

ESTHER KIM LEE, PhD

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023-present: Frances Hill Fox Professor of Theater Studies, Duke University. Secondary Faculty in International Comparative Studies and History; Core Faculty in Asian American & Diaspora Studies.

2018-2023: Professor. Department of Theater Studies, Duke University. Secondary Faculty in International Comparative Studies and History.

2017-2018: Professor. School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies, University of Maryland, College Park. Affiliate Faculty in Asian American Studies Program, Center for Global Migration Studies, and Center for East Asian Studies.

2013-2017: Associate Professor. School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies, University of Maryland, College Park.

2007- 2013: Associate Professor. Department of Theatre and Asian American Studies Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

2000 – 2007: Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre and Asian American Studies Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

1999-2000: Predoctoral Fellow at Five Colleges. Lecturer, School of Interdisciplinary Arts, Hampshire College.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

2025-present: Chair of Department of Theater Studies, Duke University.

2021-2025: Director of Asian American and Diaspora Studies Program, Duke University.

2017-2018: Director of Graduate Studies, School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies, UMD.

2016-2017: Head of History/Theory Area and of MA/PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies, UMD.

2014-2016: Associate Director, School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies, UMD.

2010-2012: Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Theatre, UIUC.

2006-2011: Chair, MA/PhD Program in Theatre History, Department of Theatre, UIUC.

EDUCATION

PhD in Theatre History, Literature, and Criticism, 2000
The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

MA in Dramatic Arts, 1995
University of California, Santa Barbara

BA in Computer Science, 1992
University of California, Santa Barbara

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs:

Made-Up Asians: Yellowface During the Exclusion Era. University of Michigan Press, 2022.

- Winner of the Barnard Hewitt Award, American Society for Theatre Research
- Winner of the Outstanding Book Award with Distinction in Scholarly Achievement, Association for Theatre in Higher Education
- Winner of American Theatre and Drama Society's John W. Frick Book Award
- Finalist, George Freedley Memorial Award, Theatre Library Association

The Theatre of David Henry Hwang. Bloomsbury Methuen Drama, 2015.

A History of Asian American Theatre. Cambridge University Press, 2006. Published in paperback in 2011.

- Winner of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education Outstanding Book Award

Edited Books:

Modern and Contemporary World Drama. Bloomsbury Methuen Drama, 2022. Editor.

Seven Contemporary Plays from the Korean Diaspora in the Americas. Duke University Press, 2012. Editor.

Articles, Essays, and Book Chapters:

Co-Author, "LeAnn Fields and University of Michigan Press." *Theatre Survey* 66 (3), 2025.

"Yellowface and Asian American Actors." *Milestones in Asian American Theatre*. Ed. Josephine Lee. (Routledge, 2022).

Esther Kim Lee, Glenn Odom & Aparna Bhargava Dharwadker. "A Conversation About New Directions in Studies of Modernity And Theatre." *Studies in Theatre and Performance*, 2022.

"BD Wong." *50 Key Figures in Queer US Theatre*. Eds. Jimmy A. Noriega and Jordan Schildcrout. (Routledge, 2022).

"A Genealogy of the Fu Manchu Mustache." *Monsters in Performance: Essays on the Aesthetics of Social Disqualification*. Eds. Michael Chemers and Analola Santana. (Routledge, 2022).

"Sounding Asian American: Geeks and Superheroes in Qui Nguyen's *Vietgone*." *Theatre after Empire*. Eds. Harvey Young and Megan Geigner. (Routledge, 2021).

"Transcultural Memory and Food in Julia Cho's *Aubergine*." *Critical Perspectives on Contemporary Plays by Women: The Early Twenty-First Century*. Eds. Penny Farfan and Lesley Ferris (University of Michigan Press, 2021).

"Asian American Theater and Drama from the 1960s to the 1990s." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian American Literature and Culture*. Oxford University Press, 2019.

"Adages for Ethical Graduate Mentoring in the Twenty-first Century." Co-authored with Charlotte M. Canning and Sara Warner. *Theatre Topics*. 29.2 (July 2019). 103-113.

"Historiography of Yellowface: Stage Make-Up, Materiality and Technology." *The Methuen Drama Handbook of Theatre History and Historiography*. Eds. Claire Cochrane and Joanna Robinson. Methuen Bloomsbury, 2019.

"Korean Diaspora and the Moebius Strip: Sung Rno's *Yi Sang Counts to Thirteen* and Transnational Avant-Garde Theatre." *Transnational Performance, Identity and Mobility*. Eds. Iris Tuan and Ivy I-Chu Chang. Methuen Bloomsbury, 2018.

"All the Stage's a World: The Organization of International, Multicultural, and Global Theatre Companies in the U.S." *Theater and Cultural Politics for a New World*. Ed. Chinua Akimaro Thelwell. Routledge, 2017. 60-72.

"Strangers Onstage: Asia, America, Theatre, and Performance." *The Journal of American Drama and Theatre*. 28.1 (Winter 2016).

"Contemporary Asian American Drama." *The Cambridge History of Asian American Literature*. Eds. Rajini Srikanth and Min Song. Cambridge University Press, 2015. 406-421.

"Designed Bodies: A Historiographical Study of the Costume Designer Willa Kim." *The Oxford Handbook of Dance and Theater*. Ed. Nadine George-Graves. Oxford University Press, 2015. 362-379.

"Asian American Women Playwrights and the Dilemma of the Identity Play: Staging Heterotopic Subjectivities." *Contemporary Women Playwrights*. Eds. Penny Farfan and Lesley Ferris. Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. 244-257.

"Patient Zero: Jean Yoon and Korean Canadian Theatre." *Asian Canadian Theatre*. Eds. Nina Lee Aquino and Ric Knowles. Toronto: Playwrights Canada, 2011. 62-78.

"Avant-Garde Becomes Nationalism: Immortalizing Nam June Paik in South Korea." *Avant-Garde Performance and Material Exchange: Vectors of the Radical*. Ed. Mike Sell. Palgrave Macmillan, 2011. 140-166.

"Transnational Legitimization of an Actor: The Life and Career of Soon-Tek Oh." *Modern Drama* 48.2 (Summer 2005): 372-406.

"Between the Personal and the Universal: Asian American Solo Performance from the 1970s to the 1990s." *Journal of Asian American Studies*. 6.3 (Oct 2003): 289-312.

"David Henry Hwang." *Asian American Playwrights: A Bio-Bibliographical Critical Sourcebook*. Ed. Miles X. Liu. Greenwood Press, 2002.

"Diana Son." *Asian American Playwrights: A Bio-Bibliographical Critical Sourcebook*. Ed. Miles X. Liu. Greenwood Press, 2002.

Reviews and Program Notes:

Book Review: "The Interdisciplinary Theatre of Ping Chong. By Yuko Kurahashi." *Theatre Research International* 46.3 (November 2021): 414-415.

Performance Review: "M. Butterfly by David Henry Hwang." *Theatre Journal* 70.4 (December 2018): 560-561.

Program Note: "Aubergine by Julia Cho." National Theater Company of Korea. February 2018.

Program Note: "Playwrights of the Korean Diaspora." Korean Diaspora Theatre Festival. National Theater Company of Korea. July 2017.

Book Review: "Chinese Looks: Fashion, Performance, Race by Sean Metzger and *The Racial Mundane: Asian American Performance and the Embodied Everyday* by Ju Yon Kim." *Theatre Survey*. 57.3 (September 2016): 488-490.

Book Review: "DMZ Crossing: Performing Emotional Citizenship Along the Korean Border by Suk-Young Kim." *TDR/The Drama Review*. 59.4 (Winter 2015): 192-193.

Book Review: "Japan of Pure Invention: Gilbert and Sullivan's The Mikado by Josephine Lee." *Theatre Journal*. 63.3 (Oct 2011): 473-474.

Book Review: "Choreographing Asian America by Yutian Wong." *New Theatre Quarterly* 27.3 (2011): 292.

Book Review: "The Spectacle of Japanese American Trauma: Racial Performativity and World War II by Emily Roxworthy." *Theatre Research International* 34.3 (Oct 2009): 317.

Book Review: “*National Abjection: The Asian American Body Onstage* by Karen Shimakawa.” *Theatre Journal* 57.1 (2005): 154-155.

Performance Review: “Frank Chin’s *The Year of the Dragon* at the East West Players.” *Theatre Journal*. 23.4 (2001): 638-640.

Book Review: “*Tokens? The NYC Asian American Experience on Stage* edited by Alvin Eng.” *Journal of Asian American Studies*. 3.3 (October 2000). 382-384.

Book Review: “*Asian American Culture on Stage: The History of the East West Players*, by Yuko Kurahashi.” *Theatre Survey*. 40.1 (May 2000). 117-120.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

2024: Duke APSI (Asian/Pacific Studies Institute) Faculty Research Grant

2024: Duke Arts & Sciences Faculty Research Grant

2023: Distinguished Scholar Award. American Society for Theatre Research

2023: The Barnard Hewitt Award, American Society for Theatre Research for *Made-Up Asians*

2023: The Outstanding Book Award with Distinction in Scholarly Achievement, Association for Theatre in Higher Education for *Made-Up Asians*

2023: American Theatre and Drama Society’s John W. Frick Book Award for *Made-Up Asians*

2023: Finalist, George Freedley Memorial Award, Theatre Library Association for *Made-Up Asians*

2022: Dean’s Diversity and Leadership Award. Trinity College, Duke University.

2021: Top 5% of all undergraduate instructors in the Humanities in Trinity College, Duke University.

2019: AAPI Faculty Leadership Award. Center for Multicultural Affairs (CMA), Duke University.

2018: Langford Lectureship Award, Duke University.

2014: Graduate School Research and Scholarship Award. University of Maryland.

2011-2012: Research Award. Research Board, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

2009-2010: Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Fellowship Award. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

2009: Co-Sponsorship Award given by ASTR (American Society for Theatre Research).

2007: The Outstanding Book Award given by ATHE (Association for Theatre in Higher Education) for *A History of Asian American Theatre*.

2006: Amy Ling Memorial Research Grant. Sponsored by the Asian American Studies Program, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

2005: College of Fine and Applied Arts Special Grant, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

2002: Faculty Summer Research Award in Asian American Studies. Asian American Studies Program, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

2001: Arnold O. Beckman Research Award. Research Board, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

1999-2000: The Five College Pre-Doctoral Minority Fellowship, the Five College Consortium in Amherst, Massachusetts.

INVITED LECTURES, KEYNOTES, AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

June 2026. Keynote Speaker. Academic Conference of the Korean Drama Society, Seoul, Korea. "The Betrayal of Theatricality: Politics of Representation in Contemporary Asian American Drama."

November 2025. Invited Speaker. Book talk for *Made-Up Asians*. Emory University.

September 2025. Invited Speaker. Book talk for *Made-Up Asians*. University of Milan.

February 2025. Invited Speaker. Book talk for *Made-Up Asians*. Kennesaw State University.

March 2024. Invited Speaker and Visiting Fellow. *Made-Up Asians: Yellowface During the Exclusion Era*. Humanities Center, University of Pittsburgh.

February 2024. Invited Speaker. "Yellowface in Theatre History." Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts, The Ohio State University.

January 2024. Invited Speaker. "Asian Exclusion and Yellowface: Decentering U.S. Theatre History and Historiography." Theatre and Performance Studies, Stanford University

October 2023. Invited Lecturer. David Geffen School of Drama, Yale University.

May 2023. Invited Speaker. Book Talk for *Made-Up Asians: Yellowface During the Exclusion Era*. University of California, Irvine.

May 2023. Invited Speaker. "Toward New Theatre Histories: The Case Study of Yellowface during the Exclusion Era." TaPRA (Theatre and Performance Research Association) Theatre and Performance Histories Working Group.

April 2023. Invited Lecturer. Book discussion for *Made-Up Asians: Yellowface During the Exclusion Era*. Department of Theatre & Dance. University of Kansas.

March 2023. Invited Keynote Speaker. "Asian Exclusion and Yellowface: Decentering U.S. Theatre History and Historiography." MA/PhD symposium: "Out of the Margins: Re-Focusing Performance Scholarship for the 21st Century." School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies. University of Maryland.

December 2022. Invited Speaker. "'I am Not a Virus': Exclusion, Yellowface and Anti-Asian Violence." Invisible Lives Silent Voices Seminar. <https://invisibilitysilence.wordpress.com>

November 2022. Invited Speaker. Ethnicity, Race, and Migration Seminar. Boston College.

November 2022. Invited Speaker. "Anti-Asian Violence, Exclusion, and Yellowface." GENesis: Pocket Conference. fu-Gen Asian Canadian Theatre Company. New York City.

November 2022. Invited Speaker. "An Invitation to Theatre History." State of the Profession Panel. American Society for Theatre Research Annual Conference. New Orleans.

October 2022. Invited Panelist. "AAPI Performance in the Classroom: A Roundtable." UCLA.

October 2022. Invited Speaker. "Halloween Yellowface: Racial Impersonation and Dressing Up." International Comparative Studies, Duke University.

October 2022. Invited Lecturer. Historiography Graduate Seminar, Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Texas, Austin.

June 2022. Invited Speaker. "Yellowface in the U.S." Department of English, Yonsei University, South Korea.

June 2022. Invited Speaker. "Yellowface and Asian American Theater." School of Performing Arts, Hongik University, South Korea.

May 2022: Invited Speaker. "Yellowface and Asian American Theater." The Knot Worldwide.

January-March 2022. Invited Lecture Series (Lecture 1: Yellowface and Asian American Theatre; Lecture 2: Asian American Theatre, 1965-2000; Lecture 3: Asian American Theatre in the 21st Century). David Geffen School of Drama, Yale University.

February 2022. Invited Speaker. "Made-Up Asians: Yellowface During the Exclusion Era." Franklin Humanities Institute, Duke University.

January 2022. Invited Speaker. "'Dainty As Needs Be': Madame Butterfly and Cosmetic Yellowface." Center for International & Global Studies, Duke University.

September 2021. Invited Speaker. "Yellowface, Asian Stereotypes, and Media Representation." Advantage Solutions.

May 2021. Invited Panelist. "AAPI Heritage Month Discussion Panel." Environmental Protection Agency-RTP Branch.

April 2021. Invited Panelist. "American Theater: History and Current Landscape." Speaker Series of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow managed by the Forum for Cultural Engagement.

March 2020. Invited Speaker. Looking Back to the Future: 20 Years of A/P/A Studies in the Five Colleges. Smith College, Northampton, MA. "Acting Asian: Theatrical Makeup and the Technology of Yellowface."

November 2019. Invited Speaker. The Worlds of David Henry Hwang Symposium sponsored by Illuminations, University of California, Irvine. "The Many Faces of DHH: David Henry Hwang and Asian American Theatre."

March 2019. Invited Keynote. Triangle East Asia Colloquium, Transnational Korean Cinema & Media Conference. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. "Korean Diaspora and the Moebius Strip."

February 2019. Invited Lecture. Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Theatre and Drama Annual Distinguished Lecture, Northwestern University. Evanston, IL. "Historiography of Yellowface: Stage Makeup, Materiality, and Technology."

February 2019. Invited Lecture. Thomas Langford Lecture, Duke University. "History of Yellowface in the U.S."

March 2018. Theatre History Symposium Respondent. The 39th Annual Mid-American Theatre Conference. Milwaukee, WI.

July 2017. Invited Lecture. English Department, Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea. "The Theatre of David Henry Hwang."

July 2017. Invited Panelist. Korean Diaspora Festival Symposium, National Theater Company of Korea.

April 2017. Invited Panelist, James Gallery/Center for the Humanities, New York City. "Performance, Race, Objects, and Time/Temporality." Paper title: "The Archetypal Eurasian and Yellowface Makeup: The Material History of Imagined Asianness and Whiteness."

March, 2017. Invited Lecture. Institute for Korean Studies, Ohio State University. "Korean Avant-Garde Theatre and Sung Rno's *Yi Sang Counts to Thirteen*."

July, 2016. Invited Participant, Interweaving Performance Cultures, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany. "Performance Related Concepts in Non-European Languages – Korean."

November, 2014. Invited Lecture. Department of Theatre and Film, Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea. "Korean American Playwrights."

November, 2014. Invited Lecture. Department of Drama and Theatre, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan. "The Theatricalized Body of Bruce Lee in David Henry Hwang's *Kung Fu*."

October, 2014. Invited Speaker. National Asian American Theater Conference and Festival. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. "Home: The State of Asian American Theatre."

April, 2014. Invited Lecture. School of Drama, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. "The Theatricalized Body of Bruce Lee in David Henry Hwang's *Kung Fu*."

March 2013. Invited Lecture. Asian American Theater & Performance Studies Symposium. Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. "All the Stage's a World: The Organization of International, Multicultural, and Global Theatre Companies in the U.S."

November 2011. Invited Lecture. The 19th Hahn Moo-Sook Colloquium in the Korean Humanities: "Staging Korea: Korean Theatre in Search of New Aesthetics." George Washington University. "Remember to Forget": A Study of the Family in Contemporary Plays from the Korean Diaspora in the U.S."

June 2006: Invited Speaker. Next Big Bang: The Explosion of Asian American Theatre, a conference sponsored by the East West Players, Los Angeles. "The Dynamism of Aesthetics in Asian American Theatre."

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (SINCE 2000)

April 2026. AAAS (Association for Asian American Studies) Annual Conference. Honolulu, HI. "Staging Rage: Asian American Anger and War Trauma in Mel Escueta's *Honey Bucket* at the Asian American Theatre Workshop."

September 2025. Conference on Amateur Acts: Why Amateur Theatre Matters. Venice, Italy. "Amateur Acting, Colonialism, and Racialization in Anglophone Theatre in the 19th century."

March 2025. Symposium on Yellowface/Blackface: A Transnational Dialogue. Duke Kunshan University Humanities Research Center. "The Stage Chinaman and Clown Yellowface."

March 2024. Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Boston, MA. "Makeup Art, Whiteness, and Yellowface in Early Film" in the panel "Makeup, Race, and Ethnicity from Early Hollywood to the Second World War."

July 2023. International Federation for Theatre Research. Accra, Ghana. "Myths of the 'Orient': World Fairs, Nationalism, and Agency."

July 2018. 6th Asian American Theatre Conference and Festival. Chicago, IL. Panelist for "Talkin 'bout a Revolution: Teaching Asian American Radical Performance."

July 2017. Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society Conference. Seoul, Korea. "Yellowface Makeup and Asian Female Characters."

October, 2016. National Asian American Theatre Festival, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland, OR. "Yellowface in American Theatre History."

August, 2016. ATHE (Association for Theatre in Higher Education) Annual Conference. "Chinese Exclusion Acts: Asian Immigration and the Performance of Chinese Characters in American Theatre."

June, 2016. IFTR (International Federation for Theatre Research) Annual Conference. Stockholm, Sweden. Historiography Working Group Roundtable. "Historiography of an Archetype." (invited)

June, 2016. IFTR (International Federation for Theatre Research) Annual Conference. "Historiography of Racial Theatricality: A Study of Yellowface Performances in the Nineteenth Century."

April, 2016. Comparative Drama Conference. Baltimore, MD. "Lloyd Suh's *Jesus in India* and the Politics of Representing the Global Youth."

July, 2015. Association for Asian Performance Annual Conference, ATHE (Association for Theatre in Higher Education) Annual Conference. Montreal, Canada. "Cantonese Opera in New York City and Its Impact on the Representation of Chinese Characters on the American Stage."

July, 2014. IFTR (International Federation for Theatre Research) Annual Conference. University of Warwick, UK. "Asian Avant-Garde and Asian American Theatre: A Comparative Study of Yoko Ono and Young Jean Lee"

April, 2014. AAAS (Association for Asian American Studies) Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA. "Trying to Find Asian America: The Irony of David Henry Hwang and His Plays."

March, 2014. Comparative Drama Conference. Baltimore, MD. "Early Plays of David Henry Hwang: Between Autobiography and Magic Realism."

November 2013. ASTR (American Society for Theatre Research) Annual Conference. Dallas, TX. "The Ironic 'Yellow Face' of David Henry Hwang and the Asian American Theatre Community."

August 2011. ATHE (Association for Theatre in Higher Education) Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. "Flexible Families: Diasporic Memories in Korean American Drama."

August 2011. ATHE (Association for Theatre in Higher Education) Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. "The 'Spark' in American Theatre: Silk Road Theatre Project and Re-imagination of Theatre Communities."

May 2011. AAAS (Association for Asian American Studies) Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA. "Designing for Consumption: A Study of Costume Designer Willa Kim and Her Success in Mainstream American Theatre."

November 2010. ASTR (American Society for Theatre Research) Annual Conference. Seattle, WA. "Performing the Korean Diaspora: Actor's Embodiment of Transnational Histories."

November 2009. Plenary Panel. ASTR (American Society for Theatre Research) Annual Conference. Chicago. "Performative Representation and Diplomacy During and After Commodore Perry's Expedition to Japan."

March 2009. MATC (Mid-America Theatre Conference) Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. "A Study of Traditional Korean Peasant-Class Performances in North America."

July 2008. IFTR (International Federation for Theatre Research) Annual Conference. Seoul, South Korea. "The Third Wave: A Study of Korean American Playwrights in the Twenty-First Century"

November 2006. ASTR (American Society for Theatre Research) Annual Conference. Chicago. "Avant-Garde Becomes Nationalism: Immortalizing Nam June Paik in South Korea"

March 2006. Theatre History Symposium. MATC (Mid-American Theatre Conference), Chicago. "Ethiopian Concert and Sumo Wrestling: A Study of Theatre and Performance During Commodore Perry's Japan Expedition"

April 2005. AAAS (Association for Asian American Studies) Annual Conference. Los Angeles. "A Study of 'Funny' Characters and Identities in Asian American Theatre"

November 2004. ASTR (American Society for Theatre Research) Annual Conference. Las Vegas. "Dressing to Taste: A Study of 'Oriental' Costumes on Broadway"

November 2003. ASTR (American Society for Theatre Research) Annual Conference. Durham, NC. "Marginal Center: Theories of Race and Ethnicity in American Theatre History"

May 2003. AAAS (Association for Asian American Studies) Annual Conference. San Francisco. "Theatre of the Movement? The Founding Agendas of Asian American Theatre Companies in the 1960s and 1970s"

March 2002. AAAS (Association for Asian American Studies) Annual Conference. Salt Lake City. "Casting the 'Ultimate Sacrifice': A Historical Analysis of the Tragic Butterfly Stereotype"

November 2001. ASTR (American Society for Theatre Research) Annual Conference. San Diego. "Mapping Borderless Identity: A Study of Denise Uyehara's Solo Performances"

October 2001. EOC (East of California) Asian American Studies Annual Conference. Oberlin, OH. "Teaching 'Cutting-Edge' in the Middle America"

March 2001. AAAS (Association for Asian American Studies) Annual Conference. Toronto, Canada. "The Significance of Theatre History in Teaching Asian American Theatre and Drama"

November 2000. ASTR (American Society for Theatre Research) Annual Conference. New York City. "About and Beyond: Three Major Challenges in Researching and Teaching Asian American Theatre"

August 2000. ATHE (Association for Theatre in Higher Education) Annual Conference. Washington, DC. "Funny Asian Americans? Humor and Comedy in Asian American Theatre."

March 2000: Mid-America Theatre Annual Conference. St. Louis, MO. "Community and Theatre: Northwest Asian American Theatre Company."

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (SELECTED)

Leadership Roles:

- Vice President for Publication, American Society for Theatre Research. 2017-2019.
- Founder. Consortium of PhD Programs in Theatre and Performance Studies. 2009.
- Adviser. *Asian American Drama*. Alexander Street Press. (An electronic collection of Asian American plays.) 2002-present.
- Executive Committee. American Society for Theatre Research. 2004-2007.

Editorship and Editorial Board:

- Advisory Board Member. Methuen Drama Agitations Series. 2025-present.
- Editorial Board Member. *The Journal of Drama* (Seoul, Korea). 2017-present.
- Editorial Board Member. *Journal of American Drama and Theatre*. 2013-present.
- Editorial Board Member. *Theatre and Performance Notes and Counternotes*. 2022-present.
- Editor. *Theatre Survey*, 2013-2014.
- Associate Editor. *Theatre Survey*, 2011-2012.
- Editor. Article in Progress Workshop. Mid-America Theatre Conference. Cleveland, 2014.
- Editor. Article in Progress Workshop. Mid-America Theatre Conference. Chicago, 2012.

Consulting:

- Advisor and interviewee. "East West Players: A Home On Stage" (a 2023 documentary directed by Yu Gu).
- Advisor. "Untitled Ping Chong Documentary" (tentative title; a documentary directed by Melanie Levy).

Personnel Reviews:

- External tenure and promotion reviewer: University of California, Riverside (2010, 2026); Yale University (2026); University of Illinois (2026); Northwestern University (2016, 2017, 2023, 2025); Pomona College (2025); Boston University (2024); Princeton University (2024); University of Michigan (2024); University of Rhode Island (2022); University of Utah (2015, 2022); University of Colorado Boulder (2020); University of Massachusetts Amherst (2019); San Francisco State University (2019); UCLA (2017, 2018); Cornell University (2018); Harvard University (2015, 2018); University of British Columbia (2015); University of Texas at Austin (2014); University of California, Berkeley (2013); University of California, Santa Barbara (2012).

Program Reviews:

- External program reviewer, Department of English, Rollins College, 2023.
- External program reviewer, Graduate Programs, Department of Theatre and Dance, University of Texas at Austin, 2016.

Grant and Award Reviews:

- Committee Member, Excellence in Editing Award, Association for Theatre in Higher Education, 2022.
- Review Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities, Division of Research Programs, 2020.
- Reviewer, Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2015–17.

- Review Panelist, Ford Foundation Fellowship Programs, 2015–17.
- Reviewer, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 2015.

Manuscript Reviews:

- Methuen Drama/Bloomsbury, 2016, 2024, 2025.
- University of Michigan Press, 2025.
- Rutgers University Press, 2022.
- McFarland & Company, 2017.
- Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.
- Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Routledge, 2011.
- Temple University Press, 2010.

Journal Article Reviews:

- *Theatre Research in Canada*, 2017.
- *Contemporary Theatre Review*, 2016.
- *Cultural Studies Review*, 2016.
- *American Quarterly*, 2015.
- *Theatre Research International*, 2015.
- *Journal for Dramatic Theory and Criticism*, 2013, 2015.
- *Comparative Drama*, 2014.
- *Journal of Asian American Studies*, 2010, 2011, 2015.

Conference Activities:

- Co-Chair of Working Session. "There's Hope for Us Yet: Radicalizing, Decolonizing, and Decentering a Transnational U.S. Theatre History," American Society for Theatre Research, 2023.
- Co-Chair of Working Session. "Face: The Material History of Difference in Stage Makeup and Masks," American Society for Theatre Research. 2017.
- Professional Development Committee. Association for Theatre in Higher Education, 2015-present.
- Task Force. Consortium of PhD Programs in Theatre and Performance Studies. 2009-present.
- Career Session Leader. American Society for Theatre Research. 2015.
- Conference Programming Committee. Association for Asian American Studies. 2015-16.
- Moderator. "Meet the Editor of *Theatre Survey*." Career Session. ASTR (American Society for Theatre Research) Annual Conference. 2013.
- Co-Organizer. Working Group on Translation. American Society for Theatre Research. Nashville, 2012.
- New Paradigms Committee. American Society for Theatre Research. 2010-2012.
- Chair, Book Award Committee for Cultural Studies, Association for Asian American Studies. 2010-2011.
- Organizer. Conference on Doctoral Programs in Theatre and Performance. Department of Theatre, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Fall 2009.
- Co-Convener. "Remapping the Boundaries of Asian American Theatre." ASTR (American Society for Theatre Research) Annual Conference. Boston, MA. November 2008.
- Programming Committee. The annual meeting of the American Society for Theatre Research in 2003.

- Programming Committee. The East of California Annual Conference. Association for Asian American Studies, 2003.
- Chair of Conference Panel: “Art, Activism and the Asian American Community Post 9/11.” East of California Annual Meeting and Junior/Senior Faculty Retreats, Association for Asian American Studies. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, November 2002.
- Co-Chair of Conference Seminar: “Performers’ Bodies/ Bodies Performing: The Material Choices of Staging and Casting.” Annual Conference of the American Society for Theatre Research, November 2002. Wrote and submitted the seminar proposal.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE (DUKE UNIVERSITY)

- Member, University’s Library Council (2024-present).
- Member, Ad Hoc Tenure Review Committee, Duke Kunshan, 2026.
- Internal reviewer, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Duke University, 2025.
- Member, Provost’s Committee for Teaching and Mentoring Excellence (2024-2025).
- Member, Committee on Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure for Duke Kunshan University (2024-present).
- Member, Search Committee for Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (2024-2025).
- Chair, Provost’s Advisory Committee on Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure (2022-23).
- Member, Provost’s Advisory Committee on Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure (2020-23).
- Member, Provost Search Committee (2023).
- Chair, Committee for Senior Search in Asian American Diaspora Studies (2022-23).
- Chair, Committee for Cluster Search in Asian American and Diaspora Studies (2020-21).
- Chair, Tenure Review Committee for a faculty member at Duke Kunshan University (2022).
- Member, Search Committee for Director of the Arts (2022).
- Chair, Tenure Review Committee for a faculty member in Theater Studies (2021).
- Member, Faculty Advisory Committee, Office of Faculty Advancement (2021-present).
- Member, Korea Forum Steering Committee (2021-present).
- Member, Undergraduate Research Grants and Prizes, Asian/Pacific Studies Institute (2021-present).
- Reviewer, Faculty Advancement Seed Grant proposals (2020-22).
- Department Representative, Arts & Sciences Council (2018-19).
- Member, Search Committee in the International Comparative Studies (2018-19).
- Member, Chair Advisory Committee in Theater Studies (2018-19).

TEACHING

Undergraduate courses: Introduction to Theatre; Literatures of Modern Theatre; Introduction to Asian American Studies; Introduction to Asian American Theatre; Contemporary Theatrical Forms; History of Acting; American Ethnic Theatre; Greek and Roman Theatre; Theatre History I (Ancient to the Eighteenth Century); Race, Gender, and Ethnicity in American Theatre; Theatre in a Global Context; Vital Voices: Oral Histories of the Immigrant Experience; The Theater Today.

Graduate seminars: Theatre Criticism and Theory; Dramatic Literature and Orientalism; Theatre History; Globalization, Transnationalism, and Diaspora in Theatre; Embodiment; Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Theatre History.

Study abroad: Korea in Performance: Global Culture and Soft Power.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AND MEDIA

“East West Players: A Home on Stage,” a documentary film.

https://youtu.be/F84x_YKGaPk?si=KTeRguMarty7boEY

“Context, Cultural Insight Bring Diversity to the Dramatic Arts.” *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*.

May 8, 2023. <https://www.diverseeducation.com/from-the-magazine/article/15383936/diversity-and-the-dramatic-arts>

“Q&A With ‘Made-Up Asians’ Author Esther Kim Lee.” University of Michigan Press. July 5, 2022.

<https://blog.press.umich.edu/2022/07/qa-with-made-up-asians-author-esther-kim-lee>

“SigSpace: Trying to Find Chinatown.” With David Henry Hwang and Jeff Liu. Signature Theatre. May 23, 2022. YouTube Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnDOeinr0ic>.

“A Minor in Asian American Studies at Duke is a Major Win for Student Activists.” *The Washington Post*.

May 5, 2022. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/05/05/aapi-studies-duke/>

Interview: “Meet Your Humanities Faculty,” John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute. February 2022.

<https://fhi.duke.edu/highlights/meet-your-humanities-faculty-esther-kim-lee>

“The Blessing (And Curse?) Of Miss Saigon,” *Code Switch*, NPR. May 10, 2017.

<https://one.npr.org/?sharedMediaId=527102328:527643394>

“The Battle of ‘Miss Saigon’: Yellowface, Art and Opportunity” by Michael Paulson in *The New York Times*. March 17, 2017. <https://nyti.ms/2m9ifa5>

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Korean.

Formal training at beginner's level in Spanish and French.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)

Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)

Performance Studies International (PSi)

International Federation for Theatre Research (IFTR)

American Studies Association (ASA)

Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS)