

# ASIAN MODE

1999-2000 Issue 3

July 2000

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The *Asian Mode*, the official Publication of the ASA Section on Asia and Asian American (ASA/AA Newsletter), is edited by Yen Le Espiritu, Section Secretary, Department of Ethnic Studies, 0522, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093-0522 PHONE: (619) 534-5206; FAX (619) 534-8194; E-mail: [yespirit@weber.ucsd.edu](mailto:yespirit@weber.ucsd.edu) Contributions to the newsletter are most welcome.

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## **Officers of the ASA Section on Asia and Asian America**

Chair: Alvin So (2000)  
Chair-Elect: John Lie (2000)  
Secretary-Treasurer: Yen Le Espiritu (2000)  
Council:

Nazli Kibria (2000)  
Pyong Gap Min (2000)  
Yvonne Lau (2001)  
Linda Trinh Vo (2001)  
Rebecca King (2002)  
Emily Ignacio (2000)

Student Representative:  
Bindi Shah (2000)

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## **FROM THE CHAIR**

Alvin Y. So

**Election Results:** The nomination committee (Nazli Kibria-chair, Rebecca King, and Linda Vo) has done an excellent job in putting up a list of very strong candidates in the ballot. I am pleased to announce the 2000 section election results:

Chair-Elect: Evelyn Nakano Glenn  
Secretary-Treasurer: Morrison Wong  
Council Members: Janet Salaff, Miri Song  
Student Council Member: Dina Okamoto

## **Sincere Thanks to Yen Le Espiritu**

We are very fortunate to have Yen as the editor of *Asian Mode* since 1994. She has done an excellent job in editing the newsletter. The Chairs of our Section come and go, it is Yen that provides continuity and vitality for our Section. Since this will be the last issue of the newsletter that Yen edited, I want to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thank to Yen for providing an invaluable service to our Section. Yen: we will miss you!

## **Special Panel at the ASA**

Thanks to Esther Chow and Sunhwa Lee, we have a special session at the ASA meeting entitled "Asian and Asian Americans Issues: Dialogue with Government and Asian American Communities" on August 12 (Sat) 2:30-4:10pm.

## *Panelists:*

1. The Honorable Paul Igasaki, Vice Chair, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

2. Claudette E. Bennett, Chief, the Racial Statistics Branch, the U.S. Census Bureau
3. Daphne Kwok, Executive Director, Organization of Chinese American
4. Jon Melegrito, Executive Director, National Federation of Pilipino American Associations

*Discussant:* Michael Omi, University of California, Berkeley

Section Day (August 14, Monday)  
Activities--in Hilton Washington

We cordially invite you to attend our activities during the section day. John Lie organized the panels and roundtables for this Annual Meeting.

8.30-9.30 a.m.—session on Transnational Asia-Asian American linkages - Views from Asian Americans

9.30-10.10 a.m.—business meeting

10.30-12.10 p.m.—session on Transnational Asia-Asian American linkages -Views from Asia

4.30-6.15 p.m.—refereed roundtables

6.30-8 p.m.—reception at Thai Chef Restaurant, 1712 Connecticut Avenue (within walking distance from Hilton). This reception is also organized by Esther Chow and Sunhwa Lee.

### **SPECIAL SESSIONS ON ASIAN AMERICANS AT ASA**

Colleagues: try to make time for these special sessions. They feature several of our section members.

**Special Session.** Asian American Racism—Hilton Washington.

Organizer and Presider: John Lie.  
Papers: (1) Michael Omi; (2) Yen Le Espiritu; (3) Stanford Lyman  
Discussion: John Lie

**Thematic Session.** Asians and Race Relations in the U.S. and Canada: Emerging Patterns, Increasing Diversity—Hilton Washington

Organizer and Presider: Eric Fong  
Papers: (1) T. R. Balakrishnan; (2) Pyong Gap Min; (3) Morton Beiser; (3) Victor Nee, Jimmy Sanders  
Discussion: Charles Hirschman

### **2000 OUTSTANDING BOOK AWARD**

Out of the five nominated books for the 2000 Outstanding Book Award of the section, the three-member book award committee (Pyong Gap Min, chair; Rebecca King; Emily Ignacio) has chosen Leland Saito's *Race and Politics: Asian Americans, Latinos, and Whites in a Los Angeles Suburb* as the winner.

According to Pyong Gap Min, "The book has examined how ethnic, pan-Asian ethnic, and Third World racial identities were intertwined in local politics in the Monterey Park area of Los Angeles. The book is a great contribution to both political coalitions of minority groups and theories of ethnicity and pan-ethnicity." Congratulations to Leland and big thanks to Pyong Gap, Becky, and Emily for their great work on behalf of the Section.

## **RACE IN AMERICA— NEW YORK TIMES**

It's amazing what resources can be made available at a click of a mouse by new technologies. Among the most valuable resources is the following selection of cognate stories published in the NYT going back to the 19th century:

*How Race Was Lived in America:  
A Decade-by-Decade Selection of Articles*  
<http://www.nytimes.com/library/national/race/past-nyt-index.html>

This selection of articles range from the late 1800's until earlier this year. Many record historical events while others revolve around obscure stories.

## **OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE AROUND THE WORLD**

According to the book "*Vong Quanh The Gioi Nguoi Viet Hai Ngoai*" ("Overseas Vietnamese Around the World") published in 1998 by Mekong Center Publisher, the numbers of Vietnamese immigrants residing in at least twenty-two countries are:

U.S.A	1 Million
China	276,000
France	160,000
Australia	160,000
Canada	150,000
Russia	120,000
Thailand	120,000
Germany	100,000
Czechoslovakia	30,000
Great Britain	25,000
Korea	15,000
Japan	10,000
Belgium	10,000
Netherlands	10,000
Norway	7,000
Switzerland	6,000

Italy	5,000
Sweden	5,000
Austria	3,000
Finland	3,000
Mexico	2,000
Brazil	1,000

## **VIETNAMESE LONG FOR HOME, SURVEY FINDS**

Twenty-five years after their forced migration, the vast majority of Vietnamese living in the United States prefer to speak their own language and would return to their homeland if it became democratic, according to a recently released survey.

The survey, conducted by three California State University at Fullerton professors, was believed to be the most comprehensive study of a Vietnamese ex-patriot community undertaken since the fall of Saigon in 1975. It was conducted in Orange County, California, which has the greatest U.S. concentration of Vietnamese who fled their country in the aftermath of Vietnam's civil war, numbering about 150,000.

The survey of 418 Vietnamese residents of Orange County, aged 18 and over, found that 90 percent would return to live in their homeland if it became a "free and democratic country." The study also found that Vietnamese immigrants like to stick together, preferring to speak their native language and to mix with each other. In fact, half of those interviewed said they either spoke English "not at all," or "very little." In contrast, 71 percent said they spoke fluent Vietnamese, while 25 percent said they conducted conversations in Vietnamese fairly well. Only 14 percent of the Vietnamese questioned thought they spoke English fluently, and the other 36 percent thought

they spoke the language "moderately well." When asked with whom they socialized, more than 60 percent of those surveyed said only or mainly with fellow Vietnamese. The survey found that 62 percent had taken American citizenship, and while they may long for their homeland, they participated in civic affairs, such as voting in elections, on about the same scale as other U.S. citizens.

The survey found that while the Vietnamese community in Orange County was flourishing, it was lagging behind the rest of Orange County in terms of income. Just over one in three surveyed -- or 36 percent -- said their annual household income was under \$15,000, while 30 percent had annual household incomes of between \$15,000 and \$35,000, with 26 percent reporting between \$35,000 and \$75,000, while only 8 percent recorded annual household incomes above \$75,000. The median income for Vietnamese families -- between \$20,000 and \$25,000 -- was way below that for the whole of Orange County at \$63,500.

## **THE CENSUS AND THE INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE AMERICANS IN WWII**

Friday, March 17, 2000. Statement of Census Bureau Director Kenneth Prewitt on Internment of Japanese Americans in World War II:

"With the start of Census 2000, attention again has focused on the role of the U.S. Census Bureau in the internment of Japanese Americans on the West coast of the United States at the beginning of World War II. This issue is highlighted in a paper to be delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America in Los Angeles on March 25, 2000. Even though this incident occurred 58 years ago during a

state of war, it has implications for the public perception of the confidentiality of data gathered in the current census.

"In the spring of 1942, the Census Bureau cooperated with the war effort by providing special tabulations of the Japanese American population for counties and county subdivisions, and for some cities at the block level. There is no evidence that individual census records were provided to the War Department.

"The internment of loyal Japanese Americans was a sad moment in our national history, and for the entire federal government. The cooperation of the Census Bureau in this effort is regrettable.

"The Census Bureau's legal obligation and ethical policies would never allow a repeat of what occurred in 1942.

"One positive consequence from that era is the deepened ethical sensitivity among statistical agencies regarding the misuse of data gathered in the public interest. In the intervening years even stronger safeguards have been put in place, not only in the United States, but around the world, to ensure against future misuses of data.

"I want to assure the American public that the Census Bureau takes very seriously its pledge of confidentiality. Under current law (Title 13, United States Code), all Census Bureau employees are sworn to uphold the confidentiality of personal data, and violations are punishable by a five-year jail term and a \$5,000 fine. Your answers are kept confidential for a period of 72 years.

"In this first census of the century, it is vital that all U.S. households fill out their Census 2000 forms. As envisioned by the nation's forefathers and contained in Article

One of the Constitution, the census is the foundation of our representative form of government."

#### SOME NEW BOOKS

- 1) *The State of Asian Pacific America: Transforming Race Relations—A Public Policy Report*, ed. Paul Ong. Los Angeles: LEAP Asian Pacific American Public Policy Institute and UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 2000.

This project assembles a multi-disciplinary team of nationally renowned researchers and scholars to examine racial attitudes and opinions, the historical and political construction of racial categories, hate crimes, affirmative action, residential segregation and integration, and the responsiveness of human rights agencies. The findings show that Asian Pacific Americans occupy a unique position in a complex racial hierarchy.

The volume also looks at the experiences of Asians in the United Kingdom and Australia, revealing alternative policy frameworks that emphasize integration and multiculturalism.

- 2) *Across the Pacific: Asian Americans and Globalization*, ed. Evelyn Hu-DeHart. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

In 8 groundbreaking essays, the contributors to this volume address issues of contemporary growth and diversification of Asian America in relation to the increasingly global economy. This book explores, in descriptive and critical ways, how transnational relationships and interactions in Asian American communities are manifested, exemplified, and articulated within the international context of the Pacific Rim.

- 3) *Smuggled Chinese: Clandestine*

*Immigration to the United States*, by Ko-in Chin. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1999.

- 4) *Cultural Compass: Ethnographic Explorations of Asian America*, ed. Martin F. Manalansan IV. Temple University Press, 2000.

This book re-maps the cultural space of Asian Americans. Through innovative studies of community politics, gender, family, and sexual relations, cultural events, and other domains central to the formation of ethnic and citizen identity, contributors reconfigure ethnography according to Asian American experiences in the United States.

- 5) *East Indian Music in the West Indies: Tan-Singing, Chutney, and the Making of Indo-Caribbean Culture*. By Peter Manuel.

This book demonstrates, in its depiction of tan-singing, the distinctiveness of traditional Indo-Caribbean musical culture and, in its examination of chutney, the new assertiveness and syncretism of Indo-Caribbean popular music.

- 6) *Locating Filipino Americans: Ethnicity and the Cultural Politics of Space*, by Rick Bonus. Temple University Press, 2000.

This ethnographic study of Filipino American communities in Los Angeles and San Diego, presents a multi-disciplinary cultural analysis of the relationship between ethnic identity and social space. Bonus argues that alternative community spaces enable Filipino Americans to respond to and resist the ways larger society has historically and institutionally rendered them invisible, silenced, and racialized.

## FACULTY POSITIONS

*Buffalo State College.* The Department of Sociology invites applications for a tenure-track position at the assistant professor level. This full-time teaching assignment begins September 5, 2000. The normal teaching load is three sections per semester. The successful candidate will teach power, class and inequality, contemporary sociological theory, and one of the following courses: Sociology of Family, Juvenile Delinquency, or Sociology of Sex Roles. Candidates with experience in applied research will be given preference. Beside evidence of excellent teaching in the areas listed above, the department requires a commitment to scholarship and college/community service. All sociology Ph.D. requirements must be completed at the time of application. Salary is competitive. Send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, three current letters of reference, and writing samples by April 30, 2000 to:

Department of Sociology  
Buffalo State College  
1300 Elmwood Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14222

For more about the college and department, connect to the college home page at:  
<http://www.buffalostate.edu/>.

Buffalo State College, part of the State

*Bryn Mawr College.* Asian American Studies tenure track position beginning September 1, 2001 for Assistant Professor. Joint appointment in Anthropology and Sociology, with specialization in Asian American and Comparative Ethnic Studies. Subfields should include one or more of the following areas: qualitative research methods, urban social issues, gender studies. Applicants must have teaching experience as

well as a Ph.D. in anthropology, sociology, or ethnic studies at the time of appointment. Send letter of application, CV, statement of teaching and research interests, writing sample, syllabus for a course in Asian American Studies and three letters of recommendation to the Chair of the Search Committee. The deadline of application is December 1, 2000. All materials should be sent to: Philip Kilbride, Chair of the Search Committee, Department of Anthropology, Bryn Mawr College, 101 North Merion Ave., Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-2899. Please distribute this announcement to anyone you may feel interested.

*University of Connecticut, Storrs.* A joint position in the Department of Sociology and the Women's Studies Program starting August 2001. Rank is open but full and associate professor candidates are strongly preferred. Candidates should have a demonstrated engagement in contemporary gender scholarship, with a particular commitment to feminist theory and issues of gender in society. Scholarly reputation and promise are paramount; area of expertise is open. Teaching responsibilities will be divided equally between the Women's Studies Program and the Sociology Department; tenure will reside in the department. Salary and benefits are competitive. Review of applications will begin October 1 and continue until the position is filled. Send CV, letter of application and the names of three referees to Women's Studies/Sociology Search Committee, Department of Sociology, Manchester Hall, 344 Mansfield Road, U-68, Storrs, CT 06269-2068.

*University of California, Los Angeles.* The Department of Sociology is seeking to fill a position for a specialist in the study of Southeast Asia, all ranks eligible. Applicants

should have a record of research in Southeast Asia, with proficiency in one or more of the relevant languages. Applications accepted from cognate disciplines, such as anthropology or political science, where the topic of focus involves a genuinely sociological topic. The appointment would require a half-time teaching and research responsibility in UCLA's new program in Southeast Asian Studies. Interested applicants should send a letter of application, c.v., statement of research and teaching, writing samples, and three letters of reference to: Professor Roger Waldinger, Chair, Department of Sociology, 2201 Hershey Hall, Box 951551, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1551, by October 15, 2000.

*University of California, San Diego.* The Department of Ethnic Studies plans to appoint a senior faculty member (Full Professor) starting with the 2000-2001 academic year. The faculty member appointed to this position will be affiliated with the UCSD's new Center for Research on Educational Equity and Teaching Excellence (CREATE) and will be expected to do research in the San Diego/Tijuana region. Therefore we especially seek scholars who employ ethnographic methods to study the influence of race, class, gender, and national identity on diversity and equity issues. The successful candidate will teach at least one course per year that supports CREATE. Send vita, statement of research and teaching interests, and names of 3 references to Professor Yen Le Espiritu, Department of Ethnic Studies, 0522, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093.

#### **2001-2002 FELLOWSHIP AT CSRE**

The Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity (CSRE) at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) seeks

applicants for postdoctoral fellowships from scholars conducting research on ethnic identity in an international frame. Projects on the ways in which migration, economic restructuring, trans-national media, and social movements are altering ethnic and racial identities are especially welcome, as are inquiries into the ways in which cultural practices related to religion, language, sexuality, and gender serve to reflect, inflect, reinforce, and subvert ethnic and racial categories. Housed in the Ethnic Studies Department at UCSD, the CSRE specializes in interdisciplinary, comparative, relational, and analytic scholarship on race and ethnicity. Our research emphasizes the complex processes that produce social identities, the ways in which identities change over time, and the interactive, relational, and mutually constitutive processes by which groups and individuals define themselves and others. We do not so much seek to "add on" knowledge about previously under-studied groups to existing scholarly knowledge, but rather to use complex processes of racialization and ethnic identification as an impetus for asking and answering new kinds of questions about social processes and social relations.

We encourage applications by junior, senior, and independent scholars, artists, and cultural workers of any nationality who are conducting research on the trans-national aspects of race and ethnicity anywhere in the world. Fellows are encouraged to present their research through lectures and seminars, to interact with faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates, and to draw upon the broad range of resources available to researchers at this major research university in a large cosmopolitan, and bi-national metropolitan area.

Amount of Fellowship Award: \$33,000  
(prorated on a nine month basis)



Tenure of Fellowship: Up to nine months  
Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity  
University of California, San Diego 9500  
Gilman Drive -- 0522, La Jolla,  
California 92093-0522  
Phone: 858.534.3276  
Fax: 858.534.8194  
Please contact Ramon Gutierrez at  
[rgutierrez@ucsd.edu](mailto:rgutierrez@ucsd.edu) for information on  
application procedures.

### NOTES ON FOLKS

**Kim Scipes**, Sociology, University of  
Illinois, Chicago. [SRS@vmblair.com](mailto:SRS@vmblair.com)  
**Publications:** "Global Economic Crisis,  
Neoliberal Solutions and the Philippines"  
was published as the "Review of the Month"  
in "*Monthly Review*," Vol. 51, No.7,  
December 1999: 1-14. Also at  
[www.monthlyreview.org/1299scip.htm](http://www.monthlyreview.org/1299scip.htm).  
Review of William Robinson's *Promoting  
Patriarchy: Globalism, US Intervention and  
Hegemony* was published in "*Z Magazine*,"  
February 2000: 60-61. "It's Time to Come  
Clean: Open the AFL-CIO Archives on  
International Labor Operations." *Labor  
Studies Journal*, Vol. 25, no. 2: (Summer  
2000), pp. 4-25.

**Stanford Lyman**. Schmidt College of Arts,  
Letters. Florida Atlantic University.  
[slyman@fau.edu](mailto:slyman@fau.edu)

**Publication:** "The 'Yellow Peril' Mystique:  
Origins and Vicissitudes of a Racist  
Discourse." In *The International Journal of  
Politics, Culture and Society*. Vol. 13, No.  
4 (Summer, 2000): 683-748.

### FAREWELL, EVERYONE!!

Yen Le Espiritu

As some of you may know, I have served as  
the editor of *Asian Mode* since 1994. This  
issue of *Asian Mode* is my last. I want to  
thank you for all your support, feedback, and  
contributions to the newsletter. Morrison  
Wong, the newly-elected Secretary-  
Treasurer, will be the next newsletter editor.  
Please continue to contribute to the  
newsletter by sending news items and  
columns to:

Morrison Wong  
Department of Sociology  
Texas Christian University  
Forth Worth, TX 76129  
817-921-7472 (phone)  
817-921-7110 (fax)  
[m.wong@tcu.edu](mailto:m.wong@tcu.edu)

The next newsletter will be under Morri's  
capable leadership and should be out this fall.

Thanks, once again, for everything.