

DENISE KHOR

Associate Professor of Asian American studies and visual studies

Jointly appointed in Cultures, Societies and Global Studies (CSSH) and Art + Design (CAMD)
Affiliated with History; Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies; and Communication and Screen Studies

Northeastern University

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Academic Positions

2022-present Associate Professor, CSGS and Art + Design Departments, Northeastern University

2022-present Associate Director, Asian American Studies, Northeastern University

2021-2022 Associate Professor, American Studies Dept, University of Massachusetts Boston

2014-2022 Assistant Professor, American Studies Dept, University of Massachusetts Boston

Education

2008 Doctor of Philosophy, Ethnic Studies, University of California, San Diego

1999 Bachelor of Arts (with honors), English and Women's and Gender Studies, University of Florida

Books

"The Invisible Hand: A History of Asian Americans in the U.S. Animation Industry" (manuscript in progress)

Transpacific Convergences: Race, Migration, and Japanese American Film Culture before World War II
(University of North Carolina Press, 2022)

*Choice 2023 Outstanding Academic Title

*Featured in *Forward* section of *Journal of Transnational American Studies* vol. 13 issue 2 (2022)

*Reviewed in *Japanese Studies* (October 2022); *Western Historical Quarterly* (January 2023); *Choice Review* (June 2023); *Southern California Quarterly* (Fall 2023); *Diplomatic History* (January 2024); *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies* (Winter 2024)

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

"Reframing Asian American Documentary Media," *The Oxford Handbook of American Documentary*, ed. Patricia Aufderheide and Joshua Glick (forthcoming)

"Beyond Home Movies: Amateur 16mm Filmmaking, Camera Clubs, and Japanese Americans," *Sixteen at One Hundred*, ed. Gregory Waller and Haidee Wasson (forthcoming)

“Benshi in the United States,” *The World of the Benshi*, ed. Daisuke Miyao and Michael Emmerich (UCLA Yanai Initiative, 2024)

“Railroad Frames: Landscapes and the Chinese Railroad Worker in Photography, 1865-1869,” *The Chinese and the Iron Road: Building the Transcontinental Railroad*, ed. Gordon Chang and Shelley Fisher Fishkin (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2019)

“Archives, Photography, and Historical Memory: Tracking the Chinese Railroad Worker in North America,” *Southern California Quarterly* vol. 98 issue 4 (Winter 2016), 429-456.

“Dangerous Amusements: Hawaii’s Theaters, Labor Strikes, and Counterpublic Culture, 1909-1934,” *The Rising Tide of Color: Race, State Violence, and Radical Movements Across the Pacific*, ed. Moon- Ho Jung (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2014), 102-125.

“Filipinos are the Dandies of the Foreign Colonies’: Race, Labor Struggles, and the Transpacific Routes of Hollywood and Philippine Films,” *Pacific Historical Review* vol. 81 issue 3 (August 2012), 371-403.

Non-Peer Reviewed Publications

“The Oath of the Sword,” Program notes for Le Giornate del Cinema Muto, 2023.

“History Before and Behind the Camera: An Interview with Renee Tajima-Peña,” *Film Quarterly* vol. 74 no. 1 (Fall 2020), 21-29.

“Continental Imperialism and the Edges of the Transpacific,” (special forum on *Empire’s Tracks: Indigenous Nations, Chinese Workers, and the Transcontinental Railroad*), *Critical Ethnic Studies Journal*, Vol. 6 Issue 1 (Spring 2020)

“The Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project,” *EDUCAUSE Review Online* (June 30, 2014)

Book Review. “Puro Arte: Filipinos on the Stages of Empire,” *Pacific Historical Review* (August 2014), 540-541.

Book Review. “Doctor Mom Chung of the Fair-Haired Bastards: The Life of a Wartime Celebrity,” *AmerasiaJournal* 32:2 (2006), 136-138.

Academic Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

2023-2024	Resident Faculty Fellowship, Humanities Center, Northeastern University
2019-2020	Faculty Fellowship, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard
2019-2020	Faculty Research Grant, Labor Resource Center, UMass Boston
2018-2019	High Impact Humanities Course Design Grant, Mellon Foundation, UMass Boston
2018-2019	College of Liberal Arts (CLA) Dean’s Research Grant, UMass Boston
2007-2009	Ethnicity, Race, and Migration Postdoctoral Fellowship, Film & Media Studies, Yale
2006-2007	Gaius Charles Bolin Dissertation Fellowship, Williams College
2005-2006	Fletcher Jones Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, University of California

Media Interviews and Coverage

“The ‘Nacirema’ Dream: the Story of an Asian American Studio,” *The Los Angeles Review of Books* (April 25, 2024)

<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/the-nacirema-dream-the-story-of-an-asian-american-studio/>

“A Rare Silent Film Was Considered Lost Forever: A Professor Rescued It From a Vault,” *Wall Street Journal* (April 28, 2023)

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/a-rare-1914-silent-film-was-considered-lost-forever-a-professor-rescued-it-from-a-vault-9bfdc1f0>

“A 109-year-old Japanese American film is finally getting a world premiere at the Academy Museum thanks to a Northeastern professor,” *Northeastern Global News* (May 15, 2023)

<https://news.northeastern.edu/2023/05/16/asian-american-film-academy-museum/>

“A win for ‘Everything Everywhere All at Once’ at the Oscars would be a monumental moment in Hollywood history,” *Northeastern Global News* (March 9, 2023)

<https://news.northeastern.edu/2023/03/09/oscars-everything-everywhere-all-at-once/>

“Northeastern professor uncovers oldest Japanese American film,” *Northeastern Global News* (September, 26, 2022)

<https://news.northeastern.edu/2022/09/26/japanese-american-movie/>

Invited Talks and Workshop/Symposium Presentations

- 2024 Book Talk + *The Oath of the Sword* screening, San Francisco Silent Film Festival
- 2023 Book Talk, LSA National Center for Diversity, University of Michigan Ann Arbor
- 2023 Book Talk, History Seminar, Indiana University Bloomington
- 2023 Book Talk, American Studies Seminar, University of Massachusetts Boston
- 2023 Book Talk, Little Tokyo Historical Society (Los Angeles, CA)
- 2023 Book Talk + *The Oath of the Sword* screening, Academy Museum (Los Angeles, CA)
- 2023 Book Talk + *The Oath of the Sword* screening, Harvard Film Archive
- 2023 Book Talk + *The Oath of the Sword* screening, San Diego Asian Film Festival
- 2022 Book Talk, After Area Studies Lecture Series, Northeastern University
- 2022 Book Talk, Le Giornate del cinema muto/Pordenone silent film festival
- 2022 “Beyond Home Movies: Amateur 16mm Filmmaking, Camera Clubs, and Japanese Americans,” Humanities Center’s Faculty Works-in-Progress Series, Northeastern University
- 2021 “Audible Divides: Japanese Americans and Cinema’s Sound Transition,” Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University
- 2021 “Audible Divides: Japanese Americans and Cinema’s Sound Transition,” Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Student Colloquium, University of California Los Angeles
- 2021 “Audible Divides: Japanese Americans and Cinema’s Sound Transition,” Faculty Workshop Series, Center for the Humanities, Culture & Society, UMass Boston
- 2019 “‘Owned, Controlled and Operated by Japanese’: Racial Uplift and Japanese American Film Production, 1912-1920s,” Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University
- 2017 “From the Road to the Theater: Japanese American Film Exhibitors and Networks of Distribution,” Hoover Institution’s Japanese Diaspora Initiative Workshop, Stanford

- University
- 2017 “Transpacific Movements and Articulations: Alternative Productions of Migration,”
Symposium on Transpacific Imaginaries: Entanglements and Embodiments of Diaspora in
Asian American Studies, Dartmouth College
- 2013 “Photography and the Railroads,” Transcontinental Railroad: Transforming California and
the Nation, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Workshop
- 2013 “Dangerous Amusements: Hawaii’s Theaters, Labor Strikes, and Counterpublic Culture,
1909-1934,” University of Wisconsin-Platteville
- 2012 “Dangerous Amusements: Hawaii’s Theaters, Labor Strikes, and Counterpublic Culture,
1909-1934,” Department of American Studies, University of Maryland
- 2012 “Dangerous Amusements: Mobility, Labor Strikes, and Counterpublic Culture in Hawaii,
1908-1934,” CSRE Fellows Forum, Stanford University
- 2011 “‘Filipinos are the Dandies of the Foreign Colonies’: Movie-going and Mass Culture in the
U.S. West, 1924-1940,” Reproduction of Race and Racial Ideologies Workshop, University
of Chicago
- 2011 “Mass Culture, Racial Segregation, and Political Struggle in the Transpacific City, 1924 to
1940,” Department of Asian American Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2011 “Dangerous Amusements: Labor Sociability and Counterpublic Culture, 1909- 1930,”
Department of Asian & Pacific Studies, University of Oregon, Eugene

Conference Papers

- 2024 “‘A Club for Everybody’: Amateur Camera Clubs and Small-Gauge Filmmaking by Japanese
Americans in the 1930s,” Society of Cinema and Media Studies Conference (Boston, MA)
- 2023 “Beyond Home Movies: Japanese Americans, Amateur Filmmaking, and Camera Clubs in
the 1930s,” Century of 16MM Conference at Indiana University (Bloomington, IN)
- 2023 “On Asian American Media Matters,” Black New England Conference (Boston, MA)
- 2022 “Recovery and Archival Absence in *The Oath of the Sword* (Japanese American Film Company,
US, 1914),” New York University’s Orphan Film Symposium (Montreal, Canada)
- 2021 “Hollywood Filipino: Filipino Extras and Optical Surplus in 1940s Hollywood,” American
Studies Association Annual Conference (virtual)
- 2021 “Japanese Americans and Hollywood’s Sound Transition,” Society of Cinema and Media
Studies Conference (virtual)
- 2019 “Sound Transitions: Japanese American Film Culture in the Age of the Talkies,” Association
for Asian American Studies Conference (Madison, WI)
- 2019 “Photography and the Transcontinental Railroad,” Golden Spike Conference (Salt Lake
City, UT)
- 2018 “Owned, Controlled and Operated by Japanese: Racial Uplift and Japanese American
Filmmaking before Hollywood,” American Studies Association Conference (Atlanta, GA)
- 2017 “‘Owned, Controlled and Operated by Japanese’: Racial Uplift and Japanese American Film
Production, 1912-1920s” (selected as “New Terrain” keynote panelist), HoMER’s Circuits of
Cinema Conference, Ryerson University (Toronto, Canada)
- 2017 “‘Owned, Controlled, and Operated by Japanese’: Racial Uplift and Japanese American Film
Production, 1912-1920s,” Society of Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) Conference
(Chicago, IL)
- 2016 “Using Digital Archives to Teach Asian American History,” 10th Annual University
Conference on Teaching, Learning, and Technology, University of Massachusetts Boston

- 2016 “Photography, Chinese Workers, and the Construction of the Transcontinental Railroad,” Stanford University’s Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Conference (Palo Alto, CA)
- 2016 Photography, Chinese Workers, and the Construction of the Transcontinental Railroad,” Organization of American Historians (OAH) Annual Conference (Providence, RI)
- 2015 “Photography, Chinese Workers, and the Construction of the Transcontinental Railroad,” American Studies Association Conference (Toronto, Canada)
- 2015 “Transpacific Film Production and Exhibition in Global Los Angeles, 1916-940,” Association for Asian American Studies Conference (Chicago, IL)
- 2013 “Photography and the Construction of the Transcontinental Railroad,” Academia Sinica (Taipei, Taiwan)
- 2011 “Mass Culture, Racial Segregation, and Political Struggle in the Transpacific City, 1924-1940,” Association for Asian American Studies Conference (New Orleans, LA)
- 2009 “Cane Cultures: Movie-going and Public Life in the Age of Sugar,” Association for Asian American Studies Conference (Honolulu, HI)
- 2008 “Segregation, Urban Movie-going, and Asian Immigrants,” East of California Conference, University of Connecticut, Storrs
- 2008 “Labor and Leisure in Prewar Hawaii,” Western History Association Conference (Salt Lake City, UT)
- 2008 “Movie House Culture, Asian Immigrants, and Rural Hawaii, 1909-1930s,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference (Philadelphia, PA)
- 2005 “Movies, Migration, Labor: Working Class Culture in Early Twentieth Century Asian Immigrant Communities,” PCB-American Historical Association Conference (Corvallis, OR)
- 2003 “What is this ‘Yellow’ in Black Popular Culture? Bruce Lee and African American Audiences,” Crossing Borders, Shaping Identities Conference, University of Southern California

Moderator, Formal Responses, and Remarks

- 2024 Organizer, “Japanese Amateur Media in the World,” Society of Cinema and Media Studies Conference (Boston, MA)
- 2023 Speaker, “Reflections on the Field,” Ethnicity, Race and Migration Seminar, Boston College
- 2022 Speaker, “Field notes,” New England Asian American Studies Workshop, Brown University
- 2021 Respondent, “Remapping Pacific Ecologies of Knowledge,” Association of Asian American Studies Conference (virtual)
- 2021 Moderator, “The Stories We Tell and the Objects We Keep: Asian American Women and the Archive,” Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University
- 2019 Respondent, “Before and Beyond Crazy Rich Asians: A Fugitive Film History of Asian Americans,” Association of Asian American Studies Conference (Madison, WI)
- 2013 Respondent, “The Laboring Body,” Archaeology Network of Chinese Railroad Workers Project Workshop, Stanford University

Digital and Public Humanities Work

Faculty Project Leader, “Asian American Media Activism in Boston,” Reckonings: A local platform for the community-archivist, Mellon Foundation Grant, Northeastern University, 2023-present.

Film Preservation/Restoration for *The Oath of the Sword* (with George Eastman Museum and the Japanese American National Museum), National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF) Grant, awarded June 2021.

Digital Archive and Collaborative Research, Stanford University's Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project, 2013-2014.

Teaching and Academic Experience

- 2022-present Northeastern University
Introduction to Asian American Studies
Asian American Cinemas (service learning)
Survey of the Still and Moving Image
Concepts in Animation
- 2014-2022 University of Massachusetts Boston
Undergraduate Courses:
America on Film
Cultural History of U.S. Media
Asian American Cinema
U.S. Culture and Society 1860-1940
Race, Class, Gender
Asians in the United States
Asian Women in the United States
Graduate Courses:
Gender and Sexuality in U.S. History and Culture
Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality
- 2011-2013 Stanford University
Visiting Scholar, Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity
Undergraduate Courses: Intro to Asian American History; Asian American Film, Video, and New Media
- 2010-2011 University of Chicago
Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture
- 2010-2011 Northwestern University
Lecturer, Department of History and Asian American Studies Program
Undergraduate Course: Introduction to Asian American History
- 2009-2010 Harvard University
Lecturer, Department of History
Undergraduate Courses: Immigration History of the United States; Comparative Race and Ethnicity in the U.S.; Introduction to Asian American History; and Afro-Asian Encounters
- 2007-2009 Yale University

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Film and Media Studies & American Studies
Undergraduate Courses: Race, Cinema, and the Migrant City; Asian American Film and Video

2006-2007 Williams College
Bolin Dissertation Fellow, Department of American Studies
Undergraduate Course: Asian American Film and Video

Student Advising and Mentoring

Doctoral Dissertation External Member

Cailin Roles, “Man Made Machine: Global Animation and the Modern Body,” English Department, Northeastern University, 2023-present.

Kelsey Moore, “Retracing Internment: Archival Dispositions of the Japanese American Incarceration,” Film and Media Studies Department, University of California Santa Barbara, 2021-present.

Master’s Thesis Primary Advisor

John Ott, “Which Side Are You On? The Laboring of American Space in Union Films Sponsored Media, 1946-1953,” American Studies Department, University of Massachusetts Boston, 2022-present.

Kai Uchida, “Growing Up Behind Barbed Wire: Photography, Children, and the Incarceration of Japanese-Americans, 1942-1946,” American Studies Department, UMass Boston, spring 2018 (winner of the American Studies Book Award).

Master’s Thesis Secondary Reader

Monica Del Los Reyes, American Studies Department, UMass Boston, spring 2022.

Destiny Easler, American Studies Department, UMass Boston, spring 2022.

John Brennan, American Studies Department, UMass Boston, spring 2021.

Cheyenne Garcia, American Studies Department, UMass Boston, spring 2017.

Bailey Zuchovich, American Studies Department, UMass Boston, spring 2017.

Professional Service

Service to the Department/College/University

- Executive Committee Member, CSGS Department, 2024-present.
- Executive Committee Member, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, 2024-present.
- Staff Search Committee, CSGS Department, spring 2024.
- Panelist, Reach Out Career Conference, Northeastern LGBTQA Resource Center, spring 2024.
- CAMD Search Committee Member, “Global Media, Technology, and Democracy,” 2023-2024.
- Faculty Mentor, WGSS Postdoctoral Fellow (Porntip Israsena Twishime), 2023-2024.
- Faculty Mentor, Political Science Department (Chinbo Chong), 2023-present.
- Co-organizer (w/Juliana Barton), Artist Talk with Heesoo Kwon, Center for the Arts, Northeastern University, fall 2023.

- Organizer, *The Oath of the Sword* Screening (with live music by Allen Feinstein and panel discussant Arthur Dong), Northeastern University's College of Art, Media and Design and the Boston Asian American Film Festival, fall 2023.
- Organizer, "Remember! Asian Americans and the Archive" Symposium, Northeastern, fall 2023.
- Committee Member, Civic Sustainability, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council, Northeastern University, 2022-2023.
- Co-organizer (w/Doreen Lee), After Area Studies: Conversations in Asian and Asian American Studies at Northeastern University, 2022-2023.
- Organizer, Screening and Panel Q&A for *Crossings* (2022) with Deann Borshay Liem, Northeastern University and Boston Asian American Film Festival, fall 2022.
- Executive Committee Member, Cinema Studies Program, UMass Boston, 2014-2022.
- Department Representative, College of Liberal Arts (CLA) Faculty Senate, UMass Boston, 2017-2022.
- Organizer, Screening and Panel Q&A for *Keep Saray Home* (2021) with Brian Redondo, UMass Boston, spring 2022.
- Member, UMass Boston's Mellon Foundation Faculty Advisory Board, 2020-2021.
- Member, Racial Equity Committee, American Studies Department, UMass Boston, 2020-2021.
- Member, Department Personnel Committee, American Studies Department, UMass Boston, 2020-2021.
- Member, Restorative Justice Sub-Committee, CLA Faculty Senate, UMass Boston, spring 2021.
- Organizer/Moderator, Screening + Post-Film Q&A for *Down a Dark Stairwell* (2020) with Ursula Liang, UMass Boston and ArtsEmerson, fall 2021.
- "Remembering the Chinese Railroad Workers," Asian American Studies Graduation Ceremony, University of Massachusetts Boston, spring 2019.
- Faculty Editor, American Studies Department Newsletter, UMass Boston, spring 2017.
- Organizer, UMass Boston's American Studies Keynote Lecture, "Rightlessness: Hunger Strikes, Force-feeding, and Testimony at Guantanamo" by A. Naomi Paik, fall 2017.
- Curriculum Committee Chair, Cinema Studies Program, UMass Boston, 2017-2018.
- Organizer, Know Your Rights Workshop (in collaboration with the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic), UMass Boston, spring 2017.
- Member, Humanities Distribution Committee, UMass Boston, spring 2016.
- Co-Coordinator, Department Undergraduate Awards, UMass Boston, spring 2016.

Service to the Profession

- Elected Co-Chair, Asian Pacific American Caucus, Society of Cinema and Media Studies, 2023-present.
- Faculty Mentor, APAC Mentorship Program, Society of Cinema and Media Studies, 2023-present.
- Book Manuscript Reviewer, University of California Press, 2023.
- Article Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Transnational American Studies*, 2023.
- Article Peer Reviewer, *Signs: Journal of Women and Culture in Society*, 2023.
- Article Peer Reviewer, *Ethnic Studies Review*, 2022.
- Article Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Critical Ethnic Studies*, 2020.
- Article Peer Reviewer, *Radical History Review*, 2015.

- Article Peer Reviewer, *Pacific Historical Review*, 2012.

Civic, Community, and Public Engagement

- Screening Committee Member, Boston Asian American Film Festival, 2018-present.
- Presentation, “Transcontinental Railroad 150th Year Anniversary,” Massachusetts State House, 2019.
- Presentation, “Building Towards the Golden Spike: 150th Year Anniversary,” Chinese Historical Society of New England, Emerson Paramount Theatre, 2019.
- Participant, “Inside Chinatown Workshop,” Pao Arts Center, Boston, MA, 2019.
- Judge, John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest, John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, 2016.
- Invited Lecture, “History of Angel Island,” Immigrant Rights Project, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), San Francisco, California, 2013.

Professional Development

- AANAPISI Faculty Development Program Curriculum Grant, UMass Boston, 2021.
- Asian American Student Success Program Research Assistant Grant, UMass Boston, 2021.
- Short-Term CLA Dean’s Scholastic Support Award (SSA), UMass Boston, 2021.
- Asian American Student Success Program Research Assistant Grant, UMass Boston, 2020.
- Asian American Student Success Program Research Assistant Grant, UMass Boston, 2017.
- Center for Innovative Teaching (CIT) Faculty Seminar, UMass Boston, 2015.

Media Consulting Work

- Gold House consultant on AAPI representations in productions by Marvel Studios

Professional Organizations

Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)
 Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS)
 American Studies Association (ASA)