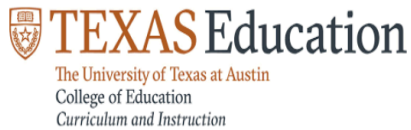


Asian American Studies Academy



	2
Land/Territory Acknowledgment	3
Dean’s Welcome	4
Center for Asian American Studies-Director’s Welcome	5
Asian Texans for Justice-Director’s Welcome	6
About Us	7
Asian American Studies Program Staff	8
Helpful Hints	8
UT Austin Resources	9
Local/Austin Resources	9
Community Agreements: Learning from a Place of Love and Mutual Respect	11
Helpful Terms	12
Schedule	14
Speaker Profiles	18
Learn More	30
Primary Sources	31
Curricular Resources	32
Survey, CPEs, & Honorarium	32

Land/Territory Acknowledgment

We would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the Indigenous lands of Turtle Island, the ancestral name for what now is called North America.

Moreover, (I) We would like to acknowledge the **Alabama-Coushatta, Caddo, Carrizo/Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Kickapoo, Lipan Apache, Tonkawa and Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo**, and all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories in Texas.

Learn more about Land Acknowledgements and ways to move beyond acknowledgement:

- **Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian**
<https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/informational/land-acknowledgment>
- **Native Land** <https://native-land.ca/resources/territory-acknowledgement>
- **Native Governance Beyond Land Acknowledgement: A Guide**
<https://nativegov.org/news/beyond-land-acknowledgment-guide/>

Dean's Welcome



Marketing and Communications

Dean's Welcome

AAS Academy Program

2025

Welcome to the inaugural Asian American Studies Academy. This visionary initiative, in partnership with Asian Texans for Justice, the Center for Asian American Studies and the Department of Curriculum & Instruction in the College of Education, is dedicated to enriching K-12 education with a deeper understanding of Asian American history and experiences, with a particular focus on Texas.

As the fastest growing population in Texas, the Asian American community's history and contributions are significantly underrepresented in current K-12 social studies standards. This academy empowers educators to humanize and better support Asian American students and families through comprehensive professional development, including Continuing Professional Education (CPE) hours.

The College of Education's mission to serve the people of Texas in the pursuit of excellence, innovation and equitable opportunities through education and teaching is guided by a deep commitment to community partnership. Through these shared goals, the college is perfectly aligned with the Academy's effort to cultivate a more inclusive educational environment, and we are proud to support this transformative journey, providing resources, training and inspiration to educators who are shaping the future.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to fostering understanding and advocacy. Together, we are making a lasting impact on education and society.

Charles R. Martinez, Jr

Dean, College of Education

Center for Asian American Studies-Director's Welcome



Dear Asian American Studies Academy Participants,

Over the next three days you will be doing something historic. This is no overstatement, especially not in these times.

The field of Asian American Studies has existed for more than fifty years. But save for just one high-school class (taught the past two years), it has yet to make its way into Texas K-12 education.

That begins to change this week as you—a cohort of 20 K-20 educators representing 11 districts and university representation—take part in the only multi-day statewide teacher professional development on Asian American Studies.

The implementation of Asian American Studies is important for many reasons. Asian Americans, as many have noted, are the fastest growing group in Texas and in many other parts of the United States. But changing demographics alone should not guide our educational imperatives.

We are reminded that for decades, specific Asian groups were restricted from immigrating to the United States—indeed they were subjects of the first immigration laws that excluded groups because of their race and ethnicity. The few Asian Americans who did reside in the United States during the exclusion years were often rendered invisible.

To teach about the history of exclusion and invisibility of Asian Americans is no less important than teaching about their current growth and visibility. In teaching this history, we offer our students a more accurate account of American history and culture—and this, after all, is at the core of the Asian American Studies project. We live in a moment in which historical accuracy is contested at best, disregarded at worst. Your participation in this first-of-its kind academy will decide what happens next.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Tang".

Eric Tang

Director, Center for Asian American Studies

Asian Texans for Justice-Director's Welcome



Welcome to the inaugural Asian American Studies Academy! At Asian Texans for Justice, we believe that Asian Americans are an integral part of the American story — past, present, and future. Asian American stories, experiences, and identities are inherently American and should be included in our student's education and curriculum. We believe that inclusive, historically accurate stories and experiences of diverse Texans and Americans will create a better education system for all. We are so grateful that you've chosen to take part in this week's academy to make this a reality for Texas students.

Lily Trieu

Co-Executive Director

Asian Texans for Justice



Tag us on Instagram!

@txaasa

@utexascoe

@asiantexansforjustice

@utcaas

About Us

- **College of Education, Department of Curriculum & Instruction**

The Department of Curriculum & Instruction at the College of Education at UT Austin is ranked among the top programs in the nation by US World & New Report, and leads research and teaching on elementary and secondary teaching and learning.

<https://education.utexas.edu/departments/curriculum-instruction/>

- **Center for Asian American Studies, College of Liberal Arts**

The Center for Asian American Studies (CAAS) at UT Austin was established in 1999. As the oldest Asian American Studies program in the U.S. South, CAAS promotes the teaching and research of Asian American Studies and sponsors cultural and academic events to bring Asian American Studies to a wider audience.

<https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/aas/>

- **Asian Texans for Justice**

Asian Texans for Justice (ATJ) envisions a future where all people can feel bold in their belonging. ATJ was founded in 2021 when a group of Asian American activists and civic leaders got together to tackle important issues like voter's rights, redistricting, and anti-Asian violence. Registered as a 501(c)3 non-profit in 2021, Asian Texans for Justice's mission is to connect Asian and Pacific Islander Texans with civic action to build personal and political power. This includes civic engagement, voter advocacy and youth programs including spearheading the first HS Asian American Studies course in Texas.

<https://www.asiantexansforjustice.org/>

- **Asian American Advancing Justice (AAJC)**

This program is paid for by a generous grant through Asian American Advancing Justice (AAJC).

<https://www.advancingjustice-aaajc.org/about>

Asian American Studies Program Staff

- **James Yudhistira Lemuel**, Leander Independent School District
- **Mohit Mehta**, Assistant Director, Center for Asian American Studies
- **William Bae**, PhD Candidate, Curriculum & Instruction, Social Studies Education
- **Cathery Yeh**, Assistant Professor, Curriculum & Instruction, Center for Asian American Studies Core Faculty
- **Akeela Kongdara**, Youth Engagement and Volunteer Senior Associate, Asian Texans for Justice | B.A. Asian American Studies
- **Lily Trieu**, Executive Director, Asian Texans for Justice
- **Deisiree De Jesus**, Youth and Community Studies Major
- **Helen Liu**, B.Ed. Youth and Community Studies, B.A. Government
- **Emy Chen**, Austin Independent School District
- **Giullian Canlas**, B.A. in Asian American Studies; B.F.A. in Radio, Television & Film

Helpful Hints

Technology Support

- Use the UT Guest Wifi Network
 - For Tech support please reach out to William.

Recommended Hotel

- Hilton Hampton Inn Hotel & Suites University/Capitol
 - 1701 Lavaca Street, Austin, TX 78701
 - 512-499-8881
 - Check in 3:00 PM | Check out at 12:00 PM

Communications

- Please check your email daily for any updates or information that needs to be shared from the Academy staff.
- Please email aasacademy@austin.utexas.edu for general questions or inquiries.
- Please call or text Cathery Yeh (714-209-5153) for immediate assistance

Health/Wellness

- Please let us know if you have any specific health or wellness accommodations that might require our assistance.
 - **CVS**-2402 Guadalupe St, Austin, TX 78705
 - **Target**-2025 Guadalupe St., Austin, TX 78705
- **Gender Neutral Bathroom** - 2.218
- **Lactation/Quiet Room** - 2.208

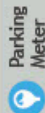
UT Austin Resources

- **Blanton Museum of Art**
 - 10 AM-5 PM, Tuesday-Friday
 - Free admission for teachers with ID
- **LBJ Library**
 - 9:00-5:00 PM, Monday-Sunday
 - \$8 admission for K-12 teachers
- **Harry Ransom Center**
 - 10:00-5:00 PM, Monday-Friday
 - Free

Local/Austin Resources

- **Bob Bullock Texas History Museum**
 - 10 AM-5 PM, Monday-Sunday
 - \$15 admission for adults
- **Asian American Resource Center (AARC) [RECOMMENDED]** The only pan-ethnic Asian American cultural center funded by a city budget in the United States. The Asian American Resource Center offers a daily program for seniors, rotating art exhibits, youth programming and cultural events.
<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/asian-american-resource-center>
 Monday-Friday, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM
 Free
- **Roots Unveiled: Exploring the Chinese Experience Exhibit [RECOMMENDED].**
 A multidisciplinary exhibition at the Downtown Library that uses contemporary art to engage with early U.S. Chinese immigrant history, particularly on Chinese Americans in Texas.
<https://library.austintexas.gov/events/exhibit/roots-unveiled-exploring-chinese-experience-7753177>
[Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM-8:00 PM](#)
[Free](#)
- **Austin Asian American Film Festival AAFF [RECOMMENDED]**-The only Asian American film festival in Texas, the AAFF is celebrating its 16th anniversary, and will take place this year between June 25th-June 29th Individual tickets to screenings are \$15-\$25
<https://www.aaafilmfest.org/how-to-attend-2025>

Visitors Map



Garage Parking

- Visitors may park in garages at the hourly rate
- All parking garages are open 24/7 on a space-available basis for visitors and students and do not require a permit

Garage Parking Rates*

0 – 30 mins	\$ 3
30 mins – 1hr	\$ 4
1 – 2hrs	\$ 6
2 – 3hrs	\$ 9
3 – 4hrs	\$ 12
4 – 5hrs	\$ 15
5 – 8hrs	\$ 17
8 – 24 hrs	\$ 18
Lost Ticket	\$ 36

*Rates and availability may vary during special events; does not apply to CCG, ECG, HCO, and RHO

Parking Meters

- Operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Located throughout the campus
- \$1 per 15 mins, up to 2 hrs, weekdays 7:30am – 5:45pm
- \$1 per 1 hr on nights & weekends
- Time limited to 2 hrs between 7:30am – 5:45pm. If more time is needed during the day, please park in a garage

Parking Restrictions

- All spaces on campus require a valid UT Permit or the display of a paid parking receipt
- All garages provide parking for visitors 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week
- There is no visitor parking in surface lots except metered spaces



Community Commitments: Learning from a Place of Love and Mutual Respect

“We urgently need to bring to our communities the limitless capacity to love, serve, and create for and with each other”-Grace Lee Boggs

“Access intimacy is something I am coming to understand that I need in my life; something that I cannot (and don’t want to) live without.” - Mia Mingus

Asian American Studies, like other ethnic studies disciplines, is built on telling the histories of individuals and communities that have been historically marginalized from mainstream history books. It is built on a critical learning on many interlocking social identities including race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, immigration status, etc., as well as an understanding of how larger phenomena like Imperialism, colonization and other global forces explain both historical and contemporary events.

Some Community Commitments to Ground Us! (Please add your own)



Make “I” Statements - Speak from your personal experience, understanding that we all come from different upbringings and worldviews.



Name Your Needs - Caring for ourselves helps us stay grounded and present. Sharing how we impact each other is an act of care and respect as we build an affirming space together.



Seek to (Un)Learn- Embrace the invitation to unlearn, grow, & learn. Ask questions with curiosity, not judgment.



Practice Active Listening- Listen with the intent to understand other’s viewpoints.



Practice Discomfort- Histories of racial, gendered trauma and violence can trigger different responses from different learners. Understand that a historical event may impact each of us differently. Discomfort with trust supports growth.

Helpful Terms

- **Asian American Studies** A critical ethnic studies field that was first established with the first Asian American Studies programs in 1968-1969 at San Francisco State College (now San Francisco State University) and University of California Berkeley. Asian American Studies promotes the research and scholarship on multiple Asian American experiences and histories through a critical, interdisciplinary lens. Now, a little over 50 years old, the field continues to expand and grow in new directions.
- **Asian American**-A term first created by Emma Gee and Yuji Ichioka, two Berkeley undergraduate students, in the context of the Asian American Movement of the 1960s that rejected racist terms used before like “Jap,” and “Oriental,” and encouraged a pan-ethnic identity across Chinese, Japanese, Filipino and Korean Americans.
- **Ethnic Studies**-An interdisciplinary field that seeks to understand the experience of historically marginalized groups (African Americans, Mexican Americans and Latinxs/as/os, Native Americans and Asian Americans) through the study of power and its linkages to race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality and movements for social justice and change.
- **“Critical”** Critical, where referring to academic studies, i.e “Critical ethnic studies,” refers to the lineage of critical theories that emerge in the 1960s and after that are rooted in social transformation and change for historically marginalized groups including Women, African Americans, LGBTQIA2+ Americans, Mexican Americans and Asian Americans.
- **Multicultural Education**-Learning and teaching about different cultures, peoples, traditions and customs.
- **Critical Multicultural Education**-Informed by lenses of antiracist education and critical pedagogy, critical multicultural education is an approach to K-20 education rooted in examining power and structural forms of oppression at the intersection of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability and other social identities.
 - Sleeter (2024). *Critical Multicultural Education*. Teachers College Press

- Petronic & Cadell (2020). *Intensifying Multicultural Education through Critical Pedagogy, Antiracism, and the Need to Unschool*. Oxford Research Encyclopedia on Education.
 - DiAngelo & Sensoy (2010). "OK, I Get It! Now Tell Me How to Do It:" Why We Can't Just Tell You How to Do Critical Multicultural Education", *Multicultural Perspectives*, 12(2), 97-102.
-
- **Asian American History**-The history of Asian Americans, broadly speaking, through a careful analysis of immigration history, law, policy, cultural and social formations with multiple contentions and struggles for equality.

 - **Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI); Asian American Pacific Islander Native Hawaiian (AAPINH); Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA)**-In 1978, U.S. Congress passed a resolution to celebrate "Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month" and Pacific Islanders (CHamorro, Marshallese, Native Hawaiians, Samoans) were grouped together with people of Asian ancestry (Indians, Pakistanis, Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Vietnamese, Filipinos, Lao, Cambodians, etc) from the 1960s to 1990s. In many government-related classifications, Asian Americans are classified together with Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, despite vastly different cultures and histories of interaction with U.S. Imperialism.

Schedule

Expanded
schedule with
session
descriptions



Monday, June 23th

2:00-3:00 PM Check-In and Registration at SZB 3.504, Sanchez Building

3:00-4:30 PM Introduction to Asian American Studies, SZB 3.504

William Bae: PhD Candidate, Curriculum & Instruction, Social Studies Education

James Yudhistira Lemuel: Leander Independent School District

This session will establish norms for the academy and provide an overview of Asian American Studies as a field and a history. Participants will be given an outline of the predominant time periods, figures, themes, and topics of contemporary Asian American Studies curricula.

4:30-5:30 PM Civic Engagement & K-12 Education Advocacy in Texas, SZB 3.504

Somprathana Akeela Kongdara: Young Engagement and Volunteer Senior Associate, Asian Texans for Justice, B.A. Asian American Studies

This session explores our ongoing fight for K-12 Asian American Studies in Texas by providing an overview of Asian Texans for Justice's civic engagement, advocacy, and youth leadership development work and how it contributes to creating a future where we ALL feel bold in our belonging.

5:30-7:00 PM Dinner and Documentary (Making Waves: The Rise of Asian America), SZB 3.504

Making Waves: The Rise of Asian America explores the vital role of Ethnic Studies in redefining the narrative and promoting service to Asian American communities across the country. From the birth of Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley and San Francisco State to present-day movements, Making Waves documents the stories of Asian American activism and efforts to lift up Ethnic Studies as a strategy to address present and future waves of anti-Asian hate.

Tuesday, June 24th

8:30-9:00 AM Check-In and Breakfast, SZB 3.504**9:00-9:30 AM Welcome and Grounding, SZB 3.504***William Bae: PhD Candidate, Curriculum & Instruction, Social Studies Education**James Yudhistira Lemuel: Leander Independent School District***9:30-10:30 AM Asian American Studies Pedagogy and Curriculum, SZB 3.504***Noreen Naseem Rodríguez: Associate Professor, Michigan State University**Esther Kim: Professor, Kennesaw State University**Sohyun An: Assistant Professor, College of William & Mary*

This session will introduce the K–12 Asian American Studies Framework, created to support educators in teaching the complexity, diversity, and richness of Asian American histories and experiences. Developed by the authors in collaboration with K–12 educators and grounded in Ethnic Studies, the framework offers a critical lens on Asian America through four key themes: identity; power and oppression; community and solidarity; and reclamation and joy. Participants will engage with each theme, explore guiding questions, and learn practical strategies for integrating the framework into their classrooms to foster inclusive, thoughtful, and empowering learning experiences.

10:35-11:35 AM Asian American Studies and the Contemporary Southwest Asia/North Africa (SWANA), SZB 3.504*Michael Joseph: Assistant Professor, Texas Tech University*

The first part of the workshop will focus on content through small interactive activities such as visual discovery activities with photos and primary source analysis and inferences, incorporating materials from Dearborn's Arab American National Museum website and the Library of Congress. The second half of the workshop will feature a larger jigsaw activity that allows attendees to dig deeper into the content, with each small group having a time period within Arab American history. Through the creation of a slide/mini-presentation, attendees will share the main ideas of the resources, the contributions of Arab Americans within their time period, and how this content can be integrated into K-12 curricula, teaching, and teacher education.

11:35 Welcome from Dr. Melissa Wetzel, Curriculum and Instruction Department Chair**11:35-12:20 PM Lunch and Break****12:20-1:20 PM Blanton Visit, Blanton Museum***Ray Williams, Director of Education and Academic Affairs · Blanton Museum of Art***1:30-3:00 PM Local Histories, Living Archives: Exploring Austin and Houston***Akiko Kodama: Austin History Center, SZB 3.508**Karen Siu: PhD Candidate, English, Rice University, SZB 3.504*

We will examine both past and present economic challenges, political struggles, and complex histories of Asian American Texans. As Asian American populations continue to grow and diversify across Texas and the US, while facing ongoing racism and xenophobia, the archival explorations will provide resources and approaches to teaching about and for Asian American communities in both Austin and Houston.

3:30-5:00 PM Subject-Specific Breakout Groups: Curriculum and Lesson Planning

William Bae: PhD Candidate, Curriculum & Instruction (Social Studies Education), University of Texas at Austin, SZB 4.312

James Yudhistira Lemuel: Leander Independent School District, SZB 3.722

Aristotle Ou: PhD Student, STEM Education, University of Texas at Austin, 3.722

Mohit Mehta: Assistant Director, Center for Asian American Studies; University of Texas at Austin, SZB 3.504

Cathery Yeh: Assistant Professor, Curriculum & Instruction /Asian American Studies, University of Texas at Austin,

Emy Chen: McCallum High School Graduate, Austin ISD, Former Civic Engagement Fellow, Asian Texans for Justice, Youth Organizer, Coalition for Liberated Ethnic Studies, SZB 3.322

Rebecca de Luna: Garland Independent School District, SZB 3.508

Participants will be organized by content area and work in small groups with a corresponding content expert to explore lesson planning and curriculum design for Asian American Studies.

5:00-7:30 PM Dinner and Networking (To Go or Free to Hang out)

Wednesday, June 25th

8:30-9:00 AM Check-In and Breakfast; SZB 3.504

9:00-9:30 AM Welcome and Grounding

William Bae: PhD Candidate, Curriculum & Instruction (Social Studies Education), University of Texas at Austin

James Yudhistira Lemuel: Leander Independent School District

9:30-10:30 AM We Are Here: Teaching APIDA Histories in the U.S. South

Catherine Fung: Asian American Education Project

Asian American studies tend to overlook the US South, and the studies of the US South tend to overlook Asian Americans. This session offers frameworks for APIDA history in the U.S. South, with a specific focus on teaching Asian migration, exclusion, and settlement in the contexts of US expansion and the formation of the US-Mexico border. We will explore how seemingly disparate histories intersect, examine the construction of the "illegal" immigrant, and reconsider the boundaries of "America" when we teach Asian American studies. In addition to supplying historical content and frameworks, this session offers teaching tools for teaching this topic in visual arts, music, and mathematics.

10:40-11:40 AM Caste in the South Asian Diaspora

Apurva Gunturu: University of Texas School of Law

Caste, in the South Asian context, is a hierarchical social system that classifies people on the basis of their ancestral occupation. Caste classifies people into the “dominant” castes (savarnas) and the “oppressed” castes. This session will discuss caste in America post 1800s and discuss ways in which caste may influence the lives and educational settings of K-12 students.

11:40-12:20 PM Lunch and Break

Cathery Yeh: Assistant Professor, Curriculum & Instruction /Asian American Studies, University of Texas at Austin

12:20-1:00 PM Capitol Walk

1:00-2:00 PM Student Voices: Lessons from the Round Rock HS Asian American Studies Course

Annie Nguyen: High school AP English Literature & Asian American Studies, Round Rock HS, Round Rock ISD Student Speakers (Saumya, Eva, and Melina): Round Rock High School Inaugural Asian American Studies Pilot Course

Mohit Mehta: Assistant Director, Center for Asian American Studies;

Round Rock HS in Round Rock ISD has completed two years of a yearlong Asian American Studies pilot course. The course, supported by Asian Texans for Justice and the Center for Asian American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, is based on a TEKS framework and provides students with an introduction to the social, political, cultural and legal histories of Asian Americans. In this panel, the course teacher, Ann Nguyen will be joined by three recent RRHS graduates to share their experiences with the course.

2:00-3:30 PM Subject-Specific Breakout Groups: Curriculum and Lesson Planning

William Bae: PhD Candidate, Curriculum & Instruction (Social Studies Education), University of Texas at Austin

James Yudhistira Lemuel: Leander Independent School District

Aristotle Ou: PhD Student, STEM Education, University of Texas at Austin

Mohit Mehta: Assistant Director, Center for Asian American Studies; University of Texas at Austin

Cathery Yeh: Assistant Professor, Curriculum & Instruction /Asian American Studies, University of Texas at Austin

Emy Chen: McCallum High School Graduate, Austin ISD, Former Civic Engagement Fellow, Asian Texans for Justice, Youth Organizer, Coalition for Liberated Ethnic Studies

Rebecca de Luna: Garland Independent School District

Participants will be organized by content area and work in small groups with a corresponding content expert to explore lesson planning and curriculum design for Asian American Studies.

3:30-4:30 PM Closing and Future Building

William Bae: PhD Candidate, Curriculum & Instruction (Social Studies Education), University of Texas at Austin

James Yudhistira Lemuel: Leander Independent School District

4:30-6:00 PM Community Gathering (Optional)

Join us for Happy Hour at Gabriel’s (located at the AT&T Hotel, just a 3 minute walk from the Sanchez Building) for an informal gathering to share stories, exchange classroom application

ideas, and continue building connections. This is an optional session—but why not enjoy some free food while waiting for traffic to ease up?

Speaker Profiles

Monday, June 23: Introduction to Asian American Studies & Dinner with Documentary

William Bae

PhD Candidate, Curriculum & Instruction (Social Studies Education), University of Texas at Austin

Introduction to Asian American Studies

William Bae is a PhD Candidate at the University of Texas at Austin. His research focuses on how the racial identity of Asian American teachers and educational stakeholders influences curricular decisions and classroom practices and understanding the process of curricular reclamation for Asian Americans in the social studies curricula.



James Lemuel

Leander Independent School District

Introduction to Asian American Studies

James Yudhistira Lemuel is a current high school math teacher in Leander ISD. Born and raised in Austin, TX, James graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a B.S. in Mathematics, B.A. in Plan II, and minors in Asian American Studies and History. As a teacher, he prioritizes interdisciplinary work, blending history and other subjects into his math lessons. He works actively with the Center for Asian American Studies (CAAS) and the City of Austin to develop ethnic studies curriculum for K-12 teachers and youth.

Somprathana Akeela Kongdara

Youth Programs Sr. Associate, Asian Texans for Justice

K-12 Education Advocacy in Texas

Somprathana Akeela Kongdara is the daughter and granddaughter of Lao Refugees. She is a third-generation Lao Texan. Since childhood, she has taken great pride in her Lao heritage and community. She often refers to the African Proverb that “it takes a village to raise a child,” attributing her passion and ambitions to her community at home (Amarillo) and the greater Lao diaspora. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a B.S. in Political Communication and a B.A. in Asian American Studies. Akeela is passionate about the power of storytelling and oral histories. She had the opportunity to collect oral histories of Lao Americans from all over the country and to advocate for Lao Americans. Her passion topics are educational equity, intersectionality, and reproductive justice. In her free time, she enjoys attending sporting events and live concerts!



Tuesday, June 24: Archives, Curricular Frameworks and Building Knowledge about Asian America

Dr. Noreen Naseem Rodríguez

Associate Professor, Michigan State University

Asian American Studies Pedagogy and Curriculum

Noreen Naseem Rodríguez is an Associate Professor of Elementary Education and Educational Justice in the Department of Teacher Education and core faculty in the Asian Pacific American Studies and Muslim Studies Programs at Michigan State University. She is co-author of *Social Studies for a Better World: An Anti-Oppressive Approach for Elementary Educators* with Katy Swalwell and *Teaching Asian America in Elementary Classrooms* with Sohyun An and Esther Kim. Before becoming a teacher educator, Noreen was a bilingual elementary teacher in Austin, Texas for nine years.



Dr. Sohyun An

Professor, Kennesaw State University

Asian American Studies Pedagogy and Curriculum

Sohyun An is a Professor of Social Studies Education at Kennesaw State University. A former middle & high school social studies teacher, mother of two, and teacher educator, her work centers on curriculum, pedagogy, and movement of K-12 Asian American studies and social studies education.

Dr. Esther Kim

Assistant Professor, College of William & Mary

Asian American Studies Pedagogy and Curriculum

Esther Kim is an assistant professor in Curriculum & Instruction and affiliate faculty in Asian Pacific Islander American Studies at William & Mary. She is a former high school social studies and humanities teacher, whose research focuses on racial and religious identities in schools.



Dr. Michael Joseph

Assistant Professor, Texas Tech University

Asian American Studies and the Contemporary Middle East

Dr. Michael Joseph is an Assistant Professor at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. His scholarly work centers on Arab and Middle Eastern/North African (MENA) American educators' conceptualizations of their racial and cultural identities through their pedagogical practices and curricular decision making that challenge colonialist discourses. He is also the K-12 Social Studies Curricular Anchor for the Teacher Education Department – working with elementary and secondary social studies preservice teachers. Prior to obtaining his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin, Michael was a high school social studies teacher at F. D. Roosevelt High School in the Dallas Independent School District.

Ray Williams, Blanton Museum

Director of Education and Academic Affairs

Exploring Stories, Histories, and Identities through Art

Ray Williams (MA art history, UNC-Chapel Hill; EdM, Harvard Graduate School of Education) has served as director of education and academic affairs at the Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas at Austin since 2012. He has held similar positions at the Harvard Art Museums, the RISD Museum of Art, the Smithsonian's Freer and Sackler Galleries, and the University of North Carolina's Ackland Art Museum. His work has focused on how works of art can contribute to our understanding of religious diversity, participatory democracy, and empathetic communication. He also has extensive experience teaching health care and business professionals in museum settings.



Rachel P Urbano

Curatorial Assistant, Prints & Drawings

Local Histories, Living Archives: Exploring Austin and Houston

Rachel Urbano earned her M.A. in Art History at The University of Texas at Austin and has been with the Blanton Museum of Art since 2021 as the Curatorial Assistant for Prints & Drawings. She provides care for nearly 18,000 works-on-paper in the Blanton's collection and facilitates educational study days and pop-up exhibitions in the H-E-B Study Room for university and public audiences. Rachel also works closely with the Curatorial and Collections teams to organize exhibitions, collection research, and publications.

Akiko Kodama, Austin History Center

Austin History Center

Local Histories, Living Archives: Exploring Austin and Houston

Akiko Kodama is the Community Archivist at the Austin History Center. She makes connections with individuals and organizations to collect and preserve the communities' histories in the archive. As a member of the Community Archives Program team, she provides workshops to the wider Austin communities focusing on the importance of preserving and sharing their stories. She is responsible for the AANHPI Subject Guide at the AHC. Akiko has an MA in Southeast Asian Studies from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and 10 years experience in Marketing Communications.



Karen Siu

PhD Candidate, English, Rice University

Local Histories, Living Archives: Exploring Austin and Houston

Karen Siu (she/her/hers) is a PhD candidate in English at Rice University. She is a scholar, teacher, and advocate specializing in Asian American literature, art, and history, particularly Southeast Asian archives. As a child and grandchild of Vietnamese refugees, her work is personal and political, intertwining oral histories and creative nonfiction in her writing, research, and teaching. She follows a tenet of Critical Refugee Studies that these histories, experiences, and memories are worth knowing and studying. Beyond her writing, she co-founded the Rice Asian Diasporic and Asian American Research Collective (RADAAR), a space for advocacy, scholarly exchange, and community partnerships in order to raise consciousness about Asian American Studies and Asian American political organizing in Texas.

Wednesday, June 25: Deepening Knowledge of Asian America Curricular Resources, & Asian American Ethnic Studies



Dr. Catherine Fung

Asian American Education Project

We Are Here: Teaching APIDA Histories in the U.S. South

Catherine is a former high school teacher who is currently teaching Asian American Studies for UC Davis and San José State University. She serves as the Deputy Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Asian American Education Project. Contact: catherine.fung@asianamericanedu.org

Apurva Gunturu

University of Texas School of Law

Caste in the South Asian Diaspora

Apurva is a recent graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. She completed a graduate certificate in Asian American Studies, served as co-chair for the Native American and Indigenous Peoples' Association, Coalition for Caste Abolition, and was an editor on the Texas Journal for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. She has previously worked for the Center for Constitutional Rights, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), the Northwest Workers' Justice Project, the International Labor Rights Forum, and as a student coordinator of pro-bono immigration clinics. She will begin working as an immigration attorney for the Central Texas non-profit American Gateways in the Fall. Outside of her work, Apurva is also on the steering committee of the Austin Lawyers' Guild, the local chapter of the National Lawyers' Guild, works alongside the Palestinian Youth Movement, and enjoys gardening.





Ann Nguyen

High school AP English Literature & Asian American Studies, Round Rock HS, Round Rock ISD

Student Voices: Lessons from the Round Rock HS Asian American Studies Course

Annie Nguyen is a descendant of a lineage of educators. Following in their footsteps, she earned her B.A. in English through the UTeach Liberal Arts Program from The University of Texas at Austin. She is a dedicated secondary English teacher in the greater Austin area, having taught everything from freshmen to seniors for the past eight years and proudly piloted the first Asian American Ethnic Studies high school course in Texas. She is involved in her school's equity, diversity, and inclusivity committee, as well as leading the English department's equity committee. She is also a cooperating teacher for UTeach and serves on their advisory board. Motivated by the pride of her family's legacy and beloved community, she hopes to explore every avenue that will lead to an education that liberates all students.

Round Rock High School Students

Round Rock High School Inaugural Asian American Studies Pilot Course

Student Voices: Lessons from the Round Rock HS Asian American Studies Course

In the 2023–2024 school year, Round Rock High School piloted the first year long Asian American Studies Course. 29 students explored the rich histories, cultures, and contributions of Asian Americans. Through multimedia resources, literature, and historical documents, students gain a comprehensive understanding of immigration, identity, social justice, and the arts. The course promotes critical thinking, cultural awareness, and community involvement, celebrating diversity and empowering students to become informed, active citizens.





Dr. Mohit P. Mehta

Assistant Director, Center for Asian American Studies

Student Voices: Lessons from the Round Rock HS Asian American Studies Course

Mohit Mehta is the Assistant Director for the Center for Asian American Studies. His research focuses on racial literacy and Asian American Studies. He has taught elementary dual language education for 7 years in Austin public schools, and also in Guatemala, Nicaragua, India and Palestine.

Subject-Specific Breakout Groups: Curriculum and Lesson Planning

Emy Chen

McCallum High School Graduate, Austin ISD
Former Civic Engagement Fellow, Asian Texans for Justice
Youth Organizer, Coalition for Liberated Ethnic Studies

Interdisciplinary/ Transdisciplinary Breakout Group

Emy Chen is a graduate of McCallum High School in Austin, Texas. Emy is co-author of the curricular resources "[Journey for Justice: Farmworker's Movement](#)" and "[We are not your Model Minority](#)". She is committed to moving Asian American Studies/Ethnic Studies forward in K-12 schools and created a [set of slides](#) on AAPI leaders as well as through her [blog](#).





James Lemuel

Leander Independent School District

Secondary Mathematics Content Breakout Group

James Yudhistira Lemuel is a current high school math teacher in Leander ISD. Born and raised in Austin, TX, James graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a B.S. in Mathematics, B.A. in Plan II, and minors in Asian American Studies and History. As a teacher, he prioritizes interdisciplinary work, blending history and other subjects into his math lessons. He works actively with the Center for Asian American Studies (CAAS) and the City of Austin to develop ethnic studies curriculum for K-12 teachers and youth.

William Bae

PhD Candidate, Curriculum & Instruction (Social Studies Education), University of Texas at Austin

Secondary Social Studies Breakout Group

William Bae is a PhD Candidate at the University of Texas at Austin. His research focuses on how the racial identity of Asian American teachers and educational stakeholders influences curricular decisions and classroom practices and understanding the process of curricular reclamation for Asian Americans in the social studies curricula.





Dr. Mohit P. Mehta

Assistant Director, Center for Asian American Studies;

Secondary English Language Arts Breakout Group

Mohit Mehta is the Assistant Director for the Center for Asian American Studies. His research focuses on racial literacy and Asian American Studies. He has taught elementary dual language education for 7 years in Austin public schools, and also in Guatemala, Nicaragua, India and Palestine.

Aristotle Ou

PhD Student, STEM Education, University of Texas at Austin

Math Content Breakout Group

Aristotle Ou is a PhD student at the University of Texas at Austin. His research interests include co-teaching, detracking, teacher education, and Asian American studies. He taught middle school mathematics for ten years in California and served as an Americorps member for two years with the Watershed Stewards Project.





Rebecca de Luna

Garland ISD

Orchestra/Music Content Breakout Group

Rebecca De Luna is a music educator with over nine years of experience teaching orchestra at Jackson Technology Center in Garland, TX. During her tenure, she also served as the director of Mariachi Cielo Azul and Mariachi Estrellas de North Garland, fostering student engagement through vibrant, culturally rich musical traditions. Her teaching is rooted in culturally responsive pedagogy, with a strong emphasis on community engagement and using music as a vehicle for connection, identity, and empowerment.

Dr. Cathery Yeh

Assistant Professor, Curriculum & Instruction /Asian American Studies, University of Texas at Austin

Interdisciplinary/ Transdisciplinary Breakout Group

Cathery Yeh is an Assistant Professor in Curriculum & Instruction and Core Faculty in the Center for Asian American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Her scholarship focuses on STEM education, mathematical modeling, and ethnic studies curricula and organizing. She has taught in dual language classrooms in California, as well as in Chile, Costa Rica, and China. Prior to joining UT Austin, she led the development of both the Ethnic Studies Minor and the Asian American Studies Minor at Chapman University.



Learn More

Books

- Lee, E. (2015). *The Making of Asian America*. Simon & Schuster.
- Choy, C.C. (2022). *Asian American Histories of the United States*. Beacon Press.
- Lee, E. & Soontornvat, C. (2024). *Made in Asian America: A History for Young People*. HarperCollins Publishers.

Documentaries

- PBS Asian Americans (<https://www.pbs.org/show/asian-americans/>)
- Christine Choy & Renee Tajima Peña (1987). *Who Killed Vincent Chin?*
- Grace Lee (2013). *American Revolutionary: The Evolution of Grace Lee Boggs*
- Ric Burns & Li-Shun Yi (2017). *The Chinese Exclusion Act*.
- Alice Gu. (2020). *The Donut King*.
- PJ Raval. (2018). *Call Her Ganda*.
- Josh Chuck and Harry Chuck (2019). *Chinatown Rising*.
- Ann Kaneko (2022). *Manzanar Diverted*.

Asian American Histories in Texas:

- Li Lu (2023). *A Town Called Victoria*.
- Tim Tsai (2019). *Seadrift*.
- PJ Raval. (2023). *Who We Become* (on Netflix)

Online Resources

[Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Collection \(APAC\)](#)

- Established in 1997 and part of the Smithsonian, Smithsonian works with educators in schools and community-based organizations to bring innovative arts-based learning on Asian Pacific American experiences.

[Dallas Asian American Historical Society](#)

- A 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in April 2022 to research, preserve and amplify the experience of Asian Americans in the Dallas area.

[The Sikh Coalition](#)

- Founded in 2001, as a volunteer organization in the wake of the first hate-crime against a South Asian American, Balbir Singh Sodhi, outside of a gas station in Mesa, Arizona, today the Sikh Coalition advocates for the constitutional right to practice faith without fear.

Primary Sources

- [South Asian American Digital Archive](#)
- [Filipino American Digital Archive](#)-CSU Dominguez Hills
- [Rice University Chao Center Houston Asian American Archive](#)
- [Densho.org](#) (archives of Japanese American incarceration)
- [Southeast Asian American Archive](#)-UC Irvine
- [Southeast Asian Digital Archive](#)-University of Massachusetts Lowell
- [Korean American Digital Archive](#)-University of Southern California (USC)
- [Hmong Archives](#)-St. Paul, Minnesota

Curricular Resources

Curricular Frameworks

[Asian American Studies K-12 Framework](#) - A critical framework to integrate Asian American Studies in K-12 education. Developed by Dr. Noreen Naseem Rodríguez and Dr. Sohyun An for the Asian American Resource Initiative.

K-12

[Asian American Education Project](#) - Founded in 2021, AAEP has developed lesson plan resources for K-12 teachers, including accompanying lessons for the PBS series *Asian Americans* (2020).

[Immigration History.org](#) - Links to lesson plans created by different resources including Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, Dr. Noreen Naseem Rodríguez and Learning for Justice

[Teach Immigration History](#) - Lesson plans and timeline on immigration history. Project led by Dr. Madeline Hsu (former UT Asian American Studies professor) and also designed by Esther Kim, one of our speakers.

[Sikh Coalition](#) - An educators guide and resources created by the Sikh Coalition.

[Yuri Education Project](#) - Curricular materials and online workshops on selected topics in Asian American history.

Ethnic Studies Curriculum

[Liberated Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum](#) - Educators from California institutions and schools who have developed lesson plans based on the original principles of ethnic studies.

[Foundations & Futures](#) - Free, open source digital textbook on Asian American Studies and Pacific Islander that brings together scholarship, open access technology, and ethnic studies pedagogy.

[UC Davis Model Curricula](#) - Free, open source curriculum on the Vietnamese American Experiences, Hmong History and Cultural Studies, and Cambodian American Studies by California County Offices.

Round Rock ISD Asian American Studies [Pilot Course Framework](#) & [Lesson Plans](#)-Lesson plans developed by Ann Nguyen and Mohit Mehta to pilot at Round Rock HS for the 2023-2024 academic year. These lesson plans are being revised and refined over the next several weeks.

Survey, CPEs, & Honorarium

- A letter detailing Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit from the College of Education at the University of Texas at Austin will be emailed to you in PDF form within 2 weeks.
- A check to process your honorarium will be processed and mailed to you at the address you provided to us on your pre-survey. If you have recently moved, please make sure that we have your correct address on file
 - Email: aasacademy@austin.utexas.edu.
- **How did we do?** Please take a moment to provide us feedback:
 - <https://forms.gle/QrYJ8odTjmxkKgGAA>

