Asian and Asian American Studies Institute
List of Guest Speakers, 2004 to 2014

- 2004, Marilyn Chin, San Diego State University, “Rhapsody in Plain Yellow – the Unapologetic Poet”
- 2004, Robin Chandler, Northeastern University, “Arousing the Lioness in the Forest: Moving Toward a Critical Scholarship of Service, Solidarity and Sisterhood”
- 2004, Max Desfor, Pulitzer Prize winner and retired Associated Press correspondent, “Portraits of the Korean War – The Tragedy of Conflicts”

- 2005, Kumkum Bhattacharya, Visva Bharati, India, “Public Space and Women’s Rights”
- 2005, Shilpa Dave, Brandeis University, “Animated in America – Apu of ‘The Simpsons’ and Gandhi of ‘Clone High USA’”
- 2005, Ananda Lal, Jadavpur University, India, and Senior Fulbright Fellow at Indiana University, “The Crises Facing Contemporary Indian Performance”
- 2005, Yasmine Kabir, Bangladesh based documentary filmmaker and founder of NARIKA in San Francisco, “My Migrant Soul – A story of overseas workers in Malaysia from Bangladesh”
2006, **Sumit Ganguly**, Indiana University, “India as a Great Power”

2006, **Diane Fujino**, University of California, Santa Barbara, “Heartbeat of Struggle – The Revolutionary Life of Yuri Kochiyama”

2006, **Winston E. Langley**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, “Nazrul Islam: Nationalist, Globalist, and Moral Giant” (Keynote Address for Nazrul Symposium at the University of Connecticut – Storrs Campus); 2007, “The Voice of Poetry and the Direction of Civilizations” (Inaugural Nazrul Commemorative Lecture at UConn)

2006, **Howard Zinn**, Boston University, “You Can’t be Neutral on a Moving Train: Equality in America”

2006, **Kenji Yoshino**, Yale Law School, “Covering: The Hidden Assault on our Civil Rights”


2006, **Yong Soon Min**, University of California, Irvine, “Exquisite Crisis and Encounters”

2007, **Elena Tajima Creef**, Wellesley College, “How to Read an Archive: War Relocation Authority Photographs of the Internment of Japanese Americans” (Marking a Decade of Day of Remembrance at UConn)

2007, **Ela Gandhi**, Former Member of Parliament (ANC), South Africa / Chancellor of Durban University of Technology, and Founder of the Gandhi Development Trust, “Gandhian Solutions to the Crises of the 21st Century” (Keynote to Asian American Heritage Observance), and Annual Ahimsa Seminar, “Perspectives of a Peace Activist”

2007, **Honorable Laxmi Das Manandhar**, Minister of Education and Member of Parliament (UML Party), Nepal, “Politics and Education in Nepal”

2007, **Ismael Ileto**, Survivor Brother of Joseph Ileto, who was murdered by convicted hate criminal Buford Furrow, “Hate is Real, Realize Hate, Speak Out Against Hate Crimes”

2007, **Amanda Gouws and Zakia Salime**, University of Stellenbosch and University of Michigan, respectively, “Transnational Women’s Movements”


2008, **Somdatta Mandal**, Editor of India Chapter of MELUS and Visiting Scholar, Visva-Bharati Scholar Exchange Program, “Of Wars, Relocation and Documentation: Surveying Japanese American Internment and the 1947 Partition of India” (Day of Remembrance Public Lecture); 2010, “The Itinerant Traveler: Tagore and America” co-sponsored with India Studies Program
2008, **Joyce Hamilton Henry**, Former Director of Office of Multicultural Programs at Univ. of Hartford and Adjunct Lecturer, “Between Two Worlds” (OMIA Collaborative Symposia Series Engendering Race, Ethnicity and Class in a Globalizing World"

2008, **Lisa Lowe**, University of California, San Diego and Visiting Prof. of American Studies, Yale College, “Metaphors of Globalization”

2008, **Lawrence LaFountain-Stokes**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, “Translocas: Migration, Homosexuality, and Transvestism in Recent Puerto Rican Performance”


2009, **Jose Reissig**, Emeritus, Long Island University / Insight Meditation, “Nonviolence as a Way of Transformation” (Annual Ahimsa Seminar Keynote)

2009, **Socheata Poeuv**, Filmmaker and CEO/Founder of Khmer Legacies (devoted to creating a video testimonial archive of the Cambodian Genocide), “New Year Baby” film screening and talkback

2009, **Vijay Prashad**, Trinity College, Hartford CT, “Democracy’s Challenge: Reframing the Public’s Role” (Keynote Address for National Issues Forums’ Deliberative Democracy Dialogs)

2010, **Jamie Ford**, author of Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet (Random House, 2009), “The Personal is Political” (Day of Remembrance 2010)

2010, **June McDaniel**, College of Charleston, “The Role of Rasa” (Nazrul Commemorative Lecture)

2010, **Martin Espada** (UMass Amherst) and **Angelique Nixon** (NYU / Women’s Studies Program), Poetry Readings, “Political Poetics / Contemplating Nazrul’s [Kazi Nazrul Islam] Legacy”

2010, **Ai-jen Poo**, National Domestic Workers Alliance / Executive Director, “Hope in Hard Times: The Domestic Workers Bill of Rights” (Keynote Address / Human Rights of Domestic Workers One Day Conference at UConn); additional guest speakers: **Priscilla Gonzalez** (Domestic Workers United of New York); **Marina Karides** (Florida Atlantic); **Paul Filson** (SEIU Connecticut); **Heloisa Galvao** (Brazilian Women’s Group of Massachusetts / A Domestic Workers Collective); **Shobha Gurung** (Southern Utah University, Cedar City)

2010, **Robert Ku** (SUNY Binghampton) “MSG”, **Anita Mannur** (Miami University – Oxford, OH) “Culinary Fictions”, **Jennifer Ho** (UNC Chapel Hill) “Eating Across Ethnicities” – all gave separate presentations as part of the semester-long FOOD MATTERS Literary Series, Spring 2010

2010, **Masako Nakamura** (Post-doctoral Fellow, Univ. of Minnesota), “War Brides of the Pacific War: Marriage, Race, Immigration, and U.S. Occupation of Japan”

2010, **PraCh Ly**, Cambodian American Rap Artist and Activist, “Human Rights, Arts and Activism”
2010, **Jessica Chen Drammeh**, Independent Filmmaker, “Anomaly” film screening and talkback (mixed race Asian and multi-racial Americans)

2010, **Linda Blosie** (CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Director of Public Affairs) gave the Keynote for AHIMSA Seminar focused on “Overcoming Domestic Violence in CT: Recent Legislative Tools and Assessment”; additional speakers included **Shanthi Rao** (Interval House West, Coordinator), **Venida Rodman Jenkins** (UConn Women’s Center VAWPP Coordinator), **Lt. Magdalena Vargas** (UConn Police Services and Public Safety), and **Jyothi Vayalakkara** (SNEHA, a support network for women of South Asian origin in CT, Executive Board Member and Clinical Licensed Psychologist)


2010, **Rob Lemkin**, Founder and Director of Old Street Films, “Enemies of the People” (documentary featuring Cambodian journalist Thet Sambath) film screening and talkback


2011, **Adam Nadel** (New York Times photojournalist) and **C. David Thomas** (Viet Nam War veteran turned artist), panelists addressing “Aftermath: The Impact of War in Viet Nam” as part of Dodd Center Gallery exhibition, curated by Valerie Love


2011, **Karen Tei Yamashita**, University of California, Santa Cruz and author of I Hotel (Day of Remembrance 2011 / film screening of Aoki preceding), Spotlight: Arts and Activism – The Asian American Community Fights to Save the I Hotel of San Francisco

2011, **Allan Punzalan** (Rutgers University of New Brunswick, NJ) “Disappearing Beauty Queens”; **Lynne Yamamoto** (Smith College, MA) “Genteel / Visualizing the Pacific”; and **Mario A. Caro** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology and City College of New York) “The Native as Image: Art History, Nationalism, and Decolonizing Aesthetics” – CIRCULATIONS AND ENCOUNTERS Series, Spring 2011 organized by Margo Machida

2011, **Ramachandra Guha**, Independent Scholar, “The Indian Political Tradition” as part of India Studies Program’s Radha Devi Joshi Endowed Lecture

2011, **Grace Hong**, University of California, Los Angeles, “Citizenship and Biopower” cosponsored with Women’s Studies Program

2011, **Rahna Reiko Rizzutto,** Goddard College and author of Hiroshima in the Morning (Feminist Press, 2010), “GROUND ZERO and Human Rights from Hiroshima to 9/11”

2011, **Phyllis Granoff,** Yale University, New Haven CT, “Victorious Ones: Jain Images of Perfection” (AHIMSA Seminar 2011) / The Tagore at 150 Celebration Program followed the Lunch

2011, **Nikhil Pal Singh,** New York University, “Color and Democracy in the American Century”

2011, **Maurice Fitzpatrick,** author of The Boys of St. Columb’s (2010), “Patterns of Non-violent Democratic Protest from Derry ’68 to the Arab Spring”

2011, ERASING BORDERS: Contemporary Indian Artists of the Diaspora Panel Discussants include **Amina Begum Ahmed; Vijay Kumar; Anjali Deshmukh; Neil Chowdhury; Sonia Chaudhary;** and Moderated by **Kathryn Myers**

2012, **Greg Robinson,** L'Université du Québec À Montréal, a French-language institution in Montreal, Canada, “The Tragedy of Democracy: Japanese Confinement in North America” (Day of Remembrance)

2012, **Oliver Wang,** California State University, Long Beach, “Far East Movements: Asian Americans in Hip Hop”

2012, **Zachary Price,** Fred Ho Fellowship 2012 Presentation, “The Conundrums of Representation: Body, Theater and Martial Arts in the Jazz Operettas of Fred Ho”

2012, **Leslie Bow** (University of Wisconsin, Madison), **Kandice Chuh** (City University of New York), **Banu Subramanian** (Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst) presented at the INTERSECTIONS OF INTERDISCIPLINARITY Symposium in collaboration with WGSS, El Instituto, Africana Studies, and Humanities Institute with support from CLAS


2012, **CHhay Bora,** independent filmmaker and director, LOST LOVES film screening and discussion

2012, **Victoria Christgau,** CT Center for Nonviolence / Executive Director, “Nonviolence as a Way of Life / Inspiration from the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.” and **Tarla A. Doshi,** independent scholar / Mumbai, India, who shared remarks on her ongoing non-violence work with youth (AHIMSA Seminar 2012)


2012, **Gloria Steinem,** founder of Ms. Magazine and feminist icon, “40 Years of Women’s Achievements at UConn and Beyond” (marking the Women’s Center’s 40th Anniversary at the University of Connecticut)
- 2012, Ruth Wilson Gilmore, Graduate Center of City University of New York, “Partition, Prison, and Politics: Reflections on Race, Gender, and Freedom in an Era of Financial Crisis” co-presented with Africana Studies

- 2013, Siddharth Kara, Harvard University, “Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery: A Global Overview” / Humanities House Living and Learning Community invited speaker

- 2013, Eric Hamako (Ph.D. Candidate / UMASS Amherst, Social Justice Education), “Harry Potter and the Mistaken Myth of the Mixed-Race Messiah” / Asian American Cultural Center invited speaker

- 2013, Michelle Marchetti Coughlin, independent scholar, “One Colonial Woman’s World” / Humanities House Living and Learning Community invited speaker

- 2013, Lorraine Leiko Miyahara (with Jack Martin), author of her family memoir, “INTERNMENT: A True Story / Memories of a Thirteen Year Old Girl, 1941-1944” Day of Remembrance 2013


- 2013, Rachel Fell McDermott, Barnard College / Columbia University, “Human Dignity and Religious Tolerance” / NAZRUL Commemorative Lecture Keynote; a discussion panel included Amrutur Srinivasan (independent scholar) and Omer Bajwa (Yale University / Coordinator of Muslim Life)

- 2013, Fred Ho, Asian American saxophonist, bandleader, composer and author, made his final appearance at UConn to help launch YELLOW POWER, YELLOW SOUL: The Radical Art of Fred Ho (University of Illinois Press, 2013) co-edited by Roger Buckley and Tamara Roberts (2010 Recipient / Fred Ho Fellowship)

- 2013, Steven De Castro, independent filmmaker / 2013 Fred Ho Fellowship presentation “Rediscovering the Forgotten Video Archives of Fred Ho” (De Castro also shot raw footage and conducted interviews that resulted in the documentary FRED HO’S LAST YEAR)

- 2013, Marji Lipshez-Shapiro, CT Chapter of the Anti-Defamation League / Director of Education, “Imagine a World Without Hate: Reaching 21st Century Educators and Students with Lessons of the Holocaust” (AHIMSA Seminar 2013)


- 2013, Frank H. Wu, University of California, Hastings College of Law, “YELLOW AND GRAY: A New Paradigm for Civil Rights” (Keynote Address for Asian American Heritage Observance)

- 2013, Jonathan Freedman, University of Michigan, “REWRITING DYSTOPIA: Jewish Alternative-History Fictions, High and Low” and Sara Blair, University of Michigan, “ON LOCATION: D.W. Griffith, the Battle of Cinema, and the Lower East Side” / cosponsored with Judaic Studies and Center for Contemporary Jewish Life
- 2013, CONVERGENCE: Diasporic Indian Art and Literature Panel with Susan Bean, Geetanjali Chanda, Annu Palakunnathu Matthew, and Sunanda Sanyal ( Moderated by Cathy Schlund-Vials)


- 2014, Min Hyoung Song, Boston College, “RUIN PORN: Detroit’s Abandonment and Capitalist Withdrawal”

- 2014, Yen Le Espiritu, University of California, San Diego, “Viet Nam War and Militarized Refuge(es)”

- 2014, Pawan Dhingra, Tufts University / Medford, MA, “Hire a White Woman: Race and Gender Calculations for Business Owners” (revised title for postponed 21 April presentation) / (original title “LIFE BEHIND THE LOBBY: Indian American Motel Owners and the American Dream” for 13 February cancelled date due to inclement weather)

- 2014, Jason Koo, Quinnipiac University / Hamden, CT, poetry reading and book signing of recently released America’s Favorite Poem (C&R Press) / organized by Creative Writing

- 2014, David Armitage, Harvard University / Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor of History, “The Pacific World”

- 2014, Dorothy J. Edwards, Executive Director of Green Dot, etc./ intervention and prevention of power-based personal violence “Silent Majorities: Bystander Intervention to Prevent Violence (Annual Ahimsa Seminar Keynote Address)

- 2014, Leta Hong Fincher, author of Left Over Women: The Resurgence of Gender Inequality in China (organized by WGSS)

- 2014, REMEMBERING TIANANMEN 25 Years On Panel with Jeffrey Wasserstrom, University of California, Irvine and Chaohua Wang, Independent Scholar and participant/historian of the Tiananmen Square Protests (also known as the 1989 Democracy Movement among activists) / (Moderated by Peter Zarrow)

- 2014, BUDDHIST ETHICS COLLOQUIUM with Jay Garfield (Yale and National University of Singapore), Emily W. McCrae (University of Oklahoma), and Charles Hallisey (Harvard) / (Moderated by Donald Baxter, Chair of Philosophy / UConn)

- 2014, Evans Chan, independent filmmaker, CHINATOPIA film screening and talkback (the film focuses on Kang Youwei (1858-1927) who was arguably China’s first modern transnational figure, dissident and constitutional reformer

- 2014, Kelly Zen-Yie Tsai, activist/spoken word poet, “Splitting the World Open” Workshop and “The Opposite of Violence” Presentation (organized by Women’s Center)

- 2014, Talking to China about North Korea: US and South Korean Diplomacy in Uncertain Times Panel (moderated by Nicholas Hamisevicz (Korea Economic Institute of America/ KEI) with Randy Schriver (Project 2049 Institute and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs) and Sung-Yoon
Lee, (Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University) / (Organized by Alexis Dudden)

- 2014, George Takei, actor (best known for his role as Mr. Sulu of Star Trek television series) and social activist, recounted his and his family’s experience of displacement and incarceration in WWII Rohwer (Arkansas) internment camp and its legacy, as well as his role in resisting the War in VietNam and promoting LGBTQ rights (Organized by Asian American Cultural Center); Q&A with audience moderated by CLAS Dean Jeremy Teitelbaum

- 2014, Reo Matsuzaki, Trinity College / Hartford, CT, “State Building: A Problem of Political Authority” (Organized by Jeremy Pressman, Political Science at UConn)