



## APARRI 2023 Conference Program

The Seaborg Room\*  
UC Berkeley Faculty Club

*\* All events will be held in the Seaborg Room unless otherwise noted. The Seaborg Room is not ADA accessible. Participants must be able to use the stairs.*

### Tuesday | June 20

- 12 pm      Check-In ([UC Berkeley dorms, Unit 2](#))
- 3 pm      Check-In ([Bancroft Hotel](#))
- 3 pm      Conference Registration and Meet & Greet  
(Tilden Room, ASUC Student Union, 2495 Bancroft Way)
- 4 pm      Keynote Address: "Boxers, Saints, and Coders," Gene Luen Yang  
(Tilden Room, ASUC Student Union, 2495 Bancroft Way)  
*\*\* This event is free and open to the public \*\**
- 6 pm      Dinner Reception ([Raleigh's Pub](#), 2438 Telegraph, back patio, for registered  
conference participants only)

### Wednesday | June 21

- 8:30 am      Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 am      Welcome to APARRI: Introductions
- 9:45 am      Break

10:00 am      **Envisioning Radical Futures in APA Religions and Communities**

*Moderator:* Jane Naomi Iwamura (University of West)

*Panelists:* Tracy Tiemeier (Loyola Marymount University), Funie Hsu (Cal State San Jose), Jane Hong (Occidental College), Rudy Busto (UC Santa Barbara), Munir Jiwa (Graduate Theological Union)

11:45 am      **Lunch** (optional graduate student mentoring session during lunch\*)

\*Informal mentoring regularly happens among peers and between more senior and more junior scholars/students at APARRI. That said, Profs. Esther Chung-Kim (Claremont McKenna College) and Russell Jeung (San Francisco State University) will serve as the designated mentors for any graduate students who would like to have lunch with them for mentoring purposes.

1:15 pm      **Concurrent Paper Session I**

Panel 1: Theology and the Hermeneutics of Recognition (602 Social Sciences Building)

*Moderator:* Justin Tse (Singapore Management University)

Haruka Umetsu Cho, Santa Clara University

"Erasure of Colonial Memories, 'Forgiveness,' and Futures: Reading Ken Liu, 'The Reborn'"

Karis Ryu, Yale University

"Our Heathen Language: Asian American Poetry as Primary Sources in Studies of American Religion"

Joshua Garcia, The Graduate Theological Union

"How Asian Americans Read Themselves in the Bible"

Shijie Lu, Fuller Theological Seminary

"Learning from our Eccentric Uncles: Asian American Liberation and Evangelicals in the Bay Area"

Annie Li, University of Oxford

"Calvin Chinn's Theological Formation and Activism in the Civil Rights Movement"

Panel 2: The Global and the Local (554 Social Sciences Building)

*Moderator:* David Chao (Princeton Theological Seminary)

Seokweon Jeon, Harvard University

"The Imperial Turn in American Religious History and the Importance of an APA Religious Critique"

Shirley Lung, University of Denver

"Transnational Taiwanese Christian Networks and Social Capital Creation"

Rachel Lim, Texas A&M University  
"Taekwondo Immigrants: Transforming Gender, Spirituality, and Violence in Cold War America"

Steven Zhang and Russell Jeung, San Francisco State University  
"How, When, and Why are Second Generation Asian American Christians developing Affinity for Diverse congregations and Migrating towards Multi-ethnic Churches"

**Panel 3: (Re)queering Ancestral Spiritual Lineages** (587 Social Sciences Building)

*Moderator:* Harmeet Kamboj (Interfaith America & Union Theological Seminary)

Kristine Chong, Union Theological Seminary  
"Re/connecting and Reimagining Korean Shamanic Practices"

Kai Ngu, Yale Divinity School  
"To Be a Vessel: On Transmitting Words in Taoist Spirit Rituals"

Quincy Yang, Yale School of Environment  
"Queer Resurgence in Hmong Shamanism"

3-3:15 PM **BOBA BREAK** (554 Social Sciences Building)

3:15pm **Concurrent Workshops**

***Workshop 1: Revitalizing and Reimagining Healing in APA Communities: APA Spiritual Practices for Processing Moral Injury*** (607 Social Sciences Building)

Kristine Chong and Rita Nakashima Brock, The Shay Moral Injury Center at Volunteers of America

This workshop will explore APA religious and spiritual rituals for processing moral injury, drawing from traditional and adapted APA practices as sources for revitalizing and reimagining personal and collective healing in APA communities. We will focus on two traditions: 1) Korean folk rituals (i.e. gut) related to processing han that is facilitated by shamans and also a concept in Korean liberation theology, and 2) Naikan, a Jodo Shinshyu Buddhist reflective meditation process adapted by Ishin Yoshimoto, a devout Buddhist, in the 1940s, to support prisoners, which has both an intensive weeklong version and a daily practice version.

***Workshop 2: Clips and Discussion of Film "Chinatown Rising: Badass Asian Americans in the Civil Rights Movement"*** (554 Social Sciences Building)

Josh Chuck, co-director, producer of Chinatown Rising, Rev. Harry Chuck, Presbyterian minister, former Executive Director of Donaldina Cameron House, co-director, cinematographer and producer of Chinatown Rising, Rev. Norman Fong, Presbyterian minister and former Executive Director of Chinatown Community Development Center

Join Co-directors and Producers of the award-winning documentary film CHINATOWN RISING, as well as well-known activists featured in the film, as they share powerful excerpts and speak on Asian American activism and the role faith played in the movement during the 1960s and 70's. Many of the scenes relate to the challenges of today's climate of AAPI Hate and immigration challenges, and participants will leave the session having witnessed vivid examples of solidarity between Asian Americans and African Americans, intergenerational community organizing, and social justice activism.

**Workshop 3: (Re)excavation, not (Re)interpretation: Interreligious Approaches to Constructing Theologies of Queer & Trans Affirmation (587 Social Sciences Building)**

Harmeet Kaur Kamboj, Interfaith America & Union Theological Seminary

In a moment when the lives and wellbeing of trans Americans are unjustly up to political debate, queer and trans people of all traditions and none must defend themselves dually: first, against conservative religious arguments for their eradication, and second, from liberal secular arguments that faith serves no role in movements for queer and trans liberation. In this workshop, participants will arm themselves theologically against both of these assertions by grounding in the truth that queerness is and has always been affirmed in our traditions. In reframing the project of interpretation as a project of theological archaeology, the presenter, a nonbinary Sikh, will demonstrate how persistent curiosity and excavation within one's own tradition and others opens the door for robust sacred affirmation for trans and queer people.

4:45 pm [Break](#)

5:00 pm [Local Excursions \(meet in Seaborg\)](#)

Excursion 1: Berkeley Food Tour with Rachel Lim  
(additional cost: please budget approximately \$25)

Excursion 2: Berkeley Walking Tour with Derek Wu

Excursion 3: Tour of UC Berkeley Asian American Library Religion Archives with  
Asian American Studies Librarian, Sine Hwang Jensen

5:30 pm [Board of Directors Meeting and Dinner \(by invitation only, 554 Social Sciences\)](#)

6:30 pm [Dinner on your own \(meet others to dine with at the Faculty Club lobby\)](#)

## Thursday | June 22

8:30 am Continental Breakfast

9:00 am New Books Panel

*Moderator:* Kathryn Gin Lum (Stanford University)

*Panelists:*

Melissa Borja, *Follow the New Way: American Refugee Resettlement Policy and Hmong Religious Change* (Harvard UP, 2023)

Joe Cheah, *Anti-Asian Racism: Myths, Stereotypes, and Catholic Social Teaching* (Orbis, 2022)

Brad Onishi, *Preparing for War: The Extremist History of White Christian Nationalism--and What Comes Next* (Broadleaf Books, 2023)

Scott Okamoto, *Asian American Apostate: Losing Religion and Finding Myself at an Evangelical University* (Lake Drive Books, 2023)

Daniel D. Lee, *Doing Asian American Theology: A Contextual Framework for Faith and Practice* (IVP Academic, 2022)

10:30-10:45 Break

11:00 am Work-in-Progress Concurrent Sessions

*Conference participants are expected to read papers ahead of the session so the authors can receive helpful feedback. The link to papers are in conference emails.*

### Session 1: Interrogating Buddhism (554 Social Sciences Building)

*Moderator:* Joshua Acosta (UC Berkeley)

Nalika Gajaweera, University of Southern California  
"The Promise and Paradox of Color-Blind Buddhism"  
*Respondent:* Joe Cheah (University of Saint Joseph)

Victoria Huynh, UC Berkeley  
"'Home in the World': Thích Nhất Hạnh's Politics of Exile"  
*Respondent:* Tammy Ho (University of California, Riverside)

### Session 2: Law and Spirituality (602 Social Sciences Building)

*Moderator:* Joshua Garcia (Graduate Theological Union)

Jesse Lee, Florida State University  
"'Sovereignty over the Soil': On the Significance of Alien Land Laws and Japanese American Religious Incorporation"  
*Respondent:* Duncan Williams (University of Southern California)

Chanhee Heo, Stanford University  
"I Got that Superstar Glow': White Jesus as a Global Celebrity"  
*Respondent:* Rachel Lim (Texas A&M University)

### Session 3: Chinese American Religion (Stephens Hall 440)

*Moderator:* Shirley Lung (University of Denver)

Mike Karim, Fuller Theological Seminary  
"Keeping the Faith among Second Generation Chinese American First Year Students"  
*Respondent:* Daniel Lee (Fuller Theological Seminary)

Stephen Chen, Wellesley College  
"Experiences of Contentment in Chinese American Immigrant Parents: Integration of Religious-Spiritual and Racial-Ethnic Identities"  
*Respondent:* Jerry Park (Baylor University)

### Session 4: Therapeutic Buddhism (Stephens Hall 442)

*Moderator:* Elaine Lai (Stanford University)

Steven Quach, UC Riverside  
"Dear Sangha: Producing the Secular Mind of Mental Health in the Biopsychosocial Territories of Buddhist Therapeutics"  
*Respondent:* Jane Iwamura (University of the West)

David Woo  
"Noble Truths of Asian American Addiction"  
*Respondent:* Tracy Tiemeier (Loyola Marymount University)

### Session 5: Critical Questions in APA Religious Studies (587 Social Sciences Building)

*Moderator:* Zulunungsang Lemtur (Oikos University)

Shyam Sriram and Yusuf Zulqarnain, Canisius College  
"Is There Room for Islam in Asian Pacific American Studies?"  
*Respondent:* Khyati Joshi (Fairleigh Dickinson University)

Barnabas Lin, Fuller Theological Seminary  
"The Conceptual Potential of Reading the Asian American as Racially Queer"  
*Respondent:* Rachel Bundang (Santa Clara University)

12:30 pm

Lunch

2:00 pm

Informal Roundtables

3-3:15 PM

BREAK

## Concurrent Paper Session II

### Panel 4: Beyond Colonial Mentality: Reclaiming Pilipinx/a/o American Radicality (602 Social Sciences Building)

*Moderator:* Melissa Borja (University of Michigan)

Eleanor Baylon, Fuller Theological Seminary

"Helping Christian Pilipinx/a/o Americans Heal from Colonial Mentality with Compassion-Focused Therapy"

Gabriel J. Catanus, Fuller Theological Seminary

"Decentering Pilipinx/a/o American Identity for the Sake of Political Theology"

E. David de Leon, Fordham University

"Pilipinx/a/o American Theological Imagination: Making Meaning Beyond Colonial Mentality"

### Panel 5: Agency, Politics, and the Public Sphere (554 Social Sciences Building)

*Moderator:* Scott Okamoto (Independent Scholar)

Derek Wu, UC Berkeley

"From Relational to Revolutionary Ethnography: Modeling Jonathan Tran's Interpretation of Asian American Religious Experience"

Jerry Park and Joyce Chang, Baylor University

"Asian American Christians, Perceived Discrimination and StopAAPIHate: A View from Recent Surveys"

Esther Chiang, Princeton Theological Seminary

"Christianity, Identity, & Politics: Working Out Unity in the Chinese Immigrant Church"

Justin Tse and Ellen Zhou, Singapore Management University

"The Asian American Evangelical Public Sphere: Therapeutic Subjectivities, Homiletic Forms, Publishing Circuits"

### Panel 6: Religious Sites and Sights (587 Social Sciences Building)

*Moderator:* Haruka Umetsu Cho (Santa Clara University)

Sean Thomas, Palm Beach Atlantic University

"The More, the Merrier! An Asian-American Parish's Response to Its Sudden Popularity among Non-Asian Americans"

Kalpesh Bhatt, University of Mary Washington

"Conversation with the Self and the Other: Religious Harmony through Construction of Hindu Temples in America"

Jens Reinke, University of the West and Song Wang, University of the West  
"Mapping Buddhism in the San Gabriel Valley, CA"

Ann Thuy-Ling Tran, UC Irvine  
"Trần Hưng Đạo: the Ancestral Soul Figure & Site(s) of Ritual in the Vietnamese Diaspora"

4:45 pm Break

5:00 pm Conference Wrap-up

5:30 pm Celebrating the reprinting of the PACTS Reader —  
[\*Theologies of Asian Americans and Pacific Peoples: A Reader \(1976\)\*](#)

*We'll toast to the reprinting of this groundbreaking volume with Daniel Lee (the new editor) and Bishop Roy I. Sano (the original editor) who will be present for this celebration*

7:30 pm Closing Banquet (Great China, 2190 Bancroft Way)

**\*\*Please fill out the APARRI 2023 post-conference survey after the meeting.\*\***  
(QR code below)



Share your conference memories and connect with us on social media!  
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Special thanks for generous sponsorship and support from:  
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