

Ann Ngoc Tran

Ph.D. Candidate | American Studies and Ethnicity | University of Southern California
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Education

University of Southern California

Ph.D. in American Studies and Ethnicity Expected 2025
M.A. in American Studies and Ethnicity Spring 2023
Fields for Qualifying Exams: 20th Century U.S. History (Black Social Movements emphasis),
Asian American History, Transpacific Studies, Critical Refugee Studies

Dissertation: “The Ark is Already Gone: A History of Boat Refugee Non-Arrival”

Dissertation Committee: Viet Thanh Nguyen (co-chair), Adrian De Leon (co-chair), Francille R. Wilson,
Fiori Berhane

Texas Christian University

B.A. in English, *Phi Beta Kappa* and *magna cum laude* May 2020
B.A. in History, *magna cum laude* May 2020
Minor in Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies

Areas of Interest

Critical Ethnic Studies, Diaspora and Migration Studies, Global Southeast Asia, cultural studies, Asian American history, Critical Refugee Studies, Vietnam War, transpacific studies, U.S. empire

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2024 “Political Groceries: Supermarkets and Refugee Consumers in Little Saigon,” *Journal of American-East Asian Relations* (accepted for publication in Gibney Special Issue).
- 2023 “Imperial Gift: Soap, Humanitarianism, and Black Markets in the Vietnam War.” *Radical History Review* 2023 (147): 55–76. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Book Reviews

- 2024 “*Refugee Lifeworlds: The Afterlife of the Cold War in Cambodia*” (Book Review). *Amerasia Journal*. <https://doi-org.libproxy2.usc.edu/10.1080/00447471.2023.2274269>

Awards

- 2024 Honorable Mention, Frank Gibney Graduate Essay Award
Journal of American-East Asian Relations
- 2022 USC Library Research Award (1st Place), University of Southern California
Awarded for the best graduate research paper using USC Special Collections
“USC in 1970: Politics, Race, and the Antiwar Movement”

- 2021–2024 Frank S. Kawana Leadership Scholarship Award, USC Asian Pacific Alumni Association
- 2021 Raymond J. Cunningham Paper Prize, American Historical Association
Awarded for the best published article written by an undergraduate student
“A Bloody Solidarity: Nguyen Thai Binh and the Vietnamese Antiwar Movement in the Long Sixties,” *The Boller Review*, Vol 5 (2020)

External Grants & Fellowships

- 2024 SHAFR-Gale Summer Fellowship in Digital History
- 2024–2025 AAUW American Dissertation Fellowship (\$25,000)
- 2024 Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Coast Fellowship, Lamar University
- 2024 The Dianne Woest Fellowship in the Arts and Humanities, The Historic New Orleans Collection
- 2023 Samuel Flagg Bemis Dissertation Research Grant, SHAFR
- 2022 Immigration History Research Center and Archives Grant-in-Aid Award, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- 2022–2023 Global South Research Grant, New Orleans Center for the Gulf South, Tulane University
- 2022 Short-Term Research Fellowship, Frances S. Summersell Center for the Study of the South, The University of Alabama
- 2022 The Portal to Texas History Fellowship, University of North Texas
- 2022 Russell F. Weigley Travel Grant, Society for Military History
- 2021 AHA Travel Award, American Historical Association
- 2021 SEASSI Language Scholarship, UW-Madison
- 2016–2020 Midland College Scholarship - \$20,000

Internal Grants & Fellowships

- 2024 APAA Distinguished Scholarship, University of Southern California
- 2024–2025 USC-Mellon Humanities in the Digital World Fellowship (\$40,000)
- 2024 Teresa Wilson Endowed Fellowship, USC Dornsife
- 2024 EASC Graduate Fellowship, East Asian Studies Center, University of Southern California
- 2023 Frank S. Kawana Leadership Scholarship, University of Southern California
- 2023 Transpacific Studies Summer Research Grant, University of Southern California
- 2023 ASE Summer Research Grant, University of Southern California
- 2023 Diane Sonosky Montgomery and Jerol Sonosky Graduate Fellowship for Environmental Sustainability Research, USC Wrigley Institute for Environment and Sustainability
- 2022 ASE Graduate Student Conference Award, University of Southern California
- 2022 ASE Graduate Student Summer Research Grant, University of Southern California
- 2022 USC Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant
- 2022 GSG Professional Development Fund Award, University of Southern California
- 2022 ASE Graduate Student Conference Award, University of Southern California

2021	Transpacific Studies Research Grant, University of Southern California
2021	ASE Summer Research Grant, University of Southern California
2021	Transpacific Studies Summer Research Grant, University of Southern California
2020–2025	Dornsife Graduate Fellowship, University of Southern California
2020	Diversity Research Award, Texas Christian University
2019	Kathryne McDorman Honors Scholar, Texas Christian University
2019	Paul Wassenich Founder's Medal, Texas Christian University
2017–2020	Ronald E. McNair Fellow, Texas Christian University
2016–2020	Chancellor's Scholarship (full tuition), Texas Christian University

External Publications

Tran, Ann Ngoc. "Vietnamese Migrations and Narratives of Unsettlement." *University of Minnesota Libraries*. September 15, 2023. [Link](#).

Tran, Ann Ngoc. "Local Fishing Villages and the Troubled Future of Fishing in Việt Nam." *USC Dornsife*. July 10, 2023. [Link](#).

Tran, Ann. "8 Essential Vietnamese Restaurants in Houston's Bellaire Neighborhood." *Vietcetera*. January 5, 2022. [Link](#).

Invited Talks and Lectures

"Non-Arrived Histories of Refugee Migration," Lecture for Intro to Asian American Studies, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, October 31, 2024.

"Unsettled Histories of the Vietnamese Diaspora," Lecture for the *Contested Histories* Workshop, World History and Literature Initiative (WHaLI) at the International Institute at the University of Michigan, June 17–18, 2024.

"Race and Environmental Justice in New Orleans and the Gulf South," Lecture for AMST 252: *Black Social Movements*, November 17, 2021.

Digital Humanities

Session Co-Leader, "Using 3D Data to Document and Exhibit Cultural Heritage" Presentation, ITCH: Immersive Technologies and Cultural Heritage Symposium, USC Mellon Humanities in a Digital World and the Ahmanson Lab, September 21, 2024.

Digital Humanities Workshop Training, USC Mellon Humanities in the Digital World. Completed 20 hours of classroom training for individual projects using digital tools, including ArcGIS, QGIS, Palladio, Flourish, Tableau, and Scalar, July 2024.

Conferences and Symposiums

American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, November 14, 2024
Paper Presented: "Pre-Diaspora: Risk and Imagination in Postwar Việt Nam"

Association for Asian American Studies, Seattle, WA, April 27, 2024

Paper Presented: "Uncharted Waves: Alternate Routes, Refusals, and Returns on the Boat"

CSEAS Vietnam-Centric Approaches, Berkeley, CA, April 19–20, 2024
Paper Presented: "Imagined Diaspora: Anticipating Departure in Postwar Việt Nam"

Global Asias Conference, Irvine, CA, February 23, 2023
Paper Presented: "Phantasmatic Geography: Riverine Wars in the Mekong Delta"

American Studies Association, Montreal, Canada, November 5, 2023
Roundtable Participant: "The Political Lives of Infrastructure"

Western Historical Association, San Antonio, TX, October 15, 2022
Paper Presented: "Placemaking, Cultural Memory, and Refugee Politics in Westminster's Vietnamese Supermarkets"

Society for Military History Conference, Fort Worth, TX, May 1, 2022
Roundtable Participant: "The Elusive Home Front and Its Place in Military History"

Vietnam War Studies Symposium, "1972: The War Between North and South Vietnam," April 2022
Paper Presented: "Imperial Gift: Soap, Squalor, and the Archives of Medical Humanitarianism"

Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association Conference, October 15, 2021
Paper Presented: "Battle on Two Fronts: The Vietnamese Left in the Anti-War Movement"

Cultural Studies Association, Virtual Conference, June 10, 2021
Paper presented: "Fooding on Facebook: How Facebook Groups Saved Asian/American Restaurants in the COVID-19 Pandemic"

Association for Asian American Studies, Virtual Conference, April 8, 2021
Paper presented: "Archives in Transit: Boat Refugees and the Refuse of Viet Nam"

Comparative Studies in Literature and Culture Symposium, USC, March 2, 2021
Paper presented: "Living in Memory: The Counternarratives of War at the Boat Refugee Memorial"

Society for Military History Young Scholars Conference, Arlington, VA, May 3, 2020 (cancelled)
Paper accepted: "From Student to Hijacker: The Conversion of Vietnamese Students in America During the Vietnam War"

Association for Asian American Studies, Washington, D.C., April 11, 2020 (cancelled)
Paper accepted: "A Bloody Solidarity: Nguyen Thai Binh and the Union of Vietnamese in the Anti-Vietnam War Movement"

Association for Asian American Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, April 26, 2019
Paper presented: "Work After War: Sanctuary, Labor, and Vietnam American Literature"

Teaching

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2023 AMST 150: The American War in Viet Nam with Viet Thanh Nguyen
Fall 2022 AMST 101: Race and Class in Los Angeles with George J. Sánchez
Spring 2022 AMST 206: The Politics and Culture of the 1960s with George J. Sánchez
Fall 2021 AMST 252: Black Social Movements with Francille Rusan Wilson

Service

Graduate Representative, Vietnam Studies Group, Association for Asian Studies, January 2024–Present

Co-organizer and Participant, Transpacific Research Cluster, Department of American Studies & Ethnicity at USC, August 2021–Present

Organizer, *Archipelagic/s Symposium*, University of Southern California, April 5, 2023
Invited scholars: Candice Fujikane, Keith Camacho, Jodi Kim, Eryn Le Espiritu Gandhi

Professional Academic Training

Journal of Southern History Manuscript Workshop, July 8, 2022

VOCES Oral History Center Summer Institute, June 6-10, 2022

SEASSI Summer Intensive Language Program, June-August 2021
Language Completed: Advanced Vietnamese I & II

Employment

Short-Term Consultant, *Orange County School District*, June 2023–August 2023
• Designed and co-wrote “The Vietnamese American Refugee Experience” model curriculum and lesson plans for K-12

Freelance Writer, *Vietcetera*, September 2021–December 2021
• Created storytelling content with original angles and cultural relevance to a Vietnamese American reading audience

Outreach Fellow, Department of English, Texas Christian University, Fall 2019–May 2020
• Managed social media and publicity for the Created storytelling content with original angles and cultural relevance to a Vietnamese American reading audience department
• Designed posters, flyers, and PowerPoints for events and important news

Christine Salmon Gauthier Apprentice, Department of English, TCU, Fall 2018–Spring 2019
• Assisted professors with research, PowerPoints, annotations, and data collection
• Worked with faculty to promote English studies and departmental programs

Writing Intern, Magacin Kabare, Bosnia and Herzegovina, June 2019–July 2019
• Conducted human rights research and composed documents with terminology for grant proposals to submit to the United Nations funding committee
• Designed student-led workshops and discussions for art and activism projects on reconciliation and genocide remembrance

Editorial Intern, Texas Christian University Press, January 2018–May 2018

- Reviewed and assessed 5+ book acquisitions for potential fit at the press
- Collaborated with 4 staff members to bring 5+ books to the publication stage

Professional Associations

American Studies Association
American Historical Association
Association for Asian Studies
Association for Asian American Studies
The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations

References

Dr. Viet Thanh Nguyen

University Professor, Aerol Arnold Chair of English and Professor of English and American Studies & Ethnicity and Comparative Literature
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Dr. Adrian De Leon

Assistant Professor of History; Co-Chair of Sulo: The Phillippine Studies Initiative at NYU
King Juan Carlos Center
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Dr. Francille Rusan Wilson

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Dr. Mark Padoongpatt

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