Verge-sponsored Panels
2020 AAS

Submission Deadline | July 22, 2019

- **Settler Colonialism in Asia** | Nishant Upadhyay (nupadhyay1@umassd.edu)
- **Refugees, Local Politics, and Diasporic Actors** | Jana K. Lipman (jlipman@tulane.edu)
- **Decolonial Transpacific(s)** | Yi-Ting Chang (ymc5108@psu.edu)

250 word abstracts and 2-page CVs should be submitted to organizers by **July 22, 2019**. Please find the individual panel statements and the organizers' contact information below.
Expanding discussions of Asian settler colonialism from the contexts of North America and Oceania towards Asia, this roundtable explores ways to conceptualize settler colonialism and indigenous decolonization in Asia and in the transpacific. If settler colonialism describes the dispossession of indigenous peoples by invading settler migrants, it may adequately describe dynamics in numerous societies across Asia, including Okinawa, Taiwan, the Philippines, Borneo, the borderlands of China, and the hill regions of Southeast and South Asia. However, what does it mean for scholars to bring settler colonial analytics to these locations of decidedly distinct histories and political realities? Is our research agenda comparable with or different from scholars of settler colonialism elsewhere? This roundtable brings together scholars of settler colonialism and indigenous societies in the context of Asia for an urgent conversation about our respective research projects, our methodological experiments, and our theoretical ambitions. Together, we hope to think through the conceptual terms—Asia, Asian, settler colonialism, and indigeneity—as they make sense in Asia and Asia-originating settler colonies. We examine how different historical trajectories and material conditions have created various settler colonial societies throughout Asia and how indigenous communities from Asia have resisted and critiqued settler colonialism even when they invoke different conceptual categories relevant to their specific lifeworlds. Drawing on existing scholarship on Asian settler colonialism developed in the context of Hawaii and North America, where “Asian” serves as a racial category vis-a-vis the white settler order, we also inquire about the theoretical and historical relation between settler colonialism in Asia and Asian settler colonialism in the transpacific region. We hope that this roundtable may be the first of many conversations for better understanding of settler colonialism and indigenous decolonization in Asia and in the transpacific region.
Refugees, Local Politics, and Diasporic Actors

During the 20th century, massive numbers of people moved across borders in China and Southeast Asia. However, in the United States, the study of refugee movements has largely examined the initial reasons for displacement and the politics of resettlement. In this panel, we propose to re-orient scholars’ attention to the places and moments in-between, and more specifically, to places within Asia. This panel will examine how Asian polities (sometimes revolutionary, sometimes decidedly authoritarian, and other times, under colonial rule) understood the status of refugees on a local and international level. In addition, we also call on scholars to recognize the interplay between diasporic communities and regional responses. Overseas Chinese students and leaders, resettled Vietnamese refugees, Filipino activists, and many others became advocates for refugees in Asian settings and in majority white countries such as the United States, Australia, and Canada. This panel will present comparative case studies centered in Asia that demonstrate the relationships between local, regional, and international refugee politics.
Decoloniality, in Latin American theoretical tradition, involves the excavation and engagement of alternative epistemologies as well as the unveiling of what colonial infrastructures and knowledges still occlude. In transpacific studies, the decolonial, as Lisa Yoneyama shows, is often understood as deconstructing the military-imperial infrastructures of the US and Japanese empires. This panel acknowledges the importance of deconstructing imperial infrastructures but focuses on how more expansive definitions of decoloniality can be used to help theorize the transpacific, a geographical and conceptual arena that triangulates Asia, Americas, and Oceania. The panel also explores how these definitions can help formulate different decolonial practices rendered obscure by dominant transpacific cartographies.

How might our views of the transpacific change if we conceptualized decoloniality in the more broadly encompassing terms offered by the Latin American theoretical tradition? What would a “decolonial transpacific” look like beyond a U.S.-centric critique of imperialism? What does the decolonial mean beyond engaging alternative archives, beyond multiplicity? What might be some of the genealogies of decolonial transpacific? How is the decolonial embodied on different scales—those of structural, affective, inter-subjective, intra-subjective, and inter-species? How can non-human or posthuman subjects enact a different decolonial thinking? How does an alternative conceptualization of the decolonial enable different relationalities, which go beyond those of the oppressor and the oppressed, the colonial and the colonized, the guilty and the innocent? Finally, what might be some challenges or limitations of the decolonial transpacific?

This panel invites alternative articulations of the decolonial in the hope of tracing multiple genealogies of the decolonial transpacific and expanding the term’s meaning without overlooking rigorous definitional work.