Southeast Asian American Studies Conference

Community Engagement, Research, & Policy in Action

July 27-29, 2017

University of Massachusetts Lowell
Center for Asian American Studies
Dear 2017 Southeast Asian American Studies Conference Participants,

We are excited to have you participate in the fifth convening of the Southeast Asian American Studies Conference. A lot has happened since the first Southeast Asians in the Diaspora conference in 2005 at UC Riverside. In the past twelve years, we have seen progress within our community as well as causes for concern. There is a great need to work with Southeast Asian American communities to highlight our issues, share our collective stories, and advocate for change.

This year’s theme of Community Engagement, Research, and Policy in Action is seen throughout the program. You will notice a jam-packed schedule that addresses educational, health, immigration, and community development issues. While we highlight the Southeast Asian American communities in New England, we have community organizers, artists, and scholars flying across the country from Honolulu, HI, to Oakland, CA, Minneapolis, MN, and Charlotte, NC, to join us here.

This year’s planning committee would like to acknowledge all the scholars, students, artists, policymakers, service providers, and community members who are about to share their collective knowledge, skills, and artistry with you. We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue, sharing of best practices, and continued collaboration. We will end on Saturday midday in order to give you all time to enjoy the Lowell Folk Festival and the New England area.

We also want to thank our local committee members, volunteers, and sponsors who helped put together this wonderful conference.

Enjoy your time here.

Sincerely,

Phitsamay S. Uy, Sue J. Kim, & Ivy K. Ho
On Behalf of the Conference Planning Committee

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Program At A Glance

Thursday, July 27
- 8:45 AM Plenary I: Bridging Policy & Research
- 10:45 AM Concurrent Session A
- 12:15 PM Lunch
- 1:30 PM Concurrent Session B
- 3:15 PM Concurrent Session C
- 5:00 PM Reception
- 6:00 PM Dinner
- 7:30 PM Featured Performance: Flying Orb Productions

Friday, July 28
- 9:00 AM Concurrent Session D
- 10:45 AM Plenary II: Southeast Asians in New England
- 12:30 PM Lunch
- 1:30 PM Concurrent Session E
- 3:15 PM Featured Performance: TeAda Productions
- 5:00 PM Cambodia Town Tour
- 6:00 PM Banquet @ Pailin City
- 8:00 PM Poetry Reading @ Pailin City

Saturday, July 29
- 9:00 AM Community Workshops
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 1:00 PM Closing Remarks

Film Showcase Schedule
All films in O'Leary 222 unless otherwise indicated.

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2017
- Session A: 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (3 films in one session)
  - Burmese Refugee
  - Phetmixay Means Fighter
  - Immigrant Stories
- Session B: 1:30-3 p.m.
  - Vientiane in Love
- Session C: 3:15-4:45 p.m.
  - Lost Child: Sayon's Journey

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2017
- Session D: 9-10:30 a.m.
  - Better Places: Hmong of Rhode Island A Generation Later
- Session E: 1:30–3 p.m. (2 concurrent films)
  - Bridging The Gap Of Dreams [O'Leary 478]
  - The End / Beginning: Cambodia*
  *Community Special Selection

Film Showcase Committee Chair: S. Steve Arounsack

Film Showcase Committee:
- Mr. Luis Alcazar, Independent Filmmaker & Founder of VideoVets (videovets.net)
- Dr. Steve Rousso-Schindler, CSU Long Beach
- Ms. Linda Uch, UMass Boston
Acknowledgements

Conference Coordinators
Phitsamay S. Uy, Education & Incoming CAAS Co-Director
Sue J. Kim, English & CAAS Co-Director
Ivy K. Ho, Psychology & CAAS Co-Director

Conference Assistants
Chrisna Khuon, UMass Lowell
Chummeng Soun, UMass Lowell & Angkor Dance Troupe

Center for Asian American Studies Conference Committee
Michael Tith, Office of University Advancement
Leland Ackerson, Public Health
George Chigas, Asian Studies
Adrian Cruz, Sociology
Khanh T. Dinh, Psychology
Robert Forrant, History
Ramraj Gautam, Nursing
Sandra Lim, English
Minjeong Kim, Education
Ardeth Thawnghmung, Political Science
Susan Thomson Tripathy, Sociology
Alan Williams, Music

Film Showcase Chair
S. Steve Arounsack, California State University, Stanislaus

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Christina Prum
Chris Romano
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Special Thanks
Jacky LeDoux, English
Alice da Silva, FAHSS
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Higgins & Ross Design
Carolyn Rolfe, Advancement
Keith Finch & Katharine Webster, University Relations
Minuteman Press of Lowell
Lauren Rojas, Kaitlin Donovan, & Thomas Clark, Hospitality & Events

FEATURED SPEAKERS

KATRINA DIZON MARIATEGUE

Katrina Dizon Mariategue currently serves as the Immigration Policy Manager for the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC). In this capacity, she works with community-based organizations and national advocates to uplift the narratives of family and community members directly impacted by mass incarceration, deportation, and criminalization, to congressional leaders and key administrative agencies in Washington, D.C. Previously, Dizon Mariateague worked for six years at the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) — the largest federation of labor unions in the country. In 2011, she was elected to serve as D.C. chapter president of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), the only national Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) union membership organization. In this capacity, she led the chapter’s local advocacy campaigns and organizing work around immigrant workers’ rights, coordinated civic engagement programs for the 2012 elections, and strengthened local networks through extensive coalition building efforts. She also served on APALA’s National Executive Board and co-chaired the organization’s Young Leaders Council.
Channapha Khamvongsa is founder and executive director of Legacies of War, an organization that seeks to address the problem of unexploded ordnance in Laos, to provide space for healing the wounds of war, and to create greater hope for a future of peace. The organization uses art, culture, education, and community organizing, especially among the Lao diaspora, to create healing and transformation out of the wreckage of war. Legacies has successfully advocated for an increase in U.S. funding for bomb clearance in Laos, from an annual average of $2M in 2008 to $30M in 2016. In September 2016, President Barack Obama acknowledged Khamvongsa’s advocacy efforts in Laos, where he became the first U.S. President to visit the country. Khamvongsa has written and spoken widely about the secret war in Laos and its aftermath and has appeared in the New York Times, Democracy Now!, CNN, ABC, PBS and CBS News. She was most recently featured in an interview with the team of Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown. She previously worked at the Ford Foundation and NEO Philanthropy on immigrant rights, civil society, civic engagement, capacity building, and transformational leadership. She has served on the Seattle Women's Commission, as well as on the boards of the Refugee Women's Alliance and the Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership (CAPAL). She was born in Vientiane, Laos, and came to the U.S. as a refugee at the age of seven. Channapha received her Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Public Administration from George Mason University. She received her Master’s Degree in Public Policy from Georgetown University.

Khanh T. Dinh, Ph.D., is Professor of Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Dinh's primary areas of academic interests are in clinical and community psychology. She is particularly interested in the effects of cultural changes and stress on the adaptation of immigrant individuals and families, including both health and mental health outcomes. Her research work has been published in various academic journals, such as American Journal of Community Psychology, Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology, Journal of Family Psychology, Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies, and Journal of Social and Personal Relationships. She is recipient of the NIH Health Disparities Service Award and NIMH National Research Service Award. She has served as consultant for the National Institute of Mental Health and Health Resources and Services Administration, and is currently a member of the Editorial Board of the Asian American Journal of Psychology.
Hai B. Pho, Ph.D., is Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of Massachusetts Lowell. Pho specializes in Southeast Asian politics, Vietnamese history and civilization, international relations, US foreign policy and refugee policy. He is a founding Board Member and Program Coordinator for the Indochinese Refugee Foundation, which played a central role in resettling refugees in Lowell. He has served on the Massachusetts Governor’s Advisory Council on Refugees (for former Governor Dukakis) and on the Diversity and Pluralism Taskforce for the University of Massachusetts President’s Office. His publications include “The Politics of Refugee Resettlement in Massachusetts” (1991) and “Lowell, Politics, and the Resettlement of Southeast Asian Refugees and Immigrants” (2007).

Cathy J. Schlund-Vials, Ph.D., is Professor of English and Director of the Asian and Asian American Studies Institute at the University of Connecticut. Her work is rooted in her personal history marked by immigration, migration, and diaspora, as a Cambodian American scholar. Her book, War, Genocide, and Justice: Cambodian American Memory Work (University of Minnesota Press, 2012) explores the remembrance work of 1.5-generation Cambodian American cultural producers through film, memoir, and music whose background lies in the narrative of war, genocide, and denied justice in Cambodia. Her numerous publications include “From the Mekong to the Merrimack and Back: The Transnational Terrains of Cambodian American Rap” (2016); “Re-Seeing Cambodia and Recollecting The "Nam: A Vertiginous Critique of the Military Sublime” (2016); and “"Evincing Cambodia’s Genocide: Juridical Belatedness, Historical Indictment, and Rithy Panh’s The Missing Picture” (2016). She currently serves as the President of the national Association for Asian American Studies.
Eric Tang, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the African and African Diaspora Studies Department and faculty member in the Center for Asian American Studies at the University of Texas, Austin. He also holds a courtesy appointment in the Department of Sociology and serves as a faculty fellow with both the Institute for Urban Policy Research & Analysis and the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. His first book, entitled *Unsettled: Cambodian Refugees in the NYC Hyperghetto* (Temple University Press, 2015), is an ethnographic account of refugee life in some of New York City’s most impoverished and socially marginalized neighborhoods. A former community organizer, Tang has published several articles on race and urban social movements, including award-winning writing on post-Katrina New Orleans. His current research focuses on the past and present of racial segregation in Austin, Texas, paying particular attention to the gentrification-driven displacements of the city’s longstanding African American residents. He co-authored the report “Outlier: The Case of Austin’s Declining African American population,” which revealed that Austin was the only major growing city in the United States to experience an absolute numerical decline in African Americans.

Richard T. Chu, Ph.D., is Five-College Associate Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He is the author of “Chinese and Chinese Mestizos of Manila: Family, Identity, and Culture 1860s–1930s” (2010; 2012) and “Chinese Merchants of Binondo during the Late Nineteenth Century” (2010). Apart from his work on the Chinese diaspora in the Philippines, he has also published a demographic study of the Filipinos/Filipino Americans in Boston/Massachusetts. In Spring 2017, he taught a course on Asian/Pacific/American history with a civic engagement component, and is currently part of a team of UMass Amherst professors writing up a sociological report on the Bhutanese, Filipino, and Vietnamese communities in Springfield and Western Massachusetts. He teaches courses on the Chinese diaspora, Philippines, U.S. empire in the Pacific, and Asian/Pacific/America.
Phitsamay Sychitkokhong Uy, Ed.D., is Assistant Professor in the College of Education at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. Her research focuses on immigrant students, particularly Southeast Asian educational experiences and parent/community engagement. She is a Core Faculty for the Center for Asian American Studies at UMass Lowell, where she will start her tenure as CAAS Co-Director in Fall 2017. She has served on the editorial boards of *Harvard Educational Review, Journal of Southeast Asian American Education and Advancement,* and *the Journal of Lao Studies.* Uy has been involved in various community boards of directors including Southeast Asia Resource Action Center Center, Asian American Resource Workshop, Chea Uy Trust Fund, Institute of Asian American Studies at University of Massachusetts Boston, Legacies of War National Steering Committee, and the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund.

Sarath Suong is a co-founder and Executive Director of Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM). Born in the Thai refugee camp Khao I Dang, Suong and his family fled Cambodia during the civil war and immigrated to his hometown of Revere, Massachusetts. He moved to Providence, Rhode Island, in 1998 to attend Brown University, majoring in Ethnic Studies with a specific focus on Southeast Asian American immigration and resistance. To cope with the violence, pain, and injustices facing Southeast Asians, he became a community organizer, centered around the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality.
Elected to the Crescenta Valley Town Council in November 2015 to a 3-year term, encompassing more than 20,000 residents in unincorporated Los Angeles County, CA, and currently serving as its Corresponding Secretary, Sophal Ear, Ph.D., is a tenured Associate Professor of Diplomacy & World Affairs at Occidental College in Los Angeles where he lectures on political economy, security, development, and Asia. He has consulted for the World Bank, was Assistant Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Programme in East Timor, and Advisor to Cambodia’s first private equity fund Leopard Capital.

A TED Fellow, Fulbright Specialist, Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum, he sits on the board of the Nathan Cummings Foundation, Refugees International, Partners for Development, International Public Management Network, the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, the Southeast Asia Development Program, and the Center for Khmer Studies. He is the author of *Aid Dependence in Cambodia: How Foreign Assistance Undermines Democracy* (Columbia University Press, 2013) and co-author of *The Hungry Dragon: How China’s Resources Quest is Reshaping the World* (Routledge, 2013). He wrote and narrated the award-winning documentary film “The End/Beginning: Cambodia” (2011) based on his 2009 TED Talk: “Escaping the Khmer Rouge” and has appeared in four other documentaries.

A graduate of Princeton and Berkeley, he moved to the United States from France as a Cambodian refugee at the age of 10.

Bao Phi will be reading from his second collection of poems, *Thousand Star Hotel*, published July 5, 2017, by Coffee House Press. Phi is a two-time Minnesota Grand Slam champion and a National Poetry Slam finalist, who has appeared on HBO Presents Russell Simmons Def Poetry and was featured in the live performances and taping of the blockbuster diasporic Vietnamese variety show Paris By Night 114: Tôi Là Người Việt Nam. His poems and essays are widely published in numerous publications including *Screaming Monkeys, Spoken Word Revolution Redux*, and *Best American Poetry* (2006). He has performed in venues and schools across the country, from the Nuyorican Poets Café to the University of California, Berkeley.

His first collection of poetry, *Sông I Sing* (2011), is taught in classrooms across the United States and enjoyed rave reviews, including the *New York Times*, which stated “In this song of his very American self, every poem Mr. Phi writes rhymes with the truth.” In 2012, the *Star Tribune’s* inaugural Best of Minnesota issue named Bao Phi as Best Spoken Word Artist.

Currently he continues to perform across the country, remains active as an Asian American community organizer, and is the Program Director of the Loft, where he manages various programs serving writers as well as creates and operates programs for artists and audiences of color. His first children’s book, *A Different Pond*, illustrated by Thi Bui, will be published by Capstone Press in August of 2017.
PEUO
TUY

Peuo Tuy is a spoken word poet, writer, motivational speaker, and workshop leader. Her poetry collection, *Khmer Girl*, is inspired by the traumas of her life, including escaping the killing fields of her native Cambodia and enduring the inequities of life as an immigrant in the United States.

Peuo’s spoken word performances have been featured in video projects, including “Futurographies: Cambodia-USA-France,” a multi-media exhibition traveling to Cambodia and France in 2016. She was one of the original members of Urbintel’s HerStory cast, whose performances were filmed and performed live at East Coast venues from Massachusetts to North Carolina. She has appeared at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, Bowery Poetry Club, Harlem Book Fair, and the New York Foundation for the Arts as well as various junior high schools and high schools. For people of all ages, she conducts writing and self-empowerment workshops that focus on peace, compassion, and overcoming adversity in difficult times.

On behalf of the Asian community, Peuo also has worked as a community organizer for CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities/Mekong NYC in New York and for the School of Unity and Liberation (SOUL) in California, where she helped Southeast Asians and other immigrants gain equal rights in the public welfare system. She is one of the founding members of the new Cambodian American Literary Arts Association (CALAA).

BRYAN
THAO
WORRA

Bryan Thao Worra is the president of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Poetry Association, a 40-year old international literary organization celebrating the poetry of the imaginative and the fantastic. A Lao American writer, he holds over 20 awards for his writing and community leadership including an NEA Fellowship in Literature, and was a Cultural Olympian representing Laos during the 2012 London Summer Games. In 2009 he received an Asian Pacific American Leadership Award from the governor’s Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans.

He also holds a 2011 Youth Media Innovation Award from the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center and won the 2014 Elgin Award for Book of the Year from the Science Fiction and Fantasy Poetry Association. He has presented at the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Loft Literary Center, Intermedia Arts, Kearny Street Workshop, the Institute for Contemporary Art, among many others, and recently as a Visiting Artist with University of Merced Center for the Humanities. He is the first Lao writer to be professional member of the Horror Writers Association and trained several years with Asian Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy on social justice during their National Gender Equity Campaign.

One of the co-founders of the National Lao American Writers Summit, he is the author of 6 books, . In his 26 years as an artist, this is his very first presentation in Massachusetts. This year also marks the 10th anniversary of his first full-length book of poetry, *On The Other Side Of The Eye*. You can visit his website at: http://thaoworra.blogspot.com.
In 1969, President Nixon and Henry Kissinger embarked on a secret bombing campaign in Cambodia and Laos. In the process of trying to drive out the Viet Cong, they killed thousands of civilians and ultimately destabilized Cambodia, opening the door for the Khmer Rouge takeover. Many of Flying Orb’s films and plays performed by Southeast Asian/Americans are about the residual effects of those secret bombing missions. Resident Alien, a new Flying Orb production, brings us full circle with Cambodian/Americans being uprooted from their families and deported back to Cambodia.

Flying Orb Productions was founded in 2005 by James Higgins and two principal dancers from the Angkor Dance Troupe, Monica Veth and Sophy Leng. Based in Lowell, Massachusetts, home to the 2nd largest Cambodian/American community in the country, Flying Orb’s films and theater work deal with the legacy of America’s war in Southeast Asia. From the beginning our motto has been “out of the darkness, into the light.”

TeAda Productions is a nomadic theater of color rooted in the stories of immigrants and refugees. We are committed to healing and honoring the lives of the displaced, exploited and overlooked. Our artistic process starts and ends with conscious listening, community building, and creative courage. Through theater workshops and performances, TeAda offers acts of service that are transformative and impactful. TeAda co-hosted the 3rd & 5th National Asian American Theater Festival in L.A. and the 2016 CAATA/CONFEST at OSF. TeAda has been working with refugee communities for over a decade through “Refugee Nation,” the 1st nationally touring play about the Laotian American Experience.

Thanks in large part to the support of Legacies of War and Phitsamay Uy, Refugee Nation premiered over a decade ago at the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center. Co-creators Leilani and Ova are excited to be returning to MA to share the performance with the community in Lowell.
Angkor Dance Troupe was founded in 1986 by Mr. Tim Chan Thou, Angkor’s Program Director, together with a small group of dancers who learned Cambodian dance in the refugee camps along the Thai-Cambodian border. The organization has two driving objectives: 1) to provide positive cultural, recreational, and educational opportunities for inner-city youth and; and 2) to preserve, educate and innovate Cambodian performing arts. These combine to offer Cambodian youth in Lowell a positive outlet to learn, exercise, and express themselves in a non-violent, community-building environment.

As the heart of the Cambodian Community, the Angkor Dance Troupe is nationally recognized as one of the most accomplished and experienced U.S.-based Cambodian traditional arts organizations. Angkor Dance Troupe has performed at the White House, Boston’s First Night, Philadelphia’s All-America City Competition, and the Massachusetts State House.

Just in the last year, Angkor Dance Troupe educated 200 students in Cambodian folk and classical dance, performed over 40 shows across the Northeast, and engaged over 20,000 people across the Northeast.
Concurrent Session A

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM
[McGauvran 312]

Moderator: Yi-Chun Tricia Lin, Southern Connecticut State University

Nancy Xiong, George Mason University
Khoi Nguyen, George Mason University
Mai H. Vang, UMass Boston

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM
[O'Leary 478]

A2: The Cultural Production of Transnational Southeast Asian Space
Chair: Timothy K. August, SUNY, Stony Brook

Fiona Ngô, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, “The Perfectible Refugee”
Timothy K. August, SUNY, Stony Brook, “Unearthing ‘Asian America’ Through Refugee Space”
Michele Janette, Kansas State University, “Lily Hoang’s A Bestiary as Textual Swarm”
S. Steve Arounsack, California State University, Stanislaus, “Cultural Fulcrum: the Resurgence of Modern Lao Music and Film”
Discussant: Mariam B. Lam, University of California Riverside

A3: Lowell’s Cambodian American Communities
Chair: George Chigas, UMass Lowell

James Ostis, Lowell Heritage Partnership, “Angkor Dance Troupe and Lowell’s Creative Economy”
Pere Pen, UMass Lowell, “Trairatanaram Temple”
Molyka Tieng, Lowell Community Health Center, “The History of Metta Health Care”

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM
[McGauvran 313]


Loan Hoang, University of California, Los Angeles
Uyen Hoang, University of California, Los Angeles

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM
[O'Leary 313]

A5: Paying it Forward: Connecting Japanese American Internees & Southeast Asian Students through the NSRC Fund
Chair: Phitsamay S. Uy, UMass Lowell

Paul Watanabe, UMass Boston
Yutaka Kobayashi, Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund
Rattana Yeang, Oakland School District

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM
[O'Leary 517]
10:45 AM – 12:15 PM
A6 (FILM SHOWCASE): 3 Short Films
Moderator: S. Steve Arounsack, CSU Stanislaus

10:45 – 11:10 a.m. **Burmese Refugee**

Description: San Aung, a refugee from Burma, struggles to establish a new life in America after spending years in a Southeast Asian Refugee camp.

11:10 – 11:40 a.m. **Phetmixay Means Fighter**

Rita Phetmixay, UCLA Ethnocommunications Center

Description: *Phetmixay Means Fighter* is a short documentary film that seeks to explore Lao American refugee resiliency narratives through the life of the filmmaker’s father, Phoutone Phetmixay.

11:40am-12:00pm **Immigrant Stories**

Saengmany Ratsabout, UMinnesota Immigration History Research Center

Description: Immigrant Stories is a research and archiving project run by the Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) at the University of Minnesota. Immigrant Stories helps immigrants, refugees, and their family members create digital stories: brief videos with images, text, and audio about a personal experience.

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM
Lunch

Concurrent Session B

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
B1: The Minnesota 8: Organizing Against Deportation
Chair: Vichet Chhuon, University of Minnesota

- Jenny Srey, #ReleaseMN8
- Ched Nin, #ReleaseMN8
- Montha Chum, #ReleaseMN8
- Socheat Chum, #ReleaseMN8
- Katrina Dizon Mariategue, SEARAC
- Vichet Chhuon, University of Minnesota
- https://releasemn8.tumblr.com/

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
B2: Diasporic Southeast Asians in Law, Media, and the Streets
Chair: Mehmed Ali, UMass Lowell

- Pauline Nguyen, University of California, Irvine, “Nguyen Thi Ve, The First Female Judge of Vietnam: How Education, War, and Law Shaped Her Life”
- Jonathan David Agena, University of California, Irvine, “Asian American Community and Diversity Dilemmas in Superhero Film/Television”
B3: Contemporary Vietnamese American Cultural Production
Chairs: Nina Ha, Bowling Green State University

Nina Ha, Bowling Green State University, “Exploring the Role of Vietnamese American Female Protagonists in Higher Education through Literature”

Catherine H. Nguyen, University of California, Los Angeles, “The Dis(-)ease of Otherness: Bitter in the Mouth and Discourses of Alterity”

Kim Tran, University of California, Los Angeles, “Hát Bội Classical Opera Performance as Technology of Memory in the Vietnamese

B4: WORKSHOP: Invisible Voices & Narratives: The Case of Little Laos on the Prairie and Diaspora Blogging
Chanida Phaengdara Potter, The SEAD Project (Southeast Asian Diaspora)

Workshop Description: At the intersection of Southeast Asian American diaspora experiences and social justice, taking ownership of our stories matter even more in this current era. Creative storytelling has long been used as an empowering art form in acknowledging our experiences, sharing forgotten histories, driving community organizing and strengthening a previously limited and almost non-existent narrative. In this interactive multimedia workshop, using case studies from Little Laos on the Prairie and other related blogs, participants will tap into their own experiences and memories as writing prompts, learn the nuts and bolts of compelling storytelling, how to build a readership base through social media amplification, know the do's and don’ts in the blogosphere and end with a group Q&A. Participants will leave the workshop equipped with a useful mini-storytelling toolkit and a blog post-ready story to share.

B5: SEA Barriers & Access to Health Care
Chair: Ivy K. Ho, UMass Lowell

Molyka Tieng, Lowell Community Health Center, “Addressing Barriers to Health Care”

Niem Nay-Kret, Lowell Community Health Center, “Understanding Traditional Health Practices vs. Western Practices”

Ivy K. Ho, UMass Lowell, “Asian American Health Research Hub”

B6 (FILM SHOWCASE):
Vientane in Love
Description: Vientane in Love is the first omnibus Lao film delving into different aspects of love as shown through five separate stories.

Concurrent Session C

3:15 PM – 4:45 PM
C1: WORKSHOP: Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM): Organizing Against Deportation and For Police Accountability

Sarth Suong, PrYSM
PrYSM Youth Organizers

Workshop Description: This workshop will discuss Providence Youth Student Movement’s Southeast Asian youth leaders’ policy and community organizing work against police violence in Rhode Island as part of our larger vision for abolition.
C2: U-Story of Asian Pacific Century
Chair: Meiling Wu, California State University East Bay

Phitsamay Sychitkokhong Uy, UMass Lowell
Annie Hoang, California State University East Bay
Cindy Lieu, California State University East Bay
Danvy Le, California State University East Bay
My Lan Huynh, California State University East Bay

C3: Vietnamese Diasporas: Activism & Entrepreneurship
Chair: Jana Lipman, Tulane University

Jana Lipman, Tulane University, "Vietnamese Diasporic Activism: Hong Kong, Humanitarianism and Human Rights, 1989-1997"
Tony Tran, University of Wisconsin-Madison, "Diversifying Diasporas: Exploring Vietnamese Canadian Histories in Vancouver"
Lena Tran, Evergreen Valley College, "National Cultural and Leadership Practices: Vietnamese-American Entrepreneurs Perspectives"

C4: New Refugee Communities
Chair: Robert Forrant, UMass Lowell

Kathryn Stam, SUNY Polytechnic, "Refugees Starting Over in Utica, NY"
Mitra Das, UMass Lowell, ""Down the Memory Lane: The New Refugees in Lowell"
James Aung, SayDaNar Community Development Center, "Challenges that Refugees Face to Become Self-Sufficient"

C5: Bhutanese Refugees and the Bhutanese American Community

Tilak Niroula, Bhutanese Community of New Hampshire, "Post-resettlement: Mental Health, Success Stories, and the Future of Bhutanese Diaspora"

C6 (FILM SHOWCASE)

Lost Child: Sayon’s Journey
Sopheap Theam, Filmmaker
Janet Gardner, Gardner Documentary Group
Description: *Lost Child: Sayon’s Journey* explores the lasting journey of the Cambodian Genocide that claimed an estimated 1.7 million people through the eyes of a former Khmer Rouge child soldier.

**Tour: CMAA**

Please join us for a visit to the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association.

Meet in O’Leary Lobby for ride share.

CMAA Address: 465 School Street, Lowell, MA

**Mentoring / Networking Reception**

Please join us for a reception and networking reception to meet your fellow conference attendees. Light refreshments served.

**Dinner**

[O’Leary Mezzanine]

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

[O’Leary Lobby]

[McGauvran Dining]

**Featured Performance**

7:30 PM

*[Durgin Concert Hall]*

**Decade:**

A Flying Orb Retrospective

+ Resident Alien

*(film & performance art)*

*Flying Orb Productions*

In 1969, President Nixon and Henry Kissinger embarked on a secret bombing campaign in Cambodia and Laos. In the process of trying to drive out the Viet Cong, they killed thousands of civilians and ultimately destabilized Cambodia, opening the door for the Khmer Rouge takeover. Many of Flying Orb’s films and plays performed by Southeast Asian / Americans are about the residual effects of those secret bombing missions. Resident Alien, a new Flying Orb production, brings us full circle with Cambodian / Americans being uprooted from their families and deported back to Cambodia.

*Suggested donation: $10. Tickets included with conference registration.*

Address: Durgin Concert Hall (35 Wilder Street, Lowell, MA)
FRIDAY, JULY 28

7:00 AM – 9:00 AM
McGauvran Dining

**Breakfast**

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
O’Leary Lobby

**Registration Desk Open**

** Concurrent Session D **

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
McGauvran 313

D1: Reconsidering Southeast Asian Refugees and Immigrants in the Mill City

Lan Pho, UMass Lowell
Sylvia Cowan, Lesley University
Jeffrey Gerson, UMass Lowell

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
O’Leary 517

D2: SEA Education: Identities, Theories, & Opportunities

Chair: Rex Yin, Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia

Xiaoxia A. Newton, UMass Lowell, “Theory Into Practice: Empowerment Evaluation of a Full Service Community School Initiative at an Alternative High School Serving Primarily Diverse Students”

Stacey J. Lee, Linda Marie Pheng, Choua Xiong, & Mai Neng Vang, “‘Why do y’all like Black music if you don’t like Black people?: Building Southeast and Black Solidarity” (educators & youth focused)

Porntip Israsena Twishime, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, “Belonging, the Body and Dis/orientation: Challenges of a Heritage-Seeker”

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
O’Leary 478

D3: Southeast Asian Art & Politics

Chair: Bryan Thao Worra

Bryan Thao Worra, Science Fiction & Poetry Association, “SEA Speculative Art & Social Justice”

Catzie Vilayphonh, Lao American Writers Summit, “Art as Activism”

Tooch Van, Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, “A Journey of an Immigrant from Phnom Penh to Lowell”

Vichet Chum, “Cambodian American Stories in the Theatre”

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
O’Leary 485

D4: Collecting and Archiving Public Histories: The Politics of Institutionalizing and Sustaining Memories

Chair: Cathy Schlund-Vials, University of Connecticut

Thuy Vo Dang, Southeast Asian Archive, University of California, Irvine Libraries
Tram Le, University of California, Irvine
Linda Trinh Vo, University of California, Irvine

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
O’Leary 485

D5: A Race Against Time: A Journey to Cambodia to Capture the Last Movements of Master Dancers

Chummeng Soun, Angkor Dance Group, Flying Orb Productions, UMass Lowell
Phousita Huy, Angkor Dance Troupe
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
D6: Entrepreneurship, Small Businesses & Community Engagement
Enterprise Bank
Joey Banh, EforAll

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
D7 (FILM SHOWCASE)
Better Places: The Hmong of Rhode Island a Generation Later
Producer: Peter O’Neill, Producer
Description: This sequel to The Best Place to Live (1981) filmed four of the original families and updated their situations through intimate portraits of their lives and families.

10:45 AM – 12:30 PM
Plenary 2: Southeast Asians in New England
Moderator: Ivy K. Ho, UMass Lowell
Hai Pho, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, UMass Lowell
Cathy Schlund-Vials, Professor of English and Director Asian & Asian American Studies, UConn
Eric Tang, Assistant Professor African & African Diasporices Studies & Asian American Studies, UTexas-Austin
Richard Chu, Five-College Associate Professor of History, UMass Amherst
Phitsamay Uy, Assistant Professor of Education, UMass Lowell
Sarath Suong, Executive Director, PrYSM

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM
Lunch

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
Concurrent Session E
E1: Rising SEAS: Challenges and Strategies for Growth as Southeast Asian Writers
Chair: Sokunthary Svay
Sokunthary Svay, Khmer writer (poetry and nonfiction) and musician
Peuo Tuy, Cambodian American Literary Arts Association
Bunkuong Tuon, Union College

Bryan Thao Worra, Science Fiction Poetry Association

Catzie Vilayphonh, Lao American Writer Summit

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM [O'Leary 517] E2: Improving Access, Retention, and Graduation of Southeast Asian American College Students through AANAPISI Funded Programs and Services
Chair: Patricia A. Neilson, University of Massachusetts Boston

Virak Uy, Middlesex Community College

Maria Kathleen Puente, Bunker Hill Community College

Patricia A. Neilson, University of Massachusetts Boston

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM [McGauvran 312] E3: Theories of Southeast Asian/American Identities
Chair: Rex Yin, Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia

Yvonne Y. Kwan, Dartmouth College, “Logic and Poetics of Queer Diaspora: Trauma and the Optics of Affect”

Rachelle Jereza, Binghamton University, “Constructing Filipino Identity: A Narrative Analysis”

Carolyn Wong, University of Massachusetts Boston, “Reconstructing Hmong Identity Narratives of Freedom”

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM [O'Leary 500M] E4: Hmong American Studies
Chair: Soua Xiong, San Diego State University & Claremont Graduate University


Chia Xong & Kau Vue, “An Analysis of Studies on Hmong Political Participation”

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM [O'Leary 478] E5 (FILM SHOWCASE)
Bridging the Gap of Dreams
Description: Bridging The Gap Of Dreams captures Lao Americans who overcame their odds and barriers. An intimate personal accomplishment for their personal struggles and challenges in order to live out and pursue their successful American dreams.

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM [O'Leary 222] E6 (SPECIAL COMMUNITY SELECTION FILM)
The End/Beginning: Cambodia
Writer: Sophal Ear, Occidental College

Description: Sophal Ear’s compelling story of his family’s harrowing escape from Cambodia under the rule of the Khmer Rouge.
Featured Speaker
From Cambodian Refugee to Elected Town Council Member With A Few Stops in Between: An Unexpected Journey
Sophal Ear, Occidental College & Crescenta Valley Town Council Member

Featured Performance
Refugee Nation
TeAda Productions
A mother lives alone in the darkness. A father struggles to forget a lost war. A son battles in the streets of urban America. A daughter searches for answers in her community. Refugee Nation is about a young generation struggling to understand their history and the silence of an elder generation still healing from the traumas of war. More than just a telling of Laotian American history, this three-person performance eloquently touches upon issues relating to the refugee experience, assimilation, generation gap, and mental health using drama, film, music, and audience interaction, and personalizes these issues through a genuine Laotian American perspective. The result is a performance that not only brings to light the hidden stories of Laotian Americans around the U.S., but one that is able to unite people from all types of backgrounds, ethnicities, and histories by relaying the ideas of change, loss, struggle, healing, and the unrelenting strength of the human spirit.

Tour
Please join us for a brief tour through Cambodia Town
Meet in O’Leary Lobby to board bus for tour & banquet

Banquet
Emcee: Michael Tith, UMass Lowell
Remarks by Dr. Hai B. Pho, UMass Lowell Professor Emeritus & Founding Board Member & Program Coordinator for the Indochinese Refugee Foundation
Performance by Angkor Dance Troupe
Location: Pailin City, 6 Branch Street, Lowell, MA

Poetry Reading
Bao Phi, author of Thousand Star Hotel and Sông I Sing
Peuo Tuy, author of Khmer Girl
Bryan Thao Worra, author of On the Other Side of the Eye
Breakfast

Community Workshops

Immigrant Stories: Community Engagement through Digital Storytelling

This workshop - led by Saengmany Ratsabout, Program Coordinator of the UMinnesota Immigration History Research Center - will introduce new tools for engaging immigrant and refugee individuals and communities.

Participants will learn about the IHRC’s Immigrant Stories digital storytelling and archiving project. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Immigrant Stories helps recent immigrants and refugees create digital stories: brief videos with images, text, and audio about a personal experience. The IHRC shares and preserves these digital stories for future generations through the IHRC Archives, the Minnesota Digital Library, and the Digital Public Library of America. There are more than 250 digital stories in the Immigrant Stories Collection. Students, educators, and community members can use the just-launched story-making website: immigrantstories.umn.edu and related curricula to make and share their own stories. Teachers can also access new “Learning about Immigration” classroom curriculum that uses the IHRC’s Immigrant Stories to engage students (grades 8-Adult) in defining immigration, understanding the U.S. immigration system, exploring the experiences of refugees, and examining how immigrants and their children navigate culture and identity.

Where We Come From: Writing Workshop

Presented by the Cambodian American Literary Arts Association (CALAA)

Writing workshops will explore the roles of our cultural heritage, whether Khmer/Cambodian or other, and its relation to personal identity. Workshops will vary by instructor, using different writing exercises.

Location: Middlesex Community College, 50 Kearney Square, Federal Building Assembly Room, Lowell, MA 01852

Know Your Rights: Organizing Against Deportation

As the Trump Administration intensifies its attacks on immigrants and refugees, impacted individuals and their families are fighting back. Join this gathering of community members, allies, and advocates who are working to dismantle this Administration’s mass deportation machine through community organizing, legal strategy and policy advocacy. Attorneys and policy experts will provide a Know Your Rights Training to support individuals in fear of deportation, a brief policy and political analysis of what’s at stake for Southeast Asian Americans across the country, as well as other resources. Impacted individuals and community members and those organizing against deportation are encouraged to attend, participate, and engage in a strategy discussion to address the issues of detention and deportation.

Workshop will be led by Katrina Dizon Mariategue, Immigration Policy Manager, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC), and Eileen Morrison, a Boston attorney.
Community Engagement: Telling & Collecting Stories

This workshop will include how to address concerns when reaching into a community with a history of trauma. The workshop will cover how to conduct interviews, how to appropriately market interview projects to the community, and how to get involved/partner with institutions for such projects. Moving forward, the urgency in collecting biographical stories and interviews of the elders in the communities will become more and more urgent. This workshop would like to highlight less intimidating parts of the process to encourage more people, of all ages, to answer the call to collect and culturally preserve as many identities as we can.

Chrisna Khuon, UMass Lowell, will be lead this workshop on engaging the community with projects that involve interviews with the Southeast Asian community, particularly the Cambodian community that has had a history of war, genocide, and cultural loss. She has experience working with the Center for Asian American Studies and Southeast Asian Digital Archive at UMass Lowell.
The 2017 Southeast Asian American Studies Conference was made possible by the generous support of many cosponsors and partners.

Drs. Shin and M. Kim Oh
The Indochinese Refugee Fund
University of Minnesota Immigration History Research Center
University of Minnesota Department of Curriculum and Instruction
The National Association for the Education and Advancement of Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese Americans (NAFEA)
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
Angkor Dance Troupe
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell
Cambodian American Literary Arts Association (CALAA)
Program for Asian American Student Advancement at Middlesex Community College
SayDaNar Community Development Center
University of Connecticut Asian & Asian American Studies Institute
#ReleaseMN8

Nancy Donahue Endowed Professor in the Arts
College of Fine Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences
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Asian Studies Program
Center for Community Research & Engagement
Center for Population Health
Center for Women & Work
College of Education
College of Health Sciences

Digital Media Program
English Department
History Department
Labor Education Program
Labor Studies
Office of Community Relations
Peace & Conflict Studies Program
Political Science Department
Public Health Department
Sociology Department
University Professor Robert Forrant
Mai Nguyen

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