

Frances H. Tran

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Employment

Assistant Professor of Multi-Ethnic U.S. Literature, English, Florida State University	Fall 2018- Present
Postdoctoral Fellow and Interim Associate Director of the Futures Initiative and HASTAC@CUNY, The Graduate Center, CUNY	2017 - 2018
Lecturer, English, Fordham University at Rose Hill	2016 - 2017
Part-time Lecturer, American Studies, Rutgers University, New Brunswick	Fall 2015

Education

Ph.D. English, The Graduate Center, CUNY Graduate Certificate in American Studies Dissertation: <i>Animate Impossibilities: On Asian Americanist Critique, Racialization, and the Humanities</i>	2016
M.A. English, The Graduate Center, CUNY	2014
B.A. English, William E. Macaulay Honors College at Queens College, CUNY Minor in Chinese Language	2010

Research & Teaching Interests

Asian American and multiethnic cultural studies; 20th and 21st century literatures of the Americas; feminist and queer of color critique; racial representation in popular and visual cultures; science and speculative fictions; critical university studies and pedagogy; multispecies embodiments and ecologies

Publications

Work in Progress

Sensory Acts: On Asian Racialization and the Politics of Futurism (book length project)

This project grapples with how futurism is a fraught literary, temporal, and political genre for Asian American studies. The proliferation of narratives and visual economies around “rising Asia” and the 21st century as the “Asian Century” imbricate Asianness in the imagination of futures that perpetuate the violences of empire and capital. My research demonstrates how such spectacles of Asian futurity

depend on abstraction, homogenization, and disembodiment. It suggests, in turn, that a way forward is to practice *sensory acts* we can glean from transnational Asian and multiethnic speculative fictions. I show how attending to lessons they provide in “taking time to travel through time,” “eating the earth,” “arts of noticing,” “furtive listening,” and “mourning what’s missing” illuminates other Asian futurisms, rich multisensory worlds and undisciplined possibilities for Asian Americanist critique.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles & Book Chapters

“Science Fiction’s Humanoid Bodies of the Future,” in *The Cambridge Companion to American Literature and the Body* (forthcoming Cambridge UP; originally spring 2021; COVID delay).

“Time Traveling with Care: On Female Coolies and Archival Speculations,” *American Quarterly* 70, no. 2 (June 2018): 189-210.

“How to Live *Un*Safely: Toward a Better Good Life for Asian American Studies,” *The Journal of Asian American Studies* 19, no. 2 (June 2016): 213-235.

Book Reviews

Review of *Racial Asymmetries: Asian American Fictional Worlds*, by Stephen Hong Sohn. *The Journal of Asian American Studies*, 17, no. 3 (October 2014): 377-380.

Awards & Fellowships

Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty <i>Institute for Citizens & Scholars, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation</i>	Summer 2021- Fall 2021
President’s Diversity and Inclusion Mini-Grant for English Department Diversity Reading Initiative <i>Florida State University</i>	Fall 2019
College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Faculty Travel Award to support presentation at the 2019 Association for Asian American Studies Conference <i>Florida State University</i>	Spring 2019
First Year Assistant Professor Award, Florida State University	Summer 2019
Alternate for the University of California President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship Program <i>University of California, Irvine</i>	Spring 2018
Alumni and Doctoral Faculty Prize for the Most Distinguished Dissertation of the Year and Publication Subvention <i>English Department, The Graduate Center, CUNY</i>	Spring 2016
Provost’s Grant for work with the Early Research Initiative <i>The Graduate Center, CUNY</i>	Fall 2015
Alternate & Honorable Mention for the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship	Spring 2015

Dissertation Year Fellowship in American Studies <i>The Graduate Center, CUNY</i>	2014 - 2015
Knickerbocker Award for Archival Research in American Studies <i>Advanced Research Collaborative, The Graduate Center, CUNY</i>	Summer 2014
Honorable Mention for the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship Competition	Spring 2014
Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth College- Tuition and Travel Award <i>American Studies Certificate Program, The Graduate Center, CUNY</i>	Summer 2013
Dean K. Harrison Award supporting Doctoral Education for Underrepresented Groups <i>The Graduate Center, CUNY</i>	2012-2013
Mellon Top-Up Fellowship for participation on the Interdisciplinary Committee on Globalization and Social Change <i>The Graduate Center, CUNY</i>	2010 - 2015

Select Conference Presentations

“Baltimore’s Possible Futures: A Dialogue on ‘Rising Asia,’ Black Erasure, and the ‘Ungentrifiable City’” (<i>organizer and panelist</i>). Roundtable Discussion. American Studies Association Conference, virtual (October 11-14).	2021
“ ‘Sweet. Sour. Salty. Bitter.’: Reading Speculative Archives of Disaffiliation in the Asian American Movement and its Afterlives.” Panel: Minor Archives: Troubling the Politics of Asian American Affiliation. Association for Asian American Studies Conference, virtual (April 7-10).	2021
“Literatures of the More than Human” (<i>panel chair</i>). Association for Asian American Studies Conference, virtual (April 7-10).	2021
“Race, Religion & Health: Epidemics of Disparity” (<i>invited plenary roundtable participant</i>). AAR/SBL Southeastern Regional Meeting 2021: “Religion, Health, and Disease: An Online Conference Where Interdisciplinary Lines Intersect.” Florida State University (March 12-14).	2021
“Speculating Beyond Genre” (<i>panel chair</i>). Modern Language Association Conference, virtual (January 7-10).	2021
“To Bear the Weight of the Future: On Navigating Ecologies of Waste in the Asian Century.” Panel: Alternative Genealogies of the Speculative. Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA (January 9-12).	2020
“Recycled Trash, Living Waste: Tracing Temporal Ecologies of Capitalist Ruins in <i>Waste Tide</i> .” Panel: Science Fiction in Developing Worlds. Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA (January 9-12).	2020
“Doors To Elsewhere: Fugitive World-Making in Mohsin Hamid’s <i>Exit West</i> ” (<i>panelist and panel co-organizer</i>). Panel: Speculative Aesthetics and Fugitive Futures in Asian	2019

- America: On Minoritized Embodiment, Feminist Sciences, and Alternate Arrangements of Living. Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Madison, WI (April 25-27).
- “Ink, Blood, and Magic: The Tools to Bring Other Worlds into Being.” Panel: Visionary Fiction as Social Practice.” Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL (January 3-6). 2019
- “‘There’s more hunger in the world than love’: Unsentimental Heroism in Liu and Takeda’s *Monstress*.” Panel: Monstrosity and Otherness. National Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA (November 8-11). 2018
- “To Inhabit In-Between Spaces, of Crisis and Becoming: On *A Body in Fukushima*.” Panel: Articulating Asian/ American Aesthetics of Non-Resilience: Neoliberalism’s States of Emergency. American Studies Association Conference, Atlanta, GA (November 8-11). 2018
- “When Empathy is Not Enough: Cross-species Alliances and Other Practices of Looking in Bong Joon-ho’s *Okja*.” Panel: Entangled Ecologies: Transpacific Alliances and Resistance in a More Than Human World. Association for Asian American Studies Conference, San Francisco, CA (March 29-31). 2018
- “Unruly Animations: Disney’s *Big Hero 6* and the Future Geographies of the University.” Panel: Pedagogies of (Resistance to) Neoliberalism. American Studies Association Conference, Chicago, IL (November 9-12). 2017
- “Building a Feminist Future: On (Digital) Pedagogical Praxis” (*panel chair*). HASTAC 2017 Conference, Orlando, FL (November 3-4). 2017
- “Minor Acts and Magicks in Miyazaki’s *Ponyo*: On Asian Americanist Critique and Global Climate Change.” Panel: Sojourns on Future Seas: Asian American Studies in an Age of Ecological Predicaments. Association of Asian American Studies Conference, Miami, FL (April 28-30). 2016

Invited Talks & Other Presentations

- “To Dwell in Impossible Spaces: On Speculative Aesthetics and the Futures of Asian Americanist Critique” (*invited virtual talk*). Presentation for RESTS (Race, Ethnicity, Science, Technology, and Speculation): Mellon Interdisciplinary Seminar (March 8). 2021
- “Porous Boundaries, Promiscuous Texts: On Noticing Aleatory Entanglements” (*guest lecturer*). Course: Science Fiction and Fact. Program in American Studies, Princeton University (April 3). 2018
- “‘Arts of Noticing’: On Creating Breathing Room for Dissent” (*panelist, facilitator, and organizer*). Panel: Pedagogies of Dissent for Asian American Studies. 2017-2018 Thursday Dialogues Series, The Futures Initiative, The Graduate Center, CUNY (September 7). Event Recap: <http://bit.ly/2wv7dBf>. 2017

Select Courses Taught

“It matters what thoughts think thoughts,” ENG 5079: Issues in Literary and Cultural Studies (graduate level), English Department, Florida State University	Spring 2022
“Science Fictional Worlds and the Worlding of Science Fiction,” LIT 3313: Science Fiction, English Department, Florida State University	Spring 2022
“Contagious Bodies, Toxic Biopolitics: Narrating Race, Illness, and Disability,” ENG 5296: Studies in Multi-Ethnic Literature, English Department, Florida State University	Fall 2020
“Between the Yellow Peril and the Able-Bodied Asian: Reading Race, Illness, and (Dis)ability in Asian American Literature,” AML 4680: Studies in Ethnic Literature, English Department, Florida State University	Fall 2020
“Planetary Futures, Posthuman Imaginaries,” English 5933: Topics in English (graduate level), English Department, Florida State University	Spring 2020
“Bodies and Borders,” AML 3682: American Multi-Ethnic Literature, English Department, Florida State University	Spring 2020
“Doors to Elsewhere: Understanding Theory and Criticism,” English 3014: Understanding Theory, English Department, Florida State University	Fall 2019
“Foundations and Futures of Asian America,” American Literature 3673: Asian American Literature, English Department, Florida State University	Fall 2019
“Visionary Fiction: Fugitive World-Making and Ethnofuturisms,” English 5296: Studies in Multi-Ethnic Literature (graduate level), English Department, Florida State University	Spring 2019
“Minor Universes: Race, Space, and Speculative Futures,” English 4938: Advanced Seminar in English, English Department, Florida State University	Spring 2019
“The Possible Worlds of Asian America,” American Literature 3682: Multi-Ethnic American Literature (honors section), English Department, Florida State University	Fall 2018
“What is Asian American Literature?,” American Literature 3682: Multi-Ethnic American Literature, English Department, Florida State University	Fall 2018
“Modern and Post-Modern Poetry,” English 3535: Modernist Poetry, English Department, Fordham University	Spring 2017
“Narratives of Freedom and Captivity,” English 2000: Texts and Contexts, English Department, Fordham University (2 sections)	Spring 2017
“Alien Encounters,” English 2000: Texts and Contexts, English Department, Fordham University (2 sections)	Fall 2016
“Envisioning Other Worlds,” American Studies 316: Twenty-First Century Writing, American Studies Department, Rutgers University, New Brunswick	Fall 2015

Advising & Mentorship

Ph.D. Supervisory Committees

L. Smith, committee member, LMC.	Fall 2021- Present
S. Kim, director, LMC.	Spring 2020- Present
L. Zhuang, committee member, CW.	Spring 2020- Present
S. Trent, director, LMC.	Spring 2020- Present
B. Bradley, director, LMC.	Spring 2020- Present
E. Childers, director, LMC.	Fall 2019- Present
R. Powers, committee member, CW.	Fall 2019- Present
P. Bolt, director, LMC.	Spring 2019- Present
D. Potsubay, committee member, LMC.	Spring 2019- Present

M.A. Supervisory Committees

M. Zhao, committee member, CW.	2021- Present
G. Marks, committee member, LMC.	2021- Present
T. Welch, committee member, LMC.	2021- Present
L. Wilson, committee member, LMC.	2021- Present
R. Hollman, director, LMC.	2019-2020
M. Pons, committee member, LMC.	2019-2020
L. Smith, committee member, LMC.	2019-2020
S. Austin, committee member, LMC.	2018-2019

Undergraduate Honors in the Major Theses

D. Durante, committee member.	2020- 2021
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Student Groups and Organizations

Advanced Literary Scholarship Group	Fall 2019
Co-organizer of Graduate Student Writing Group	Fall 2018

Note: LMC = Literature, Media, and Culture Program; CW = Creative Writing Program

Leadership & Service

Diversity Committee, English Department, Florida State University	Spring 2022, Fall 2020,
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	2018-2019
Elected Member, MLA Delegate Assembly representing the South (Region 5), Modern Language Association	2021-Present
Programming Committee, Association for Asian American Studies 2021 Annual Conference, “Unsettling Transpacific Ecologies,” virtual (April 8-11, 2021)	2020-2021
Elected Member, Executive Committee of the Forum on Speculative Fiction, Modern Language Association	2020- Present
Evaluation Committee, English Department, Florida State University	2019- 2020
Literature, Media, Culture Program Committee, English Department, Florida State University	2018- Present
Projects Coordinator for the Early Research Initiative, The Graduate Center, CUNY	2015-2016
Co-leader of the Mentoring Future Faculty of Color Project, The Graduate Center, CUNY	2013-2016

Workshops & Event Organizing

Co-organizer of “Pandemic Risks: Asian American and Pacific Islander Life at Work and Home during COVID-19,” Honors Experience Program and English Department, Florida State University (November 18).	2020
Co-organizer of LMC “Ethnofuturisms Symposium,” English Department, Florida State University (March 12-13).	2020
Pedagogy Session on Teaching N.K. Jemisin’s <i>How Long ‘Til Black Future Month?</i> and the Diversity Reading Initiative, English Department, Florida State University (Dec. 9).	2020
Speaker on “Placement Panel,” English Department, Florida State University (April 5).	2019
Co-organizer of Workshop on “How to Frame Teaching Experiences Across Various Job Material Genres,” English Department, Florida State University (October 26).	2018
Lead Organizer of the Futures Initiative’s Spring Symposium, The Futures Initiative, The Graduate Center, CUNY (March 28).	2018
Co-organizer of HASTAC 2017: “The Possible Worlds of Digital Humanities” Conference (November 2-3).	2017

Professional Memberships

American Studies Association
 Association for Asian American Studies

Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory
Modern Language Association
National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity
National Women's Studies Association

References

Kandice Chuh
Professor of English, American Studies, and Critical
Social Psychology
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Cathy N. Davidson
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