

Intersections and Relations:

The 5th International Conference on Asian American and Asian British Literary
and Cultural Studies

June 9-10, 2020

IEAS, Academia Sinica

Taipei, Taiwan

General Statement

Since its inception in the late 1960s, Asian American studies has not only grown geographically and demographically, extending beyond the American shores and Pacific islands to the Arab world and West Asia, but also evolved into an interdisciplinary field that now engages ecocriticism, medical humanities, as well as critiques of racial capitalism, urbanism, and settler colonialism, besides other forms of injustice framed by the regimes of race, class, gender, sexuality, and empire. We are now in an era of multiple relations and intersections that link Asian American studies to other sites of struggles both domestic and overseas—the fight for GLBT rights, indigenous struggles for sovereignty, the Black Lives Matter movement, the anti-deportation campaign, the anti-US base movement, and perhaps also the recent protests in Hong Kong that have exceeded the city-state—through which the field is being reconstituted in diverse, sometimes even conflicting, trajectories of biopower, necropower, and geopolitics. Similarly, as Brexit becomes a proper noun and an ongoing process, it seems that anti-ethnic discrimination is also on the rise and demands a rearticulation of race, empire, religion, and what Paul Gilroy once called “postimperial melancholy.” In a way, the fight today is increasingly less about the struggle over identity, be it cultural or political, but the continuing and persistent legal, social, and technological violences of exclusion and inequality that set us apart from one another. The challenge then lies in how to rejuvenate and understand the ties we may have with one another across space and time, border and citizenship, regions and oceans, and how to contest the regimes of separation to retake the freedom inalienable to us all.

It is with these thoughts in mind that we plan this conference around the themes of intersectionality and relationality, to extend and deepen a form of “relational comparison” and “transregional critique” beyond geographical and disciplinary divides, and to reconsider the many intersections of Asian American studies and

other fields: studies of Asians in Britain and Europe, Afro-Asian linkage past and present, Sinophone studies, settler colonial critique, as well as the critical legal studies of and medical humanities on race, class, gender, and the environment. We hope this conference will not only rekindle the internationalist spirit in the inception of Asian American studies but moreover explore and unveil different methodologies for more grounded interdisciplinary work in critical humanities to come.

Submission Guidelines

Please send your abstract, along with a brief biographical note within 100 words by December 31, 2019 to intersectionsandrelations@gmail.com. If you have any question about this, please direct them to Andy Wang: wchimin@hotmail.com.

This conference welcomes both individual papers and panel proposals (an ideal panel proposal should include three paper abstracts and a brief rationale of the panel). English is the working language of the conference.