisco** is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology at City University of New York, The Graduate Center.



Francisco’s academic interests include transnationalism and diaspora with a special interest on the Philippine migration, family, gender and labor, and globalization. Her dissertation research is with Filipino migrant women working as domestic workers in New York City and their families in the Philippines. In journals like *The Philippine Sociological Review* and *International Review of Qualitative Research*, Francisco writes about how families are changing under neoliberal immigration



## Meet the 2011 Section Award Winners & Honorees

### 2011 Book Award

**Winner:** Joel Andreas. *Rise of the Red Engineers: The Cultural Revolution and the Origins of China's New Class*. Stanford University Press.

I decided to go to graduate school in order to investigate the twentieth century communist experiments, the most ambitious and traumatic social leveling efforts in human history. Although communist attempts to eliminate class distinctions ended in spectacular failures, I felt that much could be learned from these failures. In every case, communist power eventually gave rise to a profoundly elitist technocratic class order. It was clear to me that this was not the original intention: victorious communist parties not only eliminated private property, but also took extraordinary measures to diminish advantages based on education, and even tentatively confronted social hierarchies based on political power (that is, based on their own party organizations). I chose to focus on China, the largest and in many ways the most radical of the communist experiments. Moreover, the Chinese Cultural Revolution explicitly targeted the country's cultural and political elites. My aim was to understand why—despite forceful efforts to the contrary—the Communist project in China resulted in the creation of a new dominant class of technocratic officials. In *Rise of the Red Engineers: The Cultural Revolution and the Origins of China's New Class*, I present my findings. The book chronicles the contentious process through which two mutually hostile groups—the poorly educated peasant revolutionaries who seized power in 1949 and China's old educated elite—coalesced to form a new dominant class. After dispossessing the country's propertied classes, Mao and the

policies and what types of political subjectivities emerge from those conditions. In the 2011-2012 academic year, Francisco is teaching and completing her dissertation as the Dissertation Writing Fellow in the Department of Sociology at the University of San Francisco.

## Call for Submissions for the 2012 ASA Meeting in Denver

*The ASA Online Paper Submission System will open December 8, 2011. The deadline for submissions is January 11, 2012 at 3:00pm EST.*

### For new members of the ASA:

In order to present a paper at the annual meeting, you must submit it for consideration by the organizers of particular sessions. There are two types of sessions that are open for unsolicited submissions: **Regular Sessions and Section Sessions**. A paper can be submitted to a *first choice session* as well as a *second choice session*.

The Program Committee for the annual meeting selects the topics for Regular Sessions and assigns their organizers, whereas each of the 40+ sections of the ASA, including ours, selects the topics for their respective Section Sessions and assigns their organizers. Like most sections, we use one of our allocated sessions for simultaneous roundtables in a large room. This past August in Las Vegas, our Section Roundtables included tables on 10 topics.

**Section Session #1: “From the Boundaries to the Core: New Insights in Asian American Studies” (open submission)**

- **Organizer:** C.N. Le, *University of Massachusetts-Amherst*

**Section Session #2: “Asia and Migration: New Directions in the New Global Economy” (open submission)**

- **Organizer:** Lisa Sun-Hee Park, *University of Minnesota*

**Section Roundtables: Asia and Asian America (open submission)**

- **Organizer:** Lynn Fujiwara, *University of Oregon*

**Recommendations for paper submissions to Asia and Asian American section sessions:**

Given the rules of the online Submission System, we recommend following the procedures below *if you would like our Section Roundtables to be the backup placement for your paper*, in the event that it is not accepted for a Regular Session or a Section Session.

1. **We welcome your submissions** to the Section Sessions (#1-3 above) as first choice sessions. In this situation, however, if your paper is not chosen for a Section Session, we cannot review your submission for the Section Roundtables because the first choice organizers must forward unplaced papers to their second choice sessions for consideration.
2. **To make our Section Roundtables your backup placement**, you must choose one of the following as your second choice session: (1) an Asia and Asian America Section Session or (2) the Asia and Asian America Section Roundtables.

---

*Please Also Note...*

**Regular Session: Asians and Asian Americans (open submission)**

- **Organizer:** Pawan Dhingra, *Oberlin College*

Communist Party took radical measures to eliminate class distinctions based on education, aggravating antagonisms between the new political and old cultural elites. Ultimately, however, Mao’s attacks on both groups during the Cultural Revolution spurred inter-elite unity, paving the way—after his death—for the consolidation of a new class that combined their political and cultural resources.

**Honorable Mention:** Anna Guevarra: *Marketing Dreams, Manufacturing Heroes*, Rutgers University Press.

*“These are some of the terraces made by our men here. They certainly enhance the exquisite landscape and panoramic view of Wadi Derna. I intend to plant a huge billboard on the flat ground proclaiming “HANDIWORK OF FILIPINO CRUSADERS FOR LIBYAN PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT”*

In 1982, my late father, Cornelius Guevarra, left the Philippines for a two-year contract in Libya. At this time, the Philippine labor recruitment industry was unregulated, so employment agencies engaged freely in unscrupulous business practices. My memory of these years was colored by the times my mother and I waited in lines outside the agency that arranged my father’s overseas employment, along with a mass of other families, to demand the release of his wages, and by hours spent outside the airport awaiting his return because this same agency could not provide the exact date and time of his arrival back in the Philippines. As a transnational family, we communicated through letters and photographs exchanged and sent through workers who went to the same work site as my father’s or through his friends who were returning home to the Philippines. Two years after his death in 1995, I uncovered one of the many photos he sent. It bore the inscription I quoted above. The photo seems to capture nothing but a desolate red rocky land with a few scattered trees. But this seemingly empty space is now a paved and developed land, a suitable foundation for the country’s

development projects. For me, this photograph is emblematic of not just the transformations in the global economy that labor migrants like my father help enable but also the economic and social transformations that migrants themselves hope to obtain in exchange for their labor. This paved and developed land may seem insignificant to any passersby. But for labor migrants like my father, this is the “handiwork of Filipino crusaders” that he proudly proclaimed and made visible, and it represents the sacrifices that serve as foundation and inspiration for this book.

**2011 Research Paper Award**

**Winner:** Philip Q. Yang. "A Theory of Asian Immigration to the United States." *Journal of Asian American Studies*.

As an author, probably nothing is more gratifying than seeing your work to be read and used by others. To my delight and amazement, I have learned that since its publication in early 2010, this article has been adopted as a required reading by quite a few graduate seminars and undergraduate classes on immigration and Asian American studies.

I embarked on this paper in 1997 as part of my book project on *Asian Immigration to the United States*, which was recently published by Polity Press (2011). I found that existing explanations of Asian immigration to the United States were grossly inadequate and incompatible with the significance of Asian immigration. The classic push-pull framework dominated early explanations, but it is very simplistic, without taking account of the historical and structural processes. While appealing, world system theories do not consider micro-level determinants and processes. Newer explanations also do not incorporate factors at the micro level and the interaction of determinants and remain sketchy or underdeveloped. There was no single, coherent, well-developed theory of Asian immigration that takes into account multilevel processes, multiple causes, initiating and sustaining forces, and historical and

contemporary flows. To fill the lacuna in the literature, I proposed a macro-micro interactive and cumulative causation theory to explain Asian immigration to the United States. The gist of this theory includes three important clusters of factors and their interaction and accumulation: (1) disparities between Asian countries and the United States; (2) multilevel connections between the United States and Asian countries and between potential immigrants as well as their families and communities at the origin and their social networks at the destination; and (3) migration policies in both the sending and receiving countries. Intercountry disparities and intercountry connections are treated as push and pull factors.

I also believe that intercountry disparities, multilevel connections, and migration policies, as well as their interaction and accumulation, are fundamental forces for the explanation of any interactional migration flows. Hence, the significance of this article goes beyond Asian immigration to the United States to the general field of international migration. The selection of this article as a required reading for general immigration courses by instructors appears to offer a confirmation of my conviction.

**2011 Graduate Student Paper Award**

**Co-Winner:** Andrew Le (University of British Columbia), "Destiny of the Poor: The Transnational Migration of Vietnamese Laborers to Trinidad and Tobago"

I accidentally stumbled upon my research topic as I was studying abroad in Trinidad and Tobago while in my second year at St. Lawrence University. I was walking home one night from a game of pick-up basketball when I heard someone singing, inside an enclosed construction site, in what I thought was Vietnamese. I thought my homesickness was causing hallucinations because Vietnamese people do not travel to Trinidad, let alone shower there. Being a curious inquirer (sociologist), I decided to investigate and yelled “hello, are you Vietnamese” over the wall. My question



stopped the performance and I hurriedly walked away as my actions could be considered invasion of privacy. Nevertheless, as I was locking my gate, the man who was singing answered yes, he was Vietnamese. These series of events led to my paper, "Destiny of the Poor: The Transnational Migration of Vietnamese Laborers to Trinidad and Tobago," but more importantly changed my professional goals. I spent the next four months with a group of fifteen Vietnamese men; we shared stories, went out to eat, and played sports. What I thought was an exciting adventure ended up being telltale signs of wanting to become a sociologist. An academic journal is currently reviewing this paper and I have been applying for funds to continue researching in Trinidad. Even though my attention has turned towards organizations, networks, and the second generation, Vietnamese labor in the Caribbean is still an area of great interest.

**Co-Winner:** ManChui Leung (University of Washington), "Do Asian American Women and Men Differ in Their Response to Stress? Discrimination, Financial Strain and Mental Health"

"We need more data and research!" After working for over 10 years as a health educator, trainer, and policy advocate for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, I heard this call consistently among community members, advocates and policy makers working to improve the health of historically marginalized populations such as immigrants and people of color. Answering this call was one of the reasons that compelled me to pursue a research and teaching career in sociology. My research interests are focused on where health inequities stem from, how they form, and why they persist. My motivation for the paper, "Do Asian American women and men differ in their response to stress? Discrimination, financial strain and mental health" was to examine the effect of discrimination, one of the main social drivers of racial, ethnic and socioeconomic health disparities, as well as to examine the underlying

factors of gender stratification among Asian Americans. The availability of an important national data source, National Latino and Asian American Study, allowed me address these key sociological issues driving inequality *between* groups, as well as driving differences *within* the Asian American community. Thus, I aim for my research to bring together discussions of health inequality, gender, race and ethnicity, as well as answer the broader community-level call for more relevant research for underserved communities.

**Honorable Mention:** Kimberly Hoang (University of California, Berkeley), "She's Not a Low Class Dirty Girl! Sex Work in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam"

In June of 2005, after graduating from college and getting accepted into a Ph.D program in Sociology at Stanford University, my parents bought me a round-trip ticket to Vietnam as a graduation present. I could have never imagined that their present would change my life and lead me on a six-year journey traversing transitional social fields between the United States and Vietnam. When I got to Saigon, I moved into a house with two Western men one who was from Australia and another from the United States. One of the guys invited a local sex worker to come live with him in our house. As the two Vietnamese women in the house we slowly became acquainted with one another and I began to wonder: What led her into sex work? How did a war and my parents' migration led to such different life chances for the two of us?

I then spent a year at Stanford reading everything I could about the global sex industry and thinking about how the movement of global people and capital around the world affects relations of intimacy on the ground. I realized that very few studies examined the stratification of sex work comparing high-end markets from low-end markets. I also realized that very few studies examine male clients. In order to fill these gaps I embarked on a project to study relations between men and women and to look at how men think about their relationships with local sex

workers. Those questions eventually led to many of the ideas in my paper, "She's Not a Low Class Dirty Girl!"

Turning to Vietnam's contemporary sex industry, this article complicates existing frameworks of global sex work by analyzing a sex industry in a developing economy where not all women are poor or exploited and where white men do not always command the highest paying sector of sex work. Drawing on seven months of field research between 2006 and 2007, I provide a systematic classed analysis of both sides of client-worker relationships in three racially and economically diverse sectors of Ho Chi Minh City's (HCMC's) global sex industry: a low-end sector that caters to poor local Vietnamese men, a mid-tier sector that caters to white backpackers, and a high-end sector that caters to overseas Vietnamese (Viet Kieu) men. I illustrate how sex workers and clients draw on different economic, cultural, and bodily resources to enter into different sectors of HCMC's stratified sex industry. Moreover, I argue that sex work is an intimate relationship best illustrated by the complex intermingling of money and intimacy. Interactions in the low-end sector involved a direct sex for money exchange, while sex workers and clients in the mid-tier and high-end sectors engaged in relational and intimate exchanges with each other.

## Call for Nominations for the 2012 Section Awards

*Please note that the awards nomination deadline is Friday, March 30, 2012, except for the book award.*

### Book Award

The next Asia and Asian America section book award will recognize work focusing on **Asians in America**. Eligible books must have been

published during 2009 or 2010. Please send a **letter of nomination**—self nominations are acceptable—to Margaret Abraham and Bandana Purkayastha, book award committee members, along with a copy of your book for each committee member, by **January 31, 2012**.

**Margaret Abraham**  
Professor of Sociology  
Special Advisor to the Provost for Diversity  
Hofstra University  
202F Davison Hall  
Hempstead, NY 11549

**Bandana Purkayastha**  
Professor of Sociology  
Department of Sociology  
Manchester Hall  
University of Connecticut  
Storrs, CT 06269-2068

**Research Paper Award**

Nominations (including self-nominations) are invited for the Section’s Research Paper Award. Each year we rotate the nominations between papers on Asia/Transnational and papers on Asian America. This year we plan to give the award for an outstanding paper on **Asia/Transnational**. Eligible papers must have been published during 2009 or 2010. Nomination and self-nomination letters should be no more than 2 pages stating the significance and innovations of the paper. The research paper award nominations deadline is **March 30, 2012**.

Please email one copy of the paper along with nomination letter(s) to each member of the Research Paper Award Committee:

**Professor Ho-fung Hung**  
Department of Sociology  
Indiana University, Bloomington  
[hofung@indiana.edu](mailto:hofung@indiana.edu)

**Professor Yingyi Ma**  
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs  
Syracuse University  
[yyma03@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:yyma03@maxwell.syr.edu)

**Graduate Student Paper Award**

The section will award a prize to the best graduate student paper addressing any topic in the sociology of **either Asia or Asian America**. The winner receives a cash prize of \$300 at the annual meeting. Entries should be double spaced with 12 point font and not exceed 30 pages in length (including all references, tables, and figures). Papers may be published, under consideration for publication, or accepted for a panel at the ASA. Papers may be co-authored, but the student should be the lead author. Papers may be submitted by students or by professors on behalf of their students. The graduate student paper award nominations deadline is **March 30, 2012**. Please email one copy of the paper with all identifying information to each member of the Graduate Student Paper Award Committee:

**Professor Anna Guevarra**  
Departments of Asian American Studies, Sociology, and Gender and Women’s Studies  
University of Illinois, Chicago  
[guevarra@uic.edu](mailto:guevarra@uic.edu)

**Professor C.N. Le**  
Department of Sociology  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
[le@soc.umass.edu](mailto:le@soc.umass.edu)

**Outstanding Teaching Award**

The Asia and Asian American Section invites nominations for the Outstanding Teaching Award for a scholar who teaches courses in the Sociology of Asia or Asian American communities. A nomination letter of no more than 2 pages should address the nominee's qualifications for the award and highlight the contributions of the scholar's work. The outstanding teaching award nominations deadline is **March 30, 2012**.

Please email one copy of the nomination letter and the nominee's curriculum vitae to each member of the Teaching Award Committee:

**Professor Leland Saito**  
Department of Sociology  
University of Southern California  
[lsaito@usc.edu](mailto:lsaito@usc.edu)

**Professor Mia Tuan**  
Department of Education Studies  
University of Oregon  
[tuan@uoregon.edu](mailto:tuan@uoregon.edu)

**Early Career Award**

This award recognizes a scholar in the early stage of her/his career (no more than 10 years post Ph.D. award date) and who is conducting exemplary research on the sociology of Asia or Asian American communities. A nomination letter of no more than 3 pages should address the nominee's qualifications for the award and highlight the significance of the scholar's work. The early career award nominations deadline is **March 30, 2012**.

Please email one copy of the nomination letter and the nominee's vitae to each member of the Early Career Award Committee:

**Professor Lisa Sun-Hee Park**  
Department of Sociology  
University of Minnesota  
[lspark@umn.edu](mailto:lspark@umn.edu)

**Professor Jiannbin Lee Shiao**  
Department of Sociology  
University of Oregon  
[JShiao@UOregon.edu](mailto:JShiao@UOregon.edu)

# Report on Mentoring in Las Vegas

**Margaret Abraham, Hofstra University**  
**Bandana Purkayastha, University of Connecticut**

*Process of Connecting:* We received a positive response to our plan to set up mentoring network and tried to broadly match mentors and mentees from this pool of participants. There were 25



mentees – 18 graduate students, 5 assistant professors, and 2 teaching fellows. There were 20 mentors, and this includes individuals that we requested to participate in this mentoring initiative and who kindly agreed to serve as mentors. We matched each mentee with a mentor taking into account similar background in terms of areas of specialization or teaching interests. Although the research interests did not always exactly match, our hope was that a one-on-one conversation between mentor and mentee would still be helpful. Once all mentees and mentors were matched, we sent electronic letters connecting mentors and mentees and encouraged them to set up a mutually agreeable time to meet at the ASA conference in Las Vegas.

*List of mentors:* Mentors included: Margaret Abraham, Mary Y. Danico, Monisha Das Gupta, Anna Guevarra, Shobha Gurung, Hung Thai, Milian Kang, Grace Kao, Nadia Kim, C.N. Le, Kristen Lee, Dina Okamoto, Bandana Purkayastha, Leland Saito, Jiannbin Shaio, Chih Yan Sun, Mia Tuan, Jane Yamashiro, Nancy Wang Yuen, Min Zhou.

*Specializations of mentees and mentors include:* immigration, globalization, violence, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, human rights, cultural sociology, political sociology, Asian Americans/South Asian Americans, political organizing, race, class, transnational labor, low wage, feminized labor, Nepali immigrants, sex trafficking, masculinities, occupation, education, adolescence, transnationalism, social demography, socioeconomic forms of assimilation and integration, family, aging, pan ethnicity, Second generation Asian Americans, urbanization, suburbanization, industrialization, China, grassroots and electoral politics, economic development, redistricting, interracial relations, institutionalization of diversity, transracial adoption, Taiwan, ethnic return migration, and sociology of culture, film/TV.

*Informal Feedback:* While we have not conducted formal feedback to date, both mentors and mentees have given informal feedback indicating that this process was helpful. Quite a few mentees noted that it was helpful to have had the opportunity to talk one to one with a faculty member; to get valuable insights on academe; getting information on possible avenues for publication, pointers on the job market, ways to improve teaching skills and perspectives on how to manage work life balance as early career sociologists.

We thank all those who participated in this initiative and hope such opportunities will help foster more active networks for our section members.

## 2012 Mentoring Initiative and Network

Lisa Park, Phi Su, and Monisha Das Gupta will continue the mentoring initiative that was a great success at this year’s ASA. Like last year, we will connect faculty with graduate students and junior faculty if they request such meetings based on their research interests. Also, If you are transitioning to an administrative position at your institution, we will pair you up with faculty who can help you with your professional development.

If you are planning to come to the 2012 ASA, we will pair you up with someone who shares your research interest or can advise you on your career path. We will set up the initial contacts as a meet-and-greet session at the ASA. You are free to continue networking/mentoring later if you wish. Such one-on-one opportunities will help foster more active networks among members of our section and attract new members.

We ask that those who are interested in being mentored, and mentoring faculty and graduate students contact us by e-

mail. The deadline to contact us is **June 1, 2012**. Both the mentor and the mentee will get e-mails from one of us beginning of August so that you can set up a date and time to meet while you are at the conference.

Please let us know the following information if you are interested in being part of this mentoring initiative.

### Contact:

1. Lisa Park [lspark@umn.edu](mailto:lspark@umn.edu) if you are interested in mentoring another faculty member or graduate student
2. Monisha Das Gupta [dasgupta@hawaii.edu](mailto:dasgupta@hawaii.edu), if you are a *faculty member* seeking a mentor
3. Phi Su [phi.h.su@gmail.com](mailto:phi.h.su@gmail.com) if you are a *graduate student* seeking a mentor

Please send us the following information to help us match you.

- NAME:
- INSTITUTION:
- POSITION:
  - Professor
  - Associate Professor
  - Assistant Professor
  - Graduate Student
- Research interests:
- Geographical Area specialization (if applicable):
- Any special requests:

# Call for Participation in the International Sociological Association

*Margaret Abraham, ISA Vice-President for Research, ISA Forum President, and ASA Asia and Asian America Section Council*

Dear Colleagues,

I hope that many of you will participate in the second International Sociological Association Forum to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from August 1-4, 2012. The ISA was founded in 1949 under the auspices of UNESCO. The goal of the ISA is to represent sociologists everywhere, regardless of their school of thought, scientific approaches or ideological opinion, and to advance sociological knowledge throughout the world. Its members come from 167 countries. The ISA is open to scholars and professionals of sociological teaching, research or practice and currently has over 5,000 members from 167 countries.

## **The Second ISA Forum of Sociology Social Justice and Democratization Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 1-4, 2012**

The times in which we live require a greater commitment by sociologists to engage in research that is grounded in sociology but draws upon other disciplines to address some critical issues. The problems, challenges and possibilities to resolve global inequities, environmental degradation, erosion of democracy and human rights violations are just some examples of issues that the ISA Forum can address and that can help us strengthen links between Sociology and the public sphere.

### **Objectives**

1. Provide a meeting place for the various Research Committees,

Working Groups, and Thematic Groups.

2. Develop a socially significant theme involving public actors and to which different areas of sociology can contribute.
3. Hold the interim Research Council Business Meeting attended by the Delegates from all Research Committees.

There are approximately 625 sessions in the call for abstracts for the Forum from the 54 Research Committees, Working Groups, and Thematic Groups. For the complete list: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/rc/>

For those hoping to give a paper, abstracts can be submitted online until December 15, 2011:

<http://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2012/cfp.cgi>.

Not all sessions are focused solely on the central theme.

For online registration (click the “online registration” tab): <http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/forum-registration-fees.htm>.

For more information on Grant Applications: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/guidelines-for-grant-application-submission.htm>

For more information on the Forum please go to: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/>

## **Selected Opportunities**

*Announcements of jobs and other opportunities can be found on the section homepage at:*

<http://www2.asanet.org/sectionasia/index.html>.

### **Call for submissions from the Berkeley Student Journal of Asian Studies (BSJAS)**

We are pleased to announce a call for submissions to the 2nd edition of the *Berkeley Student Journal of Asian Studies*. BSJAS is an interdisciplinary student journal on campus that seeks to promote scholarship of Asia across disciplinary lines. BSJAS is looking for undergraduate and graduate papers of academic merit and original insight within the study of Asia. If you have ever written an interesting paper about anything regarding Asia, BSJAS welcomes and encourages your submission.

For further information, please visit <http://ieas.berkeley.edu/gas/sjas/index.html>

The submission deadline is Thursday, **January 26, 2012**, and papers must be submitted to [berkeleysjas@gmail.com](mailto:berkeleysjas@gmail.com).

### **Call for paper proposals**

Hello All,

I am putting together a panel discussion for the 2012 Association of Black Sociologists Conference, which will be held August 16-18, 2012 in Denver, Colorado. The tentative title for the panel is **Double Consciousness: Teaching Students of Color About Race in the 21st Century**.

While a great deal of important work has been done in the field of sociology about how to teach race in the contemporary United States, most of this work shares a core, if unstated, preoccupation with how to teach race to whites. Though it is fundamentally anti-racist and activist in nature, the fact that this literature tends to assume and center white racial subjects, means that, ironically, it also reproduces a kind of white privilege. Students of color- be they black, Latino, Asian-American, African-born, biracial, or Native American- come to the classroom with a fundamentally different relationship to the social construct of race than do their white peers. For these reasons and others, it seems important to engage in serious discussion about the learning

experiences of non-whites in classrooms where we teach about race.

Questions that panelists may explore include (but are not limited to):

- What does it mean for non-whites to \*re\*discover race in the classroom?
- What kinds of personal “stuff” do students of color begin to unravel, or to understand differently, once they enter our classes?
- What is it like to have these kinds of awakenings take place in settings where the majority of their peers are white (and going through very different kinds of personal awakenings of their own)?
- Are majority non-white learning environments more valuable, safe, and productive for students of color? Or is it most important that students of color learn how to have difficult, honest discussions about race with whites in order to successfully negotiate the terrain of race after they leave the university?
- How do non-white students see us in our role as “academic authorities” on race?
- How might we as teachers serve students of color better-- especially in helping them handle the extra “emotional labor” and special vulnerability they often face in race relations classes?

I am convening a panel discussion about these issues. Presentations should be approximately 10 minutes in length. They may focus on comparisons between the experiences of white and non-white students, on teaching race to students of African descent, or on teaching race to other racial, ethnic, or religious minorities.

The panel is primarily geared towards structured discussions of personal experiences in the classroom. However, you may also propose a talk based upon formal research on this topic.

**Those interested should submit to a 2-3 paragraph abstract** of your proposed talk, a working title, and a CV via email to [elogan@umn.edu](mailto:elogan@umn.edu) by **Dec. 28, 2011**.

Thank you.

Enid Logan  
Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology  
University of Minnesota

## Notes on Section Members

**Pallavi Banerjee** received the University of Illinois at Chicago Dean's Scholar Award, a year-long writing fellowship to finish writing her dissertation that examines how immigration policies and visa laws affect families of male-led & female-led Indian professional workers in the United States.

**Amy Brainer** received a Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant in the amount of \$20K to fund her research on the family lives of people with same-sex desires and relationships in martial law and post-martial law Taiwan.

**Elaine Howard Ecklund** was promoted to Associate Professor at Rice University where she is the founding director of the Religion and Public Life Program, a central focus of which is to examine religion and immigration.

**Zhang Jie** recently published six peer reviewed journal articles. Two of them were published in *Journal of Affective Disorders*, entitled "Psychometric properties of the Dickman Impulsivity Instrument in suicide victims and living controls of rural China" 2011, (132:368-374) and "Seasonality of Chinese rural young suicide and its correlates" (2011, 134:356-364). In *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, he published "Suicide Means Used by Chinese Rural Youths: A Comparison Between Those With and Without Mental Disorders" (2011, 199:410-415). One article published by Zhang supported his Strain Theory of Suicide with data he and his team collected in China with a NIMH R01 grant: "Psychological strains and youth suicide in rural China" in *Social Science & Medicine* (2011, 72:2003-2010). He

also published in sociology journals in China. He and his Chinese colleagues published in *Population Research* "Suicide among the Elderly People in Urban China" (2011, 35:84-96). In the top journal of China's social sciences, *Social Sciences in China*, he published "A Sociological Analysis of the Decline in the Suicide Rate in China" (2011:97-113).

**Jaeeun Kim** published "Establishing Identity: Documents, Performance, and Biometric Information in Immigration Proceedings" in *Law and Social Inquiry* (2011, 36:760-86). This paper won the 2010 graduate and law student paper competition sponsored by *Law and Social Inquiry*. She also published (with Rogers Brubaker) "Transborder Membership Politics in Cold War and Post-Cold War Germany and Korea" in *European Journal of Sociology* (2011, 52:21-75). She received her Ph.D. from UCLA in August 2011, and is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton.

**Enid Logan** published "*At This Defining Moment: Barack Obama's Presidential Candidacy and the New Politics of Race*" (NYU Press, 2011). A key chapter includes a discussion of racial politics and AAPI & Latino voters, focusing especially on their racial triangulation vis a vis whites and blacks in the discourses on the election generated by the mainstream media.

**Alexander Lu** won the ASA's 2011 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award for the Race, Gender, and Class Section for his paper "Intersections of Discrimination in Immigration Law: Narrating Chinese Women's Experiences during the Chinese Exclusion Era."

**Setsuko Matsuzawa** published "Horizontal Dynamics in Transnational Activism: The Case of Nu River Anti-dam Activism in China" in *Mobilization* (2011, 16(3): 481-509).

**Dina Okamoto** is a 2011-12 Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) at Stanford University.



**Eileen Otis** published *Markets and Bodies: Women, Service Work and the Making of Inequality in China* (Stanford University Press, 2011). The book examines labor in workplaces ranging from global luxury hotels to local restaurants and karaoke bars to grasp the embodied and interactive inequalities emerging in China's new market economy.

**Bandana Purkayastha** published *Human Rights In Our Backyard: Injustice and Resistance in the US*, (University of Pennsylvania Press), co-edited with William Armaline, and Davita Glasberg. She published "Constructing virtual, transnational identities on the web: The case of Hindu student groups in the US and UK," *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, (2011) 32: 495-517" with Anjana Narayan and sudipto Banerji; and "Talking Gender Superiority in Virtual Spaces," *Journal of South Asian Diasporas* (2011, 3:53-69). She is also serving as the Interim Head, for Sociology at the University of Connecticut. She has also been appointed to the international recruitment committee for Presidency College/University India, along with Arjun Appadurai (NYU) and Alaka Basu (Cornell) for Sociology/ Anthropology. Last but not least, she has won the election for President-Elect of Sociologists for Women in Society and will serve as President-Elect in 2012-13 and as President in 2013-14.

**Anthony J. Spires** published "Contingent Symbiosis and Civil Society in an Authoritarian State: Understanding the Survival of China's Grassroots NGOs" in the *American Journal of Sociology* (2011, 117: 1-45)

and also "Organizational Homophily in International Grantmaking: US-Based Foundations and their Grantees in China" in the *Journal of Civil Society* (2011, 7: 305-331). At the invitation of the Sun Yat-sen University Center on Philanthropy, he delivered a lecture entitled "US Foundation and their Chinese Grantees" on Oct. 28. In June, he was selected as a fellow in the 2011-2013 cohort of the Public Intellectuals Program organized by the National Committee on US-China Relations.

**Yoyenn Teo** published *Neoliberal Morality in Singapore: How family policies make state and society* (Routledge, 2011).

**Fenggang Yang** has been named a "University Faculty Scholar" by Purdue University for "an accelerated path for academic distinction." His recent publications include *Religion in China: Survival and Revival under Communist Rule* (Oxford University Press, 2011), "Market Economy and the Revival of Religions" in *Chinese Religious Life* edited by David Palmer, Glenn Shive, & Philip L. Wickeri (Oxford University Press, 2011), & co-edited *Confucianism and Spiritual Traditions in Modern China and Beyond* (Brill, 2011).

**Dale Yeatts**, Professor of Sociology at the University of North Texas, recently completed a Fulbright study in China and will in December participate in a Forum at Tsinghua University, Beijing, to examine the long-term care systems in various countries and how these might be adopted by the Chinese government. He will also attend the Health System Reform in Asia conference in Hong Kong and present data from two Chinese

provinces showing the relationship between health of the elderly and social, economic, and environmental characteristics ([yeatts@unt.edu](mailto:yeatts@unt.edu)).

**Lu Zhang** was awarded the 2010 Best Dissertation Prize by the *Labor History Journal* and Thomas A. Kochan and Stephen R. Sleigh Best Dissertation Award by Labor and Employment Relations Association (LERA) for her dissertation, "From Detroit to Shanghai? Globalization, Market Reform, and Labor Politics in the Chinese Automobile Industry" (2010). She also published "The Paradox of Labor Force Dualism and State-Labor-Capital Relations in the Chinese Automobile Industry" in *From Iron Rice Bowl to Informalization: Markets, Workers, and the State in a Changing China* (2011), edited by Kuruvilla, Sarosh, Ching Kwan Lee, and Mary E. Gallagher. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Lu also co-authored an article with Giovanni Arrighi, "Beyond the Washington Consensus: A New Bandung?" published in *Globalization and Beyond: New Examinations of Global Power and its Alternatives* (2011), edited by Shefner, Jon and Patricia Fernández-Kelly. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press. In addition, Lu was invited to speak at the International Conference on "Workers and World Crisis: Labor History and the Political Economy of Hard Times" at Georgetown University, Washington, D. C. Her presentation, given September 24, was titled "Autoworkers' Strike Waves and Emerging Industrial Relations Framework in China."



