

## *The Chinese Exclusion Act and Immigration in America*

NEH Summer Institute 2016 – Daily Program of Study

**July 10 – July 22, 2016**

The following schedule is crafted to lead through 3 overlapping thematic units: 1) the formulation, refinement, and management of the Chinese Exclusion Acts and surveillance, 1870-1952; 2) the larger historical contexts, hidden discourses & migrant agency; and 3) the legal repeals of 1943 and 1965, and reckoning with a past still omnipresent. While most reading assignments include publication excerpts, participants will be expected to read approximately 30-40 pages per day.

### **Sunday July 10: Orientation and Tour of MOCA's Core Exhibition**

#### Readings prior to Institute

David H. T. Wong, *Escape to Gold Mountain: A Graphic History of the Chinese in North America* (2012)

John Kuo Wei Tchen, "The "Dialogic Museum' Revisited: A Conversation Between John Kuo Wei Tchen and Liz Sevchenko," for *Letting Go? Sharing Historical Authority in a User-Generated World*, co-edited by Bill Adair, *et al* (2011)

Excerpts from:

Linda Levstik and Keith Barton, *Doing History: Investigating with Children in Elementary and Middle Schools* (2005)

Gloria Ladson-Billings, *Critical Race Theory Perspectives on the Social Studies: The Profession, Policies and Curriculum* (2003)

#### Presentations

**4:00 pm:** Tour of *With a Single Step: Stories in the making of America*, MOCA core exhibition. Jack (John Kuo Wei) Tchen is the exhibition's curator and will conduct the tour.

**5:00 pm:** Introduction to Digital MOCA, a web-based tool for teaching and learning about Chinese America. Participants will be encouraged to include their research and curricula in Digital MOCA upon the Institute's completion.

### **Monday July 11, Day 1: "The Chinese Question": Interpreting the 1882 Exclusion Act, its Origins and Enduring Impacts**

#### Read excerpts from:

Mary Roberts Coolidge, *Chinese Immigration* (1909)

John Kuo Wei Tchen, Introduction, *Chinese Exclusion Act: An Illustrated History*, companion book to Steeplechase Films documentary (forthcoming 2016)

#### Presentations

**9:00 am:** Introductions and *Shifting Interpretations: Contested Perspectives on the Chinese Exclusion Act(s)*  
Jack Tchen, New York University

**12:00 pm:** Ric Burns and Li-shin Yu, Steeplechase Films, "The Chinese Exclusion Act—The Documentary," The American Experience, PBS, film screening and discussion

**3:30 pm:** Introduction to MOCA Archives  
Yue Ma, Director of Collections, Museum of Chinese in America

## **Tuesday July 12, Day 2: Trade & Labor: The Galleon Trade & “The Coolie Question”**

### Read Excerpts from:

Julia Schiavone Camacho, *Chinese Mexicans: Transpacific Migration and the Search for a Homeland, 1910-1960*. (2012)

Lisa Yun, *The Coolie Speaks: Chinese Indentured Laborers and African Slaves in Cuba* (2008)

### Presentations

**9:00 am:** *The Galleon Trade & Chinese Exclusion in Mexico through Race and Gender*  
Julia Schiavone Camacho, Antioch College

**1:00 pm:** “*Indentured*” *Asian laborers in the Mid-19th Century Caribbean & Latin America*  
Jack Tchen, New York University

**3:00 pm:** Jack Tchen & Laura Chen-Schultz, introduction to NYU’s Asian/Pacific/American Archives

## **Wednesday July 13, Day 3: In the Shadow of Ellis Island: Angel Island & the U.S. Immigration Narrative**

### Readings:

Emma Lazarus, “*The New Colossus*” (1883)

Walt Whitman, “*Crossing Brooklyn Ferry*,” *Leaves of Grass* (1856)

### Excerpts from:

U.S. Chinese Exclusion Act documents (1882, 1892, 1902)

Him Mark Lai, Genny Lim, and Judy Yung, *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island 1910-1940* (updated edition 2013)

Erika Lee & Judy Yung, *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America* (2010)

### Presentations

**10:30 am:** Tour of Ellis Island led by Jack Tchen

**12:30 pm:** *Angel Island and the Story of U.S. Immigration: Restriction to Exclusion*  
Jack Tchen, New York University

**3:00 pm:** Introduction to National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Afterwards, participants may remain to pursue their research topics or meet with the day’s speakers and co-directors

## **Thursday July 14, Day 4: Chinese Exclusion in Canada & the Anglo-America Pacific**

### Read Excerpts from:

Henry Yu, *Chinese Canadian Stories Online: Uncommon Histories from a Common Past* (2012)

### Presentations

**9:00 am:** *Chinese Exclusion in Canada & the Anglo-American Pacific & Archives Building*  
Henry Yu, University of British Columbia

**1:00 pm:** Extended Archives afternoon: Participants may visit an archive of their choice, meet with the day’s visiting faculty and co-directors, examine Institute readings, or continue final project work.

## Friday July 15, Day 5: Racial Policies and Scientific Racism from Slavery to Eugenics

### Read Excerpts from:

Craig S. Wilder, *Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of American Colleges* (2013)  
Documents from *The Haunted Files* exhibition (2014) & online site, A/P/A Institute, NYU.

### Presentations

**9:00 am:** *Scientific Racism in America's Academic and Cultural Institutions*  
Craig S. Wilder, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**1:00 pm:** *Haunted Files: The Eugenics Records Office*  
Noah Fuller & Jack Tchen, New York University

## Saturday July 16: Eugenics Record Office at Cold Spring Harbor

### Reading excerpts from:

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (1925)

Site Visit: Long Island Sound & former Eugenics Record Office in Cold Spring Harbor, NY w/Jack & Noah Fuller.

## Monday July 18, Day 6: Contesting Exclusion

### Read Excerpts from:

Renqiu Yu, *To Save China, To Save Ourselves: The Chinese Hand Laundry Alliance of New York* (1992)  
Heather Lee, "A Life Cooking for Others: The Work and Migration Experiences of a Chinese Restaurant Worker in New York City, 1920-1946," in *Eating Asian America*, edited by Robert Ji-Song Ku, *et al* (2013)  
Tung Pok Chin, *Paper Son: One Man's Story* (2000)

### Presentations

**9:00 am:** *Activists of Industry: New York's Chinese Hand Laundry Alliance*  
Renqiu Yu, State University of New York at Purchase

*Merchants of Inclusion: The Rise of Chinese Restaurants in the United States*  
Heather Lee, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**3:00 pm:** Tour of Chinatown with Renqiu Yu and Heather Lee  
Following the tour, Visiting Faculty and co-directors will be available for informal meetings with participants.

## Tuesday July 19, Day 7: Chinese Exclusion and U.S. Immigration Infrastructure

### Read Excerpts from:

Mae M. Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (2005)  
Beth Lew-Williams, *The Chinese Must Go* (forthcoming 2016)

### Presentations

**9:00 am:** Beth Lew-Williams, Princeton University

**10:30 am:** *Connecting Johnson-Reed to Chinese Exclusion Act*  
Mae M. Ngai, Columbia University

**1:00 pm:** Extended archives afternoon: Participants may visit an archive of their choice, meet with the day's speakers or co-directors, examine Institute readings, and continue final project work.

### Wednesday July 20, Day 8: Moving Towards “Inclusion” in the Social Studies

#### Read Excerpts from:

Judy W. Yu. “Growing up Chinese American” in *Breaking the Mold of Education: Innovative and successful practices for student engagement, empowerment, and motivation*, 135-142 (2013)

Margaret Smith Crocco, “Dealing with Difference in the Social Studies: A Historical Perspective,” *International Journal of Social Education*, 18:2 (2004), 106-26.

#### Presentations

**9:00 am:** *From ‘Racial Deficiencies’ to Women and Minorities: a History of the Social Studies in American Classrooms*

Judy W. Yu, Ed.D. Founder REACH

**12:00 pm:** Panel & Project Presentations & discussions, with Jack and Judy Yu

### Thursday July 21, Day 9: Contesting Silenced Histories & Archival Absences

#### Read excerpts from:

John Kuo Wei Tchen & Dylan Yeats, *Yellow Peril: Collecting Xenophobia* (2007) & *Yellow Peril! An Archive of Anti-Asian Fear* (2014).

*Waves of Identity, 35 Years of Archiving*, Museum of Chinese in America (2015)

#### Presentations

**9:00 am:** *Collecting Asia/Pacific/American Archives in the 21st Century*

Jack Tchen, New York University

Yue Ma, Director of Collections, MOCA

**1:00 pm:** Panel & Project Presentations: With Jack and Dylan Yeats.

### Friday July 22, Day 10: Reframing Immigration: New & Old

#### Read excerpts from:

Thomas Bender, *A Nation Among Nations: America’s Place in World History* (2006)

#### Presentations

**9:00 am:** *Toward a Transnational Perspective of U.S. Immigration History*

Thomas Bender, New York University

**1:00 pm:** Panel & Project Presentations: With Jack & Tom Bender.

## Overview of Visiting Scholars and Presentations

Time	Scholar	Presentation/Activity
4:00pm Sunday, July 10	Dr. Jack (John Kuo Wei) Tchen New York University	MOCA CORE Exhibition Tour, <i>With a Single Step: Stories in the making of America</i>
9:00am Monday, July 11	Jack Tchen	<i>Introductions and Shifting Interpretations: Contested Perspectives on the Chinese Exclusion Act(s)</i>
9:00am Tuesday July 12	Julia Schiavone Camacho Antioch College	<i>The Galleon Trade &amp; Chinese Exclusion in Mexico through Race and Gender</i>
1:00pm Tuesday July 12	Jack Tchen	<i>"Indentured" Asian laborers in the Mid-19th Century Caribbean &amp; Latin America</i>
Wednesday, July 13	Jack Tchen	<i>Angel Island and the Story of U.S. Immigration: Restriction to Exclusion</i>
9:00am Thursday July 14	Henry Yu University of British Columbia	<i>Chinese Exclusion in Canada &amp; the Anglo-American Pacific &amp; Archives Buildings</i>
9:00am Friday July 15	Craig S. Wilder Massachusetts Institute of Technology	<i>Scientific Racism in America's Academic and Cultural Institutions</i>
1:00pm Friday July 15	Noah Fuller and Jack Tchen New York University	<i>Haunted Files: The Eugenics Records Office</i>
9:00am Monday July 18	Renqiu Yu, State University of New York at Purchase	<i>Activists of Industry: New York's Chinese Hand Laundry Alliance</i>
9:00am Monday July 18	Heather Lee, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	<i>Merchants of Inclusion: The Rise of Chinese Restaurants in the United States</i>
3:00pm Monday July 18	Renqiu Yu and Heather Lee	Tour of Chinatown
9:00am Tuesday July 19	Beth Lew-Williams Princeton University	
10:30am Tuesday July 19	Mae M. Ngai Columbia University	<i>Connecting Johnson-Reed to Chinese Exclusion Act</i>
9:00am Wed. July 20	Judy W. Yu, Ed.D. Founder REACH	<i>From 'Racial Deficiencies' to Women and Minorities: a History of the Social Studies in American Classrooms</i>
	12pm Panel and Project Presentations	
9:00am Thursday July 21	Jack Kuo Wei Tchen Yue Ma MOCA Collections	<i>Collecting Asia/Pacific/American Archives in the 21st Century</i>
1:00pm Thursday July 21	Dylan Yeats, New York University	Panels & Project Presentations: With Tchen, Dylan Yeats will be present for the afternoon to provide commentary and drive discussion
9:00am Friday July 22	Thomas Bender, New York University	<i>Toward a Transnational Perspective of U.S. Immigration History</i>
1pm – Panel/Projects	Jack Tchen (1pm)	Panel and Project Presentations