

## MELISSA PHRUKSACHART

(prook-sa-shart)

Pronouns: she/her/hers

University of Michigan • Department of Film, Television, and Media  
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mphr@umich.edu

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

#### University of Michigan

Assistant Professor, Department of Film, Television, and Media (2020-present)

Core Faculty, Program in Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies (2021-present)

LSA Collegiate Fellow (postdoctoral fellowship), Department of Film, Television, and Media (2018-2020)

#### New York University

Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow (postdoctoral fellowship), Department of Cinema Studies, Tisch School of the Arts (2016-2018)

### EDUCATION

#### CUNY Graduate Center

Ph.D, English Literature with certificate in American Studies (2016)

M.A., M.Phil., English Literature (2014)

#### Swarthmore College

B.A. (High Honors), English Literature (2007)

### PUBLICATIONS

#### **Book Manuscript (in progress)**

*Archives of Embarrassment: Making the Asian American Model Minority on Cold War U.S. Television*

#### **Peer-Reviewed Articles**

Co-authored with Yelana Sims, Nina Lorenz, Tony Tran, et al. "Looking Back,

Thinking Forward: A Digital Humanities Assessment of Equity, Diversity, and Representation in Twenty Years of Publishing in *Cinema Journal* and *JCMS*.” *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies* 61.5 (2020-2021): 1-30.

“The Bourgeois Cinema of Boba Liberalism.” *Film Quarterly* 73.3 (Spring 2020): 59–65.

“On Mentoring Future Faculty of Color.” *Feminist Teacher* 27.2-3 (2017): 117-132. (dated 2017; published Feb. 2019)

“The Many Lives of Mr. Yuniوشي: Yellowface and the Queer Buzz of *Breakfast at Tiffany’s*.” *Camera Obscura: Feminism, Culture, and Media Studies* 32.3 (Dec. 2017): 92-119. (Nominated by Camera Obscura editorial collective for the SCMS Katherine Singer Kovács Essay Award)

“Who Will Save Us From the Pantsuit Nation? Reading Liberal Media in the Age of Trump.” *Feminist Media Studies* 17.3 (June 2017): 513-16.

“The Asian American Next Door: Figuring the Model Minority on Cold War Television.” *Amerasia Journal* 42.2 (2016): 96-117.

### Chapters in Edited Collections

“Marking the Difference Made by ‘Heterogeneity, Hybridity, Multiplicity’: Lisa Lowe’s Impact on Asian American Studies,” in *Asian American Literature in Transition: 1965-1996*, eds. Cathy Schlund-Vials and Asha Nadkarni (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

### Scholarly Book and Film Reviews

2020 Review of *Asian Americans* documentary series by Renee Tajima-Peña. *Journal of Asian American Studies* 23.3 (Oct. 2020): 511-514.

2014 Review of *Citizens of Asian America: Democracy and Race during the Cold War* by Cindy I-Fen Cheng. *Journal of Asian American Studies* 17.2 (June 2014): 236-239.

2014 Review of *War, Genocide, and Justice: Cambodian American Memory Work* by Cathy J. Schlund-Vials. *Journal of American Culture* 37.1 (March 2014): 123-124.

2011 Review of *Reading the Adolescent Romance: Sweet Valley High and the Popular Young Adult Romance Novel* by Amy Pattee and *Sweet Valley Confidential: Ten Years Later* by Francine Pascal. *Reconstruction: Studies in Contemporary Culture* 11.3 (Oct. 2011). Special issue on Gender and Popular Fiction.

## Reference Work

- 2017 *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *Flower Drum Song*, in *Race in American Film: Voices and Visions That Shaped a Nation*, eds. Daniel Bernardi and Michael Green (Greenwood Press, 2017).
- 2013 “Proms and High School Dances” and “Songs About School,” in *Music in American Life: An Encyclopedia of the Songs, Styles, Stars, and Stories that Shaped our Culture*, ed. Jacqueline Edmondson (Greenwood Press, 2013).

## Public Media

- 2020 “The Literature of White Liberalism.” *Boston Review* (Aug. 21, 2020). <https://bostonreview.net/race/melissa-phruksachart-literature-white-liberalism>.
- “The Radical History of Asian American Media Making.” *A-Doc - Asian American Documentary Network* (Jul. 3, 2020). <http://bit.ly/adoc-radicalhistory>.
- 2017 “Can’t ‘Cure’ Imposter Syndrome? Reframe It Instead.” *MLA Grads* blog (Nov. 27, 2017). <https://mlagrads.mla.hcommons.org/2017/11/27/cant-cure-imposter-syndrome-reframe-it-instead-guest-post-by-melissa-phruksachart>.
- “Unpacking *Get Out's* ‘Asian’ Character.” *Reappropriate* (March 6, 2017). <http://reappropriate.co/2017/03/unpacking-get-outs-asian-character/>
- 2014 “Subtle Message, Broad Response” (review of Kara Walker’s *A Subtlety, or the Marvelous Sugar Baby* at the Domino Sugar Factory, Brooklyn, NY). *The Graduate Center Advocate* 26.1 (Fall 2014): 45-46.
- 2013 “*Girls*, Auteur-Driven Television, and the Failures of Multiculturalism.” HBO’s *Girls Week*, *In Media Res* (Jan. 2013). <http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/imr/>
- 2011 Asian American Book Covers (digital archive). <http://sounds-park.com/bookcovers>

## AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018-20 LSA Collegiate Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2016-18 Postdoctoral Fellowship, New York University Post-Doctoral and Transition Program for Academic Diversity
- 2015 Dean K. Harrison Award, CUNY Graduate Center Office of Educational Opportunity and Diversity

- 2014 Lynn Kadison Dissertation Year Fellowship for Excellence in Scholarship and Service to the Department, CUNY Graduate Center English Program
- 2014 Graduate Center Dissertation Year Award, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2014 Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth College Tuition and Travel Award, American Studies Certificate Program, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2014, 2013 Advanced Research Collaborative Knickerbocker Award for Archival Research in American Studies, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2014, 2013, 2012 Conference Presentation Support Award, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2013-2014 Writing Across the Curriculum Fellowship, Brooklyn College
- 2013 Doctoral Student Research Grant, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2012 Diversity Projects Development Fund Grant, CUNY Office of Recruitment and Diversity
- 2010-2013 Graduate Teaching Fellowship, English Department, Brooklyn College
- 2010 Sue Rosenberg Zalk Student Travel and Research Grant, CUNY Grad Center
- 2009-14 Enhanced Chancellor's Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 Panelist and organizer, "Creating a Usable Past for the Japanese Internment Through the Strange Career of George Takei," American Studies Association, virtual meeting (Oct. 11, 2021).
- Chair, "Insurgent Spaces: Performing Revolt in Public," American Studies Association, virtual meeting (Oct. 11, 2021).
- Panelist, "Migrant Proximities: Racialized Labor Below-the-Line in 20th Century Hollywood," Society for Cinema and Media Studies, virtual meeting (Mar. 17, 2021).
- 2020 Panelist and organizer, "Creating a Usable Past for the Japanese Internment Through the Strange Career of George Takei," American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD (Oct. 2020). [canceled due to COVID-19]
- Organizer and panelist, "Bad Asians, Then and Now: Twenty Years of Asian

- American Queer Feminist Film Criticism,” Association for Asian American Studies, Washington, D.C. (April 9, 2020). [canceled due to COVID-19]
- Panelist, “Migrant Proximities: Racialized Labor Below-the-Line in 20th Century Hollywood,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Denver, CO (Apr. 2020). [canceled due to COVID-19]
- 2019 Panelist and organizer, “(Re)approaching Asian American Media Memory,” ASAP11 conference, College Park, MD (Oct. 10, 2019).
- Panelist, “On Minority Discourse and the Left Digital Sphere.” Media in Transition 10, Cambridge, MA (May 2019).
- Panelist and co-organizer, “Histories of Asian American Non-Stardom.” Association for Asian American Studies, Madison, WI (Apr. 27, 2019).
- Organizer and chair, “Reassessing the Legacy of Trinh T. Minh-ha on the 30th Anniversary of *Surname Viet Given Name Nam*.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Seattle, WA (Mar. 14, 2019).
- 2018 Panelist, “An Emergent Response to the Dematerialization of Identity Politics.” American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA (Nov. 2018).
- Panelist, “The Rocky Fellers: Doo-Wop’s ‘Little Brown Brothers.’” Pop Conference, Museum of Pop, Seattle, WA (Apr. 2018).
- 2017 Panelist, “Experiences Navigating Impostor Syndrome and Inequity in the Academy.” American Studies Association, Chicago, IL (Nov. 2017).
- Presenter, “Rod Serling’s Speculative Antiracisms.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago, IL (Mar. 26, 2017).
- Invited Chair, “Between the Nation and the Individual.” At the Limit: Borders, Margins, and Walls (2017 NYU Cinema Studies’ Annual Student Conference). New York University (Feb. 24, 2017).
- Presenter, “On Mentoring Future Faculty of Color.” Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA (Jan. 2017).
- 2016 Presenter, “The Cultural Economy of Asian Sugar in NYC.” Comparative Racialization and the Future of Asian American Studies in NYC, New York, NY (Dec. 9, 2016).
- Presenter, “‘It’s Not Fusion, It’s Asian American’: The Emergence of Asian Hipster Cuisine as Racial Form.” American Studies Association, Denver, CO (Nov. 2016).
- Presenter, “‘Twenty-first century forty-niners digging for gold’: The Suburban Florida of Eddie Huang’s *Fresh Off the Boat*.” Modern Language

- Association, Austin, TX (Jan. 9, 2016).
- 2015 Invited Chair, “Archival Dissonance: Queering the Trans/national Imaginary of Asian America.” Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Evanston, IL (April 25, 2015).
- Organizer and participant, “In Living Color: Racial Diversity and Network Television.” Roundtable, Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Evanston, IL (April 23, 2015).
- 2014 Presenter, “‘Cousin Soong, will you please speak English!’ Articulating Asian American Ethnic Humor in *Bachelor Father*.” American Studies Association, Los Angeles, CA (Nov. 9, 2014).
- Presenter, “Watching Asian Americans in the Cold War Televisual Archive.” Advanced Research Collaborative Archival Research Conference, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY (Sept. 5, 2014).
- Presenter, “‘Hey Boy’s Revenge’: Asian/Americans and the Cold War Television Western.” Panel: Asian Americans On-Screen: TV, Cinema, and Social Media. Association for Asian American Studies Conference, San Francisco, CA (April 2014).
- Moderator, “Black Atlantic Moral Economies, Past and Present.” Currents of the Black Atlantic: 2014 English Students Association Conference, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY (March 14, 2014).
- 2013 Invited presenter, “‘Cherry Blossoms in Bryant Park’: Race, Gender, and Cold War Culture in *My Three Sons*.” Panel: Beyond Black-and-White: Cold War Television and Asian-Pacific American Performers. Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Chicago, IL (March 9, 2013).
- 2012 Presenter, “‘Cherry Blossoms in Bryant Park’: Race, Gender, and the Cold War in *My Three Sons*.” Panel: Sons, Soldiers, Sister Wives: Constructing the American Nation on Television. Console-ing Passions, Boston, MA (July 21, 2012).
- Presenter, “The Female Flâneur in 1950s Chinatown.” Panel: Products of Imperialism: Commodities in Literature After 1945. Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, Rochester, NY (March 17, 2012).
- 2010 Presenter, “‘Out of Africa, Into Chains’: On Peter Singer’s *Animal Liberation* and the Human Rights Movement.” Panel: Animal Exploitation. North American Conference for Critical Animal Studies, SUNY-Cortland (April 10, 2010).
- Presenter, “‘Out of Africa, Into Chains’: On Peter Singer’s *Animal Liberation* and the Human Rights Movement.” Panel: The Ends of the Human. International Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, Indiana

University-Bloomington (March 26, 2010).

## INVITED TALKS, PANELS, WORKSHOPS, & SEMINARS

2021 “Hollywood’s Asian American Infrastructures,” invited talk for National Center for Institutional Diversity community gathering (Dec. 6, 2021).

“Histories of Asian American Non-Stardom,” invited talk for U-M API/A studies program (Nov. 11, 2021).

Invited panelist, “Reconsidering AAPI Documentary at a Time of anti-AAPI Violence,” *Film Quarterly* webinar (July 15, 2021).

Invited guest for “Optics,” *Talking Television in a Time of Crisis* podcast, Jan. 30, 2021. <http://www.aca-media.org/news/2021/2/16/talking-television-in-a-time-of-crisis-episode-11-optics>.

2020 “Antiracism as Epistemology,” invited talk for Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop “Connections and Divisions: Whose University Is It Anyway?” (Oct. 29, 2020).

Invited panelist, “Asian American Film at 50,” *Film Quarterly* webinar (May 22, 2020).

Invited panelist, “Asian American Film and Media: Past, Present, Future,” Image Movers: UCLA Asian American Studies Center 50th Anniversary Film Festival, Los Angeles, CA (Mar. 14, 2020). [canceled due to COVID-19]

2019 Participant, Public Arts & Humanities writing workshop, ASAP11 conference, College Park, MD (Oct. 12, 2019).

Invited presenter, Media Studies Research Workshop, University of Michigan (Apr. 24, 2019).

Participant, Stuart Hall seminar, Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Seattle, WA (Mar. 17, 2019).

2018 Panelist, Unappointed Advisory Panel on Academic Freedom, University of Michigan (Nov. 27, 2018)

2017 Invited discussant, *Deported* (Nguyen, 2017), NYU Asian Pacific American Coalition event, New York University (Nov. 3, 2017)

Invited programmer and discussant, *The Betrayal (Nerakhoon)*, NYU Social Sector Leadership Development event, New York University (Oct. 27, 2017)

Invited lecture, “Rod Serling’s Speculative Antiracisms,” Department of Cinema Studies, New York University (Sept. 27, 2017)

- 2015 Presenter, “The Boy Who Walked to America: Asian/American Children and Cold War Televisual Domesticity,” American Studies Certificate Program Work in Progress lecture, CUNY Graduate Center (Dec. 18, 2015)
- 2014 Presenter, “On Neil Cicierega’s *Mouth Sounds*,” Critical Karaoke, PhD Program in English, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY (Sept. 5, 2014).
- Participant, Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College (June 2014)
- Introductory remarks, Nikhil Pal Singh, CUNY Graduate Center (March 28, 2014)

### **CLASSROOM, COMMUNITY, MENTORING, & PEDAGOGY TALKS**

- 2021 Invited speaker, *Filming Asian America: Documenting Community*, Prof. Sharon Heijin Lee, New York University (Oct. 27, 2021).
- Invited panelist, Mid/Advanced Career Roundtable, WOCATA (Women of Color in the Academy), University of Michigan (Apr. 21, 2021).
- Invited lecture, “Histories of Asian American Non-Stardom,” *Asians in American Film and Television*, Prof. Emily Lawsin, University of Michigan (Feb. 17, 2021).
- Invited presenter, “South and Southeast Asians in Organizing and Academia,” United Asian American Organizations (UAAO), Univ. of Michigan (Jan. 29, 2021).
- 2019 Invited lecture, *Introduction to A/PIA Studies*, Prof. Ian Shin, University of Michigan (Nov. 18, 2019).
- Invited workshop, *Asian American Feminisms*, Asian Pacific American High School Conference, University of Michigan (Nov. 9, 2019).
- Invited lecture, *The Art of Film*, Prof. Matthew Solomon, University of Michigan (Apr. 4, 2019).
- Invited lecture, *Introduction to A/PIA Studies*, Prof. Amy Stillman, University of Michigan (Jan. 29, 2019).
- 2018 Moderator, “How Black Is American Film History?” pedagogy session, Dept. of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan (Oct. 26, 2018)
- Co-organizer and moderator, “Quiet Solidarity: Strategies for Navigating Academia,” NYU Quiet Girl Collective, New York University (Jan. 29, 2018)



- 2017 Invited presenter, “Drag Me To Hell: Media and Respectability in the First 100 Days of Trump,” New York City Asian American Student Conference, New York University (Apr. 29, 2017)
- 2016 Invited presenter, Prof. Zhen Zhang’s PhD Research Methodologies course, Department of Cinema Studies, New York University (Nov. 29, 2016)
- Invited facilitator, “Asian American Complicities in Anti-Black Racism: A Discussion on Akai Gurley and Peter Liang,” New York City Asian American Student Conference, New York University (Apr. 23, 2016)
- 2015 Invited presenter, “Networking with Academics,” Early Research Initiative’s “Getting the Most out of Conferences” workshop, CUNY Graduate Center (Dec. 3, 2015)
- 2014 Co-organizer, “Teaching #BlackLivesMatter: Countering the Pedagogies of Anti-Black Racism” workshop, CUNY Graduate Center (Dec. 19, 2014)
- Co-leader and co-organizer, Writing Across the Curriculum Information Session, CUNY Graduate Center (April 8, 2014)
- Co-leader and co-organizer, “Low-Stakes Writing in Large-Sized Classes” for Brooklyn College Writing Across the Curriculum Program (March 25, 2014)
- 2013 Co-leader and co-organizer, “The Nuts and Bolts of English 1012” for Brooklyn College Writing Across the Curriculum Program (Nov. 18, 2013)
- Co-leader and co-organizer, “Demystifying English 1010” for Brooklyn College Writing Across the Curriculum Program (Oct. 17, 2013)
- Co-leader and co-organizer, “Multilingual Writers: Supporting Students Who Write in a Non-Native Language” for Brooklyn College Writing Across the Curriculum Program (Oct. 29, 2013)

## **PRESS & MEDIA INTERVIEWS**

- 2021 Kim, Yerin. “Hollywood Needs to Take Responsibility For the Objectification of Asian Women.” *Popsugar*, May 18, 2021. <https://www.popsugar.com/entertainment/hollywood-objectification-asian-women-48319105>.
- 2019 Tzeng, Tiffany. “Melissa Phruksachart, ‘On Mentoring Future Faculty of Color.’” *University of Illinois Press Blog*, April 8, 2019. <https://www.press.uillinois.edu/wordpress/melissa-phruksachart-on-mentoring-future-faculty-of-color/>.
- 2017 *The Re-Model* (Avalon Films). Documentary interview, Nov. 14, 2017.

Paul, Kari. "Why the anti-fascist, anti-racist themes of 'The Twilight Zone' are more relevant today than ever." *MarketWatch*, Oct. 27, 2017. <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/why-the-twilight-zone-is-more-relevant-today-than-ever-2017-10-27>.

Roth, Anna. "Is 'Master of None' the New 'Sex and the City'?" *Eater*, Sept. 22, 2017. <https://www.eater.com/2017/9/22/16329530/master-of-none-restaurants-nyc-aziz-ansari-four-horsemen>.

2014 Huang, Kristina. "Mentoring Future Faculty of Color: A Brief Conversation with Chris Eng and Melissa Phruksachart." *The Graduate Center Advocate* (May 2014): 8-9.

## **GRADUATE TEACHING**

New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, Cinema Studies Department

Asian American Cinema (Fall 2016)

## **UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING**

University of Michigan, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Dept. of Film, Television, and Media

- Cinema of American Migration (cross-listed with American Culture) (Winter 2021, Winter 2022)
- Asian American Cinema (cross-listed with American Culture and Asian American Studies) (Fall 2019, Winter 2021, Winter 2022)
- Women of Color Feminist Filmmaking (cross-listed with Women's and Gender Studies) (Fall 2020, Fall 2021)
- Television History (Fall 2018, Fall 2021)

New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, Cinema Studies Department

- Transnational Feminist Cinema (Fall 2017)
- Television: History & Culture (Spring 2017, Spring 2018)

Hunter College (New York, NY), Asian American Studies Program

- Asian American Media (Fall 2014 to Spring 2016)

Baruch College (New York, NY), English Department

- Writing II: The American Sitcom (Fall 2014)

Brooklyn College (Brooklyn, NY), English Department

- Composition II: Coming of Age in NYC (Spring 2013)
- Composition I: The Practice of Writing (Fall 2012, 2 sections)
- Composition II: Ways of Seeing (Summer 2012)
- Literature for Young People (Spring 2012)
- Composition II: Reading and Writing Visual and Popular Culture (Spring 2012)
- Composition I: Race, Class, and Gender (Fall 2011)
- Composition II: Introduction to Cultural Studies (Spring 2011, 2 sections)
- Composition I: Introduction to College Writing (Fall 2010)

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

### Service to the Field

2020- Co-chair, Asian Pacific American Caucus, Society for Cinema and Media Studies

### Manuscript Reviews

2021 *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism*  
 2019 *Lateral* (journal of the Cultural Studies Association)  
 2018 *WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly*  
 2017 *Amerasia Journal*  
 2013 *Journal of Graduate Research in Young People's Materials and Culture*

### Departmental and University Service

#### *University of Michigan*

2021- Undergraduate Committee, U-M Dept. of Film, Television and Media

#### *CUNY Graduate Center*

2012-16 Co-organizer, Mentoring Future Faculty of Color Project  
 2014-15 Placement Committee, English Ph.D. Program  
 2012-14 Co-organizer, Children's Literature Discussion Group  
 2010-14 Student Mentor, CUNY Graduate Center English Students' Assoc.  
 2013-14 Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, English Ph.D. Program  
 2013-14 Faculty Membership Committee (alternate), English Ph.D. Program  
 2011-13 Graduate Student Mentor, Brooklyn College English Department  
 2011-13 Student Rep, American Studies Certificate Program Advisory Committee

### Student Advising

2021-2022 Razi Jafri, MFA in Art, UM Stamps School of Art & Design

### Administrative Positions

2015-16 Projects Director, Revolutionizing American Studies Initiative, CUNY

Graduate Center

- 2015 Project Manager, “Asian America, NYC: 21st Century Frontlines in Literature & Film,” National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for K-12 School Teachers, Hunter College
- 2013-2014 Writing Across the Curriculum Fellow, Brooklyn College
- 2009-10 Research Assistant for David Greetham’s *The Pleasures of Contamination: Evidence, Text, and Voice in Textual Studies* (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2010).

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Studies Association  
Association for Asian American Studies  
Society for Cinema and Media Studies

**LANGUAGES**

Native speaker of English; proficiency in French; basic Spanish; reading knowledge of German

Last updated: 12/17/21