

PAMELA THOMA

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. English, University of Colorado at Boulder
Asian American Literary & Cultural Studies; Women's Literature;
Film Studies; Postcolonial, Feminist, and Critical Theory
Dissertation: "Asian American Women's Writing:
Theorizing Transnationalism"
- M.A. English Literature, Colorado State University
- B.A. English Literature, The Ohio State University

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & POSITIONS

Visiting Fellow

The Gender Institute
London School of Economics and Political Science, Spring 2015

Associate Professor

Department of Critical Culture, Gender, and Race Studies
Washington State University, 2013-

Assistant Professor

Department of Critical Culture, Gender, and Race Studies, 2010-2013
Department of Women's Studies, 2007-2010
Washington State University

Assistant Professor (joint appointment)

Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies and
American Studies Programs, Colby College, 1996-2005

Director

Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, Colby College, 2003-2004

Visiting Assistant Professor

Department of English & Center for Asian American Studies
University of Texas at Austin, 1999-2000

Lecturer

English Language & Literature
Takayama College, Takayama, Japan, 1987-1989

PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS

Asian American Women's Popular Literature: Feminizing Genres and Neoliberal Belonging. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2014.

Women's Labors: Postfeminist Fictions of Fertility, Family, and Domesticity in Twenty-First Century Popular Media Culture, in progress.

EDITED VOLUMES

Contemporary Asian American Literature and Popular Visual Culture: New Reading and Teaching Practices, Special Issue Guest Editor, *Asian American Literature: Discourses and Pedagogies* 5.1 (fall 2014).

REFEREED BOOK CHAPTERS

"Neoliberal Maternal Discourse, Tiger Mothers, and Asian American Mother-Daughter Narrative" *Mothering in East Asian Communities: Politics and Practices*. Patti Duncan and Gina Wong, eds. Demeter Press, 2014. 95-118.

"What Julia Knew: Domestic Labor in the Recession-Era Chick Flick" *Gendering the Recession: Media and Culture in an Age of Austerity*. Diane Negra and Yvonne Tasker, eds. Duke University Press, 2014. 107-135.

"Representing Korean American Female Subjects, Negotiating Multiple Americas, and Reading Beyond the Ending in Ronyoung Kim's *Clay Walls*" *Recovered Legacies: Authority and Identity in Early Asian American Literature*, Floyd Cheung and Keith Lawrence, eds. Temple University Press, 2005. 265-293.

"Marilyn Chin," *Dictionary of Literary Biography: Asian American Writers*, Deborah L.Madsen, ed. Brucoli Clark Layman, 2005. 63-68.

"Cultural Autobiography, Testimonial, and Asian American Transnational Feminist Coalition in the Comfort Women of World War II Conference," *Asian American Women: A Frontiers Reader*. Linda Trinh Võ and Marian Sciachitano, eds., University of Nebraska Press, 2004. 150-177.

"Intercollegiate Web Pedagogy: Possibilities and Limitations of Virtual Asian American Studies" with John Cheng and Karen Chow, *Asian.America.Net*, Rachel C. Lee and Sau-Ling Cynthia Wong, eds. Routledge, 2003. 193-212.

"Such an Unthinkable Thing?: Asian American Transnational Feminism and the Comfort Women of World War II Conference" *The Comfort Women of World War II: Legacy and Lessons*, Margaret Stetz and Bonnie Oh, eds. M.E. Sharpe, 2001. 101-127.

REFEREED ARTICLES

- “On Contemporary Asian American Literature and Popular Visual Culture”
Asian American Literature: Discourses & Pedagogies 5 (2014): i-iii.
- “Romancing the Self and Negotiating Consumer Citizenship in Asian American Labor Lit” *Contemporary Women’s Writing* 8.1 (March 2014): 17-35.
- “Traveling the Distances of Karen Tei Yamashita’s Fiction: A Review Essay on Yamashita Scholarship and Transnational Studies.” *Asian American Literature: Discourses & Pedagogies* 1 (2010): 6-15.
- “Buying Up Baby: Modern Feminine Subjectivity, Assertions of ‘Choice,’ and the Repudiation of Reproductive Justice in Postfeminist Unwanted Pregnancy Films”
Feminist Media Studies 9.4 (Dec. 2009): 209-225.
- “On *Mothers Without Citizenship*: An Interview with Lynn Fujiwara”
Genders: A Journal of the Arts, Humanities and Social Theory 49 (Spring 2009). NP.
- “Cultural Autobiography, Testimonial, and Asian American Transnational Feminist Coalition in the Comfort Women of World War II Conference,”
Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies 21.1/2 (Spring 2000): 29-54.
- “Of Beauty Pageants and Barbie: Theorizing Consumption in Asian American Transnational Feminism,” *Genders: A Journal of the Arts, Humanities and Social Theory* 29 (April 1999). NP.

REVIEWS & INTERVIEWS

- Books Aren’t Dead (BAD) Interview with Pamela Thoma by Kelly Adams, *ADA: A Journal of Gender, New Media, and Technology*, forthcoming.
- “Negotiating Neoliberal Citizenship: An Interview with Pamela Thoma about her New Book *Asian American Women’s Popular Literature*” by Jigna Desai. *Genders: A Journal of the Arts, Humanities and Social Theory* 59 (Spring 2014). NP.
- Review of *Transnational Feminism in Film and Media*, edited by Katarzyna Marciniak, Anikó Imre, and Áine O’Healy, eds. *Transnational Cinemas* 2.1 (Spring 2011) 113-115.
- “Going There,” review essay of *Questions of Travel: Postmodern Discourses of Displacement*, by Caren Kaplan, *Passages: Journal of Transnational and Transcultural Studies* 1.2 (Fall 1999): 290-293.
- Review of *Changing Lives: Life Stories of Asian Pioneers in Women’s Studies*, Edited by the Committee on Women’s Studies in Asia, *NWSA Journal* 8.2 (Summer 1996): 132-133.
- Review of *The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood, *Colorado Review* 13.2 (Spring/Summer 1986): 80-81.

CONFERENCE & PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- “Mutating Figures in Postfeminist North American Chick Culture: Pregnant Teens, Tiger Mothers, and Orphan Clones” (Invited Lecture) The Institute of American and Canadian Studies, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan, 26 November 2014.
- “Beyond ‘Lean In’ Mentoring: Examining the Material Implications of the Neoliberal Academy.” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 14 Nov 2014.
- “Academia’s Next Top Model: Asian American Studies in the Neoliberal University.” Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference, San Francisco, 16-20 April 2014.
- “The Not-So-New Normal or Finding a Job in HBO’s *Girls*: Sexuality, Self-Work, and a Recession-era Update for the Recent College Grad in Postfeminist Popular Culture.” (Invited Lecture) Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies Program, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT, 23 September 2013.
- “Finding a Job in HBO’s *Girls*: Self-Work, Immaterial Labor, and a Recession-era Update for the Postfeminist Professional Writer.” Console-ing Passions: International Conference on Television, Audio, Video, New Media, and Feminism, Leicester, England, 23-25 June 2013.
- “Differential Neoliberal Biopolitics, Tiger Mothers, and the Return of the Repressed in Asian American Mother-Daughter Narrative.” Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Seattle, 18-21 April 2013.
- “Recession-Era Hollywood & Chick Flick Makeovers: Reviving the Discourse of Labor in *Julie & Julia* and *Eat Pray Love*.” (Invited Lecture) Gendering the Recession Research Symposium in the New Reality Series, Dun Laoghaire Institute of Technology, Art, & Design, Dublin, Ireland, 12 April 2012.
- “Recession-Era Hollywood & Chick Flick Makeovers: Reviving the Discourse of Labor in *Julie & Julia* and *Eat, Pray, Love*.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Boston, 21-25 March 2012.
- “Transnational Detective Work: Coming of Age with Cosmopolitanism and Global Media Capitalism in Fiction by Ruth Ozeki and Sujata Massey” Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference, New Orleans, 18-21 May 2011.
- “What Julia Knew: Cooking, Blogging, and Other Forms of Postfeminist Domestic Labor in *Julie & Julia*,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, New Orleans, 10-15 March 2011.
- “Choice’ on Television: Talking about Pregnancy, Abortion and ‘The *Juno* Effect’ in Twenty-First Century Popular Culture,” National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Denver, 11-14 Nov 2010.
- “Polygamy and the City: Re-mediating Marriage, Family Values, and Domesticity in *Big Love*,” Console-ing Passions: International Conference on Television, Audio, Video, New Media, and Feminism, Eugene, OR, 22-24 April 2010.
- “Diasporic, Consumer, and Cultural Citizenship Claims in the Narrative Practice of Patti Kim’s *A Cab Called Reliable* and Theresa Hyak Kyung Cha’s *Dictee*,” American Studies Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., 5-8 Nov 2009.

- “Buying Up Baby: ‘Authentic’ Modern Feminine Subjectivity, Assertions of ‘Choice,’ and the Repudiation of Reproductive Justice in Postfeminist Unwanted Pregnancy Films,” Feminist Transitions (22ND Feminist and Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, UK), Liverpool, England, 19-21 June 2009.
- “Hot Pink: Making Critical use of Female Celebrity in Asian American Chick Lit,” Assoc. for Asian American Studies Conference, Honolulu, 22-26 April 2009.
- “Narratives of Consumption in the New Economy: The National, the Transnational, and the Imperial in Asian American Chick Lit,” National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Cincinnati, 19-22 June 2008.
- “Inaugurations and the Hope of Reading Alternative Imagined Communities,” Circle for Asian American Literary Studies panel, American Literature Association 19th Annual Conference, San Francisco, 22-25 May 2008.
- “Contexts and Controversies in Asian Pacific American Children’s and Young Adult Literature,” Chair and Respondent, Association for Asian American Studies, Boston, 25-28 March 2004.
- “Passing for Asian in the Global Literary Market Place: Critiquing Whiteness and the Racialized Feminization of Transnational Labor in *Memoirs of a Geisha*,” MELUS, Seattle, 11-14 April 2002.
- “Globalizing Academic Friendships and Feminist Alliances” Roundtable Participant. The Complex Web of Women’s Friendships Conference, University of New England, Portland, ME, 20-22 June 2002.
- “Theorizing Gender in Asian Pacific American Studies.” Roundtable Participant, Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Toronto, 31 March 2001.
- “Passing In and On White-Authored Texts: Questions of Appropriation and Positionality in the Asian American Studies Classroom,” Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Toronto, 28 March-1 April 2001.
- “The Metaphors and Meaning of Gossip in Public and Academic Discourse,” American Studies Association Annual Conference, Detroit, 12-15 October 2000.
- “Cultural Autobiography, Testimonial, and Asian American Transnational Feminist Coalition in the Comfort Women of World War II Conference,” Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Phoenix, 24-27 May 2000 & the National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Albuquerque 17-20 June 1999.
- “Of Beauty Pageants and Barbie: Theorizing Consumption in Asian American Transnational Feminism,” Association for Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 31-April 4, 1999.
- “‘Girl Talk’ and Gossip in Jessica Hagedorn’s *Dogeaters* and Fae Myenne Ng’s *Bone*,” New Mexico Women’s Studies Conference, NMSU, 19-21 April 1998.
- “Confronting the ‘Model Minority Myth’ in Asian American Studies Courses,” Inclusive & Interdisciplinary: Building the New Curriculum Conference, University of Southern Maine, 11-13 September 1997.
- “Barbie’s Ethnic Makeover in Contemporary Writing by Asian American Women,” Humanities Research Institute, “The Futures of American Studies,” Dartmouth College, 17 August 1997.

- “Miss ‘Most Original’ Philippines: Beauty Pageants and National Identity in Jessica Hagedorn’s *Dogeaters*,” First International and Eleventh National MELUS Conference, University of Hawaii, 18-20 April, 1997.
- “Crossing Borders in History, Fiction, Pageant, and Film,” 17th National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Saratoga Springs, 12-16 June 1996.
- “*Brazil-Marú* and the Transnational Home: Representing an Imagined Cultural Space,” the Modern Language Association of America’s Annual Convention, Chicago, 27-30 December 1995.
- “Imaginative Communities in Contemporary Fiction by U.S. Women of Color,” Panel Presentation, 16th National Women’s Studies Association’s Conference, Norman, Oklahoma, 21-25 June 1995.
- “Where is the Center? or Refiguring Theoretical Travel in Fae Myenne Ng’s *Bone*,” Third Annual National Conference on Theoretical Approaches to Marginalized Literatures, Missoula, Montana, 17-19 March 1995.
- “Asian American Women’s Autobiography: Coded Subversions and the Resisting Subject,” Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association, Colorado Springs, 28-30 October 1994.
- “Discursive Journeys or Refiguring the Picaresque in Cynthia Kadohata’s *The Floating World* and R.A. Sasaki’s ‘Driving to Colma,’” 4th National American Women Writers of Color Conference, Ocean City, MD, 14-16 October 1994.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS & GRANTS

- Visiting Fellow, the Gender Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science, London, England, Spring 2015.
- ADVANCE (NSF) Transitions Research Grant, Washington State University, August 2013.
- The Susan Armitage Women’s Studies Faculty Award for Teaching, April 2012.
- New Faculty Seed Grant, Office of Grant and Research Development, Washington State University, May 2010.
- College of Liberal Arts, International Travel Grant, Washington State University, Spring 2009
- Nominated, Faculty Mentor of the Year Award, 2009.
- National and International Conference Travel Grants, 1996-2005, Colby College
- Interdisciplinary Studies Research Grant, 1997, Colby College.
- Florence Husted Lowe and F. Rex Lowe Dissertation Fellowship, College of Arts and Sciences, 1996, University of Colorado
- University Fellowship, Graduate School, 1995, University of Colorado
- Elizabeth C. Wiegner Graduate Teaching Award, Spring 1993, Department of English, University of Colorado
- Rockefeller Regional Scholar, Southwest Institute for Research on Women, September 1992, University of Arizona
- Diversity Award, Gender Studies Integration Project, May 1990, Colorado State University

TEACHING

Washington State University

Gender and Power: Introduction to Women's Studies (WST200)
Sex, Race, and Reproduction in Global Health Politics (WST 120)
Intersections of Race, Class, Gender and Sexualities (WST300)
Women Writers/Asian American Women Writers (WST/ENGL 309)
Women and Popular Culture (WST338)
Women and Work in Global Contexts (WST406)
Internship in Women's Studies (WST410)
Theoretical Issues in Women's Studies (WST481)
Graduate Seminar: Contemporary Feminist Theories and Practices (AMST504)
Graduate Seminar: Cultures of Consumption:
 Race, Gender, and Political Economy (AMST590)
Graduate Seminar: Narratives of Neoliberal Citizenship:
 Makeover, Reality & Cooking Culture (AMST524)
Graduate Seminar: From Brand Culture to Bust Culture: Reading Postfeminist &
 Post-Racial Discourses in Recession-Era Popular Culture (AMST 524)

Graduate Student Committee Service

Antonia Bodley, Interdisciplinary Studies, Ph.D., Committee Member 2011-
Nichole Bogarosh, American Studies, Ph.D. 2013. Committee Member 2011-13
Andrea Campbell, Dept. of English, Ph. D. 2010. Outside Member, 2008-10
Tiffany Christian, American Studies, Ph.D., Committee Director, 2013-
Cherise DeBerry, Dept. of Sociology, M.S. program. Outside Member, 2008-10
Nichole Ferry, Cultural Studies in Education, Ph.D., Outside Member, 2013-
Mary Jo Klinker, "Transnational Feminism: Resistance in the Political Economy
of Imperialism" American Studies Ph.D. 2013, Director, 2008-13.
Xuan Nguyen, "Dynamic Constructions of Vietnamese American Identities in
Seattle" American Studies Ph.D. 2011, Committee Member 2007-11.

Colby College

Introduction to Asian American Cultures (AM277)
Coming of Age in Asian America: Fiction and Film (AM/EN277)
Introduction to American Studies (AM271)
Contemporary Asian American Women Writers (WG/AM/EN315)
Pro-Seminar in American Studies: "American" Identities (AM393)
Senior Seminar: Asian American Autobiography (AM493)
Senior Seminar: Transnational Women's Writing (AM/WG 493)
Seminar in Feminist Theory (WG311)
Gender, Race, and the Politics of Difference (WG221)
Senior Seminar: International Women's Movement and Transnational Feminist
 Activism, Connecting the Global to the Local (WG493)

University of Texas at Austin

Introduction to Asian American Literature and Culture (E314L)

Asian American Women's Literature (E370/WS340)

Graduate Seminar: Asian American Autobiography (E397)

University of Colorado at Boulder

Contemporary Asian American Women Writers (EN/WM3262)

Studies in Asian American Literature (ENGL2782)

Introduction to Women's Literature (ENGL/WMST1260)

Introduction to Feminist Studies (WMST2000)

Women and Society (WMST2050)

Takayama College

English Language I

English Language II

Colorado State University (independent classroom instruction)

Introduction to Women's Studies (WS200)

Introduction to Literature (E140)

College Composition (CO150)

Fundamentals of Composition (CO101)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Board Member, *Asian American Literature: Discourses & Pedagogies*, 2011-

Editorial Board Member, *Genders: A Journal of the Arts, Humanities and Social Theory*, 2001-

Member, Fembot, Feminist Media and Technology Studies Collective, University of Oregon, Center for the Study of Women and Society, 2010-.

Chair and Respondent, "Immigrant Matters" American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. 21-23 November 2013.

Editor, *AAUP at Washington State University*, 1.1 (Feb. 2010), Chapter Newsletter.

Roundtable Organizer, Chair, and Participant, "Election 2008: Feminist Questions on Projections of the National Imagination" Northwest Women's Studies Association Annual Conference, November 2008.

Chair, "Teaching at the Crossroads: American Studies and Film Studies," American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, 16-19 October 2008.

Invited Lecture, "Interdisciplinary Research Areas and Interests" American Studies Colloquium, 28 November 2007.

External Review Committee Member, Macalester College, Women's and Gender Studies Department, 5-7, April 2004.

Convenor, "Women's Human Rights Organizations Respond to War in Afghanistan" Colby College, 26 February 2002.

Participant, "Fourth International Workshop on Women in the Third Millennium" Conference, Dept. of Women's Studies, University of Havana, Havana, Cuba, 12-16 November 2001.

Participant and Presenter, East of California Jr. Faculty Retreat, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, 24-27 May 2001.

Member, Governing Panel of the International Task Force of the National Women's Studies Association, 2000-2002.

Coordinator, Literary Caucus sponsored authors' readings, Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Scottsdale, AZ, 25 & 26 May 2000

Member, East of California and Literary Caucuses, Assn for Asian American Studies.

Participant, East of California Electronic Pedagogy Project, Spring 1999.

Chair and Respondent, "Applying Old Laws to New Publics: National and Transnational Cases," American Studies Association Conference, Washington, D.C., October 30-November 2, 1997.

Workshop Facilitator, "Class Differences in Asian American Communities and the Model Minority Myth," Colby/Bates/Bowdoin Asian American Student Association Conference, Bowdoin College, 15 November 1997.

Invited Lecture, "Asian American Women's Writing," American Association of University Women, Waterville Chapter, 19 February 1997.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Member, Roots of Contemporary Issues Program Steering Committee, WSU, 2013-

Member, President's Commission on the Status of Women, WSU, 2013-

Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Critical Culture, Gender, and Race Studies, 2013-

Member, Graduate Studies Committee, Critical Culture, Gender, and Race Studies, 2010-2012

Visiting Writer Coordinator, Marilyn Chin, WSU, October 19-20, 2011.

Faculty Participant, WSU Common Reading Program, *The Beauty Academy of Kabul* (2004), April 12, 2011.

Member, Faculty Policies Committee, Critical Culture, Gender, and Race Studies, Spring 2010

Member, Annual Review Advisory Committee, Critical Culture, Gender, and Race Studies, Spring 2010

Member, Regents Scholarship Review Committee, WSU, 2009-2010

Member, Curriculum Committee, Women's Studies, WSU, 2007-2010

Internship Coordinator, Department of Women's Studies, WSU, 2008-2010

Member, Pedagogy Committee, Women's Studies, WSU, 2008-2009

Member, Scholarship Committee, Women's Studies, WSU, 2007-2009

Member, MELUS Conference Committee, Washington State University, 2007-2009

Member, Associated Faculty Women, 2007-present

Appointed Member, Service Learning Task Force, Colby, 2002-2003
Elected Faculty Member, Healthcare Advisory Committee, Colby, 2001-2003
Member, Women's Studies Coordinating Committee, Colby, 1996-2005
Member, Faculty Allies mentoring committee for students of color, Colby, 2001-2005
Member, Center for Asian American Studies Advisory Committee, U.Texas, 1999-2000
Coordinator, Women's Studies Colloquia Series, Colby, 1997-1999
Elected Faculty Member, Cultural Events Committee, Colby, 1997-1999
Appointed Faculty Member, Institutional Review Board, Colby, 1998-1999
Treasurer, Colby Chapter of AAUP, 1998-1999
Advisor/Co-Advisor, Asian-American Student Association, Colby, 1997-1999/1996-1997

LANGUAGES

French—Reading and Writing—Very Good Proficiency; Speaking—Basic Proficiency
Japanese—Speaking—Basic Proficiency

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of University Professors
American Studies Association
Association for Asian American Studies
Modern Language Association
National Women's Studies Association
Society for Cinema and Media Studies