

## **Migration, Race and Empire: Canada and the TransPacific**

The Transpacific experience has indelibly marked Victoria, B.C. and indeed all of Canada. From earliest days, peoples of the Pacific, including Hawai'i islanders, Chinese, Japanese and South Asians crossed the seas to the west coast where they mingled with First Nations peoples, Métis, and British colonists. With the formation of the colonial state, however, they faced new challenges in the form of discrimination and exclusion. Community became important yet individual experiences varied greatly as people adjusted and persevered in the changing landscapes, often retaining ties to their homelands in a myriad of ways. It was against the foil of the 'Oriental' that Canadian 'whiteness' was constructed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century as was the racial state. As part of this reaction to Asian migration, Canadian officials actively intervened to construct an international Anglo-Saxon alliance which has fundamentally shaped the world in which we live. This course examines the intersections between race and imperialism in the TransPacific from 1840 to decolonization in the postwar period with specific attention on Asian Canadian and transnational connections. It focuses on patterns of migration, issues of colonial conquest and resistance, and the clash of empires (European, American, Japanese). It integrates questions of Aboriginal-Asian relations, gender and religion as well as theoretical perspectives including transnationalism, post-colonialism, and critical anti-racism/feminism. This course offers possibilities for innovative research projects including comparative analysis and community-based, action research.

Class Schedule:        Wednesday, 2:30 - 5:20 p.m.

Location:                Clearihue, B 215

Instructor:             John Price

Office:                    Clearihue B 204  
Tel.: 721-7386  
E-mail: joprice@uvic.ca

Office Hours:         Monday and Thursday, 11:30 – 12:30, or by appointment.

### Format

This seminar is based on readings, presentations, and participatory research. Each week there will be a number of required readings, mainly journal articles and one person will present an appreciation of the readings and the other participants will act as respondents. There will also be a number of field trips and special presentations. A major component of the course will be a collective participatory action research project which we will discuss every week. Participants will pursue their own research projects and present regular updates on their work.

### Assignments and Marking

**Class participation** (20-30 percent): Each member will do a number of presentations (two or

three) over the course of the seminar. The presentation will cover all three readings and include a short analytical synopsis of each (not a summary), an appreciation of the inter-relevance of the texts and their similarities and differences, and suggestions for other readings that might supplement or challenge the works read. One person will take on this assignment each week and circulate **before class** a draft summary of their presentation (maximum 1500 words). All participants will be prepared to act as respondents to this review. After the class the main presenter will revise and re-submit the presentation for final assessment. Presentations can be up to 30 minutes. After the presentation, we will discuss each of the articles separately and then finish the discussion about the collective relevance. Time permitting, audio-visual materials may be introduced and participants are welcome to do digital presentations where appropriate.

**Collective Project** (25 percent): Together we will undertake a project that will both enhance our research capacities and contribute in a socially useful way. The proposed project for this seminar is to document the provenance of the Ming Bell held by the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. The City of Victory obtained the bell in 1903 and it was displayed in Beacon Hill Park for many years before being transferred to the AGGV for permanent display. In this project we will collectively map out a plan to determine the bell's provenance, to document the issues that have arisen since the City and Art Gallery have held the bell, and to examine theoretical and ethical issues that will help illuminate the questions. The details of this project will be discussed and finalized in the first class. A number of class hours will be devoted to the project. Each participant will present their written contribution by **March 16**. We will try and arrange a consultation with the AGGV for March 23 for formal presentation. The project may be mounted as a project on the new web site [www.asiancanadianstudies.ca](http://www.asiancanadianstudies.ca).

**Essay** (45-55 percent): Essay topics should be chosen by the second or third class and a bibliographic search begun immediately. A proposed outline and bibliography should be handed in by **February 2**. The essay topic can be freely chosen as long as it fits within the course parameters. The essay should reflect an advanced level, be based on primary sources to the extent possible and integrate historiographical/theoretical approaches. The essay should be approximately 3000-5000 words. Please use footnotes, not endnotes. Deadline is last day of class, **March 30**.

Note: By the last class, participants may indicate which assignment component (presentation, collective project, etc.) represents their best effort and the instructor will take this into account in final assessments. Plagiarism will be dealt with according to the *Uvic Calendar*. Grading is according to standard university policy. Students must retain an original copy of assignments (essays, etc.) and be prepared to produce them if requested.

### **Proposed 2008 Schedule and Readings**

#### Wednesday, January 5

- Introductions
- Review of Syllabus
- Collective Project, Essay topics

#### Wednesday, January 12

- Historical Context, 1800s-1902

- Ming Bell project outline
- David Chuenyan Lai, "The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association in Victoria: Its Origins and Functions," *B.C. Studies*, No. 15 (Autumn 1972), 53-67.
- Yu-fang Cho, "'Yellow Slavery,' Narratives of Rescue, and Sui Sin Far/Edith Maude Eaton's 'Lin John' (1899)," *Journal of Asian American Studies*, 12, 1 (February 2009), 35-63.
- Andrea Geiger Adams, "Writing Racial Barriers into Law: Upholding B.C.'s Denial of the Vote to Its Japanese Canadian Citizens, *Homma v. Cunningham*, 1902" in Louis Fiset and Gail M. Nomura eds., *Nikkei in the Pacific Northwest: Japanese Americans and Japanese Canadians in the Twentieth Century* (Seattle, University of Washington Press, 2005), pp. 20-43.

### Wednesday, January 19

- Intersectionality; Updates
- Renisa Mawani, "Cross-racial Encounters and Judicial Truths: (Dis) Aggregating Race in British Columbia's Contact Zone. *BC Studies*, No. 156/157 (Winter 2007/Spring 2008), pp. 141-171.
- David Goutor, "Constructing the 'great menace': Canadian Labour Opposition to Asian Migration, 1880-1914," *Canadian Historical Review*, 88, 4: 549-576.
- Frederik L. Schodt, *Native American in the Land of the Shogun: Ranald MacDonald and the Opening of Japan*. (Berkeley, California: Stone Bridge Press, 2003), Chapter excerpt.

### Wednesday, January 26

- Field Trip, Chinatown Walking Tour
- Chapter eight in David Chuenyan Lai, *Chinatowns: Towns within Cities in Canada* (Vancouver, UBC Press, 1988) available as e-book on UVIC Gateway.

### Wednesday, February 2

- Historical Context, to 1923
- **Annotated Bibliography due**
- Erika Lee, "Hemispheric Orientalism and the 1907 Pacific Coast Race Riots," in *Amerasia Journal, Pacific Canada: Beyond the 49<sup>th</sup> Parallel*, Vol. 33 No. 2 (2007), pp. 19-47
- Peter Ward, *White Canada Forever* (Kingston/Montreal: McGill-Queens University Press, 2002), Chapter 5 on Komagata Maru, available as e-book at UVIC Gateway.

### Wednesday, February 9

- Gender
- Enakshi Dua, "Exclusion through Inclusion: Female Asian Migration in the Making of Canada as a White Settler Nation," *Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography*, Vol. 14 No. 4 (August 2007), pp. 445-466
- Ayukawa, M. (1995). Good wives and wise mothers: Japanese picture brides in early twentieth-century british columbia. *BC Studies*, No. 105-106 (1995), 103-118.
- Constance Backhouse, "The White Women's Labor Laws: Anti-Chinese Racism in Early Twentieth Century Canada," *Law and History Review*, Vol. 14 No. 2 (Autumn 1996), pp. 315-368.

NB: Bibliography and outline for major essay due.

### Wednesday, February 16

#### - **Special Presentation, author Patricia Roy (open to others)**

- Each participant will read a section from one of Pat Roy's trilogy and prepare a respondent's question for her presentation that day. Her trilogy is: *A White Man's Province: British Columbia Politicians and Chinese and Japanese Immigrants 1858-1914* (Vancouver, UBC Press, 1989); *The Oriental Question: Consolidating a White Man's Province*, (Vancouver, UBC Press, 2003), *The Triumph of Citizenship: The Japanese and Chinese in Canada, 1941-67* (Vancouver, UBC Press, 2007).

### Wednesday, February 23

- Reading Break, no class

### Wednesday, March 2

- Historical Context, 1920s-1945

- Ann Gomer Sunahara, *The Politics of Racism: The Uprooting of the Japanese Canadians during the Second World War* (Toronto, James Lorimer, 1981), Chapters
- John Dower, *War Without Mercy* (New York, Pantheon, 1986), Chapters 4 and 7.

### Wednesday, March 9

- Transnationalism

- Erika Lee and Naoko Shibusawa, Guest Editors' Introduction: What is Transnational Asian American History? Recent Trends and Challenges, *Journal of Asian American Studies*, Volume 8, Number 3, October 2005, pp. vii-xvii
- Madeline Y. Hsu, Transnationalism and Asian American Studies as a Migration-Centered Project, *Journal of Asian American Studies*, Volume 11, Number 2, June 2008, pp. 185-197

### Wednesday, March 16

- Reports on collective research project
- Reports on individual research projects

### Wednesday, March 23

- Field Trip to AGGV

### Wednesday, March 30

- Historical Context (postwar)

- Presentation of research projects

- Henry Yu, "Global migrants and the new Pacific," *International Journal* (Autumn 2009), 147-162.
- Patricia E. Roy, *The Triumph of Citizenship: The Japanese and Chinese in Canada, 1941-67* (Vancouver, UBC Press, 2007), Chapter 7, available as e-book.
- Tania Das Gupta, "The Politics of Multiculturalism: 'Immigrant Women' and the Canadian State," in Enakshi Dua and Angela Robertson, eds., *Scratching the Surface* (Toronto, Women's Press, 1999).