

The Critical Responses to Anti-Asian Violence Initiative Presents:

Fall 2021 Speaker Series



The Bones of Strangers: On Violence, Grief, and Asian American Kin-making

Eileen Chow

Eileen Cheng-yin Chow 周成蔭 is Associate Professor of the Practice in the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at Duke University, and one of the founding directors of Duke Story Lab; at Duke, she is also a Core Faculty member of the Asian American and Diaspora Studies, and the Critical Asian Humanities graduate program. Her research and teaching center around all manners of transcultural storytelling: serial narratives, press practices and publics, fandoms and media technologies, Asian popular culture, Republican-era China literary and cultural history, as well as on the origins and articulations of Chinatowns around the world.

November 10 • 4-6 pm • Zoom

Co-sponsored by the Racism, Immigration, and Citizenship Program, the Alexander Grass Humanities Institute, the Department of English, and the Program in East Asian Studies

"Write for your dead. Tell them a story." The author Alexander Chee's exhortation has come to mind often, during a time in which non-random violence against Asians has come to occupy a larger degree of American attention, both within the community and without. What are the stories we have told and continue to tell—about grief, violence, kinship, and Asian America? How have these stories circulated as talismans of survival and as parables for building common purpose in diaspora? The inscribed, effaced, and excavated poems found on the Angel Island detention center walls, the tales of misplaced remains of 19th century railroad workers accidentally cremated and melded with the bones of strangers in lieu of proper burial, and the lost histories of the women who lost their lives in the March 2020 shootings in Atlanta—anchor my exploration of Asian immigrant storytelling in the present.

Critical Responses to Anti-Asian Violence (CRAAV) is a scholarly and community-oriented initiative to build anti-racist coalitions across Johns Hopkins University and Baltimore. Funding for this initiative has been provided by the SNF Agora Faculty Grants Program.

Scan the QR code to register, or contact CRAAV@jhu.edu for questions.

