

# EVYN LÊ ESPIRITU GANDHI

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## EDUCATION

- 2018 Ph.D. in Rhetoric, Designated Emphasis in Critical Theory, University of California, Berkeley. Dissertation committee: Trinh T. Minh-ha (Chair), Colleen Lye, Keith Feldman, Daniel Boyarin
- 2013 B.A. in History and Media Studies, Pomona College, *summa cum laude*

## APPOINTMENTS

- 2019- Assistant Professor, Department of Asian American Studies, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2018-19 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow of Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies, Asian Studies Program, College of the Holy Cross
- SP 2017 Visiting Lecturer, Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora Consortium, Tufts University

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Asian American and Asian Diaspora studies, U.S. empire, critical refugee studies, settler colonial studies, transpacific studies, queer theory, transnational feminism, critical theory

## BOOK MANUSCRIPT

*Archipelago of Resettlement: Vietnamese Refugee Settlers in Guam and Israel-Palestine*  
*Archipelago of Resettlement* charts the resettlement of Vietnamese refugees to two sites of settler colonialism and U.S. empire: Guam and Israel-Palestine. From April to November 1975, the U.S. military processed over 112,000 Vietnamese refugees on Guam; from 1977 to 1979, Israel granted asylum and citizenship to 366 non-Jewish Vietnamese refugees. This interdisciplinary project traces archipelagic connections between these sites in order to theorize the *refugee settler condition*: the vexed positionality of refugee subjects whose resettlement in a settler colonial state is predicated upon the unjust dispossession of an Indigenous population.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer Reviewed Articles

- “Historicizing the Transpacific Settler Colonial Condition: Asian-Indigenous Encounters in Shawn Wong’s *Homebase* and Viet Thanh Nguyen’s *The Sympathizer*.” *MELUS*: forthcoming.
- “Queer Love across Queer Time: Nonaligned Solidarity, Indigenous Incommensurability, and the Temporal Drag of the Vietnam War.” *Critical Ethnic Studies* 5, no. 1 (2019): 99-123.
- “Cold War Entanglements, Third World Solidarities: Vietnam and Palestine, 1967-75.” In “Vietnam, War, and the Global Imagination,” edited by Timothy K. August, Eryn Lê Espiritu, and Vinh Nguyen, *Canadian Review of American Studies* 48, no. 3 (2018): 352-386.
- “Vexed Solidarities: Vietnamese Israelis and the Question of Palestine.” *LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory* 29, no. 1 (2018): 8-28.

“ ‘Who Was Colonel Hồ Ngọc Cẩn?’: Queer and Feminist Practices for Exhibiting South Vietnamese History on the Internet.” *Amerasia Journal* 43, no. 2 (Fall 2017): 3-24.

### **Other Publications**

“Book Review: Simeon Man, *Soldiering through Empire: Race and the Making of the Decolonizing Pacific*.” *Journal of Vietnamese Studies* 15, no. 1 (2020): 136-141.

“Introduction—Vietnam, War, and the Global Imagination,” co-authored with Timothy K. August and Vinh Nguyen. In “Vietnam, War, and the Global Imagination,” edited by Timothy K. August, Eryn Lê Espiritu, and Vinh Nguyen, *Canadian Review of American Studies* 48, no. 3 (2018): 289-295.

“Civility, Academic Freedom, and the Project of Decolonization: A Conversation with Steven Salaita.” *Qui Parle: Critical Humanities and Social Sciences* 24, no. 1 (2015): 63-88.

“Ninotchka Rosca.” In *Great Lives from History: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Volume 3*, edited by Gary Y. Okihiro, 658-659. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, 2012.

### **Under Review**

“Symbolizing Solidarity: Revolutionary Vietnamese Women in Vietnam, Palestine, and Iran,” co-authored with Thy Phu and Donya Ziaee. In *Cold War Camera*, edited by Thy Phu, Andrea Noble, and Erina Duganne. Accepted with revisions by Duke University Press.

### **In Progress**

*The Routledge Handbook of Refugee Narratives*, co-edited book with Vinh Nguyen.

“Archipelagic Poetics: Connecting Anti-Base Activism on Okinawa with Military Buildup Protests on Guam.” In *Transpacific Undisciplined: Feeling Current(s)*, edited by Lily Wong, Christopher Patterson, and Chien-ting Lin.

“Revisiting the Southern Question: South Korea, South Vietnam, and the American South.” Second book project.

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

2020-21	Faculty Career Development Award, UCLA
2020	UC Irvine Global Scholars Early Career Fellowship
2017	American Studies Association (ASA) Critical Ethnic Studies Prize
2016-18	Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship
2016	Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) Best Graduate Student Paper
2016	American Studies Association (ASA) Critical Ethnic Studies Prize Finalist
2013-15	Regents Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley
2013	Phi Beta Kappa Graduate Studies Award, Pomona College
2013	Phi Beta Kappa, Pomona College
2013	Peter Kiang Senior Thesis Prize, Pomona College
2013	Scott Winslow Award in Media Studies, Pomona College
2013	Senior Service Award, Pomona College
2012	Ahmanson Foundation Scholarship, Pomona College
2012	John Hayes Beaver Prize in History, Pomona College
2009-13	National Merit Scholar Fellowship

### **RESEARCH GRANTS**

2019	Asian American Studies Center Grant, University of California, Los Angeles
2015	Center for Race and Gender Travel Grant, University of California, Berkeley
2015	Berkeley Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies Research Grant
2014	Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, UC Berkeley (declined)

- 2011, 2012 Summer Undergraduate Research Program Grant, Pomona College  
 2011 Margo Okazawa-Rey Summer Fellowship, Pomona College

## FILMS

- 2015 *Saan ang espiritu ng mga Vietnamese?* (15 minutes)  
 Featured at Kearney Street Workshop's 2015 APature Film Showcase and the  
 2016 Association for Asian Studies Film Expo
- 2013 *Who Was Colonel Hồ Ngọc Cân?* (11 minutes)  
 Screened at Boston University, ASPIRE, and University of California, Davis
- 2012 *Memory* (4 minutes)
- 2012 *Environmental Justice League* (70 minutes)
- 2012 *Contemporary Vietnamese American Studies Fellowship* (3 minutes)
- 2012 *The Myra House* (13 minutes)
- 2011 *Extended Vigil at Pomona College* (4 minutes)
- 2011 *Máy Bay (Airplane)* (26 minutes)  
 2012 Los Angeles Movie Awards, Honorable Mention for Student Film

## INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- 2020 "The Decolonization Conversation: Vietnamese Refugee Settlers on Guam." *Archiving Power: Vietnamese Refugee Studies and the Politics of Memory*. Center for the Study of Race + Ethnicity in America, Brown University, Invited Panelist.
- 2020 "Transpacific Decolonization: Vietnamese Refugee Settlers and the Temporality of Settler Militarism on Guam." Forced Displacement, Migration, & Resettlement class, Scripps College, Invited Guest Lecturer.
- 2020 "The Politics of Staying: Vietnamese Refugee Settlers and the Permanent/Transient Temporality of Settler Militarism on Guam." *The 1980 Refugee Act after 40 Years: Is There a Minnesota School of Refugee Studies?* Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, Invited Panelist. \*Canceled due to COVID-19
- 2018 "Rewind Special Edition: Operation New Life, Part 3—Lone Sailor Statue to Come to Guam." Joint Region Marianas, Invited "Vietnamese Diaspora Expert" for TV series on Operation New Life.
- 2017 "History, Diaspora, and Politics." Ottoman History Podcast, Invited Interviewee for Episode 332.
- 2016 "Vietnam In and With Palestine." Students for Justice in Palestine, Johns Hopkins University, Featured Speaker.
- 2016 "Revisiting the History of the Army of the Republic of Viet Nam (ARVN): An International, Multigenerational Perspective." New Việt Nam Studies Initiative, University of California, Davis, Invited Panelist.
- 2016 "Racial Formation in Israel: Gender, Diaspora, and Occupation." Center for Race and Gender, University of California, Berkeley, Invited Co-presenter.

## TEACHING

- ASIA AM 126: "Comparative Race and Indigeneity." Assistant Professor, Asian American Studies Department, UCLA. FA 20.
- ASIA AM 125: "Transpacific Literature and Theory." Assistant Professor, Asian American Studies Department, UCLA. WI 20, WI 21.
- ASIA AM 178: "Critical Refugee Studies." Assistant Professor, Asian American Studies

- Department, UCLA. WI 20, FA 20.
- ASIA AM 297A: “Asian Indigenous Encounters.” Assistant Professor, Asian American Studies Department, UCLA. FA 19.
- ASTD 399: “Transpacific Literature and Theory.” Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Asian Studies Program, College of the Holy Cross. SP 19.
- ASTD 199: “Asian American Studies.” Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Asian Studies Program, College of the Holy Cross. FA 18.
- AAS 0094: “Labor, War, Activism: A Critical History of Asian America.” Visiting Lecturer, Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora Consortium, Tufts University. SP 17.
- RHET 1A: “Politics of Temporality.” Co-Instructor, Reading and Composition, Rhetoric Department, UC Berkeley. SP 16.
- RHET 1B: “Rhetoric of Translation: Colonial Violence and Ethical Relationality.” Co-Instructor, Reading and Composition, Rhetoric Department, UC Berkeley. FA 15/

### SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 “Vietnamese Refugees in Israel and Discourses of Anti-blackness.” International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (University of Ghana), Presenter. \*Postponed due to COVID-19
- 2020 “Feminist Archipelagic Poetics.” Island Feminisms Conference (University of Hawai‘i-Hilo), Presenter. \*Postponed due to COVID-19
- 2020 “Queer Vietnamese Interrogations of Refugee Settler Desire.” Southeast Asian American Studies Conference, Presenter and Panel Co-Organizer. \*Postponed due to COVID-19
- 2020 “Hardly Small War(s): Southern Apertures in Don Mee Choi’s *Hardly War* and An-My Lê’s *Small Wars*.” Association of Asian American Studies, Presenter and Panel Co-Organizer. \*Canceled due to COVID-19
- 2020 “Archipelagic History: Vietnam, Palestine, and Guam, 1967-75.” UC Irvine Global Studies Conference, Presenter and Peer Mentor
- 2019 “Afro-Asian Intimacies: Race, Gender, and Imperial Violence during the Korean and Vietnam Wars.” American Studies Association, Presenter and Panel Co-Organizer
- 2019 “Refugee Settler Desire and the Promise of Indigenous Placemaking Epistemologies.” Native American Indigenous Studies Association, Presenter, Chair, and Panel Organizer
- 2019 “Negotiating Refugee and Indigenous Loss in Bich Minh Nguyen’s *Pioneer Girl*.” Loss Symposium (McGill University), Presenter
- 2019 “Transpacific Intimacies between Chamorros and Vietnamese during the Vietnam War and its Afterlives.” Association for Asian American Studies, Presenter
- 2018 “Queer Love across Queer Time: Nonaligned Solidarity, Indigenous Incommensurability, and the Temporal Drag of the Vietnam War.” American Studies Association, Presenter and Panel Co-Organizer
- 2018 “Revisiting the Southern Question: South Korea, South Vietnam, and the American South.” Korea and Vietnam in the Modern and Contemporary Ages: Comparison and New Connections Conference (Seoul), Presenter and Panel Organizer
- 2018 “Theorizing the Archipelago: Vietnamese Refugee Settlers in Guam and Israel-Palestine.” Association for Asian American Studies, Presenter and Panel Co-Organizer
- 2018 “Militarized Palimpsests in the Black Pacific: A Response.” 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvard Graduate Student Conference on International and Global History: The Pacific in the World, Invited Respondent

- 2018 “Exile Poetics: Bridging Refugee Settlers and Palestinian Liberation.” Modern Language Association, Presenter
- 2017 “Vietnamese Refugee Settlers and the Temporality of Settler Militarism on Guam.” American Studies Association, Presenter and Panel Co-Organizer
- 2017 “Freedom Dreams under Occupation: Displacement, Resistance, and Solidarity in Palestine.” National Women’s Studies Association, Roundtable Participant
- 2017 “Operation New Life and the Politics of Care: A Relational Analysis of U.S. Settler Militarism, Chamorro Decolonization, and Vietnam War Refugees.” Association for Asian American Studies, Presenter and Panel Co-Organizer
- 2017 “Unincorporated Island Harbors: U.S. Militarism, Settler Colonialism, and Asian American Subjectivity in Guam.” Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States, Presenter
- 2017 “Racialized Encounters: Vietnamese Refugees and Native Chamorros on Post-1975 Guam.” Militarism and Migration Conference (UC San Diego), Presenter
- 2016 “Vexed Solidarities: Vietnamese Israelis and the Question of Palestine.” American Studies Association, Presenter
- 2016 “Performing Humanitarianism: Israeli Selection and Media Construction of the Ideal Vietnamese Refugee.” Association for Asian American Studies, Presenter and Panel Co-Organizer
- 2016 “*Saan ang espiritu ng mga Vietnamese?:* Probing the Ghostly Remains of the Vietnamese Refugee Camps in the Philippines.” Association for Asian Studies, Presenter
- 2015 “‘Divine Sorrow’ and Cold War Pasts: Interrogating Vietnam’s Solidarity with the State of Palestine.” American Studies Association, Presenter and Panel Co-Organizer
- 2015 “Producing ‘Vietnamese Community’ in Oakland: Space, Place, and the Politics of Visibility.” Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Presenter
- 2015 “Situating Vaan Nguyen and the Vietnamese in Israel.” American Comparative Literature Association, Presenter
- 2014 “Violence of Inclusion amidst a Discourse of Rescue: Situating Vaan Nguyen and the Vietnamese Diaspora in Israel.” Southeast Asians in the Diaspora Conference (University of Minnesota), Presenter
- 2014 “South Vietnamese Refugees and the Subaltern Digital Archive.” “Intellectual Properties”: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual CLCS Conference (University of Minnesota), Presenter
- 2014 “Narrativizing the Past: The Politics of Storytelling in Daryl J. Maeda’s *Chains of Babylon* and Karen Tei Yamashita’s *I Hotel*.” Association for Asian American Studies, Presenter
- 2012 “*Máy Bay*: Telling Vietnamese Refugees Stories through Film.” Annual Southeast Asian Cinemas Conference (Singapore), Presenter

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Studies Association (ASA)
- Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS)
- National Center for Institutional Diversity (NCID) Diversity Scholars Network

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2021 Association for Asian American Studies Conference Programming Committee
- 2020- Asian American Studies Center Faculty Advisory Committee, UCLA

2020 Faculty Reviewer for the Dissertation Year Fellowship Program, UCLA  
2020 Asian American Studies Center Graduate Student Awards Committee, UCLA  
2019- Pilipino Studies Minor Affiliated Faculty, UCLA  
2019- Center for Southeast Asian Studies Faculty Advisory Committee, UCLA  
2015 Rhetoric Conference Co-organizer, "Humanism and its Prefixes," UC Berkeley  
2014-18 *Qui Parle* Editorial Board Member, UC Berkeley

## PEER REVIEW

*Amerasia Journal*  
*Radical History Review*  
*Journal of Asian American Studies*  
*ANQ: A Quarterly Journal of Short Articles, Notes, and Reviews*  
*Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*  
*Rhetoric, Politics & Culture*  
*Embodying the Periphery*

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2018 Mentor for ASPIRE (Asian Sisters Participating in Reaching Excellence), Boston  
2016-19 Asian American Studies Writing Group Organizer, Greater Boston/Providence  
2016-17 Guest Writer for East Meets West Borderlands Blog, Cambridge/Boston  
2014 Guest Writer for diaCRITICS, Diasporic Vietnamese Artists Network's Blog  
2014 Viet-AID Video Workshop Leader for Middle School Students, Boston  
2013 Kearny Street Workshop Videographer, San Francisco

## REFERENCES

Trinh T. Minh-ha  
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University of California, Berkeley  
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Colleen Lye  
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Daniel Boyarin  
Professor of Rhetoric, Near Eastern Studies  
Hermann P. and Sophia Taubman Professor of Talmudic Culture  
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