

For Immediate Release:
December 7, 2009

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**"Born to Serve or Born to Lead?"
UCLA's Amerasia Journal Releases New Research
on Asian American Feminism and Gender**

UCLA Asian American Studies Center--Amerasia Journal 35:2, 2009 releases its latest edition: "Through Class, Race, and Sex" with a special focus on the way contemporary Asian American women think, feel, and act upon their status as women in society.

Jennifer Yee, a professor of Asian American Studies at California State University, Fullerton, has "opened up" a new conversation about the "assumptions, values and beliefs that serve as the foundation for personal lives, family and community health," in her article. Upon observing both her female and male students, she has observed a "shifting of consciousness" and the struggle by Asian American women in particular to define, and to defy, traditional expectations. Today's Asian American women, Yee asserts, must answer for themselves such questions as: "Born to Serve or Born to Lead?" (Many Asian parents have different expectations for their first-born daughters or sons). Another choice Asian women make is whether to adhere to becoming a "good girl" and "ideal female".

Yee states that: "As teens, they hear they should do well in school so that they will succeed, go to the best schools, get prestigious jobs and make lots of money, and bring honor to take care of their parents. They should be heterosexual, avoid sex before marriage and above all, avoid pregnancy until after they are married."

Yee's fascinating study shows that the conflicts which Asian American women and students go through--and their backgrounds are as varied as China, Korea, Taiwan, Okinawa, Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, Cambodia, Laos--with multiracial and multi-generational families included--often become internalized struggles that affect mental and physical health. The study concludes with ways for Asian American students--both female and male--to recognize the social and cultural forces that surround them at home, at school, and at play--and to fashion independent choices.

Other articles in this special edition look at Asian American women activists Grace Lee Boggs and Kazu Iijima, involved respectively in the Black Power and Asian American Movements. Scholars May C. Fu, and Karen L. Ishizuka have separately provided an in-depth look at the context of these two women's lives from the 1960s and through subsequent decades. Stephanie D. Santos, former assistant editor of Amerasia, provides a look at feminist organizing among Filipina Migrant Workers and the role of the State in both neglecting and condoning violence against these workers.

Section two of Amerasia contains an interview with the late scholar Ron Takaki, conducted by Te-Hsing Shan. UCLA Professor Valerie J. Matsumoto introduces new research by her students which cover: Indo-Fijians in America (Faris Alikhan); Indonesian Dutch Americans (Breann Schram); and Filipino Guamanian Americans (Lindsey Babas).

Section three addresses the ways in which ethnic groups in America are depicted in the media, in museums, and within institutions of higher education. Erin Khue Ninh examines how Vietnamese refugees, long settled in the U.S., maintain and establish memory and nostalgia through internet videos. Cari Costanzo Kapur looks at how the history of Japanese plantation workers is written and exhibited in relation to native Hawaiian peoples at the the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i. Finally, Patricia E. Literte, drawing from her fieldwork at institutions of higher education, looks at the ways in which students of mixed ancestry ("hapas") organize on campus and define themselves socially and politically in relation to other Asian Americans.

This special 228 page issue of Amerasia Journal costs \$15.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling and 9.25 percent sales tax for California residents (\$21.39). Make checks payable to "Regents of

U.C." VISA, MASTERCARD, and DISCOVER are also accepted; include expiration date and phone number on correspondence. The mailing address is: UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press, 3230 Campbell Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1546. You may also purchase through the online bookstore: www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpress/comersus/store/comersus Phone: 310-825-2968. Email: aascpress@aasc.ucla.edu

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