



# **ASAM MEMORY BOOK**

**2022-2023**



Penn Arts & Sciences  
Asian American Studies Program  

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UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA

# GREETINGS FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

The Asian American Studies Program (ASAM) at Penn prepares students academically as well as socially for the opportunities and challenges they will face in their future careers, whatever industry or area they choose.

An interdisciplinary program that offers a minor as well as a broad range of courses, programs, events, research opportunities, and awards, ASAM contextualizes the history, experiences, and contributions of Asian immigrants and persons of Asian ancestry in North America and the diaspora. Faculty in English, History, and Sociology explore how race, ethnicity, caste, religion, sexuality, gender, and class shape the lives of Asian Americans in a national and global context. Today, nearly one-third of the undergraduates at Penn are Asian and Asian American. In recent years, demand for our courses has skyrocketed. All our classes are oversubscribed. In order to serve our students and our communities better, we must continue to build.

In addition to our core offerings, ASAM provides a wide range of upper-level and elective courses in related fields such as anthropology, creative writing, folklore, East Asian studies, law, psychology, and South Asian studies. We emphasize the critical analysis of history, society, and culture while addressing longstanding inequities in civic and social life.

Finally, ASAM offers a number of community-based classes and internships that underscore our commitment to social justice and address the varied needs of our numerous constituencies. Bringing together creative and critical thinking skills from the arts and humanities with the analytic methods of the social sciences, our ASAM minor may be completed alongside a wide range of majors throughout the University.

Recent years have witnessed an alarming backlash against Asian American communities and racialized communities more generally. Discrimination against Asian Americans often occurs without conscious acknowledgement on the part of others or, most poignantly, on the part of ourselves. In conjunction with renewed activism for Asian American and ethnic studies on university campuses everywhere as well as demands for Asian American political representation in the public sphere, we are proud to offer students, scholars, artists, and activists a place to come together, think together, create together, and organize together. We invite you to learn more about our Program and to join us in our efforts at a critical time of momentous growth.

**David L. Eng**  
Faculty Director of ASAM  
Richard L. Fisher Professor of English  
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**Fariha I. Khan**  
Co-Director of ASAM  
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# 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of ASAM, we look forward to building our Program as the intellectual home and a central community for Asian American students and scholars at Penn. In a series of events in March 2022 that attracted several hundred students, alumni, and supporters, and with special guest speakers including director Jon Chu, poet and memoirist Cathy Park Hong, and novelist Viet Thanh Nguyen, we commemorated both the struggles and the triumphs of our program, field, and students, past and present. Recognizing our history calls for a renewed commitment to our communities in the face of heightened anti-Asian racism and insecurity resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. As the field of Asian American Studies grows, we are redefining research and scholarship throughout the University. ASAM is now expanding with a series of new faculty hires, additional course offerings, and a planned major while shaping the conversation of what it means to be Asian American at Penn and beyond.

*"Without the tools or knowledge to contextualize their place in American society, Asian American students struggle with feelings of alienation and loss, regardless of how externally accomplished they may be."*

*Angela Shen, W'24  
ASAM UAB Board Member*



Photos from 25th Anniversary Celebration, including bestselling author Cathy Park Hong, March 2022; Student Protest for ASAM, Spring 2017

# 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



*On October 11, 2022, Philadelphia City Councilmember Helen Gym commemorated the 25th Anniversary of Asian American Studies at Penn with a City Resolution.*



# THE MINOR IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

The ASAM Minor in the School of Arts and Sciences presents to students the academic approaches and methodologies of an extensive range of discipline including anthropology and ethnography, folklore, history, literature, sociology and demography, political science, and urban studies. The flexible program of study allows students to engage in the interdisciplinary study of race, ethnicity, history, and literature of Asian Americans while also preparing for careers in education, law, business, social work, the health professions, journalism, urban planning, politics, work with non-profit organizations, and creative writing and art.

- Study the history of Asian Americans and learn about the issues they face today.
- Gain an understanding of social and cultural aspects of careers in fields such as education, law, business, social work, public health, journalism, urban planning, politics, non-profits, and art.
- Explore courses that are cross-listed with other departments, including Sociology, English, History, Religious Studies, Urban Studies, and South Asia Studies.
- Complete 6 course units to finish the minor, which YOU get to choose.
- Fulfill general requirements within your school with ASAM courses — most fulfill Cultural Diversity in the US or Cross Cultural Analysis.
- Engage in the small class sizes that will help you develop strong relationships with professors.

Have any questions about the ASAM minor?

Check out our website or email <[asianamerican@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:asianamerican@sas.upenn.edu)>



*ASAM Students and Alumni at the 25th Anniversary Celebration, March 2022*



# FALL 2022 ASAM COURSES

## FALL 2022

### **ASAM 0100-001: Introduction to Asian American Studies\***

Rupa Pillai // MW 1:45 PM - 3:14 PM

### **ASAM 0102-401: Introduction to Asian American History\***

Eiichiro Azuma // MW 3:30 PM - 4:59 PM  
(HIST 1155-401)

### **ASAM 0103-401: Introduction to Asian American Literature and Culture\***

David Eng // TR 1:45 PM - 3:14 PM  
(ENGL 1270-401)

### **ASAM 1000-401: South Asians in the US\***

Fariha Khan // TR 12:00 PM - 1:29 PM  
(SAST 1000)

### **ASAM 1020-001: Asian American Entrepreneurs**

Rupa Pillai // MW 10:15 AM - 11:44 AM

### **ASAM 1200-401: Asian American Lives**

Pyali Bhattacharya // TR 10:15 AM - 11:44 AM  
(ENGL 3025)

### **ASAM 1300-401: Asian American Cinema\***

Robert Buscher // W 5:15 PM - 8:14 PM



*"Asian American Literature and Culture," with Guest Speaker Bakirathi Mani, March 2022; "South Asians in the U.S." with Moder Patshala Founders, September 2022; "Asian American Literature and Culture," with Guest Speaker Bakirathi Mani, September 2022*

# Fall 2022 ASAM EVENTS

## Fall 2022 Events

### september

- |    |  |    |   |
|----|--|----|---|
| 13 | Asian America Across the Disciplines in conversation with Samip Mallick<br>12:00 pm / Williams 306                               | 27 | Asian America Across the Disciplines in conversation with Ali Zaker and Najneen Kabita, Moder Fatshala<br>12:00 pm / Williams 306 |
| 16 | ASAM Welcome Back Lunch<br>12pm / McNeil Atrium 2nd floor  | 28 | Asian America Across the Disciplines in conversation with Khine Zaw and Somaly Osteen<br>10:15 am / Fisher-Bennett 16             |
| 20 | Asian America Across the Disciplines in conversation with Bakirathi Mami, <u>Unseeing Empire</u><br>1:45 pm / Fisher-Bennett 419 | 28 | Bernheimer Symposium<br>Conversation with Adrien Tomine<br>6 pm / Kelly Writers House Art's Cafe                                  |
| 23 | Food for Thought:<br>ASAM Fellow Angela Ji<br>12 pm / McNeil 473   | 30 | Food for Thought in conversation with Dr. Ilhyung Lee<br>12 pm / McNeil 473   |

### october

- |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| 5  | Asian America Across the Disciplines in conversation with Dr. Tiffany Huang<br>1:45 pm / McNeil 309                                     | 14 | Food for Thought:<br>ASAM Fellow Jean Paik<br>12 pm / McNeil 473  |
| 5  | Asian America Across the Disciplines in conversation with Director Josh Chuck, <u>Chinatown Rising</u> (2019)<br>5:15 pm / Williams 723 | 20 | Asian America Across the Disciplines in conversation with Rea Tajiri, <u>History and Memory</u><br>1:45 pm / Fisher-Bennett 419 |
| 9  | Penn Museum Culture Films: <u>Modern Mambabatch</u> (2020) with Margaret Magat and Director Kayla Sotomil<br>2pm / Penn Museum          | 21 | Food for Thought:<br>ASAM Fellow Jennifer Kang<br>12 pm / McNeil 473  |
| 10 | Asian America Across the Disciplines in conversation with Margaret Magat<br>12:00 pm / McNeil 473                                       | 28 | Food for Thought:<br>ASAM Fellow Vernon Wells<br>12 pm / McNeil 473   |

### november

- |    |   |    |  |
|----|---|----|--|
| 4  | Food for Thought:<br>ASAM Fellow Yuting Zhu<br>12 pm / McNeil 473 | 13 | Penn Museum Culture Films:<br><u>Mu and the Vanishing World</u> (2020) with Naw Doh and Mariangela Mihai<br>2 pm / Penn Museum |
| 11 | Food for Thought:<br>ASAM Fellow Ella Yang<br>12 pm / McNeil 473  | 15 | Asian America Across the Disciplines in conversation with Mohan Sehadri<br>12:00 pm / Williams 306                             |

### december

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|---|---|
| 6 | Asian America Across the Disciplines in conversation with Weike Wang, <u>Joan is Okay</u><br>1:45 pm / Fisher-Bennett 419 |
|---|---|

# SPRING 2023 ASAM COURSES

## SPRING 2023 COURSES

**ASAM 0115: American Race: A Philadelphia Story\***  
SNF Paideia Program Course  
Fariha Khan and Fernando Chang-Muy  
LEC M 12:00 PM - 2:59 PM  
(AFRC 1115, LALS 0115, URBS 1150, SAST 1115)

**ASAM 1400: Asian American Gender and Sexualities\***  
Rupa Pillai  
LEC TR 10:15 AM - 11:44 AM  
(GSWS 1400-401)

**ASAM 1520: Asian American Activism\***  
Robert Buscher  
SEM M 5:15 PM - 8:14 PM

**ASAM 1610: Sonic Reverberations of Asian America**  
Stephanie George  
SEM W 12 PM - 2:59 PM

**ASAM 2100: Wartime Internment of Japanese Americans\***  
Eiichiro Azuma  
SEM T 1:45 PM - 4:44 PM  
(HIST 3150-401)

**ASAM 2200: Race and Asian American Literature\***  
Josephine Park  
SEM MW 10:15 AM - 11:44 AM  
(ENGL 2270-401)

**ASAM 2610: The Asian Caribbean\***  
Rupa Pillai  
LEC TR 3:30 PM - 4:59 PM  
(GSWS 2610, LALS 260, SAST 2610)

**ASAM 3100: American Expansion in the Pacific**  
Eiichiro Azuma  
LEC MW 13:30 PM - 4:59 PM  
(HIST 1785-401)

\*Fulfills the Cultural Diversity in the US Requirement

Interested in an Asian American Studies Minor?  
Contact us!

**Faculty Director**  
Dr. David Eng  
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**Co-Director**  
Dr. Fariha Khan  
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Come visit us!  
ASAM Office  
3718 Locust Walk  
473 McNeil Building  
215-898-1782

Find more information at:  
<https://linktr.ee/upenn.asam>



*"American Race: A Philadelphia Story" with Naw Doh, February 2023; "Asian American Activism," with Guest Speaker Naroen Chhin, April 2023; "Asian American Gender & Sexualities," with Guest Speaker Amrisa Niranjan, March 2023*



# SPRING 2023 ASAM EVENTS

## ASAM SPRING 2023 EVENTS



### january

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|---|--|---|
| <p>19 *Public Space, Identity, and Public Production, The Stuart Weitzman School of Design Graduate Program in Historic Preservation.<br/>12:00 pm / Kleinman Forum</p> | <p>24 *Lunar New Year Celebration. PAACH.<br/>6:00 pm / Bodek Lounge</p> | <p>30 AAAD: Race and Academic Approaches with Mike O'Bryan, Innovation Fellow at Drexel University's Lindy Institute for Urban Innovation, Founder of Humanature.<br/>12:00 pm / Fagin Hall 216</p> |
|---|--|---|

### february

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| <p>6 AAAD: Race and Media with Maori Holmes, CEO of Blackstar.<br/>12:00 pm / Fagin Hall 216</p>           | <p>8 *The Curator's Talk with Artist Aisha Khan.<br/>12:00 pm / McNeil 473</p>   | <p>20 AAAD: Talk and Book Signing with Sam Mihara, Speaker and Writer.<br/>6:00 pm / Arch Atrium 208</p>                                    |
| <p>7 *A reading by novelist Ling Ma Kelly Writers House Lucid Fiction Program.<br/>6:00 pm / Arts Café</p> | <p>13 AAAD: Naw Doh, Burmese/Bhutanese Community Activist.<br/>12:00 pm / Fagin Hall 216</p>                                     | <p>22 *The Workshop with Ruby Chishti, Artist.<br/>4:30 pm / Arch 108</p>   |
| <p>8 *CLALES with Denise Ziya Berte, Director of Peaceful Family Project.<br/>10 am / McNeil 473</p>       | <p>20 AAAD: Race and Labor with Jennifer Lee, Associate Professor of Law at Temple University.<br/>12:00 pm / Fagin Hall 216</p> | <p>27 AAAD: Race and Food with Noelle Warford, Urban Tree Connection and Duong Ly and Lan Dinh, VietLEAD.<br/>12:00 pm / Fagin Hall 216</p> |

### march

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|--|---|---|
| <p>13 AAAD: Race and Education with Paige Joki, Esq., Staff Attorney, Education Law Center.<br/>12:00 pm / Fagin Hall 216</p>                    | <p>25 ASAM Fellows Spring 2023 Symposium: Self-Determination.<br/>10:00 am / Amado Recital Hall</p>   | <p>30 AAAD with Aleah N. Ranjitsingh, Assistant Professor in the Caribbean Studies Program, Africana Studies Dept. at CUNY.<br/>3:30 pm / Claire Fagin Hall 214</p> |
| <p>14 AAAD with Amrisha Niranjani, painter and muralist.<br/>10:15 am / Solomon Lab A30</p>  | <p>27 *The Artists' Panel with Saba Taj, Chitra Ganesh and Tausif Noor.<br/>5:00 pm / Perelman Room, Political Science Building</p>                 | <p>30 *Talk "Living on After Failure" by Professor Irving Goh.<br/>5:00 pm / Fisher-Bennett Hall 401</p>  |
| <p>20 AAAD: Race and Housing with Markita Morris-Louis, CEO of COMPASS and Debbie Wei, Asian Americans United.<br/>12:00 pm / Fagin Hall 216</p> | <p>27 AAAD: Race and Crime with Kavita Goyal, Defender Association and Taylor Pacheco, Lawyers for Social Equity.<br/>12:00 pm / Fagin Hall 216</p> |   |

### april

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p>3 AAAD: Race and Children/Youth/Family with Edwin Desamour, The Lighthouse Inc. and Johnny Irizarry, CLALS Lecturer.<br/>12:00 pm / Fagin Hall 216</p> | <p>10 AAAD: Race and Gender/Sexuality with Dalmacio Flores, Assistant Professor of Nursing at Penn.<br/>12:00 pm / Fagin Hall 216</p> | <p>24 *PAACH / ASAM End of year celebration.<br/>6:30 / Arch Atrium 208</p>  |
| <p>6 *The Artists' Talk with Shahzia Sikander and Arooj Aftab.<br/>5:00 pm / Arch Atrium 208</p>  | <p>13 AAAD with GVGK Tang, Historian.<br/>10:15 am / Solomon Lab A30</p>  | <p>17 AAAD: Race and Healthcare with Antonia M. Villarruel, Professor and Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing at Penn.<br/>12:00 pm / Fagin Hall 216</p> |

### may

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| <p>15 *PAACH / ASAM Family &amp; Friends.<br/>11:00 am / Arch 108</p> |
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# ASAM ONGOING PROGRAMS

In partnership with the Undergraduate Advisory Board (UAB) and the Graduate Asian American Students Association (GASAM), ASAM hosts special events, programs, conferences, and workshops including academic lectures, book talks, community-based internships, film screenings, cultural performances, and reading groups. Among these events are three ongoing series:

## Asian America Across the Disciplines

Asian America Across the Disciplines is a lecture series based in an ASAM course. Formal scholarly talks on specific topics are centered in the coursework but are open to the Penn community.

## ASAM Food for Thought

Food for Thought Speaker Series invites students, scholars, and community members to an informal discussion on current issues in Asian America. Join us to learn more about critical issues over lunch.

## Co-Sponsored Events

Co-Sponsored Events are organized by ASAM in partnership with other organizations on campus or in the community, including lectures, panels, and workshops.



ASAM Welcome Back Lunch. September 2022

# ASIAN AMERICA ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES

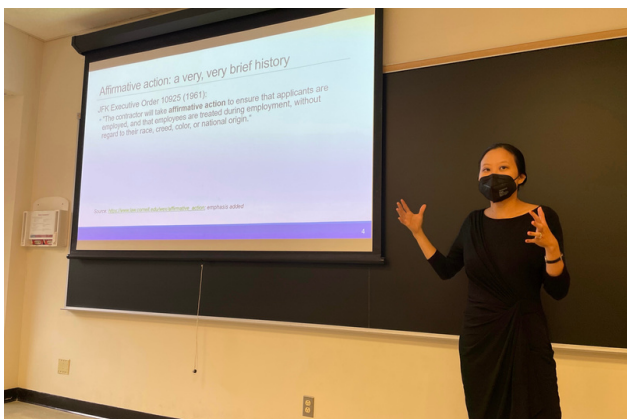
September - December 2022



AAAD in conversation with Bakirathi Mani, "Unseeing Empire," Sept 20, 2022



AAAD in conversation with Ali Zaker and Najneen Kabita, Moder Patshala, Sept 27, 2022



AAAD in conversation with Dr. Tiffany Huang, Oct 5, 2022



AAAD in conversation with Director Josh Chuck, "Chinatown Rising," Oct 5, 2022



AAAD in conversation with Senator Nikil Saval and Mohan Seshadri, Nov 17, 2022



AAAD in conversation with novelist Weike Wang, author of "Joan Is Okay," Dec 6, 2022

# ASAM FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Fall 2022 Food for Thought Speaker Series highlighted the Scholarship of the ASAM Fellows.



*FFT in conversation with ASAM Fellow Angela Ji on her research on "Contemporary Queer Asian American Women's Literature," Sept 23, 2022*



*FFT In conversation with Ilhyung Lee, University of Missouri School of Law, on Anti-CRT Laws and their Impact on Asian Americans, Sept 30, 2022*



*FFT in conversation with folklorist and author Dr. Margaret Magat, Oct 10, 2022*



*FFT in conversation with ASAM Fellow Jennifer Kang on "Building Community Through Civic Engagement," Oct 14, 2022*



# ASAM FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Fall 2022 Food for Thought Speaker Series highlighted the Scholarship of the ASAM Fellows.



*FFT in conversation with ASAM Fellow Jean Paik on "Legacies of US Empire in Korean American Memoir," Oct 27, 2022*



*FFT with ASAM Fellow Vernon Wells on "Neocolonialism's Impact on Indigenous Filipino Lifeways," Oct 28, 2022*



*FFT in conversation with ASAM Fellow Yuting Zhu on "Improving Asian Americans' Wellbeing Through Community Qigong Exercise," Nov 4, 2022*

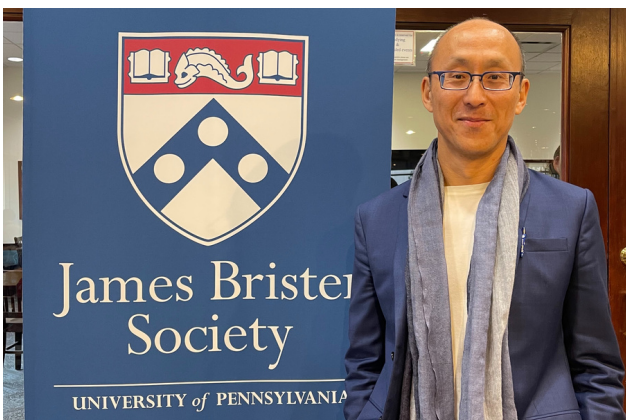


*FFT in conversation with ASAM Fellow Ella Yang on "Community Qigong Exercise and the Psychological Wellbeing of Asian Americans," Nov 11, 2022*

# CO-SPONSORED EVENTS



*Penn Museum Second Sunday Culture Films: "Modern Mambabatok," Oct 9, 2022*



*The James Brister Society presents a book talk with Dr. David Eng on his co-authored book, "Racial Melancholia, Racial Dissociation: On the Social and Psychic Lives of Asian Americans," Oct 12, 2022*



*AAPI Women in Writing Event, co-hosted by the Asian Pacific Student Coalition and featuring guest speakers I.W. Gregorio and Dr. Fariha Khan, Oct 28, 2022*



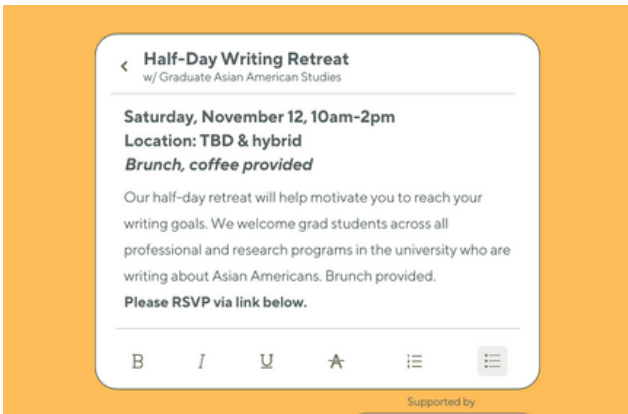
# CO-SPONSORED EVENTS



*ASAM x Rice Up, a conversation with Wei Chen of Asian Americans United, Oct 28, 2022*



*Migration and Asylum in conversation with J. Karagulov, hosted by Fernando Chang-Muy, Thomas O'Boyle Lecturer in Law at Penn, Nov 9, 2022*



*Graduate Asian American Studies (GASAM) Writing Retreat, Nov 12, 2022*



*Penn Museum Second Sunday Culture Films: "Mu and the Vanishing World," Nov 13, 2022*



*Asian Pacific American Heritage Week (APAHW) x ASAM Dinner, Nov 30, 2022*



*AAAD in conversation with Dr. Denise Ziya Berte, "Mental Health and Immigrants," Feb 8, 2023*

# CO-SPONSORED EVENTS



PAACH / ASAM End of Year Celebration Apr 24, 2023



PAACH / ASAM Family & Friends May 15, 2023

## Other Co-Sponsored Events include:

- *"Public Space, Identity, and Public Production," Jan 19, 2023*
- *PAACH / ASAM Lunar New Year Celebration, Jan 24, 2023*
- *A reading by novelist Ling Ma," Feb 7, 2023*
- *Kashmir Week with the Radical South Asian Collective, Feb 13, 2023*
- *Film screening and Director's Talk: TikTok, Boom, Feb 16, 2023*
- *Second Sunday Culture Films: Fugetsu-Do & Morkovcha, Mar 12, 2023*
- *Talk "Living on After Failure" by Professor Irving Goh, Mar 30, 2023*
- *Asian American Across the Disciplines in conversation with ALOK, Apr 11, 2023*
- *Grad Student Lunch, Apr 14, 2023*



# ASAM FELLOWS PROGRAM 2022-2023

In addition to pursuing the minor, undergraduates can apply for the ASAM Fellows Honors Program, which provides students with comprehensive academic training in archival research, methodology, and theory to enhance their critical thinking and writing skills. Along with a faculty advisor, students conduct original research to complete an independent honors project that strengthens their knowledge of Asian American studies, topics, and identities. The program provides an excellent opportunity to build one's resume while exploring personal interests and learning valuable skills and expertise for one's professional future.



*ASAM Fellows at the Welcome Back Lunch, September 2022; ASAM Fellows at the ASAM Fellows Colloquium and Food for Thought Series*

# PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

**JEAN PAIK:** "CHILDREN OF MEMORY AND LEGACIES OF U.S. EMPIRE IN KOREAN AMERICAN MEMOIR"

Jean is a junior from California studying English. Through this project, she aims to examine issues of power, memory, silences, and generational trauma in Asian American fiction novels.



**JENNIFER KANG:** "BUILDING COMMUNITY, POWER, AND TRUST THROUGH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT"

Jennifer is a junior majoring in Sociology and minoring in ASAM and Nutrition Science. She is interested in bringing greater awareness about civic engagement in our local communities.



**YUTING ZHU:** "IMPROVING ASIAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S WELLBEING THROUGH COMMUNITY QIGONG EXERCISE"

Yuting is a sophomore from China, majoring in Health and Societies. Her study aims to understand the mental health effect of community traditional medicine practice exercise on Asian American female populations.



**YI (ELLA) YANG:** "UNDERSTANDING AA WOMEN'S SOCIAL WELLBEING AND COMMUNITY QIGONG EXERCISE THROUGH AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL LENS"

Yi is a junior from China majoring in Anthropology and Psychology. Her study aims to study how Qigong exercise reshapes the living experiences and identity recognition of Asian American women in the US, and how traditional medicine practice like Qigong is perceived among the population.



**VERNON WELLS:** "TOWARD ANCESTRAL DOMAIN: INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY AMIDST U.S. NEOCOLONIAL EXPANSION IN THE PHILIPPINES"

Vernon is a junior from Maine studying Anthropology and Sociology with a minor in ASAM. Their project seeks to cultivate a dynamic understanding of Indigenous Filipino responses to their continued land dispossession through a neocolonial framework.



**ANGELA JI:** "LOOKING TOWARDS UTOPIA: ENVISIONING A "THEN AND THERE" THROUGH CONTEMPORARY QUEER ASIAN AMERICAN"

Angela is a senior majoring in English, with a Creative Writing concentration, and minors in ASAM and Economics. In her project, She hopes to research on how utopia negotiates an alternative understanding of the body and its desires, alienation and connection, and finding community and family.





# SELF- DETERMINATION

ASAM Fellows 2022-2023

Food for Thought Talks Fall 2022  
Fridays at 12pm / McNeil 473

**Angela Ji**  
**September 23rd**

Looking Towards Utopia: Envisioning a "Then and There"  
Through Contemporary Queer Asian American  
Women's Literature

**Jean Paik**  
**October 14th**

Children of Memory and Legacies of U.S. Empire in  
Korean American Memoir

**Jennifer Kang**  
**October 21st**

Building Community, Power, and Trust through Civic Engagement

**Vernon Wells**  
**October 28th**

Toward Ancestral Domain: Indigenous Sovereignty Amidst  
U.S. Neocolonial Expansion in the Philippines

**Yuting Zhu**  
**November 4th**

Improving Asian American Women's Wellbeing through Community  
Qigong Exercise

**Ella Yang**  
**November 11th**

Understanding Asian Americans' Wellbeing and Community Qigong  
Exercise through an Anthropological Lens



Penn Arts & Sciences  
Asian American Studies Program

Join by Zoom!



# FELLOWS SPRING 2023 SYMPOSIUM: SELF-DETERMINATION

The Fellows Spring 2023 Symposium was organized and moderated by ASAM Fellows and explored the theme of self-determination.

**10:30 am - 12:00 pm** Panel 1: **Being and Becoming Asian: Self-Determining Ideologies and Practices under American Culture and Society**

Panelists:

Dr. **Laura Specker**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Fordham University

Dr. **Sumie Okazaki**, Professor of Applied Psychology, NYU Steinhardt

**12:00 pm - 12:45 pm** Lunch Break and Networking

**12:45 pm - 2:15 pm** Panel 2: **Situating Narrative in Self-Determination: Empowering Communities through Storytelling**

Panelists:

Dr. **Oona Paredes**, Associate Professor of Southeast Asian Studies, UCLA

**Kayla Sotomil**, Ethnographic filmmaker and mananalaysay, storyteller

Dr. **Kecia L. Fong**, Conservation Professionalist, Weitzman School of Design, UPenn

**2:30 pm - 4:00 pm** Panel 3: **Writing Towards Liberation: Power and Self-Determination in Literature**

Panelists:

**Marci Calabretta Cancio-Bello**, poet and author of *Hour of the Ox* (2016)

**Bethany Swann**, poet and author of *Diadem Me* (2014), University of Pennsylvania

Dr. **Reema Rajbanshi**, creative writing faculty and author of *Sugar, Smoke, Song* (2018), Bowling Green State University



Panel 1: Dr. Sumie Okazaki and Dr. Laura Specker in conversation with Fellows Yuting Zhu and Ella Yang



Panel 2: Dr. Oona Paredes, Kayla Sotomil, and Dr. Kecia L. Fong in conversation with Fellows Vernon Wells and Jennifer Kang

# DR. ROSANE ROCHER PRIZE FOR BEST UNDERGRADUATE ESSAY IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES

Dr. Rocher, Professor Emerita of South Asia Studies, is the founding Director of ASAM and played an instrumental role in establishing the Pan Asian American Community House (PAACH). The Dr. Rosane Rocher Prize for Best Undergraduate Essay in Asian American Studies is offered every year in her honor. The \$400 prize-winning essay is selected in the spring semester from papers submitted by Penn students for an ASAM course taken during the prior calendar year. Essays may be submitted by the student author or nominated by the instructor for whose course the article was written. Papers in any field of Asian American Studies are eligible.

*Congratulations to the recipients of the 2023*

## DR. ROSANE ROCHER PRIZE *for best undergraduate essay in Asian American studies*



“Gaysian” and Greek: How Queer Asian Women Negotiate Gender, Sexuality, and Sisterhood in Asian-Interest Sororities

*Class of 2023, angeji@sas.upenn.edu*

*-Angela Ji*

“No Fats, No Fems, No Asians”: Racism Within the LGBTQ+ Community

*Class of 2024, milanc@sas.upenn.edu*

*-Milan Chand*



*Dr. Rosane Rocher is the founding director of ASAM and played an instrumental role in establishing PAACH. The Rocher Prize is offered every year in her honor and is open to all Penn students who have taken an ASAM course during the prior calendar year.*

*Note: For confidentiality reasons and to protect the privacy of the interviewees in the papers, these essays will not be posted on our website. Please contact asianamerican@sas.upenn.edu for more information.*



# THE YOONMEE CHANG MEMORIAL LECTURE 2023 WITH ERIC KIM

The Yoonmee Chang Memorial Lecture is co-organized annually by ASAM and the Penn English Department. This memorial lecture hosts a distinguished speaker in honor of Dr. Yoonmee Chang's memory and scholarship. Dr. Chang (November 2, 1970 – January 18, 2018) was born in Seoul, South Korea, and grew up in New York. She received her PhD in English from the University of Pennsylvania in 2003 with a specialization in Asian American diasporic literature and culture. As a doctoral candidate, Dr. Chang was a key student leader in the founding of ASAM. Author of the critically acclaimed book, *Writing the Ghetto: Class, Authorship, and the Asian American Ethnic Enclave* (Rutgers, 2010), she taught at Indiana University in Bloomington before becoming an Associate Professor at George Mason University from 2005 until her untimely passing in 2018.

The memorial lecture this year featured Eric Kim, a *New York Times* staff writer and essayist born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. His debut cookbook, *Korean American: Food That Tastes Like Home* (Clarkson Potter, 2022), was an instant *New York Times* best seller. A former digital manager for the Food Network, contributing editor for *Saveur* magazine and senior editor for Food52 (where he amassed a devoted readership for his "Table for One" column), he now hosts regular videos on YouTube's *NYT Cooking* channel and writes a monthly column for *The New York Times Magazine*. Eric taught writing and literature as a graduate fellow at Columbia University, and his essays have been featured in *Bon Appétit*, *Food & Wine* and *The Best American Food Writing*. He lives with his rescue pup, Quentin Compson, in New York City.



# SACHS ARTIST RESIDENCY GRANT THE THIRD SPACE: UNFURLING DIASPORIC ARTS OF SOUTH ASIA

The Sachs Program for Arts Innovation awarded the 2022 Artist Residency grant to Fariha Khan, Co-Director of Asian American Studies and 12G Arts for the project, “The Third Space: Unfurling Diasporic Arts of South Asia.” Conceived as a series in four parts, the project will combine artistic practice and scholarship envisioning a cultural consciousness within the American contemporary art industry that simultaneously acknowledges the diasporic artist, their transnational experience of identity, place, and time, as a primary grounding for the conception, aesthetics, and impact of their work.

## THE THIRD SPACE UNFURLING DIASPORIC ARTS OF SOUTH ASIA



### THE CURATOR'S TALK WITH AISHA KHAN

FEBRUARY 8, 2023 / MCNEIL 473 / 12PM

### THE WORKSHOP WITH RUBY CHISHTI

FEBRUARY 22, 2023 / ARCH 108 / 5PM

### THE ARTISTS' PANEL WITH SABA TAJ, CHITRA GANESH & TAUSIF NOOR

MARCH 27, 2023 / PCPSE PERELMAN / 5PM

### THE ARTISTS' TALK WITH AROOJ AFTAB AND SHAHZIA SIKANDER

APRIL 06, 2023 / ARCH ATRIUM 208 / 5PM

The Third Space is a program that highlights Diasporic Arts of South Asia as a distinct, emergent, and expansive tradition within contemporary art in America. This four-part series combines artistic practice with scholarship, envisioning a cultural consciousness within the art industry that acknowledges diasporic artists and their transnational experiences.

Please check our website  
<https://asam.sas.upenn.edu/>  
for more information and  
RSVP in advance



# THE THIRD SPACE: CURATOR'S TALK WITH AISHA KHAN

This Talk is part of Aisha Khan's Curatorial Residency in ASAM this spring 2023, as part of the ASAM's Sachs 2022 Grant. "The Third Space: Unfurling Diasporic Arts of South Asia", is a series of programs that seek to highlight the Diasporic Arts of South Asia as a distinct, expansive, and emergent tradition within American contemporary art.

Aisha Khan co-founded 12Gates Arts in 2009. Ms. Khan has extensive experience in curating art exhibitions and organizing art-related events. With a degree in Social Work, there is a socially aware angle to her work.



*Aisha Khan speaking about The Third Space, February 8, 2023*



# THE THIRD SPACE: THE ARTIST'S WORKSHOP WITH RUBY CHISHTI

This workshop aimed to engage the participants though dismantling and transforming unknown people's clothing through the process of hand sewing. What do these discarded mass-produced garments tell us about ourselves, our interdependence on other humans and life forms, how we see, touch, and feel the world we live in without ignoring the durations of those near and far and absent.

Ruby Chishti is a Pakistani American artist based in New York City. She is primarily a representational sculptor and installation artist. Her work is largely autobiographical in nature. Her haunting and enigmatic works perform the passage of fabric from discarded mass-produced and ceremonial clothing to the re-construction filaments of artistic imagination. Her practice involves audio visual installations and experimentation in melding the fabric of found garments and social memory.



*Ruby Chishti in her workshop, February 22, 2023*

# THE THIRD SPACE: THE ARTISTS' PANEL WITH SABA TAJ, CHITRA GANESH & TAUSIF NOOR

This panel examined both Third Space Arts and its expressive methods of identity as practice. Prominent artists Chitra Ganesh, Tausif Noor, and Saba Taj shared their nuanced perspectives envisioning and critiquing Third Space Arts as a framework for diasporic identities, solidarity, and marginalization. Curator in Residence Aisha Khan moderated the panel.



*Chitra Ganesh, Saba Taj, and Tausif Noor speaking in the panel moderated by Aisha Khan, March 27, 2023*

# THE THIRD SPACE: THE ARTISTS' TALK WITH AROOJ AFTAB AND SHAHZIA SIKANDER

This event looked to the future of diasporic art as it contextualizes a shared narrative — a colonized past and an imperial present. Fariha Khan, Asian American Studies Co-Director, was in conversation with Shahzia Sikander, a visual artist who has redefined contemporary understandings of diaspora and difference and Arooj Aftab, whose work as a musician has transcended genres and histories. This talk showcased the global interconnectedness of each artist's work as they redefine the unfurling of South Asian American Diasporic Arts. This event was open to the University and the Philadelphia community and will include a Q&A session.



*Arooj Aftab and Shahzia Sikander in conversation with Aisha Khan and Fariha Khan, April 6, 2023*

# ASIAN AMERICA ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES SPEAKER SERIES: AMERICAN RACE<sup>25</sup>

SNF PAIDEIA PROGRAM  
& THE ASIAN AMERICA ACROSS  
THE DISCIPLINES SERIES SPRING 2023 PRESENT

## AMERICAN RACE: A PHILADELPHIA STORY

### january

30 Race and Academic Approaches/The City with Mike O'Bryan, Distinguished Resident Fellow at Drexel University's Lindy Institute for Urban Innovation, Founder of Humanature  
12:30 pm / Fagin Hall 216

### february

6 Race and Media with Maori Holmes, Chief Executive and Artistic Officer of Blackstar  
2 pm / Fagin Hall 216

13 Race and Immigration with Naw Doh, Burmese/Bhutanese Community Activist  
1:30 pm / Fagin Hall 216

20 Race and Work/Labor with Jennifer Lee, Associate Professor of Law at Temple University.  
1 pm / Fagin Hall 216

27 Race and Food with Noelle Warford, Urban Tree Connection and Duong Ly and Lan Dinh, VietLEAD  
12 pm / Fagin Hall 216

### march

13 Race and Education with Amalia Dache, Associate Professor, Penn GSE and Paige Joki, Esq., Staff Attorney, Education Law Center  
2 pm / Fagin Hall 216

20 Race and Housing with Markita Morris-Louis, CEO of COMPASS and Debbie Wei, Founding Member of Asian Americans United (AAU).  
2 pm / Fagin Hall 216

27 Race and Crime with Kavita Goyal, Defender Association of Philadelphia and Taylor Pacheco, Esq., Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity.  
1 pm / Fagin Hall 216

### april

3 Race and Children/Youth/Family with Edwin Desamour, The Lighthouse Inc. and Johnny Irizarry, CLALS Lecturer  
1:30 pm / Fagin Hall 216

10 Race and Gender/Sexuality with Dalmacio Dennis Flores, Assistant Professor at Penn School of Nursing.  
12 pm / Fagin Hall 216

17 Race and Healthcare with Antonia M. Villarruel, Professor and Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing at Penn  
1 pm / Fagin Hall 216



# ASIAN AMERICA ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES AMERICAN RACE:

January - April 2023



AAAD in conversation with Naw Doh, "Race and Immigration," Feb 13, 2023



AAAD in conversation with Jennifer Lee and Samuel Jones, "Race and Work/Labor," Feb 20, 2023



AAAD in conversation with Duong Ly, Lan Dinh, and Noelle Warford, "Race and Food," Feb 27, 2023



AAAD in conversation with Amalia Daché and Paige Joki, "Race and Education," Mar 13, 2023



AAAD in conversation with Kavita Goyal and Taylor Pacheco, "Race and Crime," Mar 27, 2023



AAAD in conversation with Edwin Desamour and Johnny Irizarry, "Race and Children/Youth/Family," Apr 3, 2023

# ASIAN AMERICA ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES IN CONVERSATION WITH SAM MIHARA


Asian America Across the Disciplines Series had a special conversation with **Sam Mihara**, winner of the 2022 Japanese American of the Biennium Award for Education and Humanities.



THE ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM PRESENTS

## ASIAN AMERICA ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES

In conversation with  
**Sam Mihara**  
Winner of the  
2022 Japanese American  
of the Biennium Award for  
Education and Humanities



Hosted by ASAM Lecturer, Rob Buscher  
in his course Asian American Activism.



*Sam Mihara talking at his book signing of **Blindsided: The Life and Times of Sam Mihara**, February 20, 2023*

# ASAM UNDERGRADUATE ADVISORY BOARD (UAB)



*ASAM UAB students at the Welcome Back Lunch, September 2022*



*ASAM Students and the UAB at the End of the Year Celebration, May 2022*

# ASAM UNDERGRADUATE ADVISORY BOARD (UAB)



*ASAM UAB students at the New UAB Welcome Lunch, March 2023*



*ASAM UAB students at dinner, April 2023*





# YELLOW AND BROWN TALES: ASIAN AMERICAN FOLKLIFE TODAY

*Yellow and Brown Tales: Asian American Folklife Today* is an exploration of the cultural history of Asian Americans and their lives now. Acknowledging the many aspects of Asian American life that have been unheard and unseen for “yellow” and “brown” Americans, these stories uplift and showcase their rich expressive culture. This podcast distinctively positions the Asian experience at the center of the American landscape and Asian American folklore as a critical emergent area of study.



Folklorists Fariha Khan, Margaret Magat, Nancy Yan, and Juwen Zhang highlight the diverse narratives, practices, traditions, and customs of the fastest-growing population in the U.S. Each month will feature two podcasts that explore yet another aspect of Asian American life –making the invisible clearly visible!

Listen to our podcasts here: <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/penn-asam>

- Episode 1: "What is Asian American Folklore?"
- Episode 2: "Conversation with Margaret Magat, Author of *Balut: Fertilized Eggs and the Making of Culinary Capital*"
- Episode 3: "South Asian Americans and Sex Education: A Conversation with University of Pennsylvania Senior, Simran Chand"
- Episode 4: "Dr. Herminia Meñez Coben, pioneer Filipina American folklorist"
- Episode 5: "Altars and Asian American Business Owners during the Pandemic"
- Episode 6: "K-Pop Scholar Dr. Grace Kao Talks BTS and Their Rise To Popularity"
- Episode 7: "Asians and the Global Pandemic: Race, Invisibility, and the Urgency of Asian American Folklore Studies"
- Episode 8: "Water Beliefs and the Importance of Energy: A Conversation with Folklorist Dr. Wennifer Lin"
- Episode 9: "The Beginning of Public Celebration of Chinese New Year in the US"
- Episode 10: "Shang Chi: Asian American-ness and Beyond"
- Episode 11: "Rob Buscher and a New Series PBS WHYY Asian Americans Series"
- Episode 12: "Gambling Addiction in Asian Communities with Kent Woo, Executive Director of NICOS Chinese Health Coalition"

# UAB CO-CHAIRS



**Jennifer Kang**

Jennifer is a junior and second generation Korean American from Columbus, Indiana. In the College of Arts and Sciences, she is a Sociology major with a triple minor in Asian American Studies, Nutrition Sciences, and Chemistry. She is involved with the Penn Figure Skating Club, Promoting Enriching Experiences and Relationships (PEER), ASAM Fellows Program, and Penn's Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT).



**Jean Paik**

Jean is a junior from Valencia, California studying English. With a commitment to collective action, Jean finds joy in building and being in community. On campus, Jean is also involved in *34th Street Magazine*, the Asian American Studies Fellowship Program, and the Penn Association for Gender Equity.

# UAB MEMBERS



**Lynnea Bao**

Lynnea is Sophomore from Oakland, California studying ESGB and Business Analytics with a minor in Asian American Studies. She's involved in Excelano, WEDIG, Penn Climate Ventures, and Bloomers Tech, and in her free time she enjoys journaling, creating visual art, and reading poetry. She's excited to connect with the community more through the ASAM UAB.



**Joey Chen**

Joey Chen is a freshman in the College of Arts and Sciences. She is currently undecided, but is considering majoring in biology and minoring in healthcare management. On campus, she is also involved in APAMSA and am excited to be more involved in ASAM UAB's community. In her free time, she likes trying new food with her friends, cooking, and listening to music.



**Louis Dong**

Louis is a Malaysian-Chinese American and a sophomore from Philadelphia. He studies Political Science, with a concentration in International Relations, with two minors in Legal Studies/History and Chinese at the College of Arts and Sciences. Outside the lecture hall, Louis is a violinist in the Penn Chamber Orchestra and Penn Symphony Orchestra. In his free time, Louis enjoys reading, snacking, and attempting to play impossibly hard classical music.

# UAB MEMBERS



**Sophia Lee**

Sophia is a freshman from Atlanta, Georgia studying Political Science. She is excited to build and contribute to the Asian American community as a part of the UAB. On campus, Sophia is also involved in Penn Reproductive Justice and Penn Appetit. She enjoys trying new restaurants, taking walks, and reading in her free time.



**Minola Lee**

Minola is a Hmong American from Arkansas and is majoring in Neuroscience in college. Dedicated to the promotion of human rights, she is passionate about examining the challenges of development in Southeast Asia outside of class.



**Lily Suh**

Lily Suh (she/her) is a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences, and she is majoring in Psychology and minoring in Asian American Studies. In addition to being a member of the ASAM UAB, Lily was a 2021-2022 ASAM fellow. Lily is also a Penn Benjamin and does research in the Hunt Lab.



**Khue Tran**

Khue is a sophomore from San Jose, CA interested in studying environmental science and minoring in Asian American Studies. She is passionate about sustainability and the unique environmental practices of marginalized communities. Outside of the UAB, she is involved in the Vietnamese Students Association and volunteers with the Civic Engagement Program.



**Vernon Wells**

Vernon Wells is a junior in the College pursuing majors in Anthropology and Sociology and a minor in Asian American Studies. They are interested in exploring pathways toward decolonization in the Philippines and strive to use their degree to work with Indigenous Southeast Asians/Asian Americans. At Penn, Vernon is a current ASAM Fellow and serves as a board member in the Penn Philippine Association, Southeast Asia Working Group, and Queer People of Color.

# WEDNESDAY NIGHTS WITH ASAM ALUMNI

The Spring 2022 semester commemorated 25 years of Asian American Studies at Penn. Every Wednesday evening we learned about our history through the personal experiences of our ASAM alums in our new speaker series, Wednesday Nights with ASAM Alumni. Covering a different period each week, we kicked off the chronological series in January 2022 with a close-up look back at Penn and Asian American life in 1996.

The series culminated in May 2022 with a look ahead to 2023. These informal conversations among ASAM friends and supporters were led by the ASAM UAB. They were not only informative but offered lively memories and shared experiences of undergraduate and graduate life firsthand.



# ASAM CORE FACULTY



**Eiichiro Azuma**  
Professor of History



**Rob Buscher**  
Lecturer



**David L. Eng**  
Richard L. Fisher Professor of English  
Faculty Director of ASAM



**Fariha I. Khan**  
Co-Director of ASAM



**Josephine Park**  
Professor of English



**Rupa Pillai**  
Senior Lecturer

# ASAM NEW FACULTY



**Bakirathi Mani**  
Presidential Penn Compact Professor of English



**Hardeep Dhillon**  
Assistant Professor of History



**Tahseen Shams**  
Assistant Professor of Sociology

# ASAM OFFICE STAFF



Anabel Bernal Estrada joined us from Cuba in 2019 as the program assistant for ASAM and Center for Latin American and Latinx Studies (CLALS). She is currently the full-time ASAM Program Assistant. Anabel has an MA in Development Practice from The Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) and a BA in Sociology from the University of Havana. She has extensive experience in project management, coordination, and communications. She worked with local governments and international organizations as an advisor on development projects and capacity building in vulnerable communities in Cuba.



Sophie Hirt is a senior studying Business Management and Chinese. Besides her work-study position with ASAM, she is also a leader of the Asian American political group Lotus Collective. She is passionate about history and social equality and appreciates connecting with fellow students about these topics through ASAM. In her free time, she enjoys baking, hiking, and exploring Philadelphia.



Ivy Lo is a sophomore in the College studying Health and Societies, with a concentration in Healthcare Markets and Finance. She joined ASAM with a strong interest in becoming more involved with the Asian American community at Penn. In her free time, she enjoys visiting the ice rink on campus and studying at different cafes around the city!



Erika Kishino is a freshman planning on majoring in Criminology. As a Japanese American who is deeply interested in social justice and social change, she is excited to explore various topics through interactions at ASAM. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, exploring new activities, and spending time with friends and family.



2022- 2023



Penn Arts & Sciences  
Asian American Studies Program