

## THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF ASIAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

The Cambridge History of Asian American Literature presents a comprehensive history of the field, from its origins in the nineteenth century to the present day. It offers an unparalleled examination of all facets of Asian American writing that helps readers understand how authors have sought to make their experiences meaningful. Covering subjects from autobiography and Japanese American internment literature to contemporary drama and social protest performance, this history traces the development of a literary tradition while remaining grounded in current scholarship. It also presents new critical approaches to Asian American literature that will serve the needs of students and specialists alike. Written by leading scholars in the field, The Cambridge History of Asian American Literature will not only engage readers in contemporary debates but also serve as a definitive reference for years to come.

RAJINI SRIKANTH is Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She is the author of *Constructing the Enemy: Empathy/Antipathy in U.S. Literature and Law* and winner of the Association for Asian American Studies Cultural Studies Book Award for *The World Next Door: South Asian American Literature and the Idea of America*.

MIN HYOUNG SONG is Professor of English at Boston College. He is the author of *Strange Future: Pessimism and the 1992 Los Angeles Riots* and *The Children of 1965: On Writing and Not Writing as an Asian American,* which won the Association for Asian American Studies Literary Criticism Book Award, the Alpha Sigma Nu Book Award for Literature and Fine Arts, and honorable mention in the Association for the Study of the Arts in the Present Book Prize.





# THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF ASIAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Edited by

RAJINI SRIKANTH

MIN HYOUNG SONG





## **CAMBRIDGE**UNIVERSITY PRESS

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

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

 $www. cambridge. org\\ Information on this title: www. cambridge. org/9781107053953$ 

© Rajini Srikanth and Min Hyoung Song 2016

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2016

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
The Cambridge history of Asian American literature / [edited by] Rajini Srikanth,
University of Massachusetts; Min Hyoung Song, Boston College.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index. ISBN 978-I-107-05395-3 (hardback)

1. American literature – Asian American authors – History and criticism.

I. Song, Min Hyoung, 1970- editor. II. Srikanth, Rajini, editor.

PS153.A84C36 2015 810.9'895–dc23 2015005124

ISBN 978-1-107-05395-3 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party Internet Web sites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such Web sites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.



### Contents

Notes on Contributors ix

Introduction I
RAJINI SRIKANTH AND MIN HYOUNG SONG

# PART I EARLY FORMS OF EXPRESSION TO THE START OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

- I · The Origins of Chinese American Autobiography 39
- 2 · Stage Orientalism and Asian American Performance from the Nineteenth into the Twentieth Century 55

  JOSEPHINE LEE
  - 3 · "I Seek Out Poems Now Incomplete": Writing from the Angel Island Immigration Station 71
    SUNN SHELLEY WONG
  - 4 · The Eaton Sisters and the Figure of the Eurasian 88 емма JINHUA TENG

# PART II THE EXCLUSION ERA, WORLD WAR II, AND THE IMMEDIATE POSTWAR ERA

5 · Indian Diasporic Autobiography: New Nations and New Selves 107 SANDHYA SHUKLA

v



#### Contents

7 · Filipino and Filipina Voices 139

DENISE CRUZ

8 · Chinatown Life as Contested Terrain: H. T. Tsiang,

Jade Snow Wong, and C. Y. Lee 155

PATRICIA P. CHU

9 · Coded Critiques: Japanese American Incarceration Literature 171 TRAISE YAMAMOTO

10 · Asian American Short Fiction and the Contingencies of Form, 1930s–1960s 187

JINQI LING

II · The Chicago School and the Sociological Imagination 203

## PART III THE ASIAN AMERICAN MOVEMENT

12 · Documenting the Third World Student Strike, the Antiwar Movement, and the Emergence of Second-Wave Feminism from Asian American Perspectives 221 DARYL JOJI MAEDA

13 · The Art of the Asian American Movement's Social

Protest Performance 237

LUCY MAE SAN PABLO BURNS

14 · Inventing Identity: The Manifestos of Pioneering Asian American Literature Anthologies 254 DONALD GOELLNICHT

> 15 · Maxine Hong Kingston, Feminism, and Postmodern Literature 271 STELLA BOLAKI

> > vi



Contents

## PART IV

16 · The Emergence of Asian American Literature as an Academic Field 289 VIET THANH NGUYEN

17 · Theresa Hak Kyung Cha and the Impact of Theory 306

18 · Heterogeneity to Multiplicity: Building Asian American

Literary Critique 324

ANITA MANNUR AND ALLAN PUNZALAN ISAAC

19 · Whose Asias? 339

20 · The South Asian American Challenge 355

21 · Contemporary Filipino American Writers and the Legacy of Imperialism 371 ELEANOR TY

## PART V POST-1965 AND THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

22 · Beyond Solitary Confinement: Rethinking the Sociopolitical Context of Local Literature in Hawaiʻi 389 SERI LUANGPHINITH

23 · Contemporary Asian American Drama 406

24 · "More Than You Ever Knew You Knew": The Rising
Prestige of Fiction 422
TINA CHEN

25 · Asian American Poetry and the Politics of Form 437

vii



#### Contents

26 · The Forgotten War in Korea 454

27 · The American War in Viet Nam and Its Diasporas 469
ANH THANG DAO-SHAH AND ISABELLE THUY PELAUD

28 · Refugee Aesthetics: Cambodia, Laos, and the Hmong 484 Cathy J. Schlund-Vials

# PART VI TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: 9/11, EMPIRE, AND OTHER CHALLENGES TO LITERATURE

29 · The 9/11 of Our Imaginations: Islam, the Figure of the Muslim, and the Failed Liberalism of the Racial Present 503

JUNAID RANA

30 · Narrating War: Arab and Muslim American Aesthetics 519 SAMINA NAIMI

31 · Thick Time and Space: Karen Tei Yamashita's Aesthetics 535 KANDICE CHUH

32 · Asian American New Media as Literature for the Digital Age 551 KONRAD NG

33 · Beyond National Literatures: Empire and
Amitav Ghosh 567
RUTH MAXEY

Bibliography 583 Index 623



## Notes on Contributors

STELLA BOLAKI is Lecturer in American Literature at the University of Kent. Her publications include *Unsettling the Bildungsroman: Reading Contemporary Ethnic American Women's Fiction* (2011) and *Audre Lorde's Transnational Legacies* (with Sabine Broeck, 2015).

LUCY MAE SAN PABLO BURNS is Associate Professor of Asian American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her publications include *Puro Arte: Filipinos on the Stage of Empire* (2012).

Tina Chen is Associate Professor of English and Asian American Studies at The Pennsylvania State University. She is the author of *Double Agency: Acts of Impersonation in Asian American Literature and Culture* (2005) and Editor of *Verge: Studies in Global Asias.* 

FLOYD CHEUNG is Associate Professor of English and American Studies at Smith College. He coedited *Recovered Legacies: Authority and Identity in Early Asian American Literature* (2005) and helped to recover works by H. T. Tsiang, Kathleen Tamagawa, and others.

Patricia P. Chu, Associate Professor and Deputy Chair of English at George Washington University, is the author of *Assimilating Asians: Gendered Strategies of Authorship in Asian America* (2000). She is writing a book about Asian American narratives of return to Asia.

Kandice Chuh is Professor of English at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Denise Cruz is Assistant Professor of English at the University of Toronto. She is the author of *Transpacific Femininities: The Making of the Modern Filipina* (2012) and editor of Yay Panlilio's *The Crucible: An Autobiography of Colonel Yay: Filipina American Guerrilla* (2009).

ANH THANG DAO-SHAH is a policy and evaluation manager at the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Samir Dayal is Professor of English and Media Studies at Bentley University. He is the author of *Dreamweaving: Realism and Fantasy in Hindi Cinema* (forthcoming), *Resisting Modernity: Counternarratives of Nation and Modernity* (2007), and the coedited *Global Babel: Interdisciplinarity, Transnationalism and the Discourses of Globalization* (2007).

Donald Goellnicht is Professor of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University in Canada. He is the coeditor of *Asian North American Identities: Beyond the Hyphen* (2004) and "Theorizing Asian American Fiction," a special issue of *Modern Fiction Studies* (2010).



#### Notes on Contributors

ALLAN PUNZALAN ISAAC is Associate Professor of American Studies and English at Rutgers University—New Brunswick. He is author of *American Tropics: Articulating Filipino America* (2006).

JOSEPH JONGHYUN JEON is Associate Professor of English at Pomona College.

ESTHER KIM LEE is Associate Professor in the School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies at the University of Maryland. Her publications include *A History of Asian American Theatre* (2011) and *Seven Contemporary Plays from the Korean Diaspora in the Americas* (2012).

JOSEPHINE LEE is Professor of English and Asian American Studies at the University of Minnesota and author of *The Japan of Pure Invention: Gilbert and Sullivan's* The Mikado (2010) and *Performing Asian America* (1997).

JINQI LING is Professor of English and Asian American Studies at the University of California Los Angeles. He is the author of Across Meridians: History and Figuration in Karen Tei Yamashita's Transnational Novels (2012) and Narrating Nationalisms: Ideology and Form in Asian American Literature (1998).

Seri Luangphinith is Professor of English at the University of Hawaiʻi, Hilo. Publications include "Setting the Record Straight: South Asian Diasporic Invisibility in the Sandwich Islands" (2014) and "The Archeology of Shame: Literary Constructions of Asian Subjectivity in the Pacific" (2012).

Daryl Joji Maeda is Associate Professor and Chair of Ethnic Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder. His publications include the books *Rethinking the Asian American Movement* (2012) and *Chains of Babylon: The Rise of Asian America* (2009).

Anita Mannur is Associate Professor of English and Asian American Studies and Director of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Miami University, Ohio. She is the author of *Culinary Fictions: Food in South Asian Diasporic Cultures* (2009).

RUTH MAXEY is Assistant Professor in Modern American Literature at the University of Nottingham. She is the author of *South Asian Atlantic Literature*, 1970–2010 (2012).

Asha Nadkarni is Associate Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She is the author of *Eugenic Feminism: Reproductive Nationalism in the United States and India* (2014).

Samina Najmi is Associate Professor of English at California State University, Fresno. She is coeditor of Form and Transformation in Asian American Literature (2005) and White Women in Racialized Spaces: Imaginative Transformation and Ethical Action in Literature (2002).

Konrad Ng is Director of the Smithsonian Institution's Asian Pacific American Center, an office that curates exhibitions and digital programs about Asian American history, art, and culture. Previously, Ng was a professor of creative media at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

VIET THANH NGUYEN is Associate Professor of English and American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. He is the author of *Race and Resistance: Literature and Politics in Asian America* (2002) and the novel *The Sympathizer* (2015).



#### Notes on Contributors

Josephine Park is Associate Professor of English and a member of the faculty steering committee of the Asian American Studies program at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the author of *Apparitions of Asia: Modernist Form and Asian American Poetics* (2008), which won the Association for Asian American Studies' Literary Book Award.

ISABELLE THUY PELAUD teaches at San Francisco State University and codirects the Diasporic Vietnamese Artists Network. She is the author of *This Is All I Choose to Tell: History and Hybridity in Vietnamese American Literature* (2011) and the coeditor of *Troubling Borders: An Anthology of Art and Literature by Southeast Asian Women in the Diaspora* (2014).

Junaid Rana is Associate Professor of Asian American Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana—Champaign. He is the author of *Terrifying Muslims: Race and Labor in the South Asian Diaspora* (2011).

Cathy J. Schlund-Vials is Associate Professor of English and Asian and Asian American Studies at the University of Connecticut. She is coeditor of *Keywords for Asian American Studies* (2015) and *Asian America: A Primary Source Reader* (2015).

Sandhya Shukla is Associate Professor of American Studies and English at the University of Virginia. She is editor of *Imagining Our Americas: Toward a Transnational Frame* (2007) and the author of *India Abroad: Diasporic Cultures of Postwar America and England* (2003).

MIN HYOUNG SONG IS Professor of English at Boston College. He is the author of The Children of 1965: On Writing, and Not Writing, as an Asian American (2013) and Strange Future: Pessimism and the 1992 Los Angeles Riots (2005).

RAJINI SRIKANTH is Professor of English at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Her publications include *Constructing the Enemy: Empathy/Antipathy in US Literature and Law* (2012) and *The World Next Door: South Asian American Literature and the Idea of America* (2004).

EMMA JINHUA TENG is the T. T. and Wei Fong Chao Professor of Asian Civilizations at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her recent publications include *Eurasian: Mixed Identities in the United States, China, and Hong Kong,* 1842–1943 (2013).

Cynthia Tolentino is a research fellow at Institut d'histoire du temps présent in Paris, France. Her publications include *America's Experts: Race and the Fictions of Sociology* (2009) and several articles in postcolonial studies and ethnic American literature.

ELEANOR Ty is Professor of English at Wilfrid Laurier University. Recent works include Unfastened: Globality and Asian North American Narratives (2010), The Politics of the Visible in Asian North American Narratives (2004), and Canadian Literature and Cultural Memory, coedited with Cynthia Sugars (2014).

DOROTHY WANG is an Associate Professor in American Studies at Williams College. Her book *Thinking Its Presence: Form, Race, and Subjectivity in Contemporary Asian American Poetry* (2014) received Honorable Mention in the Poetry Foundation's first Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism.

Sunn Shelley Wong is Associate Professor of English and Asian American Studies at Cornell University.



#### Notes on Contributors

Traise Yamamoto is Associate Professor of English at the University of California Riverside. She is the author of Masking Selves, Making Subjects: Japanese American Women, Identity, and the Body (1999).

 $TIMOTHY\ YU$  is Associate Professor of English and Asian American Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He is the author of Race and the Avant-Garde: Experimental and Asian American Poetry since 1965 (2009).