TRANSPACIFIC FEMINISMS

Asian/American Studies Across Empires and Oceans

INVITED SPEAKERS

Neferti Tadiar, Barnard College, Columbia University
Lingzhen Wang, Brown University
Sunny Xiang, Yale University

Tuesday, June 15 to Wednesday, June 16

Institute of European and American Studies
Academia Sinica
Taipei, Taiwan

The Pacific comprises an oceanic world of small island nations and archipelagic states, as well as the jointly shared coastline of the world's largest continental and military powers. A site of multiple empires in the twentieth century, it continues to be an area of outsized geopolitical significance in the twenty-first century, with the decline of Pax Americana and the corresponding escalation of great power competition among China, Russia, and the United States.

Given these exigencies, we look to transpacific feminism as a framework and method for contending with histories of colonization and labor extraction, the militarized production of gendered and racialized bodies, and the ways in which state, corporate and religious actors have instrumentalized women's labor, reproduction, and bodies across the region. How have theorists, artists, state and non-state actors, and activists working on the lands and waterways in and around the Pacific taken up these entangled concerns?

This two-day conference brings together scholars of the humanities and the social sciences to address these questions as they have manifested historically and in our present moment, and also as they intersect with the founding project of Asian American studies as a critique of empire in its many forms (Daryl J. Maeda, 2009; Colleen Lye, 2014). We invite papers that engage with feminism as a transnational, insurgent praxis (Chandra Mohanty, 2025), while also bearing in mind critiques of how gender and sexuality have been instrumentalized as tools of imperial legitimation (Jasbir Puar, 2007; Mire Koikari, 2008).

We are interested in scholarship that takes seriously the state-led and party-affiliated feminist formations that contested US Cold War hegemony – including Soviet, Chinese, and Vietnamese traditions – as generative feminist archives in their own right, following recent work that has recovered these histories from the disapprobation of Cold War liberal feminism and post-Cold War amnesia (Judy Wu, 2013; Wang Zheng, 2016; Lingzhen Wang, 2020). At the same time, we take seriously the critique that transpacific studies has too often flown over Oceania while invoking the Pacific (Lisa Kahaleole Hall, 2015) and we welcome scholarship that engages with indigenous feminist epistemologies in the Pacific (Celia Bardwell-Jones, Joyce Pualani Warren and Stephanie

Nohelani Teves, 2023) as well as the ways that non-indigenous writers have critically engaged with them (Serena Chou, 2014). We seek papers that address environmental and social reproductive histories, including the toxic afterlives of militarization (Sunny Xiang, 2022) and the gendered forms of life-making and disposability that these have resulted in (Neferti Tadiar, 2022). We also invite papers that explore alternate geographies rooted in the Pacific, such as liminal island chains (Andy Wang, 2021) and economic formations between transpacific states and the Global South (Christopher Fan, 2017; Jiwoon Baik, 2019) from feminist perspectives.

Our aim is to bring together scholarship that is often funneled into separate disciplinary and geographic silos – Asian American studies, Asian Studies, Pacific Islander studies, and Cold War studies – under a shared analytic that treats the Pacific as one layered and contested feminist archive. We welcome papers from scholars in the humanities and the social sciences, as well as from activists and organizers.

Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Oceanic and indigenous feminisms
- State feminist formations
- Cultural production and aesthetic form as sites of feminist praxis
- Labor and economic migration across the Pacific and its adjoining oceans
- Historical and ongoing struggles relating to healthcare, education, and food
- Social reproduction and gendered forms of life-making
- Technologies of security and control, including older forms (nuclear, chemical) and newer ones (AI, algorithmic surveillance)

We will not be able to cover lodging or airfare for conference attendees, but a block of accommodations will be reserved for attendees on the Academia Sinica campus.

Please send us an abstract of 300 words and a short biography of 150 words via Google form. The conference website can be accessed here. Questions about the conference may be directed to Amanda Su and Yihan Huang at transpacificfeminisms@gmail.com.

The deadline for submissions is **January 31, 2027.** Acceptances will be sent out in **February 2027.**