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978-1-107-04494-4 - Dangerous Crossings: Race, Species, and Nature in a Multicultural Age

Claire Jean Kim

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Dangerous Crossings

When Asian immigrants, African Americans, or Native people in the United States harm animals in their (cultural) practices, controversy is sure to follow. *Dangerous Crossings* offers a compelling analysis of three of these impassioned disputes: the battle over the live animal markets in San Francisco's Chinatown, the uproar over the conviction of NFL superstar Michael Vick on dogfighting charges, and the firestorm over the Makah tribe's decision to resume whaling in the Pacific Northwest after a hiatus of more than seventy years. Moving beyond simplistic explanations about "culture clashes" and "double standards," Claire Jean Kim shows that in each dispute, race and species operate as conjoined logics, or mutually constitutive taxonomies of power, fashioning the animal, the Chinese immigrant, the Black man, and the Indian in the white imaginary. In each dispute, too, the optic of cruelty and ecological harm, evoked by animal advocates, confronts the optic of racism and cultural imperialism, evoked by race advocates. The answer to this conundrum, she argues, is a multi-optic approach to social justice, one that takes multiple forms of domination seriously and encourages an ethics of avowal among different justice struggles.

Claire Jean Kim is a Professor of Political Science and Asian American studies at the University of California, Irvine, where she teaches classes on Asian American politics, Black politics, comparative race studies, social movements, and human-animal studies. Her first book, *Bitter Fruit: The Politics of Black-Korean Conflict in New York City* (2000), won two awards from the American Political Science Association – the Ralph Bunche Award for the best book on ethnic and cultural pluralism and the Best Book Award from the Organized Section on Race and Ethnicity. Dr. Kim has also written numerous journal articles and book chapters. She coedited, with Carla Freccero, a special issue of *American Quarterly* entitled "Species/Race/Sex" (2013). She is the recipient of a grant from the University of California Center for New Racial Studies, and she has been a Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, and the University of California Humanities Research Institute.

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CLAIRE JEAN KIM

University of California, Irvine



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32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

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www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107622937

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First published 2015

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Kim, Claire Jean, author.

Dangerous crossings : race, species, and nature in a multicultural age / Claire Jean Kim, University of California, Irvine.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-04494-4 (hardback) – ISBN 978-1-107-62293-7 (pbk.)

1. Animal welfare – United States. 2. Human-animal relationships – United States. 3. United States – Race relations. I. Title.

HV4764.K56 2014

I79.308900973–dc23 2014032780

ISBN 978-1-107-04494-4 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-62293-7 Paperback

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For Astyanax

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Acknowledgments

My sincere thanks to the following:

Friends, colleagues, and interlocutors whose support and (sometimes highly skeptical) feedback made a difference, including: Emma Johnson, Suzanne Tebbetts, Ellen Radović, George Lipsitz, María Elena García, José Antonio Lucero, Jared Sexton, Kim Tallbear, Jane Junn, Dorothy Solinger, Naomi Murakawa, Sarah Banet-Weiser, Adolph Reed Jr., Kenneth Warren, Carla Freccero, Janelle Wong, Taeku Lee, Paul Watanabe, Cathy Cohen, Michael Dawson, Roger Waldinger, Lisa García Bedolla, Helen Marrow, Kristen Monroe, David Schlosberg, Richard Twine, David Meyer, James Fujii, Fiona Probyn-Rapsey, Dinesh Wadiwel, Marti Kheel, Lori Gruen, Paul Frymer, Alexandra Isfahani-Hammond, Wayne Pacelle, Joyce Tischler, Keith Topper, James Lee, Greg Gerrard, Margaret Perret, and George Ioannides.

Graduate students and faculty who commented on presentations at University of California, Berkeley; University of Washington; University of California, Santa Barbara; University of Chicago; and University of California, Los Angeles.

Participants in the University of California Humanities Research Institute research group “Species Spectacles: Locating Transnational Coordinations of Animality, Race, and Sexuality” (Mel Chen, Carla Freccero, Jack Halberstam, Tamara Ho, Kyla Schuller, Lu Tonglin); the conference on “The Wild” organized by Erica Fudge and the British Animal Studies Network at the University of Strathclyde; the conference on “Critical Animal Studies and Intersectionality” organized by Margaret Perret and the Institute for Critical Animal Studies at the University of California, Berkeley; the conference “Life in the Anthropocene” organized by Fiona Probyn-Rapsey, Dinesh Wadiwel, and the Human-Animal Research Network at the University of Sydney; and the special workshop on my work in the Department of American Studies at University of Texas, Austin (Nhi Lieu, John Hartigan,

Elizabeth Engelhardt, Janet Davis, Nicole Guidotti-Hernández, Kim Tallbear).

The interviewees for this book. Special thanks to Virginia Handley for sharing her files, Patricia Briggs for sharing photographs, and Eric Mills for sharing news articles and other materials.

The anonymous reviewers for Cambridge University Press, as well as Elizabeth Janetschek at Cambridge University Press, for assistance with figures and tables.

Teresa Ojeda of the San Francisco Planning Department for allowing me to use two figures (Figure 4.2 and Figure 4.3) that she created.

Robert Dreesen, my editor at Cambridge University Press, for his guidance and friendship.

Joe Wood, who is here.

My family, for believing in this book.