

**Mark Chia-Yon Jerng**  
2020 Cowell Blvd., Apt #B122  
Davis, CA 95616  
Tel. 530 758 4727 Email. mcjerng@ucdavis.edu

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## **ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

**University of California, Davis**, Davis, CA  
Assistant Professor of English, July 2006 – Present

## **EDUCATION**

**Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA.  
Ph.D., Department of English, June 2006  
Dissertation Title: *Claiming Others: Imagining Transracial Adoption in American Literature*  
Dissertation Directors: Lawrence Buell, Homi Bhabha, John Stauffer

**Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ.  
BA, English Literature with Highest Honors, 1998  
Senior Thesis: *Between Image and Fantasy in Asian American Literature*

## **BOOK PROJECT**

*Claiming Others: Political Fictions of Transnational Adoption*

### Abstract

Practices of adopting children from different racial or cultural backgrounds have been a crucial site of interracial contact and conflict throughout American history. *Claiming Others* intersects narratives of transracial adoption with histories of race and citizenship in order to reveal and unsettle the entangled imaginings of family, race, and nation. Each chapter treats writers from James Fenimore Cooper and Lydia Maria Child, to William Faulkner, Charles Chesnutt, Chang-rae Lee, and Gish Jen, who engage the ambiguities, desires, and anxieties of the adoptive relationship: what it means for people to claim children of a different race as their own. I explore the way transracial adoption stories manage and manifest issues of racialization and identity formation within the context of national debates over race relations

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Davis Humanities Institute Fellowship, 2007-08  
Harvard University Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2005-2006  
Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, 1999-2004  
Nominated for Joseph R. Levenson Memorial Teaching Prize, 2003  
Dexter Traveling Research Fellowship, Harvard University, 2003  
Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, 2002  
Graduate Society Summer Tuition Award, Harvard University, 2001  
Honorary Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, 1999  
Phi Beta Kappa, 1998

## ARTICLES

“Recognizing the Transracial Adoptee: Adoption Life Stories and Chang-rae Lee’s *A Gesture Life*” in *MELUS: The Journal of The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*, 31.2 (Summer 2006)

“The Character of Race: Matching, Adoption, and Individualization in Charles Chesnut’s *The Quarry* and William Faulkner’s *Light in August* (under review)

## TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

“Writing the Prospectus,” Panel Presentation for Graduate Students at University of California, Davis on the Dissertation Prospectus

“Preparing for the Job Interview,” Panel Presentation for “Professors for the Future” Professional Development Program, University of California, Davis

“Calculating Differences: Matching, Adoption and Individuation in William Faulkner’s *Light in August*” at MLA Annual Convention, Special Session on Adoption and Religion, Philadelphia, PA, December 2006

“Adopting Joe Christmas” at Davis Faculty Colloquium, November 2006

“Narrating the Transnational Family” at Narrative Annual Conference, Ottawa, Canada, April 2006

“The Subject of Transracial Adoption: Belonging and Transference in Chang-rae Lee’s *A Gesture Life*” at American Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2004

“The Romance of Transracial Adoption and the Ethics of Emancipation: Lydia Maria Child’s National Romances” at American Literature Association (ALA) Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, May 2004

“Our History is a History of Orphans”: Legitimizing the Past in Faulkner’s *Light in August* and “Tomorrow,” at Dartmouth Institute: The Future of American Studies, Dartmouth, NH, June 2003

“Looking Ethnic: Between Object and Image in Sandra Ortiz Taylor’s *Imaginary Parents*,” at *Still Life*, Graduate Student Conference, Sponsored by the Humanities Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, March 2003

“A Poetics of Positions: Narrative Identity in Larissa Lai’s *When Fox Is A Thousand*,” at *Fixed Ideas*, Graduate Student Conference Sponsored by Humanities Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, March 2002.

## COURSES

### Undergraduate

Literature of the Contemporary Asian Diaspora: Conditions of Belonging  
Revising Kinship in Asian Diasporic Literature  
Introduction to the Study of Fiction  
Critical Theory and Asian American Literature

### **Graduate**

Critical Multiculturalism  
Narrative and Human Rights

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

**Undergraduate Committee**, Department of English, UC-Davis, 2006-07  
**Faculty Juror for Miller Essay Prize**, Department of English, UC-Davis, 2006  
**Advisory Board Member**, Association for the Study of Kinship and Culture  
**Member**, Modern Literary Association, 2001-present  
American Studies Association, 2003-present  
American Literature Association, 2003-present.

### **LANGUAGES**

Spanish (reading and speaking)  
French (reading)  
Latin (reading)  
Mandarin Chinese (speaking)