

CURRICULUM VITAE

RYAN BUYCO

Assistant Professor
 Department of Ethnic Studies
 Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo
rbuyco@calpoly.edu

EDUCATION

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2019 | Ph.D. in Asian Literature, Religion, and Culture
Cornell University |
| 2013 | M.A. in Asian Studies
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa |
| 2010 | B.A. (cum laude) in Asian Studies & Japanese Language and Literature
The George Washington University |

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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| 2021- present | Assistant Professor
Department of Ethnic Studies
Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo |
| 2019 - 2021 | Consortium for Faculty Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow
Riley Scholar-in-Residence, Asian American and Global Asian Studies
Colorado College |

BOOK PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Island Under the Sun: Filipino American Detours in Okinawa is a travelogue that brings Filipinx and Asian settler colonial critiques to what is often referred to as “Japan’s Hawai‘i.” This book guides readers through my own detours across the militarized and touristic space of Okinawa to consider how legacies of US empire and Japanese imperialism shape the relationship that Filipinos have to this place.

The Soul is an Archipelago is a lyrical travel essay that traces my journey learning the ancestral sport of Polynesian rock lifting in Hawai‘i, Aotearoa, and Tahiti. Drawing from folklore from the Philippine region of the Western Visayas, where my family is from, this project explores diasporic loss, colonization, and oceanic belonging in the Filipino diaspora.

PUBLICATIONS*Essays and Book Chapters*

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| 2025 | “Filipinx Reflections on Travel Writing and Asian Settler Colonial Critique in Okinawa.” <i>Amerasia Journal</i> , special issue on “On the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Asian Settler Colonial Critique,” vol. 51, no. 3, 2025. |
| 2024 | “Toward a Critical Pedagogy of Introduction: Contradictions of Ethnic Studies as General Education after AB-1460” with Trung PG Nguyen, May Lin, Simmy |

- Makhijani, Saugher Nojan, and Wendi Yamashita. *AAPI Nexus Journal*, vol. 21, no. 1 & 2, 2024.
- 2023 “‘Finding New Routes’: Visualizing an Oceanic Okinawa in Laura Kina’s *Holding On* (2019),” *Verge: Studies in Global Asias*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2023.
- 2021 “Davao Pilgrimage by Sakiyama Asao (with Translator’s Introduction).” Translated from Japanese. *Critical Ethnic Studies Journal*, special issue on “Center-to-Center Relationalities: At the Nexus of Pacific Island Studies and Trans-Pacific Studies,” vol. 7, no. 2, 2021.
- 2021 “pacific thoughts.” *Eikon* section of [positionspolitics.org](https://positionspolitics.org/pacific-thoughts/).
<https://positionspolitics.org/pacific-thoughts/>
- In press “Islands of Thought: Oceanic Filipinx Studies from Morro Bay to Okinawa” *Alon: Journal for Filipinx American and Diasporic Studies*, scheduled for publication in December 2025.
- Accepted “The ‘Children’ of Ōshiro Kozo: Tracing Okinawa-Philippine Connections.” *Detours: A Decolonial Guide to Okinawa* (Duke University Press). Edited by Ayano Ginoza and Megumi Chibana.

Other Creative and Public Scholarship

- 2022 “A View from the Balangay.” *See and Missed* by Camille Hoffman. San Luis Obispo: San Luis Obispo Museum of Art.

Publications Prior to Appointment at Cal Poly

- 2019 “A Grave in Maasin.” *The Southeast Asia Program Bulletin*. Cornell University.
- 2017 “Afterlives of the Okinawan Community in Davao, Mindanao: Sakiyama Asao’s ‘Davao Pilgrimage’ (1997),” *The International Journal of Okinawan Studies*, vol. 8, 2017, pp. 27-41.
- 2016 Reprint, “Specters of East Asia: Okinawa, Taiwan, and Korea by Choi Jinseok.” Translated collaboratively from Japanese by Ryan Buyco, Brett de Bary, Andrew Harding, Miyako Hayakawa, Hirano Oribe, Keiji Kunigami, Jillian Marshall, Andrea Mendoza, and Paul McQuade. Translation edited by Rebecca Jennison and Brett de Bary. *The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus* 18, vol. 14, no. 4, 2016:
<https://apjif.org/2016/18/Choi.html>
- 2015 “Specters of East Asia: Okinawa, Taiwan, and Korea by Choi Jinseok” Translated collaboratively from Japanese by Ryan Buyco, Brett de Bary, Andrew Harding, Miyako Hayakawa, Hirano Oribe, Keiji Kunigami, Jillian Marshall, Andrea Mendoza, and Paul McQuade. *Still Hear the Wound: Toward an Asia, Politics, and Art to Come*. Selected essays edited by Lee Chonghwa. Translations edited by Rebecca Jennison and Brett de Bary. Cornell University East Asia Series. 2015.
- 2015 “Delicate Remnants, A Story of ‘Mokuninhama’ or Shore Connivance by Yamashiro Chikako.” Translated collaboratively from Japanese by Andrew Harding and Ryan Buyco. *Still Hear the Wound: Toward an Asia, Politics, and Art to Come*. Selected essays edited by Lee Chonghwa. Translations edited by Rebecca Jennison and Brett de Bary. Cornell University East Asia Series. 2015.

2015 art installation, “ghost stories” with Anamika Goyal and Alexander McGrath. *Flux Navigations: Envisioning the Southeast Asian City*. John Hartell Gallery, Cornell University.

AWARDS & HONORS

2024, 2025 nominated, College of Liberal Arts Early Career Achievement in Scholarship, Cal Poly

2023 College of Liberal Arts Diversity Award, Cal Poly

2019-2021 Consortium for Faculty Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowship

2016-2017 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (Philippines and Okinawa), US Department of Education

2011 Edward Seidensticker Award for best paper on Japan, School of Pacific and Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

2010-2011 Japan Exchange and Teaching Program, declined

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2025-2026 Faculty team, CSU Advancing and Expanding Ethnic Studies Grant, Mellon Foundation

2024 College of Liberal Arts Summer Scholarship Support, Cal Poly

2023-2024 Teacher-Scholar Mini Grant Award for “Ethnic Studies in Hawai‘i Summer Program,” Division of Research, Economic Development & Graduate Education, Cal Poly

2023-2024 College of Liberal Arts Global Engagement Grant, Cal Poly

2022 College of Liberal Arts Summer Scholarship Support, Cal Poly

2020 Humanities Executive Committee Grant, Colorado College

2019 Provost Diversity Fellow & Dean’s Scholar, Cornell University

2019 Randy Barker Summer Grant, Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University

2019 Southeast Asia Program Travel Grant, Cornell University

2018 Teaching Writing Scholarship, Cornell University

2018 Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival Diversity Fellowship, Ithaca College

2017 Einaudi International Research Travel Grant, Cornell University

2017 Department of Asian Studies Travel Grant, Cornell University

2016 Mellon Fellowship in Urbanism, Cornell University, declined

2016 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University

2016 Einaudi International Research Travel Grant, Cornell University

2016 East Asia Program Summer Language Grant (Japanese), Cornell University

2015	CV Starr Foundation Fellowship in Asian Studies, Cornell University
2014-2015	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship in Tagalog, US Department of Education, Cornell University
2014-2015	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship in Japanese, US Department of Education, Cornell University, declined
2014	Mellon Fellowship in Urbanism, Cornell University
2014	Einaudi International Research Travel Grant, Cornell University
2014	CV Starr Foundation Fellowship in Asian Studies, Cornell University, declined
2013-2014	Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
2012-2013	Japanese Studies Fellowship, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, declined
2012	Asian Studies Departmental Merit Scholarship, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
2012	Center for Philippine Studies Travel Award, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
2011-2012	CV Starr Foundation Fellowship Asian Studies, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
2011	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship in Japanese, US Department of Education, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
2011	Asian Studies Program Scholarship, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
2010-2011	CV Starr Foundation Fellowship in Asian Studies, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
2010	Asian Studies Program Scholarship, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

2025-present	Asian Indigenous Relations Collective (British Columbia, Canada)
2022-present	Center for Philippine Studies, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (Honolulu, HI)
2017	University of the Philippines, Visayas (Iloilo, Philippines)
2016-2017	Meio University (Okinawa, Japan)

INVITED TALKS

2026	“Detours Okinawa Roundtable,” Detours: Decolonization and Indigeneity in a Global Demilitarized Context, UC Berkeley
2025	“Indigeneities in Asia, Translocal Solidarities Roundtable,” Asian Indigenous Relationalities Symposium, Simon Fraser University, on September 20
2024	“Island Under the Sun: Toward a Filipino American Detour of Okinawa,” Amado Khaya Initiative and Department of Asian American Studies at UC Davis, “We are Not Immigrants: Unsettling Asians in ‘America’” speaker series, on July 8
2021	“Landscapes that Endure: Envisioning a Transpacific Okinawa in Laura Kina’s <i>Holding On</i> (2019),” Ethnic Studies Department, Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo, on April 13

- 2021 “Landscapes that Endure: Envisioning a Transpacific Okinawa in Laura Kina’s *Holding On* (2019),” Asian American Studies Department, CSU Fullerton, on April 12
- 2020 “Okinawa-Hawai’i Connections through the Works of Laura Kina and Lee A. Tonouchi,” Mediating Race, Reimagining Geopolitics Webinar Series, Jackman Humanities Institute at University of Toronto, on September 18
- 2019 “Islands of Entanglement: the Philippines, Hawai’i, and the Transpacific Geographies of Okinawan Literature,” Asian Studies Program at Colorado College, on February 12
- 2017 “Afterlives of the Okinawan Community in Davao, Mindanao,” Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Kyoto University, on June 15
- 2015 “Uchinanchu writings across the Pacific,” East-West Center (Akisamiyo! Club), on April 9 (Honolulu, HI)

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2024 Roundtable participant, “Decolonizing International Education: A Round-Table Discussion with Ethnic Studies Faculty,” College of Liberal Arts Social Justice Teach In, Cal Poly, May 9 (event canceled)
- 2022 Travel and Translation: Okinawa, the Philippines, and the Question of Japanese and American Colonialism, Cal Poly, Ethnic Studies Department, on October 18
- 2019 “Islands of Entanglement: the Philippines, Hawai’i, and the Transpacific Geographies of Okinawan Literature,” Gatty Lecture Series, Southeast Asian Studies Program at Cornell University, on February 7

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

- 2021 “Reimagining Indigenous-Asian Entanglements in the Transpacific,” Association for Asian American Studies (virtual meeting)
- 2020 “Troubling Asian Settler Colonialism,” Association for Asian American Studies, conference canceled due to coronavirus pandemic (Washington DC)
- 2013 “Talk Story: UHM Perspectives on Okinawan Studies,” School of Pacific and Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference (Honolulu, HI)

Papers Presented

- 2024 “Military Encounters: Filipino Travel Writing in Okinawa” in “On Diasporic Being and Belonging: Filipino Studies,” 2024 International Conference on Philippine Studies (Quezon City, Philippines)
- 2024 “‘Moving Islands, Still Water’: Travel Writing and Filipinx American Critique in Okinawa” in “Asian Settler Decolonization,” 2024 Association for Asian American Studies (Seattle, WA)
- 2023 “The Possibilities of Prop Roots: Articulating Asian Indigeneities in the Diaspora,” 2023 Society for Social Studies of Science (Honolulu, HI)

- 2023 “Okinawa, the Philippines, and the Question of Japanese Colonialism in the Diaspora” in “Entangled Histories of Okinawa: Militarism, Mobility, and Memory,” 2023 Association for Asian American Studies (Long Beach, CA)
- 2022 “Landscapes that Endure: Visualizing a Transpacific Okinawa in Laura Kina’s *Holding On*,” 2022 Association for Asian Studies Conference (Honolulu, HI)
- 2019 “A ‘Japanese’ Grave in Iloilo: Narratives of the Okinawan Diaspora in the Philippines,” Emerging Voices in Filipino and Philippine Studies (Honolulu, HI)
- 2016 “The Philippines as Ghost in Okinawa’s Geopolitical Imaginary,” Cornell University’s Southeast Asia Program Conference (Ithaca, NY)
- 2015 “Toward the Uchinanchu Pacific: Space, Area Studies, and the Ocean” in “Reading Okinawan and Ryukyuan Literature Within and Against the Japan-Okinawa-United States Paradigm,” Association for Asian Studies (Chicago, IL)
- 2012 “Ōoka Shōhei’s ‘Travels in the Philippines: A Postcolonial Reading,’” East-West Center Conference, (Honolulu, HI)
- 2012 “Japanese Travel Literature in the Philippines” in “Gazes upon the Philippines as Cultural Space: Regional, Metropolitan, and Alien.” The Ninth International Conference on the Philippines (East Lansing, MI)
- 2011 “Ōoka Shōhei’s ‘Travels in the Philippines: A Postcolonial Reading,’” School of Pacific and Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference (Honolulu, HI)

Roundtable Participation

- 2025 “On the 25th Anniversary of Asian Settler Colonial Critique: An Amerasia Special Issue Roundtable,” 2025 Association for Asian American Studies Conference (Boston, MA)
- 2023 “Towards a Critical Pedagogy of Introduction: Ethnic Studies as ‘General Education’ after AB-1460,” 2023 Association for Asian American Studies Conference (Long Beach, CA)
- 2022 “Interventions in Pacific Island Studies and Trans-Pacific Studies,” 2022 Association for Asian American Studies Conference (Denver, CO)

Chair/Discussant

- 2025 “Ambiguities of Asian Settler Colonialism,” 2025 Association for Asian American Studies Conference (Boston, MA)
- 2016 “State Enclosures,” Exile and Enclosure Conference, Cornell University (Ithaca, NY)
- 2013 “US Military Bases In Okinawa Forum” at Uchinanchu Talk Story III (Honolulu, HI)

Workshop Participation

- 2025 “Rethinking Travel Writing,” a travel writing craft class with Faith Adiele, Off Assignment (virtual meetings)
- 2024 “Literature in Movement,” a travel writing craft class with Javier Sinay, The Center for Fiction (virtual meetings)
- 2024 “Indigeneity in Southeast Asia,” UC Berkeley-UCLA Consortium for Southeast Asian Studies, UCLA (Los Angeles, CA)

2023	“History and Memory: Migration, Militarism, and U.S. Empire,” Cornell Migrations Summer Institute (Ithaca, NY)
2022	“Writing into Mixedness,” a prose craft class with Kristiana Kahakauwila, Kundiman (virtual meeting)
2020	“Envisioning Global Asias,” 2020 Global Asias Summer Institute (virtual meeting)
2020	“Okinawa: Living with/in the Inter-Asia Crossroad” Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Summer School, canceled due to coronavirus pandemic (Okinawa, Japan)
2019	“Islands of Entanglement,” Southeast Asian American Studies Manuscript Workshop, Association for Asian American Studies (Madison, WI)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Cal Poly

ES 256: Introduction to Asian American Studies

ES 335: The Filipinx American Experience

ES 340: Cultural Production and Ethnicity (Pilipino Cultural Night)

ES 340: Cultural Production and Ethnicity (Pacific Islander Studies)

ES 400: Special Problems for Advanced Undergraduates

HNRS 299: Touring America’s Tropics

Colorado College

Introduction to Asian American Studies (Spring 2021, Spring 2020)

Asian Literature, Culture, and Film Under US Occupation (Fall 2020, Fall 2019)

Asian Settler Colonialism (Spring 2020)

Pandemic-era Racism and Asian American Studies (Fall 2020)

Cornell University

Settler Colonialism through Transpacific Asian Literature, Instructor of Record (2018)

ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Faculty Mentor, “Pacific Detours: Toward a Decolonial Approach to Travel Writing,” BEACoN Research Mentoring Program, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 2024-2025

Faculty Advisor, Pilipino Cultural Exchange, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 2022-present

Faculty Advisor, Instructionally Related Activity Program–Hui Haumana, 2025-present

Faculty Advisor, Hui Haumana, 2024-2025

Faculty Advisor, Hui ‘O Hawai‘i, 2023-2024

Faculty Advisor, Instructionally Related Activity Program–Pilipino Cultural Night, 2023-present

Faculty Supervisor, Learning Aligned Employment Program, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 2023

Faculty Mentor, “Militarized Encounters: Filipinx-Indigenous Relationalities in Okinawa, Japan,” BEACoN Research Mentoring Program, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 2021-2022

Faculty Advisor, Asian Student Union, Colorado College, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 2019-2021

Academic Mentor, Graduate Students Mentoring Undergraduates, Office of Academic Diversity, Cornell University, 2018-2019

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Program Committee, Association for Asian American Studies Conference in Honolulu, 2025-2026

Book reviewer for *Bundok: A Hinterland History of Filipino America* (2024), by Adrian de Leon, *American Studies Journal* (submitted), 2025

Co-organizer, Filipinx Travel Writers Collective, 2024-present

Co-Chair (elected), Asian Settler Colonialism Caucus, Association for Asian American Studies, 2023-present

Blind reviewer, *Asian Studies: Journal of Critical Perspectives on Asia*, University of the Philippines, Diliman, 2016

Co-organizer, Southeast Asia Program Graduate Student Conference, Cornell University, 2015

Co-organizer, School of Pacific and Asian Studies Conference, UH Mānoa, 2013

Editorial Team, *Explorations: Graduate Student Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, 2010-2011

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY

Program Building

Faculty Fellow, APIDA Student Cultural Center, 2024-2025

Resident Director, Ethnic Studies in Hawai‘i Summer Program (in progress), 2023-present

Committees

Member, Fulbright Campus Committee, 2025

Chair, APIDA Faculty and Staff Association Scholarship Committee, 2023

Reviewer, CLA’s Summer Scholarship Support Review Committee, 2023, 2025

Member, Campus Climate Working Group, 2023-2024

Co-chair, Southeast Asia Program Student Committee, Cornell University, 2014-2015

On Campus Talks/Conferences

Organizer, Professor Kristiana Kahakauwila, campus talk, APIDA Student Cultural Center, 2025

Organizer, Will Nu‘utupu Giles, campus talk, APIDA Student Cultural Center, 2025

Organizer, Dr. Aline Lo, campus talk, APIDA Student Cultural Center, 2025

Organizer, Vairea Tupana Samn and Ryan Samn, campus talk, APIDA Student Cultural Center, 2024

Organizer, Dr. Constancio Arnaldo, campus talk, APIDA Student Cultural Center, 2024

Organizer, Dr. Paul Michael Leonardo Atienza, cultural workshop for Pilipino Cultural Night, 2024

Organizer, Jay Carlon, movement workshop for Pilipino Cultural Night, 2024

Panelist, APIDA Faculty and Staff Association panel, 2024

Co-organizer, Will Nu'utupu Giles spoken word poetry event, 2023

Organizer, Amanda Andrei, writing consultant for Pilipino Cultural Night, 2023

Organizer, Joel Albanez, artistic consultant for Pilipino Cultural Night, 2023

Organizer, Becca Lucas, YTT land acknowledgement consultant for Pilipino Cultural Night, 2023

Co-organizer, Dr. Evyn Espiritu Gandhi book talk, Cal Poly, 2022

Co-organizer, Dr. Craig Santos Perez poetry reading, San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, 2022

Organizer, Ruby Ibarra talk/performance, APIDA Heritage Month, Cal Poly, 2022

Organizer, "Okinawa and the U.S. Military Base Issues: Past, Present, and Future," talk by The Okinawa Prefecture Washington DC Office, Social Justice Teach In, Cal Poly, 2022

Speaker, closing remarks, Summer Success Symposium, Office of Inclusion and Student Engagement, Cornell University, 2018

Coordinator, Dancing Hip Hop Symposium, Cornell University, 2015

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Athlete, Tu'aro Ma'ohi (third place in lightweight men's division of Amora'a 'Ōfa'i), Tahiti, 2025

Athlete, Te Moana Nui Games (first place in lightweight men's division of Amora'a 'Ōfa'i in 2024 and 2025), Waimea Valley, 2023, 2024, 2025

Dancer, Tama Toa Nui, San Bruno, 2024-2025

Guest speaker, "APIDA Heritage Month," Hawthorne Elementary, San Luis Obispo, on May 30, 2025

Panelist, Potential Transfer Student Q&A Session, Puente Program, Diablo Valley College, on November 1, 2023

Keynote speaker, Filipino American History Month Gala, Los Osos Filipino Association, on October 14, 2023

Guest speaker, "APIDA Heritage Month," Hawthorne Elementary, San Luis Obispo, on May 17, 2023

Invited panelist, "*See and Missed* panel with artist Camille Hoffman in conversation with Ryan Buyco," San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, on June 1, 2022

Co-Instructor, "Introduction to Ethnic Studies for K-12 California Educators," Santa Maria School District, Summer 2022

Member, Filipino American National Historical Society, Central Coast Chapter, 2022 - present

Guest speaker, “The Importance of Asian American Studies Today,” APIA@SFO Employee Resource Group, San Francisco International Airport, on March 8, 2022

MEDIA

Quote, “See and Missed’: New York artist brings attention to Filipino History of Morro Bay,” *KCBX Central Coast Public Radio*, 2022. <https://tinyurl.com/mr2kzf7v>

Interview, “Asian Americans in Central Florida raise hate-crime concerns after spa shooting, increased anti-Chinese sentiment,” *Orlando Sentinel*, 2021. <http://tiny.cc/rocmuz>

Feature on my “Introduction to Asian American Studies” class, “‘Words have meanings’: Visiting a Japanese Internment Camp,” *Colorado College website*, 2020. <http://tiny.cc/tocmuz>

Podcast Interview, “Episode 15: Ryan Buyco,” *Gatty Lecture Rewind Podcast*, 2019. <https://gattyrewind.libsyn.com/ryan-buyco>

LANGUAGES

Japanese, advanced

Filipino (Tagalog), intermediate

LANGUAGE TRAINING

2016	Certificate of Completion, Short Stay Summer Program, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (Tokyo, Japan)
2011	Certificate of Completion, Summer Program, Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies (Yokohama, Japan)
2009	Certificate of Completion, Intensive Japanese Language and Area Studies, Nanzan University (Nagoya, Japan)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Asian American Studies