

# Varaxy Yi, Ph.D.

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Department of Educational Leadership  
Kremen School of Education and Human Development  
California State University Fresno  
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## **EDUCATION**

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- Ph.D. Higher Education, University of Denver, CO
- *Cognate Field*: Research Methods & Statistics
  - *Dissertation Title*: A Phenomenological Inquiry into the Racialized Experiences of Southeast Asian American Community College Students
  - *Dissertation Advisors*: Samuel Museus, Ph.D. (UC San Diego) & Frank Tuitt, Ed.D. (University of Denver)
- M.L.I.S. Library and Information Science, San Jose State University, CA
- B.S. Business Administration, University of the Pacific, CA
- B.A. English, University of the Pacific, CA

## **RESEARCH SPECIALIZATIONS**

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- *Racially-minoritized Populations*: Utilize critical theories of race to explore the racialized experiences of racially minoritized populations in education.
- *Racialized Campus Environments and Success*: Analyze campus racial climates and cultures to explore their impact on diverse students' college success.
- *Organizational Change and Institutional Equity*: Explore the factors and conditions that are necessary for transforming higher education organizations to better achieve equity and inclusion.

## **ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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- 2018 – Present Assistant Professor, California State University, Fresno, *Kremen School of Education and Human Development, Department of Educational Leadership, Emphasis: Higher Education, Administration & Leadership (HEAL)*.
- 2017 - 2018 Education Program Administrator, *Greater Sacramento Urban League*
- 2017 - 2018 Part-time Lecturer, Ethnic Studies, *Sacramento State University*
- 2015 - 2015 Adjunct Lecturer, Advancing Academic Achievement, *Community College of Aurora*
- 2014 - 2016 Graduate Fellow, *Office of Diversity and Inclusion/ Interdisciplinary Research Incubator for the Study of (In)Equality (IRISE), University of Denver*
- 2013 – 2015 Graduate Research Assistant, *Morgridge College of Education, University of Denver*
- 2012 – 2013 Grants & Awards Manager, *Graduate Student Organization, University of Hawaii at Mānoa*
- 2010 – 2012 Library Assistant, *ITT Technical Institute, Oakland, CA*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- 2018 Introduction to Education Administration, Instructor of Record  
Educational Statistics, Instructor of Record
- 2017 Ethnic Studies 21, Full Circle Project, Instructor of Record  
This undergraduate-level course provided first-year undergraduates at Sacramento State University materials and activities to reflect on who they are, what they hope to accomplish in college, and how to utilize campus and community resources to achieve their goals.
- 2016 Inclusive Excellence in Programming and Development, Co-Instructor  
This graduate-level course provided an overview related to the development and implementation of cultural programming and cultural centers over time while paying specific attention to the role of student activism in creating change on college campuses in the form of cultural programming, centers, diversity curriculum, and inclusive excellence initiatives. The course also addressed the challenges and competencies associated with inclusive excellent programming and development.
- 2015 Advancing Academic Achievement, Instructor  
This undergraduate-level course examined theories and practices associated with successful learning to enhance college success. Areas of study included: identity, education and career planning, effective communication, personal management, critical and creative thinking, development of community and awareness of diversity, leadership, and techniques for successful academic performance.
- 2015-2016 Critical Race Theory in Education, Teaching Assistant  
This graduate-level course provides students with an in-depth exposure to critical race theory (CRT) as it pertains to education. Critical race theory is an analytical framework that provides race-based epistemological, methodological, and pedagogical approaches to the study of everyday inequalities in P-20 education.
- 2014-2015 Inclusive Excellence in Organizations, Teaching Assistant  
This graduate-level course focuses on the changing demographics of our society, especially related to race and culture, gender, age, physical disability, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status, emphasizing the implications these factors have for leadership and management in a variety of organizational settings.
- 2014 Retention, Persistence, and Student Success, Co-Instructor  
This graduate-level course introduced master's students to research, theory, and practice related to college student retention and persistence. Students collaborated with a local nonprofit organization, Denver Scholarship Foundation (DSF), on projects related to research, re-engagement, and orientation, designed to support the retention of DSF Scholars.

### Seminars, Workshops, & Guest Lectures

- Spring 2016 Culturally Engaging Campus Environments Model. Invited presentation given at the University of Denver higher education course, *Students in the College Environment*.
- 2010 – 2012 Library Instructional Workshops, ITT Technical Institute
- 2011 Online Social Networking: Technology and Tools, Peer Mentor, San Jose State University

## **MANUSCRIPTS & PUBLICATIONS**

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### Refereed Journal Articles

- In Press      Museus, S. D., **Yi, V.**, & Saelua, N. How culturally engaging campus environments influence sense of belonging: An examination of differences between white students and students of color. *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*.
- 2017            Museus, S. D., **Yi, V.**, & Saelua, N. The impact of culturally engaging campus environments on sense of belonging. *Review of Higher Education*, 40(2), 187-215.

### Book Chapters

- 2015            Museus, S. D., & **Yi, V.** Rethinking student involvement and engagement: Cultivating culturally relevant and responsive contexts for campus participation. In D. Mitchell, E. Daniele, K. Soria, & J. Gipson (Eds.), *Student involvement and academic outcomes: Implications for diverse student populations*. New York, NY: Peter Lang Press.
- 2014            Museus, S. D., & **Yi, V.** Asian American college students. In P. Sasso & J. DeVitis (Eds.), *Today's college student*. New York, NY: Peter Lang Press.
- Under Review Ramos, D. & **Yi, V.** Resistance Narratives: Counterstories of two Black women doctoral students. Manuscript under review at *SANKOFA: Exploring the racial and cultural implications for doctoral education from the African American perspective*.

### Other Publications

- 2015            **Yi, V.**, & Museus, S. D. The model minority myth. In J. Stone (Ed.), *The Blackwell encyclopedia of race, ethnicity and nationalism*. Boston: Wiley-Blackwell.

### Manuscripts

- In Progress    **Yi, V.**, Chang, T, LePeau, L., Mathew, S. A., Saelua, N., Haywood, J., & Museus, S. D. *Symbolic frame analysis of organizational change efforts at four private universities*.
- In Progress    **Yi, V.** & Ramos, D. *Gender, race, and resistance: Exploring the motivations of doctoral women of color*.
- In Progress    Ramos, D. & **Yi, V.** *The uphill battle: An analysis of race and gender struggles in the academic pathways of doctoral women of color*.
- In Progress    Museus, S.D., Saelua, N., & **Yi, V.** *Understanding the experiences of refugee youth from Bhutanese and Burmese navigating education*.

## **RESEARCH GRANTS**

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- 2014            *Project Title:* The Deviance of Model Minorities: Understanding the Impact of Stereotypes of the Model Minority and the Deviant. *Role:* Principal Investigator. *Funder:* Interdisciplinary Research Incubator for the Study of (In)Equality, University of Denver. *Award Amount:* \$2000

## **RESEARCH PROJECTS**

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- 2016            Co-Principal Investigator, *Organizational Change and Equity Project*  
Case study of four private institutions as they pursue change and transformation in their respective institutions in the areas of diversity equity, and inclusion.

- 2015 Co-Principal Investigator, *Cultivating Culturally Relevant and Responsive Curriculum and Pedagogy in College Project*.  
This project focuses on the ways college faculty make their curriculum and pedagogy culturally relevant and responsive. Prepared Institutional Review Board application to conduct study. Developed interview protocol and recruitment selection tool.
- 2015 Principal Investigator, *The Deviance of Model Minorities: Understanding the Impact of Stereotypes of the Model Minority and the Deviant*.  
Project awarded by the University of Denver Interdisciplinary Research Incubator for the Study of (In)Equality (IRISE). This project focuses on exploring how the model minority and the deviant minority stereotypes mutually shape the educational experiences of Southeast Asian American college students. Developed the project from conception, including Institutional Review Board research application, interview protocol, and recruitment survey.
- 2015 Co-Principal Investigator, *How Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Institutions Promote Success (HAPS)*.  
Utilizing the CECE Model, this project seeks to explain how campus environments shape the experiences and outcomes of diverse students in college. Collect data at participating institutions: interviews, focus groups, and observations. Currently in data analysis.
- 2014 Research Team Member, *Asian American and Pacific Islander College Access Project (CAP)*.  
In partnership with Asian Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund, the CAP project focuses on college access for Asian American Pacific Islander students across the nation. Principal Investigators: Samuel Museus, Ph.D. & Tracy Buenavista Lachica, Ph.D.
- 2014 Co-Principal Investigator, *Academic Aspirations of Women Doctoral Students of Color*  
Qualitative research study focusing on the formation of the academic aspirations of doctoral women of color as impacted by their experiences with racism and sexism. 11 participant interviews conducted.
- 2014 Research Team Member, *Collecting Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Refugee Stories Project (CARS)*.  
A research project, in collaboration with Asian Pacific Development Center (APDC) and Project Ava, that is aimed at documenting the stories and voices of Asian American and Pacific Islander refugee youth and parents from Burma, Bhutan, and Nepal. Conducted interviews with 10 students and their parents. Transcribed and analyzed interviews.

## **CONSULTING**

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- 2016 *Santa Clara University*  
Conducting a multiphase, mixed method holistic diversity assessment, including campus climate assessment, examination of admissions practices, exploring workforce perspectives regarding the institution's role in preparing culturally competent graduates, evaluating policies and practices related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and reviewing peer campus initiatives.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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### Refereed Conference Presentations

- 2018 **Yi, V.** & Kiyama, J. *ASHE-NITE-Lumina Policy Report on Immigrant and Refugee Students*. Policy report to be presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Tampa Bay, FL.
- 2018 **Yi, V.**, & Phommasa, M. *The Racialized Experiences of Southeast Asian American Community College Students*. Paper to be presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Tampa Bay, FL.
- 2018 Thaviseth, L., Na, V., Mac, J., **Yi, V.**, & Phommasa, M. *SEAAsters in the Struggle: Experiences of Southeast Asian American Womxn in Graduate School*. Paper to be presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian American Studies, San Francisco, CA.
- 2017 **Yi, V.**, Museus, S., Chang, T., Haywood, J., & Saelua, N. *Symbolic Frame Analysis of Organizational Change Efforts in Diversity and Inclusion at Four Small, Private Universities*. Paper presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Houston, TX.
- 2017 Na, V., **Yi, V.**, Mac, J., & Thaviseth, L. *(Up)Lift as we Climb: A Collaborative Autoethnography of Southeast Asian American Women Pursuing the Academy*. Paper presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Houston, TX.
- 2017 **Yi, V.**, Teck, V., & Mac, J. *Cultivating Inclusive Environments: (Re)Focusing on the Assets, Skills, and Knowledge of Southeast Asian American Students*. Workshop presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the American College Personnel Association, Columbus, OH.
- 2016 **Yi, V.**, & Ramos, D. *Gender, Race, and Resistance: Exploring the Motivations of Doctoral Women of Color*. Paper presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Washington, D.C.
- 2016 **Yi, V.**, Phommasa, M., Teck, V., Pheng, L. M., & Thaviseth, L. J. (2016). *Cultivating Inclusive Environments: (Re)Focusing on the Assets, Skills and Knowledge of Southeast Asian American Students*. APIKC Knowledge Community Sponsored. Workshop presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, Indianapolis, IN.
- 2016 **Yi, V.** & Museus, S.D. (2016). *Fostering Student Learning and Development in Student Organizations Through Culturally Engaging Practices*. Workshop presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, Indianapolis, IN.
- 2015 Museus, S. D., **Yi, V.**, Saelua, N. *The Impact of Culturally Engaging Campus Environments on Sense of Belonging among White Students and Students of Color*. Paper presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Denver, CO.
- 2015 Museus, S. D., Saelua, N., **Yi, V.**, Teck, V. *Navigating Two Worlds: Educational Resilience of Burmese and Bhutanese Refugee Youth*. Paper presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Denver, CO.
- 2015 Ramos, D. & **Yi, V.** *The Uphill Battle: An Analysis of Race and Gender Struggles in the Academic Pathways of Doctoral Women of Color*. Paper presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Denver, CO.

- 2015 **Yi, V.**, Teck, V., Courey, P., Mariano, J., Museus, S. D. *Understanding the Experiences of Faculty Engaging in Culturally Relevant Pedagogy and Curriculum in the Classroom*. Poster presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Denver, CO.
- 2015 Ramos, D. & **Yi, V.** *Exploring the Academic Aspirations of Doctoral Women of Color*. Poster presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- 2015 Ramos, D. & **Yi, V.** *Academic Aspirations of Doctoral Women of Color: Experiences with Racism and Sexism*. Poster presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, New Orleans, CA.
- 2014 Museus, S. D., **Yi, V.**, & Saelua, N. *The Impact of Culturally Engaging Campus Environments on Sense of Belonging*. Paper presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Washington, D.C.
- 2014 **Yi, V.** *The Deviance of Model Minorities: Understanding the Impact of the Stereotypes of the Model and the Deviant*. Poster presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Washington, D.C.
- 2014 **Yi, V.**, Miller, R. L., & Schlesselman-Tarango, G. *“What Kind of Asian Are You?” Stereotypes and microaggressions in the experiences of Asian American Pacific Islander college students*. Workshop presented at the 2014 Diversity Summit on Inclusive Excellence, Denver, CO.
- 2013 Museus, S. D. & **Yi, V.** *The Impact of Ethnic Enclaves on Southeast Asian American Students’ Adjustment and Membership in College*. Roundtable presentation at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, St. Louis, MO.

#### Invited Presentations

- 2018 **Yi, V.** *Keeping it Personal: Fostering Student Success with the Culturally Engaging Campus Environments Model*. Invited talk given at the Better Together Summit, Stockton, CA.
- 2015 **Yi, V.** *Southeast Asian American College Students*. Invited presentation given at The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.
- 2015 **Yi, V.** *Is Anyone Listening?* Invited talk given at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual University of Denver Diversity Summit on Inclusive Excellence, Denver, CO.
- 2014 **Yi, V.** *Defining success*. Panel presentation given at the Khmer Student Coalition Conference, Stockton, CO.
- 2014 **Yi, V.**, Bou, S., Y. C. *You’re Smart for a Khmer Person*. Workshop presented at the Khmer Student Coalition Conference, Stockton, CA.
- 2014 **Yi, V.** *Khmer Graduation Keynote*. Invited keynote speech presented at Khmer Youth of Modesto Graduate Ceremony, Modesto, CA.

#### Other Presentations

- 2018 Masulit, M., DeGuzman, J., Yang, J., & **Yi, V.** *Addressing Burnout and Navigating Self-Preservation*. Workshop presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education, Oakland, CA.

- 2016 **Yi, V.** & Kim, S. *Fostering an Environment of Inclusion and Success for Diverse Graduate Students: Roger Salters Institute*. Workshop presented at the Retention of Diverse Students in Higher Education: Engagement, Learning, and Completion, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.
- 2014 Museus, S. D., **Yi, V.**, & Saelua, N. *Transforming Campus Environments to Maximize Success Among Diverse Students*. Presented at the 2014 Auraria Higher Education Diversity Summit, Denver, CO.

### **ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS**

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- 2018 NASPA – Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education Asian Pacific Islander Knowledge Community Future Leader Award
- 2017 American College Personnel Association, Asian Pacific American Network Outstanding Graduate Student Award
- 2016 Research on the Education of Asian and Pacific Americans Travel Scholarship (\$250)
- 2015 - 2017 University of Denver Miller’s Travel Scholarship (\$1500)
- 2014 University of Denver Graduate Studies Doctoral Fellowship for Inclusive Engagement (\$4500)
- 2014 University of Denver Graduate Student Government Professional Development Grant
- 2014 – 2017 University of Denver College of Education Student Association Conference Travel Grant
- 2013 University of Hawaii at Mānoa, Ph.D. Achievement Scholarship (\$2000)
- 2011 Southeast Asia Resource Action Center Leadership & Advocacy Training Scholarship
- 2011 American Library Association Reach21 Conference Travel Scholarship (\$500)
- 2010 - 2011 Asian Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund Higher Education Summit Travel Scholarship (\$500)
- 2003 Gates Millennium Scholarship (\$800,000)
- 2003 E & J Gallo Winery Scholarship & Internship (\$20,000)
- 2003 Bank of America Liberal Arts Award

### **LEADERSHIP & SERVICE**

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- 2017 – 2019 Editorial Board Reviewer, Journal of Critical Scholarship in Higher Education and Student Affairs
- 2017 Research and Scholarship Committee, NASPA Asian Pacific Islander Knowledge Community
- 2016 Site Organizer, Annual Conference of the Critical Race Studies in Education Association
- 2015 American College Personnel Association, Reviewer
- 2015 Penn Equity Institute for Doctoral Students, Center for the Study of Race & Equity in Education, University of Pennsylvania
- 2015 Vice President, College of Education Student Association, stipend

- 2015 Participant, Emerging Scholars Workshop, American Educational Research Association 2015 Conference
- 2015 NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, Reviewer
- 2015 American Educational Research Association, Reviewer
- 2014 *FORWARD* Facilitator, Center for Multicultural Excellence
- 2014 Association for the Study of Higher Education, Reviewer and Chair
- 2014 Ph.D. Representative, Higher Education Student Association
- 2013 Asian Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund Scholarship Reader for 2014 – 2015 Cohort
- 2013 Special Projects Co-Chair, Higher Education Student Association
- 2012 – 2013 Council Member, College of Education Doctoral Student Association, University of Hawaii at Mānoa
- 2012 Volunteer to Planning Committee, Asian American Pacific Islander Research Coalition
- 2011 – 2013 Finance & Fundraising Committee, Asian Pacific American Library Association
- 2011 – 2012 Communications Coordinator, Khmer Alumni Club, University of the Pacific
- 2011 Co-Chair & Panel Moderator, Resume and Interview Workshop, Panel Discussion
- 2010 – 2011 Member, Southeast Asian Recruitment Committee, University of the Pacific

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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- 2017 - Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS)
- 2014 – American College Personnel Association (ACPA)
- 2014 – National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)
- 2012 – Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)
- 2012 – American Educational Research Association (AERA)