Asian American Research Journal Contributors

Faculty Advisor

Professor Vernadette Vicuña Gonzalez (she/her) is a professor of Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies in the Ethnic Studies Department at UC Berkeley. Her interdisciplinary humanities-based research broadly examines cultures of imperialism, with a focus on the United States and its colonial territories and interventions in Asia and the Pacific. A central theme in her work is how race, Indigeneity, gender, and sexuality intersect and operate, sometimes together and sometimes in opposition, in the cultural terrains of empire. She is the author of two award-winning monographs, *Securing Paradise: Tourism and Militarism in Hawai'i and the Philippines* (2013) and *Empire's Mistress, Starring Isabel Rosario Cooper* (2021). She is also an editor of *Detours: A Decolonial Guide to Hawai'i*, which anchors a Duke University Press book series on decolonial guides, which she also co-edits.

Editor-In-Chief

Harnoor Gill (she/her) serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Asian American Research Journal. She graduated from UC Berkeley in May 2025 with a B.A. in Integrative Biology and a minor in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies. During her time with AARJ, she has worked to support undergraduate research and create opportunities for students to engage with scholarship centered on Asian American and Asian diasporic communities. As Editor-in-Chief, she led the rebuilding of the journal and the development of Volume V, *Bodies of Belonging*. She is grateful to the authors, editors, faculty, and community members whose work and support made this volume possible.

Senior Editors

Nathaniel Ashley is a recent graduate of Cal as of May 2026, with a B.A. in Linguistics. He currently works with high school students teaching debate and public speaking, and conducts research in this position on social justice issues based in Healthcare Policy, Arctic Development, and Immigration. He hopes to branch into law post-graduation, going into a field in which he can use his education to positively impact underserved communities. In his spare time, he is a singer, pianist, and composer, and likes to read and bake.

Ethan Chow is a 2nd-year UC Berkeley student majoring in Economics and Legal Studies. On campus, he is involved in the Reconciliation and Justice hub as a community organizer and CalPirg's Oceans campaign. Off campus, he is a volunteer leader at Second Harvest Food Bank,

a self-financed course leader at House of Hope, and a sustainability committee contributor at West Valley College. In his free time, he enjoys surfing, snowboarding, hiking, and climbing. Ethan is particularly interested in how aggregated data can mask disparities among Asian ethnic groups and misinform policy decisions.

Amit Krishnan is a 3rd-year student majoring in Political Economy with a minor in Music. On campus, he is an undergraduate researcher with a URAP project that seeks to analyze the polarization of the U.S. Congress over time, the lead of the Tax Legal Research Committee in his third year with the ASUC Legal Clinic, on the board of the Music Undergraduate Committee, a Curriculum Co-chair with the Political Economy Student Association (PESA), and in his third year as a member of UC Berkeley's Chamber Chorus. Amit is primarily interested in the ways judicial decisions and apparatuses impact the civil liberties of Asian Americans.

General Editors

Theo Chen (he/him) is a class of 2026 graduate with a B.A. in Molecular and Cell Biology. Tied to a calling to redefine the perception of Asian Americans, he is committed to increasing Asian American community engagement through media and public education. As a hobby, Theo hosts a podcast on books centered around authors of color. In his local community, he is a beekeeper, educating Los Angeles County residents on the underrated importance of honey bees.

Harman Singh Sidhu is a class of 2026 alumnus with a B.A. in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies and a Minor in Clinical and Counseling Psychology from UC Berkeley, along with a Certificate in Community Health. He is currently a graduate student in Global Health Sciences at UC San Francisco with a focus on health equity and substance use research in underrepresented communities. His research focuses on alcohol use disorder and health disparities in Punjabi-Sikh communities, and he is part of the Community Wellness Collective's cancer navigation program, the first South Asian cancer navigation initiative in the United States. Harman's professional experience includes organizing and advocacy work, having mobilized 15,000 students at Modesto Junior College for institutional equity, led food justice campaigns, and contributed to congressional campaigns in the Central Valley. As part of his commitment to building bridges between academic research and community health outcomes, ensuring scholarship serves marginalized populations, he hopes to one day teach the next generation of researchers.

Ayaka Yamamoto is a 4th-year UC Berkeley student from Tokyo, double majoring in Legal Studies and Psychology. With an interest in the intersection of law and psychology, she has gained experience in legal research and international legal work, particularly involving cross-border matters. After graduation, she hopes to pursue law and build a career in international law, where she can combine her understanding of human behavior with a

client-facing legal practice and help bridge Japan with the broader international legal community. In her spare time, she enjoys playing guitar and listening to music.

Angie Zhao (she/her) is a 4th-year majoring in public health with a minor in Global Poverty & Practice. She is a Maternal Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH) LEAP scholar and has been assisting in several reproductive health-related research projects at UCB and UCSF. She is passionate about a wide range of public health studies among minority populations. Angie aims to become a public health physician and will pursue her MPH after graduation. In her spare time, she likes to cook, hike, and read.

Authors

Theo Chen (he/him) graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.A. in Molecular and Cell Biology (MCB). In his time in the Bay Area, Theo supported the Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce as a volunteer lead and coordinator. His research interests primarily focus on acculturation, racialization, and how political attitudes shape the formation of cross-cultural identities, such as China-America tensions among American-born Chinese.

Harnoor Gill (she/her) is a recent graduate of UC Berkeley as of spring 2025, with a B.A. in Integrative Biology and a minor in Asian American Diaspora Studies. She currently works in the healthcare field and conducts research in Integrative Health. She also co-founded a local program to aid high school students in exploring community health careers to increase understanding of community health and promote diversity within the wide range of community health careers. She hopes to continue serving her community through the healthcare field throughout her life. In her spare time, she likes to try new cafés, weightlift, and travel.

Kelly Lin (she/her) is an alumna of UC Berkeley, where she earned a B.A. in Public Health with a minor in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies and completed the Certificate in Asian American Community Health. She recently earned her Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Management from UCLA. She currently works in health equity, health policy, and program management, with experience spanning community-based organizations, government, and public health research. Her past work has included supporting implementation of Berkeley's first in the nation Healthy Checkout Ordinance through Bay Area Community Resources, contributing to nuclear weapons abolition efforts with San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility, and conducting family planning research in Rwanda. Her research and professional interests include healthcare access, community health worker workforce development, and Asian American community health. In the future, she hopes to teach and mentor students in public health. Outside of work, she enjoys hiking, traveling, and discovering new music.

Jayden Tanaka (he/him) is a recent graduate from UC Berkeley, with a B.A. in Ethnic Studies and Rhetoric. As a student, he led recruitment and retention programs for first-generation students of color, focused primarily on political education. Currently, he is continuing his passion for shaping equitable opportunities for underserved youth at the Southeast Asian Development Center in his hometown of San Francisco. His research interests focus on panethnic and racial identity formation in relation to coalitional political organizing and how material, cultural, and legal structures shape racial politics today.

Emma Lê (she/her) graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.A. in Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies. She is now pursuing a career in medicine and community health. Her research interests primarily focus on Asian American community health, specifically as it pertains to healthcare access, chronic disease management, and the mental and physical consequences of war and migration history.

Michelle Lee (she/her) graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.A. in Political Science. She was a Fall Fellow for Berkeley Mayor Adena Ishii, an undergraduate student instructor for *Introduction to American Politics* at UC Berkeley, and an education intern for the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. Her research interests primarily focus on the relationship between income, race, and language and access to education–particularly in the context of modern politics in the United States.